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# The Monongalia Chronicle

## The Monongalia Historical Society

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September 2007

P. O. Box 127, Morgantown, West Virginia 26507

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Next meeting: 6:15 p.m. September 21, 2007, Drummond Chapel United Methodist Church

\$8.50 for dinner or come after and join us to hear our speaker free

Contact: Mary Jane Hamilton 599-4393

### New Editors for The Chronicle

#### Reader Suggestions Needed



Well, here it is---a newsletter. It seems Carol and Janessa cannot control the motions of their right hands which seem to have a will of their own.

Before either of them knew it, they had volunteered to take over publication of the newsletter.....

And so, we have made an attempt to pull together a newsletter to precede our September meeting. We are new at this task and time is short, so we ask you to bear with us as we get our feet on the ground—before we take off running.

We would like to hear from you on what you would like to see included in the newsletter. Submissions, questions, comments or suggestions are welcome. You can contact us at 599-6496 or by e-mail at [Clutterina@hotmail.com](mailto:Clutterina@hotmail.com).

We would like to thank the individuals who helped us with this issue of the newsletter. Without them, there would not have been a newsletter.

“Thank you”—Dick Walters, Mary Templeton, Wally Venable, Ken Carvell (who delivered his material in the pouring rain), Lynn Stasick, Barbara Rasmussen and Rodney Pyles for his meticulous proofreading skills.

In the meantime, we hope you find this edition informational as well as helpful in keeping up with Society news and events.

*Carol and Janessa Pyles*

### Speaker for September Meeting.....

*By Mary Templeton*

Friday night's speaker will be Kenneth Swisher, a secondary education teacher in the Monongalia County school system. Mr. Swisher was an engineer for fifteen years before returning to school to obtain a Certificate in Cultural Resources Management from West Virginia University. His talk will center on Monongalia County architect Carl Reger in Morgantown from 1914 to 1932. Mr. Reger was a classical revival architect who built the Chenoweth house on Wilson Avenue. Mr. Reger also designed the City Building at the corner of Spruce and Fayette Streets and the WCTU Building on Fayette Street.

### Election of Officers at September Meeting.

On the agenda at the September 2007 meeting will be election of officers. As set forth in the by-laws, the report of the nominating committee would have been presented at the May meeting with election of officers to follow at the September meeting. However, the May meeting was cancelled. This occurrence is the first in recent history and the impact on the election process is uncertain. The Nominating Committee is being chaired by Rodney Pyles and he should have a report ready to present to membership at the upcoming meeting. After the report, there will be nominations accepted from the floor. If there are none, voting on the slate of officers will ensue.



## **Monongalia County Commission Aids Easton Mill Projects**

*By Dick Walters*

The Monongalia County Commission allocated \$8,200 for Easton Roller Mill expenses for fiscal year 2006-07 and is providing \$18,200 for 2007-08. This appropriation will help enable the Society to maintain the historic Easton Roller Mill and support other educational functions of the Society, such as the presentations of programs of local historical interest at dinner meetings and publication of historical documents.

Floods and wet grounds at the Mill caused cancellation of the September 2003 and 2004 Mill Days, and the need for repairs meant that the 2005 and 2006 Mill Days were not held. The summer of 2006 had regular mill open houses on two Sundays each month and tours continued in 2007. With repairs and improvements, it will be possible to host more Mill events. When Mill Day can be resumed, it will mean approximately \$900 per year in income to the Society.

Planning continues to find means to obtain a solution for the flooding problem, which has decreased our usage of the mill property and could result in future structural damages. This year a detailed engineering design for a floodwall was developed by Triad Engineering, and a survey of the property was done to allow proper location of such a wall. It is intended to solicit bids for the wall construction, and then, with a cost estimate in hand, approach prospective funding agencies for possible matching funds. Very rough cost estimates have put the cost at between \$30,000 and \$80,000.

The County Commission allocation of \$8,200 has resulted in expenditures for the above engineering work, and other necessary recurring mill maintenance and expenses, as well as some significant repair work. Extraordinary repairs have included replacement of a 35-foot lower wall and window section damaged by floodwaters, painting of the wall, front porch and ramp and railings, replacement of a sump pump at a lower level to keep the basement dry, and replacement of a 60-foot water line that was leaking. The extraordinary expenses totaled \$8,233.28, while the ongoing necessary expenses (utilities, mowing, office supplies and proceedings publications) totaled \$2,334.22. The total of all expenses related to the mill for this time period was \$9,669.06.

