



The Friends of Mountwood Park Newsletter

2024 Issue Vol. 15, No. 1

Merry Christmas!



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.*

Letter from the President December 2023

The year is about over and it has been a busy one. We are having our Christmas Party on our regular meeting night at 6 pm. It is always a good time. We will bring covered dishes and have a gift exchange for those who want to participate. If you have an ornament that relates to the Friends and Mountwood Park please bring it and add it to our tree.

Several of us went on a trip to the Coolspring Power Engine Show and on the way stopped at Punxsutawney Phil's restaurant for lunch. After spending the night in Clarion, Pennsylvania, we went on to Titusville. It was a very interesting trip.

We will have election of officers the first of the year. If you are interested in holding an office, please let us know.

We have our meetings the second Thursday of each month. Currently, every other month, we rotate our meetings between the Park and a restaurant. We could decide on another schedule at our party. We are open for suggestions.

See you at the Park!
Peggy

Let it snow, Let it snow, Let it snow!



Photo From The Pioneer Woman

Thousands Showed up for the 33rd Annual Volcano Days & Antique Engine Show

By Carolyn Naylor

According to Jeremy Cross, Mountwood Park's Director, between 5,000 and 6,000 people attended Mountwood Park's 33rd annual Volcano Days & Antique Engine Show. The museum had over 600 visitors for the weekend!

There was something for everybody! For the children there was a giant rock-climbing wall, a bouncy house, and an alpaca farm. There were craft and food vendors available for us older folks. For those interested in history, there were the antique engines to admire and members of the Wood County Flywheelers to answer your questions. Then you could check out the displays outside and inside the museum. If anybody was bored it

was their fault because there was plenty to see and do. Oh, I almost forgot, there was lots of good tasting food.

If you missed this year's event, mark your calendar for next year. The event will be the last weekend in September.

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

2023 Museum Summery

By Mike Naylor

We had a good year at the museum. There were approximately 1,011 visitors for the period from May 1 through October 31. This is the most we have had since 2016 when the second room was added! The addition of the wheel house in 2022 and the derrick this year have rejuvenated an interest in Volcano.

We also collected \$1,387 at the museum and received an additional \$1,177 from donations not collected at the museum. Since we charge no admission fee to visit the museum, we are very happy with the funds we took in.

Carolyn's new monograph, "Healers of Bodies and Souls," has sold very well and the Volcano auto decals have sold well. We are looking forward to the new year.

“Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgement.”

Will Rogers

Trip to Coolspring and Titusville, Pennsylvania

By Carolyn Naylor

On October 26, Peggy Squires, Mike Naylor, Jeremy Cross, and I decided we were going to Pennsylvania to visit the Coolspring Power Museum.

1917, 600 Horsepower Snow Gas Engine



The museum presents a history of the evolution of internal combustion technology. The museum’s collection, which includes hundreds of stationary engines, is amazing to look at. I have never seen such big engines and to see and hear them running was mind-blowing.

We decided to stay overnight and travel to Titusville, Pennsylvania and visit the Drake Well Museum and Park. The museum tells the story of Edwin L. Drake and the petroleum industry’s birth

in Pennsylvania when his well struck oil in 1859.

We all were excited about the museums and know it was worth the trip. We also were able to enjoy the beautiful fall foliage.

“Money can’t buy happiness, but it can make you awfully comfortable while you’re being miserable.”

Clare Boothe Luce

Reverend Samuel Davies Thompkins

By Carolyn Naylor

Samuel Davies Thompkins was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, on December 7, 1804. He was the son of



REV. SAMUEL D. THOMPKINS, 1848.

James and Mary (Hurst) Thompkins. In October 1835, he married Jane Frances Emmet, a daughter of Lewis and Jane Barton (Gibbs) Emmet, at Madison Court House. Jane was born in March 1817, in Frederick County, Virginia.

Reverend Thompkins first visited Volcano in November 1869, while engaged in missionary work. He preached in an old schoolhouse and found five communicants. He held services at Volcano occasionally for two years, until the church was completed early in 1871. He was fortunate that there was no debt hanging over the church. He continued visiting and holding services until April 24, 1872, when, at the request of friends of the Church, he moved to Volcano. Samuel and Jane had eight children: James, Alvas, Mary, Thomas, Robert, John, William, and Charles.

