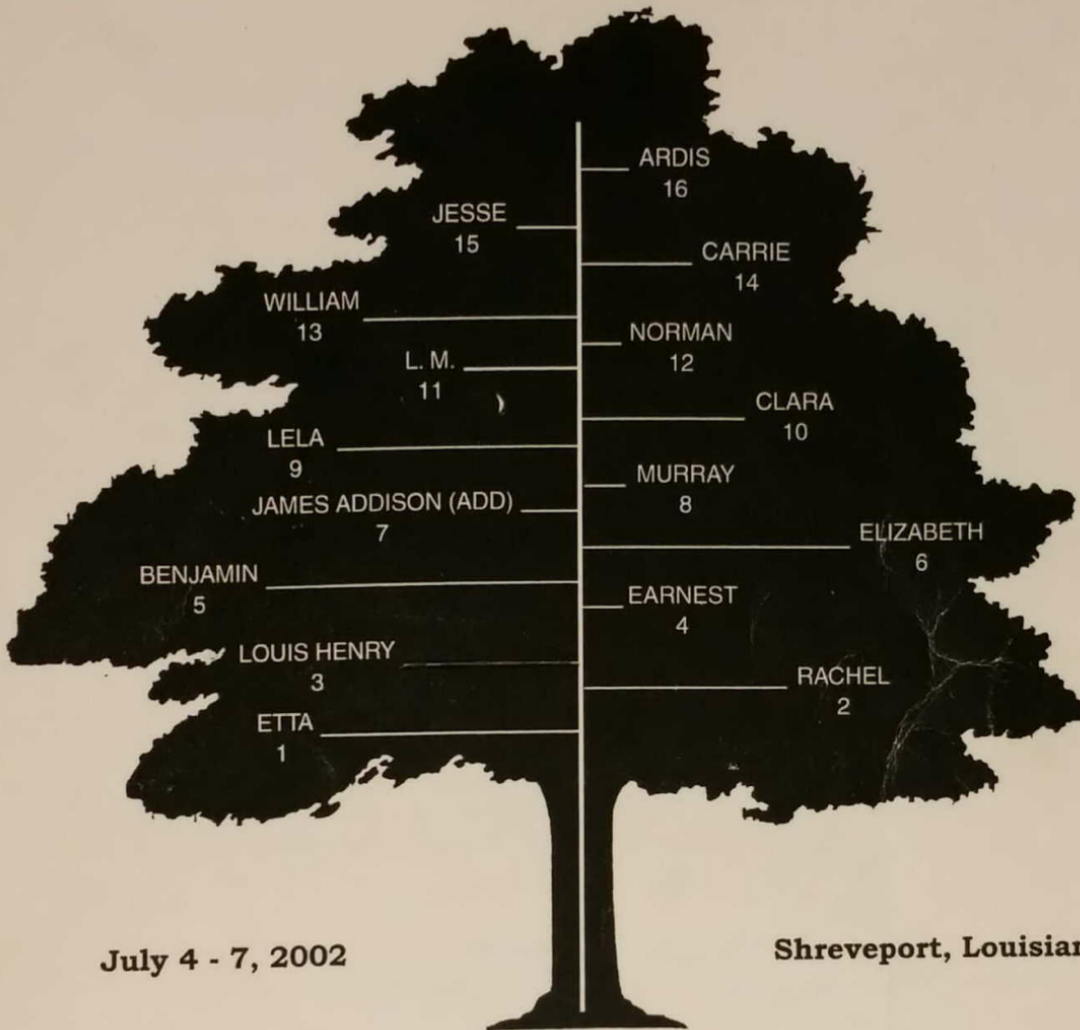




# Magnificent Mochs

## Past, Present, and Posterity



July 4 - 7, 2002

Shreveport, Louisiana



DETAILS





## Overview

Louis and Relvia were both born in the time of slavery, but there is nothing to indicate that they were slaves. Louis was educated and he helped to found New Hill Academy School. He was technically trained, an astute businessman, and a proper gentleman. Relvia was not formally educated, but she was trained in the culinary arts. She was a strong disciplinarian and complimented Louis very well as a wonderful homemaker. Louis had approximately 112 acres of land and Relvia had approximately 56 acres when they married.

