

1637 - 1993

The Munson Record

A Genealogical and Biographical Account

OF

The Descendants and Spouses

OF

CAPTAIN THOMAS MUNSON

(A Pioneer of Hartford and New Haven)

BY

Thomas Munson Foundation

JOHANNA C. (MUNSON) DOWNIE
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HERBERT L. MUNSON
Historian - Editor

Volume III



THOMAS MUNSON FOUNDATION
A Michigan Corporation
MCMXCIII



Herbert L. Munson
(RN 5107)

Acknowledgement

For my part in the preparation of this Munson Family History, I dedicate the total effort to the remembrance of my father, Ernest Loren¹⁰ Munson (John Clan). Without his inspiration many years ago to learn more about our family history, I would probably have been satisfied knowing who my parents and their parents were.

A very special thanks to my wife Shirley, who was always there when I needed her advice or support. Few will ever know the total sacrifice that she has made during the final three years of the preparation this document. She endured extended periods with no social contacts that I might not be interrupted during the critical periods of software development, data formatting, and editing.

The list of valuable contributors who made this publication possible would fill many pages and such a list would be impractical. Johanna C. Downie certainly desires recognition for her significant efforts in beginning the process that ultimately led to the final publication of this history of the Munson Family.

Herbert L. Munson
Historian - Editor

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PREFATORY

The family has long desired to supplement the work begun by Myron A. Munson, which culminated in the 1896 publication of *The Munson Record*. Myron's monumental genealogical work, as detailed as it was, still did not include all twigs on the many branches of our family tree.

About 1937, as the family approached the tercentenary anniversary of the arrival of Thomas Munson to the shores of the new world, a conscious effort was made to update the family history -- adding new generations and twigs that had been found since the original publication. Clan chairmen were appointed or volunteered and the work proceeded.

By 1941 some clans made substantial progress, while others languished. Individual clans were published in varying degrees of completeness or not at all. With the advent of World War II the family turned its attention to the production of implements of war and sending its sons to meet the enemy.

In 1982 the family was ready to revisit its roots and begin anew a concerted effort to update the family history. The Thomas Munson Foundation was founded, plans were initiated to hold the sesquicentenary anniversary reunion at Yale University. A general historian was appointed to begin again that monumental undertaking of updating Myron's work. Clan chairmen were appointed or volunteered, and the work has proceeded with little interruption until publication.

Publication does not mean completion, for a family history is never fully complete. Aunt Susie may not have submitted her records on time or Uncle George didn't have much interest in the project or for any number of reasons, some members did not get included in the update. Of course, new births in a family of our size are occurring almost daily as are deaths. Thus it remains incomplete, awaiting some future generation to carry it further.

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge with grateful thanks the work of our first historian - Myron Andrews Munson. He devoted a large part of his life in compiling the descendants of Thomas Munson. Beginning in 1882, he worked untiringly for over thirteen years until the publication in 1896 of Volumes I and II. These volumes contain 1237 pages and nearly 10,000 of our cousins and spouses. He continued his efforts after publication to maintain a desk set of his published work in which he entered marginal notes as cousins or twigs continued to be found. These efforts he pursued until his death in 1922 at New Haven, Connecticut.

Today a new group of enthusiasts have come forward to bring Volumes III, IV, and V to fruition. Johanna "Connie" Munson Downie (Moses Clan) and Herbert L. Munson (John Clan), our general historians, spent endless hours in devotion to this effort. It all began in 1982 when Connie asked for volunteers to serve as clan chairmen and for them to expand their respective clan committees to begin again the efforts that had begun in 1937. An initial mailing was made to approximately 5,000 named Munson across the United States. The question was asked "Are you a twig on the branch of the Munson Family Tree?".

More and more cousins began to collect data. Soon the data expanded into thousands of people. It became necessary to obtain computers to control and file the voluminous material. Cousins with computer skills were enlisted to assist. Formatting material became crucial. Limitations on the amount that could be said about any one person and the number of pages that could be devoted to any one subject became important. Herbert L. Munson made many of these decisions. He enlisted the help of the Board of Directors of the Thomas Munson Foundation and others.

The contributions of all who made *The Munson Record* update a reality are gratefully acknowledged. We shall never be able to fully repay our gratitude. We and those of generations still unborn shall be ever thankful.

Board of Directors
Thomas Munson Foundation

INTRODUCTORY

When Myron A. Munson published his work in 1896, a scholarly search for our transatlantic connection had not been undertaken. His efforts were concentrated in America with the descendants of the Captain Thomas Munson. Myron had stated "whence he came, when he came, with whom he came, may some day appear."

The answer to "whence he came" is best described by the study of Milton Rubincam, one of America's premiere genealogists. Milton does not conclude unequivocally that Rattlesden, England is the birth place of our first ancestor, but his evidence is compelling. The complete text of Rubincam's discussion on this subject is contained in *The American Genealogist* January 1941, Whole Number 67, Volume XVII, No. 3.