In 1875, at the Episcopal Council at St Paul's, Richmond, Virginia, Reverend Thompson reported: "On account of the difficulty in business, many people have left Volcano, among others of our communicants. I had a good number of candidates for confirmation one year ago, but they left a few months since."

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

Jane Goodall

James Sutton McCandless aka Sunny Jim McCandless

In the fall newsletter, there is an article about Thomas McCartney McCandless and his family. One of his sons, James Sutton McCandless left Volcano and at the end of his life was a very rich man living in Honolulu, Hawaii. Below is a description of one of his adventures to

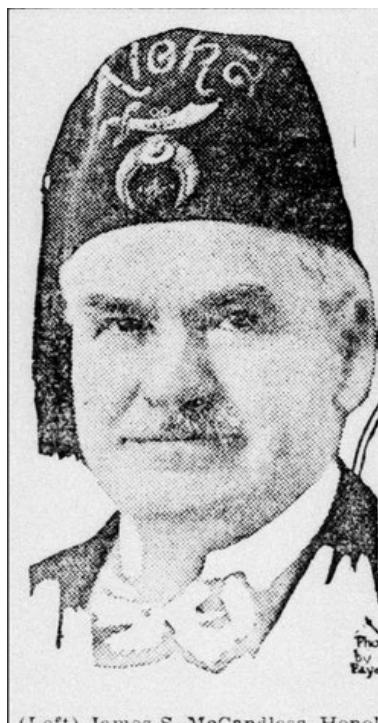
strike it rich. The information is from his book *Artesian Water in Hawaii*.

In the fall of 1878, gold was discovered in Leadville, Colorado and the great gold rush was on. On March 11, 1879, against the wishes of his parents, James left Volcano for Leadville, accompanied by a friend, Frank W. Williams.

The Baltimore & Ohio (B & O) train took them to Parkersburg, West Virginia where they checked in a hotel on the

river front.

The next morning, they were to sail out to Cincinnati on the river steamboat *Andies*.



(Left) James S. McCandless, Honolulu

Indiana daily times. [volume] (Indianapolis [Ind.]), 13 June 1922. Chr

After 30 hours of river travel, they reached Cincinnati, and checked in a hotel. The next morning, they bought railroad tickets to Denver,

Colorado. In Denver, they stopped at the Traveler's Hotel. According to Jim, this was one of the finest in the West.

Perhaps they should have stayed in a cheaper hotel because now they did not have enough money to travel to Leadville by stage coach.

To continue their trip, they had to scout among the freighters which were loading supplies and machinery for the new Gold Camp, to see if they could strike a bargain. They managed to strike a bargain—if they took turns driving, the freighter would carry their blankets and packs. On the surface, that does not sound too bad, but they had to *walk* most of the way.

Next, James caught a serious cold and developed a painful-sore throat. They met men along the trail who told him to give the trip up and turn back because there was an epidemic of pneumonia in Leadville and hundreds of men were dying. This did not scare James.

Instead of quitting, James begged for a yard of red flannel which he soaked in kerosene, and tied around neck. His throat apparently began to improve because they continued their journey. When it got dark, they camped wherever they were, sleeping on beds of pine. Often, they would wake up to find snow on their blankets.

At the town of Fairplay, Colorado, which was 160 miles from Leadville, James, Frank, and Will Hawley, a gentleman who had joined them in Denver, left the freight wagon-train. They decided to take a short cut they had heard about.

The short cut was a route, just 25 miles across the mountains to Leadville, they could travel on foot. Being young, time

looked a great deal more important than comfort.

They followed the telegraph line which went straight up and across Mosquito Pass, an elevation approximately 11,000 feet above sea level. What did they encounter? Snow!

In some places, the snow was over the tops of the telegraph poles. Although the deep snow slowed them, what bothered them the most was the high altitude. Every few yards, they had to stop to rest and catch their breath. Plus, the snow-glare was terrible. John had a pair of green goggles so he did not suffer. Poor Frank, who had none, was nearly blind when they met a man, wearing a green veil, who gave Frank a strip. That strip saved Frank from going snow-blind.

When they reached the summit, a howling windstorm, blowing cutting snow, was sweeping through the pass. It was bitter cold. They started through the pass together, but in the storm became separated. Finally, down the west slope, they found the trail, each other, and a road camp where they were given dinner, a bed for the night, and a place to get warm. The next morning, after breakfast they headed to Leadville.

