

**THE PORTSMOUTH RACE OF MONSONS-
MUNSONS-MANSONS: COMPRISING
RICHARD MONSON (AT PORTSMOUTH, N.H.,
1663) AND HIS DESCENDANTS, BEING A
CONTRIBUTION TO THE GENEALOGY AND
HISTORY OF FIVE GENERATIONS (WITH SOME
EXTENSIONS IN PART II)**

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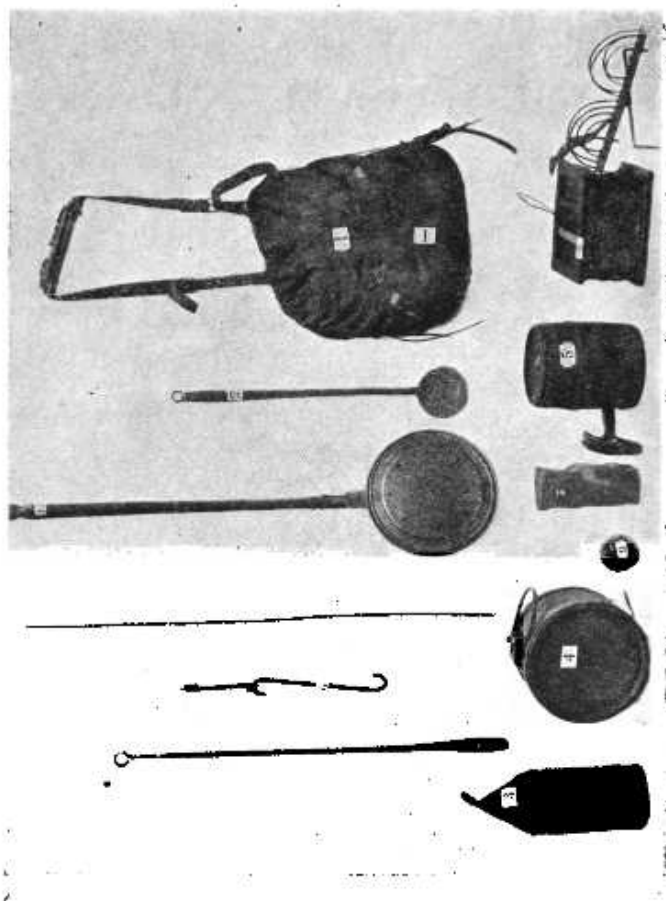
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MYRON ANDREWS MUNSON

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See pages xi and xii.

*Imperfect :- folded genealogical table
missing.*

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RICHARD MONSON

(At Portsmouth, N. H., 1663)

AND HIS DESCENDANTS

BEING A CONTRIBUTION TO

The Genealogy and History of Five Generations

(With some Extensions in Part II)

BY

MYRON ANDREWS MUNSON

Author of *The Munson Record*, etc., etc.

Member of The Connecticut Historical Society, The American Historical
Association, and The Authors' Club, London.

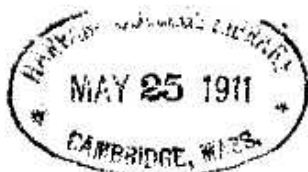
"A book, however, is the only immortality."

RUFUS CHOATE, *Reminiscences*, p. 239.

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

1910

US 42193.3.5



The Author

The Author communes at the threshold with fellow-workers,—Listen :

"What, man! more water glideth by the mill
Than wots the miller of."

Shakspeare, *Titus Andronicus*, ll. 1.

"Industrious persons, by an exact and scrupulous diligence and observation, out of monuments, names, words, proverbs, traditions, private records and evidences, fragments of stories, passages of books that concern not story, and the like, do save and recover somewhat from the deluge of time."

Bacon, *Advancement of Learning*, Bk. ii.

"History is the essence of innumerable biographies."

Thomas Carlyle, *On History*.

"Perhaps nobody is indispensable in history."

Prof. A. R. Hart, Harvard.

"The interest, not to say the value, of history, depends chiefly upon details."

Leonard Bacon, *Historical Discourses*.

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MYRON ANDREWS MUMSON.

FOREWORD.

While the Author was industriously accumulating information in regard to the descendants of Captain Thomas Munson, a pioneer of New-Haven, he discovered Richard Monson, an ancient citizen of Portsmouth, whom it was impossible (in existing light) to connect with the New-Haven Race by any relationship this side of the Atlantic.

He visited Portsmouth and made a study of records there, and in neighboring towns, by which he was confirmed in the impression that Richard was the originator of a distinct Race of Munsons. As time wore on, people were coming to his knowledge in considerable numbers, whose an-



MYRON A. MUNSON.

cestry was traced either by absolute proof or by reasonable conjecture to Richard Monson. The investigator again visited the Portsmouth region and was further enlightened. He became acquainted with prominent members of the Family, personally with William B. Munson of Colchester, Vt., and Mrs. Frances A. Benedict of Brooklyn, N. Y.; by correspondence with Thomas V. Munson of Denison, Tex.,

Alfred S. Manson of Boston,* and Henry C. Munson of Baring, Me:

It was found wholly impracticable to prepare an adequate account of the Portsmouth Race for combination with that of the New-Haven Race in one publication, and the effort was abandoned.



ALBERT C. MASON.

Early in 1906, Mr. Albert C. Mason of Franklin, Mass., a druggist, who had the good fortune to marry one of the Munson daughters of Machias, wrote the Author of "The Munson Record," suggesting the inquiry whether there might be some coöperation between us in working out the story of Richard and his posterity. The proposal was welcomed. A new impulse was thus given to the undertaking, and again the present

writer resorted to the Portsmouth neighborhood for research, so that his explorations in that region have included Portsmouth, Exeter, Dover, Rochester, Milton, Concord, Kittery, Alfred, Wells, Scarboro and Portland.

Mr. Mason continued his pursuit of knowledge with zeal and effectiveness. He has made discoveries of signal inter-

* Later, i. e., Nov., 1899.

est and value in the field that has been especially cultivated by Mr. Munson, and two or three are of such value as to be deserving of distinct mention in this place. The most important part of what we know in regard to Richard the First's son Capt. James² Monson and the first generation of his posterity is due to Mr. Mason's efforts. Again, my coadjutor discovered the removal of John³ from Kittery to Scituate, Mass., thus introducing us to an acquaintance with an interesting branch. Some very important facts touching Robert of Scarboro, the father of Joseph, pioneer of Machias, have been brought to light by Mr. Mason. To him moreover we owe nearly all our knowledge of William⁴, of Gorham, Me., great-grandson of Richard¹.

Mr. Mason designs to continue his researches, first and foremost in the Machias branch, the descendants of Joseph of Scarboro; and secondly, and thirdly (we trust) along other lines, as opportunity may permit and enable him to do. May the readers of this paragraph enjoy the product of his exertions in printed form.

Sources of Information.—Most of the material of the book, and a larger proportion of its value, has been obtained from original sources. The raw material is scant, rendering the efforts of the historian exceptionally difficult. Stackpole, author of "Old Kittery and Her Families," 822 pp., 1903, says, "The records of the family are very meager in Kittery." In default of information, he devotes nine lines to this Family! Titus, an antiquarian of large experience, with whom "difficult questions are a specialty," declares that, "Material is scarce on the family." To these declarations every investigator must assent.

Some information has been gained by personal interviews, but they have not been very numerous and they have seldom been very illuminating. Correspondence, in several cases, has yielded very valuable statistics and other particulars of a general character.

Sundry Explanations.—I do not pretend that our investigations have been exhaustive. Quite otherwise. The material in my possession I have utilized in such manner and to such extent as seemed feasible and expedient. It has been my aim to use all I had relating to the first five generations; attention to the sixth and seventh generations is more fragmentary and selective. This work is an *ESSAY, a contribution toward* the plenary work which at the present moment is not within our reach.

As to form, the index-figure indicates one's generation, Richard Monson being reckoned as the first. Within the parentheses following the name of the party who constitutes the subject of a family section, is his lineage.

The abbreviations are generally too plain to require explanation. A few of the most frequent and most important are: *b.* for born, *bp.* for baptized, *m.* for married, *d.* for died, *ae.* for aged, *ch.* for children or church; *ye* denotes the, and *yt* that.

Monitions.—I quote from THE MUNSON RECORD: "That injustice to some of the earlier members of the Family may be avoided, it should be remembered in reading that one made his mark instead of writing his name, how different the customs then were in respect to education, and how scant the facilities, especially for girls; and in reading of such a use of ardent spirits as would now be disreputable and immoral, it should be remembered that the best customs of the olden time justified such use. Let it be observed also that any rudeness in the language of wills, conveyances, and other instruments, is usually to be credited to some uncultivated official who was employed to write them."

Acknowledgments.—Among those deserving credit for contributions of historical information, Mr. A. C. Mason is preëminent.* Next in merit, perhaps, was the venerable William B. Munson. Others are T. V. Munson, Mrs. Eva

* Mr. M. received some aid from C. W. Tibbetts, ed. *New Hamp. Gen. Record.*