



---

# ***Allegheny Area Historical Association***

---

May 2009

Issue XXVIII Vol. 2

---

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Spring has finally come to Western New York - it was a long, hard winter. Any year where the ski season lasts for 6 months is good for the economy but hard on everyone else.

Our **FURNACE FUND** is now up to \$2,905.00, as of April 1st. We want to have all the money raised **before** we start. Our original quote was for approximately \$4,000 so it looks like we might be able to get our new furnace put in this summer. If we have any funds left over, we are going to replace our hot water heater at the same time. Each time this winter when we had to turn the furnace up, we held our breath that it would continue to work.

Over the past few years we have been having problems with the Olean Times Herald about getting the news items regarding our upcoming meetings printed. Our members know about the meeting through our newsletter but we also want the general public to attend as we think we have interesting meetings. After some correspondence with the City Editor, we have learned that the paper is trying to put more of the local news briefs in the Community Calendar rather than as a news item with a separate headline. Which may be good for the paper but is bad for us. So we are asking our local members to talk to their friends and neighbors about our upcoming meetings, let them know what's happening, spread the word so we will continue to have a good attendance to hear our speakers.

Speaking of which, if you missed the meeting with Greg Kinal talking about Ellis Island and immigration, you really missed a good one. I wish I had had a history teacher like Mr. Kinal when I was in high school. He really makes history live. We definitely plan to have him back again.

We received a nice check from the Allegheny 60 Plus club - thank you very much. The money will be put to good use.

We want to remind everyone again that our big display for Heritage Days will be on **Floods in Allegheny**. We need pictures of floods, as well as personal memories. Janet Martiny Hankinson has sent some great pictures of the 1942 flood and the 1972 flood, as well as some personal memories of the 1972 flood. I'm sure a lot of our other members have some good stories to tell, so please send them along. We need to preserve these memories. Saturday, August 1 will be here before we know it so start going through your old photos now. We will be glad to make copies for the display at our expense.

Heritage Days this year will look a bit different. We are **NOT** having the chicken BBQ on Friday this year. Over the past few years, it has been a lot of work for not very much profit. I'm sure the firemen are pleased as they donated their time to cook the chickens for us, and they probably have better things to do on a Friday summer evening. The rest of the weekend will look pretty much the same with an Ice Cream Social, Country Cupboard sales, entertainment, and a great display on Floods in Allegheny. This is the last newsletter before Heritage Days, so we will remind you now that you will be called to donate baked goods and canned goods to our Country Cupboard booth, as well as cakes for the Ice Cream Social. And start praying now for good weather.

**FRANCIE POTTER, PRESIDENT**

---

*Once again, we go back into our archives of past newsletters for an article of current interest. The Franciscan Sisters of Allegany are celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In our March 1987 newsletter, we had an article "From the Story of the Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Allegany, New York", taken from Chapter One of Cry Jubilee! By Katherine Burton. And St. Bonaventure University is coming to the end of its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. It's worth a repeat look. We hope you enjoy it.*

...The entire countryside (Allegany) was chiefly wilderness - great forests of giant pines - but gradually parts were being made into settlements. For the Catholics who had come there, Mr. [Nicholas] Devereux had converted a small farmhouse into a chapel, where occasionally a traveling priest stopped to say Mass; before that, the only place had been the company's (Holland Land) office. He also facilitated the building of little mission stations throughout the area.

In 1854 prelates from all over the world assembled at Rome for the definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Among them was Bishop Timon (of the Diocese of Buffalo), and with him as a companion came Nicholas Devereux. They hoped that by acting together they could perhaps win some recruits to bring back with them to the States.

...The superior shook his head. "Not seven nor three nor one," he said definitely, and there was sorrow in his voice. "Perhaps in two or three years if our own numbers increase. But it would be impossible to give you any now, much as I would wish I could." So with the Irish Franciscan friars unavailable, they turned to Italian Franciscan friars.

...The two Americans sailed for home. A little later, on May 10, the others followed - Father Pamfilo (co-founder of the congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Allegany), Father Sixtus a Galleano, Father Samuel da Prezza, and Brother Salvator a Manarolo. The long, hard ocean voyage did not daunt their enthusiasm, though it had taken six weeks; when Mr. Devereux met them in New York, he was happy to find them in high spirits and eager to get to work.

