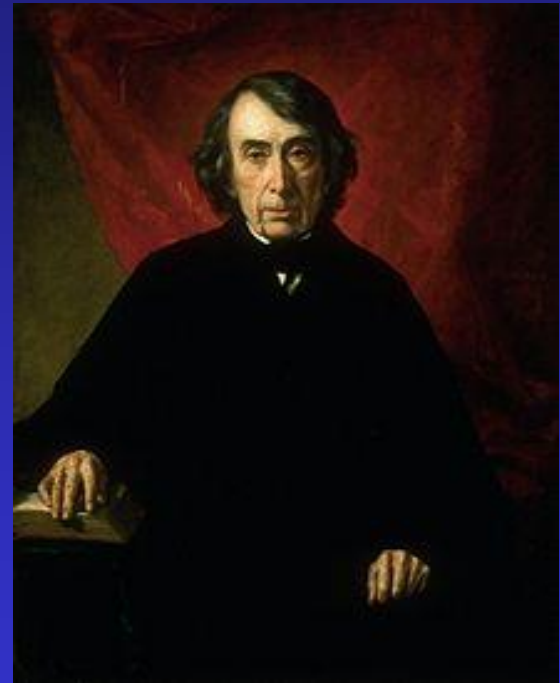


# *O'Reilly v. Morse*



Samuel Finley  
Breese Morse



Roger B. Taney



“What hath God wrought?”

-- May 24, 1844



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W H A T H A T H  
— — — — — · · · · · — — — — — · · · · ·  
G O D W R O U G H T

**SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.**

**No. 224.**

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**HENRY O'RIELLY, EUGENE L. WHITMAN, AND W. F.  
B. HASTINGS, APPELLANTS,**

**vs.**

**SAMUEL F. B. MORSE, ALFRED VAIL, AND FRANCIS O.  
J. SMITH.**

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**APPEAL FROM THE CIRCUIT COURT U. S. FOR THE DISTRICT OF  
KENTUCKY.**

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SAMUEL F. B. MORSE, Alfred Vail, and  
Francis O. J. Smith, complainants,  
vs.  
HENRY O'RIELLY, Eugene L. Whitman,  
and W. F. B. Hastings, defendants. } In chancery.

*Writ of Injunction.*

The United States of America, to Henry O'Rielly, Eugene L. Whitman, and W. F. B. Hastings.

## Claim 8

I do not propose to limit myself to the specific machinery, or parts of machinery, described in the foregoing specification and claims, the essence of my invention being the use of the motive power of the electric or galvanic current, which I call 'electro-magnetism,' however developed, for making or printing intelligible characters, signs, or letters, at any distances, being a new application of that power of which I claim to be the first inventor or discover.

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# Claim 1

Having thus fully described my invention, I wish it to be understood that I do not claim the use of the galvanic current or currents of electricity for the purpose of telegraphic communications generally; but what I specifically claim as my invention and improvement, is making use of the motive power of magnetism, . . . as means of operating or giving motion to machinery which may be used to imprint signals upon paper or other suitable material, or to produce sounds in any desired manner for the purpose of telegraphic communication at any distances. . . . I therefore characterize my invention as the first recording or printing telegraph by means of electro-magnetism.

# Claim 1

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# **Reissue Patent No. 118**

## **(original Patent No. 4,453)**

**“I do not, therefore, claim to be the inventor of telegraphs generally. The electric telegraph is a more recent kind of telegraph . . . . The various modes of accomplishing his end by electricity, have been employed of common or machine electricity, as early as 1787 . . . .”**

**“I do not, therefore, claim to have first applied electricity to telegraphing for the purpose of showing evanescent signs or signals.”**