

Manning Manse Messenger

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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Association email:

info@manningassociation.org

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Manning Association Members,

This is a very full issue so I'll be brief.

The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be a challenge for our tenant and therefore for us. See the DUES ARE DUE article for more information on this. I emphasize the need for donations, too!

I continue to collect Manning memorabilia for our museum in the Manse so feel free to contact me if you have something you feel would be of interest.

Sincerely,
Jeff Manning

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DONORS TO THE ASSOCIATION

We want to acknowledge our great appreciation for family members who have contributed to the maintenance of our beloved Manse 2018-present.

WILLIAM MANNING DONORS (\$500 or more)

Lee Manning
John O. Manning
Peter J.W. Sherwin
Edward Wendell

MANNING MANSE DONORS (\$100—\$499)

Molly Bergman
Neal Ferris
Edward A. Manning, Jr.
Gerald Manning
Peter Stuart

1696 DONORS (up to \$100)

Beth and Tom Albrecht
Susan Ciolek
John Cooper
Carol Correard
Merrill Darlington
Susan Jones
June Kennedy
Jean Lowder
Jeanne Madden
Ann Manning
Beatrice E. Manning
Carolyn C. Manning
Michael E. Manning
William McNaul
Judith Mezzomo
Robert & Gail Miller
Kathleen Nici
Arthur Norton
Craig Peverly
Carolyn A. Purcell
Stuart E. Rich
Grace & Robert Wettemann

MINUTES OF JUNE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Reunion and Meeting of the Manning Association Stockholders was held on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at 1:00 pm via a ZOOM virtual meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions on social gatherings of more than 10 people during this pandemic.

The annual Manning Association Stockholders Meeting was called to order by President Jeffrey Manning at 1:10 pm from the historic Manning Manse. Attendees were: Jeff Manning, Ruth Ladd, David Warren, Abby Warren, Becky Warren, Rosemary Whitney, Lee Manning, Peter Stuart, Jeanne Madden, Rick Marshall, Carolyn McLean, Amy & Jerry Manning, Mike Proctor, Diane Manning, Albert Manning, Gail Miller, Carolyn Purcell, and 2 additional unidentified user names of Ab's IPAD, and 317542.

Reports:

Secretary's Report for the June 22, 2019 annual meeting was read by Becky Warren. On a motion by Ruth Ladd, seconded by Abby Warren, the Secretary's Report was accepted.

Rosemary Whitney provided the Treasurer's Report on the Manning Association's finances.

Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2020:
checking account \$145,334.82
total assets (includes real estate): \$898,932.77

Profit & Loss Statement January to May, 2020:
Rental income of \$20,054.02
Expenses of \$21,103.39
No rental income for April, May and June due to COVID-19 restaurant closures.

A motion was made by Ruth Ladd, seconded by David Warren, to accept and file the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

Election of Board:

The slate of Trustees and Officers of the Manning Association for 2020-2021 term as proposed in the agenda sent in advance of this meeting:

Rosemary Whitney, Treasurer
Rebecca A. Warren, Secretary
Tommy Manning
Jeffrey Manning
Ruth Ladd
David E. Warren
Abigail S. Warren

A motion was made by Peter Stuart, seconded by Lee Manning, to accept the slate of officers. President Jeff Manning closed nominations. Secretary to cast one ballot for the slate of officers.

Updates:

Jeff noted that minor window sill and clapboard repairs are needed on the Manse and otherwise it is in good shape. The tenant has added a tent outside for food service and will be installing a more permanent deck on the road side of the building.

Jeff continues to work towards a Manning Museum at the Manse. While there have been no recent acquisitions, he is actively assembling information to include in the museum, such as highlighting Warren H. Manning, writing a history of the Manning Manse, and Popcorn Manning advertisements. The Association is still interested in acquiring Manning-related artifacts to include in the Museum. Jeff provided a virtual tour of the rooms on the 1st floor that contain exhibit cases and artifacts.

Jeff noted that the website has seen increased activity thanks to the efforts of Tommy Manning. Any suggestions for updates or changes are encouraged.

Ruth is checking on estimates for liability insurance for the Board of Trustees while representing the Manning Association.

Jeff has been clearing the area beyond the parking lot that contains an amphitheater built by Warren H. Manning. He noted the walking trails in and around that area are well maintained.

Jeff thanked those individuals who have and currently serve on the Board of Trustees for the Manning Association.

Mike Proctor offered to assist in building the family tree to present day. Rick Marshall noted he has a public account on ancestry.com. Jeff will contact them.

It was noted that the Center for Lowell History, a special collections library at UMass Lowell, has many paper documents from the Manning Association, but not artifacts.

