

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Morse Family, Papers, ca. 1819-ca. 1886

LOCATION:

Mss. boxes "M"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

1 manuscript box (197 items)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Gift of William R. Compton, 1993

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Solomon Bradford Morse, Jr. (1809-), son of Solomon Bradford Morse (1786-1866) and Charlotte Cutler Morse (-1864), of East Boston, Mass., was a bookkeeper in the Registry of Deeds in Boston, Mass. He married, on 9 May 1833, Mary Melledge Cheever (1810-), daughter of Joshua Cheever (1766-1816) and Elizabeth Huxford Cheever (-1827), of Chelsea, Mass. Their children were Solomon Bradford III (1834-), Ammi C. (1836-), Edward C. (1839-), Mary M. (1841-), Joshua Cheever (1842-), Henry H. (1844-), and Charles W. (1846-).

Solomon Bradford Morse III left Boston for California in 1852. There he was befriended by his mother's niece, Caroline Elizabeth Cheever Butler (1818-), wife of Henry T. Butler (-).

Almost all of the approximately one hundred twenty-five letters in this collection were written between 1852 and 1858. They were generated by the departure of Solomon Bradford Morse III from his home and family in East Boston, Mass., for California. Bradford's early letters describe his passage to San Francisco, Calif., as a member of the crew of the Flying Fish. He concluded that "a sailor's life is a dog's life in truth" and found work as a clerk for J.M. Kennen & Co. In 1853, Bradford made a voyage of eight weeks to improve his health, traveling to the Puget Sound area with a Captain Valpey.

California in the 1850s was a difficult place to earn a living. After several jobs as clerk, Bradford eventually tried mining, first working at Mokelumne Hill. In 1860, when his letters in this collection end, he was working a claim in Spruce Gulch. Bradford's letters tell not only of his struggles to succeed but also reveal his affection and concern for his parents (particularly his mother) and his siblings. His intention, seemingly unfulfilled, was to earn enough to return home and buy a farm for his family. The letters to Bradford from his family are less numerous and express their desire that he return home, as well as giving him news of the family.

(cont.)

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Morse Family, Papers, ca. 1819-ca. 1886

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION (cont.):

Of great importance to Bradford was the kindness shown to him by the widowed Carrie Cheever Butler and a more distant cousin, Captain Henry Allen Cheever (1816-1873). Carrie's letters to her aunt, Mary Cheever Morse in East Boston, include descriptions of life in San Francisco and her reports of Bradford. Carrie's siblings who are mentioned in the correspondence are Emily Cutter Cheever (1820-1854), Almena Cutter Potter (1822-1878) who married George C. Potter (-) in 1861, Ammi Cutter Cheever (1824-), Mary Harriet Potter (1828-) who married Charles S. Potter (-) in 1857, and Ephraim Lombard Cheever (1831-1858).

The collection also contains documents of other members of the Morse family, including miscellaneous correspondence; a "testimony of approbation"; a copy of a will of Thomas Huxford, dated 22 February 1819; a poem; advertisements; Wells Fargo notes; and Franklin School Association membership cards.

Also included in the collection is an "Order of Exercises at the Annual Exhibition of the Adams School, in East Boston..., July 21, 1857," as well as two monthly reports from that school, for the month of February 1858, for both Charles W. and Henry H. Morse. There are two quarterly reports from English High School, dated March 1 and June 2, 1862, for Henry H. Morse.

The collection also contains a number of student essays written by Henry H. Morse, ca. 1860; a log of a voyage to Calcutta, India, and China from 1857 to 1858, kept by Joshua C. Morse; and a notebook containing accounts of Joshua C. Morse, the first act of a play ("L'Orgueil du Marche") written in French; a list of places; "Compositions written by Henry H. Morse while a member of the High School Boston"; other accounts; and a drawing.

See Contents List and List of Correspondence.

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Morse Family, Papers, ca. 1819-ca. 1886

Contents List

Folder

- 1 Correspondence, n.d.; 1852
- 2 Correspondence, 1853 January - June
- 3 Correspondence, 1853 July - December
- 4 Correspondence, 1854 January - June
- 5 Correspondence, 1854 July - December
- 6 Correspondence, 1855
- 7 Correspondence, 1856
- 8 Correspondence, 1857
- 9 Correspondence, 1858; 1860
- 10 Miscellaneous Documents, n.d.; 1819-1886
- 11 School Papers and Essays of Charles W. and Henry H. Morse,
n.d.; 1858; 1862

