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MORGANTOWN HISTORY MUSEUM

SPRING 2017

useumNews

HISTORY OF THE FLATBOAT PROJECT

PHASE I 2012-2015

During Flatboat Project, Phase I, we went out and gave presentations about the Flatboat Project to numerous organizations including Rotary, Isaac Walton League, D.A.R. and many others. We also performed at musical events, singing and playing 'flatboat tunes' that were written just for our Flatboat PR campaign. There was great interest in both Greater Morgantown, as well as other places in the surrounding areas. Folks from Monongalia, Marion, and Preston counties were interested, and more recently, a history/genealogical organization in Greene County, PA, also wanted a presentation. The Flatboat Project has generated more interest than any other project we have worked on in the past twelve years.

PHASE II 2015-2016

Our former museum commissioner Tim Terman was the brain-child of this project. He helped me push it along with great enthusiasm. Tim's situation changed, he retired and moved to the coast of North Carolina. I was then in a quandary: what to do. Keep going with project name Flatboat Project, Phase II, or end the project? Actually, I would have closed it down, but someone stepped forward wanting to continue the work on the project. Someone who had a great deal of grant writing experience and loved the Monongahela River, and was a student in the History Department at West Virginia University. He was perfect! Steve Stahakis started working on Phase II. He wrote a grant proposal to WV Humanities Council, which was approved. Items were purchased to have events on the Mon River waterfront, during the summer of 2015. We had informational sessions using the items we purchased which included several 1700s costumes (that we wore), animal pelts (that young children loved to pet), antique woodworking tools of the type that would have been used to build a flatboat, and other items replicating the time period. We also had old-time musicians play tunes from the 1800s time frame while these educational events were being held. These sessions were geared to both children and adults, and we considered them to be very successful. When Steve took over the rudder to keep the boat going, changes had occurred in the government and concerns were raised by the Corps of Engineers concerning projected location of the flatboat replica. Additionally, public monies were starting to become more scarce. Steve became very frustrated at this point and decided to step aside, at the end of summer 2015. Steve did a good job leading us through the Flatboat Project, Phase II.

PHASE III 2017-?

Once again, decisions needed to be made. Since it was felt that the original plan to replicate a full-sized, 35 foot flatboat was probably not going to be a reality due to multiple concerns involving flood-plane, liability and long-term maintenance, we were back to the drawing board. Meanwhile, since we continue to have folks offering assistance with many aspects of the project, we decided to alter our plan for Flatboat Project, Phase III – the final phase. We have decided to attempt to design and build a 10-12 foot model of the flatboats that were constructed for many years on the Morgantown waterfront. Why? Because of the hundreds of people, who had traveled across the treacherous mountains, to get to the Kerns Boatyard in order to have a flatboat built, so they could travel north on the Monongahela River, in order to get to Pittsburg (Pittsburgh), and have a new life further west. If those folks could go through the dangers, frustrations and time to accomplish that feat – then we should be able to accomplish our feat – build a model of the flatboat that put Morgantown on the map back in that time frame. We also hope to have a historical wayside sign that will accompany that boat, so all who visit Morgantown's waterfront, will know how important the flatboat was in our town's history.



Flatboat Project, Phase I (2013, Flatboat Three, Winter Music Festival/ Aaron Hawley, Pamela Ball and Tim Terman)



Flatboat Project, Phase II (The late Steve Stahakis, conducting one of Phase II's Mon waterfront information events, Summer 2015)



Flatboat Project, Phase III (Pamela Ball, Chair, MMC, Mountaineer History Expo, Marion County Courthouse, April 1, 2017 – Launching of Flatboat Project, Phase III)



**Morgantown Museum
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Museum News Editors**

Patricia Dudley

Chris McGuffin

The Morgantown History Museum is the first city-sponsored museum in the Greater Morgantown area. Its mission is to preserve the history of the region for the public by collecting and displaying local cultural artifacts.

Morgantown History Museum
175 Kirk Street

Morgantown, WV 26505
(304) 319-1800

info@morgantownhistorymuseum.org

Hours:

Monday, Wednesday,
Friday, Saturday

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday-Thursday

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Greetings from the Chair

Dear Friends,

We are having a beautiful spring this year here in our grand city. Azaleas, dogwoods, cherry trees, redbuds and numerous species of flowers have been giving us quite a beautiful nature show. Spring is definitely my favorite season of the year.

We have been working on many projects here at the Morgantown History Museum. The museum has been involved with a number of projects with other organizations in the past year. We are continuing our working relationship with WVU's graduate level Media Department, in development of a greatly improved MHM website. Very recently, we have worked to develop a museum YouTube channel. The channel can be viewed by going to our web page and clicking on the YouTube logo. We now have in excess of fifty videos installed on the YouTube channel.

We have been very lucky to get wonderful volunteers here at the museum, especially in the past two years. More recently, Elizabeth Satterfield and Elizabeth Young, both WVU History Department students, have taken on the enormous job of organizing our storage areas. They worked to create a system of storage using subjects, key and maps to accomplish this difficult and time consuming job. We are very grateful for their assistance.

One of the exciting projects that we are currently working on involves the subject of Thoney Pietro, a Morgantown legend. Our grad student Chris McGuffin has been organizing materials, acquiring photos and researching Thoney's life, in order to coordinate the upcoming Thoney Pietro: A Morgantown Visionary exhibit. This exhibit will be up in early summer. Mr. Pietro built many Morgantown landmarks during the early 20th century.

