

MONSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.



# THE HISTORIAN



VOLUME FOUR, ISSUE THREE

WINTER 2018



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings:

The house painting project at Fuller House is almost finished, with just a few things left which we will finish in the spring due to the onset of cold weather. Also, a similar thing has happened at the Jacob Thompson House. After receiving a CPC grant and a Grace Makepeace Trust for Historic Preservation grant, we had the new furnace and gas hook-up put in. Because it got too cold and the ground was frozen, we had to delay the installation of the air-conditioner.

This newsletter's "Where is This?" section contains an interesting change. We would like to know if you know where this little building was moved to in Monson.

Hopefully, we have seen the worst of the winter season already.

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](http://www.monsonhistoricalsociety.org)

Email us on the web at  
[info@monsonhistoricalsociety.comcast.biz.net](mailto: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

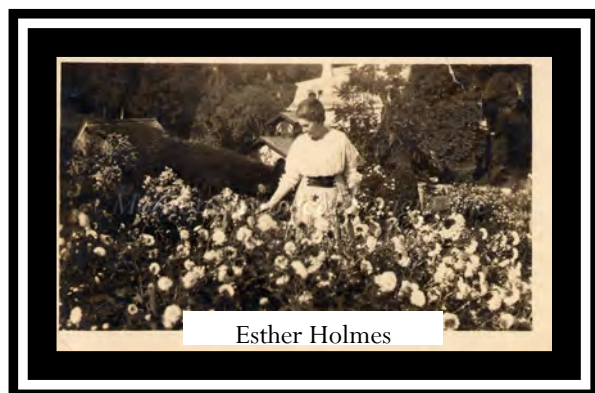
To obtain and preserve historical data and articles pertaining to the town of Monson, Massachusetts, and to encourage and develop the pursuit and expression of such interests in all suitable ways.

## WHAT USED TO BE THERE?

BY DENNIS SWIERAD

Did you ever notice the house at 82 Main Street seems to be an architectural anomaly for Main Street Monson? In the midst of early Colonials, Romanesque Revival, Gothic Revival and French Second Empire stands a perfect example of Arts and Crafts architecture more suited for the west coast than where it is. The story of this house is interesting and I feel I should tell you about it.

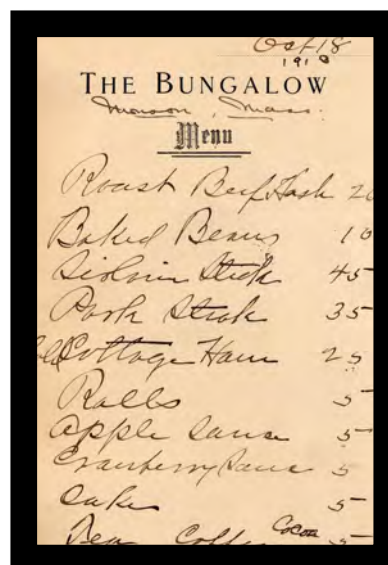
A 19th century mill owner by the name of Cyrus Holmes, Jr. had a daughter named Esther R. Holmes. Esther never married and, it appears, entertained herself as any child of wealth would have done in her era. Her father Cyrus donated the Soldiers' Monument at the intersection of Main and High Street to the Town of Monson as a memorial to its citizens who fought in the Civil War. Esther followed suit by donating the Holmes Gymnasium to the Monson Academy in honor of her father, after he had passed away. Sorrowfully, it was leveled during the 2011 tornado. Esther was also instrumental in donating to the Monson Home for Aged People.



Esther Holmes

Somewhere late in 1911, Esther got the idea that Monson could use a "Tea Room", which she conceived as a meeting place for Monson citizens and others to enjoy a meal, friendship and gossip. This is an excerpt from the gossip column of The Palmer Journal for December 15, 1911. . . "The new bungalow store opposite the soldiers' monument is progressing rapidly and will soon be finished. It will be stocked with a variety of things the first part of January and ready for custom-

ers." Likewise, the article in the January 19, 1912 edition of The Register under Monson News states. . . "The bungalow shop opposite the soldiers' monument at the north end of the town is completed and will soon open its doors to the public. The interior, with its soft gray walls and cheerful open fireplace, before which one may sit and leisurely sip hot chocolate, which is to be served upon small tables, is decidedly attractive. Various kinds of candy, toilet articles such as soap, tooth powder, violet water, tooth brushes, etc., stationary, pencils, postcards, automobile supplies, Kodaks and films, wrapping paper and string, also many other novelties, for which it is felt there is a demand, will be for sale. A special feature of the bungalow shop will be its circulating library, where for the modest sum of two cents a day one may procure the latest of modern books. The entire second floor is to be used as a restaurant. The kitchen is adjacent, and is to be fitted up with the latest and most approved sanitary articles. Good wholesome food, well cooked, will be attractively served at a modest price. Ice cream will be served in summer upon the pergola plaza at the south side."



