



The Friends of Mountwood Park Newsletter

Spring 2024 Issue Vol. 15, No. 2

Officers of The Friends of Mountwood Park

Peggy Squires, President

Rose Russell, Vice President

Carolyn Naylor, Secretary

Mike Naylor, Treasurer

Friends meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Stiles Administration Building at Mountwood Park.

Our mailing address is:

FRIENDS OF MOUNTWOOD PARK

PO BOX 2094

PARKERSBURG, WV 26102

You can contact Mountwood Park by calling (304)679-3611.



Photo from itakeyou.co.uk

The Meaning of Spring by Shannon O'Connor

Spring is all about new beginnings and transformations; it is a season that symbolizes starting fresh and starting over. After months of cold temperatures

that often result in many of us feeling the winter blues, spring reawakens us and our surrounding environment, bringing everything back to life. Not only will you start to see the trees budding and bulbs poking through the ground, but we bet you will even feel better too.” (For more information about spring, go to www.1800flowers.com).

Letter from the President

Spring is around the corner and our busy schedule begins with the Easter Egg Hunt on March 30 at 11 am at Carson Station. There will be Easter Eggs galore and many baskets as prizes. This event is for children thru age 12. Come join the fun but be on time; we start promptly and it is over quickly. Thanks to those who are helping by filling eggs, donating candy, baskets, etc. It would not be possible without your help.

Construction on the new addition is scheduled to start in May and we are all very excited--it should double the size of the museum. Many thanks to those involved who are making this possible.

We are working on scheduling Adventure Camp and the Park will be doing the Fishing Derby. Woof Fest will be in September this year. Watch our Website for time and dates of events.

It looks like 2024 is well on its way to be a great year for the Park and The Friends of Mountwood Park.

See you at the Park.
Peggy Squires

Schedule of Events

March 30 – Easter Egg Hunt

May 4 – Visitor Center/Museum Opens for the Season

June 1 – Moon Over Mountwood Fishing Festival

July - Adventure Camp – Date TBD

September 8 – Woof Fest Festival
September 27, 28 & 29 – Volcano Days

Do more Things that Make You Forget to Look at Your Phone.

New Room at the Museum

By Mike Naylor

We need additional space in the Volcano museum to reduce overcrowding and for displaying new artifacts. When visitors come in and comment that the museum is close to having too many artifacts, you know it is time to do something. The museum is going to be enlarged by adding an addition.

We received some good news from Antero Corporation. The Corporation

has approved a \$10,000 grant to Friends to assist us with the addition.

Sycamore Works is scheduled to begin building the addition in May. It will extend 30 feet to the right of the existing structure and will have the same width. A large entryway will connect the new room to the existing structure.

The new room will have recessed lighting, two windows in the front, and a large window on the rear wall for viewing the derrick and displays behind the museum. The walls will be white dry wall to enhance visibility and surround a hardwood floor. Four ceiling fans driven by *continuous cable* will be added for comfort and as a tribute to Mr. Stiles.

It is our plan to place smaller and more unique items in individual display cases, at eye level, to be more fully appreciated. We are also considering the possibility of adding a mural and diorama. This will be dependent upon cost and finding someone who can do it.

Additionally, we are investigating the addition of audio-visual displays.

Major milestones will appear on our Facebook page.

“If a fellow isn’t thankful for what he’s got, he isn’t likely to be thankful for what he’s going to get.”

Frank A. Clark

Forget to Pay Your Dues?

By Carolyn Naylor

If it slipped your mind and you forgot to pay your dues, do not worry because it is not too late. You can pay now by sending a check, payable to The Friends of Mountwood Park, to the address shown in the above letterhead. Dues are \$20 (single) or \$25 (family). Remember your dues are tax deductible and the money is used to help us have events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Adventure Camp, and our Woof Fest Festival.

“When I started counting my blessings, my whole world turned around.”

Willie Nelson

Volunteers Wanted -- No Experience Necessary

By Carolyn Naylor

We are looking for volunteers who are interested in helping this spring and summer for a few hours at the Park. No experience necessary.

If you are interested in helping in the museum, call Mike at (304) 485-5365. If you want to help with the Easter Egg Hunt or Woof Fest, call Peggy at (304) 588-9148.