Includes monthly reports from the Adams School in East Boston; quarterly reports from the English High School; and essays on various subjects: "Discovery of American," journal, "Description of Australia," "Autumn," "A Journey in British America," journal, pigeons, physical exercise, "John DeWitt," caucasian race, "Life in the Gold Mines of California," "A Letter to a Friend About to [Travel] in Europe," "The Seasons," "Natural and Artificial Defences of Man," "Alexander the Great of Macedon," the civil War, civilization, "Sources of Knowledge," "Ought the Government to Emancipate?" "Never too Old to Learn," "The Satisfaction in Having Performed One's Duty," "Honesty is the Best Policy," "Love of Country," "Discussion of Character," "Can a Republican Form of Government Prevail?" "Resources of a Nation," and "Time is Money".
- 12 Envelopes
- 13 Biographical Material
- 14 Journal of Joshua C. Morse, 20 August 1857 - 30 January 1859

Chronicles a sea voyage from Boston, Mass., to Calcutta, India, and China.
- 15 Notebook, n.d.

Inscribed "J.C. Morse Ship John Tucker," "Joshua C. Morse San Francisco, Cal. USA," "Joshua C. Morse East Boston Mass." includes accounts of J. C. Morse, the first act of the play "L'Orgueil du Marche [The Pride of the Marketplace]" written in French, a list of places, "Compositions written by Henry H. Morse while a member of the High School Boston," accounts, and a drawing

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Morse Family, Papers, ca. 1819-ca. 1886

List of Correspondence

Date	Correspondent	Recipient	Location
n.d.	Brady	Brother Henry	n.l.
1852 Oct 24	Bradford	Parents	[Flying Fish]
1852 Oct 28	Bradford	Parents	Flying Fish
1852 Oct 30	Bradford	Parents	New York
1853 Jan 18	Mary M. Morse	Brady	East Boston
1853 Jan 19	S. Bradford Morse, Jr.	[Bradford]	Boston
1853 Feb 01	Ammi C. Morse	Brady	Boston
1853 Feb 02	Mary M. Morse	[Bradford]	East Boston
1853 Feb 04	S. Bradford Morse, Jr.	[Bradford]	Boston
1853 Feb 02	Mary	Bradford	East Boston
1853 Feb 13	Bradford	Parents	San Francisco
1853 Feb 19	S. Bradford Morse, Jr.	[Bradford]	Boston
1853 May 15	Bradford	Parents	San Francisco
1853 May 29	Bradford	Father & Mother	San Francisco
1853 Jun 09	Bradford	Brother Ammi	San Francisco
1853 Jun 12	Bradford	Brother Edward	San Francisco
1853 Jun 12	Bradford	Sister Mary	San Francisco
	Brady	Brother Joshua	
	Brady	Brother Henry	
	Brady	Brother Charlie	
1853 Jun 14	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
1853 Jun 15	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
1853 Jun 15	Bradford	Father and Mother	San Francisco
1853 Jun 30	Bradford	Parents	San Francisco
1853 Jul 31	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
	Brady	Brother Joshua	
	Bradford	Sister Mary	
1853 Jul 31	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
1853 Aug 09	Bradford	Father & Mother	San Francisco
1853 Oct 12	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
1853 Oct 13	Bradford	Brother Ammi	San Francisco
1853 Oct 14	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
1853 Oct 15	Bradford	Sister Mary	San Francisco
1853 Oct 15	Brady	Brs. Joshua, Henry, Charlie	San Francisco
1853 Oct 15	Bradford	Brother Edward	San Francisco
1853 Oct 31	Bradford	Father & Mother	San Francisco
1853 Nov 21	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
1853 Nov 28	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
1853 Dec 15	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
1853 Dec 15	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
1853 Dec 29	C.C. Butler	Aunt Mary	San Francisco
1854 Jan 14	Bradford	Sister Mary	San Francisco
	Brady	Little Brother	
1854 Jan 15	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
1854 Jan 15	Bradford	Father	San Francisco

