

## A Visit with Richard H. Buckley

*December 3, 2005*

While the memories of Keith and Larry gave us the names of grandfathers and uncles, it was an article in the Albany newspaper that Stan Morrison had kept over the years that supplied the link to Anson Morrison in the Civil War and the town of Skowhegan. From there Carolyn (Morrison) Sharp was able to research our roots in Maine and published the first volumes of our genealogy four years ago.

But the article left many mysteries to be solved. When was the article written? What was the name of Anson's daughter? The article had only referred to a "Mrs. Buckley". Did anyone have the bible that Anson carried with him during the Civil War?



**Three by four inch tin photo of Anson Reed Morrison 1840 – 1880**

A year ago we found the names of Anson's children Mary C. and Albert J., and wife Margaret, in the US Census. However, it wasn't until very recently that we found the Buckley family living in Albany in the 1920 and 1930 US Census.

### 1920 Census

T. Joseph Buckley	Age 52	Head/Ireland		
Mary C Buckley	Age 47	Wife/Illinois	Father/Maine	Mother/Ireland

Richard H Buckley    Age 13  
Mary C Buckley        Age 11  
Lucy Buckley          Age 8  
Joseph Buckley        Age 6  
Andrea Buckley        Age 1

Given that Richard H was a very specific name, I thought we might be able to find a grandson or nephew of the same name still living in Albany. The internet white pages revealed a Richard H Buckley with a phone number and address. (So much for privacy laws!). After an hour of procrastinating, I made the call to Richard. It went something like this:

“Hello, is this Richard Buckley?”

“Yes, who’s calling?”

“Hello, this is Jim Morrison. I believe we may be close cousins. Did there happen to be a Lottie Buckley in your family?”

“Who?”

“Lottie Buckley”.

“Well, yes. Lottie was my mother”.

After stunned silence, I went on to tell him how I found his number. We discussed his grandfather, Anson and the Civil War. Richard then revealed that he still had Anson’s bible that was carried during the Civil War, and a small tin picture of him. We then made arrangements to meet sometime in the next several weeks in Albany at his home. After following up with a letter, Carolyn and I made the trek to Albany and spent a very enjoyable two hours which was taped on cassette.



**Richard H. Buckley and Jim Morrison.  
Richard holding the bible that Anson Morrison carried during the Civil War**



While talking to Richard about his family and his military service in World War II, Carolyn began looking through the Bible. There were inscriptions in the Bible that were barely discernable. Carolyn began to decipher them. They read:

May 20, 1861.	Anson R. Morrison	Writing unknown
July 22, 1861.	B____ (Battle?) of Bull Run	
August 3, 1861 (Volunteer Militia?)	Richmond, VA	A. R. Morrison. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Regiment VM
November 20, 1861	New Orleans Parish	Prisoner
December 25, 1861	Writing unknown	
Holy Bible Book	Divine, Precious One	A. R. Morrison



**2 1/2 by 5 inch Bible that Anson carried with him during the Civil War.**

Taken prisoner	July 22, 1861
Manasus VA	July 28
Richmond	July 26
New Orleans, LA	Sept 30
Salisbury, NC	Feb 14, 1862

“If we meet no more on earth, may we meet in heaven”.

We now know that Anson was released after spending three months in Salisbury Prison in a prisoner exchange in May of 1862. He then rejoined his regiment.

About an hour and a half into the visit, Richard said he had a photograph upstairs and went to get it. After a few minutes, he called down to me to come up to help. There he pointed to a metal box about 12 by 18 inches and about 6 inches deep. We brought it downstairs.

In the box were over 50 letters and documents. Anson's discharge from the military. Genealogy trees tracing Lottie's family back through her grandmother Charlotte Brown Reed Morrison. We started to look through some of the letters.

We could not believe what we were holding in our hands. Letters from Anson to his mother during the war. Talking of "Big Abe". Documents historical societies would drool over. We only looked through a few which were in good shape for being 150 years old. We suggested to Richard the treasures before us should be copied so as never to be lost. He was gracious enough to let us have them for the next month to do so. "After all", he said, "we're all related".



**Carolyn Sharp and Richard H. Buckley**

The Bible has gilt edges. The Old Testament numbers 816 pages and was published in 1853 by Sanborne & Carter of Portland Maine. The New Testament added at least another 250 pages and was published in 1854 by Phinney & Co.