We could pay appropriate tribute to Myron A. Munson, if we repeat his closing words in the Introduction to Volume I of *The Munson Record*.

"We may justly feel interested in the story of Constantine, Columbus, Luther, Shakespeare, Cromwell, Lincoln but there are tens of thousands who have occasion to feel a livelier interest in the story of Thomas Munson; for without him they had not been. Add that he was a man of signal ability and high worth, that he lived in a stirring, formative period, and that his career was eventful, beneficent, distinguished, and we may appreciate how conspicuous in our esteem should be the portraiture of our Pioneer's life."

Finally, our children, grandchildren, and generations yet unborn can be guided by the lives of our cousins, many who have distinguished themselves over the years and are described in *The Munson Record* -- these are the shoes we walk in.

MUNSON FAMILY ORGANIZATIONS

THE MUNSON RECORD ASSOCIATION (MRA)

Prior to 1936 there was no organized association for the search and preservation of Munson Ancestry. In late 1882, Myron A. Munson, financed by several family members, traced the Munson family roots to Captain Thomas Munson of Hartford and New Haven. Myron's efforts resulted in the publication of the first two volumes of *The Munson Record*.

It was in 1936 that the Munson Record Association was established. The Association succeeded in organizing several successful Munson reunions, established an informative newsletter, as well as fueling the effort to continue Myron's work and establish the next volume of *The Munson Record*. The Munson Record Association was dissolved in 1942, and although the actual volume was never published at that time, several Munson clans were able to put together manuscripts of their individual clans and some were published.

The following officers were elected in August of 1936 to lead the MRA: Philip E. Munson, Chairman; Mrs. Mordello Munson, Secretary; Mrs. Fitch M. Munson, Treasurer; and Mrs. J. Paul Munson, Historian.

As far as volumes beyond Volumes I & II were concerned, problems did exist in getting the time and effort to put into the arduous task of contacting relatives and putting together the clan lines. The publishing date of additional volumes of *The Munson Record* had to be pushed ahead several times. As of June 1941, three clans had material ready for publication, three had much unorganized information, four had some work done, and five were not yet contacted.

It was decided at the time not to go through the expense of printing a third volume (between \$1,200 and \$1,500) with such a poor record of completion. It was proposed, though, that the existing material that had been compiled, be safeguarded from destruction by having those clan manuscripts that were completed reproduced in a reasonably priced way. These manuscripts would then be available to organization members and others at a small profit. The Moses Clan, one of the few that had material ready for publication, decided to have their material mimeographed in an indexed volume of around 100 pages.

By 1942, only 5 of 12 clans had material ready for a third volume. Moses and Obadiah had published their manuscripts, and Ebenezer and Joel were ready. William Clan was also soon expected to complete theirs.

At this time it was determined that the publishing of a third volume of *The Munson Record* would only be practical if 10 of the 17 clans provided material. Mrs. J. Paul Munson (Joh H.), the MRA historian, suspended her duties indefinitely, as she had other hobbies that she felt would bring her more success. Joh Munson had managed to get out 11 informative newsletters during her tenure. Her daughter Johanna Cornelia Munson Downie served as the Thomas Munson Foundation Historian for several years.

THE THOMAS MUNSON FOUNDATION

The Thomas Munson Foundation began its existence in 1982. At the Moses Clan reunion, Robert J. Lessa, Obadiah Clan, was elected as Chairman to organize TMF and appointed his staff to help form the organization. On August 14, 1983 at the TMF meeting, it was voted that the existing officers continue in office until August of 1984. In August of 1984, the Thomas Munson Foundation was incorporated in the State of Michigan, and a set of ByLaws was adopted with an election of officers held accordingly. On February 6, 1988, the ByLaws were revised and adopted by the Board of Directors.

The Foundation is governed by its membership through a Board of Directors consisting of 11 members who are elected every two years at their biennial membership meeting. The directors elect the officers from its board members.

The TMF has had five presidents:

Robert J.¹¹ Lessa (Obadiah Clan) - Aug. 1982 to Aug. 1984
Dr. Edwin S.¹¹ Munson, II (Ephraim Clan) - Aug. 1984 to Aug. 1987
George Q.¹¹ Munson, Jr. (William Clan) - Aug. 1987 to Feb. 1988
Fred H.¹² Munson (Solomon Clan) - Feb. 1988 to Aug. 1988
Francis E.¹¹ (Pat) Munson (Moses Clan) - Aug. 1988 to Aug. 1989
Fred H.¹² Munson (Solomon Clan) - Aug. 1989 to Aug. 1993

As stated in the ByLaws adopted by the Board of Directors, the TMF purpose is manifold.

- a. To provide financial assistance to deserving students who are lineal descendants of Thomas Munson (1612-1685), or their legally adopted children, for scholarships to pay for, or contribute toward their college or post-graduate education.
- b. To research the history and development of the Thomas Munson family for the purposes of publishing genealogical data and other family records and of identifying candidates eligible for the Foundation's scholarship awards.

