

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Morse, George Ashmun Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Montgomery and Adams Counties

1. Birthday and place 4 Oct. 1827 Horton, Massachusetts

2. Marriage (s) date place  
Caroline Merrill

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business \_\_\_\_\_

B. Civic responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

C. Profession Merchant; grain business; banker

4. Church membership Episcopal

5. Sessions served 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1876, 1878

6. Public Offices

A. Local \_\_\_\_\_

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 19<sup>th</sup> Chicago, Illinois Burial Rose Hill Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois

8. Children Albert; Charles; Lizzie

9. Names of parents Alpheus and Caroline (Bunce) Morse

Morse, George Alpheus

10. Education He attended school in Weston, Massachusetts until  
age 17 and the winter months.

11. Degrees

12. Other applicable information

- Whig, later Republican
- He worked on his father's farm in the summer months. Not liking farm  
work he was employed at Grafton and Company in Boston, Massachusetts 6 years.
  - He married after he left this job, married Caroline Merrill in South Hampton,  
New Hampshire and moved to Golisburg, Illinois.
  - In Golisburg he worked with a Charles McClellan of Peoria, Illinois for 6 months.
  - He then went back to Golisburg, Illinois and worked for Elias Hillard in a general country store.
  - Within a year he went to Kethersfield, Illinois as a superintendent of building a warehouse.
  - He then purchased merchandise and lived in Lawrence, Illinois and continued several years. He  
then engaged in the grain and banking business until 1864, then closed and moved to Chicago.



THE UNITED STATES  
BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY

AND

PORTRAIT GALLERY

OF

EMINENT AND SELF-MADE MEN.

---

IOWA VOLUME.

---

CHICAGO AND NEW YORK:  
AMERICAN BIOGRAPHICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY.

1878.

procured the funds for purchasing forty acres of land, to which he added a little later forty acres more; farmed in Illinois four years, and in June, 1854, came to Wayne county, entering lands and locating as before indicated. The land office was then at Chariton, Lucas county, and when he asked the proper officer to open his map of Wayne county, Warren township showed a clean white page, not an entry having been made. Mr. Bracewell, who had previously entered eighty acres of woodland in Jefferson township, now entered one hundred and sixty acres of prairie, improved it, and remained on it till 1869, when he moved into Corydon. Here he was a merchant for four years, a miller three, and for the last two has been cashier of the Wayne County Bank, in which he is a stockholder. He owns other property in Corydon, and three well improved farms in the county; has been an eminently successful business man, and has a splendid reputation.

Mr. Bracewell was elected to the general assembly in 1859, and reelected in 1861, serving in the regular sessions of 1860 and 1862, and the extra sessions of 1861 and 1862. He held various township offices before becoming a member of the legislature, and has also been president of the school board of Corydon, being an active and very useful citizen. He has been a life-long democrat.

A member of the Methodist Episcopal church since early manhood, and a local preacher more than thirty years, his life has always been above reproach. He is kind-hearted and obliging, and a good friend to the suffering and needy.

In July, 1844, Miss Margaret Broughton, of Yorkshire, England, became the wife of Mr. Bracewell; they have one son, Broughton Bracewell, a farmer in Wayne county. Mrs. Bracewell has been a true helpmeet of her husband, and is a worthy christian mother.

## HON. GEORGE A. MORSE,

### CORNING.

PERHAPS there is no name of more antiquity in its origin, as relating to the Saxon race settled in America, than that of Morse. The original stock from which the subject of this sketch is descended was named Samuel Morse, who emigrated to America in 1635. He settled at Dedham, in the colony of Massachusetts, and died at Medfield, in the same colony, in 1654.

The Morses are now scattered all over the United States, though a very large proportion of the direct issue of the original Puritanic stock still reside in New England, and most of them in Massachusetts. The various families of Morse have ever been proverbial for their probity, being, as is demonstrated in the genealogical book published in Boston in 1850, ever found to be "worthy citizens and honest men" in their worldly transactions. Many of them possessed sterling mental qualifications.

Many of the Morses have been great inventors and discoverers. From an electric telegraph to a printing press, they have left their impress upon the advancement of science, literature and art in the United States, during the past century, to a greater extent than has any other family on the continent.

The father of the subject of this biography was named Alpheus, and was born in Weston, Massa-

chusetts, on the 23d of March, 1803. Alpheus married Miss Caroline Bunce, by whom he has had ten children, seven boys and three girls; four of the boys and one girl are now living.

Alpheus Morse has ever been foremost in the advancement of every worthy enterprise, and to a well-stored mind may be added unfailing health, which has enabled him to be an ever active man among men.

He has served two terms in the legislature of Massachusetts; elected there by large majorities, at a time when actual merit and acquirements were essential to an election.

He has ever been a devoted christian, and for over thirty years was senior deacon in St. Mary's Episcopal Church at Newton, Lower Falls. So perfect has been his health that in all these years he never missed a service in his church.

Alpheus and his wife came west in 1866, residing two years in Chicago, and then removed to Geneva, Kane county, Illinois, where they now reside.

George A. Morse was born at Weston, Massachusetts, on the 4th of October, 1827. He attended school at Weston in the winter months until he was seventeen years old, working upon his father's farm during the summer months.

Not liking this employment, his father secured him a position in the employ of Grafton and Co., Washington street, Boston, where he remained for six years; at the expiration of which time he married Miss Caroline Merrill, of South Hampton, New Hampshire, and immediately came to Galesburg, Illinois.

In a short time after reaching Galesburg he obtained employment with a Mr. Charles McClellan, of Peoria, with whom, however, he remained but six months. Returning to Galesburg, he worked at increased pay for one Silas Willard, who kept a general country store. Here he remained one year, and returned to Peoria and reëngaged with Mr. McClelland, with whom he remained one year, at which time he was induced to accept a proposition from Mr. Willard, at Galesburg, to go to Wethersfield, Illinois, to superintend the building of a store or warehouse at that place, becoming a partner with Willard.

The Central Military Track railroad was projected about this time, of which Mr. Willard and Dr. Bunce were directors. The road was to run through to Wethersfield, and hence the construction of this building. There was no habitation in this place (the lumber had to be drawn at least thirty miles over the wild prairie to build the house with); however, our young scion of a Puritan race worked vigorously, and March, 1853, found him ready to stock the same with a general stock of merchandise. In the subsequent year the railway had reached the place which was then called Kewanee, now of five thousand inhabitants.

This business was continued profitably for four years, when Mr. Willard died at Galesburg and the whole affair was sold out; Mr. Morse remaining at Kewanee and engaging in grain and banking business till the fall of 1864, when he closed out his business matters and moved with his family to Chicago.

The cause of education has ever been an incentive to unusual exertions on the part of both Mr. and Mrs. Morse. Possessed of good education themselves (particularly the lady, who had been a teacher in the grammar school of Boston), they were ever actively employed in the furtherance of every scheme for the development of popular education. During their stay at Kewanee both had given earnest attention to the cause of education, and to the formation of Sabbath schools and the institution of public worship.

On leaving Kewanee for Chicago the Henry county "Dial" thus speaks of Mr. Morse:

Mr. George A. Morse and family leave to-day for Chicago to take up their permanent residence in that city. In the departure of Mr. Morse the town loses one of its most worthy, liberal and public-spirited citizens—a true christian gentleman in all the relations of life. Though still a young man, he is one of the oldest pioneers of our town, having built the first store and the first dwelling in it that were erected after it was laid out. He has been identified with its business and improvements ever since, and has extended to all moral and social enterprises, in which the public were interested, an open and liberal hand. We trust he will realize his best anticipations in removing to the great city.

Arrived in Chicago, Mr. Morse made a copartnership with his brother Albert, under the firm name of A. Morse and Co.

Here he remained for five years, and then retired from the firm and began a prospecting tour throughout Iowa and Nebraska, looking for the best point to settle for the establishment of a store for the buying and selling of all kinds of grain and flaxseed, and for the sale of agricultural implements. The result of all this prospecting determined him to settle in Corning, Adams county, Iowa. The before-mentioned Military Track road became incorporated into the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy road when it reached Burlington. The Burlington and Missouri River railway had commenced building a road from Burlington to the Missouri river. Construction trains alone were run over the road from Afton to Corning and westward at this time, so Mr. Morse came to Corning upon a tie train, and soon commenced building a warehouse and residence. Corning at this time contained less than one hundred inhabitants. When this warehouse and dwelling were but partly built Mr. Morse returned to Chicago for his family, this time there being a caboose attached to the freight train from Burlington to Corning. This was Mrs. Morse's second experience in the frontier life of western civilization. This was in 1869. Mr. Morse's idea in settling here was that there were but very few inhabitants, and he deemed it advisable to "pitch his tent" in a country with a future to it, there to live and share its growing prosperity. The natural presentment and surroundings of Corning were all that could be desired. His ability to judge of its future was learned in his pioneer life in Illinois. By the strictest attention to business, rigid economy, and the self-sacrificing exertions of his wife, our young merchant laid the foundation of his future lucrative business. As there were no schools in Corning to which Mrs. Morse could send her children, she determined to open a school in a part of her husband's

ware room. This school the lady conducted for a year, at which time a grammar school had been instituted, the result of Mr. Morse's persistent efforts in this direction. Here Mrs. Morse was induced to teach, and at the same time raise the grade of the school, having done which the lady retired at the end of six months, and opened a private school at her own house, with fifty scholars, which she conducted successfully, teaching the higher branches for two years.

In a few years the yield of wheat and other grains began to be bountiful. By the strictest adherence to fair dealing with the farmers, Mr. Morse has built up for himself a large business. In 1876 the counties of Montgomery and Adams conjointly sent one representative to the general assembly of the state. The choice of nominee for this campaign belonged to Adams county, and, unknown to him, his farmer friends had determined to place their interests in his hands, and therefore nominated and elected him to the sixteenth general assembly of Iowa. During this session the state was redistricted, and Adams and Montgomery counties were each to send a delegate to the general assembly. In 1868 Mr. Morse was again nominated for delegate, this time receiving forty-three out of fifty-three votes on the first ballot, and was elected in October, 1877, by two hundred

and twenty votes, a very large majority. Mr. Morse is one of the most trustworthy of representatives. His large business concerns bring him continuously in contact with agricultural interests, whose wants he fully understands, and is very active in furthering their interests by wise and wholesome legislation.

But every sunshine has its shadow. The hand of death has dealt heavily with this family. They have lost two sons and one daughter by scarlet fever, and one boy, fourteen, who, having first passed a very successful examination for admission into the high school of Chicago, was drowned while bathing in Lake Michigan near Douglass Grove. They have now two sons and two daughters living.

Mr. Morse has now a very large business built up upon the sure foundation of fair dealing with all men. He is essentially the arbiter of his own good fortunes, and worthily bears an irreproachable character, not only among his fellow-townsmen, who now number nearly two thousand, but throughout Adams and adjoining counties.

He was educated and brought up an Episcopalian.

He was originally a whig in politics, and deposited his maiden vote for General Taylor. Subsequently he adopted the republican creed and voted for J. C. Fremont, and has ever since been a strict adherent to the fortunes of the republican party.

## REV. CHARLES E. BROWN,

### LIME SPRINGS.

THE subject of this sketch, now representing Howard county in the general assembly, was born in Augusta, Oneida county, New York, on the 23d of February, 1813. He was the son of a Baptist minister, Rev. Philip P. Brown, who was a pioneer in central New York, and who died in September, 1876, at the age of eighty-six years. The maiden name of Charles's mother was Betsy Dickey, a descendant of the Dickeys who with other Scotch-Irish emigrants settled in Londonderry, in southern New Hampshire, more than two hundred years ago.

