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450
Major Abner Morse, Esq.,

of

Holliston, Mass.

by

William Thornton Parker, M. D.,

Sons of the American Revolution,

Northampton, Massachusetts.

1915.



Arms of
ELIJAH MORSE A.M.,
1785-1831

1721981

“He only deserves to be remembered by posterity who treasures up and preserves the history of his ancestors.”

BURKE.

Major Abner Morse, Esqr.

Born October 11th, 1759; died March 11th, 1821.

Great-great-great-great-grandson of
Samuel Morse of Dedham, Mass.

BY

His great-grandson

Captain William Thornton Parker, M. D.

Companion Sons of the American Revolution.

Companion First Class Order of Indian Wars U. S. A.

Aide-de-Camp Army and Navy Union U. S. Army.

Formerly Acting Asst. Surgeon U. S. Army.

Formerly Surgeon U. S. Indian Service.

Member National Committee Indian War Veterans' Ass'n.

Member Association Military Surgeons, U. S. A.

Member Parker Historical and Genealogical Association.

Member Connecticut Valley Historical Society, etc.

Member of the Holliston (Mass.) Historical Society.

NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

A. D. 1915.

The Spirit of '76.

“ Then marched the brave from rocky steep,
From mountain river, swift and cold;
The borders of the stormy deep,
The vales where gathered waters sleep,
Sent up the strong and bold.”

“ As if the very earth again
Grew quick with God's creating breath,
And from the sods of grove and glen,
Rose ranks of lion-hearted men,
To battle to the death.”

—BRYANT.

Origin of the Name of Morse

A. D. 1177.

“Ego Justus Mozz Episcopus”—name of Bishop not perpetrated unless in the form of Moss—Norman origin—of great antiquity. Camden classed “Morse” with local name, probably from Latin—Mors—an S added to denote plural. Moss, a seaport of Normandy. Name Moss has a vast range among Saxons on the Continent. In England, for long an honoured and common name.

Rt. Rev. Charles Moss, D. D.—Bishop of Bath and Wells; his son Bishop of Oxford. Bartholomew Moss, M. D.—the founder of the lying-in hospital at Dublin. John Moss, Esq.—banker of Otterspool. The name of Morse also claims a high antiquity. It first occurs A. D. 1358 in the reign of Edward III. As a journey was about to be undertaken in France during a truce with that country and the captivity of her King, Edward addressed his order to—“Hugo de Mors de conducto pro familiaribus Cardinalis Petragoricensis et aliorum.” From the nature of this commission and the prevalence of chivalry at the time, it is inferred that Hugo was a Knight. In Berry’s Heraldry occurs the following coat of arms:—“Morse ’Or—a battle ax in pale gu (another ppr) between three pellets—crest two battle axes in saltier p.p.v. banded with a chaplet of roses—” This coat of arms with the excellent motto—“In Deo, non armis, fido”—I trust in God not in arms, has been in the family in the south of England nearly five hundred years; going back to the date of the order of Edward. “All names,” says Camden, “with *de* formerly written before them were bor-

rowed from places." But it has not been ascertained that any place in England ever bore this horrible name, the Latin word for "death." Where then was Moss? Of what country was Hugo a native? Both words point us to France, where Hugo for ages has been a common and distinguished name, and where a dialect of the Latin has become the vernacular language of the people and from which they would have borrowed names for their places. Besides where would Edward have sought a man of qualifications for the trust reposed in Hugo, to conduct a Cardinal with his retinue of English Bishops and nobles in a country just overrun by the King's troops and full of enmity towards his subjects? Not among Saxons lately manumitted, not among the descendants of Norman barons who by a foreign residence of three centuries had lost their acquaintance with the language and manners of France, but among continental subjects, who were familiar with the inhabitants and the dangers of the country to be traversed, and over which Edward was asserting a disputed right to reign.

If Hugo, then, was a Frenchman, who served the hated King of England, this hatred might have expatriated his family, as France recovered her independence, and if the importance of Hugo's commission, the existence of a coat of arms synchronizing with its date, indicate a rank to which pertained hereditary possessions. Yet in Burke's *History of the Extinct Peerages and of the Peerage and Baronetcy of England*, the name of Mors is not to be found. His territorial possessions then were situated in some other country, and in what country so probable as France, the birthplace of the noble families of England and where for three hundred years she has re-

tained allies and more or less dominion. If neither peers or barons of this name have flourished in England, numbers of them have enjoyed landed estates and high official stations. John Morse, Esq. is mentioned in early times as Alderman of Hereford," etc.

MEMORIAL OF THE MORSES—By Rev. Abner Morse.

THE MORSES OF MASSACHUSETTS.

The spirit of '76 which made all the world marvel was repeated 1812-1861 and on every occasion since, when the nation has needed the protection of its devoted sons. In '61, as in '76, our nation was still a confederacy of farmers "they left the plough share in the mould, their flocks and herds without a fold, and mustered in their simple dress for wrongs to seek a stern redress." Without disparaging the worth of other patriots who came at our country's call, the bone and sinew, the manhood and honour, and the lofty patriotism of this nation were to be found among our farmers.

"The Old New England Society," which some claim has been completely broken up, was one of the most interesting phenomenon in history. No other such body of cultivators of the soil as the New England Colonists were, down to our own day, has ever been seen.

