

October 2021

Manning Manse

Built in 1696—National Register of Historic Places
56 Chelmsford Road, North Billerica, Massachusetts

Manningassociation.org

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HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Rosemary Whitney, Treasurer, has moved. Dues now should go to: 172 Washington Street, Groveland, MA 01834

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This past year has continued to be a challenge for all of us. I hope this *Manning Messenger* finds you and your family safe.

The Manse museum continues to grow and, by the time you visit, it will hopefully be something special for you to see. If anyone has any special items they would like to donate that relate to the Manning family, especially the Manse, please contact me or other member of the board.

On July 20, 2021, one of our board members, Tommy Manning, welcomed Mack Charles Manning, their first child and a new addition to the Manning family tree. We are very excited for him! Raising a child in any time period is challenging; this past year plus has surely been even more difficult.

Jon Ryan's Pub has gone through major renovations inside and out and will be a crown jewel for dining in the area. A new deck is going through its final stages and the grounds look beautiful with newly planted flowers. Among the new plants are a number of plants that were favorites of Warren Manning which I told the landscapers to plant (many of which are natives!). Warren was instrumental in resurrecting the Manse as well as creating the Manning Association, so it is only fitting that he be remembered by planting some of his favorites on the Manse property. I hope you will be able to join us for a tour of the museum, grounds, Warren Manning Park across the street, and a chance to sit on the new deck for a great meal!

Jeff Manning

Barn at the Manse circa 1910. For orientation you can see the Manse in the distance on the right side.



NEWS OF OUR FAMILY MEMBERS

MERRILL D. DARLINGTON

Dr. Merrill D. Darlington died on February 1, 2021 in Riverside, CA. He was born in Neligh, NE on February 9, 1938. He received his undergraduate degree at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. He then received his Masters degree at Ohio State University and went on to complete his doctoral degree at the University of Oregon in Counseling Psychology.

Merrill was a quiet, unassuming person who had an abiding faith in God and a deep love for his wife (Peggy), 3 daughters (Kristin Dunlavy, Amy Stanford and Kimberly Darlington) and 7 grandchildren (Grace Stanford, Ava Stanford, Grant Stanford, Claire Berg, Kate Berg, Gavin Dunlavy, and Andrew Berg). He also leaves his brother, Larry.

He had an inquiring mind and loved studying history, genealogy and his Mayflower roots. He enjoyed traveling and learning about other countries, religions, and cultures. He was an avid gardener and loved taking care of his garden and home. He enjoyed taking classes in the OSHER program and the Foreign Film Festival at Palm Springs. One of his favorite spots was Yosemite Valley. He cared deeply about humanity, peace, nature, and history.

He fought a long difficult battle with invasive squamous cell cancer that had metastasized to his brain, and he did it bravely and quietly. He had a strong will to live and was surrounded by his loving family when he died at home.

LEONARD MANNING

We are sad to announce that on September 3, 2021, at the age of 80, Leonard Manning (Willimantic, Connecticut) passed away. He was a past president of the Manning Association.

He was predeceased by his siblings, Natalie Mezzomo, Nathaniel and Thomas Manning; and his son Luke.

He is survived by his grandchildren, Eli, Abigail, Luke, Benjamin and Isla; his wife Linda Viner Manning; his son Rafe (Kaylee Manning); and his sisters, Carol Correard and Audrey (Gregg Dodds).

FAYE MANNING FERRIS

Faye passed away on August 23, 2021 just shy of her 95th birthday. She was the 12th generation from William Manning (Wm, Wm, Samuel, Samuel, John, John, Andrew, Gurdon, Charles, Chester, Martha, Faye). Faye was sister to Merion Manning Ritter; Chester "Chet" Manning Ferris, past president of the Manning Association; Elmore "Eck" Manning Ferris; and Walter Manning Ferris.

Our beloved Aunt Faye is gone from this world but not forgotten. She touched the lives of so many people while she was with us. Her pleasant personality will be missed by so many. She could recall the birth dates and anniversaries of all the relatives spread near and wide. Whenever a question arose about a past or present person, place or thing in the family ancestry, she would either have the answer, find the answer in her library of historical memorabilia, or put you on the trail to who could find the answer for you. She had a remarkable memory (a trait she shared with her older sister, Merion).

She was our Ferris-Manning Messenger (not to be confused with the *Manning Messenger*!). She would pass along important information about family members, far and wide, so that everyone could be up-to-date on the happenings within the family. Although she scoffed at the personal use of modern technology herself (she used a rotary dial telephone until three years ago when it died and she moved got a "modern" Princess phone!), she was the "Twitter" social media of her generation. Her land line was her lifeline and kept her connected. Knowing that she was just a phone call away was comforting to all her family and friends. As the youngest Manning Ferris of that generation, she was the final connection with that generation and her passing leaves a large gap.