- c. To provide a medium for recognition of achievements of lineal descendants of Thomas Munson.
- d. To assist any organization or organizations engaged in the collection, restoration, or preservation of artifacts, documents, memorabilia, monuments, buildings, or land sites of historical interest to the citizens of the United States, provided that such organizations are exempt organizations under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (the "Code").
- e. To further knowledge and understanding of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States and the values and ideals expressed in these documents.
- f. To solicit and receive funds and property to be used for any of these purposes.

The Thomas Munson Foundation currently has over 600 dues paying members. Membership is open to both individuals and institutions. There are two types of memberships, Regular and Associate. Regular membership can be annual or lifetime and is open to lineal descendants of Thomas Munson, their spouses and their legally adopted children. Associate membership is open to those who are possibly descendants, and unrelated individuals and institutions.

The Thomas Munson Foundation has many diverse goals and accomplishments that it is working to attain. One of the first accomplishments was the reprinting of Volumes I and II of *The Munson Record*. The decision to reprint and make these volumes available for sale was made at the Moses Clan reunion on August 13 and 14, 1983.

Further continuation of Myron's work became a major goal. Descendants of Thomas Munson are organized into 17 clans. These 17 lines are the descendants of each of Thomas Munson's 17 great grandsons who had male issue, and each clan bears one of their names. The new volumes of *The Munson Record* are the result of not one, but many dedicated and hard working people.

The TMF also publishes a quarterly newsletter to keep Munson descendants informed and enlightened as to Munson happenings and reunions. Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome.

The single most important function of the TMF, though, is the promotion of scholarship for its youth. On August 8, 1987, the Thomas Munson Foundation awarded its first two scholarships, and scholarships have been awarded each year since. An appointed scholarship committee annually selects deserving descendants of Thomas Munson for

college scholarships or graduate level education. Each annual scholarship is to be in the amount of \$1000 or more.

Because of the great area in which Munson cousins are now situated, the United States is divided into seven regions which hold their own annual and mini-reunions.

Turning toward the future, the collection and organization of Munson ancestral data is a never-ending process. Clan chiefs will continue to collect genealogy and place that data in computers for the publishing of future volumes of *The Munson Record*. Scholarships for promising young students will continue as well as plans for the establishment of a Munson Library and Museum. The spirit that inspired Myron's work has become a part of a great many of Thomas Munson's descendants.

THE THOMAS MUNSON FOUNDATION

Mention should be made of the several Munson Foundation reunion meetings held annually at the various locations across the country. These are to conduct business and have discussions that help hold the family together. Much planning and reviewing has been needed to develop a Charter, write ByLaws, cover legal matters, and spread responsibility among the cousins across the country. With computer smart cousins, the Foundation was able to maintain the membership rolls, update *The Munson Record*, and conduct business in a very professional manner. Communications, which are so necessary, are conducted through our computerized family Newsletter, which is published quarterly. Our genealogy is being computerized, and updated in a timely manner.

1982 - The first meeting was for organizing the Thomas Munson Foundation, and took place at the Moses Clan annual reunion near Ithaca, New York in August at Bob and Jacoba Baker's home known as "Bakers Acres." Robert J. Lessa (Obadiah Clan) presented a draft of the type of organization needed, and this was used as a basis to get started. Our first President was Robert J. Lessa from Michigan, and Vice President was Francis E. "Pat" Munson (Moses Clan) from California.

1985 - Dr. Edwin S. Munson hosted a two-day Foundation meeting at the University of Kentucky conference center, in Lexington where the participants were housed. Items discussed were:

- 1) plans for the upcoming 350th Anniversary Reunion in 1987,
- 2) purchasing a Foundation owned computer to be housed at Purdue University to assist our historian, Johanna "Connie" Munson Downie, who was amassing a huge amount of genealogy material for Volume III.

1986 - This meeting was held at Center Church Parish House in New Haven, where they met with the church organizing committees, and reviewed the plans for the TMF-350 National Reunion coming up the next year.

1988 - The TMF board met on the farm of Clarence and Mary (Munson) Benson in East Lansing, New York. Francis E. (Pat.) Munson was elected President with Brig. Gen. James A. Munson re-elected Vice President for the fifth time. A 198 page book titled *The Munson Family Reunion - 1987* prepared by Judith Ann "Jay" Munson and Herbert L. Munson was distributed for sale.

1989 - A combined Foundation meeting and annual TMF Board meeting was held at the Walden Inn at De Pauw University in Greencastle, Indiana in August. This was "Region 5" gathering, hosted by Don and Kay (Munson) Weaver (John Clan). Fred H. Munson (Solomon Clan) from Texas was elected President.

1990 - The Board met in Corpus Christi, Texas to review ways and means to help advance the publication date of Volumes III, IV & V.