(cont. on p.6)

THEODORE MARSHALL MANNING

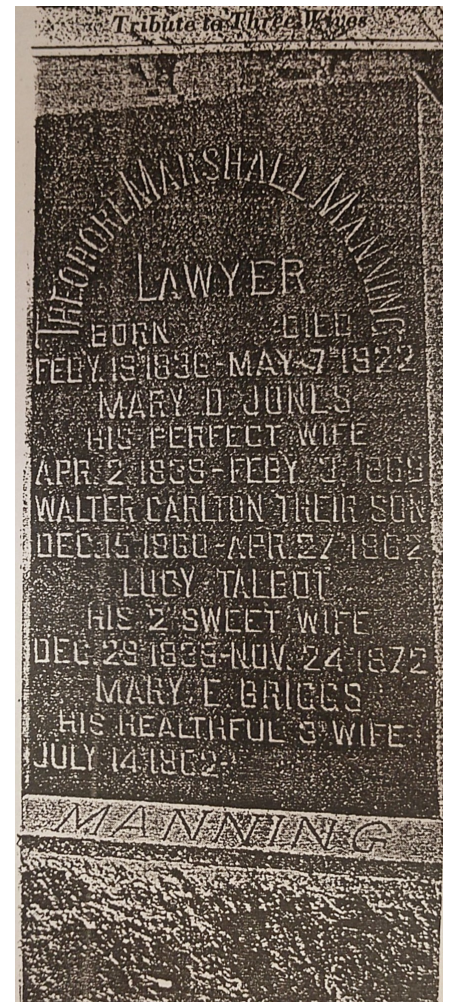
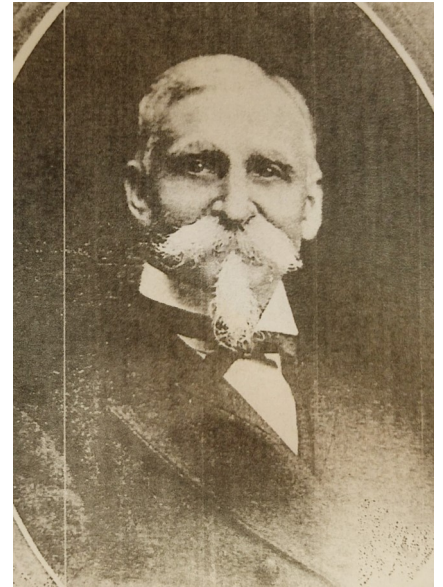
By Jean L. Lowder, grand-daughter

One of my father's favorite stories was that a family went from hard-working shirtsleeves to an easier life and back to shirt-sleeves in three generations. Theodore Marshall Manning did it in one!

Theodore was born in Camillus, New York (Onondaga County) to Roscoe Manning (1811-1879) and Sarah (Warren) Manning (1814-1876) on February 19, 1836. There were three other children: William Josiah (1830-1920), Harriet Eugenia (1841 – 1907), and Augustus Rennard (1848-1910). There was advertising for people to come and develop Illinois land. When Theodore was 14, Roscoe moved his family to Warrenville, Illinois (Winfield Township, DuPage County) which is about four miles southwest of Chicago. Warrenville boasted it was the largest unincorporated village of its time with a population of 4,500. Roscoe bought 400 acres of land in Winfield. Seeing a need for tools for building and household goods, he built two stores, one in Warrenfield and one in Sycamore. After watching their father start and sell stores in new communities and clerking in them, the Manning boys began starting and selling stores in new towns on their own.

Theodore was a poor boy and hired himself out to farmers for a month at a time as soon as he was old enough to be of help during their busy seasons. After clerking in his father's store and reaching his majority, he began starting stores himself. He went to Warrenville Seminary where he received a good business education, the goal of many young men of his time [Ed. Note: and now!]. This business education added to his practical experience and helped assure his success as he went on to open stores in Warrenville and Wheaton. He left stores and operated the Warrenville flour mills for four years. In 1870 he began his law practice.

Theodore did not smoke, drink, or chew and considered swearing a paucity of language, an attitude that was unusual during that Mark Twain century. He was a Mason and active in community affairs but did not seek political office except locally as Justice of the Peace in his township. In 1858 he went to Freeport to hear the Lincoln-Douglas debates; he backed Lincoln in the election for President. (cont. on p. 4)



(cont. from p. 3)

Musically gifted, Theodore was given many music lessons, both instrumental and vocal. He played the organ for the Baptist Church and led the choir. His Bach and Handel Music Society in Chicago built an auditorium that could be used for a variety of events. His musical ability was passed on to about half of his children and grandchildren.

On December 17, 1857, Theodore at 21 married Mary Desire Jones at 18. They had three children: Mary Alice born October 29, 1858 (married Clinton Hoy, Sheriff of DuPage County, in 1879), Walter Carlton Manning born December 15, 1860 (died April 27, 1962), and Frederick Percy born February 27, 1866. Mary Desire died on February 3, 1868. On October 13, 1870 he married an old classmate, Lucy Talbot (born December 29, 1839 in Stonehall County, Westmeath Ireland). She died November 4, 1872. On July 3, 1888 Theodore, then 52, married his third wife, Mary Emmeline Briggs. Theodore and Mary Emmeline had seven children: Grace Louise (born July 3, 1891 and died August 9, 1985), Katharine Evelyn (born July 20, 1893, married James Andrew Patterson, and died May 25, 1949), Mildred Esther (born April 30, 1895, and married Charles D. Mellon), Howell Everett (born June 28, 1897, married Helen Bernice Burnison, and died April 9, 1967), Richard Irving (born May 9, 1899, married Choval Eggman, and died February 26, 1993), Helen Elizabeth Manning (born May 31, 1905 and died December 31, 1999), and Harold Emmons (born November 17, 1908, married Jewell Burger then Bernice Cromer Williamson, and died October 1998).