No other men who tilled the ground with their own hands have had such an acute and active intelligence, such intense preoccupation with religious and moral problems, such a keen sense of the superior importance of spiritual things, such reverence for learning, such familiarity with and appreciation of literature, and such capacity for government by discussion.

Puritanism, as has often been said, missed its mark in England, but it came as near realizing its ideal as human nature would permit on American soil. No student of politics or sociology will in all probability, for ages to come, light on an experiment in all respects so interesting and so successful as Massachusetts and Connecticut were and continued to be down to the outbreak of the Civil War. The war, working through the tariff and the railroads, has broken it up almost as thoroughly as it broke up its opposite, slave society, at the South. The disappearance from the maps of a community more remarkable on the whole, for its civic virtues than any of the world has seen since the days of ancient Greece, has wrung hardly a word of lamentation or regret from any of the recognized organs of New England opinion. The received notion about the matter has apparently been that, as long as New England men can be pointed to in New York or at the West in places of responsibility in railroads, mines, factories or stock broker's offices, nothing more need be said by way of apology or regret.

Such, we have a right to claim, is the just estimate of New England farmers. Whatever is best and noblest in the American ideas, has received its nurture in Massachusetts homes. The influence of the "little red school-house" has been felt throughout the world. It has made tyranny tremble, and thrones totter and fall. It has been the hope of the down trodden: the joy of the patriot. Its beneficent influence continues up to the present time. The tremendous rekindling of the fires of patriotism is but the warning which the foes of liberty will do well to heed. Those who have spent their days on foreign shores understand the meaning of the New England

home. Two centuries ago, the country hereabouts was dotted with the abodes of the men of true hearts and sterling honour, who had come here in the fear of God to found a new nation. Among these American pioneers were such men as Samuel Morse and Abraham Parker and their worthy descendants.

“The first settlers of Dedham were a remarkable collection of people. Tradition brings down a high character attached to most of the names found on its early records; and their public and private acts fully confirm it. Orderly and industrious in their habits, they allowed no one to remain in their community who was not engaged in some regular occupation. Any violation of rules was followed by a penalty; yet the most exact strictness was accompanied by equally unflinching loving kindness. Liberal were they towards each other and their neighbors, and public spirited. Thrifty were they, husbanding both public and private resources with great economy and industry. Above all they possessed a liberal and enlightened policy in matters of religion. The Church, severe within itself would spend a whole winter in inquiring into the qualifications of applicants for admission; rejecting upon the slightest doubt and urging gifts and graces by all the subtle tests made use of at that age: yet they molested no one who was *not* a member, for his private opinions. In such a sound and sensible community we find, as might be expected, no persecutions, no witches, no supernatural occurrences. The Church appears not to have been disturbed by discontent or factious spirits. Indeed the turbulent passions found no aliment here. The plantation went on regularly advancing in population and wealth. The fruits of religion were exhibited in the life but without ostentation and uncharitableness—”

In the town of Medfield, home lots were assigned to Samuel Morse and his sons Daniel and Joseph and son-in-law Deacon Bullen. Here he settled with his younger son Joseph and erected the house which was first fired by the Indians when they, led by King Philip, laid that town in ashes, Feb. 21, 1675 (o. s.) killing eighteen of the inhabitants. The land is now owned by Eliakim Morse of the eighth generation descended from him and has never passed out of the name. "To the praise of this branch of our Family the trace of the site of this house, no profane hand has been suffered to obliterate."

No ancient records of the Church in Medfield exist. Here he lived to behold another pious and prosperous community spring up, the first born of Dedham and resembling the parent. And now advanced in years and summoned to set his house in order, we find the patriarch attended by that excellent man, the Rev. Ralph Wheelock, who had been an eminent non-conformist preacher in England—one of the witnesses of his will, Medfield, Anno Domini 10 mo 2d, 1654. "I, Samuel Morse, being sick and weak in body but of good and perfect memory, praised be God therefor, doe make this my last will and testament in a manner as followeth—First I bequeath my soul into the hand of a merciful God that gave it with assured hope of everlasting life through the gracious merits of my dear Saviour and blessed Redeemer, Jesus Christ. And for that little estate of outward things which the Lord hath been pleased to bestow upon me whether they be movable or immovable, as house, lands, cattle, household stuff, etc., I will and bequeath them all unto Elizabeth Morse, my dear and loving wife, to enjoy, possess, etc."—A noble document! His lot and the trace of

his house and will can be resurveyed and identified by the records originally granted affording a retired and commanding prospect for a monument to his memory. Will it not benefit us and our posterity thus to honour him? Or shall we wait for a nobler generation, one endowed with more reverence and gratitude. Samuel Morse belonged to that class of Puritans who strove to separate from the corruption of the English Church, yet continued in her communion until their embarkation for this country. His emigration evidently originated in the same circumstances, and was undoubtedly dictated by the same well known motives as the earlier emigrants to New England. Wm. Laud, the enemy of the Puritans, being elevated to the Primacy of England in 1633, a commission was illegally instituted soon after consisting of a committee of the Priory Council, called the Commissioners of Plantations, who, to embarrass the Puritans, prohibited the promiscuous passing of His Majesty's subjects to this country, requiring subsidy men to procure a license, and other persons the attestation of two justices before they could embark. Accordingly, our Puritan sire, Samuel Morse, however he might have approbated a different course in his sons who were of age, took care, when about to remove, to conform to existing laws, as appears from the following extract from a M. S., at the Augmentation office in Roll's Court, Westminster Hall, London, transcribed by Judge Savage—"15th of April, 1635, these parties, hereafter expressed, are to be transported to New England embarked in the Increase, Robert Lee, Master, having taken the oath of allegiance and supremacy as being conformable to the orders and discipline of the Church of England, whereof they brought testimony, per certificate from

the justices and ministers where their abodes have lately been—Samuel Morse, husbandman, aged fifty—Elizabeth Morse, wife, aged forty-eight—Joseph Morse, aged twenty—”

