

# Manning Manse Messenger

Built in 1696—National Register of Historic Places  
56 Chelmsford Road, North Billerica, Massachusetts  
[Manningassociation.org](http://Manningassociation.org)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

### President

Jeffrey Manning  
Shrewsbury, MA  
[president@manningassociation.org](mailto:president@manningassociation.org)

### Vice-President

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## MANNING FAMILY REUNION

**WHO:** All those descended from William Manning and their families and friends. **Kids are welcome—see below for activities available across the street.**

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 24, 2016 at 11 AM (unless you want to come earlier to the state park—see below)

**WHAT:** Celebration of the Reunion of the Manning Family and Annual Meeting of the Manning Association which includes election of the Secretary, Treasurer, and Board



for the next year and any other pertinent business.

**WHERE:** The Manning Manse, 56 Chelmsford Road, North Billerica, MA

**HOW:** Luncheon at Jon Ryan's Pub (individually ordered) at 12 Noon

**WHY:** To see old friends (family!) and make new ones, see the improvements to the Manse, enjoy fabulous food, check out artifacts and historical papers, and **check out Warren Manning State Forest across the street (<http://www.town.billerica.ma.us/Facilities/Facility/Details/Manning-State-Park-4>).**



Activities there include: fitness trail, grill, park benches and tables, water playground (9 am—6 pm), and walking paths.

## MINUTES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Reunion and Meeting of the Manning Association Stockholders was held on Saturday, June 25, 2016 at the Manning Manse in Billerica, MA.

Kinfolk gathered on the front lawn of the Manning Manse sharing memories, viewing artifacts on display, touring the homestead and meeting new members of the family. The Manning family enjoyed Jon Ryan's Pub fare in the historic Manning Manse.

The annual Manning Association Stockholders Meeting was called to order by President Jeffrey Manning at 1:05 pm. There were twenty six members in attendance.

President Jeff Manning asked those in attendance to introduce themselves to the group and share their connection to the Manning Association. States represented included: CT, MA, CA, RI, NY, OK, CO and NH. Carolyn McLean provided gifts to a few of our special attendees:

Youngest: Charlotte Faye Mulholland

Travelled Furthest: kinfolk from CO, OK, and CA

Oldest: Oliver Manning at 91 years young

Most Grandchildren: Neal Ferris with 17 grandchildren

President Jeff Manning noted that he was voted in as President by the Board of Trustees since the last annual meeting. He noted this was his first Annual Meeting as President and acknowledged all past Presidents in attendance – Lee Manning, Peter Stuart, Rosemary Whitney, and Lennie Manning. He is currently working on a history of the Manning Manse and has recently published his own family history. He is very interested in thinking about the future of the Manning Manse, including creating a museum and displaying artifacts.

### Reports

Jeff reported on some of the interior repairs to the Manse, including the floors in the Manning room and stairs to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. He plans to place pertinent documentation and information in a newly developed Google Document folder to allow for easier access to these materials.

Newsletter Editor Ruth Ladd reported that many folks are interested in receiving Manning Association materials via email, which also is a cost savings. She is also seeking articles and Manning related information to include in the newsletter. Older edition newsletters will be placed on Google Docs and on the Association website.

Secretary Becky Warren read the minutes of the June 27, 2015 annual meeting. On a motion by Lee, seconded by Peter, the Secretary's report was approved.

Peter Stuart submitted a Treasurer's Report on the Manning Association's finances, including a balance sheet with current assets totaling \$31,304.00 as of June 16, 2016. A budget for calendar year July-Dec 2016 was submitted. The Treasurer answered questions from those in attendance. On a motion by Becky Warren, seconded by Lee Manning, the Balance Sheet was accepted and placed on file. On a motion by Ruth Ladd, seconded by Becky Warren, the 6 month Budget was accepted and placed on file. Both motions carried.

President Jeff Manning introduced guest speaker Donna Russo currently of the Hyde Park Historical Society and former administrator of the Fairbanks House in Dedham, MA. Donna provided an overview of the Fairbanks House, a homestead similar to the Manse dating back to 1636, which opened as a Museum in 1904. She outlined the administrative steps involved in starting a museum including: hiring an attorney and CPA, develop articles of incorporation, apply for non-profit status, apply for tax exempt status, and create a set of by-laws. She recommended developing a mission statement, having a vision for the next 15 years, creating a marketing plan, and establishing community connections. She noted that a museum's collections and artifacts exemplify your mission. Questions and discussion ensued with the guest speaker.