Born and raised in Manchester, CT through the Depression, she learned to live without. After attending the U. of Washington during the war years, 1944-47, she returned to CT and lived a frugal life but was not in the least "cheap". People who worked for and with her when she was a supervisor for the Travelers Insurance Co. in their Pension and Annuity Dept, would have said she had "class". Not only was she generous with her love of family, she was very generous in her charitable donations to many worthwhile organizations including the Manning Association. (cont. p.3)

(cont. from p.2)

She did not consider herself to be a social person and yet she made lasting impressions on people. She never wanted any fuss or fanfare for herself, yet wherever she went, whether it be to her exercise class at Manchester Memorial Hospital, out to eat, or to a Manchester town function held by the historical society or the golf club, she made friends. We know that they would come away from meeting her feeling like she cared about them in some way. She listened so well and passed out comforting words or advice when needed.

Faye was your biggest cheerleader when she approved of something that you did. She attended local school functions for her nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews, and supported them in fundraising efforts for various clubs and organizations. She was the UCONN Huskies Women's Basketball team's greatest fan whether attending games with friends or being glued to the television wearing her Huskies sweatshirt. She enjoyed other sports but would usually root for the underdog during those games. Not the case with her Huskies!

As one niece put it, we have been very lucky to have Faye in our lives. Her love was our treasure and it was never buried. She openly expressed it in so many ways to so many people. She will be greatly missed. We all loved her and she returned the love, as she would say, in 'heaps and bushels'.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...there are several Mannings who were New England gravestone carvers? Thank you to Helen Snively who sent a link: <https://winstonp.wordpress.com/new-england-graveyards/a-bibliography-of-new-england-gravestone-carvers/> The site lists reference materials, including to a book entitled, *Connecticut Gravestones* with a chapter on Mannings (<https://archive.org/details/markers08asso/page/120/mode/2up?view=theater>)!

Included on the list are:

- Josiah Manning (1725-1806)
- Frederick Manning (1758-1810) - #126 in the Manning Genealogy
- Rockwell Manning (1760-1806)

The description of Josiah Manning and his wife, Mary Cook, in the Manning chapter is fascinating. He and Mary had 16 children which included three sets of twins! The chapter includes photos of gravestones he did and on which he put his initials or name. He even carved his own gravestone!

Frederick and Rockwell were Josiah's sons. Rockwell carved a gravestone at 13 years of age—and carved that fact onto the stone! There are photos of their work as well. (cont. p.6)

2021-2022 DUES ARE DUE

Dues are just \$25/year (July 1-June 30). Such a deal!

Dues can be paid on our website (www.manningassociation.org) or by mail. Checks made out to the "Manning Association" can be mailed to: **Rosemary Whitney, 172 Washington Street, Groveland, MA 01834**. NOTE: Please only send them to Rosemary! **NOTE HER NEW ADDRESS**

MANNING ARTIFACTS IN YOUR ATTIC?

Do you have Manning artifacts that you cherish but perhaps no one else in your immediate family wants? The Manning Association may be interested for use in our museum in the Manse! Photograph it/them and contact Jeff Manning (celticfan@townisp.com) with any information you have on its origin, purpose, history, etc.

DONATIONS WELCOME!

Jon Ryan's Pub suffered along with most restaurants over the past year and a half plus they closed to do improvements (patio, interior updates) so the Association eliminated their rent (other than taxes and insurance) for part of the time and reduced it 50% for the rest. As a result, the Association's income was reduced substantially. With the goal of having a meaningful museum in the Manse, we can use all the help we can get! In celebration of our 325 year old Manse, perhaps you could donate \$32.50 or \$325.00 or \$16.96 or \$169.60.

MANNING SWAG!

To order, mail check made out to “Manning Association” to President
Jeff Manning, 26 Stoney Hill Road, Shrewsbury, MA 01545

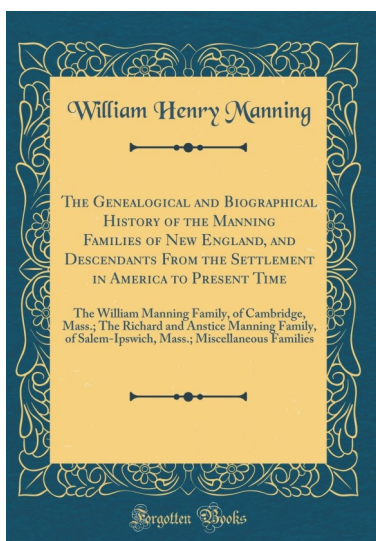
Be sure to specify item(s) desired and your name and address! OR,
for a new option, go to our website to order.