You enjoy fishing and Volcano Days? If you have been thinking about volunteering, call the Park for more information at (304)679-3611.

Volunteering is a great way to make new friends and meet up with old friends.

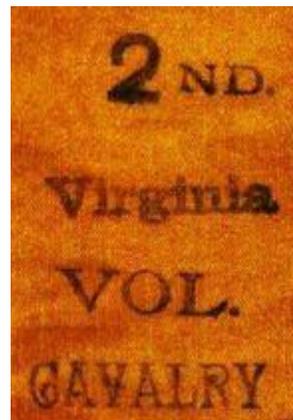
*Good Friends Are Like Stars.
You don't Always See Them
but You Know They Are
Always There.*

Richard McMullen, Civil War Veteran, Farmer, & Family Man

By Carolyn Naylor

Richard McMullen was born in Malaga, Monroe County, Ohio on May 4, 1839, the son of Ezra McMullen and Martha (White) McMullen.

Since Richard was originally from Ohio, I was not surprised that during the



Flag of the 2nd
Regiment of the Loyal
Virginia Volunteer
Cavalry

American Civil War he wanted to enlist in the Union Army.

Not all Virginia citizens felt their loyalties should be to the state rather than the country. I read that a group of these men, and Richard was

probably one of them, headed to Marietta, Ohio to muster into service to fight for the Federalists (United States). The men thought they would be joining the 4th Ohio Cavalry. However, their plans did not work out. They were

rejected because Ohio's cavalry quota was full.

The men returned home and applied to the provisional governor of western Virginia. They were accepted and the 2nd Regiment of Loyal Virginia Volunteer Cavalry was organized at Parkersburg, Virginia (now West Virginia). Richard enlisted for three years on September 25, 1861. He was 20 years old and single. The regiment was armed by December 15, 1861.

Most of the men were equipped with horse pistols, a poor choice of weapon for a cavalry unit. Horse pistols were 58-caliber hand guns that fired a single shot. They were typically carried in pairs--one in each holster on the sides of the horse. They had a long barrel for a hand gun—nearly 12-inches long. They were accurate up to about 25 yards.

A portion of the regiment received shortened muzzle-loading Enfield rifles, imported from Britain. This import fired a .577-caliber projectile, and was popular at the beginning of the War. Like the horse pistol, it needed reloaded after firing only one shot. Both were difficult for the rider to reload while mounted and had a jarring recoil. The men were also issued sabers that were not useful in the mountainous terrain of western Virginia.

The *Loyal Virginia* was replaced when West Virginia was officially admitted to the Union in 1863. The regiment became

known as Company C, 2nd Regiment, West Virginia Cavalry.

Private Richard McMullen mustered out November 28, 1864. After the War, Richard returned to his family in Ohio. His name appears in the 1870 census for Monroe County, Ohio and indicates he was working as a steamboat hand. To me, that sounds like hard work, but since he was single, it was probably exciting at times. Bet he had some exciting stories to share with his family when he returned home!

When the 1880 census was taken, his parents and siblings were living in the Grant District, Pleasants County, West Virginia.—probably the Borland Springs area. His parents are buried in the McMullen Cemetery near Borland Springs, West Virginia.

In 1900, Richard was living in the Walker District, Wood County, West Virginia. In 1918, Richard married Rebecca Maienknecht in Pleasants County.

Richard supported Rebecca and their children by farming. Their children were:

1. (John) Ezra McMullen, born in 1874 in Monroe County, Ohio. He married Addie Westbrooks on October 24, 1907 in Wood County, West Virginia.
2. Mary McMullen, born July 21, 1882. She was only 22 years old when she passed away.

buried in the McMullen Cemetery at Borland Springs, West Virginia.

Researching History is Fun!

By Dina Braniff

I am honored and proud to call myself a Friend of Mountwood Park and work alongside the other wonderful and talented Friends of Mountwood Park! What a blessing it is to help promote the preservation of the rich history of this area, its significance in early oil history and the many fine citizens who worked tirelessly in their efforts, sometimes even starting over!

