



# The Friends of Mountwood Park, Inc.

P. O. Box 2094, Parkersburg, WV 26102

Fall 2023 Issue Vol. 14, No. 4

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## Friends of Mountwood Park Officers

Peggy Squires, President  
Rose Russell, Vice President  
Carolyn Naylor, Secretary  
Mike Naylor, Treasurer

*almost heaven west virginia*



Photo from the WV Department of Commerce

## Coming Events

**Museum Open Saturday & Sunday**

**Hours: 1 pm to 4 pm**

**Woof Fest Festival – September 10**

**Volcano Days – September 22, 23 & 24**

**For more information, call us at:**

**304-679-3611**

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## New Members

Dina Braniff

Stacy Dowler

Mindy Bates Elliott

Lewis & Gretchen Hill

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## Letter from the President

It is the time of year when we are busy getting ready for Woof Fest and Volcano Days.

The Woof Fest Pageant was held last weekend (August 6) and we have amazing representatives in our Teen, Ms., Mrs., and Queen categories. We have also named an Ambassador. We will have the younger girls and pet pageant at the Woof Fest event on September 10. Join us at the Park with your fur baby for a fun filled afternoon of contests, pageants, Mud run, and vendors. Munchies Food Truck will be there with food and Sips Coffee Truck.

We held Adventure Camp in July and, with the help of 19 fantastic volunteers, everyone had a great week. The campers built a birdhouse and fished with fishing rods and gear provided by Sportsman's Warehouse. They hiked with the herpetologists, enjoyed a program by the Ohio River Island, learned safety procedures of hiking and camping from a SAR K-9 group, did some tie-dying, and practiced their archery skills with Big Red Archery. Of course, their favorite activity was playing in the creek.

Mountwood Park Woof Fest Royalty:  
Teen: Ava Johnson; Ms.: Madison Harrington; Mrs.: Whitney Healy;  
Ambassador: Elizabeth Franklin and,  
Queen: Candace Maynard



Stop by the museum and check out our new displays. We will be open on the weekends through Volcano Days.

See you at the Park  
Peggy

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“It takes your enemy and your friend, working together, to hurt you to the heart: the one to slander you and the other to get the news to you.”

Mark Twain

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**Coming to Park Soon, a Derrick!**

**By Mike Naylor**



The gold star marks the approximate location of the derrick. The Park is building an access path and bridge from the wheel house. The derrick will be 28 feet tall and should be ready for Volcano Days.

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“The principal difference between a cat and a lie is that a cat has only nine lives.” Mark Twain

“Adam and Eve had many advantages, but the principal one was that they escaped teething.”  
Mark Twain

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## Adventure Camp 2023

By Rose Russell

It was such a joy to watch 19 children leave their phones and computers at home and just thoroughly enjoy the outdoors and



connect with nature. This is a five day, three hours a day camp and the kids seemed to have a great time despite the July heat.

The first day, the kids built a bird house crafted by Bob Zellny, did an exercise to get to know each other led by Lew Hill and played in the creek (one of their favorites). I must admit I felt bad that the crawdads were so traumatized but the kids were having such a great time maybe the crawdads forgave them.



The second day, Michael Schramm from the Ohio River Islands Wildlife Refuge shared information about mussels, birds and other wildlife and let the kids touch the pelts of several animals. The kids spent the rest of the day fishing (a big favorite) and several caught fish, which of course, was very exciting. Even those who did not catch a fish had a great time.

The third day, Adam Weaver and Daniel Jonas from the WV Herpetology Society spent the whole time with the kids, sharing information about snakes, newts, salamanders and reptiles and amphibians. They spent a lot of the day trying to find all these critters. Petting the queen snake was a real treat for some--others not so much. Some of the kids recognized Daniel because he, along with his students,

take a high school biology program to the elementary schools.

The fourth day started with Ginny Lynn, a search and rescue dog, and her owner Angie McCue teaching the kids about safety and rescue. Tie-dying came next followed by more fishing and hiking by a small group.

The fifth day started with archery with the folks from Big Red Archery and museum tours by Mike and Carolyn Naylor. Lunch, prepared by Allen and Diane Conrad, was then served.

Overall, I hope the kids enjoyed the week as much as it appeared they did and have a greater appreciation for and connection to nature and the great outdoors.

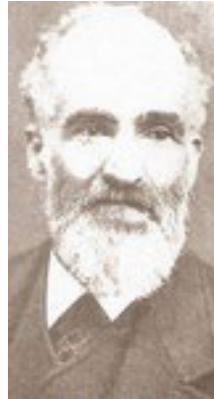


Many thanks to Peggy Squires and the many volunteers who made the week possible. Also, thanks to the parents/grandparents who drove back and forth each day and recognize the importance of nature in the lives of their children/grandchildren.

