

A Family's Troubles - William and Agnes Mannion

Eighteen ninety-five was a difficult year for our ancestor, William Mannion, and his family. William Mannion was the oldest son of William and Mary Manion of Elm Street on Grasshopper Hill. That year, the city of Baltimore was in the midst of an economic crisis that began with the Panic of 1893. Unemployment was high and so was the immigration rate. A surplus of laborers was competing for whatever jobs were available.

William Mannion was a stonecutter which was a trade that often included periods of unemployment. He would be hired to work on a specific project and when it was finished have to search for work again. William married Agnes Mooney in May of 1888, had two children by 1895, and during that period, moved his family at least eight times to wherever there was work. In 1895 he was faced with long periods of unemployment, during which he drank, probably with his fellow unemployed stonecutters. Right before Christmas that year, William ran out of money and the family was evicted from the home they were renting. It was a sad story that was covered by the newspapers. It is fortunate, however, that we can read in detail about what happened to our ancestors 115 years ago.

The four incidents below, from 1895, reveal to us that William may have had a drinking problem which may have influenced the events that occurred at the end of that year.

1895 April 24 Northwestern Police District, Baltimore, Wednesday, 8:55 p.m.
William Manion, male, 35, white, stonecutter, married. Offense: drunk Complainant: Officer ?. Fined \$1.00 plus costs - committed.

1895 May 25 Northwestern Police District, Baltimore, Saturday, 12:38 a.m.
William Manion, male, 35, white, stonecutter. Offense: drunk. Fine: \$1.00 + costs. Committed

1895 June 14 Northwestern Police District, Baltimore, Friday, 12:12 p.m. **William Manion** (warrant), male, 35, white, laborer, married. Offense: disturbing a neighborhood, Complainant: Officer ? & Joseph Hughes, **Mt. Royal Hill**. Fined \$10.00 + costs - sentenced to 60 days in jail.

1895 Oct. 2 Northwestern Police District, Baltimore, Wednesday, 5:00 p.m., **William Manion**, male, 35, white, stonecutter, married. Offense: drunk, Complainant: Officer Wilderson. Fined \$1.00 plus costs.

By December 1895, William and his family were living at 36 West Preston Street in Baltimore. On Dec. 6th, a neighbor in the house next door called the police and William was arrested.

1895 Dec. 6, Central Police District 4:30 p.m.
William Mannion, male, 35, white, stonecutter, married, can read & write. Offence: Violating Sec. 27, Art. 67 (Disturbing the Peace), Complainant: David Russell of 38 W. Preston St. Officer Mills. Fined \$1.00 plus costs and committed. Magistrate: Murray.

Week of December 1, 1895, Baltimore City Jail Records,
William Manion, Disturbing the Peace

William was jailed on the 6th of December but we don't know for how long. After the following week, the family was told to vacate their home because the rent hadn't been paid. On December 19th, when William wasn't at home, the landlord threw William's family and their belongings out into the street.

HOMELESS AND HELPLESS

Mrs. Agnes Mannion and Her Children Aided by Agent Parker

Mrs. Agnes Mannion and her two children, Winnie, aged six years, and Willie, aged four years, were turned out of their home last night (Dec. 19th) on account of being in arrears for rent. They lived on the second floor of **36 West Preston** street.

A few days ago they were notified by their landlord that they would have to leave the house unless the rent was paid without delay. Wm. Mannion, the husband, who is a stonemason, was out of work and he was unable to raise money for the rent. After dark yesterday, a constable appeared at the house in the absence of Mr. Mannion and turned into the street Mrs. Mannion and her children with the small amount of furniture they own.

