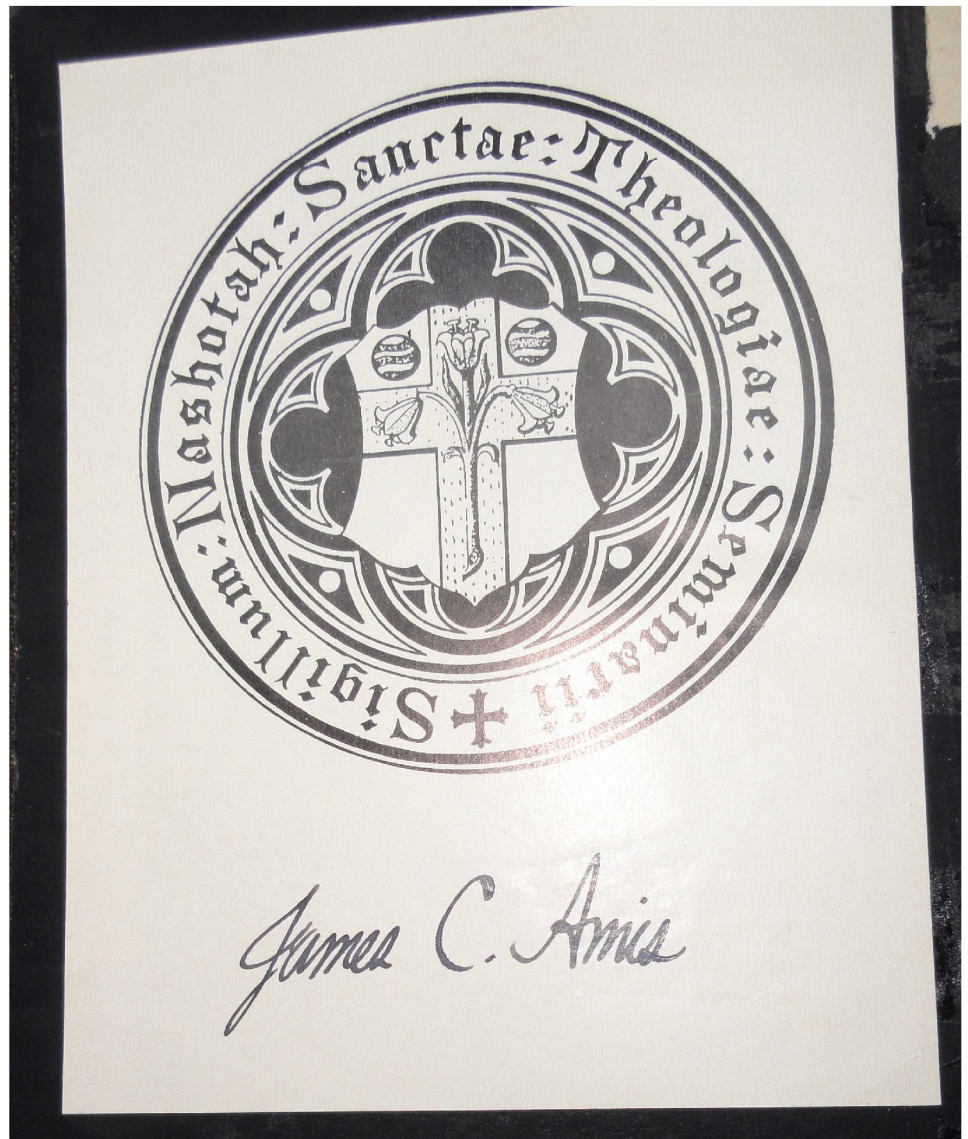


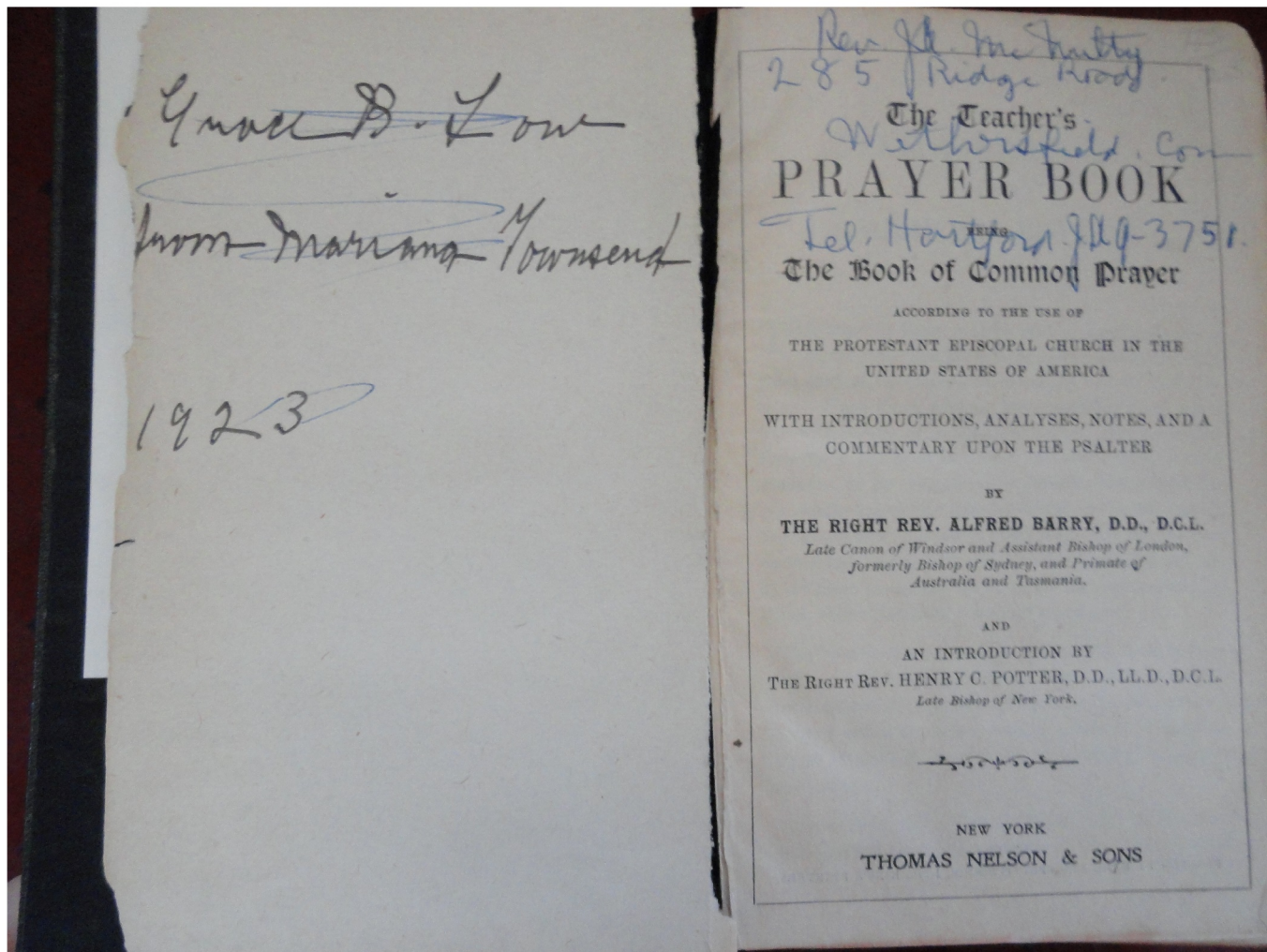
1892? Book of Common Prayer



Doris and her husband, Donald, did the research on this book after I came up fairly empty handed. No copyright date was found, but I believe it to be an 1892 Book of Common Prayer. I found it on the shelf in the library. We were not able to determine how it came to be at St. Elizabeth's, despite e-mails to the church where it once lived. Still, it has an interesting history that Doris and Donald so kindly put together for us.

On the inside front cover is a book plate from Nashotah Seminary. This is an Episcopal seminary established in Nashotah, WI and still operating today. The name inscribed is James C. Amis, and we feel he was the first owner of the book. The writing is formal, and our guess is the book was presented to him for some occasion, as possibly a student there.





It appears that Mariana Townsend was the next owner of the book. Born 22 January 1863, her father was an Episcopal priest, and she apparently lived her whole life in Middletown, CT. She never married, but was very interested in her heritage and active in Colonial Dames with many ancestors traced. She embarked on an around the world voyage on the Sumaria in 1923, returning 31 May 1923 from Yokohama. She died three months later on 25 August 1923. We looked at passenger lists, but could find no trace of Grace Lowe on the trip. As the prayer book indicates, it appears she gave the Book of Common Prayer to Grace also in 1923.

Research on Grace Lowe was a dead end. Many people by the same names could be found, and we could not establish any relationship between her and Mariana.

Rev J. A. McNulty appeared to be the last known owner of the book, but despite his address and phone number, the local Episcopal church did not have records of him. He was born 17 July 1885. This makes him more than 20 years younger than Marianna. Her lived many places and finally ended up in Hartford, CT. No more information was available, but the tie was probably through the Episcopal church and possibly Marianna's father, who was also a priest.



This is a photo of Marianna Townsend from her passport for her around-the-world trip. She indicated she would be going to "Maderia, Gibaltra, Algeria, Italy, Egypt, India, Ceylon, Dutch East Indies, French Indo-China, Hongkong, Macao, China, and Japan." She wrote an extensive diary of her journey. It is currently being marketed as a rare manuscript, with an asking price of \$2285.99