1991 - In August the TMF annual Board meeting was combined with the biennial foundation membership meeting in Estes Park, Colorado. This was Region VI reunion and was masterfully hosted by Roland and Lillian Munson (Solomon Clan), Denver, Colorado. The officers of the Foundation for 1991-93 were elected as follows:

President	Fred H. Munson
Vice President	James A. Munson
Secretary	Lois E. Munson Tolles
Treasurer	Charles H. "Bud" Munson
Legal Officer	Nancy K. Munson
Public Affairs Officer	Carol M. Carson
Historian	Herbert L. Munson
Publications	James R. Munson
Scholarship	Dr. Edwin S. Munson, II
Membership	Robert C. Munson
Library & Museum	Charles A. Blackman

1992 - The Board of Directors held their annual meeting in August at the home of Herbert L. and Shirley R. Munson at Mill Creek, Washington. This was a general meeting of the Board and concentrated on the preparation and printing of *The Munson Record*.

THE CHRONOLOGY OF MUNSON REUNIONS

REUNIONS.

1. 1887 - First General Reunion in New Haven celebrating the 250th anniversary of the arrival Captain Thomas¹ Munson in America.
2. 1896 - Second General Reunion in New Haven celebrating the publication of Volumes I and II of *The Munson Record*.
3. 1937 - Third General Reunion at Groton, New York, celebrating the 300th anniversary of our first ancestor's arrival.
4. 1987 - Fourth General Reunion celebrating the 350th anniversary of his arrival, known as "TMF-350" in New Haven, Connecticut.
5. 2037 - The suggestion was made at the TMF-350 that the next General Reunion would be held in 50 years, in the year 2037, at New Haven.

THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION (Quarter Millennial)

(New Haven 1887)

This first national gathering of Munsons celebrated the anniversary date of Thomas' landing in the colonies in 1637 (measured from his service in the Pequot War, the actual date of his arrival is unknown, although suspected to be 1635).

In 1884 and for the next 3 years, several planning committees of over 40 cousins from 11 states met with Myron Munson, the family historian. These efforts contributed directly towards a successful 1887 reunion.

After several delays, this big reunion was finally held Wednesday, August 17, 1887 in New Haven with the late morning session being held in Center Church, and the afternoon program held next door at the Lincoln Rink. The committee on arrangements was Luzerne I. Munson, Samuel L. Munson, Sheldon Munson, Curtiss J. Munson, Sr., Jared H. Munson, and Edward G. Munson.

The General Chairman was Edgar Munson of Pennsylvania. Committee chairmen were Rev. Frederick Munson, Brooklyn, New York; Luzerne I. Munson, Waterbury, Connecticut; C. La Rue Munson, Williamsport, Pennsylvania; Hon. Augustus W. Munson, Kenton, Ohio; and Miles C. Munson, Washington, DC.

A group picture of over 500 cousins was taken during the afternoon on the front steps of the old library.

During the 11 years from 1885 to 1896, Myron Munson spent almost all of his time finalizing new genealogical information obtained from his large committee to complete *The Munson Record*, Volumes I and II. Because of the huge amount of material gathered, he found it necessary to limit *The Munson Record* essentially to the male lines carrying the Munson name and females born with the maiden name of Munson, plus two generations forward of non-Munson named descendants.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND GENERAL REUNION

(Wednesday, August 19, 1896)

The Second General Reunion was held in New Haven. Like the 1887 reunion, this was also held at Center Church, and at Yale University facilities, with several of the same people serving on committees again in 1896.

The Munson Record, Volumes I and II was printed, copyrighted in 1896 for Myron Andrews Munson, and was ready for distribution at this reunion.

At 11:00 a.m. the presiding officer, La Rue Munson called the meeting to order, and introduced Reverend Frederick Munson who greeted the attendees. Among his remarks he reminded all that Thomas Munson, who was being honored, was the 55th Charter Member of the church they were sitting in. He continued "Welcome to the state whose foundations were laid by those of strong faith, and high character, such as were Captain Thomas Munson, his wife Joanna, and those descendants of theirs who were active in influence during the formative period of this old Commonwealth."

Judge Gilbert D. Munson in his response said in part, "two names come to mind connecting the past with the present - Captain Thomas Munson, and the Reverend Myron A. Munson. The old pioneer, Captain Thomas Munson stands before us as if in full life. The magic pen of his learned descendant, Myron has brought the vision as a biographer and historian."

In presenting Myron A. Munson to the assemblage, among other things, he reminded them that "for twelve long years his whole time has been devoted to recording the deeds of his ancestors, and the records of our ancestors."

In his response, in part Myron said, "twelve years ago there was NOT a Munson in the land, as far as I am aware, who knew his lineage through more than four or five generations; no one knew his pioneer ancestor."

Dinner was served at one o'clock in Harmonie Hall, followed at two o'clock with the afternoon session. The main speaker was Chairman La Rue Munson speaking about his appreciation of the Puritan influence upon American history.

