

This will be accompanied by related photos; it was taken at the event
"Camp Massachusetts Sep. 8,9,10 1859.

The accompanying photo is made from a stereograph image. The stereograph had become very popular by 1859. The process had begun some years prior. It provided a quasi-3 dimensional image when viewed in a stereo viewer, similar to the old Viewmaster.

A lady librarian in either Alton or South Royalston Massachusetts in reply to various questions about Silas Hale and his Green Mountain Morgan, mentioned that there was a rumor that a photo existed of once Governor Nathaniel Prentiss Banks with Green Mountain Morgan. Since that time (1980s) inquiries to several institutions turned up no pertinent results.

A more recent investigation led to a collector of stereographs who possessed a small group of stereoviews taken by Canadian William Notman. They were taken at an event held in Concord Massachusetts on Sep. 8. - 10, 1859. The event was called The Massachusetts Encampment or more commonly "Camp Massachusetts".

Many other similar events had preceded this muster of the Massachusetts and of other states Militia, since the Revolution. This however was to be the greatest of them all...and it was. An aide to Governor Banks suggested to him the idea early in the year of 1859. Banks developed and orchestrated the event over the spring and summer of that year. He invited the legislature of Massachusetts, many dignitaries Militia generals and the highest ranking General in the country at the time. Gen. Scott refused however, on the grounds that he had refused other invitations and could not favor this invitation after refusing others. So Banks, (also General Banks head of the Massachusetts militia), invited John E. Wool, second highest ranking General in the country.

Massachusetts State Militia and those from surrounding states attended the event along with 18 bands comprised of several hundred members. There were five to six thousand, and was spectated by up to 50,000 people over three days creating the largest such event before or since that time and by all accounts was very successful. There *may* have been one other event when Gov.-Gen. Banks rode Green Mountain Morgan – in 1858 at a Fireman's celebration in Springfield but it is not certain.

There is **printing on the reverse of this stereograph**. It says simply; '**Gov. Banks**' in pencil with other writing that cannot be deciphered. Study of this stereograph and images of General Banks do not seem to match. A positive identification cannot be made. Photos of Gen. John Ellis Wool however come closer to matching than Banks or other generals that attended the event. Even so, Wool cannot positively be said to be the man sitting on the horse.

It is stated that a fine chestnut stallion was procured for Wool to ride at the Encampment. The horse in the stereograph is obviously chestnut. There can be no doubt that this horse is a Morgan and even a greater probability that if it is not Green Mountain Morgan that it is a son of that horse. Allen Thomson equine historian describes Green Mountain as having a little white on the inside of his off hind pastern as does the horse in the stereograph. The horse in the stereograph seems to have white around the coronet of the onside hind hoof but it could also be lighter chestnut hair. Green Mountain is described as darker than the horse in this image.

Green Mountain Morgan was the sire of many Morgans in the state of Massachusetts, his home was South Royalston. Over his stud career he sired nearly 2000 foals, many of them in that state. A number of his sons went on to have fine careers in that state as well and were quite popular at the time of this event. The horse in the Stereograph may be a grandson of Green Mountain Morgan.

An Observer in Live Stock Journal in an article on Justin Morgan stated "It was the height of military ambition to be mounted on a Woodbury Morgan. They made the most insignificant looking officer look like a military hero mounted on a war charger. The officer earned more distinction from the magnificent display of his bounding steed than from his own merits as a soldier." Green Mountain and his offspring were the essence of Woodbury Morgan and then some.

Gov. Banks and others knew Green Mountain Morgan was the epitome of a parade horse and the most respected of such in the entire world at the time. He sent an emissary to Williamstown Vermont in August of 1859 for the purpose of leasing the horse. It cost him \$40., converting to about \$1100 today. Bankss knew what he wanted.

Linsley wrote of Green Mountain Morgan at this event—"We feared that age must have dimmed the fire of his eye, checked the full and vigorous pulsations of his blood and tamed the unflinching courage and dauntless bearing which have never yet failed to rouse the enthusiastic applause of all the beholders. But it seems we were mistaken. The staunch old veteran was the observed of all observers. And it seemed to be the very general feeling that, instead of the horse being honored by bearing in the cavalcade the distinguished Governor of Massachusetts, His Excellency was rather honored in being allowed to bestride the finest parade horse in this country as it is said Gen. Wool declared him to be."

This from the Vermont Phoenix: "We remember seeing this horse on parade about 16 years since, when his preeminent qualities as a parade horse excited the enthusiastic admiration of every beholder. From that day to this, and he is 30 years old, [25 yrs.]he has maintained his high position without a rival, unapproachable. **Gov. Seward** remarked to us at the State Fair in Rutland, in 1852, that neither in this country nor in Europe had he ever beheld a horse of such magnificent action on parade as the Green Mountain Morgan. Long may he live to wear the honors he has so nobly won."

In a book called Under Two Flags by James Demarest Eaton; Eaton says this: "Another event which stirred my youthful imagination was the "muster" of seven thousand militiamen at Concord, when Nathaniel P. Banks was Governor of the State, and General John E. Wool, who had distinguished himself in the war with Mexico, rode "Green Mountain Morgan" alongside the chief magistrate of the commonwealth. Although the famous steed had attained the venerable age of thirty-seven [25yrs. f. 1834] years, his spirit was stirred again at the sound of martial music and the sight of the marching men and the prancing horses; and he seemed to renew his youth, capering with the rest, to the admiration of us all.

Isn't it plausible, even probable, that Gov. Banks would have secured an actual son of Green Mountain for Gen. Wool than a grandson or any other possible mount? If indeed it is Gen. Wool astride the horse in the stereograph.

Gen. Wool was 75 at the time of the event and also served in the Civil war later.
Banks may have lent Wool his horse when Wool rode in his own review of the Militia
and why would he not want his picture taken upon the greatest parade horse the
world ever knew.....



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