In such a community did the Patriarch Samuel Morse see his exiled sons settled, living in all good-fellowship with God’s peculiar people, rearing numerous families in the knowledge of that faith for the sake of which he had led them forth into the wilderness. In the Civil transactions of Dedham, he and his sons bore an honourable part. Besides serving as Treasurer he was “townsman” (selectman) 1640-42, and his elder sons were advanced to office. But they were too enterprising and ambitious to set up God’s ordinances to rest here. They therefore united with other citizens and proprietors of Dedham in petitioning for a new town and this was granted by the General Court in 1649 and Medfield sprang up and became a thriving community with her meeting house Church and minister.

Samuel Morse, Esq., of Dedham, Mass., who was born in England in 1585, emigrated to New England in 1635, settled in Dedham in 1637, and died at Medfield, April 5th, 1654. He sailed from England in the good ship Increase, Robt. Lee, master, on the 15th day of April, 1635, bringing with him his faithful and beloved wife, Elizabeth, and his sturdy young son Joseph, then twenty years of age.

Samuel Morse had seven children: John, Daniel, Joseph, Abigail, Samuel, Jeremiah and Mary. The son Joseph married Hannah Phillips, of Watertown, in 1638, and his son, the Hon. Capt. Joseph, married Mehitable Wood, and his son Joseph, born March 25th, 1679, married Miss Prudence Adams, daughter of Henry Adams, and great granddaughter

of Henry Adams, of Braintree, now Quincy. She was born on the 10th of April, 1683. His son Henry was born June 14th, 1703 and died April 5th, 1766. He married Sarah, daughter of Joshua and Mary Comy Kebby who were married at Woburn, Mass., May 24th, 1688. Henry's marriage took place April 11th, 1725. His son Ezekiel was born October 1st, 1727 and died March 24th, 1778. He married Rebecca Cozzens May 22nd, 1750, and died March 11th, 1821. His son Abner was born October 11th, 1759 and died March 11th, 1821. He married (May 2nd, 1782) Mille Leland, who was born July 2nd, 1762 and died at Medfield, March 15th, 1821. His son Elizah was born September 10th, 1785 and died in Boston, August 23rd, 1831. Elijah left no son. He married in Boston, November 20th, 1817, Mary, daughter of Dr. Wm. Jackson, son of Wm. Jackson, an Alderman of London, England, and granddaughter of Hon. Isaac Rand, M. D., of Boston.

Joseph Morse and his son, the Hon. Capt. Joseph Morse, were men worthy of their ancestors, and occupied prominent positions and acquired considerable wealth in the communities in which they lived. Joseph Morse settled on Dirty Meadow Hill, in Shrewsbury, near the estate of the late Deacon Micah Leland. He was supposed to possess the best land in his township, and left valuable estate—dying at the age of 75. Miss Prudence, his wife, was the daughter of Henry Adams, of Newfield, and her mother was the excellent Prudence Frary, niece of Captain Theophilus, Jr., of Boston. Henry Adams, the father of Prudence, was the grandson of Henry Adams whose remains sleep in honourable company at Quincy. The son of Henry, Jr., married the sister of James Russell, of Charlestown, son-in-law of Governor John Haynes. He was slain by the Indians at Newfield, and his wife, Elizabeth, accidentally shot

the day after. The son of Joseph Morse, Henry, settled on the northwest portion of Medway. Uria Cutler, his great grandson, occupied the land for many years. His great industry and enterprise are visible to-day. He served in an expedition destined to reduce for the second time the fortress of Louisburg and shared in the perils and glories of a victory celebrated by proclamation and thanksgiving throughout the Empire. He and his good wife were members of the church in Holliston. He divided his lands to his three sons and built each of them a house and spacious barn. He was mirthful and high-minded, and had moral traits worthy of his true British ancestry. His great physical strength was inherited from his ancestors, and is legible still in many of his great grandchildren.

His son Ezekiel, married Rebecca, granddaughter of Abraham Cozzens, of Shrewsbury, and previously of Boston, and daughter of Isaac, of Holliston, by wife Martha (Haven) Wessan, born at Lynne, April 11, 1690, daughter of Nathaniel and Elizabeth H., and granddaughter of Richard Haven, from the west of England, about 1644. He, with his good wife, were both members of the Church in Holliston. He inherited the paternal homestead. Ezekiel Morse was a true patriot and a zealous Whig, and when "the regulars broke out of Boston," he was languishing with a mortal injury received from the kick of a horse, yet with patriotic fervor and self-denial, he nobly ordered his beloved and only son Abner, the subject of this sketch, a lad scarcely sixteen years of age, to be harnessed for the field with his father's rifle, powder horn, etc., and with the dying father's love and blessing, he hurried off "to be shot, if need be, but not in the back." And his commands were most faithfully obeyed.



Major Abner Morse Esqr

Major Abner Morse.

