

Thomas Munson Foundation Newsletter

Vol XXV, Issue 1, July 2023

Editor: Lori Hahn



TMF 2023-2024 Award Winners

The Thomas Munson Foundation Scholarship Foundation (TMFSF) met in May 2023 to select the scholarship winners for the 2023-2024 school year.

Ultimately, TMFSF awarded five 4-year renewable scholarships, one graduate school award, and one 2-year community college award. Happily, there were also enough funds to provide a slate of honorable mentions awards. These are one-time awards provided when funds permit. This year we awarded two \$5,000 awards, two \$4,000.00 awards, four \$2,000 awards, and three \$1,000 awards. All told, TMFSF provided young scholars with \$63,500.00 in new scholarships.

The applicants had to meet specific criteria, including tracing their ancestry to Thomas Munson or any of the other signatories to the [Fundamental Agreement at New Haven](#), Connecticut, dated 1639.

Dave Weber, TMF Foundation Scholarship Awards Chairperson said, "This year we received 22 applications compared to last year's 16. The applicants are, as always, high achievers and worthy candidates – the application process balances need, merit, and academic performance well."

Nancy K. Munson Scholarship

Aaron Parker resides in Hudsonville, Michigan. He will be attending Michigan State University's James Madison College in East Lansing, Michigan, where he will be studying political science. Aaron is a Clan Abel cousin. During high school, he participated in chess club and marching band. He graduated with honors (4.0 or higher). Aaron plays his baritone euphonium for fun.



Rhea Munson Markello Merit Scholarship

Ben Sibold is off for New Haven to attend Yale University and will be studying for a major in Economics & Mathematics. He currently lives in South Hero, Vermont and is a member of Clan Ebenezer. Ben has many interests and activities to include being a competitive swimmer, flying

(he's a licensed pilot), plays ultimate frisbee, and participates in a variety of extracurricular activities related to language and culture. He recently returned from a semester abroad in Southern France. Ben graduated summa cum laude and was chosen to give the graduation speech.



Mabel Munson Allen Scholarship

Emily Munson, Bellingham, Washington native, plans to cross the border and attend the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, BC, Canada and study kinesiology. Emily is a Clan John cousin. She hopes to go to med school later on and become a radiologist.



Seth P. Holcombe and Lucy E. Holcombe Scholarship

San Diego resident **Morgan Stevenson** will attend San Diego State this fall to study kinesiology (pre-physical therapy emphasis). The Clan Obidiah cousin played Varsity Volleyball and loves to go to the beach with family and friends. Morgan's goal is to become a physical therapist.



Thomas and Joanna Munson Scholarship

Seattle native **Beija Waltmunson** plans to attend Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio where she plans to study music and neuroscience. The Clan Ephraim cousin loves to play with her band, *Beija Bailes and the Brooders*, teach singing to kids, take photos, and run at the lake with her dog, Coconut. Grateful for the scholarship, she looks at it as a gift from her late grandfather, Edwin Munson, who shares her passion for both music and science.



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Thomas Munson Foundation Mission Statement

The Mission of the Thomas Munson Foundation is to research and preserve the history of Thomas Munson and his descendants; to foster the values to which the family has subscribed, including furthering educational opportunities; and to add to the current body of information regarding the family, past, present and future.

In order to achieve this purpose an extensive network has been developed, beginning with the organization of the family into clans; a geographical division of the United States into seven regions; governing board with specific duties and regularly scheduled meetings; this quarterly newsletter; reunions of the general membership; and extending to a five volume genealogy namely "The Munson Record."

A Word from Our President



by Melvyn Douglass, RN 3971 Waitstill

Greetings from Houston!

Summer Solstice will greet us on June 21st as the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and the shortest day of the year in the Southern Hemisphere. Since prehistory, Summer Solstice has been seen as a significant time of year in many cultures and has been marked by festivals and rituals. Schoolmates celebrate Summer as a break from their daily school rigidity. Families look forward to traveling to vacation destinations.

We thank our Munson cousins who have provided resources of funding and/or their legacy values for "Summer Break" which resulted in the development of parks, overnight campsites, and Summer day camps. Here are a few: **Munson Summer Day Camp**, Traverse City, MI; **Adolph Munson Park**, Jacksonville Township, Chickasaw County, IA; **Munson Park**, Denison, TX; **Munson Park**, Monroe, MI; **Munson Cheek Falls**, Tillamook, OR; **Lake Munson**, Tallahassee, TN; **Munson Park**, San Rafael, CA; **Munson Township Park**, Geauga County, OH; **Munson Park**, Norfolk, VA; **Munson Pond Park**, Kelowna, British Columbia.

Here's a highlight for the first entry cited above, **Munson Summer Day Camp**. It was named for James Decker Munson (1848-1929) (RN 1423 Solomon) who founded the Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Michigan. [Dr. Munson aka "A Grand Old Man"](#) was remembered as a Renaissance man, pioneer, and visionary. Dr. Munson *"was singularly gracious of manner, winning the confidence of patients entrusted to him, and always possessed of an understanding of their needs."* Dr. Munson's profile can be found on page 1307 of The Munson Record, Vol. III.

Enjoy your Summer Break! "See you" via Zoom on Jul 23, 2023 at the TMF/TMFSS Biennial Reunion.

Munson Notes

Board Volunteers Needed

TMF has two open board positions: Treasurer and Vice President. You can learn more about the positions by emailing TMF president, Melvyn Douglass at melvinyndouglass@usa.net as soon as possible.

Virtual Biennial TMF Reunion

This year is the occasion of our 386th Anniversary Year. We hope you will join your Munson cousins at the TMF biennial reunion, which will take place virtually this year on Zoom. All TMF members are invited to attend. Registration details will follow. Save the date/times.

Date: Saturday, July 23, 2023

Morning Sessions:

TMF Board Meeting: 9:00-10:30 (Central Daylight Time)

Break: 10:30-10:45

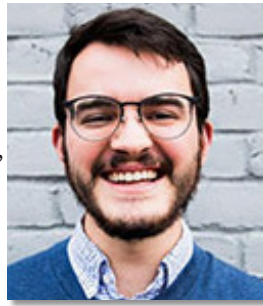
TMF Scholarship Fund Board Meeting: 10:45 am -12 noon

Afternoon Sessions:

Guest presentations are being arranged for later in the afternoon, finalized details of which will be announced shortly through *Munson Timely Notes*.

Seth P. Holcombe and Lucy E. Holcombe Scholarship

Christopher Thorpe was our graduate school awardee. He will be attending University of Nebraska School of Law in the fall. Christopher hails from Newton, Iowa, and attended Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio for his undergrad. After graduating, Chris taught 7th grade English and coordinated services for special needs students. He and his wife now reside near her family in Omaha, Nebraska, and they just recently welcomed a baby girl, whom Chris describes as, “A singularly beautiful child.” The Clan Moses cousin, hopes to put down roots somewhere soon (and have a garden).



Incoming St Louis sophomore, **Tom Classen**, attends Loyola University at Chicago, was also awarded an Honorable Mention.

A member of Clan Moses, he plans to major Finance and minor in Spanish and hopes to follow that up with medical school. A huge extrovert, he loves to hang out with his friends, visit new restaurants, and read. He is a member of Alpha Kappa Si, a business fraternity. His future goals include becoming a Dermatologist or Plastic Surgeon and having as little student debta as possible.



TMF Founders Scholarship

Bella Munson, who will attend Cal-Poly Humboldt.

Internship Support Scholarship

Nina Munson of Medford, Oregon, was selected for the Internship Support Scholarship. She plans to use the funds in support of her work in the Honors program at Portland State University during a study abroad program focused on human trafficking and sex work in Denmark, Sweden, and the Netherlands. Munson’s thesis project after her return will have her doing qualitative research focused on trauma-informed care for indigenous victims of human trafficking.



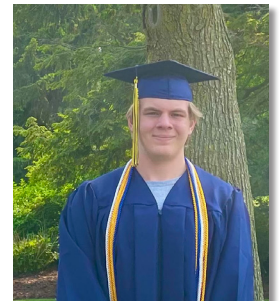
Madolyn Ward is an incoming junior at Drury University, in Springfield, Missouri and Honorable Mention awardee. Madolyn is a business management and political science major. For fun, she is active in all types of theatre work from acting to behind-the-scenes work. This Clan Waitstill cousin is active in the Black Student Union, Allies Club, and in theatre at Drury.



Andrew Kolojeski will attend the University of Kentucky.

Other Honorable Mention Winners:

- Julia Munson Clayton Beaurline
- Jackson Barker Mika Munson
- Jonathan Henry

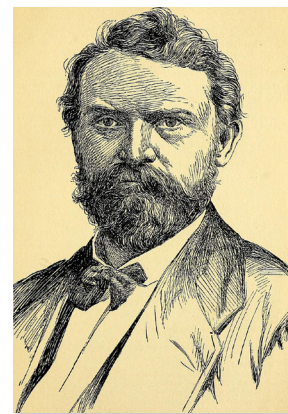


Honorable Mention Awards

Brijit Tarntzen, an incoming senior at the Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota, is majoring in Health Humanities with a minor in environmental sustainability and is an Honorable Mention awardee. Brijit is a descendant of one of the Founders of New Haven’s Nathaniel Turner and Thomas Yale. For fun, she loves to volunteer with the Animal Humane Society, traveling, gardening, reading, writing, hiking and exercising. The Dean’s Lister is also active at Saint Mary’s, participating in participate in [Letters of Love](#) and in Residence Life.



Munson of the Quarter



Senator James Rood Doolittle 1815-1897

Senator James Rood Doolittle is a Clan William descendant. He served as senator in Wisconsin from 1857-1869. He shared a good relationship with President Abraham Lincoln and served him well during the Civil War, providing sound support and advice. After he left Congress, he ran for Wisconsin governor, but lost. He worked as a lawyer and later as a professor at law school. He died in Edgewood, Rhode Island, at age 82.

Munson Trivia:
 How many original Clans were there when The Munson Record, Volume I came out?
 (see page 4)

Send your nominator for Munson of the Quarter to lorilhahn@gmail.com

Munsons in the News

Shelby Anderson, Clan Elizabeth, Recognized by Walt Disney

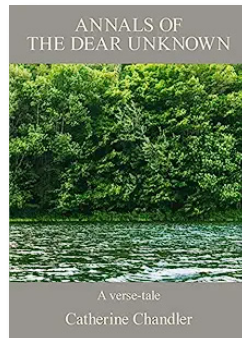
Out of more than 7,900 applicants, Shelby Anderson was one of 100 teachers selected by Walt Disney for its 100th Annual Teacher Celebration in May. Shelby is a history teacher at Laguna Beach High School in California. Shelby and her fellow awardees were treated to four days at Disneyworld Resort. Additionally, she was able to Disney Imagination Campus for its workshops and other offerings.



Read the full article at <https://stunewslaguna.com/index.php/2-uncategorised/23244-laguna-life-and-people-051623>.

Clan Obidiah Cousin Publishes Book

One of our cousins, Catherine M. Chandler, has published a new Munson-related book. *Annals of the Dear Unknown*, is a historical verse-tale set in Connecticut and Wyoming Valley, PA, based on an incident related in The Munson Record, Volume I, Obadiah Clan. The protagonists are Obadiah Munson, his wife Rachel Tyler Munson, and their second son, Wilmot Munson.



Annals of the Dear Unknown
by Catherine M. Chandler

[Amazon](#)

Clan William Cousin Takes Helm of Newsletter

Lori Hahn took over as the new newsletter editor beginning this issue. Lori was born in Frankfurt, Germany and raised in Cedar Falls, Iowa. She spent the next 35 years in a wide range of careers in a wide range of locations including living in Germany for most of the 1980s. Her most stimulating job was serving as an intelligence analyst in both the US Army and US Air Force during the Cold War. The past 14 years, she's worked in education companies including Pearson, TutorMe, and most recently, Newsela. She's a hardcore genealogist and expert on the history of Cedar Falls. She has three children and two grandchildren.

Munson Trivia Answer:

How many original Clans were there when The Munson Record, Volume I came out?
17 - no female lines were included

Munson Tales: Clan William

9/11 Touches Our Munson Cousins

by Lori Hahn

Capt Thomas Munson > Samuel Munson > Samuel Munson > William Munson > William Munson II > William Munson > Clarissa Munson > Sarah Nichols > Foster Webb Eggleston > Pearl V Eggleston > Raymond Foster Myers > Marilyn Myers > Marilyn Lynn Edwards m. David Angell



David & Lynn Angell (Used with permission: Angell Foundation)

Marilyn Myers, whose family had hailed from New York, Ohio, and then Michigan, married Thomas Edward Henry, Jr. of Alabama. The couple settled in Montgomery, Alabama around 1942. In 1946, their first child arrived. On 11 Aug 1949, their second child, Mary Lynn, arrived. Lynn, as she was called, attended Auburn University, planning a career as a librarian.

Around 1970, Lynn met David Angell, who was working on Cape Cod at the Eastward Ho Country Club. Mary Lynn was waitressing there. On Aug 4, 1971, the two married and settled in Providence, Rhode Island.

Lynn worked as a librarian and David worked as an insurance technical writer. David was very creative and this work did little to create any kind of creative outlet. In 1977, the two decided to give Hollywood a try and while Lynn supported them as a librarian, David struggled to make a go of it in Hollywood, selling a few scripts here and there. He finally got his big break when an episode he had written for the TV series, "Cheers," won an Emmy.

This led to a collaboration with famous TV producers David Lee and Peter Casey. Their first venture together was the TV series "Wings." The second was the "Cheers" spinoff, "Frasier." He became a well-respected writer and collaborator in Hollywood circles.

On 11 Sep 2001, Lynn and David were headed home from their vacation on Cape Cod attending a family wedding back to their home in Pasadena on [American Flt 11](#), when hijackers took over the plane. Flt 11 was the first aircraft to hit the North Tower of the World Trade Center. All 92 souls on the aircraft died and the total death count attributed to the impact of the aircraft was 1,402.

Lynn and David had no children.

Munson Tales: Clan Waitstill

Allen-Munson reunions take root in New England

by George Allen Haskins (RN3698 Waitstill)

In working with genealogy, one commonly deals with what is described as the family tree with each individual being a twig on a branch. As a symbol, it is usually a large rounded tree, rooted in the ground, with bare twigs—no leaves. It has occurred to me that each of us first appears on the “tree” as a bud of a new twig on your parent’s twig. The tree can be a chart of the present and looking forward—your immediate family as you age, marry, have offspring, etc.—or of the past showing your parents, their siblings, your grandparents, etc., which is a picture of the past, the ancestry from whence you came.

There is an Allen-Munson branch on the Waitstill limb of the Thomas Munson tree which he started back in the 1600s. The Mabel Nellie Munson bud blossomed on March 23, 1899, when she married Halsey Leonard Allen in Connecticut. (As an aside, my son Steven married Nina on March 23, 1990—91 years later.) The new couple, both from farming families, were somewhat nomadic as they moved from place to place as they farmed in Connecticut and then central Massachusetts.

By the end of 1917, they had given birth to four daughters and seven sons; the growing thing was not only agricultural. They did well enough financially to be able to acquire the Crystal Brook Farm (dairy and fruit trees) in Sterling, Massachusetts in 1920. Later, as the second generation matured, the adjacent farm was purchased. Both farms are still operating today and are still owned within the family—Crystal Brook by great-grandson Eric (Mary Clan) and the other by great-granddaughter Hannah (Ralph Clan). Hannah received a Thomas Munson Foundation Scholarship while getting her degree at UMass in Amherst.

Nine of the 11 in that second generation finished at least a two year college degree. One son became a veterinarian, another eventually left the farm and went into industry, and the other five were farmers. None of the daughters apparently wanted anything to do with farming. Nine of the eleven married and eight celebrated at least 50 years of marriage. Three lived to at least 100, including one male. Those who married provided Mabel and Halsey with 27 grandchildren, 19 of whom are alive today (the eldest of those being 96 years old). The fourth generation numbered 39, but two have died. There are 58 great-grandchildren in the fifth generation. Quite a heritage! The living are in touch with one another and anticipating a sixth.

Because so many of the second generation stayed in New England, there were often family gatherings, in spite of the

Great Depression and World War II travel constraints of one sort or another at Crystal Brook. It might be for a wedding reception, a birthday party, or an anniversary, but mostly it was just to enjoy the family relationships. When the last of the 11 (Uncle Charlie who never married) died within a month of turning 95 in 2010, 23 of his 27 nieces and nephews (from all over the country) were at his memorial service. We and our significant others gathered for dinner that evening. In the course of dinner, it was suggested that we continue the family practice of celebrations with a reunion every second year. It was agreed.

The first of these events was hosted by my Hilda Clan, in the summer of 2012 at my sister Ruthie’s home in Richmond, Massachusetts. Succeeding ones were held in 2014 (Mary Clan in Massachusetts), 2016 (Ray Clan in Vermont), and 2018 (Fred Clan in New Hampshire).

The Len Clan was scheduled to host in 2020, but the COVID-19 virus stepped in and temporarily squashed it (appropriate agricultural terminology in this family).

The fifth Allen-Munson reunion was held on Sunday, August 7, 2022, at the Great Brook Farm State Park in Carlisle and put on by the Len Clan. This is a very large park with lots of biking/hiking trails located northwest of Boston and which includes a working farm (again an appropriate ironic twist) with an on-site manager.

It was a very warm day (my Dad would have said “a good day for haying”), and the informal activities were split between the party barn (no air conditioning) and the adjacent tree shaded and breezy lawn.

Unfortunately, Owen Allen was the only one of the three Len Clan siblings attending. His brother, Halsey Leonard Allen III, had passed away four years prior and his recently widowed sister Jane was unable to make the trip from California. Much of the effort to put the reunion together and run the show on site was done by Owen and Candy’s daughter, Deb. She had prepared a rough schedule of activity, but mostly it was an afternoon of constant chatter among cousins. She had also assembled a generous buffet of salads, sandwiches, and cookies for lunch. There was an ample supply of water, lemonade, and soft drinks to satisfy the thirst generated by the temperature. Many also made their way to the Park’s ice cream stand down a path through the woods.

Six of the original nine families were represented at the affair. One of the original families has no surviving members and two were absent. Attendees came from as far away as Texas, Nevada, and West Virginia. There were a total of 40 on hand, and they (continued on page 5)

(continued from page 5)

represented the third (13 cousins plus five spouses), fourth (seven cousins four spouses), and fifth (11) family generations. The eldest in attendance was in his 90th year, and the youngest was a constantly climbing/grinning 15-month-old. The family with the most representatives on board was the Ray Clan with 16 including all of those from the distant states.

The next reunion is scheduled for 2024 and will be planned/hosted by a combination of the Ralph Clan and the Jean Clan. It may well be held at the aforementioned second farm down the street from Crystal Brook and now being operated by Hannah. Jean was the youngest of the four daughters and her two sons, both of whom live in New Jersey, feel the event should always be held in New England (a homecoming for those who have wandered), so they offered to assist the Ralphs rather than be probable 2026 sole hosts in the Garden State.

Many thanks to Owen and Deb for the delayed 2022 effort. Attendance was less than anticipated (COVID was still an active deterrent), but we met, and we enjoyed. The next reunion will complete the first rotation of the possible host families. One wonders who'll host and where the gathering will assemble in 2026, but for me, the event's idea generator and its TMF documenter, I just hope to be upright and mobile in '24.

Have a Munson Family story? Send your story to lorilhahn@gmail.com. I can help you put the story together if you need assistance.

Social TMF

The world is evolving and social media is where millions upon millions of people are communicating with each other. TMF is there too and is located on Facebook.



Connect with your cousins! Join the Thomas Munson Foundation on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/116071148426721>

There are many Munson stories out there on personal genealogy blogs as well. Here are three with Munson tales. **In the search box, type in "Munson" to find Munson-specific content.**

Written by Chuck Monson of Clan Solomon. Chuck passed away in 2021, but his blog lives on. <http://prunepicker.blogspot.com/>



Written by Lori Hahn. Munson stories of Clan William. <https://me-here-right-now.blogspot.com/>



Written by CJ Alderman of Clan William. She hasn't posted in a while, but has great Munson content. <https://fromwhencewecome.net/>



Did You Know?

St. Nicholas Church, Rattlesden, Suffolk, East Anglia, England is the place where Captain Thomas Munson was baptized in 1612. The reign of King Charles I had been full of religious "wars," high taxation, governmental discord, an Irish rebellion, religious persecution, and overall chaos.



Because of this, thousands of pilgrims and puritans poured into New England in America between 1600-1640. Our Thomas Munson was one of those who escaped. St Nicholas Church in Rattlesden dates back to the 13th century. The manor house shown in the photo below dates to the 17th century.

2023 Membership Application/Renewal

Make checks payable to:

The Thomas Munson Foundation

Mail to: Susie Frazier, TMF Membership Chairperson

1745 Lilly Lane
New Albany, IN 47150

Renew online:

<https://thomasmunson.org/membership>

New Member or Renewal (Circle):

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Spouse: _____ Birthday: _____

Munson Ancestry:

Clan: _____ Parent: _____

Grandparent: _____

National Membership # _____

_____ \$30.00 Regular New Member (includes membership, one year's dues)

_____ \$15 for 1-year renewal if up-to-date; add \$15 if in arrears

_____ \$20.00 Associate Member (non-family members)

_____ \$250.00 (pay by check) Lifetime Member