In Buffalo, Bishop Timon gave the missionaries a hearty welcome and sent them to nearby Ellicottville, a parish with a few members and those scattered. A little, two-story house served as church, but in 1851 a better one was built, largely with Devereux help, though the people gave what they could. Here the friars were to remain until it was possible for them to go to the town where Mr. Devereux planned to settle them - Allegany - the town in Cattaraugus County where he intended to build his Utopia.

He had chosen well. The town's name in the Seneca tongue means "beautiful", and this was indeed lovely terrain on the banks of the Allegheny River. The valley was a fertile spot and gave promise of rich farms. With the river and the Erie Railroad so close by, travel was assured. Here was to be the center of a Catholic community, with a college and a seminary and good homes.

...During the next years Bishop Timon increased the area of their work and gave (the friars) various outlying missions to care for. Four more friars came from Italy to aid their colleagues. In 1856 Father Pamfilo gave the charge of the church at Ellicottville and the missions into the hands of two of his friars. He himself went to stay in Allegany to supervise the erection of a seminary, college and a monastery. He was to live with the McMahons of that town until the new building was ready.

To build in those years and in that area was no simple matter. Father Pamfilo helped his workmen clear the ground, most of which was unbroken forest. He helped make the bricks which had been baked in an improvised kiln. He helped mix mortar. In the summer of that year the cornerstone was laid; it was a great occasion with two thousand people as spectators and Company K of the Sixty-fourth Regiment in attendance with their cannon.

One man who had been the very heart of this new enterprise was not there to see the ceremony. Nicholas Devereux had died the winter before....The little frame building which Father Pamfilo had at first used for a church was rebuilt by Mrs. Devereux and named in memory of her husband. (Ed. note: This

---

was St. Nicholas Church, which stood on Main Street in Allegany, across from the present St. Bonaventure Church.)

With the combined efforts of clergy and laity the new monastery in Allegany was being completed. It was three stories in height, with basement and attic, and it cost eight thousand dollars. It had been built with incredible difficulty and against many odds. The people of the area had little cash. In Father Pamfilo's notebook of 1856, the Christmas collection was listed as eleven dollars. But people gave their good will and their labor. Much of the material used was at hand, for it was mainly taken from the parishioners own lands - stone quarried from the hills, bricks made from the earth, lumber taken from the forests...

It was planned that the college would open in 1859. While the building was still going on, Father Pamfilo had asked Bishop Timon to come to Allegany to consecrate a cemetery on the hillside below the monastery. It was to replace the space around St. Nicholas Church where, in accordance with the Old World customs of burying the dead in the churchyard, the first graves had been placed.

Father Pamfilo took Bishop Timon back to show him the fine new building and told him of the chapel he planned to build next. The college was to be named St. Bonaventure, in honor of the great Scholastic theologian and saint of the Middle Ages, writer of books, teacher at the universities, Doctor of the Church - a friar honored with the truly Franciscan title of Seraphic Doctor.....

At last, in the autumn of 1859, the college was opened. It had been built by the united efforts of three men - the generosity of a layman, the zeal of a bishop, and the unselfish love of a Franciscan friar.

Still more friars had come to join the first small band, all men of culture and learning, but at first with little knowledge of English. However, there were postulants now, ten of them, all American-born or Irish. In the new building were eight priests, and six lay brothers, as well as three students who had arrived ahead of the college opening.

Father Pamfilo had already placed an advertisement in the Freeman's Journal, with a brief description of the new school's location, the length of the school year, and the terms: "Tuition, board, washing and mending, per annum, \$130.00."

## Memorials



*For: Jim Elling*

*From: Marion McCabe*

## Furnace Fund Donations

*Francis Hirt*

*David and Beth Deitz*

*Kathleen Karl*

*Bob and Francie Potter*

*Stephen and Kim Potter*

*David and Eva Potter*

*Linda Potter and Rev. Michael Catanzaro*

*Don and Lucy Benson*

*Orin and Margaret Parker*

*Mary and Peter Pendl*

*Harold and Marjorie Geise*

*Margaret Green*

*Arlene Krittell*

*60 Plus Club*

*Helen and Joe Stayer, Joseph, Elvira*

*Stayer, Tom and Bernie Vanyo, Dick and*

*Neal Brundage, Dave and Alicia Highby*

*James H. Kinley*

*Duane and Caroline Clark*

*Alice Altenburg*

*Marion McCabe*

*In our last newsletter, Bill Howden wrote an article about the Morgan family in Cuba, N.Y. in the late 19th century. He has sent a synopsis of what his research has turned up of 20 years on the Samuel Morgan farm from 1883 to 1904, followed by a son's involvement in a gold mine venture, ca. 1909 - 1911. It makes for interesting reading.*