The February 9th, 1912 edition of The Register stated, "It is difficult to estimate how many accepted the invitation to inspect "the Bungalow Shop" which was opened to the public for the first time Wednesday afternoon and evening. There were many visitors in the afternoon, but the rooms were crowded in the evening Orcutt's orchestra, which was stationed in an ante-room, played from 8 to 10, and the music, with the blazing fire in the big fireplace, the brilliant lights and the beautiful flowers added to the attractiveness of the place, and the people passed from room to room, upstairs and down, exploring every nook and corner and expressed appreciation and admiration of all they saw. The building in itself is particularly attractive inside and out and is the only one of the kind in Monson. It is perfect in its fittings, sanitary in its appointments, complete in all its details and is certainly a most welcome addition of the right sort to one pretty little town. Many feel that it is just what has been desired and needed for a long time, but it has been a little difficult for anyone to start a new venture. The restaurant without doubt will receive the patronage it deserves, and it will be an ideal place for the ladies to have their small informal "teas" or luncheons."

By all accounts, the Bungalow Shop Restaurant opened by Esther Holmes fulfilled its expectations. I could not pinpoint exactly when the Shop closed its doors. It was sold as a private residence and continues to be such today.



NEW ACQUISITIONS



CDV and diaries kept by a Monson resident spanning 40 years  
*Purchase*



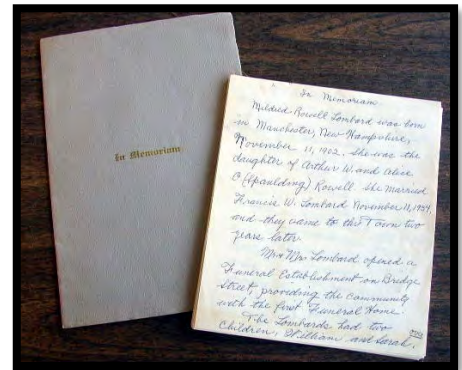
World War II Silk Japanese Flag  
*Donation from Monson resident*



**Church Co. employees**  
*Donation from Palmer resident*



**Lafond Bros. meal receipts**  
*Donation by Monson resident*



**Original manuscript & "In Memoriam" Booklet**  
*Donation from Monson resident*



**Walnut Trencher Bowl Early 19th Century**  
*Donation Monson family*

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.

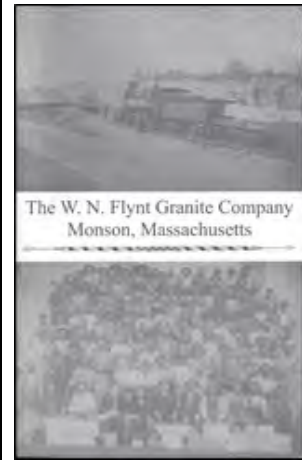


Please indicate whether you are a member or not and mail your request to:

Monson History CD  
 Monson Historical Society, Inc.  
 1 Green Street, Suite 1  
 Monson, MA 01057

Please include your email address to receive newsletter.

Make your check payable to: Monson Historical Society, Inc.



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

WHERE IS THIS?

Answer to Last Month's "Where Is This?"

It was located at 69 Margaret Street and it was The Italian Baptist Church built by Mr. Flynt for his workers at the quarry. The granite wall that was in front of the church is all that remains today.



This Month's "Where Was This Moved To?"

The Register, February 23, 1912:  
 "The new station has been completed at State Line and it is an ornament to the vicinity. Natural wood, planned grain, has been used throughout. Selected wire nails, straight and rustless, hold the woodwork together. The same bold primitive architecture introduced so extensively in the Phil De Armour beef houses (20th century is noticeable here. G. Harry Davis has been appointed station agent, and has put in a requisition to the road for lantern, three flags (red, green and United States), one-half bushel butternuts and one checker board. Mr. Davis will furnish his own checkers."



**\*\* 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 "5/1/2018" membership means you have paid from 5/1/2017 to 4/30/2018). If you receive our newsletter through postal mail, please check the date on your mailing label. If your label reads "**5/1/2018 (or later)**", your membership is **current**. If your label reads "**5/1/2017 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.**

If you receive the newsletter via email, please be aware that all newsletters will be forwarded from this email address, info@monsonhistoricalsociety.comcastbiz.net, with the subject matter regarding "Monson Historical Society".

**MONSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (for newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_

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 \$10<sup>00</sup>**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Family \$20<sup>00</sup>**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Life Membership \$250<sup>00</sup>**

**Return to: Membership, 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!*