The meeting resumed at 3:20 pm. President Manning noted that upgrades/repairs to the electrical lights along the walkway were taken care of by the Association. The roof of the Manse will need some repair next year. The parking lot may need to have the cracks filled and a sealcoat applied within the next year.

The annual meeting of the Manning Association stockholders adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca A. Warren, Secretary

## NEWS OF MANNINGS

### E. ELIZABETH (PAVEY) COOPER

**March 12, 1923 to  
September 26, 2016**

Elizabeth Cooper, also known as Dorothy Edith Metcalf, was born in Cambridge, MA to Maynard "Hopkins" and Edith (Benson) Metcalf but was adopted by her aunt and uncle, Charlotte Blanche (Benson) and John Pavey. They lived in Billerica and Winthrop, MA where she graduated from high school. She married George E Cooper and they built a home in Lexington, MA where they raised three sons and cared for three foster children for two years.



Elizabeth taught Sunday School at the First Parish Church and she was active in the Woodworkers Guild of the Lexington Arts and Crafts Society. She even taught woodworking at her shop in Lincoln, MA.

She enjoyed genealogy research which enabled her to find and meet her sister, Marjorie, and brother, Maynard.

Elizabeth was predeceased by her husband, George, son G. David, and granddaughter, Sarah E. Cooper. She is survived by sons John, Peter and his wife Ellen, daughter-in-law Cindy Cooper, grandson David A Cooper and his wife Dina, and grandsons David M and William A Cooper.

You may remember Elizabeth Cooper from reunions which she attended with her son, Peter.

### GERTRUDE "GERTIE" ELIZABETH MANNING STUART GOODRICH

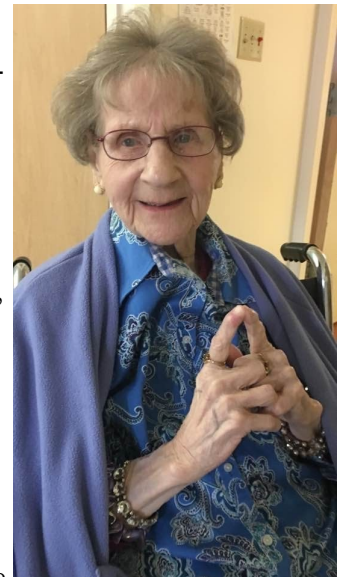
By Donna Lee

Fred W. and Maude Manning, Savona NY, had three daughters: Thelma 1917, Gertrude 1918, and Ida 1921. Thelma's story was included in the September 2016 Messenger. This is the Gertrude's story.

Gertrude did not especially like her name. She was named for a beloved departed aunt of Maude's. Gertrude much preferred "Gertie" or "Gert" even "Trudy" – anything but Gertrude. As children, whenever Thelma found Gertie's behavior especially aggravating, all she had to say was, "now Gertrude," which only served to intensify the situation. With each of her seven children Gertie made it her life's mission to choose a name that not only she loved but hopefully each child would also be pleased with.

Historically a middle child is said to be saddled with the "middle child syndrome" and Gertie Manning exemplified that category. Gertie took direction from her older sister with a mixture of acceptance and disgruntled unacceptance. Not unlike most siblings, Gertie and Thelma could needle each other with regularity, often the result of Gertie's devilish tendencies. One day, Fred arranged for a bare-fisted "boxing" match in the backyard to settle an argument. They were instructed to put up their "dukes" and go at it, but soon found this bizarre activity quite comical ending in fits of laughter – unable to demonstrate any pugilistic skill.

Even on the limited family income that was blessed with Maude's conservative nature, Gertie had a treasured pair of roller skates. Maude would ask Gertie to skate "over town" (about a mile) to Dr. Shaut's office for headache medicine. So Gertie would "skate, skate, skate" over and back, pleased with herself and her skating ability. It offered the opportunity to show Mother she had talents, too. After several bouts of tonsillitis, it was determined that Gertie must have her tonsils removed. Dr. (Cont. on p. 4)



*Gertie at 98*

Shaut was experimenting with a new method of tonsillectomy by burning/cauterizing diseased tonsils. She presented herself one day and the procedure began. When she saw smoke coming out of her open mouth and the smell of burning flesh, she decided that was enough, made her excuses and walked back home - a semi-completed operation. Mother praised her for being so brave!