1854 Feb 01	Bradford	Father & Mother	San Francisco
1854 Feb 15	Bradford	Father & Mother	San Francisco
1854 Mar 12	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
1854 Apr 15	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
1854 Apr 15	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
1854 Apr 28	Bradford	Brother Edward	San Francisco
	Bradford	Brother Joshua	
	Brady	Brother Henry	
	Brady	Brother Charlie	
1854 Apr 29	Bradford	Brother Ammi	San Francisco
1854 Apr 29	Bradford	Sister Mary	San Francisco
1854 Apr 29	Bro Ephraim	Brother	San Francisco
1854 Apr 29	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
1854 May 14	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
1854 May 15	Almena	Aunt Mary	San Francisco
1854 Jun 15	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
1854 Jun 15	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
1854 Jul 01	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
1854 Jul 15	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
1854 Jul 15	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
1854 Aug 01	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
	Bradford	Brother Ammi	
1854 Aug 01	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
	Bradford	Brother Ned	
1854 Aug 13		Brother	East Boston
1854 Aug 26		Brother	East Boston
1854 Aug 31	Mary H. C.	Aunt	San Francisco
1854 Aug 31	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
1854 Aug 31	Bradford	Brother Ammi	San Francisco
1854 Aug 31	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
1854 Sep 01	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
1854 Sep 29	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
1854 Sep 30	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
	Bradford	Brother Ammi	
1854 Nov 30	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
1854 Nov 30	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
1854 Dec 31	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
	Bradford	Brothers & Sister	
1854 Dec 31	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
1855 Feb 28	Bradford	Father	San Francisco
1855 Feb 28	Bradford	Mother	San Francisco
1855 Mar 01	Bradford	Brother Edward	San Francisco
	Bradford	Brother Ammi	
1855 Jun 15	Bradford	Father	Stockton
1855 Sep 19	Bradford	Father	Stockton
1855 Oct 19	Bradford	Mother	Stockton
1855 Oct 19	Bradford	Brother Ammi	Stockton
1855 Nov 19	Bradford	Brother Edward	Stockton
1855 Nov 19	Bradford	Father	Stockton
1855 Nov 19	Bradford	Mother	Stockton
1855 Dec 18	Bradford	Mother	Stockton
	Braddy	Brother Charlie	
1855 Dec 18	Bradford	Father	Stockton
	Bradford	Brother Henry	
1855 Dec 18	Bradford	Brother Ammi	Stockton
1856 Jan 17	Bradford	Father	Stockton

	Bradford	Brother Henry	
	Bradford	Brother Charlie	
1856 Jan 18	Bradford	Sister Mary	Stockton
1856 Jan 18	Bradford	Mother	Stockton
	Bradford	Brother Ammi	
1856 Feb 04	Bradford	Parents	Stockton
1856 Feb 11	Bradford	Brother Ned	Stockton
1856 Feb 18	Bradford	Father	Stockton
1856 Feb 19	Bradford	Mother	Stockton
1856 Mar 18	Bradford	Father	Stockton
1856 May 02	Bradford	Father	Stockton
1856 Jul 02	Bradford	Father	Stockton
1856 Aug 17	Bradford	Father	Mokelumne Hill
1856 Aug 31	Bradford	Father	Mokelumne Hill
1856 Oct 23	Bradford	Father & Mother	Independence
1856 Nov 05	Mary H. C.	Aunt Mary	San Francisco
1856 Nov 23	Bradford	Parents	Mok Hill
1856 Dec 23	Bradford	Mother	Spruce Gulch
1856 Dec 23	Brady	Brother Joshua	
1857 Jan 25	Bradford	Parents	Spruce Gulch
1857 Feb 07	Bradford	Father	Independence
1857 Jan 26	Bradford	Brother Ammi	Spruce Gulch
1857 Feb 19	C. C. Butler	Aunt Mary	
1857 Mar 21	Bradford	Father	Spruce Gulch
1857 Mar 21	Bradford	Sister Mary	Spruce Gulch
1857 Mar 29	Bradford	Brother Edward	Spruce Gulch
1857 Mar 30	Brady	Brother Joshua	
1857 Mar 30	Brady	Brother Henry	
1857 Mar 29	Bradford	Brother Ammi	Spruce Gulch
1857 Apr 12	Bradford	Mother	Spruce Gulch
1857 Apr 14	Bradford	Father	Spruce Gulch
1857 May 17	Bradford	Father	Spruce Gulch
1857 Jun 04	C. C. Butler	Aunt Mary	San Francisco
1857 Jul 01	Bradford	Father & Mother	Spruce Gulch
1857 Aug 02	Bradford	Parents	Spruce Gulch
1857 Aug 30	Bradford	Brother Edward	Spruce Gulch
1857 Nov 02	Bradford	Parents	Spruce Gulch
1857 Dec 19	C. C. Butler	Aunt Mary	San Francisco
1857 Dec 21	J. C. Morse	Father & Mother	Calcutta
1858 Jan 01	C. C. B.	Aunt Mary	San Francisco
1858 Jan 05	Joshua [nephew]	Aunt	St. Louis
1858 Jan 06	Joshy	Parents	Calcutta
1858 Jan 18	C. C. Butler	Aunt Mary	San Francisco
1858 Feb 04	C. C. B.	Aunt Mary	San Francisco
1858 Feb 16	Bradford	Parents	Spruce Gulch
1858 Mar 28	C. C. Butler	Aunt Mary	San Francisco
	C. C. B.	Aunt Mary	
1858 Apr 03	C. C. Butler	Aunt Mary	San Francisco
1858 May 11	Ammi [cousin]	Cousin Ammi	St. Louis
1860 Jun 10	Brady	Brother Charlie	Spruce Gulch