

April 2020

Manning Manse Messenger

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

Manningassociation.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

President

Jeffrey Manning
Shrewsbury, MA

Treasurer

Rosemary Whitney
Hampton, NH

Secretary

Rebecca A. Warren
Pepperell, MA

Board Members:

Ruth M. Ladd
Tommy Manning
Abigail Warren
David E. Warren
Leonard R. Manning, Trustee Emeritus
Carolyn McLean, Trustee Emeritus

Association email:

info@manningassociation.org

FAMILY REUNION AND ANNUAL MEETING

June 20, 2020, 11 am

Manning Manse, North Billerica, MA

NOTE DATE: THIRD SATURDAY OF JUNE

We will either have an in-person gathering or a virtual gathering, depending on what happens with the COVID-19 restrictions. A decision will be made by early May.

The Trustees are also exploring doing an on-line vote for Trustees. One advantage is that members everywhere can vote—not just the ones who can attend an in-person meeting. A disadvantage is that not everyone has a computer. Another challenge is that our by-laws currently say that only stockholders can vote which may cause some confusion.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Annual Reunion & Mtg	1
Updated Website	1
Historic Photos	2-4
Dues are due!	5
Message from Our President	5
Excerpts from 1930 Messenger	6

UPDATED WEBSITE!

Thanks to Tommy Manning who has set up our new website (same address: Manningassociation.org). You can now pay your dues on-line as well as access past *Messengers*, see photos, etc.

Editor's Note: Most of this issue is taken up with historic photos of the Manse and Mannings at the reunions. I love old photos – although the ones of the fire damage are rather painful to see. We are so lucky the Manse was able to be restored and done in such way that one can't even tell.

My apologies for not having more text but expect an excerpt from a Manning family history written by Jean Lucille Patterson Lowder in the next issue.

HISTORIC PHOTOS OF THE MANSE

Provided by Faye Manning Ferris

Date is unknown but they were in an old album and certainly taken many decades ago. If anyone has an idea of when they were taken, please let the Editor or President know.



MORE OLD (but not AS old) PHOTOS



At the 1985 Reunion: Ruth Ladd with Stacey, Robin, and Aaron in front of the Manse



At the 1986 Reunion: Ruth Ladd with Stacey and Robin with the Manning Manse Tavern sign



1991 Manning Reunion

PHOTOS OF THE APRIL 1994 FIRE IN THE MANSE



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, everyone owes dues.

They can be mailed to: **Rosemary Whitney, 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. 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).

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Manning Association Members,

It has been a difficult and strange past few months for all of us with COVID-19 impacting the world. The Manning Association board hopes that all of you are healthy and safe during this time. Being a teacher, I know how difficult it can be working with children in an academic setting. For those of you with children or grandchildren doing school work, I imagine you may have a different perspective on education.

As for the Manning Association, this virus hasn't spared even our beloved Manse. Jon Ryan's had to close for a period of time, along with the plan for putting the addition of a deck on hold. We have alleviated the burden of paying rent during this difficult time for Jon Ryan's restaurant by forgiving the rent payment for two months.

The museum in the Manse has had a nice start with people donating items and the purchase of display cases nicely displaying items of the distant past that are special to all of us. If you have special items that you may like displayed that have historical value, especially to our family please contact me and,

if the board feels it is appropriate for the museum, we can make arrangements to present it.

If you haven't already, please look at our wonderful website created by Tommy Manning of our board. The website is Manningassociation.org. This website has a wealth of information about our Association, items to purchase, a location to become a member, and more information about the Manse that was built in 1696.

We hope this newsletter finds you all happy and healthy. For anyone in the field of caregiving, such as first responders, nurses, doctors, and nursing home employees, my heart goes out to you and I think I can speak for others, we are deeply proud of you and the work you do every day!!

Sincerely,

Jeff Manning

April 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

Ruth Ladd, Editor
Manning Manse Messenger
15 Pine Knoll Road
Lexington, MA 02420-1206
wetlandmom@aol.com



EXCERPTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 1930 MESSENGER

Our Creed: We stand for a sane American view of life; for liberty as guaranteed by obedience to law; for equal rights of capital and labor; for a just reward to all who add to the spiritual, moral and material possessions of the nation; for the duties as well as the rights of citizenship; and for unswerving loyalty to our country.

Published for the Purpose of Maintaining the Traditions of The MANNING FAMILY and of Consecration to the Ideals of Patriotism, Character and Freedom, Upon Which Our Nation Has Been Built.

[The above by Walter W. Manning, President of the Manning Association for 1925]

THE MANSE TEA TAVERN

The increased patronage of the Manning Manse Tea Tavern is a tribute to the wisdom of Mrs. Wilma Morris's careful and consistent policy. She has not attempted to compete with ordinary roadside houses, but wants, instead, to keep the distinctive atmosphere of the Manse intact while giving the very best of food and service, and to have for her guests a small and discriminating clientele which will return again and again to the Manse because they like it.

Occasionally, of course, people come in who suggest having music, or advise extensive alterations and modernizations, that the old bricks from the Haven House [Ed Note: Does anyone know what the Haven House was?] be given a coat of fresh red paint, perhaps....

No attempt will be made to fill the house with furnishings that have never belonged there, and so the Manse remains a well-preserved house out of another age, rather than a museum of show pieces. Its charm is completely its own....