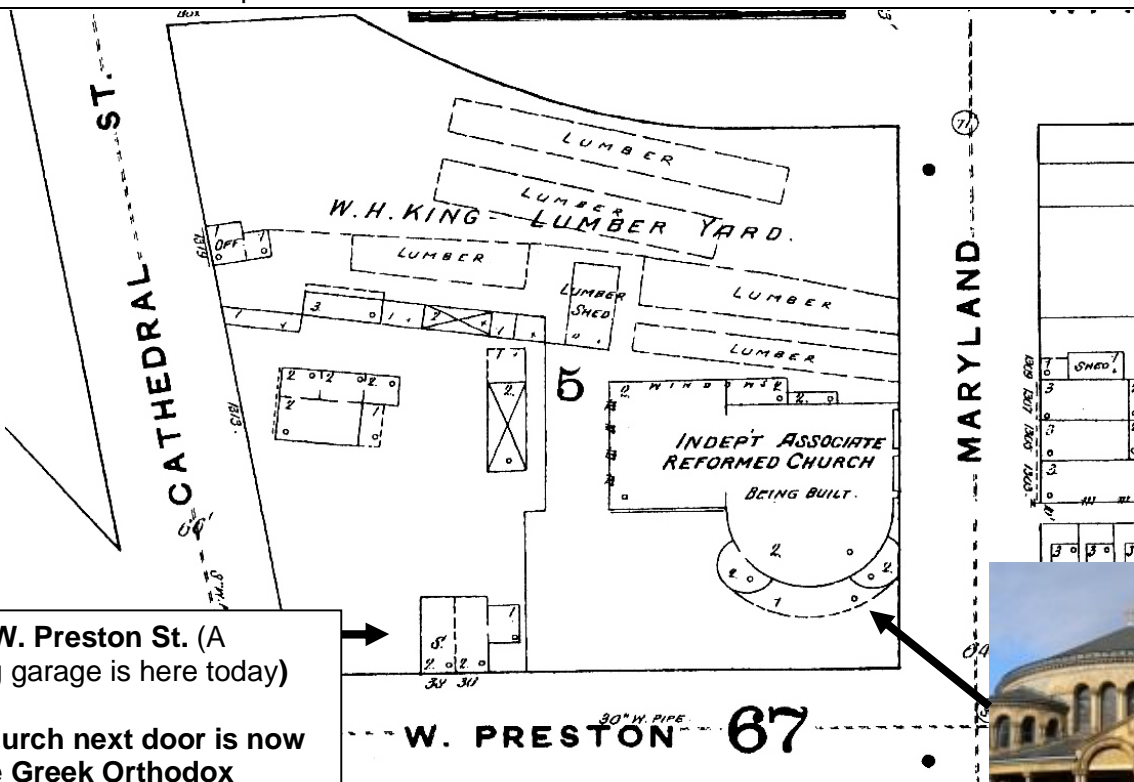
The house is a frame building elevated a few feet from the street. Having no place to go, Mrs. Mannion took her children and her few belongings under the house, where she and her children tried to keep warm by covering themselves with rags.

Mrs. Henrietta Livingston, who lives on the first floor of the house, saw the distressed condition of her neighbors, so she went to the central police station and informed Lieutenant Rowe. He informed Agent Parker, of the Society of the Protection of Children, and the patrol wagon was sent to remove the unfortunate people to a temporary asylum.

When the patrol wagon arrived at the house it was surrounded by a crowd of hysterical women, who were trying to minister to Mrs. Mannion and her children. At first, Mrs. Mannion refused to leave the place, saying her husband would call for her in a short time. When it was explained that she would not be taken to a police station she readily assented to go to the home of Mr. Parker for the night.

She said her husband has not been at work for several weeks, but they had managed to get along until their rent amounted to \$5. They could not pay that amount, and were turned into the street in consequence. Mrs. Mannion also said she has relatives living in Baltimore, but does not know where they can be found. She is in a delicate condition.

Mr. Parker will care for the family until some permanent relief can be obtained. If it is desired, the children will be place in some institution.



36-38 W. Preston St. (A parking garage is here today)