Abner Morse, with dutiful haste, joined the patriots at the front. He was made a drummer in the Continentals, and the first office he ever held was to hold a spyglass for Gen. Washington to look through at the enemy. He remained with the Army until the evacuation of Boston, and re-entered it as a volunteer for another campaign in Rhode Island, and did service elsewhere until the close of the war. Deprived of his honoured and beloved father at an early age, and exposed as he was in his military career to many temptations, it was a wonder that he was able to secure good promotion, and to win for himself such high positions of honour and trust later in life. He rose to the appointments of Captain and Major of artillery, which he filled with honour. He had received few literary advantages above those of the common district school, and yet he made himself acquainted with surveying, military engineering, and became a neat and accurate draftsman, and was well acquainted with municipal law and the law of process. Among the multitude of cases that came before him as a magistrate in the space of fourteen years, no decision given by him is known to have been reversed by a higher court. He had a ready despatch for business, and was much employed in settling estates and taking care of the bereaved and unfortunate. He was for twenty years a sort of stereotyped moderator of town and parish meetings, serving sixty-five times in that capacity. He represented Medway three years in the general court, and served as selectman fourteen years, and repeatedly as grand-juror, etc. He was commonly employed to look af-

ter the interest of the town in her foreign negotiations and disputes, and is allowed to have done more public business than any of her former citizens. He was naturally very excitable, mirthful, social, combative and persevering. He had a clear and heavy voice, a ready flow of words, and for one not early trained to public speaking, uncommon influence in debate. He was appointed justice by Governor Sullivan, and reappointed by Governor Strong, and again by Governor Brooks, and was an acting magistrate at the time of his death. He was a God-fearing Christian man, and his remains sleep in peace beside those of his beloved consort in the Churchyard at Holliston.

Major Abner Morse, Esqr., was born October 11th, 1759; married May 2nd, 1782; marriage intention Decemb. 13th, 1781; mar. Miss Mille Leland, born July 2nd, 1761; died March 15th, 1821.

Major Morse died March 11th, 1821.

His wife, Millie Leland, was a woman ever beloved and honored in the relations of wife mother, neighbor, friend and Christian. Precious and admonitory be their sacred memories.

They were united on earth, they are together in Paradise. "Requiescant in Pace."

"Wennakeening" Major Abner Morse's home (Wennakeening is an Indian name for Lake Winthrop and signifies "*It is pleasant*," in Holliston, Massachusetts. This remarkable estate has constantly remained in a single family since 1659. The Indian title came from old Chief Chickatawbut, meaning "House Afire," in 1660, renewed finally by his grandson Josias, in 1685.

1st. John Frary grant 1689. Indian purchase 1660; 177 acres.



Mrs Abner Morrell
(Mille Leland)

2. Prudence Frary, (Mrs. Henry Adams) December 18th, 1679.

3. Prudence Adams, (Mrs. Joseph Morse) April 14th, 1702.

4. Henry Morse, first actual settler, 1726.

5. Ezekiel Morse.

6. Major *Abner Morse*.

7. Nabby Morse, (Mrs. Uriel Cutler) April 25th, 1809.

8. Uriel Cutler.

9. Henry Morse Cutler, present proprietor, Frary Adams Morse Cutler, 1659.

"The historic Morse homestead borders on the old Indian lake, Wennakeening. It was a popular fishing ground, long before white men secured homes on its shores. There is abundant evidence of a populous Indian village within a gun shot of the present farm buildings, which occupy almost the site of the original log house—built by Abner Morse's great-grandfather in 1727.

"The last of the Nipmucks, old Hendrick, did not leave the region till Abner "was well grown up." So he was born on historic soil and the neighborhood tales of early pioneer hardships must have kindled his imagination from babyhood. Lake Wennakeening is an attractive sheet of water extending a mile from the old Morse lands to the village of Holliston.

"Squire" (Major Abner) Morse, proprietor of the hereditary Morse estate in the early part of the nineteenth century, was a respected local magistrate, and an active citizen of Medway, a member of the general court from there, and identified with the old West Medway Church, though later with that of Holliston, in the church yard of which he is buried."

PROF. W. WALDO CUTLER.

Many of Major Morse's relatives served in the glorious struggle for Independence, and won well deserved praise and honour, but no record could be more honourable, than that of the young lad, Abner Morse, who, inspired by lofty sentiments of patriotism and heroic devotion and self sacrifice, went forth, amid the perils of war, to do his duty in defence of his native country—the noblest offering of manly virtue.

“May his soul rest in peace.”

In examining the military history of Major Abner Morse it is interesting to note that he entered upon his soldierly career when *only sixteen years of age!* It is also worthy of notice that soldiers are apt to begin their military careers at a very early age. In the War of the Rebellion 231,051 were only sixteen years of age or under and 844,891 were seventeen years or under; and of those eighteen years of age we find the number to be 1,151,438. Nearly three-fourths of the United States Army in the War of the Rebellion were under twenty-one years of age!

The writer of this memorial was only sixteen when he enlisted at the close of the war and at seventeen was in active military service on the Indian frontier.



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The Battle at the North Bridge, Concord, 19th April, 1775.
Captain Seth Morse was at the head of his Company here.

Major Abner Morse's Ancestors and Relatives.

Henry Morse settled on a tract of rough unimproved land in the northwestern part of Medway, later annexed to Holliston. In 1726 he built a small framed house and in 1736 another two story house which in 1849 gave place to that occupied by Cutler.