They found beds in a lodging house and immediately started looking for work. James met some people who had been their neighbors in West Virginia. With their aid they found jobs digging prospect holes. James found several men

in the business of drilling holes by manpower, using spring poles. This method was cheaper than sinking prospect shafts, and was exactly in his line of business (drilling wells), so he bought equipment and set up for himself. His drilling business was brisk as was his sideline of sharpening miners' tools.

When the winter of 1879-1880 came, a good friend Colonel Dodge, the foreman of the Evening Star Mine on Carbonate Hill, offered him a job running the mine hoister. He was happy to get this job because it was an inside job. He stayed on as hoisting engineer until he left Leadville.

Leadville was 10,300 feet above sea level with cold, hard winters--while there they experienced 30 degrees below zero temperatures. James said it was a great experience for them to live in such a gambling camp as Leadville was then.

James, age 25, arrived in Hawaii on December 30, 1880, where he supported himself as an artesian well driller. He was 87 years old when he died, a wealthy man in Honolulu, Hawaii.



The McCandless Building in Honolulu, Hawaii. In 1914 a fifth-floor was added.

For more information about James, his book *Artesian Water in Hawaii* can be purchased at the museum/visitor center at Mountwood Park. For more information, call Mike Naylor at 304-485-5365 or Mountwood Park.

“It isn’t what we don’t know that gives us trouble, it’s what we know that ain’t so.”

Will Rogers

“Nothing ever seems too bad, too hard or too sad when you’ve got a Christmas tree in the living room.”

Nora Roberts

The following articles were submitted by
Gretchen Hill



Tree Burls

A tree burl or wood burl is a globular growth on a tree that has undergone a stress. The stress, which may be environmental injury (freeze), foreign object, viral, bacterial, insect, or fungal, triggers the tree to defend itself. This defense causes the normal growth process to go haywire, the tissue from unopened foliar buds builds up into bumps of woody growths. Redwood, maple, walnut, oak, and cherry tree burls are the most common types.



You may think they are warts, moles, or tumors on the tree. If you look closer, you will see the swirling patterns and beautiful bubbling intricacies of the mighty forest giants. Many burls are prized due to their unique grain patterns and unusual colors.



These burls are safe at MWP where we can all appreciate their beauty. Most burls grow beneath the ground. Consider yourself lucky to spot one on your hike; and feel free to gently hug a tree.

Is It Too Cold to Go Outside?



When temperatures drop below freezing, it's vital to be cautious to ensure your safety.

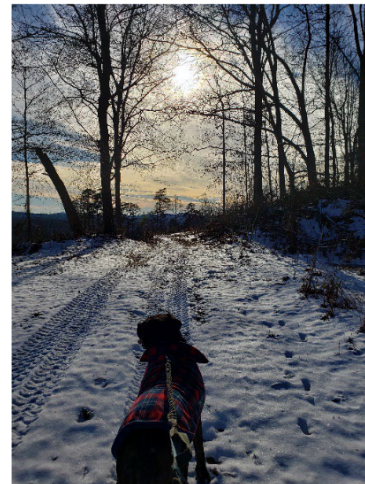
- ❄️ Wear layers, wool warms even when wet
- ❄️ Know your route, turn around if needed
- ❄️ Wear winter trail hiking boots

❄️ Cover your tips: fingers, nose, ears, and toes

❄️ Use trekking poles for icy terrain

❄️ Carry water in a backpack to keep your hands free for balance

❄️ Pack a windbreaker and waterproof clothing for weather changes, and check the weather before you go



Exploring outdoors in the winter can include hiking, wildlife spotting and photography, hunting, fishing, snowshoeing, and downhill and cross-country skiing.

Be alert to your surroundings! Tree deadfalls, snow avalanches, and ice breakages are dangerous. Stay away from any hazards.

Hiking enthusiasts recommend keeping your exposure to temperatures and wind chills below freezing to 20-30 minutes before warming up inside. Go with a partner and always have an emergency contact know where you go.

**Wrapping presents is exhausting work.
Especially when humans keep pushing
you away.**



Happy New Year!

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Mike Naylor, and Peggy Squires
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