Louis and Relvia trained all of their children in business. After becoming adults all became entrepreneurs. The fourteen surviving children were farmers, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, painters, pastry makers, and managers.

Our ancestors were as diverse as the society in which we live. They were an interesting combination of African, Jewish, and Native American. They believed that all men were created equal, and they walked it and talked it. They were confident with an "attitude." All had smiles that were infectious. They were educated and poised, but not pretentious. Their good posture reflected both their robust health and their noble spirits. Honesty was their credo; they were sometimes honest to a fault. They were family oriented and paid homage to their mother and all elders of the Clan. They gave each other total support. They were all good parents.

The Mochs were all Christians from birth to death, and contributed to their individual Church communities in service and in donations. They were very influential in their churches and were humble leaders.

We are still researching our family history. More will be revealed; this is still a work in process. Any additional information on Louis and Relvia's ancestors or descendants will be greatly appreciated.





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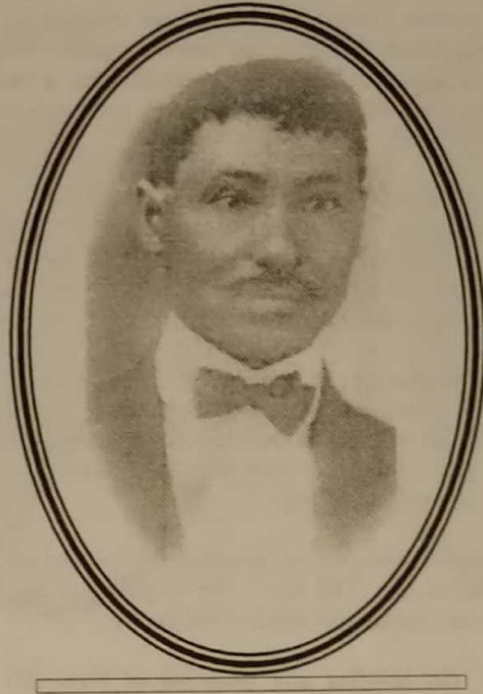
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Louis Morgan Moch  
May 26, 1859 - August 22, 1910



Wife: Relvia Cole Moch

Children: Etta, Rachel, Louis Henry, Earnest,  
Benjamin, Elizabeth, James Addison,  
William Murray, Lela, Clara, L.M.,  
Norman, William McKinley, Carrie,  
Jesse, Ardis





## Louis Morgan Moch

Little is known about Louis Morgan before the age of 17 when he came to live with his half brother, Gilbert Wilson and wife, Elizabeth Ellis. In the 1900 census report, Louis reported that his mother was born in Alabama and that his father was born in Germany. In the 1910 census report, however, he reported that his mother was born in Virginia and that his father was born in France. Family members have reported that Louis' father was a Jewish man named Henry Moch. His s mother was not known, though some members of the family think her name was Sarah Wilson. Louis also had a half-sister, Mary Wilson Corner, known as Mae. According to relatives, Louis was well educated and had been schooled technically.

→  
CONNER

At the age of 19, two years after moving in with Gil, Louis fathered a child with Relvia Cole who was Gil's stepdaughter and Elizabeth's daughter by birth. There are many funny stories about how Louis and Relvia got together but the credibility of none of them can be verified; so they are not repeated here. Two years later, in 1880, Louis and Relvia were married. They had a total of 16 children. The children called Louis "Papa."

Louis was a respected businessman. In Springridge, he owned about 128 acres of land on which he farmed and raised horses, pigs and fowls. Interestingly, Louis would lease mules from Keithville. He did this because he only needed the mules in the spring and fall and he believed it was not cost effective to own them. His technical skills included cabinet making, wood finishing and casket making.

Louis' demeanor was business-like, but on occasions, he imbibed and would become loose and wild. His peers called him "Old Jew." He taught all of his children business and technical skills. Relvia was the disciplinarian of the family.

Louis was involved in the building and financing of New Hill Academy, a school sponsored by New Hill C.M.E.Church. He was a faithful member of New Hill until his death. He was also a member of the S.W. of Silver Moon Masonic Lodge.

