

Charles Morgan's Gift to Clinton



The Morgan School

*To the Students and Staff of
The Morgan School
From
the Morgan Alumni Association*



"May we with pride in our hearts for Morgan
with strength from her days gone by,
learn always to live our lives the Morgan Way."
Sidney White

Dedicated to Ted Neely, 1954
4/9/1936 - 7/20/2013
A devoted graduate and our idea guy.

The Morgan Alumni Association is open to all Morgan graduates and others having attended the school. Its mission is to promote pride in and appreciation for the history and traditions of The Morgan School, while honoring the scholastic excellence, extra-curricular achievements and community service of its students and graduates. The Morgan Alumni Association strives to promote and foster pride, loyalty, and a lifelong commitment to the school and continued relationships among its graduates.



CHARLES MORGAN¹

The town of Clinton is fortunate to have had several generous benefactors whose gifts to the town have included the Andrews Memorial Town Hall, the Henry Carter Hull Library, the Elisha White House (Old Brick), the Adam Stanton House, Peters Memorial Woods, Ethel Peters Recreational Complex, the Elliot Meadow on the Indian River, the Clinton Firehouse, and The Morgan School.

The Morgan School was given to the town by Charles Morgan. Born on April 21, 1795, Charles Morgan was the son of Colonel George and Elizabeth Redfield Morgan. The old Morgan homestead at 86 East Main Street was located nearly opposite the property that eventually became the site of the school he founded. His father was a large land holder, magistrate, and ship owner and operator in the West Indies trade, as was his grandfather. Leaving Clinton with only a common school education, Charles pursued no academic or collegiate course because at that time such training was sought only by those who intended to enter one of the "learned professions."

Following his older brother to New York, Charles became a grocer's clerk at the age of 14. At the age of 21 he went into business for himself owning a ship chandlery and import business. With this enterprise, young Mr. Morgan began importing fruit directly from the south, owning several sailing vessels that would travel to the West Indies. His

¹ *Drawing by Victor Mays*

first ship, the *Franklin*, was built by Captain Isaac Redfield, a Master Shipbuilder who lived in Killingworth (Clinton).

Charles Morgan married Emily Reeves in 1817; they had five children. Emily died in 1850 and Mr. Morgan married Mary Jane Sexton in 1852. They had no children.

Charles Morgan came to realize the value of the steam engine, recognizing the fact that steam would eventually replace the sailing vessel, and iron would replace wood in the building of ships. He secured an interest in the *David Brown*, the first steamship that traveled from New York to Charleston, SC. He started a line of steamers in 1835 that traveled to the Gulf, followed in 1837 by the *Columbia* that traveled from New Orleans to Galveston, TX, developing a genius for the management of commercial enterprises. It was the establishment of his great steamship lines that aided the growth of commerce along the Gulf Coast, establishing the Texas and New Orleans Mail Line, the Mexican Ocean Mail and Inland Company, and the Southern Mail Steam Company. These lines were expanded to Havana in 1868 and New York in 1875. To aid in the building of these steamships, Charles Morgan gained control of the T. F. Secor Marine Engine Works in New York in 1850 and changed its name to the Morgan Iron Works. The ironworks built the engines and iron plates needed for new steamers.

With the coming of the Civil War, three of Mr. Morgan's steamers were seized in New Orleans and put into service for the Confederacy. Several others were chartered or sold for Union Service for \$650,000. Ultimately, all the vessels in Morgan's fleet berthed in New Orleans were commandeered by the South, and the U.S. government took over all the rest, in addition to his railroad.

When the war ended, Charles was able to buy it all back, acquiring several steamers at auction for less than half their cost. By 1866 his regular routes had resumed, including exclusive U.S. mail contracts, dominating the intra-Gulf trade through excellent service. Morgan also began the Morgan Line from New York to New Orleans, and by 1870 was called the "largest ship owner in the United States." It was around this same time that he began his interest in railroads and bought the bankrupt New Orleans and Great Western Railroad, later named the Morgan Louisiana and Texas Railroad, which ran 80 miles westward from New Orleans to Grand Bay at Brashear City, Louisiana.

