

PLEADINGS

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November-December 2018

A CHRISTMAS MYSTERY . . .

“Twas the Night Before Christmas” is a cherished poem and storybook that perfectly capture the magic of Christmas. Children are bedazzled by the colorful imagery of sugar plums, flying reindeer and the jolly, twinkling-eyed Santa who whooshes down our chimneys. For the last two centuries, this festive poem has become as much of a staple at Christmas time as turkey dinners, presents and decorated trees. Each and every December, parents around the world would recite it verbatim. Few, however, realize that there is a debate going on as to who wrote Twas the Night Before Christmas in the first place.

When it was originally published in the Troy Sentinel of New York, two days before Christmas in 1823, editor, Orville Holley, admitted in print the following:

We know not to whom we are indebted for the following description of that unwearied patron of music—that homely and delightful personage of parental kindness, Santa Claus, his costumes, and his equipage, as he goes about visiting the firesides of this happy land, laden with Christmas bounties; but from whomsoever it may have come,

we give thanks for it. There is, to our apprehension, a spirit of cordial goodness in it, a playfulness of fancy and a benevolent alacrity to enter into the feelings and promote the simple pleasures of children which are altogether charming.

We hope our little patrons, both lads and lassies, will accept it as a proof of our unfeigned good will towards them—as a token of our warmest wish that they may have many a Merry Christmas; that they may long retain their beautiful relish for those unbought home-bred joys which derive their flavor from filial piety and fraternal love, and which they may be assured are the least alloyed that time can furnish them; and that they may never part with that simplicity of character which is their own fairest ornament and for the sake of which they have been pronounced by Authority which none can gainsay, types of such of us as shall inherit the kingdom of heaven.

The verse took up an entire column in print and the header read “An Account from a Visit of St Nicholas”. From these humble beginnings, a legend emerged and thrived over the following years. There is only Holley’s word that someone sent this missive in anonymously. It is quite possible

that either he or one of his staff wrote it but preferred not to declare it for whatever reason.

The Christmas poem surfaced in newspapers another couple of times in the following 6 or 7 years. Then it disappeared out of the public domain until sometime in 1844, when a New York publisher, Bartlett and Welford, released a book of poetry that Clement Clarke Moore authored. In it was a version of the now fabled classic. In a substantial preface, Moore revealed that he wrote the collections of poems at various points during his lifetime. Many people consider this to be an example of ‘case-closed’, and they do not consider that perhaps history might be wrong. In the same preface, Moore did go into detail in regards to lighter aspects to life in general. Descriptions of Moore indicate that he was somewhat stern and humorless or, at the very least, his reputation was usually more of a serious one.

How Did the Sentinel Get the Poem in 1823?

The story of how the “Twas the Night Before Christmas” poem surfaced in the Sentinel is also open to some interpretation. The most common theory is that the eldest

daughter of Reverend Doctor David Butler, Harriet, overheard the poem when visiting the Moores in 1822. She copied it to her own album and eventually sent it on to the Sentinel. Historians believe that Moore opted not to contest this publication, as he considered it beneath the dignity of a theological professor. This may or may not be accurate. There were no hints to even suggest links at a possible author.

For the rest of his life, which ended on 10 July 1862, Moore didn't show any interest in the possible celebrity from the work he allegedly wrote. Not long before his passing, the New York Historical Society sent a representative to interview the 83 year old. The interview went unpublished for 47 years until January 1919. It offered little to no additional information about the poem. That is not such a bad thing though.

Moore didn't confirm giving Harriet a personal copy, which could mean she did overhear it innocently enough. Moore also thought it was possible that Harriet obtained a copy by other means – perhaps via one of his female relatives. Dr. Moore had three children, two daughters sandwiching a son. It is logical to assume that the eldest girl may have shown more of an interest in Santa Claus than his other children, since at the time of publication they both would have been a little too young to have piqued their curiosity.

