

Manning Manse Messenger

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

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 Melanie Stuart Claeys
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The Manning Association, LLC.
 Board of Trustees

March 6, 2016

Dear Fellow Trustees,

As you may be aware, I have been a member of the Manning Family Association since 1993, a Trustee on its Board since 2006, and its President since 2010. The years since 2010 have been interesting, to say the least, and it has been my great pleasure to work hand in hand with all of you as we found our way forward to our present situation. I feel a great sense of accomplishment as we have acquired a stable situation with our business partner and tenant, Bob Ryan, doing business as Jon Ryan's Pubs.

My health has changed in recent months, as I was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation (a heart rhythm disorder) and treated for it. I have made the difficult decision to eliminate some stresses from my life, and will therefore resign the Presidency of the Manning Association Board effective immediately. I do not make this decision lightly, as I feel the board requires a steady, competent hand at the helm, but I have great confidence in your collective ability to select a successor who will confidently step into the job and lead us forward.

My memories of these years are filled with moments of both sadness and triumph, as the inevitable problems have arisen, and as they have been solved. As a person who loves a good puzzle, I have taken considerable pleasure as we together have solved each problem.

I wish all of you great success in the future management of the Association. I will remain a board participant for as long as I am able, and as long as the Association desires it.

Thank you, one and all, for making my tenure here such an enjoyable experience.

Sincerely,
Lee J. Manning

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Because of Lee's resignation, the Board elected Jeff Manning as President for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Manning Association members elect the Board as a whole and the Secretary and Treasurer specifically. The Board elects the President and Vice-President.

MANNING FAMILY REUNION

WHO: All those descended from William Manning and their families and friends

WHEN: Saturday, June 25, 2016 at 11 AM

(NOTE: We always gather on the 4th Saturday in June)

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



FROM 1992
NEWSLETTER



Millwheel and New Walkway on Side Lawn

FROM THE ARCHIVES

July 4, 1964

Mr. Richard D. Manning

Dear Kinsman:

At our recent reunion at the manse you invited us to submit any articles that might interest other members of the clan. The following may suggest some new ideas.

There was a young damsel named Martha Manning who had embarked on a promising career as school teacher. If left free of the interference of one more mundane, no doubt she would have brought honor and fame to the family. But along came a young fellow, Knight Ferris, who thought it would be a fine idea to perpetuate the name Manning, and was all for doing something about it.

He wasn't easily discouraged nor one to quit quickly when he recognized something worthwhile, so after some six years it was agreed to proceed with

the project and they were married. Six children were born to each of whom was given the middle name Manning. They were: Merion born in Brooklyn, NY, now Mrs. J.C. Ritter of Lexington, MA; Chester born in Flint, MI, now of Manchester, CT; Elmore also born in Flint, now residing in Seattle, WA; Walter born in Mansfield, OH, now in Old Lyme, CT; Hope born and died in Mansfield; and Faye born and now in Manchester, CT.

Then according to the natural course of events came another generation, the grandchildren. Chester has son Neal Manning born in Manchester, now on duty at USAF Base in Columbus, OH, Elmore has two daughters both born and living in Seattle: Vicki Manning and Claudia Manning.

Time and the human race move inexorably and so Neal, who married Captola Abrams an Alabama lass in 1963, has added another generation, a great-grandson Lance Manning Ferris born March 29, (CONT. P. 5)

MINUTES OF JUNE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Reunion and Meeting of the Manning Association Stockholders was held on Saturday, June 27, 2015 at the Manning Manse in Billerica, MA. Kinfolk enjoyed each other's company on the front lawn sharing memories, shopping for Manning items, and touring the homestead. 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 Lee Manning at 12:35 pm. There were 40 members in attendance.

Reports

Peter Stuart submitted a Treasurer's Report on the Manning Association's finances, including a balance sheet with current assets totaling \$13,780 as of June 20, 2015. A budget for calendar year June-Dec 2015 was submitted. The Treasurer answered questions from those in attendance. On a motion by Leonard Manning, seconded by Ruth Ladd, the Treasurer's Reports were accepted and placed on file. Motion carried.

On a motion by Leonard Manning, seconded by Tawny Beckmann, the minutes of the Annual meeting held on Saturday, June 28, 2014 were accepted as read aloud by Secretary Becky Warren.

Via a written report by Membership Chair Melanie Claeys, the Association's membership stands at 141 members to date. She also noted the Association received a generous \$500 donation from Mr. & Mrs. Wendall. President Lee Manning noted that Melanie is stepping down as Membership Chair and asked for volunteers from the audience to serve in this capacity. David Warren offered his name for consideration but needs to confirm with his family.

Jeff Manning reported on the status of sales items in the Manning store, including t-shirts and polo shirts available for purchase. He will be ordering more canvas bags with the Manning crest.

President Lee Manning acknowledged the passing of Franklin Emerson Warren on May 9, 2015. Franklin, father to Board members David and Becky Warren, also served as the past President, Treasurer

and Trustee to the Manning Association from the 1964 to 2003.

Election of Officers

President Lee Manning offered a proposed slate of Trustees and Officers of the Manning Association for 2015-2016 term:

Jeffrey Manning
Leonard R. Manning
David E. Warren
Peter F. Stuart, Treasurer
Lee J. Manning
Melanie Stuart Claeys
Rebecca A. Warren, Secretary
Gerald S. Manning
Tawny Manning Beckmann
Tom Manning
Ruth Ladd

Peter Start motioned to accept the slate of officers, seconded by Ruth Ladd. President Lee Manning closed nominations. Secretary to cast one ballot for the slate of officers.

Old and New Business

Members of the Board of Trustees fielded questions regarding the status of the Manning Manse from members of the audience:

- Len asked members to take a moment to look at the landscape and building; the new tenant has done a marvelous job. Len provided an overview of the transition of the business operating the restaurant and improvements to the facility.
- Jeff noted that he has documented the changes completed over the past year and has compiled two photo albums of before & after pictures.
- Peter asked whether anyone knew about the hand dug well behind the Manse – and is it covered?

Jeff Manning noted that he published a family genealogy for his Manning line and has begun writing the history of the Manning Manse. He asked members to share any stories or information regarding the Manse.

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Julia Elizabeth Manning Dutcher 1922 – 2015

Julia Elizabeth Manning Dutcher; matriarch of 5 generations, left her earthly life September 19, 2015 surrounded by her family. She was born March 27, 1922 the daughter of Maud and Reuben Manning. She married Donald Dutcher who predeceased her.



She attended Cooley Hill School in Franklin, Windham High School, and Mohegan Community College where she completed her Medical Assistant Certificate. She was a loyal member of the Franklin Congregational Church where she held many offices. Julia was always active in her community; being a part of the Franklin Grange, a charter member in the Women's Auxiliary, Franklin Fire Dept, P.T.O., Franklin Historical Society, and 4H member and Leader. She grew up when entertainment was home-made and loved hay rides and square dancing. Julia worked for 23 years with Dr. Imogene Manning, she then worked for Kahn Tractor Co, and retired from the Holdridge Farm Nursery at the age of 75.

She is survived by her three children; her daughter Phyllis Pierce wife of Kendall B. Pierce, her son Donald Dutcher Jr, her son Charles Dutcher and his wife Jackie Dutcher. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, 7 great, great grandchildren, 28 nieces and nephews and three sister-in-laws; Edith, widow of Frank Manning, Doris Dutcher Werner, and Laura Dutcher Smalley. She was predeceased by her eight siblings; Arnold, Mildred, Nathaniel, Mary Augusta, Myron, Maud, James and Frank. And two grandchildren; Cindy and Kevin.

Julia loved to come to Manning Association gatherings, most recently in June 2015.

Julia was an inspiration to all she came in contact with and truly lived up to the scripture "Let your gentleness be known to everyone." She will be missed.

Merion Manning (Ferris) Ritter 1914-2015

Merion died peacefully at home in Lexington on December 19, 2015 after 101 very full years. She was born on August 25, 1914 in Brooklyn, NY. After moving around several times with her family, when she was six they moved to Manchester, CT, which was her mother's home town. She grew up there and then went to Connecticut College where she earned a bachelor's degree in Chemistry – a rare major for women at that time. In June 2015 she attended her 80th Reunion! She worked in Hartford for a couple years before moving to Washington, DC and ultimately working for the Navy. While there she met and married Julius Ritter, a welding engineer for the Navy. They moved to Lexington, MA in 1949.

