



Western Monroe Historical Society

Morgan-Manning House

AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Members,

I have so many people to thank for the success of our July Lawn Sale. Many kind folks donated wonderful items, several making multiple trips during the collection weeks. They have been rewarded with more space in their closets, basements, attics, garages, and storage units. Sorting and pricing proved to be enormous tasks, but we got it done. The volunteers who did the work spent hours in the hottest weather of the year and deserve so much credit! The day of the sale was hot, but dry. The shoppers who came out were mindful of the mask-wearing and social-distancing regulations as they strolled the grounds. We had a steady stream of people on the lawn, but luckily no crowds.



Not only was this a successful fundraiser, but also a community service. Some people thanked us for having a safe event to attend. Many were delighted to pick up items for the low prices that we set. The books, at \$2 per bag, were especially popular. One young man told me that he could not believe that people actually gave away the “life-changing” books that he carried away in his two bags.

We plan to go ahead with Peddlers’ Market, but with some modifications to the usual set-up. We will

not be selling food, except perhaps some bottled water and pre-packaged snacks. We will have more of the Carriage House items outside, and will be enforcing the COVID regulations to keep everyone as safe as possible.

On another note, we are hoping to step up our postings on social media soon. It is not worthwhile unless someone sees the content that we put out. Please Like and Follow us on FaceBook at Western Monroe Historical Society - Morgan Manning House, and also on Instagram @morganmanninghouse. We also want to know where else you are likely to see us. Please let know if you do use FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram or other social media sites.

Until next month,

Mary Lynne Turner, President

HISTORY CORNER:

♦ **suf·frage** /ˈsʌfrij/ (*noun*) the right to vote in political elections.

Only one century has passed since women were granted suffrage in the United States of America. The women’s suffrage movement, however, had to campaign, even fight, for over 70 years, before the **19th Amendment** was passed on **August 26, 1920**.

By 1848, abolitionist activists, including **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** and **Lucretia Mott**, invited fellow activists to discuss women’s rights in **Seneca Falls**, New York. This gathering was known as the **Seneca Falls Convention**, and it was here that delegates agreed that American women, like men, were autonomous individuals deserving of the right to vote. **Susan B. Anthony** would become Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s partner in the fight for equality and reform. Anthony and Stanton ran a newspaper in Rochester called *The Revolution*, which helped spread their views at a time when it would have been otherwise difficult or impossible to do so.



Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton

The National Women's Rights Conventions held from 1850 to 1869, featured women activists pushing for reform with a larger audience that was surely gaining support. These conventions also led to multiple petitions calling for the abolition of slavery in the U.S. Unfortunately, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton never saw the success of their lifelong activism, both women dying in the first decade of the 20th century. Looking back at their incredible lives, people of the Rochester region can visit local sites such as the **Susan B. Anthony House** and the region of **Seneca Falls** to explore the deeper history of the suffrage movement.

Sydney Salisburg, Anthropology intern at the MMH



◆ The current pandemic has forced many of us this summer to choose a “staycation.” Going on a camping trip in one of the local State Parks might be a way to escape the challenges of the time for a few days. In an editorial he wrote in 1954 for Brockport’s Republic-Democrat, A. B. Elwell described the many delights of the camping expeditions of his youth on the shores of Lake Ontario. “*When a camping vacation is taken, you not only ‘get away from it all’ during the time spent, but by roughing it, you are brought close to nature, learning much of her ways.*”



Gifford Morgan, sitting with a hat at the center of the photo, at a hunting party with friends by the lake.

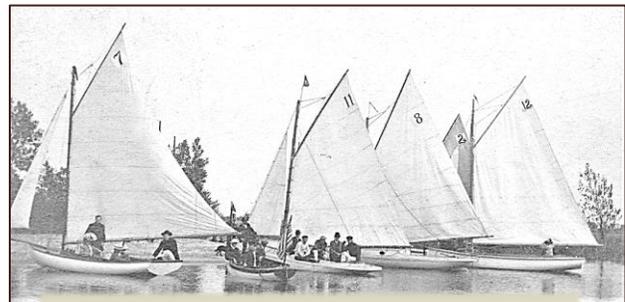
Elwell was sometimes accompanied by Gifford Morgan and several other young men from Brockport

(see picture). They would set camp for two weeks at the mouth of the Yante Creek, now the East Side Park of the Hamlin Beach State Park.

