



The Friends of Mountwood Park Newsletter

Summer 2018 Issue Vol. 9, No. 3

Friends of Mountwood Park Officers
Peggy Squires, President
Melody Crawford, Vice President
Carolyn Naylor, Secretary
Mike Naylor, Treasurer

Friends meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.

We are happy to welcome four new members to our Friends' family.

- Iris and Junior McCarthy of Walker.
- Jeff and Donna Richards of Davisville.



Adventure Camp 2018

By Carolyn Naylor

Adventure Camp 2018 will be on Monday through Friday, July 16 – 20. The Camp will be from 9 am to noon for children 9 – 12 years old. There will only be 20 slots available so if you want your child to attend or if you have any questions, please contact Peggy at 304-679-3914.

Schedule of Events

July 16 – 20

Mountwood Park 5th Annual Adventure Camp

***If you are interested in being a volunteer for the camp, please contact Peggy at 304-679-3914.**

September 28 – 30

Annual Volcano Days Festival

October 6

Mountwood 10-Mile Challenge

**For more information go to www.rivercityrunners.com*

This year the Camp will have activities such as, fishing, archery, a scavenger hunt, and a dog safety class. Emily Grafton (aka the bug lady) will be there Tuesday to help us catch bugs and tell us interesting things about them that we never thought about. Wednesday one of the employees of the Ohio River Islands will come and talk to us about our rivers and what is living in them--to me some look like something from a scary movie. Thursday, Friends member Jim Bailey of Vienna will show each child how to build their own birdfeeder to take home. Of course, there will be plenty of time for playing in the creek.

Visitors' Center & Volcano Museum

By Mike Naylor

Given the monsoon-like nature of the weather since May 1, we have experienced a good start in 2018. It is a bit surprising that monies received from donations more than double those recorded for sales.

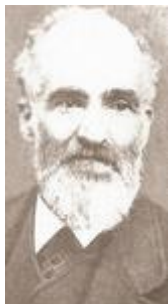
	May	June	TOTAL
Visitors	90	183	273
Sales	\$38	\$10	\$48
Donations	\$3	\$27	\$30
TOTAL	\$41	\$37	\$78

Steve Parker, thank you for your help in finding information on the McCandless Family. You have always answered my calls for help.

The Thomas McCandless Family, Pioneers of Volcano *With the skills they learned at Volcano and because they were good strong healthy men who knew how to work, they got what they wanted in life.*

By Carolyn Naylor

Thomas McCartney McCandless was born on September 6, 1821 to Robert McCandless and Sarah McCartney McCandless in Indiana.



Thomas McCandless was a merchant who, as a boy, worked in the warehouses situated along the banks of the Conemaugh River, at Blairsville, Pennsylvania. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was located along this river, and was built the length of the state of Pennsylvania. Thomas would

load hay, grain, and other foodstuff on flat-bottomed boats, and then float them down through the canal to the Allegheny River; then via the Ohio to the Mississippi River to New Orleans, Louisiana. He sold his cargo along the way, and brought home sugar and molasses. He was then towed back to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by steamboats, continuing from Pittsburgh to Blairsville via the canal.

1850 was a year of change for Thomas. In April he married Eliza Ann Newman and both of his parents died. During their marriage, Eliza gave birth to seven children but William, the first born, died when he was only 2 years old and a daughter Janie born in 1857 died the next year.

Things didn't get easier for Thomas because of the Civil War. He enlisted in the 11th Pennsylvania Infantry (nicknamed the Bloody Eleventh) as a private. He must have felt like he was stuck in some nightmare—if he could just wake up. Fortunately for him, some good luck came his way in the form of a promotion to quartermaster. The 11th fought in multiple battles, including Second Bull Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Grant's Overland Campaign, the Siege of Petersburg, and the Appomattox Campaign. Out of the 1,890 men serving in the regiment, only 340 men were discharged at the end of the war. After three years he was discharged. After the War, Thomas went into the merchandise business but in 1866 he sold his interest and left for West Virginia.

The following information is from the book *Artesian Water in Hawaii* written by James Sutton McCandless, son of Thomas and Eliza McCandless.

“In the spring of 1867, mother broke up our home in Blairsville; held an auction, sold everything, and the entire family left for the oil fields of West Virginia. We traveled on the Pennsylvania Railroad to Pittsburgh; then on the Ohio River by steamboat to Parkersburg, West Virginia, where we took the Baltimore & Ohio railroad to Petroleum, West Virginia. We traveled four miles from there to our destination, Volcano, West Virginia, the center of the oil fields, where we joined father and lived for a number of years.”

”There were no schools there when we arrived, but father and several others arranged to employ a school teacher for three months, and later, six months of the year. This was followed by the state or county school house. We youngsters played at well-boring after school, and worked at odd jobs during vacations. Here we learned our well drilling trade.”

“One of our sources of income as boys was the skimming of oil off the creeks when the tanks at the wells over-flowed. Each boy had his own special preserve on the creek. The sale of this oil bought us a very good revenue many times.”