Whenever she felt the urge to be alone, she would go sit in the backyard privy mentally re-designing this modest structure into her own private dwelling: windows here, cupboards there, a four poster bed in the corner - letting her imagination soar. During one of these blessed privy visits while sitting comfortably on the "seat," a nosey old rooster stuck his ugly head through a space where some crucial boards were missing and gave her quite a fright - especially thinking about her bare bottom in such close proximity.

Maude expected her daughters to attend a Methodist young adult association for the promotion of intelligence and vital piety among young people. Before one such meeting, Gertie and Thelma (and friends) bought some cigars. The unmistakable aroma clinging to their persons was undeniable that only reinforced the expectation for continued perfect attendance! Sundays often included three church-related sessions where Gertie and Thelma learned to sing in harmony all the lovely hymns and could be heard practicing at the top of their lungs on their leisurely walks around the neighborhood.

Upon graduation from Savona Central School in 1935, Gertie was expected to find her way in the world and became a "hired girl" in the lovely home of a good Christian family on the east side of the small village of Savona. She performed a variety of services including child care, which she found most fulfilling. However, she could hardly wait for her half day off enabling her to return to the comforting arms of her parents. Thelma's husband, Joe Seager, worked in a grocery store in Bath, NY. He told Gertie that the store needed help plus there was a good looking, unmarried fellow employed there. She fell head over heels for Chester "Chet" Stuart. This handsome guy introduced her to such devilish entertainment as movies, dancing and card playing - ac-

tivities that Maude would seriously frown upon! Chet and Gertie married in June 1936 with a weekend honeymoon to Niagara Falls.

They began their married life living with her mother-in-law, CoraEtte, in Bath, NY. Cora worshiped her favorite son, Chester, having great difficulty accepting his choice of wife. Gertie attended a beauty school for a short time. She learned the newest style - a "Marcel Wave" - done with hot curling irons. Although she never completed beautician school, she used this meager training throughout her life, cutting and perming countless heads of hair. They moved several times before settling on another piece of her father's property adjoining sister, Thelma, and parents. With the help of friends and Fred W., a barn of sorts was relocated to this property. The barn, to become a home, was a work in progress for the next 40 years. Gertie recalled "constructing" her own kitchen cupboards by nailing some boards to the wall for dishes, pots and pans.

Gertie and Chester were married for 50 years. Seven children issued: Donna Lee 1937, Peter 1939, Alan 1944, Teri 1948, Melanie 1952, Tawny 1955 and Gretchen 1957. Gertie spent the nine months prior to each birth searching for the most beautiful name she could find plus knitting and sewing a baby layette.

Gertie often kept family and friends in stitches with her comical recollections of her life. She was a natural born comedienne. Once when giving the before dinner grace she prayed, "and Lord, make me a good mother **and father!**" Her go-to disciplinary piece was either the fly swatter or a lilac branch switch that left no doubt about who was in charge. Actually, just the look on her face could squelch misbehavior with no other action required.

All seven children educated themselves far beyond high school - a huge sense of pride and expectation of Chester and Gertie.

Gertie dutifully cared for Chester during his last unhealthy 20 years. She then remarried soon after his death in 1987, marrying Ernie Goodrich in Campbell NY in 1988. Ernie had been attending weekly prayer meetings in her home. She and Ernie were married (Cont. on p. 5)

for 27 years, making it a combined total of 77 years of marriage! Her 7 children produced 20 grandkids, 21 great-grands, and 5 great-great-grands (so far). Gertie now resides in a nursing home in Bath, NY, and will celebrate her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 16, 2017.