The Missing Manuscript

Another fact that doesn't work in the Moores' favor is that the original manuscript is not in their possession. Also, there is no evidence that the original draft survived into modern times. Casimir Moore, Clement's grandson, has gone on record with the firm belief that the intention for the poem was strictly for the benefit and enjoyment of Moore's immediate family: not for it to become the world's most famous Christmas poem that it has become today. Several claims at the

authorship eventually compelled Clement to admit to it himself. Casimir also revealed that he had no knowledge of where the original manuscript could be today.

The Livingston Dutch Proof?

Perhaps the family of Major Henry Livingston Jr. might have an idea. According to them, reading the "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" poem was a private family practice they shared. They also insist that the first time this family tradition occurred was on or around 1830. Henry Livingston had Dutch ancestry, as his mother hailed from the Netherlands. A good number of references used in the poem itself do point to European origins, in particular Holland. At least some of the reindeer have their names lifted from the Dutch language. Donner and Blitzen may reflect Dunder and Blixem – the Dutch words for Thunder and Lightning respectively.

Perhaps more conclusive evidence comes in ear-witness testimony. Four of Livingston's own children, as well as a next door neighbor, insisted that the tale was often told to them from as early as 1807. Each even went as far to claim that there was a written copy with amendments and notations on it. However, their home burned down in a fire, which took this possible blockbuster proof with it.

An academic study done on both men and their poetry came to the conclusion that it was almost certainly not possible that Clement Moore could have authored the work. Both the content and the structure were different to the prose used by Moore. It matched up much better with Livingston's style.

After almost two centuries though, does it really matter? Just enjoy it for what it is: a brilliant poem that conveys the true spirit of Christmas.

From HistoricMysteries.com

NALS OF GREATER KALAMAZOO BOARD OF DIRECTORS December 4, 2018

The December Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, December 4, 2018, at Austin Koffron. Minutes of the November Board meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report was approved. Committee reports were given and discussed, including Ways & Means, Membership, Education, and Programs and Reservations. We currently have 30 members. Koeze Nut sales are proceeding. Schwan's campaign will start again in 2019. Attorney Directory project was discussed, and the Board again reaffirmed its earlier decision not to include attorney information this time around, due to difficulty in keeping it up to date and added expense in printing. Holiday charity is Mattawan Food Packs, and we are collecting cans of pasta. Wreaths Across America event is December 15, 12 noon, Fort Custer. Several members have signed up for the Christmas Carol performance on December 27. Big Brothers/Big Sisters bowling event is February 16.

Next board meeting will be held January 8, 2019, at Miller Canfield at 6:30 p.m. It will be preceded at 5:30 by a planning meeting for the 2019 NALS of Michigan Annual Meeting. Bring some snacks and come out and join the planning team!

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

A Nominations Committee for 2019-2020 officers will be selected at the January General Membership meeting. If you are interested in serving on the committee (or serving as an officer), please contact President Michele Guyman.



“Twas the Night Before Christmas”

‘Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her ‘kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter’s nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

“Now, DASHER! now, DANCER! now, PRANCER and VIXEN!
On, COMET! on CUPID! on, DONDER and BLITZEN!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!”

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes — how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
“HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT!”



What: **Wreaths Across America**
When: Saturday, December 15, 2018
Time: 12:00 p.m.
Address: Fort Custer National Cemetery
15501 Dickman Rd.
Augusta, MI 49012

REMEMBER our fallen U.S. veterans. HONOR those who serve. TEACH your children the value of freedom. NALS of Greater Kalamazoo is proud to be volunteering to place wreaths on veteran gravestones at Fort Custer National Cemetery. If you would like to help volunteer for this event, please sign up at: <https://www.wreathsaCrossamerica.org/>. Also, email Michele Guyman: mightymmo@sbcglobal.net that you have signed up to volunteer. The more the merrier!! ©

2018 HOLIDAY CHARITY



NALS of Greater Kalamazoo is once again supporting an agency during the holiday season. The agency chosen for this year is **Mattawan Food Packs**. This agency supports students who are at risk of going hungry over the weekends throughout the school year in the Mattawan Consolidated School District. They directly serve 184 students (and counting) among the Early Elementary, Later Elementary, Middle School and High School. Every Friday each student receives a food pack filled with healthy, kid-friendly meal and snack items that provide nutritional support on the weekends. They also give each family in the program a weekly voucher to redeem for one gallon of milk at Wagoner's Hometown Food Store in Mattawan. Hygiene packs are also distributed twice throughout the school year.

