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Joseph Morse

ORIGIN: Unknown.

MIGRATION: 1634 on the *Elizabeth* of Ipswich (on 30 April 1634, "Joseph Mosse," aged 24, was enrolled at Ipswich as a passenger for New England on the *Elizabeth* [Hotten 280]).

FIRST RESIDENCE: Watertown.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Admission to Watertown church prior to 6 May 1635 implied by freemanship.

FREEMAN: 6 May 1635 (second in a sequence of three Watertown men) [MBCR 1:371]).

EDUCATION: Signed his deed [MLR 9:355-56].

OFFICES: Watertown fenceviewer, 9 January 1659/60 [WaTR 1:64].

ESTATE: On 25 July 1636, "Joseph Mosse" was granted twenty-five acres in the third division of the Great Dividends at Watertown [WaBOP 5]. On 28 February 1636/7, "Joseph Mosse" was granted two acres in the Beaverbrook Plowlands [WaBOP 6]. On 26 June 1637, "Joseph Mosse" was granted two acres in the Remote Meadows [WaBOP 8]. On 10 May 1642, "Joseph Mose" was granted a Farm of seventy-three acres [WaBOP 13].

In the Watertown Inventory of Grants, "Joseph Mosse" held seven parcels: "an homestall of eight acres"; "one acre of meadow . in Patch Meadow"; "two acres of Remote Meadows . & the fourth lot"; "twenty-five acres of upland . being a Great Dividend in the third division & the twenty-six lot"; "three acres of plowland"; "two acres of plowland . in the Further Plain"; and "six acres of upland . beyond the Further Plain & the sixth lot" [WaBOP 91].

In the Watertown Inventory of Possessions, "Joseph Mosse" held one parcel: "an homestall of eighteen acres" [WaBOP 123].

In the Watertown Composite Inventory, "Joseph Mosse" held five parcels: "an Homestall of eighteen acres"; "one acre of meadow in Patch Meadow"; "two acres of Remote Meadow being the 4 lot"; "twenty-five acres of upland being a Great Dividend in the 3 division & the 26 lot"; and "a Farm of seventy-three acres of upland in the 6 division" [WaBOP 35].

On 2 August 1662, "John Wincoll of Water-Towne" sold to "Joseph Morse Sr. of the same town . two acres of meadow, situate & lying in Cambridge . & being in the meadow commonly called Rock Meadow . being part of the meadow that the aforesaid Jno. Wincoll bought of Edward Goffe late of Cambridge" [SLR 2:233].

On 23 May 1685, "Joseph Morss Senior of Watertowne ., weaver," deeded to "Jerimiah Morss my son of the same town & county aforesaid, husbandman, . my farm containing sixty acres" [MLR 9:355-56].

The "inventory of the estate of Joseph Mors in Watertowne who deceased the fourth day of March in the year 1690, taken on an unknown date, totalled £6 2s. 6d., with no real estate included [MPR 7:104, Case #15523].

On 8 October 1690, "administration [was] granted on the estate of Joseph Mors late of Watertowne deceased intestate to his son John Mors . having presented to the court an inventory thereof" [MCR 6:51; MPR Case #15523].

BIRTH: 1610 (aged 24 on 30 April 1634 [Hotten 280]). **DEATH:** 4 March 16[89/90] [MPR Case #15523]. (See *COMMENTS* below.)

MARRIAGE: By 1637 Esther Pierce, daughter of JOHN PIERCE {1637, Watertown} (in her will of 15 March 1666/7, "Elizabeth Pearse of Watertown," widow of John Pierce, included bequests to "my daughter Ester Mose" and to "my grandchild Ester Mose daughter to Joseph Mose" [Rodgers 2:368-69,

citing MPR Case #17450, 2:259-61)).

