



THE HISTORIAN



VOLUME THREE, ISSUE TWO

FALL 2016



Jacob Thompson House 1811



Fuller House 1869

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings:

Hope everyone is enjoying the fall weather now that the heat is gone.

You will notice that my story for this month is a little different. When going to the house to look at this collection to purchase, I felt like Carter peering into King Tut's tomb and exclaiming, "Wonderful Things" when I first set eyes on the width

and breadth of this collection. There are many irreplaceable, one of a kind items. The Historical Society's' research capabilities will be enhanced just due to this collection. I hope you find it as interesting as I did.

I hope you will all join us during the Christmas Candlelight Open House on Sunday, December 18 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Jacob Thompson house. I hope to have

some of the items from this recent acquisition on display.

Happy Holidays.

Dennis

Officers:

President – Dennis Swierad
Vice President – Tamara Cabey
Secretary – Leona Brahen
Treasurer – Kevin McNabb

Board Members:

William Dominick (2017)
Denis Duquette (2018)

Board Member Emeritus:

William Hatton
Emma Ladd Shepherd

Voting Positions:

Accessions Manager – Mary Swierad
Annual Meeting – Denis Duquette
Building Restoration – Dennis Swierad
Collections Manager – Mary Swierad
Editor/Technology – Leona Brahen
Historian – Dennis Swierad
Membership – Denis Duquette
Rental Manager – Tamara Cabey

Visit us on the web at www.monsonhistoricalsociety.org

Email us on the web at
info@monsonhistoricalsociety.comcast.biz.net

Do you need information about the history of Monson?
Write, call or email us. We may be able to help.

Mission Statement

To obtain and preserve historical data and articles pertaining to the town of Monson, Massachusetts, and to encourage and develop the pursuit and expression of such interests in all suitable ways.

A LIFETIME OF COLLECTING MONSON MEMORABILIA

BY DENNIS SWIERAD

The Monson Historical Society had the good fortune to be able to purchase outright the entire collection of one man's life long obsession with Monson history. I would like to share with you, through the following photographs, some of the highlights of this vast collection.



In this photo on the top right is the W. N. Flynt & Sons crock, which is the only one any of us has ever seen in one piece. I believe the scarcity is due to the fire that destroyed the store in the early 1900's. The bag on the top left was a 10 cent deposit returnable cloth bag from the same Flynt Store — what it contained we do not know. In the center is a collection of small Monson items such as G.A.R. Hall pins, fraternal pins, political buttons, etc. The fans on the lower left were turn of the century advertisement handouts from Monson businesses. The bottom right glass sign was from the Townsend Club and we are researching this item.





Top and bottom are photographs of the Monson souvenir china collection, which were made primarily for the W. N. Flynt & Sons store and Gage Brothers store. These pieces of china made around 1890 through 1910, most often in Germany or Austria, were for sale in the stores that had them made. The pictures themselves depict Monson points and places of interest such as Memorial Hall, Soldiers' Monument, Library, Congregational and Catholic Church, Mt. Ella tower, etc.





Mugs left to right: Monson Academy 1880's dining hall mug; A. D. Ellis shaving mug; Sisson shaving mug; Fenton shaving mug; Julius Heimann shaving mug. Many times these shaving mugs would have stayed in their owners favorite barber shop to be used by them only. On the left are an assortment of drug store bottles from Keeney, Chapman, etc. Monson druggist. The only metal pants are a match safe from Babbitts Clothiers.



Advertising calendars, cancelled bank books, trade cards, map, Monson Register newspapers.



Large group of ephemera including a Monson autograph book 1850's-1860's; Monson Illustrated; Dorcas Dishes books; unused labels from Monson pharmacy, Dr. Fuller's Civil War memoirs, letters, scrapbooks, etc.



Hundreds of early photographs of Monson. Including Dr. Fuller's Civil War photo, stagecoach on Main Street, many private homes, etc.



Top: Trade cards, scrapbooks, photo albums, autograph book, loose photos, hand bills.

Bottom: Hundreds of postcards, many which we have never seen. Hundreds of trade cards, many of the businesses we have never heard of, but in fact were from Monson. Also included, many dance cards and entertainment announcements and very early letters, including the only letter that we have that Dr. Fuller wrote home to his sister during the Civil War.

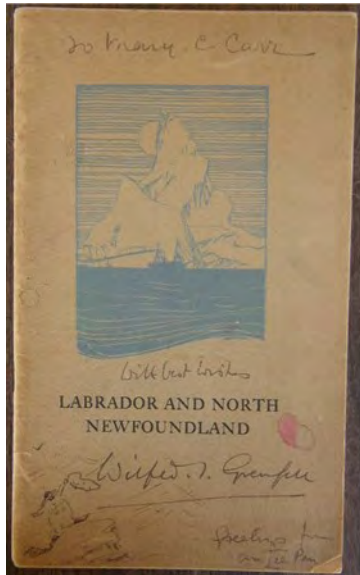




Probably the most important item we acquired is the original foot locker that Dr. George E. Fuller used during his tenure as Hospital Steward of the 27th Mass. Vols. during the Civil War. It appears to have been made from a salvaged crate sent to his brother Henry, who lived in Wilbraham and originally covered with wallpaper or hand bills.