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## **Thomas McCandless, Civil War Veteran and Volcano Pioneer**

**By Carolyn Naylor**



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

As a boy, Thomas was a merchant, working in the warehouses situated along the banks of the Conemaugh River, at Blairsville, Pennsylvania.

He would load hay, grain, and other foodstuff on flat-bottomed boats, and float them down through the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to the Allegheny River. Then, by way of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans, Louisiana. He would sell his cargo along the way and purchase sugar and molasses for his return trip home.

To get home, he was towed by steamboats back to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and then continue to Blairsville by the canal. Thomas did not realize that his routine and his life was about to change. Difficulties were on the horizon headed his way, including an American Civil War. In April 1850, he married Eliza Ann Newman and then his parents died.

During their marriage, Eliza gave birth to seven children. Unfortunately, their first born, William, died when he was only 2 years old and a daughter Janie, born in 1857, died the next year. The remaining children lived to adulthood. They were: John Andrew McCandless (b: 1853); James Sutton McCandless (b: 1855); Lincoln Loy McCandless (b: 1859); Annie Mary McCandless, and the seventh and last child Frank A. McCandless (b:1866).

Thomas decided to fight in the American Civil War and enlisted in the 11<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry as a private. Hailing from the Keystone State's rugged western counties, the 11<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Reserves was one of the Civil War's most heavily engaged units. Of more than 2,100 regiments raised by the North, it suffered the eighth highest percentage of battle deaths, earning it the gruesome nickname "Bloody Eleventh." His three-month enlistment turned into three years. He must have felt like he was stuck in a nightmare. Fortunately, some good luck came his way in the form of a promotion to quartermaster.

The 11<sup>th</sup> fought in multiple battles, including Second Bull Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Grant's Overland Campaign, the Siege of Petersburg, and the Appomattox Campaign. At the end of the war, only 340 men, out of the 1,890 men serving in the regiment, were discharged. Dead men do not get discharged.

After the War, Thomas went back to the merchandise business but, in 1866, he sold his interest and headed to West Virginia.

The following information from the book *Artesian Water in Hawaii* by James Sutton McCandless will reveal more about the McCandless family's move to Volcano. (Note: You can purchase James McCandless's book in the museum at Mountwood Park.)

*"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.”*

The 1870 census shows Thomas living in Walker and working as a carpenter. After gold was discovered in Colorado, Thomas was one of the first to leave (1871) Volcano. Eliza and the children stayed behind. It appears approximately five years later he went to California, eventually moving to the state of Washington.

The 1880 census shows Eliza still living in Volcano and listed as the head of the house; her occupation, keeping house. Living in the home with her were Annie (age 15) and Frank (age 13). Eliza died at her Wood County home on October 26, 1891. Thomas McCandless died on September 5, 1907, at Seattle, Washington.

As far as I can tell, Thomas never came back to West Virginia. I wonder if it was because of his health. Many of the men who fought in the Civil War suffered from mental and physical health problems. The Civil War soldier faced many kinds of misery. In addition to receiving poor medical treatment, they were frequently under fed, poorly clothed, and at times barefoot.

### **The McCandless Children**

With the knowledge they 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 A. McCandless** made his first trip to California in 1876 but returned to West Virginia to marry Ella Thompson. Eventually he and Ella joined his brother James in Hawaii. According to his brother James, John’s ambition was to accumulate wealth, which he did.

● **James S. McCandless** left Volcano in March of 1879 for Colorado—the gold rush was on. After all he went through to reach his destination, he decided he did not like the Colorado winters and headed for California intending to work in the oil fields.

In California, James, being young and single, 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 it was not long before James contacted his brother John to bring him a well-boring rig because they had a well to dig.

● **Lincoln McCandless** left Volcano to work with James in Colorado. He went, but the altitude was too much for him and after a few months he headed back to Volcano. In 1882, Lincoln joined James in Hawaii. Lincoln accomplished a lot during his life—he

was a cattle rancher, industrialist, and politician for the territory of Hawaii.

● **Annie McCandless** married Dennis O'Brien on April 30, 1890. Dennis and Anna had five children—an unnamed son born at Volcano in April 1891; three daughters, Mary, Evelyn, and Katherine; and one son Chester. In 1898 the family moved from their Raymond Street home in Volcano to 426 – 13<sup>th</sup> Street in Parkersburg. When Anna died in 1945, she was 80 years old. According to her obituary, she was the first president of the board of directors of the Parkersburg Y.W.C.A.