The great improvements which he made still attest his industry and enterprise. When his eldest son Ezekiel was drafted to join the expedition destined to reduce for the second time the fortress of Louisburg, his wife was expecting confinement before his period of service might close. The father, then forty-six years old, volunteered to take the son's place and shared in the perils and glories of a victory celebrated by proclamations and thanksgivings throughout the empire. He and his wife were members of the church in Holliston. He divided his farm to his three sons and built each of them a house and spacious barn. He was mirthful and high minded and had the moral traits of a true New Englander. The great physical strength of his family he did not transmit, but the type is so legible still in his great grandchildren and so perfect in some, that it can scarcely fail to be transmitted through other generations.

The Rev. Abner Morse, in his history of Sherborn and Holliston, p. 181—speaks of Captain Joseph Morse, son of Joseph of Medfield, as nephew of Colonel Morse of Cromwell's Army. This would make the first Joseph, born in England, the brother of the Colonel.

Joseph Morse is recorded as having, with his brother Daniel, taken the Freeman's oath May 6th, 1635. He was one of the proprietors of Medfield. He died in 1654, after a useful and honourable career mostly spent near the old homestead. His sons settled in Medfield.

Joseph Morse who settled in Nova Scotia after such a romantic career as Commissary General and who escaped from the French Prison ship by being recaptured by the British Man-o-War—was the grandson of Joseph Morse who married Hannah Phillips. He founded a town and named it Amherst in honour of his commander, the brave General Amherst of the British Army.

The father of Henry was Joseph, and his father was Hon. Capt. Joseph Morse, a distinguished Indian fighter in the battles with King Philip. The father of Captain Joseph Morse was also named Joseph and his father was Samuel Morse who came to this country in 1635.

Daniel Fisher of Dedham, who marched Governor Andros through the streets of Boston, his strong right hand holding his coat collar was the son-in-law of Samuel Morse.

Captain Seth Morse, of Westboro', early and long a leading citizen of that town, met at the head of his company the enemy at Concord, April, 1775, and rendered further service to his country's cause in the terrible struggle that ensued.

"By the rude bridge, that arched the flood
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood
And fired the shot heard 'round the world."

NOTE.—This verse is from Emerson's hymn sung to the tune of "Old Hundred" by those present at the dedication of the Battle Monument April 19th, 1836.



The Battle Flag of the Minute-men of Bedford, Mass.

Hon. Captain Joseph Morse, grandfather of Major Abner Morse, settled in "Boggestow" (Indian name for present town of Sherborn) about 1670, on the west side of Charles river. He was a distinguished Indian fighter as well as a prominent citizen in Civil life. During Philip's War Capt. Morse was sorely tried and according to tradition his combativeness, largely developed by nature, was called into action. On that memorable morning of Feb. 21st, 1675-6, when Medfield was assaulted by Philip at the head of five hundred warriors, laid in ashes and eighteen persons massacred, he was at his remote and feeble settlement with a wife near confinement and her sister-in-law still nearer, whose husband, being on the other side of the river, fell the first victim to the fierce tomahawk. The warriors were now dancing in fiendish exultation on the west side of the river; the only bridge by which they could flee to a stronger garrison in Medfield or draw relief from thence was on fire, and the two or three garrisons of Boggestow consisted of only about ten or twelve men each, so that immediate destruction seemed before them. The effect of all was the premature confinement and death of the sister-in-law, and Mrs. Morse subsequently lost her child. They deferred their attack, however, until the 6th of May when "they met with a notorious repulse at a stone house on the margin of Boggestow Pond." In the battle with the Indians on the 2d of July, 1676, there was near this place a new conflict in the forest near Boggestow Pond. So vigorous was Captain Morse's attack that a large number of the enemy were killed, and the rout was so complete and the chastisement so severe that the Indians never dared to show their faces in that vicinity again.

Captain Morse personally commanded in these

conflicts and by his courage and general good conduct won the confidence of the public in him as a meritorious officer. Capt. Morse signed the petition for the incorporation of Sherborn in 1674 and was among the first received as inhabitants and he subsequently enjoyed the confidence of his fellow citizens and received the highest honours in their gifts, however humble the *present* sense of the terms by which these honours were expressed. He was chosen Captain of their only Militia Company, one to treat with a minister to settle in Sherborn, to build a parsonage, to preserve order and obedience to laws and often to moderate Town Meetings, serve as selectman, and represent Sherborn in the great and General Court in Boston; also to locate roads and divide the common lands, objects of paramount interest and importance to their infant town and posterity. His name very often appears subscribed to important documents in neat though heavy characters, always slanting to the left and it is evident that the public had great confidence in his integrity, judgment and influence. His remains were interred upon an eminence in the ancient but now neglected Burying Ground in the south part of Sherborn. His will is a remarkable document giving additional evidence of his manly piety and Christian courage and uprightness. He was rich in lands and died in the honour and esteem of his fellow citizens, deeply mourned by all who knew him.

