Morton in McClure’s Magazine

Eight years after his 1846 public demonstration of surgical anesthesia, a well-dressed William T. G. Morton rested his top hat on one knee as he posed for formal photography by the Boston firm of Silsbee, Case and Company. That image so impressed his daughter Elizabeth Whitman Morton, that she published it in 1896 in her popular McClure’s Magazine article titled “The Discovery of Anaesthesia. Dr. W. T. G. Morton and His Heroic Battle for a New Idea.—How Painless Surgery Began Fifty Years Ago.” Her semicentennial publication honoring her father would eventually be reunited with this large “Silsbee, Case & Co.” photoporation at the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology in Park Ridge, Illinois. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the Anesthesiology Reflections online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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