We have been asked to collect 15 ounce cans of pasta—such as canned raviolis, spaghetti and meatballs, etc. They are in need of 200 cans. If we start now we can make this happen!

The December meeting will be on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at Michelle's on Gull Road. We will be collecting cans of pasta right up until that evening. You may bring your cans of pasta to any of our meetings between now and December 18th. If your employer is willing to assist us or if you would prefer to make a cash donation toward the purchase of cans of pasta, please contact Paula Steffey, PP, CLP-SC, CWCP (westernmom40@gmail.com).

B O W L FOR KIDS' SAKE

When: Saturday, February 16, 2019

What: Big Brothers Big Sisters

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Address: Revel & Roll West

4500 Stadium Drive

Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Cost: BBBS suggests a fundraising goal of \$60 per person

WE'RE DEFENDERS OF POTENTIAL!! Defending every child's potential is important to us. NALS of Greater Kalamazoo is creating teams for this year's BBBS Bowl for Kids' Sake. Bowl for Kids' Sake is a fun and easy way for you and your colleagues to support the life-changing work of Big Brothers Big Sisters. If you care about kids and can spare a little time to have fun with your colleagues, then Bowl for Kids' Sake is for you! - No special skills are needed. Join us at the bowling lanes to have fun and celebrate your fundraising success!!

Sign up to bowl at: <https://amplify.netdonor.net/7222/bfks2019/46707/nals-of-greater-kalamazoo>

If the current team fills up, email Michele Guyman: mightymmo@sbcglobal.net and she will be happy to create another team!! The more the merrier! ☺

Certification Corner

by Paula Steffey, PP, CLP-SC, CWCP

Instead of a legal quiz this month it is time to have some light hearted holiday fun. Complete the quiz below, sign your name, and email it to me for a chance to win a prize. The deadline for submission will be December 17th and the drawing will be held at the holiday party on December 18th. Good luck and have fun!

1. Every elf has this ornament on the tip of their shoes. Which ornament are we talking about?
2. How many points does a snowflake traditionally have?
3. Traditions of Christmas around the world will tell you that Santa Claus is known by many names. What is the French name for Santa Claus?
4. Two of the reindeers are named after weather phenomenon. Name the reindeer.
5. What country can be credited with the creation of the Christmas beverage, eggnog?
6. Which country does St. Nicholas originally belong to?
7. Which was the first state in the United States to recognize Christmas as an official holiday?
8. Which was the last state in the United States that declared Christmas a legal holiday?
9. What was the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" originally titled?
10. In what decade did Coca-Cola start using Santa Claus in advertisements?
11. In what country did Silent Night originate?
12. In what country did the custom of putting up a Christmas tree originate?
13. What was the first year that the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree was put up?
14. What northeastern US state holds the Guinness record for largest snowman?
15. What country is the Poinsettia, with its red and green foliage, native to?

APPLICATION FORM FOR NALS OF MICHIGAN
LEGAL PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: (home) _____ (work) _____

Date Submitted: _____ Date Rec'd by Chair: _____

A. LEGAL PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Education:

1. High School _____

2. Secondary _____

3. Has candidate received PLS and/or PP certification? Yes _____ No _____

4. Has candidate completed Official/Professional course sponsored by a business or secretarial school, college, or university?

Yes No Date Completed _____

Work Experience:

Dates	Years	Name of Employer	Position Held
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

If more space is needed, please use additional paper and check here. _____

Total number of years of legal experience: _____

In Column A, please indicate the percentage of time in your present job spent in each activity. In Column B, indicate prior experience by a check mark.

	Column A	Column B
1. Office manager (performs all duties below or supervises and is responsible for performance of same)	_____	_____
2. Secretarial skills (dictation and transcription)	_____	_____
3. Receptionist duties (phones, greeting clients, etc.)	_____	_____
4. Maintenance of appointments and court calendars	_____	_____
5. Full bookkeeping (including preparation of quarterly FICA returns, preparation of statements, payment of bills, maintenance of records)	_____	_____
6. Maintenance of time records	_____	_____
7. Training of non-lawyer personnel	_____	_____
8. Supervision of non-lawyer personnel	_____	_____
9. Interviewing clients for basic information on new cases	_____	_____
10. Control of filing and filing systems	_____	_____
11. Order of supplies and equipment	_____	_____
12. Research for attorney	_____	_____
13. Preparation of pleadings or other documents for attorney	_____	_____
14. Composition of routine correspondence	_____	_____
15. Routing of incoming mail	_____	_____
16. Maintenance of library	_____	_____
17. Memoranda for attorney relative to legislative changes in law	_____	_____
18. Other (describe on back of last page)	_____	_____

B. SERVICE TO NALS, NALS OF MICHIGAN, AND LOCAL CHAPTER

Date of affiliation as member or member at large _____

Name and location of local chapter _____

	Elected Offices Held	Appointed Offices and/or Committee Chairmanships Held
Local	_____	_____
	_____	_____
State	_____	_____
	_____	_____
National	_____	_____
	_____	_____

C. CIVIC, CHARITABLE, AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES (list organizations and years of service)

Dates	Organization
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

D. COMMENTS BY PRESENT EMPLOYER (not to exceed 500 words) may be attached.

E. COMMENTS BY LOCAL CHAPTER OFFICER (not to exceed 500 words) may be attached.

F. COMMENTS BY CIVIC LEADER OR MINISTER (not to exceed 500 words) may be attached.

Date _____ Signature _____

Title _____

Address _____

Chapter _____

NALS OF MICHIGAN BYLAWS

G. Legal Professional of the Year (LPY). The President will be the liaison to this committee. The President will appoint the chairperson from the local chapters following the rotation listed below:

NALS of Detroit

NALS of West Michigan

Grand Traverse Area Legal Professionals

NALS of Jackson County

NALS of Greater Kalamazoo

NALS of Lansing

This Chair shall mail or e-mail each chapter and member-at-large a copy of the Standing Rules section entitled "Legal Professional of the Year (LPY)," together with the appropriate application form, on or before October 1. This award is open to all members in good standing whether they belong to a chapter or are an at-large member. The Chair shall select three judges (who shall not be NALS members). The judges shall include (1) an educator from the business field, (2) an attorney, and (3) a civic leader from the Chair's community. The Chair shall submit the names of the potential judges to the NALS of Michigan Board of Directors for approval at the Fall Membership Meeting. Nomination materials must be postmarked by February 1 and received by the Chair no later than February 5 to be eligible for consideration. If the Chair so desires, she/he may seek assistance from one (1) or more member(s) of her/his chapter to prepare materials for mailing. No assistant shall be privy to the name of the LPY. All entries received that conform to the rules shall be submitted to the judges. Any NALS of Michigan member with at least five years legal experience is eligible to be nominated, with the exception of the current Board of Directors, former winners, and members of the Chair's chapter. A winner and two runners-up shall be selected. The Chair shall forward information forms to all three finalists to be completed and returned to the Chair for use in press releases. The LPY Chair, the President, and the judges shall be the only individuals who will know the final results prior to the award presentation. The Chair shall purchase and present to the winner an engraved gift and flowers at the awards banquet. The completed information shall be forwarded to the new Marketing Committee after Annual Meeting for the preparation of press releases. The names of the three finalists selected by the judges shall be kept in the strictest confidence. The entry data submitted on behalf of the contestants shall be destroyed prior to passing the file to the next committee chair. A voucher for reimbursement and original receipts shall be provided to the Treasurer prior to the end of the fiscal year.