Philip P. Brown moved to Smithfield, Madison county, in 1814, and there the subject of this brief sketch lived on a farm until eighteen or nineteen years of age. Subsequently he took a scientific course in Madison University; graduated from the theological department of that institution in 1838; preached four years at Norway and Warren, Herki-

mer county, and in May, 1842, crossed the Mississippi river, and since that date, with the exception of a few years, has made Iowa his home. He organized a church near Maquoketa, Jackson county; soon after became pastor of the Baptist churches at Davenport and Rock Island, with his residence at the former place; a little later was pastor at Le Claire, Scott county, and Maquoketa; in 1857 removed to Vernon Springs, and Howard county has been his home most of the time since that date, he holding a pastorate until 1876. He removed from Vernon Springs to Lime Springs in 1870. He was the first superintendent of schools in Howard county, and was on the county board of supervisors one term.

Early in 1865 Mr. Brown became chaplain of the 3d regiment United States Heavy Artillery, Colonel Kappner, commander, stationed at Memphis, Tennessee, serving one year.



You searched for **George A. Morse** in **Iowa**

### 1870 United States Federal Census

Name: **George A Morse**  
 Birth Year: **abt 1828**  
 Age in 1870: **42**  
 Birthplace: **Massachusetts**  
 Home in 1870: **Quincy, Adams, Iowa**  
 Race: **White**  
 Gender: **Male**  
 Value of real estate: [View image](#)  
 Post Office: **Corning**

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<a href="#">George A Morse</a>	42
	<a href="#">Caroline Morse</a>	42
	<a href="#">Carrie Morse</a>	11
	<a href="#">Albert Morse</a>	8
	<a href="#">Charles Morse</a>	7
	<a href="#">Lizzie Morse</a>	1

**Source Citation:** Year: 1870; Census Place: Quincy, Adams, Iowa; Roll: M593\_374; Page: 101B; Image: 206; Family History Library Film: 545873.

#### Source Information:



Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

#### Original data:

- 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
- Minnesota census schedules for 1870. NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

#### Description:

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1870 United States Federal Census, the Ninth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, age at last birthday, sex, color, birthplace, occupation, and more. No relationships were shown between members of a household. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1870 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

Contact Us: [1-800-ANCESTRY](#) [Ancestry.com Blog](#) [Affiliates](#) [Gift Memberships](#)

© 1997-2011 Ancestry.com [Corporate Information](#) [Careers](#) [PRIVACY POLICY](#) [Terms and Conditions](#)

Ancestry.com



You searched for **George A. Morse** in **Iowa**

### 1880 United States Federal Census

**Name:** **George A. Morse**  
**Home in 1880:** **Corning, Adams, Iowa**  
**Age:** **52**  
**Estimated Birth Year:** **abt 1828**  
**Birthplace:** **Massachusetts**  
**Relation to Head of Household:** **Self (Head)**  
**Spouse's Name:** **Caroline Morse**  
**Father's birthplace:** **Massachusetts**  
**Mother's birthplace:** **Massachusetts**  
**Neighbors:** [View others on page](#)  
**Occupation:** **Grain Dealer**  
**Marital Status:** **Married**  
**Race:** **White**  
**Gender:** **Male**  
**Cannot read/write:**  
**Blind:** [View image](#)  
**Deaf and dumb:**  
**Otherwise disabled:**  
**Idiotic or insane:**

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<a href="#">George A. Morse</a>	52
	<a href="#">Caroline Morse</a>	52
	<a href="#">Albert Morse</a>	18
	<a href="#">Charles Morse</a>	17
	<a href="#">Lizzie Morse</a>	11

**Source Citation:** Year: 1880; Census Place: Corning, Adams, Iowa; Roll: 325; Family History Film: 1254325; Page: 155B; Enumeration District: 10; Image: 0314.

