



# The Friends of Mountwood Park Newsletter

Spring 2021 Issue Vol. 12, No. 2

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## Friends of Mountwood Park Officers:

Peggy Squires, President

Melody Crawford, Vice President

Carolyn Naylor, Secretary

Mike Naylor, Treasurer

*Friends meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month  
at 6:30 pm.*



**“Some old fashion things like fresh air  
and sunshine are hard to beat.”**

Laura Ingalls Wilder

## COMING EVENTS!

**May 1** - Museum Will Open for the Season

**May 22** – Mountwood Fishing Derby  
(For more information, read below.)

**June 21-25** – Adventure Camp

**October 10** – Woof Fest

## Letter from Our President Peggy Squires

We held our first meeting this year at the Administration building on Thursday, April 8. The meeting was very productive especially since we were happy to be able to discuss the possibility of having some of the events cancelled last year because of COVID.

The Park is having the Fishing Derby on Saturday, May 22, from noon to 8 pm. The event is FREE and prizes will be presented. **This event is for children only.** The age groups will be 0-7, 8-12, and 13-16. Bring the children to the Park for a fun day. Contact Mountwood Park for more details.

We decided to have Adventure Camp the week of June 21 through June 25, from 9 am to noon each day. Since this event is so popular and we had to cancel last year, we decided to set the age for the campers from 9 years old to 13. Previously the age was set from 9 years old to 12 but since we had to cancel last year, we made the change so children who were 12 years old

last year could attend this year. The cost is only \$25 per child for the week. We must limit the camp to 20 campers so get your applications in early. It will be first come, first served. I will attach the application to friendsofmountwoodpark.com.

We are hoping to have our Woof Fest event this fall on October 10. Check out our website for more details as they develop.

During this time of isolation, our Royalty and their Director Wendi Williams went to work and earned money for Woof Fest. They came up with the idea to have a pet photo contest and it was a success! Thank you for the great fundraising idea and follow through.

Thanks to our volunteers, our museum will open on May 1. The hours are from 1 pm to 4 pm on Saturday and Sunday, through September. The museum can be visited other times by appointment. There are new additions this year.

If you think you would like to volunteer to help with the museum, please give Mike Naylor or me a call. If everyone could volunteer a few hours over the season, it will be easy to cover and not be a burden to anyone. It is fun to share the history of the Park and Volcano.

We are planning for a Fun 2021. Hope you can join us!

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**“Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day.”** W. Earl Hall  
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## **The Scribe** By Mike Naylor

I am writing this article as a labor of love. Carolyn has been putting together a newsletter for over ten years and it is time this selfless labor is recognized!

She pours her heart and soul into the newsletter and never fails to deliver a quality product. At times, I have called her a “Grammar Nazi” because of the exactitude she expects with every article submitted.

Lately Carolyn has been colluding with Linwood Lowden and Steve Parker to develop biographical sketches of Volcano’s citizens. She recently learned that the “Father of golf in America” married a lady from Volcano at Volcano. There is more to Volcano than oil!!

Her quotes, pictures and bits of humor are like a glue holding it altogether. Her efforts have led to an increase in donations to the Friends of Mountwood Park and a greater awareness of what we are all about.

She would never toot her own horn so I will do it for her.

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## **Museum Notes**

**By Mike Naylor**

- We have commissioned Pete Schindler (Pete’s Toys) to build a working replica of the endless cable system. We want to thank WesBanco Bank for their generous donation of \$750 for this project. Their generosity is appreciated.
- Elite Signs is finishing our 10th sign, a map showing historic sites within the Park and adjacent to it. The information on the map will also be available as a brochure at the museum.
- The 2022 Volcano calendars are selling very well with 35 of the 50 calendars already sold! Linda Mazza of New Waverly, Texas provided many of the new pictures in the calendar. Her pictures are of the Reece and West families.

- As with previous years, tours of the museum and “downtown” Volcano may be arranged.
- PLEASE WEAR A MASK WHEN YOU VISIT!

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## Thanks for the Surprise!

By Jeff and Donna Richards

It was a nice surprise to see this spring scene in the base of a tree on the Mountwood Park Lake Trail while we were hiking and want to say thank you to whoever placed it there. Thank you!



