



John Richard Morris, a valuer to Dunedin City Corporation, had five sons who were photographers working in early Dunedin.

The best known were John Richard Morris (the son) and his brother Guy Clayton Morris. Guy had a studio in Dunedin, excelled in landscapes and for many years filled the illustrated pages of the 'Otago Witness', gaining a reputation as a top press photographer.

In the 1870s John R. Morris was in partnership with Robert Clifford in Fleet Street (later known as the Royal Arcade) occupying two studios, where they had printing rooms, five waiting rooms, reception room and office. In 1875 a gallery was thrown across from one side of the arcade to the other and this became part of the Clifford & Morris establishment. Charles Spencer joined the partnership in 1876 in consideration of 1000 pounds paid to Clifford & Morris, the profits being shared equally by the three photographers trading as Clifford, Morris & Co. In 1877 Clifford and Morris opened a studio at the High Street end of the Arcade.

After photographer Walter Burton's death in 1880, Morris took over the vacated Burton Studio in George Street. From that time on he dominated the professional portrait business in Dunedin, acquired other studios which he put in charge of managers, and eventually inaugurated and presided over a professional photographers' association formed some time before the First World War. Morris and his assistants established a reputation for fine landscape photography from throughout New Zealand.

In the 1890s Morris took over the American Photographic Company studio in Princes Street.

Morris died on 29 June 1919 as a result of the 1918 influenza epidemic and is buried in Dunedin's Andersons Bay Cemetery. In the grave adjacent lies the body of his brother Guy Clayton Morris who had died on 28 December 1918.