NEW ACQUISITIONS



Booklet by Wilfred T. Grenfell, friend of the Cushman's



1913 Photograph Album with photos of temporary lumber mill located on Bunyan Road



Black & white photos of trolley bridge near Bunyan Road, Flynt Quarry Railroad bridge near Chestnut Street, etc.



Convention Records of Representative District No. 1 Hampden County 1866-



1912 Monson Academy diploma



Monson Academy Yearbooks, 1944 Town Report, Class photo South Main Street School



3 Ellis Mills wool blankets



Handmade wooden, cloth and paper Banner from Monson Academy Class of 1921

ITEMS FOR SALE

1960 History of Monson Book CD

The history of Monson, written in 1960 for the Bicentennial of the formation of the town, is now available in PDF format on a CD.

If you are currently a member of the Monson Historical Society, the fee to obtain the CD is \$15.00. For non-members, the fee is \$20.00 which includes 1 year free membership and our quarterly newsletter "The Historian". Shipping costs for the CD are included in the fee.

Please indicate whether you are a member or not and mail your request to:



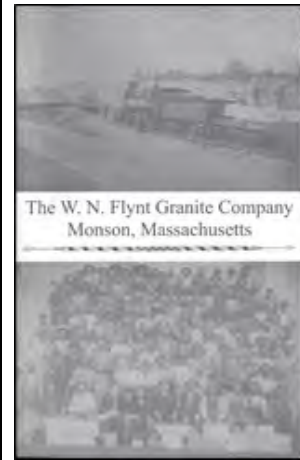
Monson History CD

Monson Historical Society, Inc.

1 Green Street, Suite 1

Monson, MA 01057

Please include your email address to receive newsletter.



Also available is the 12-page booklet about the W.N. Flynt Granite Co. Cost is \$3.00 which includes shipping.

UPCOMING EVENTS



CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE



Sunday 12/18/2016 from 1pm-4pm --- 7 Main St.-Monson, MA

The Monson Historical Society will open the historic Jacob Thompson house to the public on December 18, 2016 for a Candlelight Christmas celebration. We will have displays of past Christmases in Monson and some of the recent acquisitions that are shown in this newsletter. The house will also be decorated with greens.

The historic home, built in 1811, has been completely refurbished inside and out due, in part, to a grant from the Monson Community Preservation Act. A paint analysis was done by an expert in the field to determine the original colors for the exterior of the home and it has been painted accordingly. The interior of the house has been decorated in colors of the period. Original stenciling has been recreated on the front hall walls. Although the Society owns nothing that belongs to the Thompson family, the house has been furnished in the period during which the Thompsons would have occupied the home, which was from 1811 to 1892. Jacob Thompson, a lawyer from Holland, MA and his wife, Hadessa Stone, raised twelve children in the historic home which was originally a one hundred acre farm.

Please join the Society members who will be on site to answer questions. Refreshments will be available.

**** ARE YOU UP TO DATE ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES??****

Membership renewals occur on May 1st of each year and are good through April 30th of the following year. (For example, a "5/1/2017" membership means you have paid from 5/1/2016 through 4/30/2017). If you receive our newsletter through postal mail, please check the date on your mailing label. If your label reads "**5/1/2017 (or later)**", your membership is **current**. If your label reads "**5/1/2016 (or earlier)**", you need to renew your membership to be up-to-date.

If you receive your newsletter via email, please check the subject matter. If it reads "**Monson Historical Society Newsletter**", your membership is **current**. If it reads "**Monson Historical Society Newsletter/Renewal**", your membership has expired and you will need to update it. Please read the text in your email for renewal instructions.

Please consider taking the time today to complete the membership form and mail it back, along with your check, to the address listed on the form. Your membership will be updated through 5/1/2017.

If you receive the newsletter via e-mail, please be aware that all newsletters will be forwarded from this e-mail address, DCDuquette@msn.com, with the subject matter regarding Monson Historical Society.

MONSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address (for newsletter) _____

(Please Print Clearly)

Please indicate a membership category and enclose a check made out to "Monson Historical Society, Inc."

(Note: Membership renewal is May 1st of each year)

Individual \$10⁰⁰ Family \$20⁰⁰ Life Membership \$250⁰⁰

Return to: Membership, Monson Historical Society
One Green Street, Suite One - Monson, MA 01057

Any information you provide us will be kept in strict confidence and will never be given out or sold at any time.

*And as always, we **Thank You** for your continued support of the Monson Historical Society!*