CHILDREN:

- i. JOSEPH MORSE, b. Watertown 30 April 1637 [NEHGR 7:160; WaVR 1:5]; m. Watertown 12 April 1661 Susanna Shattuck [WaVR 1:23], daughter of William Shattuck [Bond 427].
- ii. JOHN MORSE, b. Watertown 28 February 1638[/9?] [NEHGR 7:160; WaVR 1:5]; m. Watertown 27 April 1666 Abigail Stearns [WaVR 1:27]; daughter of ISAAC STEARNS {1630, Watertown} [GMB 3:1747-50]. (Some secondary sources attribute to John Morse an earlier wife, Anne Smith, daughter of John Smith of Lancaster [Bond 372, 433]. This claim is based on a misreading of the will of John Smith, whose daughter Anne married John Moore, not Morse [Miner Anc 159-60]. The two children attributed by Bond to this John Morse were in fact children of John Moore [Lancaster VR 11].)
- iii. JONATHAN MORSE, bur. Watertown 12 May 1643 [NEHGR 7:283; WaVR 1:11].
- iv. JONATHAN MORSE, b. Watertown 7 November 1643 [NEHGR 7:283; WaVR 1:11]; m. Watertown 17 October 1678 Abigail Shattuck [WaVR 1:45], daughter of William Shattuck [Bond 427-29].
- v. HESTER MORSE, b. Watertown 7 March 1645[/6?] [WaVR 1:12]; m. Watertown 9 December 1669 Jonathan Bullard [WaVR 1:32].
- vi. SARAH MORSE, b. say 1649; m. 2 June 1669 Timothy Cooper.
- vii. JEREMIAH MORSE, b. say 1657; m. (1) Watertown 13 January 1681[/2] Abigail Woodward [WaVR 1:51], who d. Watertown 13 April 1683 [WaVR 1:53]; m. (2) by 1685 Sarah Gleason [MLR 9:353-54, 359-60], daughter of Thomas Gleason [John Barber White and Lillian May Wilson, *Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas Gleason of Watertown, Mass., 1607-1909* (Haverhill, Massachusetts, 1909), 21-24, 31].

ASSOCIATIONS: In his pedigree of the Morse family of Suffolk and Essex in England, G. Andrews Moriarty placed the subject of this sketch as a son of JOSEPH MORSE {1637, Ipswich}, and tentatively made the latter a first cousin SAMUEL MORSE {1635, Watertown} [NEHGR 83:285, 292-93]. The elder Joseph Morse died at Ipswich in 1646, leaving a will naming sons Joseph and John [EPR 1:53-55]. Beyond this item there is no evidence that places Joseph of Watertown as son of Joseph of Ipswich. Robert H. Montgomery did unearth evidence of a close relationship between Samuel Morse and Joseph Morse of Watertown, but precisely what that relationship was remains unclear [TAG 24:149-50].

COMMENTS: Secondary sources supply an eighth child for this immigrant, a son Isaac [Bond 374]. The existence of this Isaac Morse seems to be based totally on the death of "Isaac Mos" at Newton on 3 January 1716[/7?] and of "Goody Moss" there on 28 March 1710. No evidence has been found to connect these two death records to the immigrant Joseph Morse.

On 20 September 1658, it was "agreed by the selectmen with Joseph Mors, concerning the child of John Baall, the age of 3 years, that the said Josep doth covenant to take the said child, for 2 years" [WaTR 1:57]. On 6 November 1660, "[o]ne of John Baall's children was bound out as an apprentice to Joseph Mosse, & hath a writing thereof" [WaBOP 1:67].

On 14 October 1673, the town of Watertown paid £1 "to Joseph Mors for to relieve Fillpot with" [WaTR 1:116]. On 30 October 1674, the town of Watertown paid £1 1s. 9d. "to Joseph Morse to relieve Philpot with in winter season" [WaBOP 1:120].

The date of death of this immigrant has been given as 4 March 1690/1 [NEHGR 83:293], clearly based on the heading of the inventory. The inventory was presented at court on 8 October 1690 [MCR 6:51], indicating that the scribe who drew up the inventory was using 1 March as New Year's Day, and so the correct date of death was 4 March 1689/90. This event was not recorded in the Watertown vital records.

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