

"The Catawba Path, which ran from Ischsua (Olean), New York, on the upper Allegheny through Indian and Uniontown, Pa., to Morgantown, West Virginia... was one the most important Indian highways in North America."

~~ W.Va. Heritage Encylopedia, 1976

## useumNews

Modern archaeologists have discovered evidence of permanent indigenous settlements in and around the Morgantown area going back thousands of years before Europeans colonists arrived. The state also served as a hunting ground for Cherokee, Deleware, Irolquois, Mingo, , and Shawnee living outside West Virginias current borders. Native populations decreased with the advance of Europeans settler colonists and their introduction of resource / extraction economies and Western agricultural practices, which often left forests wilderness clearcut and local ecologies no longer sustainable for them, as well as the introduction of foreign pathogens like smallpox.



Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

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SPRING SUMMER 2021

Neil Burton, co-coordinator and lead researcher of "The Monongahela People" exhibit, and Pamela Ball, Morgantown History Museum director, attend the exhibit's debut Thursday, on Earth Day, which the museum hosted at the Sky Rock Pavillion, Dorsey Knob Park.



Chart showing Drawings of Petroglyphs from a Site South of Morgantown Panther (1), Deer tracks (5 10 -16), Human footprints, (6-23) Spirit Otter (7), Human Figure (8, 17), Snail or Spiral (9), Bear Tracks (20)

# MORGANIOWN HISTORY MUSEUM

#### MHM SPRING / SUMMER 2021

Friends of the Morgantown History Museum

#### **Friends Board**

PRESIDENT Harold "Swifty" Shaver

VICE PRESIDENT Pamela A. Ball

SECRETARY/TREASURER Richard McEwuen

Museum Assistant Adminstrators

Patricia Dudley

Neil Burton

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

Email: morgantownwvhistory@icloud.com

Website: www.morgantownhistorymuseum.org Current Hours: Subject to change July 1 Tuesday-Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

#### **Greetings from the Chair:** Dear Friends,

Since my last message to you, a year ago, much has changed. With the Morgantown History Museum - and with me personally.

The Pandemic that we have managed to pull-through has created new and creative ways of operating.

Case-in-point: I wrote a grant to Your Community Foundation for funding to create 'The Monongahela People' exhibit and opening reception. The grant was funded. We were going to have the events in the Spring of 2021, but unfortunately the Pandemic was still prominent enough to prevent our inside event. But, we had to think of something! Thus, creative juices started to flow - Yes, we'll have the exhibit in abbeviated form - as a preview - OUTSIDE! We rented the city SkyRock Pavillion, at the top of Dorsey's Knob, which has roots in the 'Monongahela People' Native tradition. Although the weather had been mild up until our preview - Earth Day 2021that day was frigid, with high winds and snow! I thought we would freeze to death. The elevation of SkyRock, at 1,398 feet helped to make it extremely uncomfortable. We toughed it out and stayed the day. Thus, I guess you can surmise from this experience - you will do anything in the name of history.

Change also comes in ways beyond operation schedules and freezing in icy outside displays. Sometimes changes come personally. I have been contemplating giving up the directorship position at the Morgantown History Museum for awhile now. Circumstances that have occured more recently, have made me make that big change in my life. I will be leaving the museum directorship on July 1, 2021. This was a extremely difficult decision for me to make. Why? Because I started the museum effort 26 years ago. The early organization was known as 'Riverfront Museums, Inc.' - we started up in the mid-1990s and had our tiny exhibit space in the old Seneca Glass building. That organization was taken under the wing of the City of Morgantown in 2005, when they voted to organize a city museum commission. I was asked to lead this effort. We had our first commission meeting in August of 2005; I found a small operating space by December of 2005; we found salvaged used office furniture and created a small exhibit by June of 2006. We opened to the public on WV Day, June 2006. We had a fiddler friend Mark Crabtree play WV Civil War tunes on his fiddle and had a large WV shaped birthday cake for refeshment. It was a very nice first event.

Things rapidly moved along and by December of 2011 we had a new and much larger operating space- and were chosen to be one of the six organizations to be venues for the Smithsonian exhibit 'The Way We Worked' - it was a dream come true for me!

Thanks for all of the wonderful assistance my friends - you have helped me develop a museum to be proud of - indeed! Take care. **Pamela A. Ball, Founder** 



Josh Wanstreet (left) and Mark Crabtree (right) Opening day (upstairs, 111 High Street) June 24th, 2006



Pamela McClung Casto (left) and Pamela A. Ball (right) Grand Opening: 'The Way We Worked' (Smithsonian), December 17, 2011

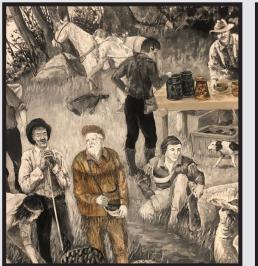
#### MHM ART

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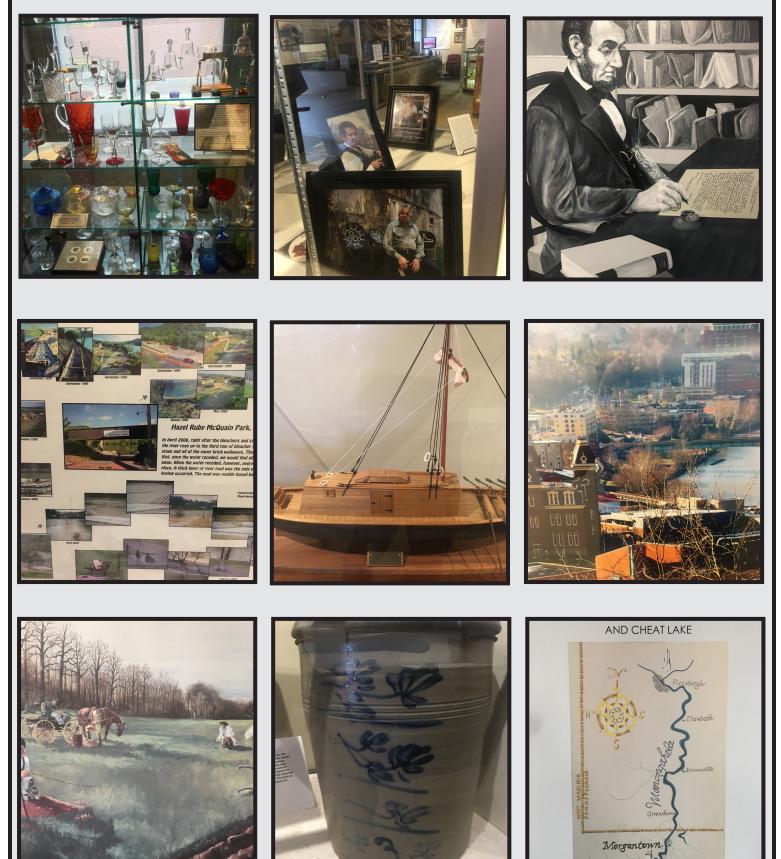






Paintings shown above are hanging in the museum for the public to view. They are the works of Sally McClain, former art teacher at Morgantown High School and Lydia Keiser.

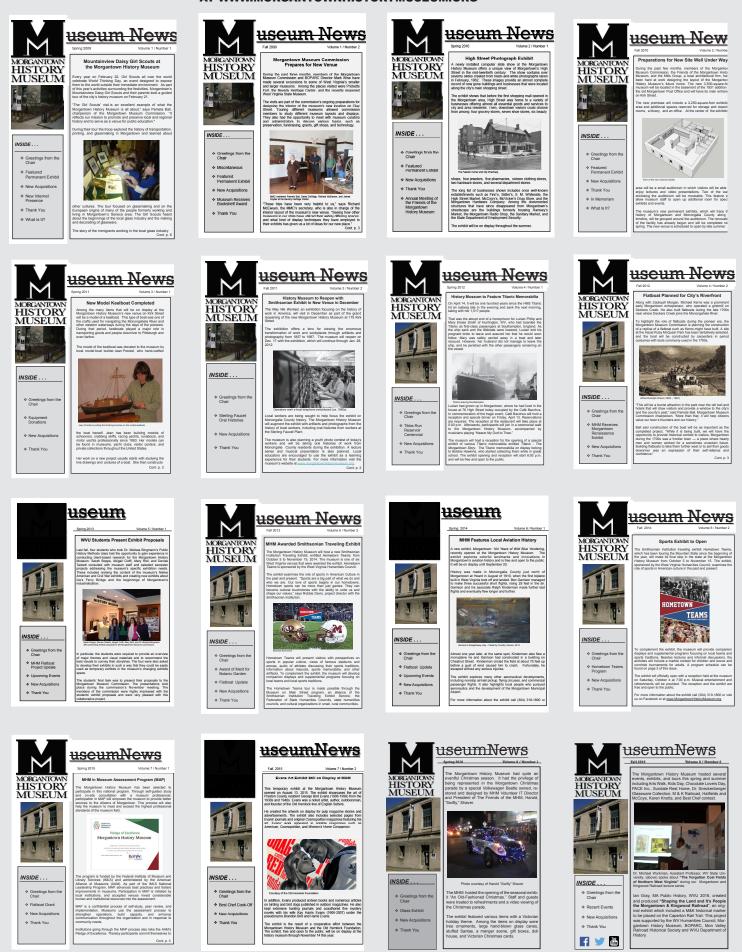
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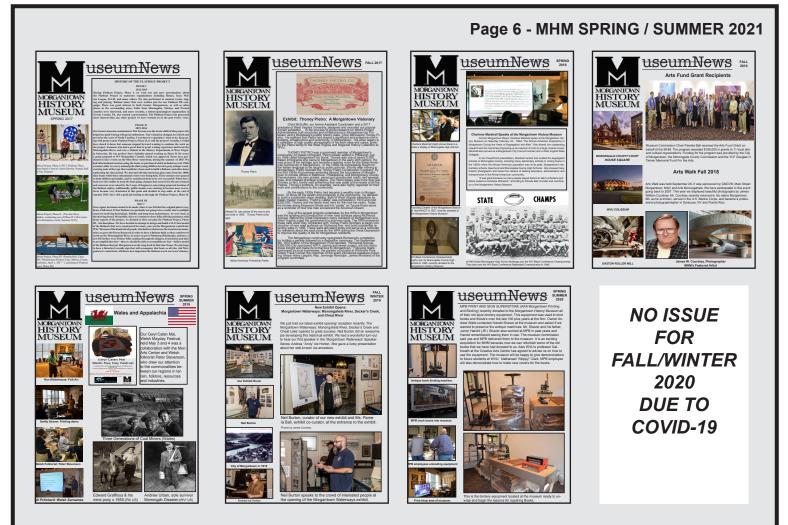


Above are some of the items we have had donated over the years from the general public. Included: the photographic collection by Frank Scafella and Sue Amos of the building construction going on in the Wharf district.

THESE PAST NEWSLETTERS MAY BE ACCESSED ON OUR WEBSITE BY SELECTING THE (NEWS) TAB AT WWW.MORGANTOWNHISTORYMUSEUM.ORG

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• 'The Monongahela People' upcoming exhibit opening/reception will be held as soon as we are given the green light to proceed.

• Your Community Foundation, of Morgantown, has funded our grant proposal for a Morgantown printing and book binding exhibit, in 2022.

• We wanted to mention that our big fundraiser of the year, 'Best Chef Contest', has been canceled for two years due to the pandemic. Be watching for The Friends of Morgantown History Museum newsletter for info for re-starting of the contest in August 2022.



### OUR NEWEST AQUISITIONS

1. Wood and metal hand-cranked clothes wringer attachment for wash tub.

2. Vulcanizer machine, uses heat and pressure to cure soft rubber in dental appliances. Directions for use on Cobun Dental Lab letterhead.

3. Corn planter, double, wood and metal. Type used ca.1850-1910.

4. Advertising, 'yard-long' calendars from R. A. Wilbourne Co., Wholesale Produce, Manufactures of Ice Cream and Ice, Morgantown, WV. 9 1/2'x 23" oval portrait of 'Love's Ideal' on 1915 and 'The Fairest Flower' on 1916.

5. Glass, three Old Morgantown Glass footed shot glasses, steel blue, 2" x 2 3/8"

6. Paper, two Order of Railway Conductors dues receipts Jan. 20 & 27 1906, 6"x 3".

7. Glass plate photographic negative, view across Falling Run including Woodburn Circle, shot from the bottom of Stewart St. 8" x 10" William Ramsey, photographer, Morgantown, ca.1890-1900. 8' x 10', nickel-plated frame w/ hanging rings.

8. Paper, Sons of the Revolution membership application, Feb. 22,1936, by William Emmet Morgan Mockler, whose ancestor fought in two battles of the American Revolution. Includes genealogy of Price family of Mon. County.

9. Leather, buggy whip, two-toned brown, braided, 6' long, w/wrist strap. Found in the house built by the late Gans Ridgeway in Uffington, WV. He was known for owning horses, as were others in that area.