The first page [he came upon] is a list of purchases and repairs of harnesses, lines, bridles, martingales, etc., and their costs, dating from 1879 - 1881, on a bill-head dated 1883. Below the purchases is a listing, also of 1879 - 1881, for ten gallons of cider in each year, at 10 cents a gallon, totaling \$3.00 to be deducted from the balance due (\$5.75). Apparently the farm bartered ten gallons of cider each year for three years, against what they owed on their bill, which was not paid until June of 1886. Samuel Morgan passed away before that date because at the bottom is written; ..."being in full...against the estate of Samuel Morgan deceased". A bill from 1879, not paid until 1886.

Corroborating documents of Samuel Morgan's death follow. The first being from the Surrogate's Court, Estate of Samuel Morgan, Deceased; everything being granted to his wife, Catharine, duly signed, sealed, recorded and examined on January 22, 1886. I have nothing stating the true death date, but it would have to be before January 18, 1886, because the next two items record payments to two individuals for work done and paid "of Samuel Morgan's Estate." There is also a document showing the purchase of a cemetery plot in the Cuba Cemetery, dated January 28, 1886, "subject however to an uncoverance of a child's grave on its South East corner...". Another note dated January 27, 1886 records the purchase of a floral wreath for \$1.00 for "Samuel Morgan's Estate".

Following are a number of lists and bills for work done on the farm and purchases made. Life goes on, and Catharine Morgan, in December of 1886, lists jobs done and monies paid to a farm hand: "Harvesting oats, \$1.75; six trips to Cuba for goods, \$4.00; 2 cords stove wood, \$2.50; hauling one load stove coal, \$1.25; gathering apples, \$4.25; putting in cellar, .50;" etc. In September of 1887, fittings for an oil burner were purchased from the Cuba Gas Company, including one 3/8" elbow for 4c and a Globe valve costing 40c.

October, 1887 finds lists for crop harvesting jobs; "cutting and putting in the barn 4 acres of oats @ \$1.25; digging potatoes and putting in cellar, \$1.50; and 4 3/4 days on road-it being for the road tax; \$3.00 paid". Also in October a "Heating stove" was purchased for \$18.00.

A Power of Attorney document follows, in which Catharine's son, S. H. Morgan, gains control over his mother, certified in Belmont on April 26, 1888, and also recorded in Sioux City, Iowa on May 3, 1888. Why Iowa? Only a week to travel from Cuba to Iowa in 1888? A fascinating list follows, which documents the trip - he was home by May 10 - and every expense incurred to, and back from, Orange City, Iowa, to sell "88 acres" of "fathers land." The ticket from Cuba to Chicago cost \$14.40, a sleeper from Salamanca to Marion, Ohio was \$2.00, breakfast, dinner and supper cost from 40c to \$1.00, he spent 25c on newspapers, paid the porter 25c, paid a lawyer \$5.00, with the total expense being \$100.50 for his two week trip.

A bill-head dated 1889 lists Catharine as purchasing a pair of fleece (lined) rubbers for 50c, and an unlined pair for 40c. A pair of shoes cost \$2.50, and a trunk was also purchased for \$4.00. July, 1888 and September, 1889 represented by farm job lists, including work done for \$1.00 a day in 1888, and \$1.25 a day in 1889. In the spring of 1890, 30 cord of wood was cut @ 65c "totaling \$6.50", and "splitting 17 cords wood @ 20c" came to \$3.40. A cow was also sold to a farm hand for \$25.00, and it cost him \$12.00 to pasture it, in 1889, which was charged against his owed wages, paid March 24, 1890.

A number of checks are presented from 1890-1891 showing wages for various farm work, such as fixing fence, splitting wood, fixing pump, plus \$17.37 for state and county taxes. Next is a list on a Bill-head of the First National Bank of Cuba, dated 1891, listing several farm jobs performed by Charles Warner, i.e.; rolling land - \$2.50; 2 bushels buckwheat - \$1.00; working highway tax - \$4.00; hauling 5

---

---

loads hay - \$6.25; and three more checks, one of which pays for "Maple syrup - \$5.25". Other farm hands are listed on other lists.

