



# Western Monroe Historical Society

## *Morgan-Manning House*

### SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

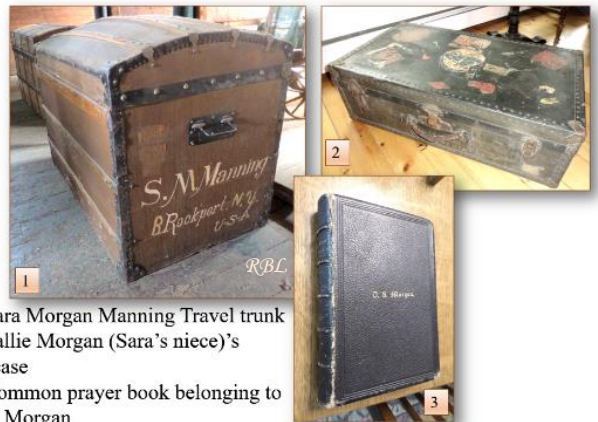
**GREETINGS** –As a member of the Museum Room Committee, I have recently spent some time identifying which artifacts in our collection belong to the Morgan family. We will soon select the items that best fit the story we wish to tell our visitors. From business letters and patent documents to children’s stockings and travel cases, guests to the House will be able to catch a glimpse of the lives of D.S. Morgan and his family. Serendipitously, as I was preparing the object list for the room, we were offered several more family treasures:

- On the walls of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor hallway, you will soon see the portraits of Samuel Kingsbury III (1805-1855) and his wife Phebe Spaulding (1809-?). They were the grandparents of Emily May Kingsbury, who married Henry Morgan, D.S. Morgan’s 5<sup>th</sup> child, in 1895. These paintings came to us through Reed Sutherland, from Saratoga Springs. Emily May Morgan was the great aunt of Reed’s father, David Sutherland. Mr. Sutherland had indicated in his will that he wished to see these two portraits “hanging in the Morgan-Manning House, with the hopes that the curators will relate the story of his ancestor’s meeting with his wife at the canal.” We are delighted to be able to fulfill this wish.



*Portraits of Phebe and Samuel Kingsbury III.  
Photos courtesy of Reed Sutherland.*

- Charlie Garlock, Gifford Morgan’s great grandchild, recently donated to the WMHS several family heirlooms. Among these treasures are a wonderful travel trunk labeled with Sara Morgan Manning’s name—it is easy to imagine it being carried by porters during Sara’s many trips to Europe—and a book of Common Prayer that Susan Morgan had offered to her husband Dayton for Christmas in 1867. You will get a chance to see these artifacts in the new Museum Room yourselves, as they will be included in our displays.



1: Sara Morgan Manning Travel trunk  
2: Sallie Morgan (Sara’s niece)’s suitcase  
3: Common prayer book belonging to D.S. Morgan

We thank Ruth and Charlie for giving us the opportunity to share these with our visitors.

*Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer, Historian*

**FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK** – It’s hard to believe that summer is coming to a close. Time flies when you are having fun. It seems as if many of us around the Morgan-Manning House have been on a treadmill for the last 4 months. The Historic House Tour event was in June, then we hosted a reception for Doug and Diane Hickerson in late June, and then the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Now we’re working hard to get Peddlers Market together for early September, then

the Art Show at the end of September. All these events take a lot of work to organize and execute. Maybe we'll have a breather after that?

The above-mentioned reception for Doug and Diane was a very nice low key affair. The Hickersons are, unfortunately for us, moving to Virginia in the near future, taking their skills of writing and photography with them. Doug has promoted many of our events and, I'm sure, made them successful as a result of the articles written. Diane's pictures supplemented Doug's work and helped to catch the eye of the casual reader. We had a plaque made honoring them, which will hang on the wall above the articles Doug has written over the years, in the Local History room of the Seymour Library. We all wish them well in their new home. I'm sure these two talented people will be contributing to their new community.

Please stop in to view the wares at Peddlers Market and get your tickets for the Art Show. Both events have a great history of success at the Morgan-Manning House.

*Gordon Fox, President*

## **IN AUGUST AT THE MORGAN-MANNING HOUSE:**

**HOUSE TOURS THIS SUMMER** – We held our last Open House Sunday on September 1. I, Rozenn, want to thank the docents and tour guides who shared their knowledge of the House with the public throughout the summer: Bill Andrews, Jack Bowser, Peggy & Gordy Fox, Amy Harris, Sarah Hart, Chris Mazzarella, Fred McCullough, Merrill Melnick, Mary Lynne Turner, and Julie Wilson. Once again, Brockport Art Festival on Sunday, August 11 was our most popular day, with approximately 200 people walking through our doors and enjoying a tour of the House's first floor. In addition to our Sunday tours, I was delighted to show the House to a few couples who briefly stopped in Brockport during their journeys on the Erie Canal. Not only do these visitors frequently share stories about the other historic houses they have visited, they also often share their knowledge of Victorian artifacts. I now can differentiate a tintype from a *carte de visite*. I also learned to identify a hand-made chemise, or female undergarment, from the Civil War era! I become a better historian with each visit.