● **Frank N. McCandless**

In 1890, Mr. B. F. Dillingham founded the Oahu Railway and Land Company but soon realized, for his Railroad to be successful, he needed freight to haul. This is when he tried to get the sugar men interested in starting sugar plantations. Unfortunately, the land was worthless without water and here is where the McCandless brothers entered the picture.

Getting water for the irrigation of sugar cane by drilling wells was an experiment and something new. 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.

Now let us go back to the 11<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment. In the picture below, taken in 1910, are the surviving veterans of the 11<sup>th</sup> standing next to the monument dedicated to their



regiment at Gettysburg. Look closely and you will see a dog curled up on a pedestal on the front. When I saw the dog, I knew there was an amazing story waiting to be discovered. I also felt certain there would be some tears shed. Below is the story I discovered on Views and Observations.com.

*It is the year 1861 and a new Union regiment, the 11<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania, was recently organized and training for the American Civil War. Being early in the conflict, local civilians came out to watch*

*the new soldiers march, drill, and train. One such individual was an attractive, young woman named Sallie Ann. Of course, the soldiers liked it when Sallie Ann stopped by.*

*One day, someone arrived with a gift for the soldiers—a basket and a little, female pit bull puppy. The soldiers named her Sallie Ann Jarrett after the popular young woman they liked and their original commanding officer, Colonel Phaon Jarrett.*

*With her playful exuberance, little Sallie Ann was popular with the troops. Early on she would wind her way through the soldiers as they marched. It was not long before she learned to join the commanding officer at the head of the column. In 1862, the regiment, under the command of Colonel Richard Coulter, headed south to join the war for real. Sallie Ann went with them.*

*The 11th Pennsylvania saw its first action at Cedar Mountain, Virginia. As the muskets fired and bullets flew, Sallie Ann stayed at the front with her soldiers. It was said she tried to bite Confederate bullets when they struck the ground. Unfortunately, Sallie Ann would see a lot of fighting. At the Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest single day of the war, the soldiers tried to get Sallie Ann to stay behind, but she refused and remained with her regiment.*

*She gave birth to puppies and the puppies were sent to families up north.*

*Sallie Ann remained with the 11<sup>th</sup>. When the Army of the Potomac marched before President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, Sallie Ann was in her place at the head of her unit.*

*In July of that year, large Union and Confederate armies ran into each other at Gettysburg, resulting in a brutal three-day battle. The 11<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania saw action on the first day, during which they suffered fatalities and injuries. When the Union forces retreated through town to regroup on Cemetery Ridge, Sallie Ann got separated from the regiment. The bloody battle raged on for two more days and no one knew what had happened to her. Considering there were 51,000 casualties, many probably feared the worst.*

*After the fighting ended, Union soldiers searched the devastated battlefield. When they arrived at the site where the 11<sup>th</sup> had fought on the first day, there was Sallie Ann. After getting separated, she had returned and stayed with the dead and wounded members of the soldiers of the 11<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania.*

*In 1864, Sallie Ann was shot at the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse; she fortunately recovered. Then, in February of 1865, Sallie Ann was killed in action. It was said that, several mourning soldiers buried her while the battle still raged. Finally, later that year, the War came to an end.*



*In 1890, when a monument was erected at Gettysburg honoring the 11<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania, the veterans demanded that Sallie Ann Jarrett be honored too.*

*They got their wish. The monument consists of a Union soldier standing on top of a pedestal. On the front of the pedestal near the base, is the statue of a curled-up dog, Sallie Ann Jarrett.*



*In 1910, there was a reunion of surviving members of the regiment. They had their photograph taken with the monument behind them. If you look at the picture closely, you will notice three veterans are standing off to the right creating a gap. They did this so Sallie Ann would be in the photo too.*

If there is a heaven, surely Sallie Ann was permitted to enter and is frolicking with her family, the 11<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania.

**Mountwood Park's Blue Heron. Photo from the Parkersburg News and Sentinel**



**“If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things.”** Albert Einstein

Editor: Carolyn Naylor  
Contributors: Gretchen Hill, Mike Naylor, Carolyn Naylor, Rose Russell, and Peggy Squires  
Proofreader: Donna Richards

# Take a Hike in the Woods

By Gretchen Hill

## Amateur Mushroom Identifying

Download a trail map before you go [www.mountwoodpark.org/hike-bike-map/](http://www.mountwoodpark.org/hike-bike-map/)



Take an invigorating hike on Dark Side of the Moon and Sand Hill trails for a 4-mile loop beginning and ending near Lg Shelter 3, JULY 2023



1014 Volcano Rd Waverly, WV 26184 (Near Deerwalk) 10 mins east of Parkersburg Off Route 50.

**DANGER**—SOME OF THESE MUSHROOMS ARE TOXIC - NEVER EAT OR TOUCH A MUSHROOM WITHOUT POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION