

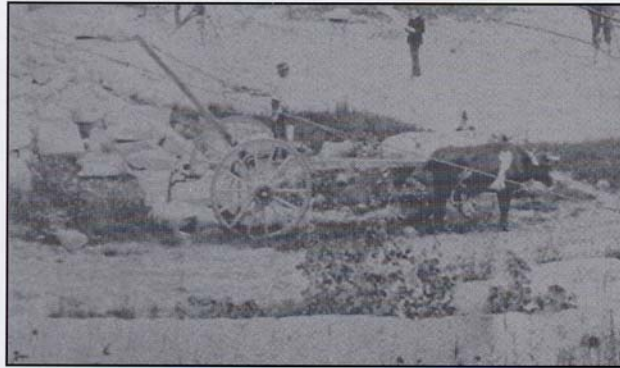
It is quite evident that the W. N. Flynt Granite Company helped build Monson, just by looking around and noticing all the buildings, foundations, posts, curbing, fountains, etc. made of granite one realizes that Monson would not look the same if the famous granite had never been quarried.

The quarry was first opened between 1790 and 1809 by agents of the United States Government who obtained permission to quarry stone to be used in the construction of the Armory at Springfield. The granite stone that was found in this quarry was a beautiful stratified gneiss of excellent quality in two varieties, a mottled white and a beautiful dark blue, both of them capable of taking a high polish. It was free from oxide of iron and other mineral impurities.

The quarry stood unused until 1825 when it was purchased along with approximately 125 adjoining acres known as the Quarry Farm area by Rufus Flynt, it would remain in the Flynt family for approximately 100 years.

Mr. Rufus Flynt began to work the quarry somewhat, but almost exclusively for local use because all transportation was by means of wagons pulled by oxen. Some of the first stone quarried for use outside the immediate area was for the Chicopee Bank in Springfield.

In addition to operating the quarry, Rufus purchased and sold real estate. He was the third largest Monson taxpayer in 1834 with a tax bill totaling \$74.68.



*Early photograph of a team of oxen at the W. N. Flynt Granite Company
(Courtesy of the Monson Historical Society, Inc.)*