In 1871 Thomas was one of the first to go to Colorado when gold was discovered. Eliza and the children stayed behind. Approximately five years later he went to California, eventually moving to the state of Washington. Eliza died at her Wood County home on October 26, 1891. Thomas McCandless died on September 5, 1907, at Seattle, Washington.

The McCandless Children

With the knowledge they had gained in the oil fields at Volcano the McCandless boys left West Virginia with the thought of seeking their fortunes and making a better life for themselves.

●John made his first trip to California in 1876 but returned to West Virginia to marry Ella Thompson. Approximately three years later, he made a second trip to California accompanied by Ella. He eventually answered a call from his brother James to join him in Colorado. Later he and Ella joined his brother James in Hawaii. According to James, John’s ambition was to accumulate wealth, which he did.

●James left Volcano in March of 1879 for Colorado—the gold rush was on. On the way he caught a terrible cold. Although he was warned to stop and return home because men were dying of pneumonia, he didn’t get scared and quit. Instead, he begged for a yard of red flannel, soaked it in kerosene, bound the flannel around his neck and continued on. His throat improved. After all he went through to reach his destination, he decided he didn’t like the Colorado winters and headed for California intending to work in the oil fields.

In California James, being young and unattached became interested when he heard a well-boring outfit had been taken to Honolulu. When he heard the Minister of the Interior under King Kalakaua, was in town, he went to visit him and told him he knew about drilling wells. The Minister must have been impressed because he invited James to go to the islands with him—in a few days they set sail. The nine and a half days trip was rough—two lifeboats were torn away and lost and two sailors were washed overboard, never to be seen again. Then, when he arrived, the port was quarantined against small-pox.

After being quarantined for 15 days, everyone on board was deemed to be healthy and able to go about their business. Shortly thereafter James notified his brother John to bring him a well-boring rig because they had a well to dig.

- Lincoln left Volcano to work with James in Colorado. He went but the altitude was too much for him. After a few months he headed back to Volcano. In 1882 Lincoln joined James in Hawaii. His first job was drilling a well on a Maui sugar plantation.

During his life, Lincoln accomplished a lot—he was a cattle rancher, industrialist and politician for the Territory of Hawaii.

In 1887 James returned to West Virginia for a visit. He brought his sister Annie and brother Frank to Honolulu where they stayed until 1889, when they all three left for San Francisco. Frank went north to the state of Washington and Annie returned to West Virginia. Annie married Dennis O'Brien the following year. Annie and Dennis had a daughter Mary and son Chester. James returned to Hawaii.

In 1890 Mr. B. F. Dillingham founded the Oahu Railway and Land Company but realized for his railroad to succeed, he needed freight to haul. This is when he tried to get the sugar men interested in starting sugar plantations. Unfortunately the land was no good without water. Here is where the McCandless brothers entered the picture. At this time, getting water for the irrigation of sugar cane by drilling wells was an experiment and something new

but the brothers knew what they needed to do.

In 1897 James, John and Lincoln joined capital and forces and formed “The McCandless Brothers”, a co-partnership. “The McCandless Brothers” drilled more than 700 flowing artesian wells in the Territory of Hawaii. The three brothers took active parts in the over-throw of the Hawaiian monarchy.

In the book *Artesian Water in Hawaii* John wrote: “All that we did was well done. We were three good, strong, healthy men, who knew how to work; and because we have worked with our hands, giving all that we had, life has been good to us.”

Quotes about volunteering:

“There are three kinds of people: Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who say ‘what happened?’
Casey Stengel

“You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give.”
Winston Churchill

“Volunteers will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no volunteers.”
Ken Wyman

Moon Over Mountwood Fishing and Outdoor Festival

By Carolyn Naylor



The Park's event, The Moon Over Mountwood Fishing and Outdoor Festival held on Friday, June 8 and was very successful. This event was for the whole family. The kids fished first, starting Friday afternoon until Friday evening. The adult division started after the children's award ceremony and continued throughout the night until early Saturday morning.

The largest fish caught was a 29-1/2" channel catfish caught by Molly Bunner. Congratulations!

10th Annual Woof Fest

By Carolyn Naylor

In April the Park once again went to the dogs during our 10th annual Woof Fest Festival. This event is very dog-friendly. The contests and demonstrations are geared toward dog owners and their pets. All the money made from this event goes to support Mountwood Park's dog park. This event gives dog owners a chance to meet

people with like interests plus their dog gets the chance to socialize with other dogs. It's a win, win situation.



These attractive girls are the Woof Fest Royalty.