Merion loved her family passionately. She was also pre-deceased by two brothers, Chester "Chet" Manning and Walter Manning Ferris. She is survived by her one daughter, Ruth Ladd, and her husband, Larry, of Lexington; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; her brother, Elmore Manning Ferris of Cle Elum, WA; and her sister, Faye Manning Ferris of Manchester, CT. She was very proud of her roots, particularly the Mannings. She annually attended the family reunion at the Manse.

After Ruth's arrival, Merion became a full-time volunteer. She became very involved in Camp Fire Girls; helped start the school library in Lexington and a library at the VA Hospital in Bedford; was the Chairman of Volunteers for the Red Cross; served as an adult advisor for the Rainbow Girls; was a founder of and very active in the Lexington Chapter (of AARP for 40 years; helped establish the Lexington Council on Aging; was active with Hancock Church; organized and coordinated a Senior Penpal project between three of the town's elementary schools and senior citizens for about three decades; was a charter and life member of the Bedford-Lexington Area Branch of AAUW; helped start the Weekday Nursery School at Hancock Church; and served as a "phone FISH (Friendly Independent Sympathetic Help)" well into her 90s. Merion's
CONTINUED ON P. 6)

NOTE FROM A FAMILY MEMBER

December 7, 2015

I have on hand the newsletter of October 2015, and a dozen of excuses for not writing much, much sooner. I'm now 97 and one of [the] great procrastinators! Our Manning connection is Mary Manning who married Oliver Proctor in Townsend on 15 February 1776. She had relatives who lived in Townsend and she had come as [a] "hired girl" to one of his neighbors. She returned to Billerica while she went off to war (see Manning Genealogy). Their son was born in Billerica and, after the Revolutionary War, Oliver and May (and Mary's sister, Harriet) came to Townsend. She gave Oliver a mortgage to build their home on property secured from his father, Oliver Proctor. The next [generation] was Abner, then Oliver, then Galen, then me (I think), then my daughter, Jane, and her husband, John Stonefield.

In about 1921 or 2, Warren Manning hunted us up and my father gave him several items he believed Mary had brought, including spinning wheels. These were stored in the Manning barn along with other "artifacts." In 1924 (more or less), Billerica experienced a real tornado and the barn and contents literally blew away. Nothing was recovered. Someone, unaware of moisture, had a free-standing cement vault built and put letters and papers in it. Many were wet beyond saving. Some were sent to Lowell for some preservation plan but Jane Stonefield was unable to find them. I do not know whether Jane knows anything more.

My second daughter, Carol, and I had planned to attend some meetings but finally failed to do so. The "connection" is so far back, 5 or 6 generations, I guess we've become "drop outs".

It is good to know the Association is doing well. (Most Townsend Mannings moved to Vermont after the Revolution.)

Yours,
Mrs. Catherine Wilson
Townsend, MA 01469

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1964. He was a tiny little fellow but is now so husky and lively that no doubt there will follow more generations for me to report to you.

Very sincerely yours,
Knight H. Ferris

EDITOR'S NOTE: Knight was my grandfather. He had a lively sense of humor and wrote an anonymous column, usually very funny, in his local paper about the history of the town and escapades he was involved in or knew about growing up and as a young man. Many were later published in a book about Manchester, CT.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

According to the June 1933 Messenger, the Manning Creed is the following?

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.

CONT. FROM P.3

Kinfolk were asked to introduce themselves and share their family connection to the Manning Association.

- Oldest Member in attendance: Merion Ritter, almost 101 years young with Julia E. Manning Dutcher at 93 years of age taking a close second!
- Married the longest: Carolyn and Bob McLean
- States represented: ME, CT, MA, NH, VA, NY, RI, IL

The annual meeting of the Manning Association stockholders adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca A. Warren
Secretary

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



NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL

If you would be willing to get your newsletter by email (it would be a PDF) and save the association printing and postage costs (over \$3/newsletter!), please email the editor at: wetland-mom@aol.com. We have had several members agree to do this already.

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 David E. Warren, 16 Gary Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824-4710

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

quiet dedication to the community over six decades was never flashy but was always intense. In addition, she and her husband spent over 25 winters at the Hawks Nest, a condo in Marathon, FL.

She also enjoyed gardening, reading, and delivering the *Boston Globe* with her grandkids for ten years into her 80s. What she didn't like was housework! She felt doing things for others was more important.

This photo was taken on Thanksgiving 2015 when Merion was at her granddaughter's with the entire family. She lived life to its fullest, right to the end.