In the great crisis in the liberties of the colony when Randolph was engaged in those hostile measures which resulted in the subversion of the charter, and the oppressive administration of Governor Andros who declared the title to lands void and exacted heavy sums for the repurchase of them, many were

discouraged and disposed to submit to the encroachments of the British Government while others were for adhering to the charter according to their construction of it and leave the event. Here was the origin of the two parties—Patriots and Prerogative men or Whigs and Tories between whom says Minot controversy seldom intermitted, and was never ended until the separation of the two countries. Daniel Fisher, the ancestor of Fisher Ames, was the representative from Dedham, the speaker of the house and the leader of the Patriots among the Deputies. He was one of the four whose impeachment, says Randolph, of the Earl of Clarendon, will make the whole faction tremble.

Grievously oppressed by the administration of Andros, and hearing indirectly of the landing of the Prince of Orange in England, and the consequent revolution of the government there, the people of Massachusetts, without waiting for a confirmation, determined to take its truth for granted and simultaneously set about accomplishing a revolution of their own. On the morning of April 18th, 1689, Boston was in arms. The Governor and Council were seized and confined, and the old magistrates re-instated. The country people came into town in such rage and heat as made all tremble to think what would follow. Nothing would satisfy them but that the Governor must be bound in chains or cords, and put in a more secure place; and for their quiet he was guarded by them to the fort. Whose hand was on the collar of that prisoner leading him through the excited crowd, at once securing him from escape, and guarding him from outrage? It was the hand of Daniel Fisher of Dedham: aye, a second Daniel come to Judgment, a son of the farmer, and heir to

his energetic ardor in the cause of freedom, the son of *Abigail Morse* and a just representative of traits characteristic of her father's race for at least five generations.

Major John Morse served two campaigns in the War of the Revolution without compensation, and contributed to hire three other soldiers, and after the war, settled with his father on the homestead in Dublin. At the age of twenty-three he was chosen to represent Dublin and Marlboro in the legislature of New Hampshire, but declined. Subsequently and at sundry times he accepted the office from the citizens of Dublin, the duties of which he discharged with honour to himself and his constituents; and he has left a reputation for sound sense, cool deliberation, strict integrity and promptitude in fulfilling his engagements. When the original political parties arose he adhered to the administration then befriended by probably nineteen-twentieths of the intelligence, patriotism and moral virtue throughout the land; and when the tongue of time shall have silenced political slanders, or changed the tune now played for office by demagogues, his race may proudly boast that he was a federalist. He fell when the contest of these parties was at its acme, lamented by a large circle of friends, and even his bitterest enemies wept over his remains.

Morse, Jedediah, D. D., Univ. of Edinburgh 1794, clergyman and distinguished geographer, born in Woodstock, Conn., August 23rd, 1761, died in New Haven, Conn., June 9th, 1826.

He graduated at Yale Univ., 1785. He was a clergyman in the Congregational Church of Charlestown, Massachusetts. He was called the "father" of American geography. Dr. Morse was much occupied

in religious controversy in upholding the Orthodox faith in the New England Churches against the assaults of Unitarianism. He was prominent in establishing the Theological Seminary at Andover, Massachusetts.

He was commissioned by the U. S. Government to visit the Indian tribes of the north-west. He was an active member of the Massachusetts Historical Society and of many other literary and scientific bodies.

From JOSEPH MORSE descended,

JASPER ADAMS, D. D.,

President Geneva College.

REV. DR. FAY,

President Waterville College, Maine.

REV. DR. AARON LELAND,

President Theological Seminary, So. Carolina,
and the HON. ABBOTT LAWRENCE,

Ambassador to Great Britain.

The pages of American history show the names of *Morse* and those descended from Samuel Morse in the battles of Lexington, Concord, Bunker Hill, Ticonderoga, and in most of the battles of the War of the Revolution—1812, the Mexican War, the War of the Rebellion, the Indian Wars, and also the more recent wars of the United States. These men have been worthy descendants of their brave and patriotic ancestors and have deserved well of their country.

Elijah Morse, son of Major Abner Morse.

To the old residents of Boston the changes which have been made in Somerset Street must bring back to memory old times when this section of the city was an aristocratic centre. The destruction of so many houses must, in spite of the improvement promised, cause considerable regret. One house, like a giant of the forest standing when others have fallen or like a rock on the shore resisting the onslaught of the waves, was No. 27, the one formerly occupied by Elijah Morse, Esq. The house was one of the old fashioned kind "built to last," with massive walls and large rooms with high ceilings. It was four stories in height and could contain within its walls a goodly company without seeming overfilled. On the ground floor a large arched door like the entrance to an Armory opened from the street into a passageway to the court in the rear. This was used for provision and supply wagons, there the cows were driven home in the afternoon to yield their wholesome milk. The chimneys were massive and suggested wide and warm fireplaces. The main entrance to the house was up a long flight of stone steps and under a generous porch which promised hearty welcome. One would recognize in its great good natured appearance appropriate place for the legend.

Mr. Morse's estate was very valuable and contained much of what is now Pemberton Square. After his death the estate, unfortunately for the heirs, was sold and of late years it had been known as a family hotel. The old house on Somerset Street has been the scene of many interesting events, social and



Residence of Hon. Elijah Morse, A. M.,
Son of Major Abner Morse,
27 Somerset St., Boston, Mass.

political, and its old friends regretted seeing it used as a hotel, but still more when they were called upon to witness its total destruction. It certainly died hard and to demolish it required the labor of many men for many days. Mr. Morse left a widow and four daughters, one of whom married Dr. W. Thornton Parker, formerly a prominent physician of South Boston. The remains of Elijah Morse rest in the tomb No. 81, of Mrs. Anna Jackson, his mother-in-law, in the old Granary Burial Ground, Tremont Street, Boston. May his soul rest in peace.