**SATURDAY OF SERVICE FOR THE COLLEGE OF BROCKPORT'S CLASS OF 2023** – Once again, we were fortunate to get the help of 40 students from the College at Brockport on **Saturday, August 24**. As part of their Saturday of Service, a group of new first-year and transfer students spent two hours on the grounds of the Morgan-Manning House. This year, with BoB & Rozenn LeSuer, Gordy Fox, and Mary Lynne Turner as supervisors, they cleaned the area around the front porch, sowed some grass seeds near the Little Library, and weeded the many flowerbeds. A group of brave volunteers focused specifically on the ivy that covers the North Lawn, since the Historic Preservation Committee wishes to plant several new trees in this area in accordance with the 1897 landscape plan designed by W.W. Parce. This year, we even had a surprise visit by President MacPherson, her husband Allen, and their lovely dog Tilly. We want to thank Darrel Deas and Erika Curtis, from the Community Development Office of the College, for including us in this worthy initiative, and especially all the students and team leaders, alongside whom we worked. Best of luck to all of them for this new academic year!



## **UPCOMING EVENTS THIS MONTH:**

★ **Peddlers Market, Community Household & Carriage House Sale** – Here is a brief reminder that Peddlers Market will take place on **September 7**, rain or shine, from **9am to 3pm**. Our wonderful office manager Sandy and the committee in charge of this event have already spent many hours planning the day, advertising the event throughout the community, rallying vendors and sellers, organizing and pricing all the donations that we have received for the Carriage House Sale. Our thanks go to those among you who have already dropped items off. We also have many volunteers signed up to work the day of the sale. However, a few slots remain open: Sandy

will email you to remind you how you can help. We thank you in advance for volunteering.

★ **Seward Family Digital Archive** – on **Tuesday, September 19**, at **2pm**, Dr. Slaughter, Director of the Seward Family Digital Archive, will come to the Morgan-Manning House to explain how you can all be a part of this project. His team is recruiting citizen volunteers in this area to help with the transcription of letters from the family of William H. Seward, U.S. Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln. For more information on this project, feel free to check the website, [sewardproject.org](http://sewardproject.org), or email Shellie Clark ([sclark34@ur.rochester.edu](mailto:sclark34@ur.rochester.edu)), the team's volunteer coordinator.

★ **Carriage House Art Show** – The date for the long awaited art show is fast approaching. We are looking forward to **Friday, September 27 at 7pm** when we will have the grand opening so that you can meet and greet the artists. On **Saturday**, we will be open to the public from **11am to 2pm**. The committee has been working very hard to make this a very special evening for our WMHS members, for the **20 local and Rochester area artists**, and for the community.

Now we are asking for the membership's help. We need about **14 volunteers** to help us throughout **Friday evening**, as well as a few people to **bake some delicious and beautiful small cookies**. **Saturday afternoon**, after 2pm, we will need some help when the artists come to collect the remaining art. If you are able to help, please call Alicia at 637-6864. This is an event you will be very happy to be a part of.

*Alicia C. Fink, Committee Chair*

**4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TOURS** – The start of the new school year is fast approaching. It is time for us to think about the organization of the House tours for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders, which we offer each October in collaboration with the Brockport Central School System. We will need volunteers to act both as **guides** and as **assistants**. If you are interested in helping us, please call Sandy (637-3645) to add your name on the list. We will contact you as soon as the schedule of tours is set.

## **CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS: VENDERS**

**NEEDED** – Under the guidance of Mary Lynne Turner, the Candlelight committee has started planning this holiday event. This year, Candlelight Christmas will take place on **December 7 & 8— Friday, 10am to 9pm** and **Saturday, 10am to 4pm**. We are now encouraging artisans to apply as new vendors. Their applications will be reviewed by a committee of Society members, as we aim to maintain a high standard of craftsmanship. We will accept applications until **October 11**. If you have friends or family members who could be interested in participating, email us at [morganmanninghouse@gmail.com](mailto:morganmanninghouse@gmail.com) or call Sandy at 637-3645.

