Jesse W Byrne* (jbyrne@ucok.edu), 100 N. University Drive, Box 129, Edmond, OK 73034, and Charlotte K Simmons (cksimmons@ucok.edu), 100 N. University Drive, Box 129, Edmond, OK 73034. Augustus De Morgan: The Man Behind the Scenes. Preliminary report.

Augustus De Morgan was a nineteenth century mathematician whose contributions to mathematics are not fully appreciated by historians. In this talk, we explore the significant contributions made by De Morgan from "behind the scenes." De Morgan was a close friend and correspondent of Sir William Rowan Hamilton and George Boole, two of the greatest algebraists of the nineteenth century. He significantly impacted both of their careers, and it is doubtful that they would have attained the level of success that they ultimately achieved without his help. If he had done nothing else noteworthy in mathematics besides supporting the efforts of these two men, we would still owe him a great debt. Yet, De Morgan also left a lasting mark in the field of actuarial science. We will explore his contributions to this discipline, both direct (via his own papers) and indirect (via his friendship and support of actuary pioneer Benjamin Gompertz). (Received August 19, 2007)