

Western Monroe Historical Society

Morgan-Manning House

NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS & OCTOBER HAPPENINGS AT THE MORGAN-MANNING HOUSE – Our mission states that *“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.”* As you may know, it was indeed Sara Morgan Manning’s wish that the Society selected to care for her house would also educate the public on “the fine old traditions that are so important to our heritage.”

We certainly endeavored to fulfill our mission and Sara’s wish this month, starting with the **4th grader tours** that we traditionally organize every autumn. Once again, with the help of our dedicated guides, we have introduced the Morgan family, their importance in the village, and their lifestyle to students, their teachers, and their parents. I thank our docents Jack Bowser, Gordy & Peggy Fox, Kathy Goetz, Amy Harris, Fred McCullough, Merrill Melnick, Margie Robb, Linda Schaffer, and Mary Lynne Turner for helping me with the tours by sharing their knowledge of the House and family, and by making sure that all the tours ran smoothly.

On **October 23**, better known as Mole Day, I am proud to say that my husband **BoB LeSuer** organized a wonderful Town-&-Gown event. To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the periodic table, he and **Carly Reed**, his colleague in the Chemistry Department, wrote a short “lecture in costume” showcasing how Dmitri Mendeleev established the periodic law that orders the elements, and how Marie Curie discovered radioactivity. The performance, in period costume, took the format of a lecture during which two Chemistry students from the College, **Calli Burnell** and **Megan Palmowski**, played the roles of Sara and Susanne Morgan, who

were taught by these two illustrious scientists. At the end of the program, an impressive—and delicious!—periodic table of 118 cupcakes was enjoyed by all in the Dining Room. For more information on this event, you can visit:

<https://bobthechemist.com/2019/10/a-mole-day-experiment/>, which also includes many beautiful photos taken by Biology student Shauna Zurowski.



The cast of Conversation on Victorian Chemistry: (from left to right) Calli Burnell, BoB LeSuer, Carly Reed, Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer, and Megan Palmowski. Photo © Shauna Zurowski.

As soon as this Victorian program was over, I had the great pleasure of being involved in another successful event. WMHS trustee **Derek Maxfield** and his students from Genesee Community College (GCC) set up a fascinating Special Exhibition entitled *Changing Victorian Deathways in the 19th Century*. 25 GCC students conducted research on the themes covered by the exhibit, namely Caskets & Embalming Accessories; Mourning Clothes; Hair Jewelry; and Post-Mortem Photographs. They also wrote the labels describing the artifacts on display, and acted as guest curators of this exhibit open **October 28-30** in the MMH Red Room and the Library. We want to thank our partners, who donated time and loaned us many artifacts from their collections: Bill Lattin, retired Orleans County Historian; Sue Savard and the Emily L. Knapp

Museum; Gina Schelemanow from the Town of Bergen History Department; and the Waterloo Library and Historical Society. On **October 30**, to further illustrate how the members of Victorian society expressed their grief and remembered their loved ones, Derek, a specialist of this period of American history, gave a most informative and fascinating lecture on the evolution of Victorian deathways during the 19th century, with the Civil War, Industrial Revolution, and the birth of consumerism acting as catalysts for new funerary traditions.



Derek Maxfield surrounded by a few of his students: Yasmine, Nicky, Pedro, Eryn, Jess, Lenora, Tiffany, Ciara, Clarice, Brianna, Thomas, Selena, and Austen.

It has been tremendous fun having all these college students working in the House and being excited about our history. It is important for us to nurture their interest in our Society, as they will be its future caretakers. We will certainly strive to continue offering such engaging and multigenerational programs.

Rozenn Baillleul-LeSuer, Historian

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK – At the urging of our Past President Alicia Fink, the Society held its second Art Show and Sale in the Carriage house on September 27 and 28. Friday night’s turnout was almost overwhelming. Fortunately the weather cooperated as it did at the last Show allowing people to sit under tents scattered around the Carriage House grounds. Many of our members attended but I was happy to see a mix of people of various ages from the community that I have never seen at any of our prior events. Thanks to all who volunteered to make this a fun event.

For some reason, and I think I know why, getting volunteers to help with the Candlelight Christmas fund raiser usually is easier than say, getting gardening helpers! Make sure you sign up for your

favorite ‘Candlelight Christmas’ job as soon as possible. Please call Kathy Goetz to make your preference known at 637-5546 or 520-1503.

Here are a couple projects now in the works: a camera surveillance system will soon be installed for the House and the Carriage House; and the ivy bed on the North side of the House will be cleared for replanting of two Redbud trees and grass.

Have a great Fall.

Gordon Fox, President

MUSEUM INTERNSHIP COURSE AT THE

MMH – For both the students taking the Museum Internship course at the College and for me, their instructor, time is certainly flying by as we are now starting week 11 of the Fall Semester. This month, Alyssa, Megan, and Sydney will share with you what motivated them to take this course:



★ “My name is **Alyssa Bressette**, and I am a junior at The College at Brockport where I am currently pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Anthropology.

