



THE HISTORIAN



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SUMMER 2015



Jacob Thompson House 1811



Fuller House 1869

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings:

The Jacob Thompson House restoration is going along very well. The contractors have been very cooperative in working with each other. All of the repairs on the building have been made and most of the exterior paint, except for the brick ends, has been completed. We are waiting on getting the bricks re-pointed before they can be painted. The wooden storm doors are in production. Many of the storm windows have been applied. We decided to strip the front door surround as an extra due to the build-up of so much paint and the loss of detail. We are also going to be painting the upper bedrooms and front hallway inside.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission has requested additional photos

and information about the Jacob Thompson House for the Historical Society's application to the National Register for inclusion. John Clemson the man who is working on this process for us, came back to Monson and took an abundance of photographs, inside and out, and will send them to the MA Historical Commission along with the additional information they were seeking.

The Historical Society held an Historic House Tour on Sunday, May 31st, for two houses here in Monson: the Fenton House on Palmer Road and the Craftsmen's Style House on the corner of Main and Green Street. It was extremely well attended with about 150 people showing up to view the interiors of these very interesting homes. The Historical Society was present at both locations to answer

any questions we could about the history of the homes or their original owners.

Our next adventure is going to be an Appraisal Day at the Jacob Thompson House. Tamara Cabey has been working to make this event happen. It will take place on Sunday, September 27th from 11am to 4pm. Appraisers from Kaminski Auctions will be doing the appraising. Please see the article further on in this newsletter for all the details. Start looking through your closets and attics for that one item from Grandma which just might be worth a fortune, or not.

Dennis Swierad, President



Officers:

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

Board Members:

Denis Duquette (2018)
 William Dominick (2017)

Board Member Emeritus:

William Hatton
 Emma Ladd Shepherd

Voting Positions:

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

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.

Visit us on the web at
www.monsonhistoricalsociety.org

Email us on the web at
info@monsonhistoricalsociety.org

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

SUMMER TIME IN MONSON

BY DENNIS AND MARY SWIERAD

We thought it would be nice to do a small photo gallery showing some of the citizens of Monson enjoying the summertime. In spite of long work days with many twelve hour shifts, people in Monson took time out to gather for socializing and a chance to catch a cool summer breeze in a world before fans and air-conditioners. The most basic summer activity would have been a picnic. A couple of the more popular places to do this was at Flynt Park and at the “Rock House” at Flynt's Quarry. Mr. Flynt was well known for taking care of the people who worked for him and for the love he had for all of the citizens of Monson. His lifelong dream of providing a place for people to relax and commune with nature came to fruition in 1883 when he opened Flynt Park, which included walks and trails, a pavilion, two lookout towers, a zoo and a racetrack. He also allowed people to use his private train on Sundays to travel through the quarry to the base of the “Rock House”, which was an outcropping of granite above the quarry which was believed to be an original Native American lookout.



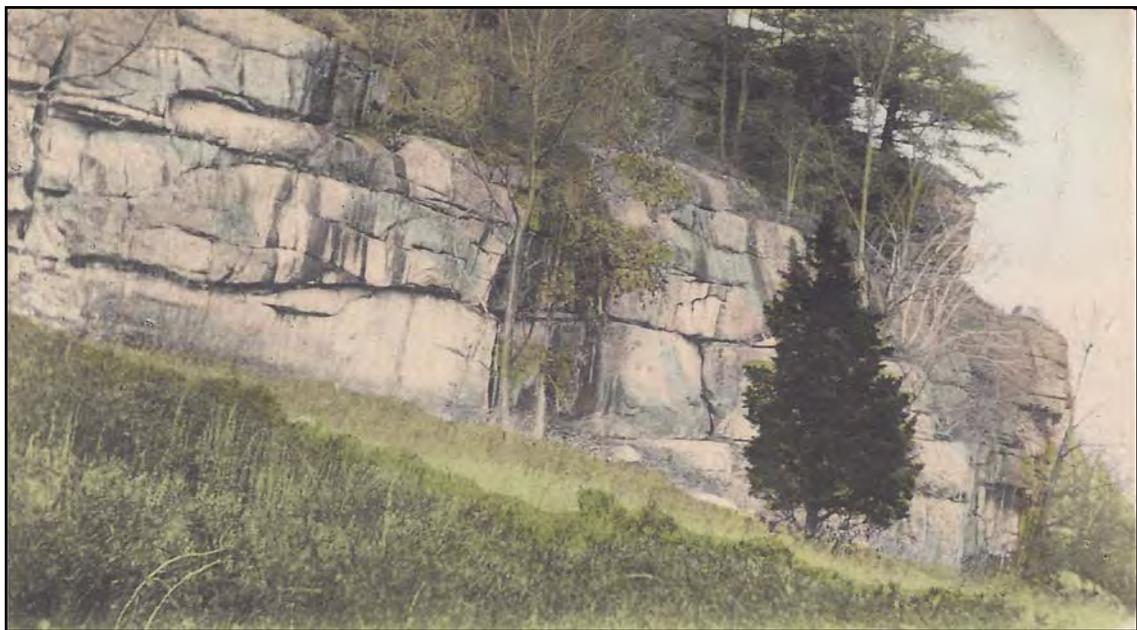
A Group of High-Wheeled Cyclists at the Entrance to Flynt Park 1883