The house, 27 Somerset Street, Boston, was built by the Hon. James Lloyd, Jr., L. L. D., soon after Somerset Street was laid out early in the present century. Mr. Lloyd was United States Senator from 1808 to 1813 and from 1822 to 1826. He was born in Boston in 1769, graduated at Harvard College 1787 and died in New York City, April 5th, 1831. In this house in Somerset Street General Lafayette was Mr. Lloyd's guest, June 17th, 1825, the day of the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill—(See Levasseur's Lafayette in America, Vol. II, p. 202) Phila, 1829. **1721981**

Portraits of Senator Lloyd and his brother-in-law, the Hon. Samuel Breck of Philadelphia, presented by their nephew, the Rev. Chas. Breck, D. D., of Wilmington, Delaware, are in the possession of the New England Historical Genealogical Society.

Senator Lloyd resided in this house until 1827 when he removed to Philadelphia. The house was next occupied by Elijah Morse, Esq., as stated in the above article. He was a brother of the Rev. Abner Morse, author of the Memorial of the Morses and other works. Elijah Morse was born Sept. 10th,

1785 and was graduated at Brown University 1809, A. B. and A. M., and the honourary degree of A. M., from Harvard 1814. He resided in this house from 1827 until his death in 1831.

New England Genealogical Register.

“Welcome to all within this gate;
No friend ere came too early,
None ere stayed too late——”

Its owner was like the house, generous and hospitable. He was a man whose memory will live long after his sturdy house, which could easily have lasted another century, has tumbled to ruins. Elijah Morse was one of the prominent lawyers of Boston in his day and was held in loving respect by the honourable society of Free Masons of which society he was Deputy Grand Master and Grand Treasurer for many years. He married the daughter of Dr. Wm. Jackson of Edinburgh, a highly esteemed medical man of Boston whose father was for many years one of the aldermen of the ancient city. Dr. Jackson's home in Boston was the rendezvous of Englishmen visiting this country and he entertained with good old English hospitality. In August, 1824, General Lafayette was entertained by Governor Eustis in Roxbury and later was received by a cavalcade of citizens at the town limit and escorted into Boston. The ringing of bells, salvos of artillery and discharges of rockets made a general hearty welcome for the noble Frenchman. The handsomest horse in Boston was believed to be that belonging to Mr. Morse and he was therefore requested to give it up for Lafayette's use, and the next best one was ridden by Mr. Morse in the cavalcade.

Clementina Morse Parker was born in Boston the

29th of April, 1823. She was the daughter of Hon. Elijah Morse of Boston, and granddaughter of Wm. Jackson, Esq., M. D., son of Wm. Jackson, one of the aldermen of London, England. She was married to Dr. W. Thornton Parker at Trinity Church, Boston, Jan. 8th, 1845, by the Rev. Joseph Clinch. She died at the residence of her aunt, Mrs. Emeline Jackson Kettell, Dorehester, Mass., the afternoon of Good Friday, April 2d, 1858. Requiescat in Pace.

RIGHT WORSHIPFUL ELIJAH MORSE, A. M.

DIST. DEP. GRAND MASTER, FIRST DISTRICT MASS.

(Son of Hon. Major Morse.)

Brother Morse was admitted a member of Columbian Lodge A. F. & A. M., October 15th, 5812. He was Senior Deacon in 5813; Junior Warden, 5814; and Wor. Master in 5815. On the 2nd of February, 5815, he resigned the office of Master to accept the appointment of Dist. Dep. Grand Master of the First District. He held that office during the years 5815 and 5816. He became Senior Warden of Columbian Lodge and served in 5817 and 5818. In 5816 he acted as Marshal of the Lodge. He was admitted to membership in St. Andrew's Royal Arch Chapter, October 30th, 5816. He was Corresponding Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge in 5818 and 5819; Grand Treasurer in 5820, 5821, 5822, 5823, 5824, 5825 and 5826; and was Deputy Grand Master in 5830. He was born in Medway September 10th, 5785. He died August 23rd, 5831. On motion voted that Bros. Jenkins, Baxter, Appleton, Hills and Smith be a committee to consider the subject of a new election. Bro. Appleton, Sr., was elected in his place, March 2d, 1815.

IN GRAND LODGE, A. F. & A. M.

Boston, September 14th, 5831.

The following Resolutions offered by Brother Joshua B. Flint, were passed;

WHEREAS it pleased Almighty God since our last quarterly Communication to take away by death our honoured and beloved Brother Elijah Morse, recently Deputy Grand Master of this Grand Lodge, therefore;

RESOLVED that the members of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts bear in affectionate remembrance the virtues and services of our respected brother, and that we deeply and sincerely sympathize in the bereavement which his family has by this afflictive dispensation.

RESOLVED that the Altar, Jewels and regalia of the Grand Lodge be invested with the usual badges of mourning for the term of six months, in testimony of our sense of the loss sustained by our Institution in the death of our late Deputy Grand Master.

The proceedings of the Lodge will be observed from the following extracts from the records of February 2d, 1815. The Right Worshipful Master Elijah Morse announced to the Lodge that he had been honoured by the Most Worshipful Grand Master with an appointment to the office of District Deputy Grand Master for the First Masonic District in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and could not constitutionally retain his station as Master of Columbian Lodge; and in a very feeling and affectionate manner he resigned that office from which he had no doubt anticipated much pleasure and satisfaction, and the Lodge equal profit and respectability.

