



Montgomery Historical Society
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Clayton J. Fuller

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b. Montgomery July 30, 1882
d. 1959
m. Eva J. Ferry (nee Downey) Oct 1920
Children - none

Parents

Father B. Hawley Fuller b. Montgomery circa 1846, Farmer
Mother Caroline J. Noyes b. Richford or Sutton P.2. circa 1846
m. 22 Nov 1877
Sister Elizabeth Kingsley Fuller b. Montgomery January 5, 1888

1939 Vermont Legislative Directory: Clayton J. Fuller of Montgomery, Republican, was born in Montgomery, July 30, 1882; occupation, photographer of Vermont scenery. He was educated in the graded and high school in Montgomery. He engaged in commercial photography in Boston

Renown photographer of Vermont scenery, many used as post cards (Real Photo Post Cards (RPPC) and also hand water colored prints by his wife Eva and sister Elizabeth.

Live in The Vermont Way Magazine May/June 1979 Article By Elenor Brodeur. “Clayton Fuller of Montgomery took many sugaring activity photos. Not all were printed as RPPC’s. One is an 8 x 11 hand-colored print and a black and white RPPC size photo (pictured upper left page 28). It is possible that Fuller tried out various views before printing them on postcard stock. Cards from Grand Isle county, Lamoille and Orleans county as well as northern Chittenden County are included in his portfolio of work. The 8 x 11” hand-colored photos were colored by Clayton’s wife Eva and his sister Elizabeth.”

Further Information on RPPCs at : http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Real_photo_postcard

St. Albans Messenger Article circa 1957 follows:

Franklin County Photographer Retires After Half-Century Of Picture Taking

By STAN CUMMINGS

MONTGOMERY — One of Vermont's oldest photographers retired this spring, after 58 years in the business. Clayton J. Fuller of Montgomery, well known for his post card scenes all over Vermont, has loaded his last film and developed his last print, as a professional photographer.

Born in Montgomery in 1882, Mr. Fuller remained there for 22 years. It was in this town that he spent his schooldays. "What learning I had, I got here in town", he said.

"Working on and off at different jobs since I was just a kid", Mr. Fuller said, "I bought my first camera when I was 17, and started taking pictures as an amateur. In 1904, I went to Boston looking for a job, intending to work in a factory. However, when I visited an employment agency, they said the only opening was for a commercial photographer, so I went after, and got, that job."

In 1915, Mr. Fuller's father was taken seriously ill. He immediately returned to Montgomery, to care for him. After his father's death, he decided to stay on in the small village, to look after his mother, whose health was none too good. Later that same year, Mr. Fuller decided that the demand for pictures, in

the area, warranted his opening a photographic business there.

The first jobs he handled were developing the pictures of amateur photographers. Now and then, he took scenery shots, and sold them to people who visited his studio. He also sold a few baby pictures. His studio was a remodeled horse barn!

In October of 1920, Mr. Fuller married the former Mrs. Eva Ferry, of Holyoke, Mass. He had no children of his own, but there were two stepdaughters, children of Mrs. Fuller and her first husband. Married now for 37 years, the Fullers look forward to their annual trip to Florida as a highlight of their lives. (See Photographer Page 6)

phrase, "COOL, MAN."

Photographer

(Continued from Page 1)

Outside of photography, Mr. Fuller's only hobby and sport is fishing. He is fortunate in having a good trout stream running almost through his studio; and has taken out time to fish, whenever possible.

Because of the demand for his landscapes, Mr. Fuller decided to go into the post-card business in 1925. During the years that followed, he and his wife made thousands upon thousands of picture post cards.

A thrifty New Englander, Mr. Fuller did not believe in buying new equipment. His printing machine consisted of a discarded sewing machine, a few strips of wood, felt, and a piece of smoked glass. With this contraption, he turned out his post cards and Christmas greeting cards. Mr. Fuller has photographed hundreds of scenes around northern Vermont, his favorite spot being Smugglers' Notch.

His only equipment was a five by seven View camera, and a post-card camera. The latter, he said, "wore out, and I had to buy another!" People from all over the United States have come to his studio and bought his pictures. Some of these were hand-painted photographs.

The year of the big flood, 1927, Mr. Fuller considers his best year! "I took a great number of photos of the flood, and hundreds of people ordered copies. Then", he said, "I realized that with the

bars to farmers.

flooded conditions, I could not get in supplies. Strangely enough, my supplies got through, and it was a bonanza year."

In spite of his not believing in buying new equipment, Mr. Fuller kept up on the latest data on film and paper, as well as new and modern techniques.

"I hate to quit photography," Mr. Fuller concluded, "but, being 75 years old and bothered with rheumatism, I had to. Now, my wife and I will sit back and relax, for our remaining years."