In 1876, Brashear was renamed Morgan City "because of the economic development he brought to us through his combined railroad and steamship enterprises." He also supported various civic improvement

projects in the new Morgan City. There is a historical marker honoring him on a street bearing his name in Cuero, Texas. "The rapid change in the community's fortunes, the vast improvement in the quality of life of its citizens, resulted almost entirely from the energy and vision of Charles Morgan". Described as a very kindly master to the thousands in his employ, Charles Morgan's enterprises employed over 4,000 people in Louisiana alone. In addition to the Gulf trade, he was among the first to build and run ships to California, which contributed greatly to his fortune.

With the Morgan Line and his Gulf steamers, Charles Morgan had a monopoly of the transportation in the Gulf area, acquiring two other short Texas lines and, a year before his death, spent \$4.4 million dollars for control of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. In 1877, "Morgan's Louisiana and Texas Railroad and Steamship Company" was created as a holding company for all the various lines he owned. Ultimately these were purchased from his heirs for \$7.5 million by the Southern Pacific Railroad.

In all, Charles Morgan built, owned, controlled, and operated the only railroad in the country of more than 100 miles owned by one man. Additionally, he was an important factor in the development of Texas by creating and extending its railroads, constructing harbors – having personally funded the building of Houston's first deep water ship channel to the Gulf – and building cities. These ventures were so profitable that by the time Mr. Morgan died on May 6, 1878, he was noted as one of the great multi-millionaires of New York, with his obituary calling him "one of the merchant princes of New York." He left an estate said to have been \$13,000,000.

While he was alive, Charles Morgan was said to have been a quiet and unostentatious man, known for his broad generosity. He always maintained an interest in his birth-place, frequently returning to renew old associations and often expressing a wish to do something which would commemorate his attachment to the town. It was not until 1869 that the idea of a school building was suggested to him by his close friend, George E. Eliot Sr. This idea was received with his enthusiastic approval, hoping that by doing so he would be able to provide the youth of Clinton every advantage possible. The building was to be for the use and benefit of the town



with the condition that it not be occupied for any political, partisan, or sectarian purpose, and was always to be kept free from those and like influences.

Once the decision was made Charles Morgan wasted no time, and in 1868-1869 he purchased two and a half acres of land, which included a cottage that was to be used as a residence for the preceptor. The following summer, Mr. Morgan set up a board of four trustees and assigned them \$50,000 with which to build a school. The cornerstone was laid in October of 1870, and by 1871 the building had been constructed and equipped at the higher cost of \$60,000. Additionally, an endowment fund of \$50,000 was established, increasing over time until, in 1879, it reached the sum of \$200,000. These funds paid for maintenance, teacher salaries, and all of the school's expenses except for textbooks, pens, pencils, and paper, providing a tax-free education to all of the children in Clinton.

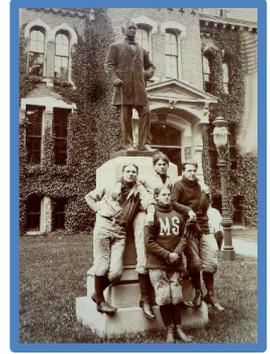
It was said that a favorite remark of Mr. Morgan's was that no other \$300,000 of his wealth had ever given him so much pleasure. It wasn't until 1933, when the growth of the student population was such that the Clinton Grammar School was built, that townspeople had to pay taxes for the education of their children.

Opening exercises were held on December 7, 1871, with close to 1,000 people attending the four-hour ceremony. The building itself was set back from the street, having a front of seventy-five feet and a depth of sixty feet. It was a three-story building with walls of Haverstraw brick faced with Boston red-pressed brick. The school, designed by R. G. Russell of New Haven, was described as a marvel of progressive school architecture with its slated mansard roof and a bell tower that topped the building at a height of eighty feet. The bell itself was of suitable size, made by the foundry of Meneely's Sons.