## **HISTORY AT THE MORGAN-MANNING**

**HOUSE: 2019-20 PROGRAMS** – Once again, we have an outstanding series of programs planned for the year. BoB LeSuer and Carly Reed, Chemistry professors at the College, will inaugurate this series on **Mole Day, Wednesday, October 23**, with a talk entitled “**Conversations on Victorian Chemistry**,” in honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Periodic Table. A real treat for all the Science buffs among you!

Attached to this newsletter is the complete list of presentations for the upcoming year. All these programs are free and open to the public. The WMHS invites everyone to stay for refreshments after the presentations.

**A NEW GROUNDSKEEPER** – We are pleased to welcome **Cindy Graves** to the Morgan-Manning House community. Cindy will be working on the grounds several hours every week to make sure that all of our flowerbeds, bushes, and trees look their best. The Historic Preservation committee will also use her gardening expertise as we add new plants from the 1897 landscaping list.

**KUDOS TO MERRILL MELNICK**, member of our board of Trustees, who was named **Brockport's Best** during last May's Board of Education meeting. Merrill had been nominated for volunteering at the Barclay School for several years and, thanks to him, students have had the opportunity to partake in numerous field trips. He also helped start the Barclay garden. Congratulations, Merrill!

### **SEPTEMBER CALENDAR**

Sept 1 – Sun – 1-3pm – Last of Summer Sunday Tours – no reservation needed

Sept 2 – Mon – Labor Day – Office Closed

Sept 4 – Wed – 10am – Quilters

Sept 7 – Sat – 9am-3pm – Peddlers Market, Community Household & Carriage House Sale

Sept 10 – Tues – 7pm – Board Meeting

Sept 18 – Wed – 10am – Quilters

Sept 24 – Tues – 10am – Spinners

Sept 27 – Fri – 7-9pm – *Meet the Artists* Wine & Sweets Reception - tickets required (\$10 donation)

Sept 28 – Sat – 10am-2pm – Art Show open to public - free admittance

### **SAVE THE DATE**

Oct 23 – Wed – 7pm – Program: *Conversations on Victorian Chemistry* presented by BoB LeSuer and Carly Reed from the College at Brockport.

Oct 28-29 – Mon & Tues – 6-8pm – Open doors at the Morgan-Manning House to see the special exhibit accompanying October 30's program on Victorian Deathways.

Oct 30 – Wed – 7pm – Program: *Dying on Script: Changing Victorian Deathways in 19<sup>th</sup> Century America* presented by Derek Maxfield.

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

**The Western Monroe Historical Society is committed to educating the community and future generations on the history of the Morgan-Manning House, celebrating our heritage, and preserving this local landmark that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.**

---

Western Monroe Historical Society - Morgan Manning House  
151 Main Street, Brockport, NY 14420-1909  
Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:30 am to 1:30 pm 585-637-3645  
www.morganmanninghouse.org E-mail: [morganmanninghouse@gmail.com](mailto:morganmanninghouse@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Monroe-Historical-Society](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Monroe-Historical-Society)



## **2019-2020 Morgan Manning House**

### **Presentation Schedule**

**October 23, 2019 (Wednesday)** “Happy Mole Day – Conversations on Victorian Chemistry” (Presenters: Drs. Bob LeSuer and Carly Reed) *The Victorian era was rich with chemical discoveries, not least of which was the development of the iconic periodic table. In this program, we will hear from Dimitri Mendeleev, the chemist recognized as the father of periodic law, and Marie Curie, who discovered two new elements and devoted her life to the study of radioactivity, a concept wholeheartedly rejected by Mendeleev. Conversations on Victorian Chemistry is modeled after Jane Marcet’s 1806 textbook, Conversations on Chemistry, which was intended to introduce girls to the world of science, but had a much broader impact due to the interactive conversational approach used.*

**October 30, 2019 (Wednesday)** “Changing Victorian Deathways in the 19th Century” (Presenter: Mr. Derek Maxfield & Students) *The Victorians were an eccentric lot who, through the first half of the 19th century, could romanticize anything – even death. They made rules about how to die properly, insisted upon proper attire for not only observing a death but anticipating and dressing the deceased properly. They kept souvenirs of the dead to remember their loved ones. But after the Civil War the Victorians changes and the way they treated death changed as the Civil War, Industrial Revolution and Consumer Revolution molded their sensibilities.*

NB: On **October 28 and 29**, the Morgan Manning House will be open in the evening, as we will have an **exhibition on Victorian Deathways on display in the Red Reception room**. This exhibition will be curated by GCC students.

