



The Friends of Mountwood Park Newsletter

Fall 2020 Issue, Vol. 11, No. 4

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.



Message from Peggy Squires our President

This has been an unusual and very different year for everyone. We have had to embrace many changes in our lives. Events were canceled and large group affairs discouraged. However, many people have been utilizing the Park since they are able to fish, hike, bike ride, kayak, and enjoy other outdoor activities.

Our meetings have been held at the Carson station shelter. Bring your mask and come join us at our

next meeting on October 8. We have plenty of room to social distance.

We have been able to open the Museum/Visitors Center on weekends thanks to our volunteers. Thanks to Mike and Carolyn Naylor's hard work on the historic signs, Jeremy Cross and the Park crew for installing the signs, and The Gas and Oil Museum for the Hit and Miss Engine, we now have added a wonderful display to the Park at the log cabin (museum/visitor center) area. Many thanks to all who have assisted us to complete this display.

Because of the Pandemic, our Woof Fest and Woof Fest Pageant were canceled. However, our Woof Fest Pageant Director Wendi Williams found a way to select and crown the new Woof Fest Royalty.

Thanks to Wendi's ingenuity, we had our pageant and were able to crown our Queens on July 19th at Carson Station. The winners of the pageant are: Little Miss: Kelsey Lawson; Junior Miss: Aeriana Nicolai; Pre-Teen Miss: Samantha Melvin; Teen Miss: Abby Anderson; Ms.: Susie Potter; Mrs.: Amy Yeater; Miss Queen: Kailee Cheyenne Nutter, and Ambassador: Madison Laskowski.

Congratulations to Wendi and the new Queens! Check out the pictures of our beautiful queens on the next page.

Also, I would like to thank last year's Queens who have represented us during the year. Things have been different and we appreciate your help and efforts.

It has been announced that the West Virginia Fairs and Festival Pageant that would have been held January 7-9 has been canceled, and the present Queen Breanna Pekula will reign through the 2021 year.

We are getting ready for fall and winter and whatever challenges it brings. Stay safe!!



Dr. Jeremiah Johnson, a Rural Wood county Doctor



Dr. Johnson with his wife and daughter in front of their Volcano home. (June 21, 1900)

Dr. Jeremiah Johnson was one of three doctors living in Volcano.

Jeremiah Johnson was born on April 15, 1830 in Clear Spring, Maryland, the son of Tobias Belt Johnson and Ruth Ellen (Mason) Johnson. Dr. Johnson married Mary Elizabeth Reynolds November 18, 1833. Dr. Johnson and his wife had four children:

1. Helen Elizabeth Johnson (b: 1856--d: 1948). She was married to Edward Watson Burns.
2. Thomas Alexander Bolt Johnson (b: 1858--d: 1933).
3. Anna Christiana Johnson (b: 1866 --d: 1937). She was married to Charles B. McCauley.
4. William T. Johnson

After graduating from the medical school at the University of Maryland he practiced several years at his native town of Clear Spring. He came to Volcano shortly before the fire in 1879. His practice in Volcano didn't have a very promising start because he lost his office and office furniture to the fire. Fortunately, he was able to save his medical books.

I hope Dr. Johnson knows he and his work at Volcano haven't been forgotten. I don't believe things were all that great at Volcano for him and his family. I couldn't help but feel sorry for him after

From the Volcano Lubricator, August 26, 1873

“J. Hugh Ross was badly bitten by a copperhead snake on Tuesday last. A half-gallon of whiskey was administered to him by his friends, and we learn he is doing nicely. Old rye is too much of an opposite to the poison of a snake to have the bite of one of these reptiles prove very dangerous, if the whiskey can be procured in time.”

West Virginia Walking Beam, May 22, 1880---

A razor exercise was indulged in at Lick Fork school Thursday night. Contestants—Joseph Davis and Bird Davis; blood was freely drawn by Joseph, necessitating Bird to call on Dr. Johnson who stitched up the wound and applied the requisite remedies. The amusement is rare and we hope it will not become generally adopted.

What Drugs were Used in the 1800's?

