



# The Friends of Mountwood Park Newsletter

Summer 2021 Issue Vol. 12, No. 3

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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.*



**Let Summer Begin!!**

### **COMING EVENTS!!**

**Museum is open every Saturday and  
Sunday from 1 pm to 4 pm.**

**October 10 – Woof Fest**

**I finally realized that people are  
prisoners of their phones...that's  
why it's called a "cell" phone.**

**Anonymous**

## Letter from the President

After a year of isolation, we are working to resume some of our activities. We have just held a very successful Adventure Camp 2021. We had an exceptional group of campers. They had fun fishing, making a birdhouse, learning and practicing archery, tie dyeing, and hiking, and exploring the creek among other activities. The girls out-performed the boys on fishing, in number and size of fish. Since the weather cooperated, we were able to fish several times during the week.

There were presentations and games by:

1. Audrey Naughton and Samantha Williams of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge;
2. Officer T. K. Phillips and her K9 partner, Drago. Officer Phillips explained how police dogs help police officers with their jobs and how they are trained;
3. We had a couple unexpected guests, Ginny Lynn, a five-month-old bloodhound, and her owner Angie McCue. Ginny Lynn showed off her searching skills by searching and finding a couple campers who were hiding;
4. Adam Weaver and Zack Roberts, members of the Appalachian Herpetology Society provided a fun day of searching for park critters in and around the creek and lake. They even found a large water snake that put on a

show by changing the shape of its' head in an attempt to look like a poisonous snake. After the presentation the snake was safely returned to where it was found; and

5. We finished up the week with archery instructions from Jim Parsons and members of the Big Red Archery and Mountain State Sportsman Association. This activity is always a big hit with the campers.

On the last day, we always have a picnic as a way of bringing our fun and busy week to a close. Everybody had a good time.

I must thank our wonderful volunteers who always go out of their way to make sure our campers are safe and having fun. Also, thanks go to the Little Kanawha RC & D for their grant. Without these two groups, this event could not have happened. Thank you!!

We are now getting ready for Woof Fest, our festival for dogs and their owners, that will be held on October 10.

Our museum is open on weekends from 1 to 4 pm. If you want to volunteer to work a couple hours at the museum, call Mike at 304-485-5365.

Our meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Administration building at the Park. Hope to see you there. Peggy Squires.

**“Simple pleasures are some of life’s greatest treasures.” (Quote submitted by Barbara Owens.)**



**The average dog is nicer than the average person.**      **Andy Rooney**

***“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in”.*** ~Author Unknown

## **Adventure Camp in Photos**

**By Carolyn Naylor**

**W**e had 14 children enjoying the activities at our June Adventure Camp at Mountwood Park. From the looks on their faces, they had a lot of fun while learning. Check out the photos below.

**The two pictures below are of campers trying their hand at archery under the guidance of the members of the Big Reds Archery and the Mountain State Sportman Association.**





**Testing their artistic skills at tie-dyeing.**



**It's more fun looking for critters when you have a buddy watching your back.**

**Next three pictures are of campers searching for critter living in the creek. Helping them are Adam Weaver and Zack Roberts, members of the Appalachian Herpetology Society. Be sure to check out the water snake found near the Lake.**

**Hiking through the Mountwood forest.**



**Heading to the Lake to test our fishing skills.**



**Campers with their birdhouses. No smashed fingers were reported.**



**Deputy Sheriff T. K. Phillips and her K9 partner Drago.**



**Next two photos are of our visit at the museum.**



**Below is Angie McCue and her five-month-old bloodhound Ginny Lynn, a scent-tracking dog who stopped by to see what was going on. Ginny Lynn showed off her tracking skills.**



**We are happy to report that we are planning to have Adventure Camp again next year. If you think your child would enjoy five days of outdoor activities at beautiful Mountwood Park, check us out on Facebook where the date and time will be posted.**

**My goal this weekend is to move just enough so people don't think I'm dead.**



The donation, made on behalf of Yellow Cab, was in memory of John W. Heckert. Check out the picture below.