The Morgan family certainly had a special affinity with Lake Ontario and with sailing. When writing to her daughters Sara and Susanne who were then studying in Germany, Susan Morgan described the many journeys Henry, Gifford, and Gladys made to the lake. For instance, on August 9, 1891, she wrote:

The morning hours were full of business as a load was started for the Lake. Giff + his friend have gone and are to remain at least until Saturday. A basket of provision had to be prepared. Harry + Gladys have gone for the day. The boys promised not to take her out in the sail boat. Gifford has been adding a gib to his sails + I rather, if they should capsize, to have only themselves to care for...

Gifford’s love for the area had enticed him to purchase a long track of land at the mouth of the Sandy Creek, across from the Brockport Yacht Club. He had a lovely cottage built on his lake property and later added a pier on the east side of the creek’s mouth. Both Gifford and his brother Henry took part in sailing boat races, a most popular form of entertainment at the time. According to Elwell, “*it was estimated that there were 5,000 people swarming the lake shore and the creek bank.*”



Racing boats at the mouth of the Sandy Creek.

Such popularity motivated many a sportsman to build his own racing boat. In partnership with two friends, Gifford himself built “The Squaw.” Likewise, George Guelf, a friend of the Morgan boys, helped Sara’s son, Arnold, build “The Mehitabel” in 1910, a sailing boat whose model is still on display at the Morgan-Manning House.

Having a pied-à-terre by the water was important for all the Morgan children. Sara and Henry built

their own summer cottages near Gifford's. George had a summer residence in Alexandria Bay, in the Thousand Islands region of northern New York. His brother William chose to own property on Lake Erie, West of Buffalo, at Point Abino. As for Gladys, she ultimately left the United States to settle in Southern France, by the Mediterranean Sea, in the city of Cannes.

Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer, Curator/Historian

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Our past President, **Gordy Fox**, is a well-known boat aficionado. He too built his own watercraft, a beautifully crafted canoe. He recently dedicated some of his time to studying and painting another beautiful boat, "The Seamaid," the 62-foot sailboat that Gifford Morgan had purchased in the 1920s. Gordy shared with us how he started this new project:

"A few months ago, in my President's Report, I mentioned finding a craft or project to become involved in during the isolation of the pandemic. I have attempted painting projects in the past with varying success. But any project involving creativity is rewarding in its own right even if great success lay outside the realm of possibility.

Gifford Morgan's family yawl has intrigued me since first hearing about the boat years ago. A black and white photo of the ship under full sail was a possible candidate for an art project even though the deck was covered with various things hiding the details of the deck. By studying the line drawings we have available, I was able to somewhat figure out a reasonable layout.

The painting was done in acrylic paint on a 4-foot by 4-foot piece of smooth plywood primed with gesso and sanded between coats. The frame is quarter-sawn white oak similar to the staircase and hallway of Morgan-Manning House. All told, the project took

about two weeks. By the way, the large "canvas" I chose maybe was inspired by the huge paintings in the Louvre we visited in March! A fun project."



PEDDLERS' MARKET – As announced in the June Newsletter, we hope to host **The Peddlers' Market and Carriage House Sale on Saturday, September 12, 9am-2pm**. The event will comply with New York State guidelines to ensure the safety of all. We will update you closer to this date.

Last month's Lawn Sale was so successful that we need to fill the Carriage House again with donations! You can drop off your donations at the Carriage House **every Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10 am to noon** or call 637-3645 to schedule your visit at a different time. Note that we cannot take large appliances, large sofas, or clothes & shoes. Thank you all for your generosity. Remember that all proceeds go to the maintenance of the Morgan-Manning House.

Reminder: Tours of the MMH are possible by appointment only and limited to 6 guests. Face masks required.

SAVE THE DATE

September 12 – Sat – 9am-2pm – Peddlers' Market and Carriage House Sale

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

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Brockport Auxiliary
Brockport Custom Carpet
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