Medications routinely contained cocaine and alcohol and were given to people who had “a case of the nerves”. Asthma was treated with heroin and teething syrup for infants contained morphine. In the late 1800's, consumers were delighted to discover morphine and laudanum.

reading the following article which I found in “*White Oak, West Virginia Alias Volcano (The Resurrection of a Ghost Town)*” by Linwood H. Lowden. I understand why he wasn’t invited but since he was doing his best to care for people with health problems, it would have been a nice gesture for Dr. Sharp to invite him.

Dateline Volcano, June 28, 1881— “Dr. Sharp assisted by Dr. Harris of your town (Parkersburg) performed a surgical operation—extirpated an ovarian tumor—upon the person of Mrs. Warder, living near Volcano. Several other physicians from Parkersburg were present by invitation; in fact, all the physicians were invited with the exception of Dr. Johnson, who not being a member of the West Virginia Medical Association, was intentionally not invited. We think that the Doctor can stand the slight, as he has become accustomed to receiving nothing but discourtesy ever since his location in our midst.” (White Oak)

In 1889, when Dr. Sharp sold his home and lease, he sold it to Dr. Johnson’s wife Mary. I want to believe they resolved their differences but will never know.

After five years at Volcano, Dr. Johnson made tentative plans to move to Cairo, in Ritchie county and establish a more lucrative practice. After much thought, he evidently changed his mind.

White Oak, February 12, 1884— “Dr. Johnson has determined not to go to Cairo. He will stay in Volcano and see out the oil country and let well enough alone.” The editor of the Journal added. “Glad to hear it.”

Dr. Johnson died on November 29, 1908. Below is his death announcement that appeared in *The Herald (Hagerstown, MD)*.

“Dr. Jeremiah Johnson, a well-known retired physician, died last mid-night at the home of his son-in-law, Capt. Edward W. Burns, West Washington Street, from paralysis, aged 79 years. His fatal illness had been coming on gradually, being paralysis in a slow form.”

“Dr. Johnson was born at Clear Spring, this county. He attended the public schools of his

native town, and afterward took the medical and surgical course at the University of Maryland, from which institution he was graduated as a physician. Returning to Washington County, Dr. Johnson practiced for a number of years at Clear Spring and later at St. James School. He then located to Parkersburg, W. Va., where he practiced his profession for 30 years and stood high among his fellow practitioners. For a number of years, he was county physician for Wood County, W. Va.”

“Four years ago, after having practiced continuously for 58 years, Dr. Johnson’s health failed and he gave up his practice and returned to Hagerstown. Since then he had made his home with his son-in-law and daughter. Dr. Johnson was a member of the Catholic Church and the Masonic fraternity, and a Democrat of the old school.”

“Besides his widow, Mrs. Mary A. Johnson, he is survived by the following children: Mrs. E. W. Burns, Mrs. Charles McCauley, Hagerstown; T. A. B. Johnson, general year master, B&O Railroad, Washington; William T. Johnson, grocer, Baltimore. He was a brother to Mrs. Ella Edlon, Justice T. Belt Johnson, Clear Spring; Mrs. Mary Newbitt, Charles Johnson and Greenberry Johnson, St. Louis.”

Anna died two years later on February 14, 1911 at Hagerstown of heart trouble. She was 77 years old. She is buried alongside her husband in Rose Hill Cemetery at Hagerstown, Maryland.

The Difference Between Knowledge and Wisdom

Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is knowing not to put it in a fruit salad.

New Outdoor Display at Mountwood Park ***By Carolyn Naylor***



In a joint effort, the Friends of Mountwood Park and Mountwood Park have added an outdoor display remembering Volcano. The display consists of eight large signs and a vintage oil field engine. The display is adjacent to the log cabin (visitor center/museum) at the Park.

We want to thank the Oil and Gas Museum at Parkersburg for donating the engine and Jay-Bee Oil & Gas of Cairo for transporting it to the Park. The attractive signs were created by Elite Signs of Vienna.

2020 at the Museum

By Mike Naylor

Although COVID dampened the museum's attendance in 2020, it has been a year of notable achievements.

Model of the Laurel Fork and Sand Hill Railroad

For many years we tried to have a model of the railroad built and last fall we found a suitable HO train that was modified to fill the bill. Complete with period decals, the train looks ready to haul oil!

New display case

In February we successfully bid on an attractive display case. The case is lighted and allows to better display artifacts and memorabilia that was overcrowding other cases.

New signs

In February of 2019 we embarked on a project to create signs commemorating Volcano. Nine signs

have been completed and eight have been erected beside the museum. John Hyde, maintenance supervisor at the Park, did an outstanding job building attractive and stable frameworks.

Cross Breed Engine

Paul Hoblitzell of the Oil and Gas Museum in Parkersburg donated a Volcano-era oil field engine (pictured above). Jay Bee Oil Company of Cairo, WV moved the engine to the museum and set it in place.

There is a strong possibility the engine was manufactured in Clarksburg, or Mannington, WV. The narrative of this story will be on another sign.

We are very appreciative of the gift and the help setting it up!

Museum Activity

We were only open from July through the end of September with 182 visitors and receipts of \$162. Many stop to look at the signs and then opt to enter the museum. The number of visitors jumped from 24 in August to 91 in September—synergy in action!

Advertising the museum

We are strategically placing 10 signs at prominent locations in Mountwood. The signs will inform the public of the museum's location and hours of operation.

Do Things Never Change?

It appears things never change and some people never learn based on the following item that appeared in the *Volcano Lubricator*, February 5, 1874.

What Causes Hard Times

1. Too many spend money and too few earn it.
2. Too much money is spent wastefully and uselessly, and too little saved and made productive and accumulative.
3. We buy too much abroad that we ought to produce at home.
4. We buy too much that we don't pay for cash down—too much of what we buy being what we do not actually need.

5. We are too wasteful, know too little how to economize, and have too little disposition to do so.
6. We are too speculative, unscrupulous and actually dishonest in our efforts to make money.
7. Too many of us prefer idleness to industry, and too few of us know how to work and derive pleasure and profit from our labor.
8. We spend too much time learning what is not useful, and too little time in informing ourselves upon the best methods of promoting our material prosperity.
9. We know too much of politics, spend too much time and money as politicians, and know too little about political economy and the science of a stable and economical, successful public policy.
10. Our actions are governed too much by passion, prejudice and partisan feeling, and not enough by a broad, intelligent, liberal and patriotic conception of the duties which American citizenship involves.
11. We are too superficial and impatient, and lack the clear purpose and persistent, patient application necessary to permanent success.
12. We depend too much on our "sharpness and cuteness," and readiness to take advantage of circumstances and not enough on earnest hard labor.
13. We talk and read too much, and think and act too little.
14. We spread ourselves over too great a surface, and thus fail to dig deep enough in one place for the nuggets that will surely enrich us.
15. We lack in that higher morality which frowns down venality and elevates and encourages purity of life, probity of conduct, and a scrupulous regard for a good and honorable name.
16. We do not teach our children that they must, nor how to, earn their own living, and are too willing to commit them to a life of easy unscrupulousness, depending on their skill as makeshifts, rather than on their solid acquirements as men and women.
17. We roll about too much like stones that gather no moss, enriching carrying corporations and speculating capitalists, and

defrauding ourselves of the substantial profits of our own industry.

18. We are devotees of show rather than substance, and pay homage to the glitter of a "success" which is but a robe covering filth, rottenness and corruption---social, commercial and political.
19. We build too many churches and cultivate the Christian virtues and spirit too little; we have too many schools and too few real teachers; we are too undivided in certain directions and not enough so in others; we adhere too closely to what we ought to depart from, and refuse to take hold of that to which we ought to cling.
20. In short, we are too much what we ought not, and not enough what we ought to be.



Wish to Schedule an Appointment to Visit the Museum or Tour "Old Volcano"?

If you and your friends wish to schedule an appointment to visit the museum or take a tour through the area that was Volcano, call Mike Naylor (304-485-5365) or Peggy Squires (304-588-9148).

***Park Contact Information
Administration Building
Lake House Reservations
Shelter & Building Rentals
304-679-3611***

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304-679-3610***

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