

sented to the Green Bay mission in 1686, and, after being lost more than a century, found again in 1802, I begged individuals possessing other historical relics, or cognizant of them, to make them known to me, or to some one who would appreciate them more highly than I. It was also my endeavor to convince such holders of time-honored memorials in Wisconsin, that they could put them where they would do the most good, if they would deposit them in the State capitol, where they would be preserved, classified, and studied by the Historical Society students—as well as where they must lend and borrow light by mutual reflection—and would be suggestive to the greatest number, and for the longest time.

Nor have my appeals been ineffectual. The responses they awakened are beyond my counting, and I know they have not all yet greeted and gladdened me. One of the latest benefactions that has been made through me to the Historical Society, is a manuscript of 1662—older by twenty-four years than Perrot's gift of the ostensorium, which I boast of as the oldest extant relic of white men west of the Alleghanies.

This document, which the Society owes to Mr. B. B. Murch, of Appleton, is a deed of land in Medfield, Massachusetts, in the year 1662, from Daniel Morse to Thomas Thurston. The instrument is wholly in writing; printed forms, with blanks to be filled, had not then come into use. The conveyance was of only a twelve-acre lot, with an addition of forty rods, and two acres in Nantasket; the consideration was £100. The purchase money would seem surprisingly large, were not a dwelling house and barn lean-tos mentioned as standing on the lot.

In the great *Genealogical Dictionary* of early New Englanders, by James Savage, there is notice of another deed of land by the self-same Daniel Morse mentioned above. The coincidence is striking, and the notice shows that, in the opinion of Mr. Savage, such an heir-loom was both rare and valuable. It is in these words: *Daniel Morse's original parchment deed conveying part of his estate to John Hull, June 7, 1666, was in my possession, and was given by me to my friend Nathaniel I. Bowditch.*

But the Morse deed just presented to the Wisconsin Historical