I am in the museum internship course taken at the MMH because I am interested in some day working at a museum and I wanted to first see what goes on in museums and also gain some experience. The project I am working on at the MMH is in the library. I love books so it seemed only fitting that I took on the books as my project. What is happening this month is I, along with my partner on this project, are removing all of the books from the shelves and putting them in alphabetical order based on the author’s last name. This is being done so that the library looks more organized and looks like an effort was put in to make it that way.”

★ “My name is **Megan Provost** and I am an Anthropology major with a minor in museum studies at Brockport. I chose to take this class to help me get a feel for working in a museum. I ultimately want to go to



Washington D.C. and work at one of the Smithsonian’s. I am glad to say I was not disappointed by taking this class. Working at the MMH with Rozenn has been very educational and

fun. I also love the small but close group of people we have there.

What I do this semester at the MMH is go through old letters and transcribe them so that we might have a copy to refer to besides the very delicate original letters. We started out in the year 1891 where most of the kids are either grown or away at school. My main focus has been on Gifford, one of Dayton and Susan Morgan's sons. Gifford is away at Canandaigua Academy. He seems to write mostly to his mother and is usually asking for money, complaining about school, and talking about pancakes! I work with two other students on the letter transcription project and we each have different people we focus on. So far we have done plenty of letters and will continue to do more throughout the semester. We hope to better understand the Morgan family and also to make the MMH a place people will want to visit."



★ "Hello, my name is **Sydney Salisbury**. I am a senior at The College at Brockport, finishing my major in English, and minors in Museum Studies & Public History and Anthropology.

This is my second internship, my first being at the Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse Museum and Historical Society, where I learned accessioning, membership duties, lighthouse history, and how to create a display. I am grateful for the knowledge I have gained from the Lighthouse and now am hoping to further my understanding of Linguistic Anthropology while at the MMH. Since the Fall semester began, and Dr. Bailleul-LeSuer guided myself and my classmates to choose projects, I have been transcribing the letters of Susan Morgan, wife of D.S. Morgan, and mother to the seven lively children. So far, transcribing these letters has been a fun experience and I am able to better understand the dialect and lifestyles the Morgans experienced. Although there will be many letters left untouched after my project is finished, I hope that the information collected by myself, along with two of my classmates, who are also transcribing letters, may help visitors and staff alike, better understand the family that gave the house its name."

UPCOMING PROGRAM AND CELEBRATION—Tuesday, November 19: 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. In this program, **Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer** will present the many facets of this self-made man known as "one of Brockport's leading citizens."

Before the program, at 7pm, we will take advantage of this gathering to honor a prominent member of the Western Monroe Historical Society. **SUE EDMUNDS** has been an important contributor to the Morgan-Manning House for many years, contributions that were often done with little or no recognition, as she has always preferred it. She was also a very active volunteer and served on the Board of Trustees for many years. Make sure to come to the Morgan-Manning House on **November 19** to attend this celebration to thank Sue for all she is doing to help us fulfill our mission.

This program is free and open to the public. The WMHS invites everyone to stay for refreshments after the presentations.

THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT THE MMH:

★ **Candlelight Christmas: NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS** – Candlelight Christmas is coming up soon, and there are so many opportunities to get involved! On **Sunday, December 1**, we have some heavy lifting to do to get the house set up for the sale. There's lumber in the carriage house, items in the attic, and the Christmas tree to assemble. If you don't mind doing some lugging, please meet us at **1pm** at the house. It shouldn't take more than an hour of your time.

As always, we need volunteers to work during the sale on **Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 7**. We arrange 2-3 hour shifts so that there is always someone in each of the rooms to restock tables and help shoppers. Our phone committee tries to contact all of our members to ask if they are interested, but we always seem to miss someone. If you would like to help us out on those days, please send an e-mail to moganmanninghouse@gmail.com or leave a message with your name and phone

number at 637-3645. Sandy will forward all of these messages on to those doing the scheduling, and you will be contacted later in November.

Then, of course, is the shopping. So many wonderful items will be waiting for you, whether you are searching for handmade gifts for others or for yourself. It is a great way to get into the holiday spirit.

Mary Lynne Turner

★ **Pictures with Santa** – On Sunday, December 8, from 3 to 5pm, Mr. & Mrs. Claus will be at the Morgan-Manning House! We invite our members and the community to have their photos taken with Santa in the library. Make sure to bring your camera: one of our volunteers will take the photograph for you. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per family.