Stagecoach at Flynt Park with Herbert Noble at the Reigns



A Lookout in Flynt Park



"Rock House" at Flynt Quarry



June 8, 1898

Merrick & Fay Straw Hat Shop Picnic at Flynt's Pond



Heimann & Lichten Straw Hat Shop Reunion Picnic 1890's at Flynt Park



Firemen's Clambake Early 1900's in Monson



Left: Hattie Merchant Noble in her garden at 1 Green Street

Below: Monson Garden Club 1920's in the garden at 98 Main Street





Left: Cushman Family Picnic

Bottom: Eric Cushman and Myron Wilcox in the garden



Pond Boats floating in the pond that was once located near 287 Main Street



Adventurous group at the Summit of Peaked Mountain.

l to r: Dr. F. W. Ellis, Rev. Franklin Hatch, Mrs. Hatch, Hattie F. Cushman, Helen A. Hussey

Summit of Peaked Mountain

NEW ACQUISITIONS



Four black and white photographs yet to be identified as having a connection to Monson



1924 Green St. School Graduation program; 1891 letter from M. Esther Keep; ladies in garden at First Church parsonage 1900; First Church recital 1960; Monson Academy graduation 1962; Monson Bi-centennial program; 5 exposure photograph of woman 1890's



Monson Register 1915; Monson Herald 1893; Monson Mirror 1889 & 1890; Well-Spring Newspaper 1848 mentioning Sabbath School in Monson



Plans and documentation of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial at Memorial Hall. Information about Kenneth Allen Berube of Monson who died in South Vietnam.

UPCOMING EVENTS



**Antiques Appraisal Event Hosted by
the Monson Historical Society to Benefit
The Monson Open Pantry**

Sunday, September 27th, 11AM - 4PM
Rain or Shine!

Hosted in the Jacob Thompson House
7 Main Street, Monson, MA 01057

One item per person, free of charge, first come, first served
Donations will be accepted for the Monson open pantry
House calls by appointment

**Bring in your fine art, Asian antiques, jewelry, silver,
porcelain, glass, etc., for an appraisal by
experts from Kaminski Auctions!**

Attending Appraisers:



Mary Westcott



Steven Demers



www.kaminskiauctions.com

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

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.

Welcome New Members
 Jamie Blaxland - Monson, MA
 Victoria & Joe Prior - Monson, MA

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

Suite 2 in our Beautiful Historic Fuller House on 1 Green Street is available for immediate professional business rental. The Suite, which is conveniently located on the first floor, includes three spacious rooms with approximately 425 sq. ft. of area. The front room could be easily used as an office/reception area, with the interior room used as the main office workspace. The back room contains a kitchenette with a bathroom just off the main office space. The historic quality of the building is retained with a wonderful oak fireplace mantle surrounded by Minton tiles, hardwood flooring in the main office room and the original woodwork throughout while still having all the modern amenities to accommodate any electronic/professional needs of your modern business. Rent is reasonably priced at \$450 per month. If you know of anyone, or if you are interested yourself, please contact Tamara Cabey at 413-267-5244 to arrange a tour. You would be getting a great place to work while, at the same time, supporting the Historical Society.



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

Membership renewals occur on May 1st of each year. If you receive our newsletter through postal mail, please check the date on your mailing label. Current memberships should read "5/1/2016" or later. If your label reads "5/1/2015", you need to renew for one more year. If it reads, "5/1/2014", you need to renew for 2 years to be up-to-date.

For those who receive our newsletter via e-mail, please check the subject matter. If it reads "Monson Historical Society Newsletter", your membership is current. If it reads "Monson Historical Society Newsletter/Renewal", you will need to update your membership. Please read the text in your e-mail 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 5/1/2016.

******Also note that we have reduced our "Life Membership" rate in half from \$500 to \$250!******

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 only) _____

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

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

___ **Individual** (under age 18) \$5⁰⁰ ___ **Individual** (age 18 & over) \$10⁰⁰ ___ **Family** \$20⁰⁰

(NEW REDUCED RATE!!) ___ **Life Membership** \$250⁰⁰ **(NEW REDUCED RATE!!)**

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

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