



## NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

[www.NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org)

Research Services  
101 Newbury Street, Boston MA 02116-3007  
Tel: 617-226-1233 Fax 617-536-7307  
E-mail: [research@nehgs.org](mailto:research@nehgs.org)

September 30, 2008

### Case Number: M081808A

Thank you for your request to identify the origins of Harmon French, who married Emeline Dowd (b. 23 September 1806, Guilford, CT, daughter of Lyman and Fanny Dowd). Emeline married (1) Edmund Frisbee of Montgomery, 11 September 1822, married (2) Harmon French "of Westhampton" in February 1825 at Montgomery, MA (she was listed as "Emiline Frisby"). Their son Horace Dwight French was born 11 November 1830, Montgomery, Hampden Co., MA. You have authorized 3 hours to complete this task. Below is a report of the results.

### Research Report

You did not indicate any census records for the family of Harmon and Emeline French, so we first searched for records related to this family.

We located Harmon French in the 1830 Census residing in Montgomery, Hampden County, Massachusetts<sup>1</sup>. The household consisted of two boys under 5, one man 30-40 years old (Harmon), one girl under 5, one girl 5-10, one woman 20-30 (Emeline), and one woman 90-90.

We located Harmon French in the 1840 Census residing in Montgomery, Hampden County, Massachusetts<sup>2</sup>. This listed a male age 40-50 and a female age 40-50, indicating that both Harmon and Emeline French were born circa 1790-1800. It also included 1 boy 5-10, 2 boys 10-15, 2 girls under 5, 2 girls 10-15, 1 girl 15-30.

We located the family of Harmond and Emeline French residing in Hartford, Connecticut with the family of Sylvester and Olive Havens<sup>3</sup>. The family consisted of:

- Harmond French, age 50, cordwainer, born Connecticut
- Emeline French, age 49, born Connecticut

<sup>1</sup> Household of Harmon French. 1830 U.S. Federal Census, Montgomery, Hampden, Massachusetts; Roll: 63; Page: 79.

<sup>2</sup> Household of Harmon French. 1840 U.S. Federal Census, Montgomery, Hampden, Massachusetts; Roll: 186; Page: 212.

<sup>3</sup> Household of Sylvester Havens. 1850 U.S. Federal Census, Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut; Roll: M432\_41; Page: 329; Image: 395.



## NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

[www.NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org)

### Research Services

101 Newbury Street, Boston MA 02116-3007

Tel: 617-226-1233 Fax 617-536-7307

E-mail: [research@nehgs.org](mailto:research@nehgs.org)

- Eunice M. French, age 19, born MA
- Hezekiah French, age 16, born MA
- Josephine French, age 11, born MA
- Samantha French, age 8, born MA

The Vital Records of Montgomery, Massachusetts to the Year 1850 listed the following information about Harmon French and Emeline Dowd:

- Herman French of Westhampton married Emaline Frisby, marriage intention 19 Dec 1824, marriage February 1825.
- Maryette, born 23 May 1825 to Harmon and Emiline French
- Betsey Clarissa, born 8 September 1826 to Harmon and Emiline French
- Henry Edward, born 26 March 1828 to Harmon and Emiline French
- Horace Dwight, born 11 November 1829 to Harmon and Emiline French
- Eunice, born 21 August 1831 to Harmon and Emiline French
- Emily, born 21 September 1833 to Harmon and Emiline French. She died 9 April 1834, age 7 months.
- (unnamed) son, born 6 October 1834 to Harmon and Emiline French (most likely Hezekiah French, according to the 1850 Census)

We then searched the *Index to Hampden, Massachusetts Grantees, 1800-1849*<sup>4</sup> for deeds related to Harmon and Emeline French. We located the following:

- **1829, Lucy Wheeler of Montgomery, Hampden, MA to Hermon French of Southampton, Hampshire Co., MA, ten acres of land in Montgomery, signed 4 October 1828, v. 81, p. 87.**
- **1835, Timothy Clark of Montgomery, MA to Emeline French of Montgomery, MA, ten acres of land in Montgomery, "it being the home place owned by the late widow Lucy Wheeler... deed of the same to Harmon French", signed 19 November 1834, v. 85, p. 705.**
- 1839, Timothy Clark to Harmon French, v. 100, p. 520
- 1839, Silas Sheldon to Harmon French, v. 107, p. 62
- **1844, Horace Root of Westfield, MA to Harmon French of Montgomery, MA, nine acres of land on Westfield plain lying south of the Cabotville road, signed 23 June 1838, v. 126, p. 181.**
- **1845, Moses Sibley Jr. of Westfield, MA to Harmon French and Gamaliel**

<sup>4</sup> *Index to Hampden, Massachusetts Grantees, 1800-1849* (available on microfilm at NEHGS, Boston, MA).





## NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

[www.NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org)

Research Services

101 Newbury Street, Boston MA 02116-3007

Tel: 617-226-1233 Fax 617-536-7307

E-mail: [research@nehgs.org](mailto:research@nehgs.org)

**Cowles of Westfield, MA, one hundred acres of land in Westfield, signed 18 Jan 1845, v. 126, p. 297.**

- 1846, Harvey Champion to Harmon French, v. 135, p. 240

We then searched the *Index to Hampden, Massachusetts Grantors, 1800-1849*<sup>5</sup> for deeds related to Harmon and Emeline French. We located the following:

- **1829, Harmon French of Montgomery, MA to Timothy Clark of Montgomery, MA, ten acres of land in Montgomery, signed 23 June 1829, v. 79, p. 457.**
- 1835, Harmon and Emeline French to Lucius Wright, v. 93, p. 230
- 1839, Harmon and Emeline French to Horace Root, v. 108, p. 370
- 1839, Harmon French to Oren Root, v. 109, p. 10
- **1844, Harmon French of Montgomery, MA to Alonzo Allen of Westfield, MA nine acres of land on Westfield Plain, signed 10 December 1844, v. 126, p. 182.**
- **1845, Harmon French of Westfield, MA to Harvey Champion of Westfield, MA, land on Mechanic St. which was conveyed to French by Harvey Champion, signed 6 March 1845, v. 126, p. 502.**
- **1849, Harmon French of Westfield, MA to Leicester Loomis of Westfield, MA, Lot number three on Mechanic St. in Westfield, being the same land French bought from Harvey Champion in deed from 1845, v. 149, p. 185.**

The twin sister of Emeline Dowd, Eveline Dowd, married Timothy Clark of Montgomery, MA on 6 October 1822, who is most likely the Timothy Clark mentioned in several of these deeds. We did not have enough time to view each of the unbolded deeds. From the deeds we did view, the following information was revealed:

- In 1828, Harmon French was listed as a resident of Southhampton, Hampshire County, MA, when he purchased land for his family in Montgomery, MA
- In 1844, Harmon French purchased land in Westfield, Hampden County, MA

### Suggestions for Further Research

We could continue to research Hampden County deeds for Harmon and Emeline French,

---

<sup>5</sup> *Index to Hampden, Massachusetts Grantors, 1800-1849* (available on microfilm at NEHGS, Boston, MA).



## NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

[www.NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org)

Research Services  
101 Newbury Street, Boston MA 02116-3007  
Tel: 617-226-1233 Fax 617-536-7307  
E-mail: [research@nehgs.org](mailto:research@nehgs.org)

and also search the 1850-1899 deeds to determine if Harmon French sold or bought any other land in Hampden County after removing to Connecticut. We could also search Connecticut records for the death of Harmon French, which may reveal his origins. We could also search Hampshire County (with a focus on the towns of Westhampton and Southhampton, both of which Harmon French was listed as a resident in the 1820s) for records related to Harmon French or other French families. We would recommend an additional 5-10 hours to complete these tasks.

### **Conclusion**

We located Harmon French in census records until the year 1850, when he was a resident of Hartford, CT. We therefore conclude that it is likely he died 1850-1860 in Connecticut.

We located numerous deeds related to Harmon and Emeline French which indicated that Harmon French was a former resident of Southhampton, Hampshire Co., MA, before purchasing land in Montgomery, MA in the 1820s and Westfield, MA in the 1840s, where Harmon and Emeline French raised their family.

We also identified the following children of Harmon and Emeline French: Maryette, born 23 May 1825 (three months after the marriage of Harmon and Emeline); Betsey Clarissa, born 8 September 1826; Henry Edward, born 26 March 1828; Horace Dwight, born 11 November 1829; Eunice, born 21 August 1831; Emily, born 21 September 1833, died 9 April 1834; Hezekiah, born 6 October 1834; Josephine, b. abt 1839, MA; Samantha, b. abt 1842, MA.



## NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

---

[www.NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org)

### Research Services

101 Newbury Street, Boston MA 02116-3007

Tel: 617-226-1233 Fax 617-536-7307

E-mail: [research@nehgs.org](mailto:research@nehgs.org)

---

The above report was prepared by one of the NEHGS team of research staff. If you have any questions or would like our staff to research this case further, please contact me at the address, e-mail or telephone number below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "D. Joshua Taylor".

D. Joshua Taylor

NEHGS Research Services Coordinator