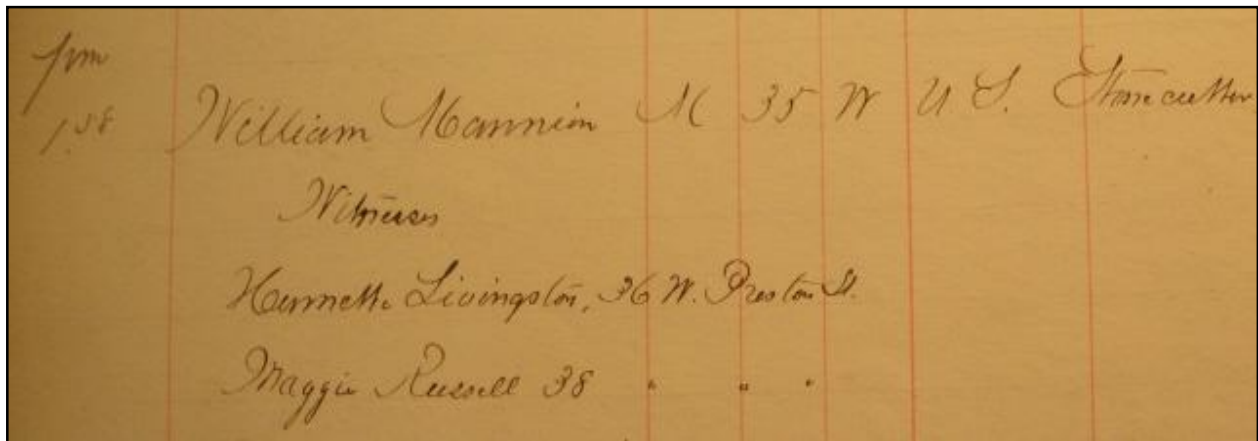
The church next door is now the the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation



William Mannion returned to the house on December 20th and found his family and their belongings gone. An incident with a neighbor occurred, and someone notified the police. William was charged with two crimes on that same day; "drunk on street" and "habitually disorderly." The "drunk" charge was dismissed, but the other charge resulted in a three-month sentence at the Maryland House of Correction.

December 20, 1895 Central Police District, Baltimore, 1:38 p.m.
William Mannion, male, 35, white, stonecutter, married, can read & write.
Offence: Drunk on Street. Officer: B. Byrnes. Dismissed.

December 20, 1895 Central Police District, Baltimore, Wednesday, 1:58 p.m.
William Mannion, male, 35, white, stonecutter.
Offence: Habitually disorderly (not insane)
Witnesses: Henriette Livingston, 36 W. Preston St., Maggie Russell, 38 W. Preston St.
Officers: McIntire NWD (Northwest District), Mills, B.D. Byrnes.
Committed to House of Correction for three months. Appeal taken.
Officer: Byrnes. Complainant: Henriette Livingston



The image shows a handwritten note on lined paper. The text is written in cursive and includes the following information: "Jm", "1st", "William Mannion", "35 W U.S. Stonecutter", "Witness", "Henriette Livingston, 36 W. Preston St.", and "Maggie Russell 38".

The jail record below probably refers to William Mannion, since the Preston Street incident occurred during this week on Dec. 20th. The Assault & Battery charge suggests he may have had a physical confrontation with the landlord or a neighbor.

Baltimore City Jail Records, Week of December 16, 1895
William Manion, Assault & Battery, (*The Baltimore City Jail record only gives the week and category of crime, but not specific dates or other information.*)

The press covered the troubles of William and Agnes Mannion as a human interest story during Christmas week. They reported on charitable donations that were sent for the family.

THE SUN, Dec. 21, 1895
AN EVICTED FAMILY'S TROUBLES
"William Mannion, whose wife and children were ejected from their home, on West Preston street, Thursday (Dec. 19), because they could not pay their rent, was sentenced to the House of Correction for three months yesterday by Justice Murray. Mannion was arrested by Patrolman Burns on the complaint of Mrs. Harriet Livingston, who lives in the house from which the Mannions were ejected. He took an appeal from the decision of the Justice. Mrs. Mannion is being cared for by Mrs. Livingston, and her two children have been sent to St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum. "Cash" sends \$5 and "Anti-Monroe Doctrine" sends \$1 to The Sun office for Mrs. Mannion and her family. The money will be given to Marshall Frey to deliver."

Baltimore American, December 24, 1895

FOR THE MANNION FAMILY

"Federal Hill" sends a Christmas gift of \$1 for the **Wm. Mannion** family. The money will be handed to Marshall Frey.

THE SUN, December 31, 1895

For the Mannion family. "Cash" has sent \$1 to the Sun Office for the Mannion family. The money will be turned over to Marshall Frey.



Police Marshall, Jacob Frey was involved with the Mannions and their troubles.