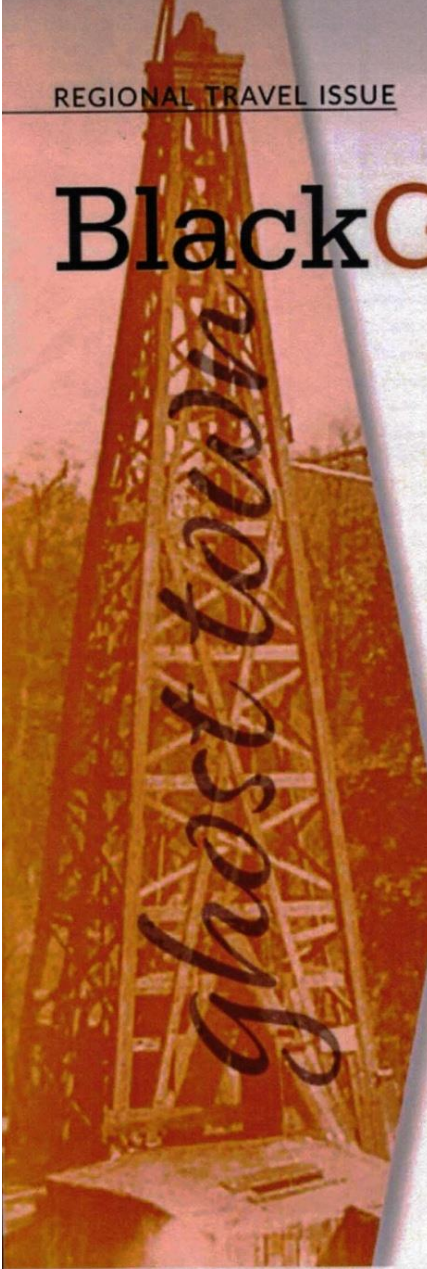
In this picture Jill Hornish of Ellenboro runs her 5-year old Golden Retriever Milo through the obstacle course. Photo from The Parkersburg News and Sentinel. Photo by Jeff Dunlap.

In the early part of 2018 Jamie Rhein of the *Ohio Cooperative Living Magazine* made the trek to Mountwood Park to tour Volcano and our museum. The following article summarizes her findings.

REGIONAL TRAVEL ISSUE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JAMIE RHEIN

BlackGold



On August 4, 1879, before the sun rose over the craggy mountains in western West Virginia, the oil boomtown of Volcano turned into a “lake of fire.” By the time the blaze died, Volcano was almost gone. The post office, opera hall, bowling alley, saloons, and all but a few buildings had been reduced to ash.

The fire didn’t end Volcano’s existence right away, as a few remained to continue oil production, but what had been a bustling burg was on an irreversible path to becoming the ghost town that it is today.

These days, those who pass through the hills along Volcano Road in and around what is now Mountwood Park in Wood County might not notice the remnants of what once was. Stands of hardwood trees have returned Volcano to nature, where hikers walk on trails named for its landmarks.



Evidence of its past is scant, though artifacts do exist. A few hulking wooden oil barrels remain, their rusted bands and weather-darkened wood showing their age. Concrete cisterns and rusted machinery parts stick up from the ground like surrealistic flowers.

Fortunately, photos and historic records provide a chronicle of Volcano’s post-Civil War rise to a thriving community of 2,300 people that produced 2.3 million barrels of oil just 20 miles from Parkersburg.

Mike Naylor (pictured below left), whose mother visited the town as a child and often bought penny candy at Schaffer’s store there, oversees the Volcano Museum in Mountwood Park. He can point out the spots where the wealthy oil barons lived, or where the traveling circus once pitched its tent on a baseball field 130 years ago. He also can describe the unique system of wheels, belts, and cables that could pump oil from 40 wells with only one engine. At first, he says, the oil was so close to the surface that it was collected with blankets that were laid on oil puddles and wrung out into barrels.

The museum includes photos and artifacts, including a model of an oil derrick and a 1972 video showing the last oil producer running his machine. The wooden wheel outside the museum is a final testament to the time when Volcano’s oil fields made a fortune.

Volcano Museum, Mountwood Park, 1014 Volcano Rd., Waverly, WV 26184.
Open 12-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays from May 1 to Oct. 31. 304-485-5365.



32 OHIO COOPERATIVE LIVING • APRIL 2018

Contact Information

Administration Building
Lake House Reservation
Shelter & Building Rentals
304-679-3611

Campground Information
304-679-3610

Mountwood Park
1014 Volcano Road
Waverly, WV 26184
mountwoodinfo@mountwoodpark.org

Like us on Face book!



Interested in Contributing to Friends?

By Mike Naylor

If you are interested in contributing to The Friends of Mountwood Park, we have two convenient avenues for receiving your contribution. These require very little effort.

Amazon

1. Go to smile.amazon.com to create an account.
2. Your email address is your use name.
3. You must create a password.
4. Select Friends of Mountwood Park when shopping and we will receive .5% of every purchase.

Kroger

- You must have a Kroger Plus card. If you do not have one, simply request one at the service desk.
- Register online at krogercommunityawards.com.
- Create a user name (email address) and password.
- Enter 89495, the unique identifier for Friends.
- We will receive a quarterly deposit for all eligible purchases.

Editor: Carolyn Naylor

Contributors: Carolyn Naylor, Mike Naylor, Steve Parker, and Peggy Squires