



Telling Our Stories

250 Years of United Methodism
in the New York Area

1766-2016

www.nyac.com/250years



Mary Morgan Mason

*Charity Worker and
Educator*

1791-1868



Image courtesy of the General
Commission on Archives and History

Mary Morgan Mason was a pioneer in the field of missions and a tireless educator of children.

Mason embodied the commitment to charity and zeal for missions that defined Methodism in the 19th century. As a teenager, she organized the first Sunday School for children at John Street Church in 1810. Encouraged by the ministry's success, Morgan helped organize Sunday Schools throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn through the work of the first Sunday School Union. She was also a teacher and, later, a principal at a girl's academy.

In 1819, Mason played an important part in creating the Female Missionary Society. Dedicated to supporting the work of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a precursor to the General Board of Global Ministries, the Female Missionary Society raised funds, packaged supplies for missionaries working in the field,

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(Mary Morgan Mason, cont.)

and offered them hospitality when they were in New York. Mason was the group's first director.

Mason died in 1868 and is buried in Sleepy Hollow, NY. Her tomb stone reads:

She brought up children. She lodged strangers. She relieved the afflicted. She diligently followed every good work.

For Discussion

- Mary Mason's life was devoted to caring for children and for strangers. How many of each have passed through the doors of your church recently?
- Early Methodist Sunday Schools taught not just religious principles, but also life skills such as reading and writing. Can you think of a new model for Sunday School that might take a similar practical approach?
- Mary's son-in-law once revealed how she was able to accomplish so much when he said, "She was wont to remark, 'Let us attend to one thing at a time.'" Is this still a good rule for doing all the good we can?



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