NALS of Greater Kalamazoo
December 2018 Holiday and Annual Charity Event

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

Michelle's Restaurant

(4010 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048; Phone: 269-344-1415)

SPEAKERS:

Tamara Davis
Lisa Allen
Nina Hamilton



HOLIDAY CHARITY

MATTAWAN FOOD PACKS

This agency was founded in 2011 and supports students who are at risk of going hungry over the weekends throughout the school year in the Mattawan Consolidated School District. They directly serve 184 students (and counting) among the Early Elementary, Later Elementary, Middle School and High School. Every Friday each student receives a food pack filled with healthy, kid-friendly meal and snack items that provide nutritional support on the weekends. They also give each family in the program a weekly voucher to redeem for one gallon of milk at Wagoner's Hometown Food Store in Mattawan. Hygiene packs are also distributed twice throughout the school year.

We have been asked to collect 15 ounce cans of pasta—such as canned raviolis, spaghetti and meatballs, etc.*

If your employer is willing to assist us or if you would prefer to make a cash donation, please contact Paula Steffey, PP, CLP-SC, CWCP at westernmom40@gmail.com.

Checks can be made payable to: Mattawan Food Packs

AGENDA

5:30 p.m. – Networking

6:00 p.m. – Dinner Buffet

6:30 p.m. – Holiday Charity / Mattawan Food Packs

7:15 p.m. – Holiday Decoration Exchange**

(A very short chapter business meeting will conclude the evening.)



HOLIDAY BUFFET

Carved Turkey, Carved Prime Rib

Mashed Potatoes with Chicken Gravy

Green Bean Almondine

Spinach Salad (w/Strawberries and Feta Cheese)

Rolls and Butter

Non-alcoholic beverage

Cost: \$19.50 per person

Tax and gratuity are included in the price.

A variety of wines will also be available (Donations accepted!)

RESERVATION PROCEDURE

E-mail your reservation to Paula Steffey, PP, CLP-SC, CWCP at westernmom40@gmail.com or call 269-377-9341 **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 10, 2018** to reserve your spot. Give your payment to Jennifer Robinson, NALS Treasurer, at the meeting. Checks are welcome. If you pay in cash, please bring the exact amount. SORRY, BUT ONCE THE RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN CALLED IN, YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT FOR YOUR ORDER IF YOU HAVE TO CANCEL AND DO NOT FIND A REPLACEMENT.

***Please plan to bring your donations for Mattawan Food Packs to the meeting—and thank you in advance for your generosity!**

****Holiday Decoration Exchange:** If you would like to participate, please bring a wrapped holiday decoration with you.

2018 - 2019 Officers

Michele Guyman, President

Phone: 586-557-4054; mightymmo@sbcglobal.net

Tami L. Carl, CLP, Vice President

Phone: 226-2966; carlt@millerjohnson.com

Samantha Wilder, Recording Secretary

Phone: 870-5329; sgwilder22@yahoo.com

Paula Steffey, PP-SC, CLP, CWCP,

Corresponding Secretary;

Phone: 377-9341; westernmom40@gmail.com

Jennifer Robinson, Treasurer

Phone: 459-9500; jen@austin-koffron.com

Nancy Thomas, PLS, Director

Phone: 381-7030; thomasn@millercanfield.com

Cathy A. Zackery, CLP, Immediate Past President

Phone: 382-0444; czackery@levine-levine.com

Diane Y. Berry, PLS, Parliamentarian

Phone: 226-8860; diberry@plunkettcooney.com

* * * * *

Nancy Thomas, PLS, *Pleadings* Editor

Phone: 381-7030; thomasn@millercanfield.com

CALENDAR

Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Location: Miller Canfield

Next 2019 Annual

Meeting Planning Session:

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

5:30 p.m.

Location: Miller Canfield

December General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

5:30 p.m.

Michelle's - Gull Road

Program: Mattawan Food Packs

January General Membership Meeting

January 22, 2019

5:30 p.m.

Miller Johnson

Program: Employer's Perspective: Proposal 1

Merry Christmas



**NALS of Greater Kalamazoo
P.O. Box 50221
Kalamazoo MI 49005**