

Morse Farm Timeline
Yale Myers Forest, Eastford, CT
Philip Marshall
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- 1750** "[I]n the twenty-fourth year of his Majesty's reign," the brothers Sommers and William Pierce sell 42 acres of land located on the east side of "ye East Branch of Bigelow River " [i.e., Branch Brook] to Benjamin Hutcherson, husbandman, of Ashford, for the sum of 142 Pounds Sterling. Because this land is without road access, Hutcherson is granted "a Liberty to pass and repass with Team and Creatures" across the Pierces' property, from a ford crossing Branch Brook at a designated point downstream from a certain large rock, then over "ye Ridge hite", and down to the road to Ashford Meeting [i.e. Kozey Road]. (*Ashford Book K*: 112-113) [It is not clear if Hutcherson ever actually resides on the property, but later land purchases expand his holdings considerably on both sides of Branch Brook.]
- 1771** "[I]n the eleventh year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third of Great Britain, France [sic], and Ireland, King," Benjamin Hutcherson, Jr., yeoman, of Wilbraham, Mass., sells to Nathan Hiscock, wheelwright, of Ashford, 114 acres of land described as "one Moiety or Eastern half" of a larger tract in Ashford owned by the younger Hutcherson. (*Ashford Land Records* 11: 79)
- 1799** Nathan Hiscock, now residing in Stafford, sells for \$20 to Jesse Bugbee of Ashford, "one certain tract of land lying in the Northeasterly part of Ashford," being "all the Land I the said Nathan Hiscock bought of Benjamin Hutcherson, Junr." (*Ashford Land Records* 13: 500)
[The Nathan Hiscock in both entries above appears actually to be Nathan Hiscock, Junior, born April 3, 1749, who also inherited considerable property in Ashford and Union from his father, Nathan Hiscock Senior, in 1770. Nathan Junior is reportedly murdered by his insane son, Robert, in Stafford, on January 11, 1811. (Hammond, 1893: 354) Jesse Bugbee, born November, 2, 1768, is actually Nathan Hiscock, Junior's nephew; Nathan Junior's sister Molly ("Mary"?) Hiscock married Jedediah Bugbee in 1767, and Jesse was their firstborn son. After Jedediah's death in 1776, Molly Hiscock Bugbee married Nathan Morse in 1777. (Hammond, 1893: 287-288, 354)]
- 1841** Jesse Bugbee sells his 130-acre farm in Ashford, "the same premises on which I now live, and...all the land I now own in said Ashford," to son Alvin Bugbee for \$1000. Alvin agrees in turn to provide support for the rest of his father's life, "with all necessary food, drink, Clothing, Physicians, Nurse, and medicine, with good wood at all times suitably prepared for the fire and brought into the house at all times when requested, a suitable horse at all times...to be kept on the said farm for the use of the said Jesse Bugbee through life, and the said Jesse is to have the exclusive use and occupation of the Bedroom at the Northwest Corner of said house," [now the Morse House bathroom]. (*Ashford Land Records* 25: 399, 405-406)
- 1847** After many years of lobbying and agitation, the eastern part of Ashford (hitherto known simply as "the Eastford Society") is permitted to formally secede and form the new Town of Eastford.
- 1852** Orrin Morse of Union purchases 130 acres of land in Eastford, "being the home farm of Alvin Bugbee late of Eastford, deceased," for \$545. (*Eastford Land Records* 1: 452-453).
- [Orrin Morse, son of Jedediah Morse, son of Nathan Morse, is the grandson of Molly ("Mary"?) Hiscock Bugbee Morse, sister of Nathan Hiscock, Junior; accordingly, Orrin Morse and Alvin Bugbee are actually first cousins. (Hammond, 1893: 287-288, 354, 426-428) Sometime after 1859, Morse erects a sawmill on Branch Brook just upstream from the Hutcherson ford of 1750.]

- 1869** Orrin Morse, farmer and sawmill owner, is First Selectman of the Town of Eastford. (O. Gray, *Atlas of Tolland and Windham Counties, Connecticut*)
- 1873** Orrin Morse sells 136 acres of land in Eastford and Union, “together with the buildings thereon,” to his brother Ira Morse for \$800. The tract is described as being bounded on the north by “the Highway leading from John Howard’s easterly,” [i.e., the “Hansen Road” on the north side of the Morse Reservoir]. (*Eastford Land Records* 5: 20; *Union Land Records* 11: 211)
- 1875** George Hewitt Myers is born in Cleveland, Ohio.
- 1898** George Myers graduates from Yale College.
- 1898-1899** George Myers pursues graduate work in English at Harvard.
- 1899** Ira Morse’s will grants farm to son Andrew Morse. (*Eastford Probate Records* 7:148-149) [Like his uncle Orrin before him, Andrew Morse later serves as 1st Selectman of Eastford.]
- 1902** George Myers graduates in the first class of the Yale Forest School with the degree of Master of Forestry.
- 1909 (approx)** Myers begins acquiring land in Union and adjacent towns.
- 1913** Andrew Morse sells his 180-acre farm in Eastford and Union, “including the saw mill with the machinery therein,” to George Myers. The stated purchase price is one dollar. Morse reserves the right to continue to occupy the house and farm buildings, to consume “sufficient firewood for my own use while living on said premises,” and to make use of tillage and pasture lands, until January 1, 1914. (*Eastford Land Records* 9: 194; *Union Land Records*. 14: 206) [Myers subsequently enlarges the sawmill, dams Branch Brook to form the Morse Reservoir, and adds other structures such as the Blacksmith Shop.]
- 1916-1918** Urban Carpenter, employed by George Myers as a caretaker, lives in the Morse House with wife Lila and children. Carpenter also works in the former Morse sawmill until his death in 1929.
- 1917** Yale School of Forestry begins using Myers property for field instruction.
- 1929** George Myers begins arrangements with Dean Henry Graves and the Yale Corporation to donate the bulk of his forest land to Yale University. The Morse Farm is selected as the location for the Yale Camp.
- 1933** Yale School of Forestry summer camp buildings are constructed on south field of former Morse Farm.
- 1934** Warranty deed confirms transfer of ownership of the Forest from George H. Myers to Yale University. (*Eastford Land Records* 12: 569-572; *Union Land Records* 18: 527-302.)