He said, "Such a Puritan was Thomas Munson and such a citizen was our famous ancestor; his blood pulses in our veins, and so far as we are filled with patriotism and a desire to do noble deeds and achieve a place of honor among our fellow citizens, we

can attribute a part, at least of those characteristics to an inheritance from our honored Pilgrim Father."

La Rue also mentioned that there were many present at the First Reunion who have passed on to their reward. "Our lamented president, Luzerne L. Munson, has gone. Our beloved 'Queen' Mrs. Grace Munson Wheeler, who was with us then and continued to live to the age of nearly one hundred years, has gone to meet her ancestors." He concluded by paying tribute to his predecessor in office, Curtiss J. Monson, Sr. for, "his arduous and efficient labors in promoting and sustaining the 1887 reunion."

The final speaker was the Reverend Absalom Griffith who in part said, "This reunion is the most interesting and the most enjoyable gathering I have ever attended. I have been permitted to be a member of some great meetings, a guest at some royal banquets, but this meeting far surpasses them all. I appreciate it because of the privilege it affords of greeting so many of my blood relatives. We are his descendants of the eighth, ninth, and tenth generations. One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh. This reunion should be a great blessing to us all."

The weather of August was auspicious and nearly 200 members of the family attended the 1896 reunion. The register included family members from France, 1; Wisconsin, 1; Illinois, 2; Kentucky, 1; Michigan, 1; Ohio, 3; Pennsylvania, 4; New York, 28; Massachusetts, 4; Connecticut, 123.

A final "thank you" was made to the railroads. "We are indebted to the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad Companies for half-fare return tickets over all the roads. Sixty-seven certificate-entitling persons of this advantage, were signed by the Secretary."

THE 300TH (TERCENTENARY) ANNIVERSARY REUNION

(August 14, 1937, at West Groton, New York)

Officers and committee members who worked to make this another successful Munson reunion were:

J. Paul Munson (Moses Clan)	President
Mrs. J. Paul (Joh) Munson	Historian
Howard Munson (Ebenezer Clan)	Vice President
Philip Munson (Caleb Clan)	Clan Chairman
James Munson (Abel Clan)	Clan Chairman
Nordello Munson (John Clan)	Clan Chairman
Lydia D. Jewett (Moses Clan)	Arrangements

Other active committee members were: Amy H. Munson, Effie Courtwright, Ida May Munson, Helen Knapp, Rubie Munson Lawn, Esther L. Munson, Mildred Millspaugh, Bessie A. Munson, May G. Munson, Connie Munson, Mary Munson, & Nellie Munson.

This reunion was dedicated to Miss Lydia Munson (1815-1907) who attended the 1896 reunion in New Haven, and whose historical interest and zealous and fruitful aid enabled the compilation of a large portion of the family history of the Moses Clan and other Clans. Mrs. Joh Munson continued to update this record base in the 1930's and 1940's, and expanded it in an attempt to publish Volume III of *The Munson Record* for the 1937 Reunion. She distributed what she had gathered in a mimeographed booklet.

Other participants were Mildred Munson Todd (Caleb Clan), Rev. Harry Rosengrant (John Clan), Marian Munson (Ephraim Clan), Harriet Munson Talcott (Ebenezer Clan), Ella Munson Smith (Abel Clan), and Wilson Avery Munson (Obadiah Clan), a nephew of Myron Munson, who delivered the Historical address. Also assisting was Dorothy Munson Blackman, historian of the Obadiah Clan, a grand niece of Myron Munson and Arthur Munson (William Clan).

Praise was given to our pioneer, Thomas Munson, and our first Historian, Myron A. Munson. Joh reported that the 1937 Newsletter was being mailed as follows: Solomon 11; Waitstill 22; Obadiah 37; Ebenezer 212; John 80; Joel 16; Israel 1; Abel 177; Ephraim 34; Caleb 57; Moses 323. At the time, most of the clans had active historians, but over the next two years, interest in genealogy waned.

THE FOURTH GENERAL REUNION

"THOMAS MUNSON FOUNDATION - 350TH"

(August 7-9, 1987 at Center Church and Yale University, New Haven)

The committee chairmen included representatives of the 17 clans. The following were key members: General Chairman, Francis E. (Pat) Munson, California; Vice-Chairman, Robert F. Munson, Connecticut; President Dr. Edwin S. Munson, Ohio; President Elect, George Q. Munson, New York; Legal, Nancy K. Munson, New York; Finance, Robert E. Munson, New York; Reservations, Harold C. Munson, New York; Clergy, Rev. George W. Munson, California, and Rev. W. Donald Munson, North Carolina; Historian, Johanna "Connie" Munson Downie, Indiana.

Munsons began arriving Friday morning by car, airplane, train, and motor homes. At the Parish House parking lot, two large canopy tents were used for the registration. Inside the three story Parish House on two floors were clan booths which were set up to display family history, and show memorabilia of the 17 clans. Many hundreds of items were displayed, among which were articles worn and used by our many cousins that served in various wars and conflicts. A "Family Tree" painted on a 4 foot by 6 foot canvas was in place for all to autograph their name and clan. Campus tours were conducted.