My interest stems from my father, Burley Heater, whose youth playing grounds included Volcano, the Stiles Mansion and area now known as Mountwood Park. It was only in his later years, traveling to Clarksburg for appointments at the VA Hospital, that he shared his stories. One time, when he was only five, he and his brothers Delmar and Basil were sitting in the rafters of the Stiles mansion and most of the roof was gone. He was too scared to get down and his brothers had to walk back to Cisco to get my grandfather. By the time grandpa and the brothers got back to the mansion, dad had gotten down and was walking towards home, of course in the dark. This story was the most memorable one and I wish you could have heard dad tell it!

In January this year, I researched information in the Phelp-Tavener Research Center and learned two new facts about William C. Stiles, Jr. from an

article called “Volcano Had Its ‘Quality Row.’” I learned that when the Civil War broke out Stiles joined up to serve with the rank of major. I also learned that he began to manufacture canteens for the Union army—a kind of tin hot water bottle they were, but they served the purpose. They also made Stiles more money.

A third exciting information discovery I made was from David McKain’s book [Where It All Began](#).

“Plans for promotion of West Virginia’s rich resources to the European market were laid in 1866 and well underway by the end of 1867. On October 20, 1866, *The Parkersburg Weekly Times* reported that plans were underway for West Virginia to participate in the Universal Exposition in Paris in 1867, that J. H. Diss Debar, living in Parkersburg was coordinating that effort, that Disbar had proposed sending a few barrels of petroleum, ‘especially of the lubricating article for practical experiments’ that subscriptions lists were in the hands of J.C. Rathbone, Beverly Smith, J. Jones, and J. N. Camden, and that Camden was serving as treasurer for contributions from the Parkersburg region. The next year judges at the Exposition awarded a bronze metal to West Virginia for its petroleum exhibit.”

Further on-line research from Wikipedia shows 50,226 exhibits from across the world, and 703 were from the United States. Americans displayed their

latest telegraph technology and both Cyrus Field and Samuel Morse provided speeches.

Field was a businessman and financier who along with other entrepreneurs created the Atlantic Telegraph Company and laid the first telegraph cable across the Atlantic Ocean in 1858. In 1867, Field received a gold medal from the United States Congress and the grand prize at the International Exposition in Paris for his work on the transatlantic cable.

Morse, an amazing artist, and inventor, painted portraits of John Adams, James Monroe, Eli Whitney, and Marquis de Lafayette among hundreds of other. In his middle age, Morse contributed to the invention of a single-wire telegraph system. He was a co-developer of Morse code in 1837 and helped develop the commercial use of telegraphy.

Saga of Mollie and the Cat



“Who let that cat in the house and why is it in my bed!” Poor Mollie is sitting in the cat’s small bed because her bed has been taken over by the cat.



“For the greater good and a little peace, sometimes you just have to compromise.”



“And into the forest I go, to
lose my mind and find my
soul”

– John Muir

Take a hike from the marina
parking lot on the hardroad up
past the fishing docks to the
Taitt trailhead. Haystack is the
trail to the left.

Wander along and you’ll see an amazing sawn timber new bridge.

Thanks to MWP park employees Haystack’s bridge has been
redecked and
upgraded. RVMBA
volunteers helped
hike the old wood
out and the new
wood in.



RVMBA volunteers
meet second
Saturday of the
month to work on
MWP’s trails. If you’re able, meet at the Marina parking lot at
9am. Be prepared to hike and sweat!

As daytime temperature begin to climb in March, take yourself
for a hike. Almost twenty days have sunny weather predicted and
we’ll see a few 60°F afternoons.

Wear trail sneakers or boots, Spring hiking can be muddy.
Merino wool blended socks can keep your feet warm even if wet.
Wear layers include a hankerchief or small towel for sweat, a
runny nose, or a head cover. Check the forecast, but carry a light
jacket in case a rain storm crops up. Carry more water than you
think you’ll need. Tell someone off-trail where you’re going (even
if you hike with another). Take a map, follow trail signs, and
enjoy the fresh air!

*In the spring, at the end of the day,
You should smell like dirt.*

Margaret Atwood

Into the Forest I Go submitted by Gretchen Hill.

Photos of Mollie and the Cat were submitted by Bob and Lori Brandjes. Mollie is their pet and the cat is a temporary visitor. But anybody who has ever had a cat knows, from experience, that cat is in its' forever home.

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