**November 19, 2019 (Tuesday)** “Happy 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Dayton Morgan” (Presenter: Dr. Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer) *This year marks the 200th anniversary of Dayton S. Morgan’s birth. Originally from the nearby town of Ogden, D. S. Morgan settled and flourished as a businessman in Brockport. While his business ventures required him to travel extensively, the letters he sent to his family and business partners at the D.S. Morgan and Co. plant in Brockport present him as a caring father and a man conscious of his civic duties in the village. This program will present the many facets of this self-made man known as “one of Brockport’s leading citizens.”*

**December 18, 2019 (Wednesday)** “Forgotten Christmas Stories, Remembered – Mary Jane Holmes” (Presenters: Mr. Christopher Albrecht & Brockport Students) *Mary Jane Holmes wrote the “Christmas Font.” However, she wrote many other Christmas stories that were published in her book, Christmas Stories. You will be treated to a brief history of authoress, Mary Jane Holmes, and wonderful evening of hearing Christmas stories published by her in 1884.*

**January 15, 2020 (Wednesday)** “Helen Hastings, Rediscovered” (Presenter: Mrs. Sarah Hart) *Helen Hastings was a Brockport resident in the early 1900’s. She and current Brockport resident, Sarah Hart, are two artists who trained in the same unique “Sight-Size” method used in classical oil painting for centuries. Their studies took place at a great distance from each other in the world. They were also far apart in time by nearly a century. In that interim, Sight-Size came close to vanishing when it was rejected by the art world due to modern influences at the turn of the 20th century. Hart “met” Hastings recently through her art work which was discovered hidden in an attic trunk in Hastings’ former home on State Street. With Hart’s ongoing examining and explaining the work, the hidden Hastings treasure may become an enhancement to understanding the Sight-Size method, now revived.*

**February 20, 2020 (Thursday)** “HELLMIRA: The Union’s Most Infamous POW Camp of the Civil War” (Presenter: Mr. Derek Maxfield) *Long called by some the “Andersonville of the North,” the prisoner of war camp in Elmira, New York, is remembered as the most notorious of all Union-run POW camps. It existed for only a year—from the summer of 1864 to July 1865—but in that time, and for long after, it became darkly emblematic of man’s inhumanity to man. Confederate prisoners called it “Hellmira.”*

**March 19, 2020 (Thursday)** “Naturalist, Artist, Taxidermist: The Many Talents of David Bruce” (Presenter: Mrs. Chris Hunt & Dr. Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer) *David Bruce (1833-1903), originally from Scotland, settled in Brockport in the late 1870s. He is best known as a taxidermist - the Morgan-Manning House owns several of the bird displays he prepared. However, he was also a renowned naturalist and an accomplished artist. He not only did the interior decorating of St Luke’s church but also painted murals, which still adorn several homes in Sweden, Brockport, and Clarkson. During this program, Chris Hunt will tell us how she re-discovered some of David Bruce’s masterpieces in her home, at the White Farm.*

**April 15, 2020 (Wednesday)** “Henry Seldon, the Political Leader” (Presenter: Dr. William Andrews) *Henry R. Selden, who lived in Clarkson, 1830-47, and, in Brockport, 1847-54, was an abolitionist, a major and highly-principled politician, and probably the area’s leading attorney. He represented Susan B. Anthony when she was arrested for voting in 1872.*

Western Monroe Historical Society  
Morgan- Manning House  
151 Main Street  
Brockport, NY 14420-1909

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BROCKPORT, N.Y.  
Permit No. 32

-----

These fine businesses in the Brockport area are supporters of the Western Monroe Historical Society. We encourage you to patronize them.

Arjuna Florist and Design Shoppe  
Bateman Orthodontics - Dr. Bateman  
Bittersweet  
Brad's Northside Service  
Brockport Animal Hospital  
Brockport Auxiliary  
Brockport Custom Carpet  
Brockport Optometry - Dr. Raff  
Carriage Place & Antique Co-op  
Country Treasures  
Dunn's Furnishings, Inc.  
58 Main BBQ & Brew  
Five Star Bank  
Fowler Funeral Home, Inc.  
Hurd Orchards  
Kirby's Farm Market

Klafehn Heise & Johnson, PLLC  
Lift Bridge Book Shop  
Mahan Discount Liquor & Wine, Inc.  
Oakes Tree Service  
Red Bird Cafe & Gift Shoppe  
RE/MAX Titanium, LLC  
Robb Farms  
Salmon Creek Nursery  
Sara's Garden Center  
Seaward Candies  
Strong West – Brockport  
The Victorian Bed & Breakfast  
The White Farm Bed & Breakfast  
Thomas E. Burger Funeral Home  
Maxwell Thaney, DDS - Brockport Smiles  
Westside News Inc.