10. Glass, Morgantown Glassware Guild, four office file boxes full. From the family of a former employee.

11. Paper, Real Photographic Postcard, B & W, young man with baseball bat. Identified on back as Mose Darst, aged 19 in 1914, Morgantown attorney, 1895-1936.

12. Paper, Payroll ID card, American Sheet and Tin Plate, Sabraton Works, #8266, Reginald Bellamy, May 15, 1923. Paper Card in tin frame with plastic cover.

13. Book, soft-cover, Deadwood In My Blood, Includes genealogy of American Revolutionary soldier Thomas Evans.

14. Photograph, B &W original, Seneca neighborhood with glass factories, and the Monongahela River. William Ramsey, photographer, ca. 1890-1900.

15. Photograph, B & W original, WVU Science Hall on Woodburn Circle, matte finish, 8" x 10". William Ramsey, photographer, ca. 1890-1900.

16. Photograph, B & W original, shot from top of Fife St. and N. High, showing N. Willy toward South Park neighborhood in distance. William Ramsey, photographer, 1890-1900.



Vulcanizer



Morgantown Glassware



Tub wringer



**Corn Planter** 

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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. Gene V. and Sara Jane Ball WVU I-Serve Program Charlie Byrer Morgantown Public Library Catherine Witworth John Nutt Mary Agnes Palmer Chris Haddox Arts Fund Your Community Foundation BOPARC West Virginia Black Bears Wanda Shaver Furnishings for You Masman Jewelers Mountaineer Golf University Tees **Coombs Florist** Silver Pennies **Chucks Furniture** John DeAngelis Zack Cruze Morgantown Running Norm Jullian Patricia Dudley **River Fair Trade** Harold Shaver AL Bonner The Cupcakerie Clarion Hotel Morgan Wamsley Cycle Appalachian Gallery Writings of the late Dr. Earl Core

**Betty Wiley** Coni & Franc Sherry McEwuen **Rick McEwuen** Soap Opera Dr. Emery Kemp estate/Dr. Janet Kemp WVU Athletic football office WVU Athletic basketball office The Book Exchange **Atrias Restaurant Ron Rittenhouse** Appalacian Gallery Michael Meszaros Andrew Xanto WVU History Department Professor Ron Dulaney Professor Jeffrey Moser WVU Architecture and Design Friends of Morgantown History Museum WV & Regional History Center, WVU **Charlene Marshall** City of Morgantown **Bourbon Prime Restaurants** Table 9 Lakehouse Restaurant Sargasso The Preston Inn Lakeview Resort Restaurant WVU Division of Forestry WVU Department of History Coopers Rock State Forest Yale University Dept of History The Rachael Carson Center

Terri Cutright Arthur Otieno James Courtney **Ray Sanders** Heidi Michaels John Pyles **Charlotte Pyles** Brenda Shinkovich/DAR Pamela Ball Beth Young **Neil Burton Bill Kawecki** Morgantown Museum Commissioners Monongalia County Commission James Brown & Family Roby & Carol Young Andrew Lohmann **Darryl DeGrippe** Andrea Ice Horton Craig Fallkenstein **Michael Attfield** Forks of Cheat Winery Cathredral State Park **Old Hemlock Foundation** WVU Core Arboretum Friendship Hill Historic site Nick Hein Morgantown Art Party Lisa Elmaleh Rhonda Fout Bee Patricia Meola **Richard-Lehner** Mary Jane Coulter Louis Birurakis

I would personally like to thank Dr. Gene V. and Sara Jane Ball for their support over the years - I so greatly appreciate it. Pamela A. Ball, Founder and Director, Morgantown History Museum

#### **Membership Application**

The City of Morgantown 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:

Φ		
Name		
Address		
City, State, Zip		
Telephone (	)	
E-mail:		

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

#### NOTE: OUR EMAIL HAS CHANGED

TO morgantownwvhistory@icloud.com Also our new hours are; Tuesday - Saturday 11 am to 2 pm Subject to change July 1, 2021

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

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



The Morgantown History Museum is located at 175 Kirk Street in downtown Morgantown, WV. Our hours of operation have been shortened because of the pandemic. We are now open Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 2: 00 p.m but will change on July 1, 2021 to new hours. There is free parking at the back of the building and the tour is free.. Donations are accepted.

Preserving Morgantown's Cultural Heritage



175 Kirk Street Morgantown, WV 26505