

"Copy"

M<sup>r</sup> Geo. B. Hilliard.

Humboldt, Richardson Ca. Neb.

July 20<sup>th</sup> 1885

Dear Sir, your letter to me, dated May 20<sup>th</sup> 1885, was forwarded to me from Lincoln Neb. over one month ago, being much out of health, I have delayed answering it until now. For the last three years, my son, R. S. Holcom<sup>th</sup> & family have been living at Lincoln & I have been there a part of my time. But now we all have our homes here, where my business is, being engaged in improving a tract of land, that I own near this town. I have carefully read your letter, and have no doubt, that your "History" of Merrimack & Belknap Counties, will be worthy of the Citizens of said Counties, & no doubt that you will be well patronized. When your History of said Counties, shall be ready for distribution among your patrons, I would be pleased to have you send to me one of your Books, by Express addressed to R. S. Holcom<sup>th</sup> Esq. Humboldt, Richardson Ca. Neb. marked C. O. D. and on receipt of the same will remit to you the \$2.50<sup>00</sup> which you say is the price of your "History". Upon the receipt of your "Book" and perusal of it, if it meets my expectations, I shall order another copy of it, if you shall have a surplus of them.



I would send you, as requested, my photograph for an en-  
-graving, but the times are so hard, and the demands upon me  
that I must meet are so numerous, that all my income is  
absorbed, and cannot send the \$2.50, the price of the steel  
plate & engraving, which I suppose is reasonable, for the kind  
of work that you will do. You say that Prof. Lucien  
Hunt, <sup>will</sup> write up the History of Northfield. Perhaps he would  
be pleased to know something of my own History & that of  
my father, both of whom were born in Northfield N.H. and  
my father died & is buried there, a brief biographical notice  
of us both I herewith submit for him. John Molony  
my father was born in Northfield N.H. and died there in  
June 1832, 59 years old. He was a successful business  
man, was a sheriff for 28 years in Merrimack & Strafford  
Counties, appointed by the Gov. <sup>High Sheriff</sup> I think, was a large land  
owner. (improved farms situated not more than 2 or 3 miles from  
his home which was, and is now near the village of Tilton)  
He began life a poor boy, but by great energy and decision  
of character, he supported a large family and acquired an  
independence. His highest ambition, was the education of  
his children, to accomplish which he spent freely his  
property, which he had accumulated by a life of toil  
and good judgment. Over

I was sent to Philips Exeter Academy when a boy of fifteen  
(15) Entered Dartmouth College when 17 years old, spinal disease  
caused by an injury, compelled me to leave after 2 years,  
in 1834 I commenced the study of medicine, in 1835 I became  
a private pupil of Dr. R. D. Mussey and graduated  
M.D. at Dartmouth College in 1837, after attending  
3 Courses of public lectures, <sup>4 3/4 years as a pupil</sup> I think it will not be  
deemed as egotistical, if I should state a fact, showing  
my standing as a medical scholar, viz, that the medical  
students, by a very large majority, requested me to ~~deliver~~  
deliver the valedictory to the graduating Class, which  
I declined with thanks, distrust my ability.  
I came to Illinois in April 1838. settled at Belvidere  
in the Rock River Country, 80 miles west of Chicago,  
practiced my profession there until 1850, when I was  
elected to Congress from a District, including Chicago,  
then having about 50000 people, said District embraced  
about 1/4 of the territory of the State of Illinois, and containing  
200000 people, the largest population at that time, of any  
Congress. District in the United States, I believe.  
Twice, while a citizen of Illinois, I represented partly my State  
in national Conventions, In 1852, at Baltimore, when  
Gen. Pierce was nominated for President



and, again in 1868, in Towns Hall N.Y. when Horatio  
Seymour was nominated for N.Y.  
In 1876, I came to Schenck for the purpose of developing  
a tract of land, which I entered in 1860

near this Town. In that work, I am spending the evening  
of my days, very pleasantly and usefully to the Communi-  
ty and myself & family.

Since I came to Schenck, I was chosen unexpectedly  
to me, as one of the delegates, from Schenck to the ~~same~~  
- Erie National Convention, which assembled in  
Cincinnati in 1840 and nominated Wendell Scott,  
Hancock, for Pres. I am now 74 years old and  
can truly say that my last days are among my best.  
I left N.Y. in 1837 and never returned to it, until  
1844, after an absence of 47 years. How sadly  
altered!! I shall never forget, the kind attentions  
of C.E. Titton Esq and of his very cultured and amiable wife  
to me on my last visit to my native town. Mr Titton belongs  
to a race of noble men; and he eminently is an honor  
to his family; his family & mine have always been  
friends. His father the Hon Samuel Titton  
whom I met for the last time, 1852, in the Baltimore  
Convention that nominated Frank Pierce for Pres  
I loved as my fathers friend

Yours

R. S. Molony Sen



X on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1839, (my birth day) I was married to Emma Nicholas, who was born and raised in the City of New York, she was grand daughter of Judge Josiah Ogden Hoffman, and niece of Hon Ogden Hoffman, New York's famous Criminal lawyer. On the day of our marriage I was 24 years old, and Miss Nicholas in her 23 year of age. She inherited the rare gifts of her family, and of course, was talented, refined, and above all, and self-sacrificing, <sup>Christian</sup> wife, and mother.

I have had many blessings in my life, but the Crowning one of them all, was my marriage to Miss Nicholas, for which, I shall never cease to be thankful to my father in Heaven. —

She died on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 1866, after having lived together 27 years, leaving a daughter, Miss Anne H. Healy, and a son R. S. Holcomy Jr now surviving her

The above should be inserted on B page of this biographi-  
 — Cal Sketch, nine lines, from bottom of said page — after  
 the words "West of Chicago" and before the words, "practiced  
 my profession"

R. S. Holcomy sen