Dinner was served at 5 p.m. followed by the opening ceremonies at Center Church. Over 1,000 helium filled colored balloons were released into the sky at the front door as a symbol of this joyful celebration. After the invocation, President Dr. Edwin S. Munson introduced the Mayor of New Haven, Mr. Biagio De Lieto, who presented the Munson family with the key to the city, and saluted "the many members of this illustrious family and joined in honoring Thomas Munson."

We were greeted by the Associate Secretary of Yale University, Mr. Ridley H. Daly who was presented a set of *The Munson Record* for the University Library.

The entertainment was provided by the Continental Singers, a group of Christian Collect students from across the country. The group consisted of a chorus of 22 singers and a 15 piece orchestra with an inspiring concert of message and song.

At ten o'clock Saturday morning, hundreds of Munsons gathered at the Grove Street cemetery at the draped new headstone of Thomas Munson. The Reverend W. Donald Munson from North Carolina opened the Dedication Service with a stirring prayer. Robert E. Munson introduced Ward R. Munson of California who gave the main

address in which he reviewed the life of Thomas. The revised headstone was unveiled, and after a moment of silence in honor of Thomas, "Taps" was beautifully played on his bugle by 11 year old Jay Frazier from Indiana.

After lunch in the main Yale dining hall, the afternoon was spent on tours of the area, and a slide presentation about "Munsons in America" by Robert J. Lessa. Robert presented a collection of colored slides showing "Munsons in the Making of America." "We found Munsons everywhere throughout the United States. We are a large notable family, conspicuous and inconspicuous. The showing is a representation of our great family".

The Saturday evening banquet and program was a gala affair, held in the Commons Dining Hall decorated by many colored balloons and flags. The Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Edwin S. Munson who introduced the Revered George W. Munson for the invocation.

Unquestionably, the loveliest and most original event of the Reunion was a pageant entitled "Here Come the Brides". Twenty ladies modeled wedding gowns of their mother or grandmother assembled by Mary Munson Benson which opened the evening festivities. The type of gown that Thomas' wife Joanna might have worn in the 1630's was researched by Nancy Brewer Munson who designed the gown that was worn by Mary Ann Munson.

We were next greeted by Philip H. "Pheep" Munson who was dressed as Benjamin Franklin in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the American Constitution. This was in honor of Thomas Munson who signed the Fundamental Agreement in June of 1639 at New Haven. Pheep reminded us of our heritage, and led us in some Munson family songs written by his mother. The favorite songs chorus was to the tune of "Turkey in the Straw", and concluded with this verse:

"Munsons, Munsons - step in line,
I don't amount to much, but the rest are fine
Some drive a Packard, and the others an old bus
But there never was a family to equal us!"

After an exceptionally fine steak dinner, a welcome was given by President Edwin S. Munson, who presented our Family Historian, Johanna "Connie" Munson Downie who gave a very stirring address on our Munson heritage.

Dr. Charles A. Blackman from Michigan was introduced next to give a few comments about his great great-uncle, Rev. Myron A. Munson, author of *The Munson Record* Volumes I and II. President elect George Q. Munson was introduced for a few announcements on his plans for the coming year 1988. After the benediction, there was dancing. It was a great day, one to be long remembered.

The structure of the recently created Thomas Munson Scholarship program was announced by Herbert L. Munson, chairman of the committee. He reminded us "that a foundation is only as good as its success in promoting the education for our children and the strengthening of our family life with our children. We are proud to gather funds to achieve these goals." Two scholarships of \$1000 each were presented for the 1987 winners. The winners were; Lisa Lynn¹³ Munson (Solomon Clan) and Richard Jeffrey¹² Munson (Waitstill Clan).

On the final day Sunday, the Center Church bells tolled as the Munsons filled the lovely old building for the morning worship. We were proud to have so many cousins participating in this meaningful occasion, giving praise to our Maker and our wonderful country, and remembering our family inspiration, Thomas Munson.

Participating were "Prayer of Thanksgiving - Thomas D. Munson, Texas; Vocal Solo - Linda Munson George, Michigan, "Responsive Reading" - Mary Munson Benson, New York; Sermon - Rev. George W. Munson, California. The Senior Minister of Center Church, Rev. Dr. Peter B. Ives participated in "Moments of Community and Concern," and "Moments of Reflection about Thomas Munson," who was the 55th charter member of Center Church. Dr. Ives was our lead coordinator with Center Church, and was instrumental in the success of this 1987 reunion.

Immediately following the worship service, two brief events took place:

(1) The Presentation of the Queen and her Court.