**Maybe if we tell people their brain is an app, they'll start using it.**  
Anonymous

### **Heck Heckert Donated \$2,500 Toward Our Project**



**From the left is Heck Heckert, Peggy Squires, president of the Friends of Mountwood Park, and Mike Naylor, treasurer. (Photo taken by Bob Zellny.)**

**We want to thank R. C. (Heck) Heckert for his \$2,500 donation, to build a concrete walkway around the signs at the museum.**

**Smile.amazon will give to charity of your choice**  
**Do you ever order from Amazon.com?**  
**If you place that same order on smile.amazon.com instead, you can designate that a portion paid be donated to charity. It will cost you nothing and you will still get Amazon's low prices. The difference is the charity of your choice will receive a quarterly check. Friends of Mountwood Park is a supported charity. Last year, we received a disbursement of \$42.70.**

**If we can do that with only one or two of us participating, just imagine the possibilities if all our members, family, and friends were to start placing their orders on smile.amazon.com and designate the Friends of Mountwood Park as their charity.**

**Remember, it costs you absolutely nothing and gives Friends much-needed revenue.**

*A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining,  
the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing,  
and the lawn mower is broken. ~James Dent*



*It's a sure sign of summer if the chair gets up when you do. ~Walter Winchell*

## **Moon Over Mountwood Fishing Festival**



**T**his picture of the Scarborough family sitting on a dock at Mountwood Park was taken during the Moon Over Mountwood Park Fishing

Festival appeared in the Parkersburg News and Sentinel. While on the dock, they spotted salamanders, a snake and four fish. What a wonderful memory these children will have for a long time. (Photo taken by Madeline Scarborough.)



The Festival was from noon to 8 p.m. Prizes, such as trophies, fishing rods, and tackle boxes were given out to the children.

The young man in this picture caught a 10-inch blue gill earlier in the day. (Photo taken by Madeline

Scarborough.)

**(The information below was compiled by Carolyn Naylor and Morgantown resident Steve Parker.)**

## **Volcano Pioneers – Daniel Mudge and Frederick Doe**

**By Carolyn Naylor**

**Daniel Coles Mudge** was a businessman, superintendent of oil wells and coal mines, and even worked as a railroad conductor. He wasn't afraid to work or change careers when it came to taking care of his family. Life wasn't always easy for the Mudge family but they always persevered.

Daniel was born September 4, 1822 in Oyster Bay, New York, the son of Caleb and Ellen (Weeks) Mudge. In April 1847, in Washington, DC, he married **Emily Ellen Carr**.

Emily and Daniel had seven children. They must have been excellent parents because their children were able to not only survive, but thrive. The children were:

**Ellen Carr Mudge** (b: 1848) and **Mary Jane Mudge** (b: 1851) were both born in Long Island City, Queens, New York. After Mary Jane was born, the family moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where their third child, **Elizabeth (Lizzie/Lilly) Eddy Mudge** was born in 1854.

They then headed to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where their son **Daniel (Archie) Archibald Mudge** was born in 1856. When you hear people talking about Volcano having a telegraph operator, you can tell them it was Archie, who was known as being a polite and accommodating person.

The family left Philadelphia and returned to New York where their twin girls, **Sarah Southmayd Mudge** and **Emma Cora Mudge**, were born on June 7, 1861, in Long Island City, New York. Unfortunately, Sarah died the next year.

The Mudge family returned to Philadelphia and had another daughter, **Ellen Mudge**, born in 1865. (*Ellen grew up and married George Prentiss Butler, who hailed from New York. George was well known in financial circles having served on several railroad and other reorganization committees. Unfortunately, for George and Ellen, he died suddenly of a heart attack at the Hotel Grosvenor, London, England. He was only 49 years old.*)

I am not sure when the Mudge family came to Wood County but their names appear in the 1870 census. At the time, Daniel's occupation was superintendent of oil wells. In a letter dated August 10, 1907, from Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Conn, they described Daniel as having worked as superintendent of coal mines and later as a railroad conductor. Evidently Daniel wasn't afraid to change occupations.

*“January 1871 Two thousand dollars has been subscribed towards building an Episcopal Church at Volcano, in this county, and the contract has been made for erecting a twenty-five-hundred-*



*dollar church. The lumber has been purchased, and the work will be vigorously pushed forward, as Messrs. Wm. C. Stiles, Jr., D. C. Mudge and others of our enterprising oil producers, are interesting themselves in this good work. We are pleased to know that another building for the worship of God is to be erected.”*

**Volcano Lubricator, August 19, 1873**

**“Mr. Mudge has had the misfortune to lose by death his dog “Joe.”**



**Joe was a noble specimen of the Newfoundland dog, and we believe one of the first of his kind in Volcano. He was a valuable animal, being the friend of all children and the mortal enemy of all**