The Manning family was luckier than most. For childbirths, two girls with rheumatic fe-

ver, and a time when all were sick at once, and when one had the flu in the 1918 flu epidemic, they had a trained nurse sister-in-law to call on. She isolated Katherine so no one else got the flu and she got well.

There was much speculation about how the 1871 Chicago Fire started that burned Theodore's law office. The most popular theory was that Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over the lantern while she was being milked. The O'Learys said they were asleep so in 1977 the cow was absolved from blame!

As a lawyer in Chicago from 1870 to 1890, people were attracted to Theodore by his genial spirit. He liked to drive his spirited trotters on the Chicago boulevards and people like to see the beautiful horses. While working in retail and as a lawyer in Chicago, Theodore was also making improvements on his Mont View Farm. He built barns, stables, outbuildings, and elegant driving park, and his house, Mont View Chateau. He bred and raised race horses which had impressive pedigrees and were eligible for the American Trotting Registry. His horse, Vanity, winner of sulky races, had an impressive pedigree and was famous in the region.

In 1890, Theodore was phasing out his legal practice and concentrating on raising race horses and farming. He had lost a drainage ditch case under a judge. Using his Mark Twain sense of humor, he named a horse after the judge. Over his front gate he placed a huge sign saying "Judge XX at stud"!

As Theodore lay dying on May 7, 1922, his family gathered around him as was the custom. His trousers were hanging on the bedpost. He reached into a pocket and pulled out a handful of change. Turning to his 14 year old youngest child, he said, "This is all I have in the world, Harold, but it is yours."

2020-2021 DUES ARE DUE (yes, that includes YOU!)

Dues are just \$25/year (July 1-June 30). Such a deal! As of this mailing, almost everyone owes dues.

They can be mailed to: **Rosemary Whitney, Treasurer - 59 Seabury, Hampton, NH 03842.**
NOTE: Please only send them to Rosemary!

I know we have said this before, but...as you pay your dues, consider also contributing to the maintenance of the Manse by donating the year the Manse was built: \$16.96, \$169.60, or \$1,696.00! The Manse is lovely but...well, OLD, and old = constant maintenance. Any help would be appreciated! Rent from our tenant is critical but it only covers the most basic expenses and during this COVID time, the restaurant has had very reduced income so we have had to reduce the rent (and none from April-June!). Items that are needed in the next few years include: reshingling the roof (with cedar shakes), getting our memorabilia set up for visitors (display cases, labeling materials, lighting, etc.), and getting the electric and heating systems working appropriately for the Manse (as opposed to the restaurant).

(cont. from p. 2)

Jeff is seeking expert advice on identifying current artifacts and best practices for putting items and information on display.

Jeff thanked everyone for their flexibility in participating in a virtual annual meeting and to Ruth Ladd for setting up the ZOOM call. Ruth apologized for the confusion with the ZOOM log-ons.

The annual meeting of the Manning Association stockholders adjourned at 2:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca A. Warren
Secretary

MANNING NEWS

Lee Manning

This 1940 photo shows our Past President Lee Manning (the baby!) in his father's (Eugene Carr Manning) arms with his grandfather (Eugene Manning) and great-grandfather (George Elias Manning). They were at the Manning home on Norwood St. in Painted Post, NY.



Delphin Manning Nelson

Delphin "Del", age 92, of North St. Paul, passed away on May 6, 2020 after many years with Alzheimer's. Del was born on March 9, 1928 in Manchester, CT and she attended nursing school in New London, CT. She graduated with Distinction from the U of Minn. in Public Health Nursing. After 30 years as Director of Health Services for the North St. Paul-Maplewood school district, Del retired. She was a long-time member of the St. Paul AAUW and North Presbyterian Church.

Del's parents were Harold James Manning and Alice Alberta Hill. Her brother was Harleth and half-sisters were Phoebe Wickham Manning and Caroline Manning.

Del was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Roger. She is survived by sons Jeffrey and his spouse, Henry, and Chas and his spouse, Treece. She was a dear aunt and friend to Edie Kelley (Phoebe's daughter).

Del was a risk-taker as she traveled to MN on her own so she could get residency and attend the U of MN. She was a world traveler; gourmet cook; bridge and golf player, bicyclist and skier, WAY into physical fitness and could out-crunch people far into her elder years, gardener, and into clothing and jewelry.

October 2020

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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HELP NEEDED

With the museum in its very early stages, the Association is hoping someone has museum and/or artifact experience and would be willing to provide some help. Location isn't important necessarily since ZOOM can be used to discuss issues and show the museum area and artifacts. We don't have the resources to pay for this service at this point, unfortunately.

If interested, contact President Jeff Manning through the website email:
info@manningassociation.org



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

Manningassociation.org

You can now [pay your dues on-line](#), make a donation, buy things, access past *Messengers*, see photos.