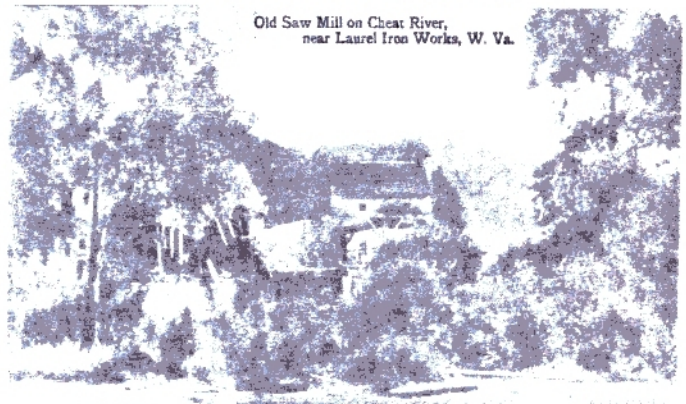
Another critical need at the mill is to install a fire protection system. A quote of \$24,600 has been received for a dry sprinkler system. Funding will be sought from appropriate agencies for these purposes, since the amount is well above the Society's financial capability. The Commission funds have enabled the Society in the short term to continue the repair of flood damage and obtain flood insurance. Refurbishing the mill equipment and improvement of the kitchen facility used in our annual Fall Mill Day breakfast event will continue.

The Society is forming committees to address the mill needs and other projects. If you have interest in helping to plan and monitor mill activities, please tell the Society officers.

## **Found: Rare Postcards**

*By Wally Venable*

### **Saw Mill Near Laurel Iron Works**



#### **Old Saw Mill on Cheat Flats 1**

In the process of writing *Around Morgantown*, I did quite a bit of searching for pictures. I found this rare postcard on eBay, which shows the remains of a sawmill next to the remains of the Laurel Iron Works along the Cheat River. The postcard was printed about 1915. We know that iron from the Cheat Mountain and valley furnaces was sent down the Monongahela River to Pittsburgh and down the Ohio to the western territories. This sawmill, or one on this site may have provided lumber for the construction



of the flatboats, which delivered the iron. The site is now under Cheat Lake. According to tradition, the Cheat iron furnaces supplied iron to Admiral Perry for the Battle of Lake Erie and to General Andrew Jackson for the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812, so this sawmill may have helped form our country.

## **Mont Chateau**



**Mont Chateau - Built in 1894**

Mont Chateau Hotel was built in 1894, 150 feet above the Cheat River. The main road to the east passed close by since it followed a route similar to I-68's as far as Bruceton Mills. The river, before construction of Lake Lynn, was crossed on Ice's Ferry. Carriages brought guests to the lodge from Morgantown's railroad station and river wharf. Lodge activities included swimming and boating as well as hikes to Coopers Rock. It seems likely that the timbers came from the sawmill. In 1920, a private club from Pittsburgh purchased the Hotel and it became a private lodge. In 1955, the State of West Virginia bought it for use as a state park. In 1956, the old lodge burned. The Lodge was rebuilt to a new, modern design. Today the new lodge building houses the West Virginia Geological Survey.

## **Selecting the Right Name for the Lake**

*By Ken Carvell*

In the mid-twenties when the state line dam on the Cheat River was nearing completion, much controversy arose over a name for the new lake. Residents of the area favored Cheat Lake or Cheat Canyon Lake, but the power company favored Lake Lynn, to honor their president, Albert Maxwell Lynn, who gave building the dam top priority. Many spirited local meetings were held about a proper name and even Governor Howard Gore was drawn into the dispute.

The power company had the advantage, in that they knew how to get their favored name adopted. They wrote to the U. S. Geodetic Service in Washington expressing their preference. They also took the steps to have the name of the post office near the dam changed from Cheat Haven to Lake Lynn. This explains why most geodetic maps for years gave the name as "Lake Lynn." However, the local residents also got their preference, as everyone invariably referred to the new lake as "Cheat Lake" their favorite. I note on the latest editions of the geodetic maps it is now "Cheat Lake."

## **Where Was Scrafford?**

*By Ken Carvell*

A friend recently gave me an old post card cancelled "Scrafford." Due to my interest in West Virginia cities and towns, I looked this up and was surprised to learn that it was a post office in Monongalia County from 1892-1909. Consulting old maps I found it on the west side of the Monongahela River where the Morgantown Lock and Dam is today. I asked a person who works for Allegheny Power



Company about the name "Scafford." He said that the local electric substation in that area is known as the "Scafford Substation," so the name is still known in that area. Do any readers have knowledge or pictures of this former town?

## **Activity at the Mill**

*By Janessa Pyles from Lynn Stasick*

This summer, Lynn Stasick and his sister Judy Beavan have kept the Easton Roller Mill open for tours on the first and third Sunday of each month, except for one Sunday when Judy's grandson was born. (Congratulations, Judy!) Lynn reports that people of all ages have visited the Mill for tours every Sunday it has been open. In the early spring, the Women Across Cultures group from West Virginia University held a family picnic on the grounds.

Dr. Joe Hodge, Professor of British History at WVU, has also been of great assistance. Dr. Hodge has been working with Lynn to keep the steam engine running for tours. Together, Lynn and Dr. Hodge are training Judy to run the engine, too.

