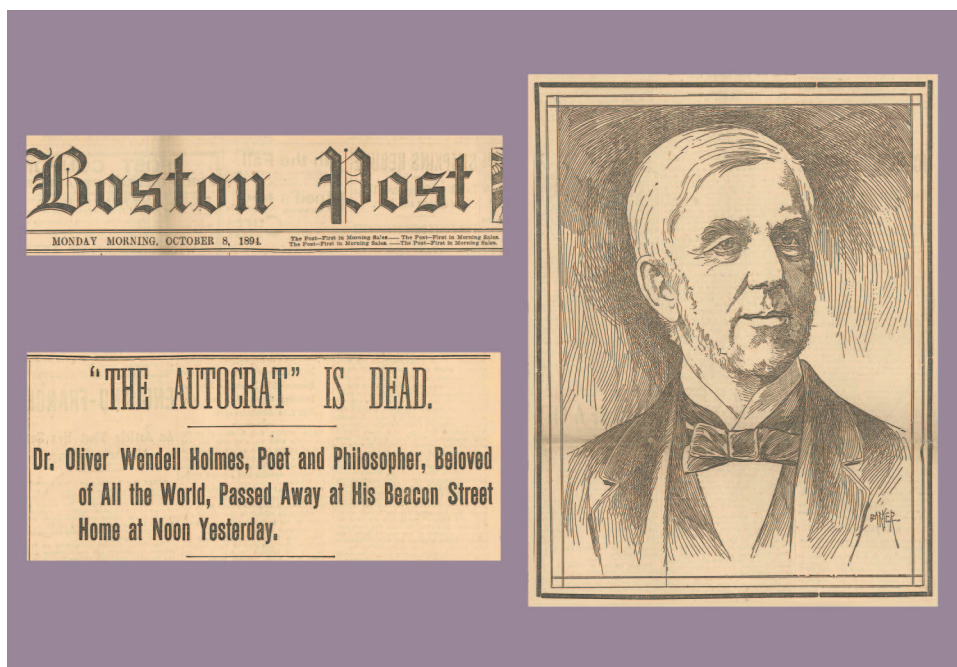


*The Boston Post's* Obituary of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.



Physician Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. (1809–1894) is widely regarded as one of America's leading authors of the 19th Century. Essays like his "The Autocrat at the Breakfast-Table" helped launch the magazine that Holmes himself had named, *The Atlantic Monthly*. And understandably, *The Boston Post* headlined Holmes' obituary with " 'The Autocrat' Is Dead" (*lower left*). Holmes' namesake son, the future Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, recorded just how peacefully his father had passed by noting that Holmes Senior had "simply ceased to breathe." Although it was once New England's leading daily paper, *The Boston Post* would not last beyond 1956. However, the word that Holmes Senior popularized for W. T. G. Morton's etherizing, *anaesthesia*, would last to the present day. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

George S. Bause, M.D., M.P.H., Honorary Curator, ASA's Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, Park Ridge, Illinois, and Clinical Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. UJYC@aol.com.