A Pettit Hardware bill-head lists numerous purchases: 1 chisel - 50c; 1 linen chalk line - 40c; 20 lbs. 8d nails - 80c; 2 yds. lamp wick - 10c; 5 pr. hinges - 50c; 1 hand rake - 25c; 1 - 6 ft. Deering mower \$45.00; dating from December 1893 to September 1894 when it was paid in full.

Three bill-heads from the North Cuba Creamery show butter purchases from 1895 1900. With price per pound varying from 20c in June 1895 to 25c in September and November, 1895, with the price falling to 23c in April 1900. North Cuba was a separate settlement from Cuba.

Unfortunately, Catharine Morgan passes away early in 1904. There are three livery vouchers for two "rigs for funeral" costing \$5.00 from each livery stable. Also presented is the bill from the Palmer and Roach Funeral Directors and Embalmers in the amount of \$60.00, paid February 29, 1904. Another bill-head from the Cuba Cemetery Association, also dated February 29, states that it cost \$7.00 "to grave (site) of Catharine Morgan".

The funeral costs are verified by a list written by her son, S. H. Morgan, on a letter-head of L. T. Hendryx, Dealer in Cattle & Hogs, on which is listed all expenses incurred for the funeral, which totaled \$109.32. The list also includes the "state, County & Town Tax" for 1904 (\$15.32), and is dated January 7, 1904, suggesting that Catharine passed away at the beginning of January. I have no document giving the exact date of Catharine's or her husband, Samuel's, passing.

An additional culling of the Cuba material produced an envelope addressed to S. H. Morgan bearing the return address of a gold mining company based in the state of Washington, and a few other items that were added not only to give life to a son known only by name, but because the subject itself is so interesting. The California gold rush involved many people, and although it was pretty much over by the end of the 19th century, here is a local man still involved in such a risky venture at the turn of the twentieth century. The material I have dates from about 1909 to 1911, and includes not one, but two, hand-drawn maps of the mine tunnels, apparently dating at least a couple of years apart. One does not show S. H. Morgan's name, but the second notes that he is a "Director" in the company. The reverse of the first map lists fourteen rows of ascending numbers. Exactly what they mean, I do not know, but as a guess they may represent the number of feet (?) dug in a certain amount of time. Maybe not. What would your guess be?

Also presented are "copies" of three form letters written by S. H. Morgan, regarding the annual stockholders meeting of 1911; the president's report; a letter stating the reason for the annual meeting; and a proxy form letter. The original three letters would have been mailed to the proper officer to be filled in, printed, and sent to all stockholders twenty days prior to the meeting date of April 3, 1911, which is so stated in the form letters. Two further letters discuss the problems being faced by the major stockholders; the need for new investors; more money for machinery and to keep digging; there has been a shake-up in leadership and not everyone is pulling together; and a note for the sum of \$2,500 is coming due.

A tantalizing glimpse into the late nineteenth century, and so many questions yet to be answered. On a final note, I have found an 1869 map of Cuba Township that appears to show the location of an S. H. Morgan residence; perhaps the farm, located at the northern tip of Cuba Lake, or as the map says, the Oil Creek Reservoir.

I ask again, does this pique the interest of anyone? It sure did me.

*Does anyone save items such as this anymore so future historians could be able to recreate our lives? Or is everything on computers where the information can be reached and then deleted when it is of no further use? I can hardly wait for the next installment of the life of the Morgan family. Thanks, Bill, for all your hard work.*

---

## NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, May 3 at 2 p.m. at the Heritage Center, 25 North Second Street, Allegany. Dr. Rick Frederick, a teacher of U. S. history at Pitt-Bradford since 1979, will speak on and give a slide presentation about the Kennedy Assassination. About 75% of Americans think there was some sort of conspiracy involved in the assassination, but no one has yet produced (and proved) a plausible explanation involving a conspiracy. Dr. Frederick will talk about this conspiracy theory and show why he believes the Warren Commission explanation was correct.

Dr. Frederick has published a book on President Warren Harding, and is completing a biography of President William Howard Taft. Dr. Frederick once taught at St. Bonaventure, and received his Ph.D. from Penn State. He spoke to our group several years ago about presidential elections. We welcome him back.

See you on **Sunday, May 3 at 2 p.m. at the Heritage Center** to hear about **The Kennedy Assassination.**



**Allegany Area Historical Association  
P.O. BOX 162  
Allegany, NY 14706**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

---

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 32  
ALLEGANY, NY 14706

---

---

### INSIDE SPECIAL ISSUE:

Presidents Report

150 Years of Franciscans

19th Century Life on a Farm

---