There are many stories about Louis' illness before his death. One story is that Louis had a hernia and wore a truss. Reportedly, on the day he died, he was trying to lift a 55-gallon barrel of flour from the back of his wagon and ruptured the hernia. Some say, the fact that he was attempting to lift the flour when he had 12 children at home who could have helped, was a prime example of the stubborn streak he sometimes possessed. A friend, Enos Scroggins, took him to the hospital that day and it is said his moans could be heard all the way to Shreveport. His death was very traumatic and painful. He died in the hospital in Shreveport at the age of fifty-one.

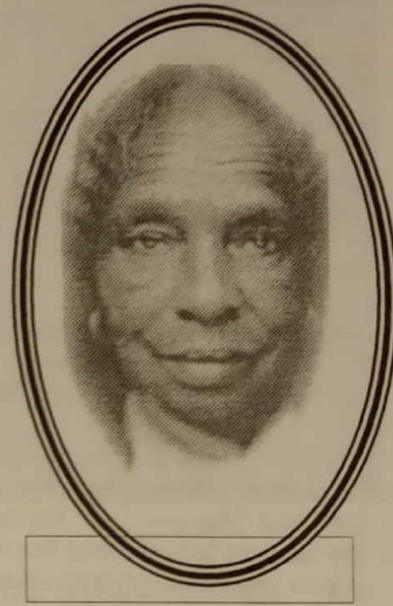
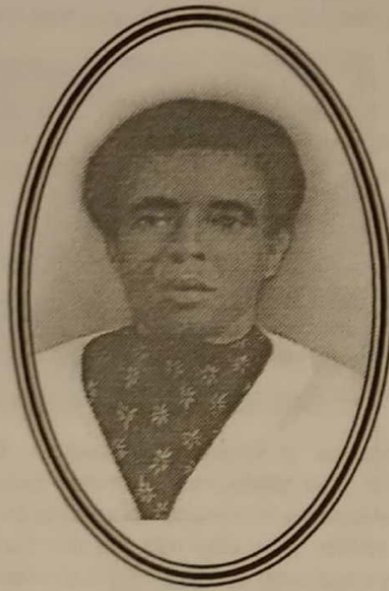
### Interesting facts about Louis Morgan Moch:

- He was the half-brother-in-law/son-in-law of Elizabeth Wilson.
- He was the half-brother/step son-in-law of Gilbert Wilson.
- He was the step uncle/husband of Relvia Cole.
- There was no blood relationship between Louis and Relvia.





Relvia Cole Moch  
March 15, 1863 - August 3, 1945



Husband: Louis Morgan Moch

Children: Etta, Rachel, Louis Henry, Earnest,  
Benjamin, Elizabeth, James Addison,  
William Murray, Lela, Clara, L.M.,  
Norman, William McKinley, Carrie,  
Jesse, Ardis

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DETAILS





## Relvia Cole Moch

Relvia Cole was the daughter of Elizabeth Ellis Wilson and Jim Cole. Gilbert Wilson was her step-father. Relvia married Louis Moch (Gilbert's half-brother). She was the proud mother of 16 children.

Relvia was a petite lady whose weight never exceeded 100 pounds unless she was expecting. She kept an immaculate house, was an exceptional cook, and did a tremendous job raising her children. Relvia also raised her grandson, Joseph Metcalf, from infancy, after his mother, Carrie, died in childbirth.

Relvia and Louis owned many acres of land, and a very large and lovely home in Springridge, Louisiana. The loft was used to cure many different types of meat. Large shanks of ham and bacon hung from the ceiling. They also had many pear trees on the property. Relvia would send bushel baskets of pears to her family members in Louis Henry's truck.

The family enjoyed many social gatherings at Grandma Relvia's. Church revivals were held at New Hill. The family also celebrated what was called "Big Day" and "May Day." On Big Day, they enjoyed a lovely church service and all of the relatives brought food from home to share. May Day was the day the family graves were cleaned. Beautiful flowers were placed on each of the gravesites.

Relvia was an incredible lady whose zest for life and love of family served as an inspiration to all of us. She was known as "Little Grandma," and Elizabeth Wilson was called "Big Grandma." It was said, "you'd rather whip a lion with a switch than to cross Little Grandma."

After a fire engulfed Relvia's home, she went to live with Rachel, her daughter. Rachel took exceptional care of her. Relvia eventually suffered a stroke. She recovered fairly well and went on to live for several more years. She passed away in 1945. She is buried next to her husband at New Hill Cemetery in Springridge, Louisiana.