The foundation was made of blue granite from Clinton quarries with the steps, window sills, and caps made of Plymouth white granite. The keystones and blocks to windows and doors were of dark polished granite. Floors were of yellow pine, the doors of white ash with raised moldings of black walnut. The school rooms were wainscoted with chestnut, with black walnut coping. The upper assembly hall could seat 800 people and had a grand piano and a stage with six sets of scenery and a painted drop curtain showing Morgan's steamers in the Gulf of Mexico. The first floor housed three classrooms, a trustees' room, and a fully equipped laboratory. On the second floor were four classrooms and the principal's office. Each classroom was equipped with a cabinet

organ. Most impressively at the time, it housed a carefully selected library of 3,000 volumes.

The school was surrounded by well-kept lawns and over the years became mantled in ivy. The statues of Abraham Pierson, the first President of Yale, and Charles Morgan stood in front of the school and have remained in those same positions ever since. The ceremony of the unveiling of the statues took place on June 23, 1875. Charles Morgan paid for the statue of Abraham Pierson and for a similar one that was placed at Yale. To the left of the school was the preceptor's (principal's) house, built in 1879, replacing the cottage that was originally on the site.



In April 1872, the school opened with 205 pupils, a preceptor, five teachers, and a janitor, on a budget of \$6,500. The school had both a "lower" and a "high" school, housing students of all ages. For the higher grades there were two courses of study: the

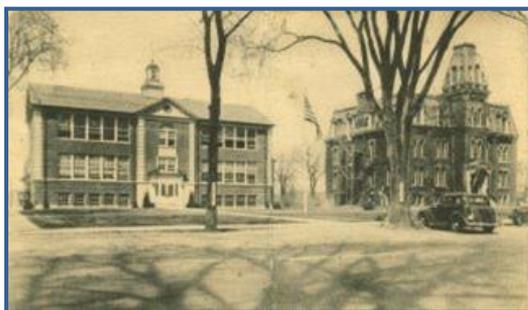
classical course, which included Latin, Greek, mathematics, and history, as well as the English classical course including virtually all the sciences, philosophy, rhetoric, English literature, modern language, Constitution of the United States, and bookkeeping. Classes were strictly regulated and disciplined.

It was not common in Connecticut in the 19th century for towns to have accredited high schools, which made The Morgan School all the more notable, and within a few years it established itself nationwide with a reputation for excellence. School catalogues show that, besides students coming from towns in the shoreline area and other parts of Connecticut, there were students from throughout New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Arkansas, Texas and Hawaii. Students from out of town and out of state paid tuition, with many paying room and board to Clinton families who opened their homes to them. There were even four students from China who attended Morgan from 1879-1881, all of whom were a part of the Chinese Education Mission (CEM), a Chinese educational plan that sent 130 young Chinese boys to the United States to gain a Western education and experience. For many reasons, the

mission failed and all students were recalled to China in 1881. The arrangements that brought the four to Morgan had been facilitated by Birdsey Northrop, Connecticut's first Secretary of the Board of Education, a Clinton resident, and father-in-law to Morgan's preceptor at the time, Dwight Holbrook. There was one additional student from China, not a part of CEM, by the name of Kai Yune Chi, who stayed for an additional year, graduating from Morgan in 1882.