#### Source Information:



Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1880 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. 1880 U.S. Census Index provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints © Copyright 1999 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved. All use is subject to the limited use license and other terms and conditions applicable to this site.

Original data: Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

#### Description:

This database is an index to 50 million individuals enumerated in the 1880 United States Federal Census. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, address, occupation, relationship to the head of household, race, sex, age at last birthday, marital status, place of birth, parents' place of birth. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1880 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

Contact Us: [1-800-ANCESTRY](#) [Ancestry.com Blog](#) [Affiliates](#) [Gift Memberships](#)

© 1997-2011 Ancestry.com [Corporate Information](#) [Careers](#) [PRIVACY POLICY](#) [Terms and Conditions](#)

Ancestry.com

FIND A GRAVE



Actions

- [Begin New Search](#)
- [Refine Last Search](#)
- [Cemetery Lookup](#)
- [Add Burial Records](#)
- [Help with Find A Grave](#)

Find all **Morses** in:

- [Rosehill Cemetery and Mausoleum](#)
- [Chicago](#)
- [Cook County](#)
- [Illinois](#)
- [Find A Grave](#)

[Top Contributors](#)

[Success Stories](#)

[Discussion Forums](#)

[Find A Grave Store](#)

[Support Find A Grave](#)

[Log In](#)

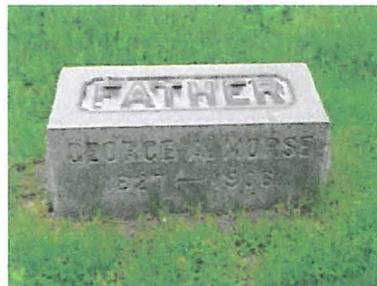


## George A Morse

Memorial Photos Flowers Share Edit

[Learn about sponsoring this memorial...](#)

Birth: 1827  
 Death: 1906  
 Father  
 Burial: [Rosehill Cemetery and Mausoleum](#)  
 Chicago  
 Cook County  
 Illinois, USA  
 Plot: Sec N  
 Created by: [mlp](#)  
 Record added: Jun 06, 2002  
 Find A Grave Memorial# 6483312



Added by: [mlp](#)



Added by: [mlp](#)



Cemetery Photo

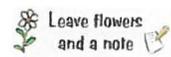
Added by: [mlp](#)

[Add a photo for this person](#)
[Request A Photo](#)

Photos may be scaled. Click on image for full size.



- [Verlon Yager](#)  
Added: Mar. 31, 2009



[Accuracy and Copyright Disclaimer](#)

FIND A GRAVE



Actions

- [Begin New Search](#)
- [Refine Last Search](#)
- [Cemetery Lookup](#)
- [Add Burial Records](#)
- [Help with Find A Grave](#)

- [Top Contributors](#)
- [Success Stories](#)
- [Discussion Forums](#)
- [Find A Grave Store](#)
- [Support Find A Grave](#)
- [Log In](#)

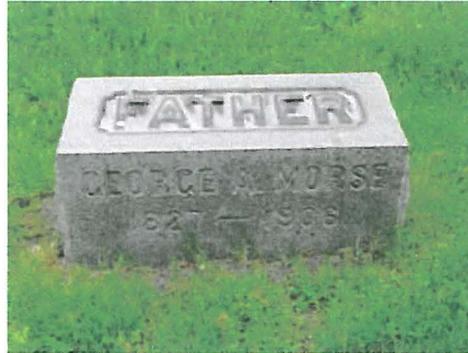
# George A Morse

Memorial   Photos   Flowers

Share   Edit

[Learn about removing the ads from this memorial...](#)

[\[Add A Photo\]](#)



Added by: mlp  
6/06/2002

[Accuracy and Copyright Disclaimer](#)