The news on the cook shed is good, also. Lynn reports that its condition is not as bad as previously assumed. Several families of bees have been moved out and the floor appears to be in good condition. More work needs to be done, however, and volunteers will be needed at some point in the future to help clean up the shed and move items from the shed to the Mill for better storage. Contact Lynn at 293-3919 or 296-9717 if you would like to help.

Lynn and Judy have done a lot of clean up at the Mill, and are working on creating new displays, such as the old favorite, a "What Is It?" area in the rear left corner. Lynn is also preparing a short manual for tour guides to use in giving tours of the Mill and is including instructions for steam engine operation.

## **Students Work on Preparing WVU Pharmacy Museum for Storage**

*By Janessa Pyles*

West Virginia University's Cook-Hayman Memorial Pharmacy Museum is likely on its way to a new home. The museum, which opened in 1962, needs to be prepared for storage, as the Medical Center, where it is housed, is soon to be remodeled. To assist in this massive task, two CRM/Public History students have been appointed to the job as interns, Atsuko Ishimine and Janessa Pyles. The students will work with instructors W. Clark Ridgeway and Larry Sypolt to ensure the fragile artifacts are carefully packaged and managed with proper care. The museum features antique chestnut drug store furnishings, which came from the Will Menkemeller Drug Store in Wheeling, and date from the mid-1800s. It also features a large collection of artifacts from many centuries of pharmaceutical history. Though the museum will be closing soon for a prolonged period of time, it should still be available to the public for a few weeks. If you have not taken a look at it before, you should do it soon, because it is unknown how long the museum will remain in storage. For now, the Cook-Hayman Memorial Pharmacy Museum remains one of Morgantown's best-kept secrets. For more information, or to schedule a tour, please contact W. Clarke Ridgeway, Assistant Dean of Student Services at [wridgway@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:wridgway@hsc.wvu.edu) or call 293-7806.



Cook-Hayman Memorial Pharmacy Museum



## Dues Information - Check Your Mailing Label

Please note that the Society has set the annual dues at \$15 per member and \$25 per couple. This will help cover increased costs and allow the *Proceedings and Papers* of the Society to be distributed to all members. Dues for calendar year 2007 can be paid any time by mail, or at any of our 2007 dinner meetings. **If you are listed as owing dues for 2007, your mailing label on this newsletter will have one star after your name.** A check mark will indicate your 2007 dues are paid. Member dues are necessary for the Society to maintain the Easton Mill, provide newsletters to members, and to sponsor the dinner programs. If you have questions about your dues payments, please call Dick Walters, Treasurer, at 594-2290. Dues may be sent to Dick at 204 S. Pierpont Road, Morgantown, WV 26508-4150. Checks are to be made out to "Monongalia Historical Society".  
*Thanks.*

*Dick Walters*

## New Publication: **Around Morgantown** **by Wally and Norma Venable**

*Around Morgantown* is a new book by Wally and Norma Venable. Like the other books in Arcadia Publishing Company's *Images of America Series* it is paperback with 128 pages, over 200 pictures, and short pieces of text. It has the ISBN 0738543934 and a list price of \$19.99. It is available in most local book stores and on line from [www.ArcadiaPublishing.com](http://www.ArcadiaPublishing.com) as well as distributors such as Amazon.com.

## **ASK YOUR FRIENDS.....**

*Ask a friend to attend the next meeting with you. They may be as interested in Monongalia County/West Virginia history as you.. Let your enthusiasm show. Maybe it will become infectious. It could become the next epidemic in the county!*

## Publications for Sale

The Monongalia Historical Society has the following publications for sale. Orders should be sent to Kenneth L. Carvell, 76 Imperial Woods Drive, Morgantown, WV 26508. Checks should be made out to "Monongalia Historical Society." Prices include shipping and mailing costs.

***The Clinton Furnace, George Hardman and the End of the Iron Age.***  
1993, by Little **(\$6.50)**

***Camp Rhododendron - Civilian Conservation Corps Camp at Cooper's Rock.*** 1996, by Carvell **(\$6.50)**

***Index to Samuel T. Wiley's History of Monongalia County, W.Va.***  
1883, compiled by N. B. Shively **(\$6.50)**

***Easton: The Rise and Fall of A Community.***  
1999, by Hogan **(\$6.50)**

***Morgantown Trolley Systems.***  
1994, by Costello and Carvell **(\$6.50)**

***Easton Roller Mill, Morgantown, W.Va.***  
1994 by Venable **(\$9.00)**

***Notes on Historic Downtown Morgantown 2001***  
by Morgantown Historic Landmark Commission **(\$12.00)**

***Morgantown: A Bicentennial History.***  
1985 by WVU Public History Option **(\$11.00)**

***One-Room Schools in Monongalia Co, W. Va.***  
1997 by Casteel, Jesus and Fasching **(\$12.00)**