Feb. 10, 1896, Maryland House of Correction - Reception Log

William Mannion #11972, Age: 35

Hair: Dark, Eyes: Dark, Stature: 5' 5 & 3/4" Born: MD, Residence: Baltimore

Occupation: Stone cutter

Convicted in: Baltimore City Court, Crime: Habitually Disorderly

Date Sentenced: Dec. 20, 1895, Date of Reception: Feb. 10, 1896

Duration of Sentence: 3 mos. Expiration: Mar. 20, 1896

William was sentenced on Dec. 20, 1895, but he did not enter the House of Correction until Feb. 10, 1896. William was released from the Maryland House of Correction on March 10, 1896, ten days early, for good behavior.

After William's release, the family lived at #1904 Elm Street on Grasshopper Hill and things went back to the way they were.

July 11, **1896**, Northwest Police District, Baltimore, Saturday, 3:50 a.m.

William Manion, male, 36, white, stonecutter, married.

Offence: willfully disturbing neighborhood by making loud & unseemly noises.

Complainant: Officer Flock. Fined \$3.00 plus costs.

May 27, **1897** Northwest Police District, Baltimore Thursday, 8:07 p.m.

William Mannion, 37, white, stonecutter, married.

Offense: disorderly conduct.

Complainant: Officer Batwick. Fined \$1.00 + costs.

July 22, **1897** Northwest Police District, Baltimore, Thursday, 4:50 a.m.

William Manion, male, 37, white, stonecutter, married.

Offense: disorderly conduct.

Complainant: Officer Cannoles & Lewis Jackson 314 n Vincent alley.

Fine: \$1.00 + costs. Committed

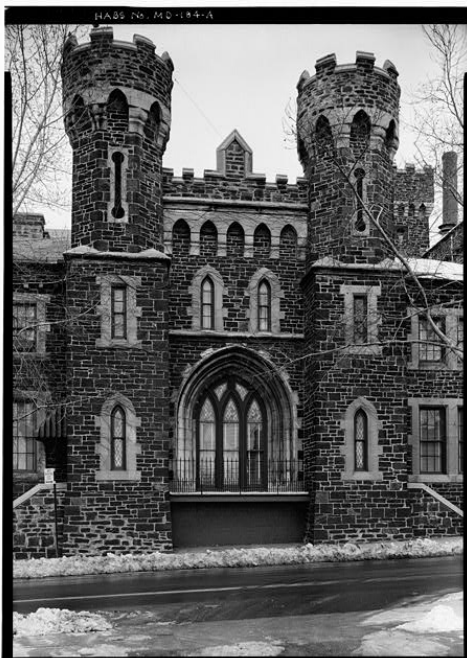
August 10, 1897, Northwest Police District, Baltimore, Tuesday, 8:22 p.m.
William Manion, male, 35, white, stonecutter, married.
 Offence: willfully disturbing neighborhood.
 Complainant: Officer Batwick. Fined \$5.00 plus costs and 30 days in jail.
AND
Agnes Manion, female, 35, white, housework, married.
 Offence: disorderly. Complainant: Officer Batwick. Dismissed.

Record of the *North Western* Police
 Commencing on the *10* day of *August* 18*97*

TIME	OFFENDER	Sex	Age	Color	Nativity	Occupation	Marked or Stigm.	Read and Write	OFFENCE	COMPLAINANT Name and Address
8.22 Pm	William Manion	Male	35	W	U.S.	Stone Cutter			Viol. Sec 67 Act 1792 wilfully disturbing neighborhood	Off Barwick " Prock
6.22 Pm	Agnes Manion	Female	35	W	U.S.	House Work			Viol. Chap. 672. Sec 68 act 1892. disorderly	"

The **Sun Paper** reported the incident:

The Baltimore Sun, August 11, 1897,
A Whole Family Locked Up
William Manion and his wife, **Agnes Manion**, and their infant child spent last night at the northwestern police station. The man is charged with disturbing the peace and his wife with being disorderly. They live on "**Grasshopper Hill**" between the Mount Royal entrance to Druid Hill Park and the Northern Central Railroad.



William was sentenced to 30 days in the Baltimore City Jail. By 1897 his mother, Mary Manion, his aunt Mary Coffay Lee, his brothers, and his cousin Frederick Frissel had spent time there.

(Photo: Library of Congress)