**chickens and clothes-line thieves.”**

**From Volcano, September 5, 1873**

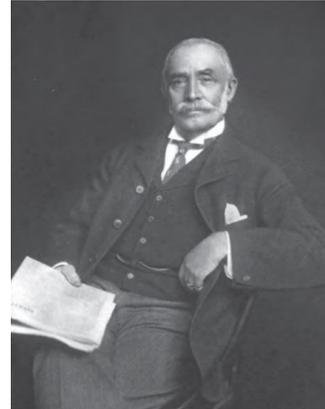
**“On Wednesday last a select party of ladies and gentlemen assembled at the Nicholas House, to pay homage to that ancient maiden, Terpsichore, the goddess supposed by the ancients to preside over the choral song and dance. D. C. Mudge, J. H. Gibbons and J. B. Benedict acted as the committee while Colonel George Jackson acted as manager of the occasion. It was a recherché affair, and did credit to the place the house and the high-toned and refined ladies and gentlemen who participated in the festivities of the night. Never was a more agreeable time, or more pleasant company assembled to woo jollity and merriment from the gods in stepping to the ravishing cadence of sweet music. Oftener in the future than in the past may these happy reliefs from the hum drumming life recur.”**

**(Volcano Lubricator, October 7, 1873--**

**D. A. Mudge, telegraph operator at this place, resigned his position, and on Monday last left for New York, there to take up his permanent residence. We are sorry to lose Archie from our midst, as he has given general satisfaction in the position he has occupied here, and by his polite, gentlemanly, and accommodating manner, has won the**

**regards of all who had business to do with him. Good luck to you Archie and may you live long and prosper).**

At Volcano, in October 1873, their daughter **Elizabeth** (age 19) married **John Reid** (age 33). It was a surprise when I read John Reid is regarded as the “Father of American Golf”.



**John Reid**

Wonder how he met and married a young woman from Volcano. Wonder what he thought of Volcano? (It is reported that when John migrated from Scotland to New York, he brought his golf balls and clubs and started the game on a cow

pasture with three holes.) In 1888, he founded the St. Andrews Golf Club at Yonkers, New York.

*Over the years, I have read that the word **GOLF** is an acronym for Gentlemen Only Ladies Forbidden. Seems this story has changed because now I read that this is a 20th century joke and not true. I guess it is now generally accepted that “**golf**” is derived from an old word meaning 'club'. Don't know if this is true or if it's an attempt to change history.*

**Volcano Lubricator, February 26, 1874 -The coal miners, formerly in the employ of the Volcanic Coal Company, are still on strike. We hope that none of the other banks will follow the example that has thus been set before them.**

A few months later on August 4, 1879, a fire began at 4 am and destroyed most of Volcano. Evidently this caused Daniel to make a career change because the 1880 census, shows Daniel's occupation as a merchant selling dry goods.

Things weren't all bad and there were occasions for celebrations. On September 21, 1881, in Parkersburg, **Emma** married **Henry Harry William Witman**, a successful oil operator at Volcano. They had five children—two born in Wood County.

- **Roy Bradfield Witman** was born on November 12, 1882, in Volcano. He was living in Ventura, California when he died on Christmas day in 1945.
- **Mary Mudge Witman** was born in Parkersburg on December 15, 1884. She was 100 years old when she died in Ventura, California in January 1985.

Sometime after 1884, Daniel and Emily Mudge left the area for parts unknown. However, I assume they went back to New York since Daniel died on December 22, 1905, at Yonkers, New York and is buried in New York at Woodlawn Cemetery.

I couldn't find any information as to what happened to his widow Emily. She isn't buried next to Daniel. If she outlived Daniel, she may have moved to other parts of the country to live with one of their children.



**Ellsworth F. Bunker**

There is more to the Mudge family story. Harriet Allen Butler, a granddaughter of Daniel and Emily Mudge, grew up to marry Ellsworth F. Bunker, a neighbor in Yonkers, New York, in April 1920.

Ellsworth (1894-1984) was an American businessman and diplomat (including

being the ambassador to Argentina, Italy, India, Nepal and South Vietnam). He was perhaps best known for being a hawk on the war in Vietnam and Southeast Asia during the 1960s and 1970s. As of June 2021, Ellsworth is one of two people to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Distinction (twice).

Harriet was 65 years old when she died in New York. She is buried at Dummerston Center Cemetery in Dummerston Center, Vermont. Ellsworth died on September 27, 1984, at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital in Vermont. His funeral was attended by former president Richard M. Nixon.