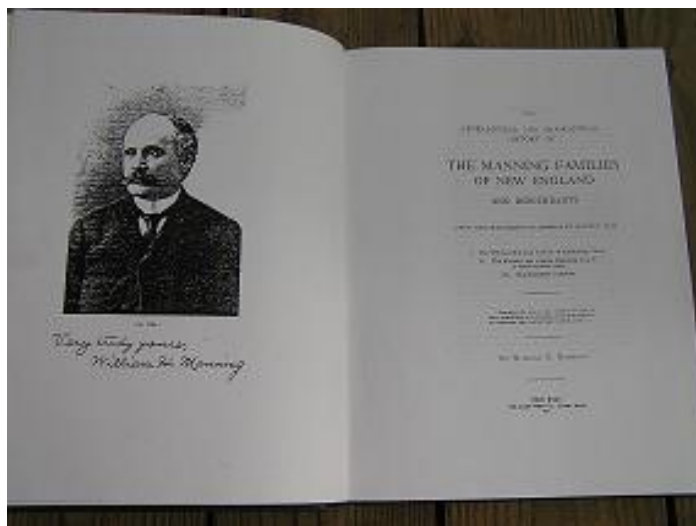
Polo Shirt (S, M, L) - \$39.99



T Shirt (S, M, L) - \$15.00



Manning Genealogy—\$145.00



Inside of genealogy



Small Manning Manse plate/coaster
\$6 ea or 5 for \$25—words say
“Manning Manse—Billerica MA;
center shows the Manse itself. Photo
taken at the Manse itself!
(only 50 left so order now!)

CELEBRATE 1696 or our 325th anniversary with a donation to the Manning Association of \$16.96, \$169.60, \$32.50, or \$325.00. The loss of restaurant income has been a challenge so help is welcome.

THE THINGS WE FIND

Submitted by Ruth Ladd

In cleaning out my Aunt Faye Ferris's apartment (see news of family members on p.2), we came across some written treasures. Here is one, a letter my grandfather wrote to Richard "Dick" Manning in July 1964 Dick who was apparently looking for information to add to the Manning genealogy:

Dear Kinsman:

At our recent reunion at the manse you invited us to submit any articles that might interest other members of the clan. The following may suggest some new ideas.

There was a young damsel named Martha Manning who had embarked on a promising career as school teacher. If left free of the interference of one more mundane, no doubt she would have brought honor and fame to the family. But along came a young fellow, Knight Ferris, who thought it would be a fine idea to perpetuate the name Manning, and was all for doing something about it.

He wasn't easily discouraged nor one to quit quickly when he recognized something worthwhile, so after some six years it was agreed to proceed with the project and they were married. Six children were born to each of whom was given the middle name Manning. There were: Merion Manning Ferris born in Brooklyn, NY, now Mrs. J.C. Ritter of Lexington, MA; Chester Manning Ferris born in Flint, MI, now resident of Manchester, CT; Elmore Manning Ferris also born in Flint, MI and now residing in Seattle, WA; Walter Manning Ferris born in Mansfield, OH, now living in Old Lyme, CT; Hope Manning Ferris born and died in Mansfield, OH; and Faye Manning Ferris born and now at home in Manchester, CT.

Then according to the natural course of events came another generation, the grand-children. [He then lists all the grandchildren and where they lived, and the great-grandchildren who had arrived by then.]

Very sincerely yours,

Knight H. Ferris

There's another piece of paper with the above that reads:

At first that letter to Mr. Richard Manning was signed "Knight H. and Martha L. Ferris". When I finished typing it, all puffed up with pride in such a masterful accomplishment, went to read it to Martha. It began to appear as if she was something less than enthusiastic about it, and when I finished she said, "Now you just take my name off that. I won't be signatory to any such as that."

I took it off!

So you see that old Manning will, that has brought the clan down through the centuries so gloriously, is still around and quite capable of asserting itself when occasions demand. Let's hope it retains its time-honored vim and vigor full strength in the future!

The Manning Association
 Incorporated in 1901
 to preserve the
Manning Manse
 of
 North Billerica, Massachusetts
 Built circa 1696
 and on the
 National Register of Historic Places

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REQUESTS FROM FAMILY MEMBERS

Seeking family tree information related to Rachael Caroline Manning, Lincolnville, ME, ca 1850, married John Dunton and they may have lived in Lincolnville, Rockland, Thomaston, and Camden ME. She is in the Manning genealogy book. Reply to John Cooper, her great-great-grandson, at john6841@gmail.com.



(cont. from p.3)

...the Manning Coat of Arms has a LONG history? The May 1970 Messenger had the following information:

Simon DeManning, County Kent, ancestor of all American Mannings, was knighted for his services under Richard I (Richard the Lionhearted) in the crusades and presented with the coat of arms. The sable shield bears a gold cross with four trefoils, an eagle's head on a crown with two feathers or palm branches. There is also a knight in shining armor. The motto, "Per Ardua Stabilis" means firm through difficulties or steady through trials.

Web research also reveals that he was born in Bettreds Castle and lived from before 1165 to 1203.

Historic American Buildings Survey Frank O. Branzetti, Photographer Mar. 31, 1941 (b) EXT.- SIDE and REAR, LOOKING SOUTHWEST - Ensign Samuel Manning Manse, Chelmsford Road, Billerica, Middlesex County, MA

Current location: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA <http://hdl.loc.gov/>