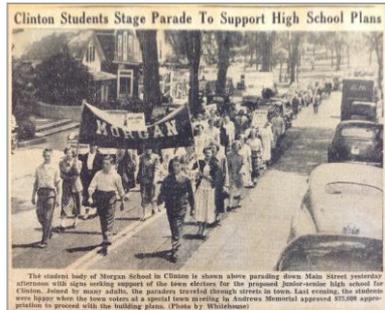
Seventy-seven classes graduated from the original building. The first graduating class was in 1874, a class of one, Joseph Sperry. Upon graduating from Yale, Joseph Sperry became a teacher and, later, assistant principal of Morgan. Another notable graduate was George E. Eliot, Class of 1882, who upon graduating from Yale, returned to Morgan as an English master, instructing literature, Greek, and Latin and their related histories. In 1899, he became the school's third principal, holding that position until 1931. Known as the colonel, George Eliot was the man most responsible for shaping the customs and traditions at Morgan. He instituted Founders Day in 1900, a day that honored the school's founder. Mr. Eliot also wrote the school song, *Ave Morgan*, ran the required morning devotions, and was the dance master of the lessons given to prepare the students for the Christmas Cotillion, another school tradition he founded. Integral to the traditions of Morgan was Graduation week, which was not only a big event for the school, but also for Clinton's townspeople. The week began with the Baccalaureate Worship service, then Class Day exercises followed by the prize rhetorical contest, with financial awards provided by Charles Morgan. These contests were held from 1879-1949. Ten males and ten females competed in this oratory contest, which was held the afternoon prior to the commencement exercises. Graduation was an elaborate affair where notably, for many years, the salutatory address was delivered in Latin with the exception of the year William Parks delivered it in Greek. An Alumni baseball game was held the day after graduation.

Morgan continued to grow, not only in stature, but in numbers. By 1929, with a rising student population, the school was overcrowded and the decision was made to build a grade school on the property of the preceptor's house.



With this the town would begin collecting taxes for the education of the town's children for the first time. The monies from Mr. Morgan and his trust had funded the education of the children of Clinton from 1871 - 1933. In the interim, the first grade was moved to the Grange Hall and the second grade to the Old Mill District School, having been reopened for this purpose. In 1933, the town opened the doors to the Clinton Grammar School (later renamed the Abraham Pierson School) and moved all lower grades from Morgan to the new school building next door.

With time, however, it became apparent that the Morgan School building was in need of major repairs. For twenty years or more, the physical limitations of the building had hampered the school's ability to keep up with developments in secondary education, including lab facilities, athletic facilities, and more. Pupils, teachers, parents, and trustees became increasingly aware of the need for improved instruction facilities and better safety and health conditions. By 1947, a team of state inspectors condemned the building as unsafe for occupancy. This was partly due to the fact that when fire escapes were added to the building years earlier, the workers had inadvertently cut through some of the heavy beams that helped support the walls, which pulled the walls nearly a foot apart. It wasn't until 1949, though, that the town began to discuss the need for a new school. Numerous meetings delayed action as townspeople argued for and against the building of the new school. Some recognized the great need while others thought that a new building was too costly. The student body was very vocal and active in informing the community of the poor conditions of the now 79-year-old building. A statement was written by the Clinton Teachers Association that demanded action be taken for a new school, explaining all of the difficulties they faced every day. Finally, in May 1950, Clinton voted 425-154 to approve a new high school building. The vote approved the construction of a proposed \$500,000 high school building. This building was to include a gym, a combination assembly/lunchroom, 12 general and special classrooms, lockers, offices, a large shop, a kitchen, storage rooms, and a boiler room, in addition to athletic fields.



The 24-acre site for the proposed building had been purchased by the town in 1948 for \$10,000. Located on Route 81, the acreage would allow

for outdoor athletics, off highway parking, bus loading space, and a building arrangement that allowed room for expansion. The building housed grades 7 - 12.



The new Morgan School opened its doors to students in the fall of 1951. As with the original Morgan School building, the new building was considered one of the finest examples of a small community's high school in design and equipment. It wasn't long before the first addition to the school was needed. In 1956, a wing of six classrooms was built to accommodate the seventh and eighth grades, freeing up the other classrooms for the high school level classes. Seventh grade was moved from Morgan to Jared Eliot in 1960 and the eighth grade in 1965. From September 1957 until June 1978, the town contracted with Killingworth, which sent its ninth to twelfth grade students to Morgan. Another addition in 1963 provided a large assembly room/lunch room, allowing for the existing cafeterium to become the school library, and added more vocational classrooms.