★ **A Victorian Christmas for the 4th graders** – As soon as Candlelight is over, we will finish decorating the House in preparation for the Christmas visit of Brockport's 4th graders. They will all get to meet "Mrs. Morgan," who will tell them how the seven Morgan children celebrated the holidays and spent

Christmas day in this house. After enjoying a few Christmas cookies, we will all reconvene in the Gold Parlors to sing a few carols and get in the spirit of the Holiday Season.

LOOKING FOR A "MRS. MORGAN" IN TRAINING: Are you a natural born storyteller, or would you like to be? While Barbara Kerns has graciously agreed to continue being our Mrs. Morgan for the 4th Grade Christmas parties this year and also in 2020. But she will be retiring afterwards. Now is a good time for someone interested in taking over this role to help out, watch, learn, and get tips from Barbara. If you are interested in giving this a try, call Sandy at 637-3645.

THANK YOU FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO THE MMH to:

- Sue Edmunds
- The Spinners Group.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Nov 6 – Wed – 10am – Quilters

Nov 12 – Tues – 7pm – Board Meeting

Nov 19 – Tues – 7pm – Program: *Happy 200th Birthday, D.S. Morgan* presented by our Historian, Rozenn Bailleul-LeSuer

Nov 20 – Wed – 10am – Quilters

Nov 26 – Tues – 10am – Spinners

Nov 28 – Thurs –  **Happy Thanksgiving!** Office Closed

SAVE THE DATE

Dec 6 & 7 – Friday and Saturday – Candlelight Christmas (see attached flyer)

Dec 8 – Sun – 3-5pm – Pictures with Santa

Dec 10, 12, 17 – Tuesdays & Thursday – 9:45-10:45am & 12:45-1:45pm (only 9:45-10:45am on Dec. 17) – Victorian Christmas with "Mrs. Morgan"

Dec 18 – Wed – 7pm – Program: *Forgotten Christmas Stories, Remembered* – *Mary Jane Holmes* presented by Christopher Albrecht and Brockport Students

MISSION STATEMENT:

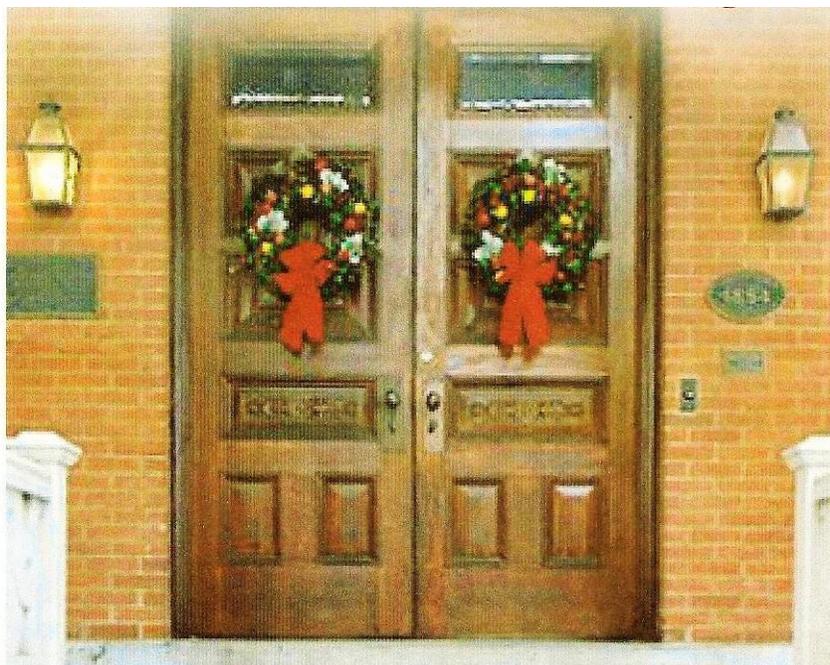
The Western Monroe Historical Society is committed to educating the community and future generations on the history of the Morgan-Manning House, celebrating our heritage, and preserving this local landmark that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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
www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Monroe-Historical-Society

WESTERN MONROE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Welcomes You To

Candlelight Christmas 2019 at the Morgan-Manning House



Fri., Dec 6, 10 am – 9 pm Sat., Dec 7, 10 am – 4 pm

Experience the mansion's Victorian ambiance as you shop for
**Handcraft Holiday Decorations and Ornaments, Woven Garments, Wood Carvings,
Paintings, Florals, Jellies & Jams, Chocolates, Maple Products, Alpaca, Ceramics,
Folk-art, Quilting & Braiding, and Other Creations**

-----Visit Vendors Showcase Raffle-----

Credit Cards Accepted \$4 donation requested at door

151 Main Street, Brockport, NY --- Street parking, limited on-site parking

Information Requests

Telephone 585.637.3645

Email: morganmanninghouse@gmail.com

Website: www.morganmanninghouse.org

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Western-Monroe-Historical-Society)

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Morgan-Manning House
151 Main Street
Brockport, NY 14420-1909

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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
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