This Manning woman still reigns supreme in her mind and can be found pushing her wheelchair up and down the hall greeting and smiling at all the **NEW** people she meets on her daily journey; the sad effects of dementia, her hearing and sight failing rapidly but a soprano voice often giving forth with familiar Big Band melodies of yesterday. Most of the time she falls into step with the excellent care and varied activities provided. No one calls her Gertrude, of course. A few years ago when asked to come up with a limerick relevant to her life she offered, "I am to go to heaven, where I am to be with my seven. They all had a good father and accept me - a good mother?" Thelma and "Gertrude" remained the closest of sister/friends, supporting and engaging each other almost daily well into their ninth decade. Gertrude "Gertie" Manning Stuart Goodrich is/was a better than good mother - motherhood being her life's work. Well done Mother, Mom, Honey, Gert, Gertie, Sister, Grandma, GG, Friend and Follower of Jesus - names she came to own that clearly define these many years.

OTHER THINGS  
MAY CHANGE,  
BUT WE START  
AND END WITH

*Family*

## EXCERPT FROM May 20, 1908 NEWSLETTER

President: Wm. Manning  
Vice-President: Joseph E. Warren  
Historian: William H. Manning [see article below!]

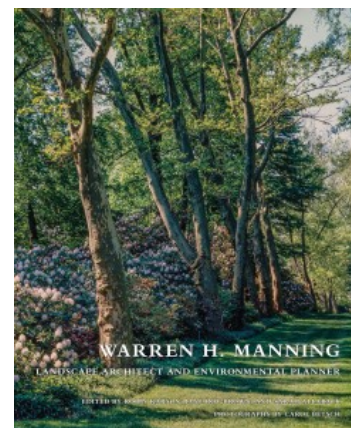
Reunions are held each June 17 (Bunker Hill Day) at the Manse, for which invitations are sent to each of every family of which we have the address. The Manse is a fifteen minutes walk from Sprague's Bridge [Ed. Note: there's a Sprague St in Billerica east of Route 3A—it crosses a stream so that might have been the bridge] coming from Lowell, or Fordway Bridge [Ed. Note: there's a Fordway Avenue not far from Sprague St.] coming from Boston via Lexington on the electric cars. All who wish to ride up to the Manse will please continue on electrics to the North Billerica Post Office where carriages will be a frequent intervals. Carriages will also be at the North Billerica Station on the Southern Division of the Boston and Maine Railroad to meet all trains from Lowell or from the North Union Station, Boston. The round-trip carriage ride to Manse is twenty-five cents.

...It was voted at the Reunion of 1905, "that the Association impose an annual due of fifty cents on each members of the family over 20 years of age...."

## NEW BOOK!

*Warren H. Manning, Landscape Architect and Environmental Planner* edited by Robin Karson, Jane Roy Brown, and Sarah Allaback, with photos by Carol Betsch has just been released (April 1, 2017) by the University of Georgia Press in association with the Library of American Landscape History. This 400 page hardcover book is available on Amazon for \$35. Warren Manning lived from 1860-1938 and he had over 1,600 projects through North America. He'd worked under Frederick Law Olmstead which clearly influenced his work. Did you know

that his method of using overlay maps provided the basic concept for computer mapping software? Manning was also one of the 11 founders of the American Society of Landscape Architects.



**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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### NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL

A huge THANKS to the dozens of folks willing to get their newsletter by email. If anyone else would be willing to get their newsletter by email (it would be a PDF) and save the association printing and postage costs (over \$3/newsletter!), please email the editor at: [wetlandmom@aol.com](mailto:wetlandmom@aol.com).

Please be sure to include your full name and snail mail address in the email to ensure we take the right person off the snail mail list!

### DUES

Dues are \$25/year (July 1-June 30). They can be paid at the Reunion or mailed to: Rosemary Whitney, 59 Seabury, Hampton, NH 03842. If you get a hard-copy and your label is **RED**, you have NOT paid for 2016-2017.

### WILLIAM MANNING FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Numbers refer to those in the Manning Genealogy

#### Went to Lexington:

William	201	Timothy	203
Jacob	205	Solomon	205 (error?)
Jesse	208	John	339
Samuel	341	Isaac	342
Eliphalet	343	Thomas	355
Cyrus	356	Jacob	403
Dan	404	Israel	470
John	494		

#### Were at Bunker Hill:

Ephraim	93	Samuel	167
Isaac	243	Luther	367
Dan	404	Andrew	413
Israel	470	Peter	471
John	494		