*(Note: Jeff and Donna Richards are active members and volunteers of Friends. They walk the Parks' trails, checking that they are in good*

*condition for hikers. You might also find them working at the visitor center/museum.)*

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**“The only thing that could spoil a day was people. People were always the limiters of happiness except for the very few that were as good as spring itself.”**

Ernest Hemingway

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## Winter Wonderland Pet Photo Contest

By Windi Williams

The Woof Fest Royalty put on a Winter Wonderland pet photo contest in January and the winners were picked on February 1st, 2021 by three photographers in West Virginia. There were three different categories. One was the dog group, another was the cat group, and the last was miscellaneous animals. We picked a winner and runner-up from each group. The winners got a goodie basket and a bandanna; the runners-up, a bandanna.

Dog group:

Winner: (Stella) Brandi Parson

Runner-up: (Laddie) Marita Cogle)

Cat group:

Winner: (Aggie) Erica Grimm

Runner-up: (Fizzgig) Kathy Narcise

Miscellaneous Group:

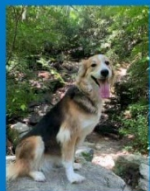
Winner: Goat (Jill) Debbie Williams

Runner-Up: Duck (Poptart) Brandi Parson

# Winter Wonderland Pet Photo Contest

Sponsored by *Woof Fest*

## PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



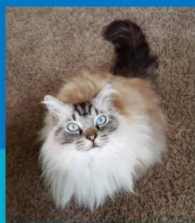
DOG: 1ST PLACE



DOG: RUNNER UP



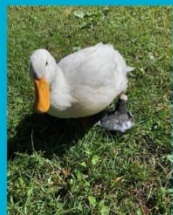
CAT: 1ST PLACE



CAT: RUNNER UP



MISC: 1ST PLACE



MISC: RUNNER UP

engineer and later as a bookkeeper for William Cooper Stiles, Jr. On February 21, 1868, he married Lovinia Nash a young woman born on May 14, 1843 in Virginia (now known as Cairo, West Virginia). Lovinia was the daughter of Thomas Martin Nash and Amelia (aka Amy) (Hendrickson) Nash. They had 11 children:

1. Lucinda Dycinde Alexander born July 18, 1866, in Wood County, West Virginia. Lucinda died in 1944.
2. Harriett Alexander was born on May 12, 1868, at Volcano. She married Charles Norman Glover (b: 1867). Charles and Harriett had three children:
  - Charles Clifton Glover (1893-1962)
  - Jessie M. Glover
  - Another child, name unknown.Harriet died on December 9, 1953, at Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.
3. Martin Alexander was born on September 7, 1869, at Volcano. When he died on February 5, 1955, he was 85 years old. He died at the family home at 1018 – 16<sup>th</sup> Street, in Parkersburg. Martin never married. He is buried at the I.O.O. F. cemetery, also known as the Parkersburg Memorial Gardens.
4. Margaret (aka Maggie) Alexander was born at Volcano, West Virginia on August 13, 1871. Maggie never married. She was 73 years old when she died at Camden Clark Hospital on April 15, 1945. At the time of her death, she was living in the family home on 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Her death certificate shows her profession as a housekeeper.
5. Margret Alexander (1872-1872). I was unable to find a birth record for Margret. It appears she died at birth.

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## Volcano Pioneers: The Robert Alexander, Sr. & Lovinia (Nash) Alexander Family

By Carolyn Naylor

Robert Alexander, Sr. was born in Southwark, Surrey, England on March 21, 1842, the son of Robert and Isabelle (Robertson) Alexander. He was just 19 years old when he arrived in the United States. Robert earned his living as an

6. Robert Alexander, Jr. was born April 1873. He was about 30 years old when he died in Calhoun County, West Virginia in a fire. He is buried in the I.O.O.F. cemetery at Parkersburg.

***“FROM THE HUR HERALD  
FROM SUNNY CAL  
1904: SIX BURN TO DEATH IN  
CALHOUN FIRE”***

***“SIX BURNED TO DEATH”  
“WHOLE FAMILY WIPED OUT  
BY BURNING OF THE HOUSE”***

***“Calhoun County WV (AP)—  
H. S. Fling, his wife and four  
children were burned to death in a  
fire which destroyed their home at  
4 o'clock in the morning near  
Lowther, in Calhoun County, W.  
Va., and two other persons  
sleeping in the house were so  
severely burned that they are not  
expected to live. The locality is far  
from telegraph and telephone  
communications. The names of  
the injured are not known, but it is  
said here that one of the two are  
expected to die from their injuries  
is ROBERT ALEXANDER, JR., of  
Parkersburg.”***

***“With the house of the FLING’S, a  
derrick and boiler house at an oil  
well belonging to Johnson, Upham  
and Ralston, of Parkersburg, were  
destroyed and the supposition is  
that the fire was caused by an  
explosion of gas from the oil well.”***

***“Escaping gas from the well  
probably crept along the ground  
until it reached the house, where a  
light was burning. Not a sign of  
the house was left standing, and  
the family were all killed almost  
instantly.”***

7. John Wesley Alexander was born in Volcano on January 20, 1875. He was a widower when he died on March 7, 1935, at 60 years of age. At the time of his death, he was living at 803 Quincy Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia. He managed and owned his own garage. He was buried in the Parkersburg Memorial Gardens on Market Street in Parkersburg. (Note: Parkersburg Memorial Gardens is sometimes called the Odd Fellow Cemetery or the I.O.O.F. cemetery.)
8. Martha A. Alexander was born on February 5, 1877, at Volcano. She died in 1947.
9. Elizabeth Alexander was born on October 19, 1879 at Volcano. She was only 36 years old when she passed away on October 26, 1915, at family home on 16<sup>th</sup> Street, in Parkersburg. Her death certificate indicates she died from neurasthenia (similar to chronic fatigue syndrome). At the time of her death, she was employed by the Parkersburg Pressing Company.
10. James F. Alexander was born August 25, 1881. James never married. When he passed away at Camden Clark Hospital on June 20, 1966, he was 84 years old. His residence was also the family home. His death certificate indicates he

was retired as president of a machine company.

11. Emma Frances Alexander was born in Volcano on December 31, 1884. When she was 21 years old, she married William Dickson (28 years old) on October 16, 1906. She was 89 years old when she died in April 1974 in Parkersburg. She is buried in the Parkersburg Memorial Gardens.

Robert died in Chandler Township, Charlevoix County, Michigan on April 21, 1906. When Lovinia passed away on August 13, 1922, she was 79 years old. At the time of her death, her residence was 1081 – 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Parkersburg, West Virginia. She was buried in Parkersburg Memorial Gardens.

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**NOTE: The following article describes the first Volcano reunion. It appears Robert and his wife were heavily involved with the reunion.**

*The Daily State Journal, August 24, 1893*

### **The Volcano Colony Picnic.**

“The picnic near Recreation park last week given by and for the Volcano colony of people in Parkersburg was a very pleasant affair until the rain interfered.”

“Many of the people eligible to attend did not go out until late in the afternoon. By supper time when the long tables were spread under the trees there were nearly one hundred and fifty people present. The coming together of the people who at one-time lived-in Volcano was decidedly pleasant and these picnics are assured every year now.”

“Robert Alexander made a speech of welcome which was eloquent and graceful. He stated the object of the picnic and what brought the people

together. Those who heard him say his remarks were not only appropriate but very interesting.”

“Justice could not be done the supper prepared by the ladies, in a newspaper article. It was simply immense. The unique invitations issued last week give a good idea of the purpose of the picnic. They read as follows:”

“There will be a grand reunion of the former residents of Volcano, their children and grandchildren, the sons and daughters-in-law of the old folks, and the lovers of the young folks, at Recreation Park on Wednesday, Aug. 16, 1893. The band will play; there will be speaking. Services will commence at 2 o’clock p.m. Supper will be served (Volcano style) from 6 to 7 o’clock p.m. You are in it! Bring your basket.”

“Committee of arrangements—Mrs. J. L. Clark, Mrs. A. J. Worley, Mrs. R. Alexander, Mrs. J. T. Arnold, Mrs. T. M. Silcott, Mrs. S. S. McCandless, Mrs. D. W. Fouss.”

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### **News from Linwood Lowden**

**W**e received news from Linwood Lowden, a longtime supporter of the Friends of Mountwood Park. Most of you probably know, Linwood is the author of the book *White Oak, West Virginia Alias Volcano (The Resurrection of a Ghost Town.)* We were excited to learn he has been busy the last two years, writing a sequel to his book. Below is the Preface for his new book that he was generous enough to share with us.

“Before reading this, do yourself a favor by sitting down in a comfortable chair and read it when you have no distractions and let your imagination take you on a journey.”

“My last foray into reforested Volcano was at the invitation of Joe and Janet Johnson about the first of the month of May 2018. It consisted of a

meander down Railroad Avenue beginning near the former site of the Episcopal Church and ending at the “old stone crossing” of the stream near the base of the hill. The “excursion crew” was made up of Joe and his wife Janet, several employees of the forestry service and a camera man.”

“I first convinced Joe and Janet that I could cross over the deep roadside ditch that separated us from Railroad Avenue, long overgrown by grass, briars and saplings. My ambulation could not properly be called walking. Leaving my walker behind, leaning on a cane, semi-upright position (gorilla-like stance), my eighty-six-year-old legs were set in motion at a vacillating pace. Janet walked by my side with a firm clasp on the back side of my belt. Joe had been instructed to return down the hill to where we expected to cross the stream.”

“A young man employed by the forestry service jointed us where old Pike Street met Railroad Avenue. With strong arms, he kept me upright until lowering me to a sitting position where the way sloped steeply toward the stream. I slid on my backside until my feet touched the stream bed. With the help of several individuals, I stood and crossed the stream, climbed the opposite bank and into Joe’s auto. With a sigh of relief, Joe promptly locked the passenger side door and vowed not to unlock it under any circumstances.”

“This is an account of what those who accompanied me saw and experienced: near panic at the thought of navigating me over a wet and muddy, overgrown trail through the woods every step of which was a danger to an old man who had obviously lost his grip on reality”.

“But that is not what I experienced. Trembling from excitement as much as from exertion I paused as the trees began to fade away. A forest of oil derricks arose in their place on the hillside to our left. The undergrowth beneath

my feet became an unpaved, rutted public way. This section of Railroad Avenue locally known as Quality Row became a mix of ten building—businesses and well-built homes. I began to rattle an ongoing commentary swinging in and out of the past like an energized square dancer—remembering what I could but forgetting important facts. We passed the Episcopal parsonage home of Samuel D. Thompkins on our right. Across the way, John Schafer was venturing into the mercantile business with his partner, E. C. Jenkins. Charles Swift’s drug store and a large building housing Dr. Fullerton’s office and other tenants—then Lawrence Levering’s fine home and green house were next. John Schafer had built his home on Dr. Emery’s lot (lease #8) adjacent to Dr. Emery’s home and dental office. A small bakery stood squeezed into the back of Jenny Tavener’s lot with her home built well back from the road. William O’Brien’s noisy machine shop was in full operation on the right, built on the sloping hillside Harper’s Ferry style. O’Brien’s home was adjacent.”

“The street was busy. Teamsters came and went with loads of supplies and barrels of crude oil and empty barrels on their way to the wells.

“Thank you, Joe and Janet and the young man, from the forestry service. I knew you were trying to understand the drama into which you had been drafted. What a smashing day! I wish you could have experienced what I did!”

—————

**There were 4 henchmen: Winter, Summer, Spring, and Autumn.**

The boss stood before them.

"Winter," he began. "I need you to stay cool in the face of pressure. Ice in your veins," he said, patting his shoulder.

"Then there's you, Summer," he continued. "If the heat becomes too much for Winter, use that hot temper of yours to make sure the cops remember who they're working for.

"As for you, Spring," he chuckled, "this operation is gonna bring in a lotta green. Make sure that it keeps growing."

He turned for the door as Autumn stood up. "Boss!" he sputtered. "What about me?"

The boss turned back, shaking his head. "Sorry, son. You're just the Fall guy."

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