In 1967, a \$1.9 million addition to the school was approved by a mere 10 votes. The town had also considered at this time building a new school at the cost of \$6.6 million but that idea was tabled. Completed in the fall of 1968, the wrap-around addition doubled the pupil capacity to 1,200.



These renovations included a 700-seat auditorium, a new gym, and 32 teaching stations.



Although the town had been advised that any further additions to the school were not recommended, more renovations took place in 1986, and in 1988 work began on the addition of a new library/ media center, converting the



existing library to the school's main offices. Also added were a maintenance garage and two new classrooms, and the athletic fields were completely refurbished with new lighting. Corridors and the cafeteria were given new lighting and flooring, and the former main office was refurbished and converted to offices for the district Special Services staff.

Lockers were replaced and a new fire alarm system was installed. Handicapped accessibility was addressed, extensive electrical and plumbing work was done, and the roof was completely replaced. The "Presentation of New Facilities" took place on May 6, 1990.

In time, however, it became apparent that the more than fifty-year-old school building, with its multiple additions, was facing many of the same problems as the original. With a need for updated technology, as well as challenges posed by leaking roofs and building code violations, a new building was deemed the best remedy for the aging, inefficient facility. The town negotiated a \$2.0 million purchase agreement for the 36-acre Richards property $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile farther north on Route 81, placing the new school in close proximity to the Joel School and the Ethel Peters Recreation Complex. In 2012, the town approved the construction of a new school, with an estimated cost of \$68 million. The measure passed by 40 votes.

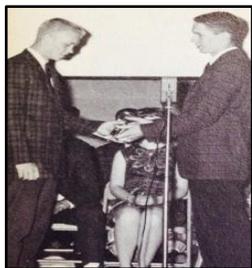


Groundbreaking for the new building took place on September 22, 2014, where an old school ceremony was re-introduced. There had been a long-standing tradition at Morgan that took place during



commencement week, the ceremonial transfer of the spade, from a member of the graduating class to a member of the junior class. This tradition ran from 1900 to 1963 and then the spade went missing for years. It was finally discovered in the

Andrews Memorial attic just days before the groundbreaking. Gib Stannard, Class of 1932, and the school's oldest alum at the time, assisted with the groundbreaking and then the spade was passed to Brian Gendron, Class of 2015 and then over to Burton Caldwell, Class of 2017. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony in September, 2016, Keith Dauer, '62, representing the Morgan Alumni Association, presented the spade to Marcus McDermott, '17. The tradition began anew in 2017 at the Senior Awards ceremony as Marcus passed on the spade to Wyatt Reu, Class of 2018.



Peddr Christiansen, '63; Bob Jensen, 62



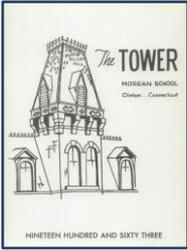
Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony 2016



The Tradition Renewed! June 2017

At the groundbreaking ceremony, Superintendent of Clinton Schools, Jack Cross, projected that the new school would open its doors for the 2016 - 2017 school year. "It will continue to be The Morgan School, and the goal is to carry some tradition with us. We look forward to the combination of re-establishing some of the traditions that embody The Morgan School, while leaping forward to provide state-of-the-art facilities and preparing our students for whatever comes after high school."

A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on August 28, 2016 and later three time capsules were placed to the left of the school's front entrance. Capsule I holds historic items about The Morgan School, 1870 - 1951; Capsule II's contents concern the history of The Morgan School, 1951 - 2016; Capsule III is about Community - The people and places that over the years have made us Clinton. The new building, opening as promised in September of 2016, incorporated items from both the original building and the Morgan of 1951 - 2016, both in its design and at several locations around the school grounds.



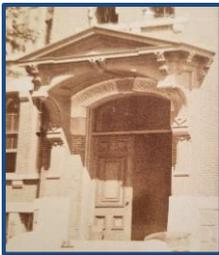
The original Morgan School building was well known for its impressive bell tower and the bell became an important part of the life of Clinton, ringing at the opening of the school day, lunch time, end of classes and for special occasions. When the building was demolished in 1953 the bell was moved to the "new" Morgan and placed in front of the school, then to



the right of the front door, and later moved outside the doors leading to Gagnon Auditorium. The concrete base was a gift to the school from the Class of 1951. The plaque for the bell was donated by the Class of 1955. In 2016, the bell was moved once again, to its



current location, just outside the doors of the school. As with the original building, the current school also has a prominent tower as a key part of its architecture. The significance of the tower was honored when the first yearbook was created in 1941, with the students choosing the name "**The Tower**", and was memorialized in the school song, "**Towering High**".



Other pieces from the original building include the brass letters that were in the front sidewalk and the granite piece that had been over its front door.



Fletcher Rock was originally located at the corner of the athletic fields of the second Morgan. Lindsey Fletcher, Morgan Class of 1908, was Morgan's beloved custodian. His love for Morgan was reflected in his writing, especially his poetry that touched on school activities and eventually his opinions on the need for a new building. Mr. Fletcher died unexpectedly in 1951. At the conclusion of its Class Day, the Class of 1953 dedicated the playing field to the left of the school in his honor. A

plaque was placed on a rock selected from the school grounds.

Moved from the foyer of the school at 26 Killingworth



Turnpike, "Balto" continues to guard the front foyer of the school. In 2007, the Student Council, with the help of Laura Luther and Mike Neff, donated this husky to the school in memory of Ed Hidek, who



passed away unexpectedly in February, 2006. Ed was the much-loved assistant coach and later coach to the girls' softball team, leading them to six state championships. For four years after its opening, Clinton Crossing Outlets donated \$25,000 to the school and a portion of this donation was used to help fund the purchase of the memorial husky.

Traditions: The School Song

Ave Morgan was the school song connected with the original Morgan School building. The principal, "Colonel" George Eliot, wrote the song that was introduced at the first Founders Day celebration in 1900. *The Founders Hymn* was also written by Mr. Eliot. *Ave Morgan* and *Integer Vitae*, which was sung in Latin, were sung at most school ceremonies.

As students transitioned to the "new" Morgan on Route 81 in 1951, *Ave Morgan* made the move with them and remained as school song as late as 1954.

Towering High first appeared on a program for Class Day in 1952. Mr. Sidney White, a teacher of Latin and French at Morgan and the school's choral director, was responsible for adapting a song specifically for Morgan. Having written to the music department chair at Middlebury College, his alma mater, he received permission to use that college's song entitled, *High, High, High Up the Hill*, written by Robert Rowe in 1938, arranging the song with new words. *Towering High* was sung at graduations and other student gatherings, with the last noted performance being Morgan's Centennial Graduation in 1971.

By then few people had any real connection with the ivy-covered brick school building on Main Street. Social unrest and the Vietnam War had many organizations distancing themselves from patriotism and tradition, and so it was that *Towering High* and many other Morgan traditions fell out of favor. The Morgan Alumni Association lobbied to have *Towering High* reintroduced to the school. Both school songs were performed at an Alumni Chorus Reunion on October 13, 2013 and it has been sung at graduation ceremonies and other occasions since then.

Ave Morgan by Colonel George Eliot

Ave Morgan! Ave Morgan! Ave Morgan!

Our hearts beat the measure,

In song we address thee, while friends ever bless thee,

And foes never press thee, In peace or in strife.

Ave Morgan! Ave Morgan! Ave Morgan!

All hail to The Morgan School! All hail to the Morgan School!

Towering High by Sidney White

Towering high over the shore,

There stands a schoolhouse that we've loved from days of yore,

We love her hallowed halls, her ivy-covered walls;

Her years of service point to many more.

Time moves on and holds its sway,

For us there's now a new and ever brighter day.

May we with pride in our hearts for Morgan,

With strength from her days gone by,

Learn always to live our lives, the Morgan way.

The Morgan School Logo



The school's original logo of an entwined M and S was first introduced on the title page of the book, "An Account of the Dedication of Morgan School Building, Clinton Conn.,

Thursday, December 7th, 1871". It has been revised in a number of ways since. The husky has been Morgan's mascot since the 1950s.



The husky logo was on the center court floor of the Norman Drew gymnasium, built in 1968, as well as on the gym wall, as designed by David Carroll. It is also on the football field at the Indian River



complex. In 2012, trademark attorneys at UCONN issued a cease and desist order against Morgan and its husky, claiming Morgan's logo was too similar to UCONN's. To protect its interests, the university ordered the town to remove Clinton's Husky logo from wherever it currently appeared. This necessitated the school to create a new logo that would be distinctly different from the university's Husky. The university's logo is a federally registered trademark. There was no issue with Morgan using the Husky dog as its mascot, or the Husky name, but it needed to change the way the dog was depicted. A committee was formed to have a new husky designed. The new husky logo was approved in December of 2013.



Notably, the new logo has several “hidden” Ms for Morgan on the husky head, such as the growling teeth, the tuft of fur on the side of the husky’s face, and more. During the construction of the newest Morgan the decision was made to revert to the school’s original logo as the centerpiece of the new gym floor. Interestingly, after all the commotion, UCONN changed their own husky logo.

Other Traditions Through the Years:

*For almost fifty years the Senior Class traditionally planted a plant of ivy by the side of the school. The ivy-covered walls inspired students to entitle the school newspaper *Ivy Leaves* (1944–1974). Through the years the school newspaper has had a variety of names: *The Record*, (1907-1912; 1925-1926; 1936-1939); *The Husky Voice* (1970), and *The Banner* (1972). Other years with school newspapers were 1975, 1976, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 2001, 2006, 2009. In 2012 the paper went digital with *Paw Print*. Additionally, for many years, *The Clinton Recorder* ran a column entitled “Around Morgan”, written by a student, providing the town updates about Morgan student activities.

*The tradition of the **Senior Cotillion** ran from 1891 to 1981. The cotillion was held in December and organized by the Senior Class. For many years the cotillion was attended not only by students from all classes but also attending were alumni and friends. There were a few old traditions that were a part of this dance: the Muffin Man dance introduced by George Eliot, a “toast” was given to the school, class, school leaders, favorite teachers and friends. In 1901 a pewter “Toasting Cup” was presented to Mr. Eliot to enhance what was called Morgan’s “band of friendship”. The promenade was often led by Santa Claus and ultimately included all those in attendance. The Mid-Winter Assembly dance began in 1890, sponsored by the Athletic Association, and later by the Student Council. In the years following, the early spring dance was sponsored by the Student Council or the Sophomore Class and has been called the Sweetheart Swing, Valentine’s Day Semi-formal, and the Snow Ball. The Junior Prom began as the Founders Day Dance in 1938. For decades all of these dances were held at the school either in the school gym or cafeteria.

***Baccalaureate Service** was part of the school’s graduation activities from 1902 to 1972. This was an ecumenical church service, usually held the Sunday prior to graduation. Originally held at the Congregational Church, in later years it took place in the auditorium of the Andrews Memorial.

***Founders Day** was held annually from 1900 – 1954. Celebrating the birth date of the school’s founder, Charles Morgan, the ceremony for most of those years took place in Morgan Hall, the ballroom on the third floor of the original building. At this event the “Founder’s Scholars” were announced, those students with the highest scholastic standings. In the weeks prior, students submitted essays that expounded upon Mr. Morgan’s achievements. At the

ceremony one female student read her prize essay, generally on “Educational Aims and Achievements of Morgan School” and a male student delivered the prize oration, usually on “The Life of Charles Morgan”. “Ave Morgan” and “Integer Vitae”, the school hymn, were introduced at the first Founder’s Day. The tradition included not only the students from the high school but also those from the lower grades, so that all students understood they were privileged to attend one of the finest preparatory schools in the country.

***Winter Carnival** was a school tradition, sponsored by the Student Council, from 1966 to 1980. A competition between classes, the day included a variety of games, such as basketball, a tug of war, relay races. The day included the selection of Miss Morgan and Mr. Legs, and ended with a dance in the evening.

*** Homecoming** – A football team has been a part of Morgan’s athletics, off and on, for decades. The school’s earliest documented game was in 1887. A team was fielded briefly from 1941 - 1944 and then again, after World War II, from 1946 - 1949. Football reappeared as a varsity sport in 1972, with the tradition of Homecoming beginning in 1974. Homecoming traditions have included a parade including class floats, sports and game nights, formal and informal assemblies, Miss Morgan and Mr. Legs contest, window painting, naming of the King and Queen and their court, a pep rally, Spirit week, Powderpuff game and a dance. All generated school spirit as the classes competed to see which class would garner the most points and win the honors for best class.

***Musicals:** "Annie Get Your Gun", Morgan’s first musical, was presented by the students of Morgan in the fall of 1966. The tradition of a school musical has become an annual event, involving countless students participating in every aspect needed for each performance, from acting, set design, stage hands and more. Originally performed at the Andrews Memorial Town Hall, then later in Gagnon Auditorium until 2016.

***Veterans Day** ceremonies have been held at Morgan for decades, recognizing the men and women of Clinton, and in particular, the Morgan graduates, who have served in the military. This assembly often includes reading of poems related to Veterans Day, and reading letters written by soldiers while serving during different wars as well as speeches given by veterans and their families. Morgan graduates have served in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and at military bases around the world. We remember Jack Curry, Class of 1966, who died of his wounds while serving in Vietnam in 1968.



***Community Service and Fundraisers:** Morgan’s students have given time and talent to raise funds and provide community service for a variety of causes. Swoosh for Change started in 2012, a teacher vs. student basketball game, with the funds supporting the Senior Class and a local charity. Others include REACT’s Haunted Hallways, Husky Helper Days, Dodge for a Difference, as well as many food drives and blood drives. Hi-Y, the Delphian Club and

Interact are but a few of the clubs who, through the years have raised funds and awareness for a variety of causes including Project Purple, Families Helping Families and the March of Dimes. Additionally, Morgan's Husky Leadership Program instills the importance of serving others and the greater good.



***Graduation ceremonies** have taken place in a number of different locations throughout town. For many years graduation was held in Morgan Hall or at the Andrews Memorial Town Hall. After the school moved in 1951, graduations have been held in the school gym, the school's courtyard and on Fletcher Field. One of the most unique locations took place in 1967 when graduation was moved to the Jared Eliot School parking lot due to heavy rain.

The Morgan School Mission Statement



The Morgan School cultivates intellect and character in partnership with families and the community. Students learn in a rigorous academic and student-centered environment that prepares them to become resourceful, productive, healthy citizens in a global society.



The Morgan School Timeline

1870 - 1951

- ❖ 1870 - Cornerstone laid for school on East Main Street
- ❖ 1871 - School Building Dedicated
- ❖ 1872 - Classes Begin
- ❖ 1874 - First Graduating Class
- ❖ 1951 - Last Graduating Class
- ❖ 1953 - Demolition

1950 - 2016

- ❖ 1950 - Groundbreaking Ceremony for school located at 27 Killingworth Turnpike
- ❖ 1951 - Cornerstone laid
- ❖ 1951 - Classes Begin
- ❖ 1952 - First Graduating Class
- ❖ 1956, 1963, 1986, 1987 - Additions
- ❖ 2016 - Last Graduating Class
- ❖ 201? - Demolition

2014 -

- ❖ 2014 - Groundbreaking Ceremony for school located at 71 Killingworth Turnpike
- ❖ 2016 - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- ❖ 2016 - Classes Begin
- ❖ 2017 - First Graduating Class

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1900 Special Supplement to *The Shore Recorder*