At the 1887 First General reunion, 100 years ago, the Queen selected was Grace Ann⁸ Munson Wheeler from New Haven. The first woman past 80 years of age to register for the TMF-350 was Mrs. Mildred "Timmie" Munson from Long Island, New York and she was selected as Queen. Timmie is a Patron Member and very active in the TMF scholarship program. Her Court was chosen from women over 70 years of age who registered early. They were Frances O. Munson Stebbins, New York; Harriette F. Munson Klatt, Wisconsin; Hazel B. Munson Windrum, New York; Gladys H. Munson Douglas, Pennsylvania; Sara Jane Munson Coleman, New York; Katharine Munson White, Vermont.; Marian A. Munson Smith, Florida.; and Helena F. Munson Pickenpauugh, Indiana. Hazel took honors as the oldest person attending. The ladies received beautiful orchids brought to the reunion by Isabel M. Sheets of Honolulu, Hawaii.

(2) An exceptionally beautiful Munson banner was presented to President Edwin S. Munson by its makers, Dick and Joy Munson from Northampton, Massachusetts. This banner was to be displayed at future Regional and National reunions. It measures three feet by five feet, and was made of heavy white satin and edged with gold fringe. A large gold and red Chevron occupies the center. Seventeen ribbons hang from the mast, each of a different color and each representing one of the Munson Clans. It is

appropriately reminiscent of the pageantry of Old England from whence Thomas migrated.

The clan booths were 12 foot square, located in two very large meeting rooms in the Parish House, just north of Center Church.

The JOEL and EBENEZER CLAN booths were connected because of the Missionary history they both had, and was awarded an "honorable mention" award for "Uniqueness and Originality".

The WILLIAM CLAN booth contained family portraits and memorabilia of the War of 1812, the Civil War, and of World War II. There was also a computer printout of the clan to be updated by the visitors.

The EPHRAIM CLAN booth exhibited the clan computer listing for additions and corrections. Orders were taken for Volume III now in progress.

The ABEL CLAN booth exhibited a clan quilt with each of the 17 clans represented, with dates and the history of each clan head.

The JOHN CLAN booth focused on communication. Displayed was a computer printout to verify current addresses and other records of the clan.

The BENJAMIN CLAN booth contained many photos and articles of Dr. Enos Munson from the Yale School of Medicine. Also were wedding dresses handed down, plus antique dolls and old books.

The OBADIAH CLAN booth featured a museum of memorabilia from the collection of Myron Munson, and artifacts from "Golden Glow," the family farm.

The WAITSTILL CLAN booth displayed biographies of many Munsons in the clan who had been asking for help in their lineage. Many memorabilia items were brought for display.

The MOSES CLAN booth displayed a large lineage chart for additions or corrections. Also displayed were many personal items used by a Munson doctor in the Civil War.

Much material was necessary to build and decorate with bunting and banners, a job well done by Bill Anderson from Maine. We were especially grateful to the Greek Orthodox Church that rents one of the large rooms that we used on the main floor. They were kind enough to vacate all of their equipment so that we could have the room for the entire weekend. They attended their Sunday services in a sister church, which was very considerate to the Munsons, and their gesture was appreciated very much.

Following the Sunday church service, the sun was shining brightly for a family group portrait of over 1400 Munsons on the lawn on top of the underground Yale Library. Interestingly, this portrait was taken in almost the same spot as the portrait taken 100 years earlier on the front steps when the old Library was standing above ground. Our appointed photographers were F. Douglas Munson, Massachusetts., H. Lee Munson, New York; and Herbert L. Munson, Washington State.

Following the picture taking, which also included various individual clan pictures, an old fashioned New England Clambake was put on by the Yale Dining Committee. There were 5 bushels of clams, 250 pounds of watermelon, 150 pounds of potato salad, plus burgers, corn on the cob, clam chowder, ice cream, cookies, and cakes. No one left New Haven hungry!

Many left the clambake for one more visit to the clan booths at the Parish House or for one more chance to buy a variety of souvenirs on display. Especially popular was the variety of plates and cups and other items that had the old Munson Coat of Arms on them. Many took extra copies of the Souvenir program home to cousins who didn't attend.

The General Chairman reported in early 1988 that all of the TMF-350 reunion bills were paid, with a plus balance of \$9317.35 for the TMF treasury. The committee acknowledged and appreciated the generous gift of \$5000 that was a part of the surplus, and was given to the Committee by Ward R. Munson (John Clan) to ensure the financial success of the 1987 reunion.

Another highlight of the 1987 reunion was a beautiful hand-stitched, double bed quilt that was especially made for the occasion by Karen M. Lessa Hinkley from Manchester, Michigan. All of the reunion attendees were invited to sign the quilt which was a part of a fund raising project and was raffled off at \$1 per ticket. The winning ticket was held by Irene T. Munson from Fullerton, California.

A Munson time capsule was buried in a vault in the basement of Center Church to be opened in 2037 at a reunion to be held in New Haven, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Thomas' landing in America. One of the younger attendees of the 1987 reunion was James M. Munson who was six at the time; he was presented a key to the capsule, and will be in charge of opening it for displaying the contents, and preserving the same to be placed in the Munson museum for safe keeping. Articles were collected by Robert E. Munson.