We are once again working on the MHM Flatboat Project. The MHM Flatboat Project- Phase III, will involve the building of a twelve foot model of a Michael Kern's flatboat which will be housed on the Morgantown waterfront. Additionally, a historical wayboard sign will be included to provide the visitor with the history of flatboats in Morgantown. Phase III will be the final phase of this project.

Finally, we would like to invite you to our upcoming Best Chef Cook-Off culinary event. It is our only fundraising event of the year. It will happen on August 3, 2017, at Lakeview Resort, at 6pm. Contact the museum for more details.

Thanks for all you do - we really appreciate it!

Pamela Ball

Chair,

MMC/MHM

Some of Our New Acquisitions at the Museum

- Paper: Charles C. Howell's "History of the Ridgedale School District" with a family picture and DAR documentation
- Five copies of 'The United Mineworkers Journal' covering the Farmington, WV Mine Disaster and the fraud trial concerning the pension fund
- Morgantown Golf and Country Club Annual Report booklets, 1960-1963
- Ten metal glass molds and fifteen marking and cutting tools from the Seneca Glass Company
- Acoustic guitar used in teaching music at the 2nd Ward Annex, an African American school in Morgantown.
- Black and white aerial photograph of the Sterling Faucet Company ca. 1950, which formerly hung in the conference room at the plant.

Upcoming Events

- MedExpress Kids' Day July 15, 2017 10am - 2pm
- Exhibit: 'Thoney Pietro: A Morgantown Visionary' July 1
- 2017 Best Chef Cook-Off August 3



Sherran and Harold “Swiftly” Shaver meet with Karen Knotts, daughter of the late actor Don Knotts at the Hill and Hollow restaurant. Karen held a meet and greet to hear stories from people who knew her father for her upcoming biography of him. The museum is sharing information from our large collection of Don Knotts artifacts with Karen.



WVU Student Elizabeth Satterfield curated our Women’s History Month exhibit. It featured vintage clothing and photographs of Morgantown women of different eras and this quilt, one of the museum’s treasures. Members of the Mountaineer Women’s Club embroidered and quilted it by hand to commemorate the 1976 Bicentennial of America and of Monongalia County.



Nick Lorenz of Furnishings For U helped us to acquire this guitar which was used to teach music at the Second Ward Annex, an African American school in Morgantown ca.1950. We hope to receive more Second Ward Annex artifacts.



Assistant Coordinator Chris McGuffin is curating our next exhibit "Thoney Pietro: A Morgantown Visionary," a favorite subject amongst lovers of Morgantown history and architecture. He expects to open the exhibit July 1.

OUR MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS



Elizabeth Satterfield grew up in Taylor County, WV, and has been interested in local and state history for many years. She is currently studying history at West Virginia University, with emphases in West Virginia history and historic preservation. She has been a volunteer at the museum for almost a year, helping with collection management and inventory as well as short-term exhibits.



Beth Young grew up in South Charleston, West Virginia. She attends West Virginia University with a double major in history and geography and a minor in French. She is also a member of the university's Division I women's rowing team.

Thank You for Your Support!

We would like to thank the following individuals, families, and organizations for their volunteer work and/or their generous contributions to the Morgantown History Museum:

Dr. and Mrs. Gene Ball
 Cathy Allen
 American Alliance of Museums
 Pamela Ball
 Margeret Brennen
 BOPARC
 Robert Cochrane
 Bruce Elliot
 Dr. William Gorby
 Dr. Ken Fones-Wolf
 Karen Knotts
 Dr. Michael Workman
 Keith DeVault
 The Vaughn Kiger Family
 Neva Feck
 Richard McEwuen
 City of Morgantown
 Friends of Deckers Creek
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 Dena Pride
 Charles and Pat Harper
 Peggy Johnson
 Dana Botkins Crawley
 Brandon Casturo
 Don Spencer
 Ron Rittenhouse

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 Pam McClung Casto
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 Augie Mastrogiuseppe
 Royce J & Caroline B Watts
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 James Brown & Family
 Gary Deavers
 WV & Regional History Center, WVU
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 Charlene Marshall
 Paul Poling Family
 Retired B&O Railroaders
 of Preston County
 Terry Donk
 Kim Lapana & Lakeview Resort
 Jenny & Nathan Wilson
 Dr. Ed Sneckenberger
 Dan Cunningham
 Michael Caplinger
 Al Bonner
 Ron Delaney
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 Lakehouse
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 Coaches Crab Shack
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 Bourbon Prime
 Iron Horse Tavern
 Flying Fish
 Hill and Hollow
 Ron Justice
 The Phillips Family

Membership Application

The Morgantown Museum Commission invites you to join the Friends of Morgantown History Museum to help promote and preserve the rich history of Morgantown and the surrounding area.

Annual Memberships

\$25.00 Individual _____
 \$30.00 Family _____
 \$50.00 Corporate _____

Additional Contributions:

\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

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Telephone (h) _____

(w) _____

E-mail: _____

Mail to:

Friends of the Morgantown History Museum
 175 Kirk Street
 Morgantown, WV 26505

To donate objects or to volunteer some time, please contact the Morgantown History Museum at (304) 319-1800 or at info@morgantownhistorymuseum.org

To make a monetary donation, go to <https://npo.justgive.org/nonprofits/donate.jsp?ein=26-0859732>. or send donation directly to MHM, 175 Kirk St, Morgantown, WV 26505.



Save the date!
August 3, 2017

**5th Annual
2017 Best Chef Cook-Off**

For more information or to register early
contact Dena at dena.pride@gmail.com

Benefits The Morgantown History Museum

Preserving Morgantown's Cultural Heritage

175 Kirk Street
Morgantown, WV 26505