At this interesting event, the members of Columbian Lodge actuated by those sentiments which always pay just tribute to worth, under whatever circumstances, unanimously expressed their feelings in the following resolutions: Resolved that while we rejoice at the honourable promotion of our Right Worshipful Master—while Columbian Lodge joyfully exults at the eminence to which fame hath exalted her son—we sincerely regret that so bright a luminary as this suddenly taken from our temple of love, and although our brother in honourably impelled to quit our baors for more important duties, we rejoice that our work will continue to receive his inspiration, our meetings his frequent attention and ourselves his kind affection.

Elijah Morse, Esq., graduated from Brown university with distinguished honours in his class, which has furnished such men as Rev. Dr. Ide of Medford and Rev. Dr. Burgess of Dedham and others advantageously known. He commenced the study of law with Judge Thatcher of Thomastown, Maine, and finished with Timothy Bigelow of Boston, whose office and a share of its emoluments passed immediately into his hands on being admitted to the bar. He married the daughter of Wm. Jackson, M. D., Edinburgh, whose father was one of the aldermen of London and passed his remaining days in Boston in the practice of his profession, welcoming numerous acquaintances to the hospitalities of his house. He consented, at a sacrifice to represent Boston one year in the General Court but declined a second nomination. He was a member of the City Council at the time of his death; and also one of the Standing Committee of the Bar with Samuel Hubbard, W. D. Sohier, John Pickering, Charles G. Loring, John B. Adon and

James T. Austin. When his death was reported, a special meeting of the Bar was held and a resolution adopted to testify their respect for him by attending his funeral. This being declined on behalf of his family, whereupon it was motioned by John Pickering, Esq., and voted that the Bar of Suffolk are deeply impressed with the lamented decease of their late brother Elijah Morse, Esq. His urbanity of manner and active usefulness will be testified by all, while his zeal and fidelity to his clients will be appreciated by those who met with him in the walks of his profession. Voted that the foregoing resolution be transmitted to his family as a testimonial of sincere sympathy in their loss of a father and a husband who united the virtues of private to the energies of active life. Attest, JOSIAH QUINCY.

The generations of Elijah Morse are as follows: Abner, the gallant soldier of the Revolution was ordered to go to war by his father when the lad was but sixteen years of age. When the regulars broke out of Boston, his father Ezekiel was dying. He gave his son directions "to be shot if need be, but not in the back" and he was obeyed. Ezekiel was a devoted Whig. It was his father Henry who forced his son to give up to his father the order for his joining the army. The father insisting upon the sons remaining at home while he, Henry Morse served faithfully and honourably in the Siege of Louisburg.

Abner Morse served throughout the war of the Revolution with fidelity and honour.

Morse, Samuel Finley Breese, L. L. D. (Yale Coll. 1846.) Founder of the system of electro magnetic telegraph. Eldest son of Rev. Dr. Jedediah Morse, born in Charlestown, Mass., 27th of April, 1791.

He went to England with Washington Allston and studied painting with Benjamin West—exhibited his “Dying Hercules” at the Royal Academy in 1813 and received a prize of a gold medal from the London Adelphi for a plaster model of the same. Painted a portrait of Lafayette. In 1835 he demonstrated the practicability of his invention of the telegraph by a model, filed his caveat at the patent office in 1837, perfected his invention in 1840 and in 1844, completed the first electric telegraph in the United States between Baltimore and Washington. The representatives of the principal European powers assembled in Paris about 1857, presented Mr. Morse with the sum of 400,000 francs as a recompense for his invention. In 1840, he perfected the Atlantic Telegraph. Honours have been showered upon him by European Sovereigns.

Morse, Abner—genealogist, born in Medway, Mass., 5th of September, 1793; died in Sharon, Mass., 16th of May, 1865. He was graduated at Brown in 1816 and at Andover Theological Seminary in 1819. After being ordained on Dec. 16th, 1819, he was pastor of the Congregational Church in Nantucket, Mass., until 1822 and later filled pastorates in Sennett, N. Y., Bound Brook, N. J., and South Bend, Indiana. Here he procured a charter for a college and applied himself to the study of natural history, particularly geology, lecturing on that subject. Subsequently he delivered a course of scientific lectures in various parts of the United States, but finally settled in Sharon, Mass., where he devoted himself entirely to genealogical pursuits.

His publications include “Memorial of the Morses,” (1815) from which most of this collection of Morse history is taken. “Descendants of Law-

rence Litchfield," 1855. "Genealogy of Early Planters in Massachusetts, Boston," 1855. "Genealogical Register of Sherborn, Holliston and Medway, Mass.," 1855. "Descendants of Capt. John Grant," 1857. "Descendants of Several Ancient Puritans," 3 vol. 1857-60. A genealogical record of several families bearing the name of Cutler in the United States, issued posthumously, 1867.

"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time:—"

"Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again."

"Let us, then be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait."

Valley View
65 Columbus Avenue
Northampton, Mass.
February, 1915.

WILLIAM THORNTON PARKER, M. D.,
Great Grandson of
Major Abner Morse, Esqr.



CAPTAIN W. THORNTON PARKER, M. D.
Aide-de-Camp Army and Navy Union, U. S. A.



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