An ancillary benefit from the TMF-350 Reunion were the several "mini-reunions" of smaller, family groups that met before, during, and after the main event. Among those known to have gathered were:

Mrs. Lou (Munson) Van Tassel (Moses Clan) from Elmira, New York had her 3 children, the 6 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren of Fred and Ora (10) Little, 23 in all.

The Solomon Clan met with 25 attending for a group picture with clan co-chairman Electa Munson Hutchins from Kennewick, Washington.

The immediate family of James A. and Nancy Munson (Waitstill Clan); all twenty of them met for a family group picture.

Marianne (Munson) Mabie (Moses Clan) of Gulf Port, Florida met with a gathering of her immediate family among which were her mother, Marion age 88; her Aunts Harriett, age 84 and Helena, age 94, along with their sons and daughters, and their families, totaling 12 family members.

Dr. Robert and Jacoba Munson Baker from New York state (Moses Clan) attended with their children and grandchildren for a family portrait, twenty in all.

Many other smaller family groups met for portraits and visiting. Many groups met in nearby family restaurants and hotel rooms for private dinners.

Several Munson gatherings and reunions have been held since the 1896 New Haven Munson reunion where *The Munson Record* Volumes I and II were distributed which generated so much family pride.

Probably the most complete historical records were those of the Moses Clan, largely because of the efforts of Miss Lydia Munson (1815-1907), and Mrs. J. Paul Munson. In 1909, the first Moses Clan reunion was held in central New York State in Chemung County at the home of John and Belle Munson, with 25 cousins present. The leader was Orange Munson who, in memory of beloved Lydia Munson, urged that annual reunions be held, which have been continued for the past 83 years (as of 1992). Beginning with the third reunion, the next several were held at the home of Jasper O. Munson in East Lansing, New York, and the minutes of that 1911 reunion refer to the gathering as a "reunion of the descendants of Thomas Munson," thus including all of the several clans of our family. Over the years, the Moses Clan met at various homes and New York state parks.

Every new clan that attended the Moses Clan reunions from 1932 to 1936 pledged to continue their own clan reunions with a clan historian to work on the family tree towards the publication of Volume III of *The Munson Record*.

The John Clan, Jared Munson branch, began holding meetings in Cortland, NY in 1929. In 1931 the John Clan invited the Moses Clan to their reunion, where it was recommended that all clans should meet at a 1932 reunion in Cortland to plan an "All-Clan Project" for the 300th anniversary reunion in 1937.

In 1966 the seven sons and two daughters of Ernest L. and Mary Munson (John Clan) started annual reunions at a campground near Mt. Rainier, Washington State. Average attendance is nearly 70 cousins.

John Clan members in California where the six children of Thomas L. and May Munson have been meeting at Lake Tahoe, CA for several years, with usually 25 attending.

The Ephraim, William, Abel, and Ebenezer Clans, and probably others have over the years had gatherings, but these have been spasmodic and have not had broad attendance.

At the 1987 National Reunion, it was suggested that the United States be divided into 7 regions, to encourage Munsons from their region to attend reunions near their homes.

Region 1 (New England Region)

In 1988 the New England group held their first regional reunion in Wallingford, CT. Officers were elected and the average attendance of 35 cousins met annually.

Region 2 (New York State)

Included in a previous report on the Moses Clan reunions which each year invites all Munsons from the state.

Region 3 (Mid Atlantic)

Has yet to have a regional reunion.

Region 4 (South East)

For many years, the Florida Munsons along with the "Snow Bird" Munsons from several northern states have been meeting in February at various locations in central Florida.

Region 5 (Mid-Western)

In July 1989 Region 5 held a reunion in Greencastle, Indiana. About 70 cousins representing 9 clans attended. Among the attendees was Harold C. Munson age 98 who as far as is known was the only living person listed in Volume I and II of *The Munson Record*, published in 1896.

Region 6 (Plain States)

This reunion was held in 1991 at Estes Park, Colorado at the "YMCA of the Rockies", a beautiful location. About 55 attended.

Region 7 (Pacific)

The lower portion of this region is the "Southern California Munson Reunion", who have been meeting regularly since 1984. Meetings have been held in Temple City, Alhambra, Moreno Valley, Huntington Beach, and Ontario, CA. There have been six presidents, with an average attendance of 60 cousins, representing 9 clans.

A branch of this region had their reunion on the Island of Oahu in Honolulu in May of 1991. This group are members of the Israel Clan, and met in honor of William Munson buried in the Makiki cemetery next to the National Cemetery in Honolulu. Memorial services were held over the sunken battleship Arizona, and at the Punch Bowl National Cemetery for the many Munsons who made the supreme sacrifice in the several conflicts in the Pacific region.

Although there is no known connected with the Thomas Munson line, the Texas Munsons have been meeting near Arlington, Texas since 1946. Jesse Munson left South Carolina about 1790 and settled in Texas, and his descendants are the Texas group. Their average attendance is about 75.