If you have any information about the Mudge family, please let us know.



**F**rederick (Fred) Doe was many things during his life-- a Civil War soldier, prisoner of war, an oil well worker and farmer. He was born in Rochester, New York on February 22, 1835. Fred married two times and outlived both wives.

On August 6, 1850, Fred married Louise Jackson at Burning Springs, West Virginia. Louise was the daughter of Samuel and Atheda (Collins) Jackson of Wirt County.

On April 4, 1861, the American Civil War began and Fred and Louise's life would be changed. Fred joined the 140<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry Regiment which was organized in Rochester, New York for the Union army and mustered in for three years. (When a unit was created, it was "**mustered** in" and when it disbanded, it was "**mustered** out".) He served in Company G, 13<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers for three months and then on September 25, 1861, the New York Flower City Zouaves.

I assume Louise moved in with her parents while Fred was gone. She probably helped her mother with the housework.



Fred was in the Battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia that lasted from May 31, 1864 to June 12, 1864. The battle is remembered as one of American history's bloodiest, most lopsided battles. Fred was taken prisoner. He was a prisoner in the confederate Libby Prison at Rochester, Virginia for 20 days before being taken to Andersonville Prison (Camp Sumpter) in Georgia.

Andersonville was probably the deadliest prison camp. In the 14 months of its existence, 45,000 prisoners were received and of these, 13,000 died. It was eight-times over its capacity. There were too many prisoners and not enough food, clothes, medicine or tents. Most of the soldiers who survived Anderson were plagued with health and mental problems for the rest of their life.

From Andersonville, he was taken to Charleston, South Carolina and was exchanged and returned to his regiment at City Point, Virginia. He was present at General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox. In June 1864, the army gave him an honorable discharge.

After the Civil War, Fred returned to Louise and they had one child, Freddie, born on January 1, 1870. Unfortunately, Louise died a few months later on August 8, 1870. I don't know if little

Freddie died because we couldn't find any additional information about him or Louise.

On August 4, 1879, at 4 am, the citizens of Volcano woke up to the cries of "fire". The town was on fire and Volcano changed.

When he was 46 years old, Fred married Mary A. Jeffery, age 20, on November 1, 1886, in Wood County, West Virginia. Fred was working as an oil well pumper. Mary gave Fred a son; **Harry Doe** born November 8, 1887 at Volcano.

Mary died on December 8, 1897, and is buried at Dry Ridge Cemetery, Ritchie County.

*Special Correspondence – Volcano, April 4, 1899 - The dwelling of Mr. Fred Doe, one of our old and respected citizens, was consumed by fire one day last week. The fire was caused by gas. All of his household goods were burned. He has the sympathy of all who knew him.*

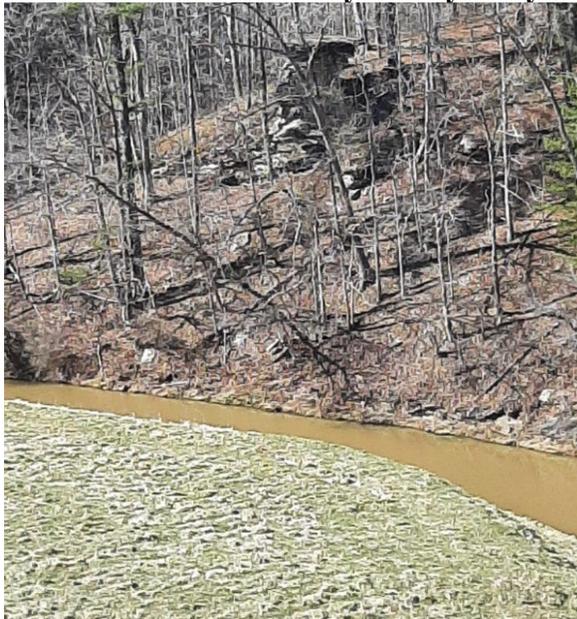
Fred was 85 years old when he died at Mole Hill, Ritchie County, West Virginia, of pneumonia, on October 8, 1920.

If you have any information about the Fred Doe family, please let us know.



## Mountwood Parks' Tea Top

By Carolyn Naylor



Jeff and Donna Richards took this picture while walking a Mountwood Park trail. My understanding is that over the years it has been called “tea top”. If you have any stories or information about “tea top”, we want to hear from you.

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