

town of Plymouth, born June 16, 1837, son of Henry and Rebecca (Whitney) Morton, and a descendant of a family whose progenitor in America was one of the early settlers of Plymouth, where many of his descendants have since continued to make their home. Some account of the branch of this family to which Mr. Morton belongs follows, the generations being given in chronological order.

(I) George Morton, born about 1585, in Austerfield, Yorkshire, England, early joined the Pilgrims at Leyden and continued of their company until his death. One writer says that he was "the agent of those of his sect in London," and another, that he acted as the financial agent in London for Plymouth Colony. He was a merchant and for some reason did not come with the first of the colonists, but sailed with his wife Juliana (Carpenter) and five children in the "Ann," the third and last ship to carry what are distinctively known as the Forefathers, reaching Plymouth early in June, 1623. Mr. Morton had issued in London, in 1621, a publication composed of letters and journals from the chief colonists at Plymouth, either addressed or instructed to George Morton. He died in June, 1624. His widow remarried, and died at Plymouth, Feb. 18, 1665. The children of George and Juliana Morton, all born in Leyden, Holland, excepting the youngest, and he on the "Ann," were: Nathaniel (married Lydia Cooper); Patience (married John Faunce); John, born in 1616-17; Sarah, born in 1617-18 (married George Bonum); and Ephraim, born in 1623, on the "Ann."

(II) Lieut. Ephraim Morton, son of George, born in 1623, on the "Ann," married (first) Nov. 18, 1644, Ann Cooper, who died Sept. 1, 1691; he married (second) in 1692 Mary, widow of William Harlow, and daughter of Robert Shelly, of Scituate. Mr. Morton became a freeman June 7, 1648, and on the same day was chosen constable for Plymouth. He served on the grand inquest in 1654, and in 1657 was chosen representative to the General Court of Plymouth, of which he was a member twenty-eight years; and in 1691-92, on the union of the Colonies, he was one of the first representatives to the Massachusetts General Court. For nearly a quarter of a century he was at the head of the board of selectmen of Plymouth. He was a magistrate of the Colony and also a justice of the court of Common Pleas. He was a lieutenant in the militia company; was chosen a member of the Council of War. He was a deacon of the church for many years. He died Sept. 7,

1693. His children, all born in Plymouth, were: George, born in 1645 (married Joanna Kempton); Ephraim, born Jan. 27, 1648; Rebecca, born March 15, 1651; Josiah, born in 1653 (married Susanna Wood); Nathaniel (married Mary Faunce); Eleazer, born in 1667 (married Martha Doty); and Patience (married John Nelson).

(III) Ephraim Morton (2), son of Lieut. Ephraim, born Jan. 27, 1648, married about 1665-66, Hannah, and their children were: Hannah, born in 1677 (married Benjamin Warren); Ephraim, born in 1678; John, born in 1680; Joseph, born in 1683; and Ebenezer, born in 1685.

(IV) Ephraim Morton (3), son of Ephraim (2), born in 1678, married in 1712 Susanna Morton, and their children were: Susanna, born in 1713; Hannah, 1715; Sarah, 1718 (married Nathaniel Warren); Ephraim, 1722; Abigail, 1724 (married Ezekiel Morton); and Ichabod, 1730.

(V) Ichabod Morton, son of Ephraim (3), born in 1730, married in 1758 Zilpha Thayer, and their children were: Ephraim, born in 1759; Ichabod, born in 1761; Hannah, born in 1762 (married Amasa Clark); Polly (married Joseph Whiting); Zilpha (married Samuel Bartlett); and Susan (married Thomas Sears).

(VI) Ephraim Morton (4), son of Ichabod and Zilpha (Thayer), born in 1759, married in 1797 Sarah Howland, and their children were: Isaac; Henry; Ephraim, who married Sarah Swift; Sarah, who married Perez Peterson; Betsey, who married John Godding; Zilpha, who married Abner Leonard; Hannah, and Eliza.

Ephraim Morton was a shipbuilder of Plymouth, where he owned and conducted a shipyard, and during the war of 1812 was compelled to burn two vessels then on the docks in course of construction, to save them from being confiscated by the British.

(VII) Henry Morton, son of Ephraim and Sarah (Howland), born in 1801, married in 1823 Rebecca Whitney, and their children were: Almira T., born in 1827, married James B. Gooding, of Plymouth, where they both died; Henry, born in 1829, served in the Civil war, and died in Brockton; Ephraim S. is mentioned below; Lucy F., born in 1840, married Edwin Dixon, of Plymouth, where she died. Henry Morton was a manufacturer of sail thimbles in Plymouth for a number of years. He was a Whig and later a Republican. He and his wife were active and devoted members of the Congregational Church. He died