



Submitted Photo
South side of the house, taken before or after some lawn tennis and croquet. Mary Flavel, the captain's wife, is on the right in black and Katie Flavel is seated on the bench.

A Flavel family album

Trove of photos shows interior of historic Victorian mansion

By McANDREW BURNS
Special to The Daily Astorian

Captain Ahab had his white whale. Don Quixote chased windmills. My father has spent decades trying to find the perfect milkshake. For years, the Clatsop County Historical Society has wished for interior photographs of the Flavel House from when the family lived in the home.

We have a large quantity of written material describing the rooms, their uses, and contents. There are also many photographs of the family, the exterior of the Victorian on Eighth Street, and the grounds. It always seemed strange that such a well-documented home and family would not have any interior photographs of the home in which they took such pride.

Two years ago, it was with surprise and skepticism I read an email from an antique dealer located in South America claiming to have a photo album from the Flavel family. He explained he had purchased it in San Francisco and it had the name "P Flavel" written inside the front cover.

Capt. George Flavel's oldest great-granddaughter, Patricia Flavel, spent the bulk of her life in the San Francisco area, so it was possible this album had been hers. I replied that we would love to accept his donation of the album. He patiently explained he wanted to sell it. I patiently explained that we didn't really have a budget for such things.

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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
Greg Newenhof holds up Nellie Flavel's photograph album.



The interior of the music room. Nellie Flavel playing the piano.

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