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## MORGANTOWN HISTORY MUSEUM

# useum News

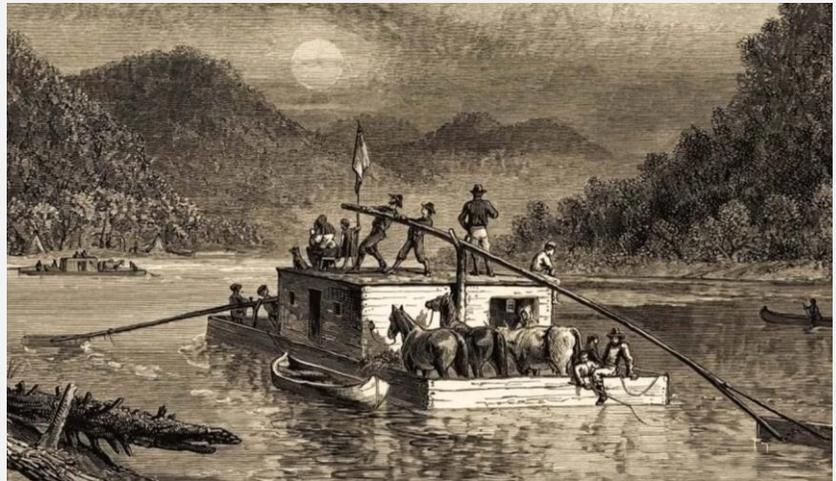
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### Flatboat Planned for City's Riverfront

Along with Zackquill Morgan, Michael Kerns was a prominent early Morgantown entrepreneur, who operated a gristmill on Deckers Creek. He also built flatboats during the late 1700s near where Deckers Creek joins the Monongahela River.

To highlight the role of flatboats during the pioneer era, the Morgantown Museum Commission is planning the construction of a replica of a flatboat such as Kerns might have built. A site at the Hazel Ruby McQuain Park has been tentatively selected, and the boat will be constructed by carpenters in period costumes with tools commonly used in the 1700s.



Alfred Rudolph Waud (1828 – 1891)

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“This will be a tourist attraction in the park near the rail trail and hotels that will draw visitors and provide a window to the city’s and the county’s past,” said Pamela Ball, Morgantown Museum Commission chairperson. “More than that, it will help citizens value our town’s founders and our history.”

Ball said construction of the boat will be as important as the completed project. “While it is being built, we will have the opportunity to provide historical context to visitors. Morgantown during the 1700s was a frontier town — a place where hearty men and women worked for a sometimes uncertain future. Building flatboats to take them further west or to sell their goods downriver was an expression of their self-reliance and confidence.”

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**Morgantown Museum  
Commission**

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Pamela A. Ball

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**Assistant Coordinator/  
Museum News Editor**

Michael Mackert

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

[morgantownmuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:morgantownmuseum@yahoo.com)

Tuesday – Saturday  
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## Greetings from the Chair

Dear Friends,

Once again, newsletter time has rolled around. Time to tell all of our friends out there about what we have been doing in the last six months and about what we will be doing in the immediate future.

In the spring, we hosted Main Street Morgantown's annual Chocolate Lovers' Day. We provided various chocolate goodies and copies of local advertisements for long-ago stores featuring chocolate. As we have found out in the last eight years: chocolate is *always* popular.

During the early summer months, we displayed automobile paraphernalia from Morgantown and the region. We opened up a patriotic display on Memorial Day which featured Morgantown military-related photographs. This display was part of the "Blue Star" program, a national campaign which gives free admission to soldiers and their families. Since the Morgantown History Museum has a free admission policy, we provided colorful certificates to all military personnel. This display ended on Labor Day.

Our next display, *The Eureka Pipeline Company*, was installed in September and features many photographs taken at this company's now defunct Morgantown pump station. This station was located along the Monongahela River, a short distance to the south of the Morgantown Lock & Dam. The *Eureka Pipeline Company* exhibit will be displayed until early December when we install our 1700s Flatboat Project.

In October, we will have a special display (electronically) of unusual Halloween post cards that were produced during the early 1900s to 1950s. In the past we have featured Christmas, St. Patty's Day, and Thanksgiving card electronic displays that are always popular.

Our upcoming Flatboat Project will incorporate several aspects. We had our first planning meeting for this project several weeks ago and have great hopes for its success. The first phase includes design of an informational brochure letting folks know about the Flatboat Project and about what we hope to accomplish. Museum commission members will be giving presentations about this project to various organizations around town. In December the second phase of the project kicks in with the holiday opening reception for the *Flatboats: Morgantown's First Entrepreneurial Venture* exhibit. The third phase will involve the actual production of a full-size replica of a 1700s flatboat that will be built using colonial building methods. This flatboat replica will be located on the Morgantown waterfront and will be used as a satellite tourism and learning lab for the Morgantown History Museum. Very exciting indeed!!

Thanks for all you do to help our mission of bringing Morgantown's history to county school children, local citizens, and visiting public. We appreciate it!

Pamela A. Ball  
Chairperson, Morgantown Museum Commission  
Coordinator, Morgantown History Museum

## MHM Receives Renaissance Morgantown Exhibit

Between June 29 and October 1 this year, three local venues displayed the Renaissance Morgantown photograph exhibit, organized by Main Street Morgantown and former Mayor Frank Scafella. The photographs, taken by professional photographer Susan Amos and Mr. Scafella, document the Morgantown riverfront development from 1998 to 2011. The photographs and 1,500 negatives will be permanently housed at the Morgantown History Museum.



Mr. Scafella presented the collection to the museum on October 13 during a brief ceremony, which was followed by a reception. A selection of the photographs is now on display at the museum. Eventually, museum visitors will also be able to view the collection in digital format and to purchase photo prints of the images they desire.

### Flatboat cont.

Flatboats were common in the 1700s on the Western Waters, as the Monongahela and Ohio rivers were called. Later came keelboats, which, unlike the flatboat, could be poled upstream. Then, in 1811 the New Orleans, powered by steam, was launched on the Monongahela near Pittsburgh, ushering in the age of the mighty steamboats.

#### Help Build the Boat!

Are you, or do you know, a carpenter familiar with using tools of the past? We are looking for volunteers to help build the flatboat in the old-time fashion on location at Morgantown's riverfront.

Funding is also needed for this project. Major sponsorships are available, and donations of any amount are welcomed. Call (304) 319-1800.

## New Acquisitions

### Images

The 90 items in this donation include picture postcards, photographic prints, and digitized photographs depicting various local scenes at the beginning of the last century. One of the original photographs mounted on cardboard shows a group of seven people standing in the Monongahela River during a Baptist baptismal service around 1909. According to the information provided on the back of the photograph, the service took place north of Uffington, WV just below the old dam No. 11.



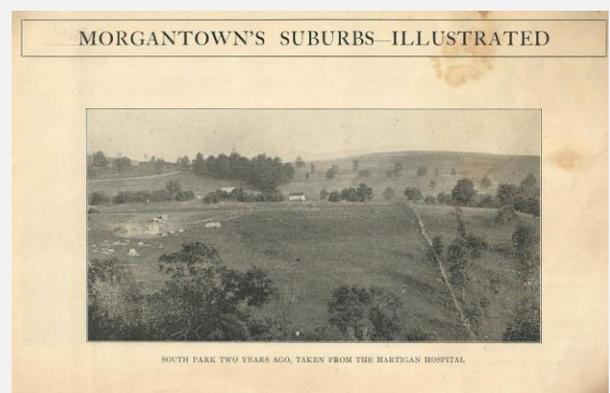
### Vintage WVU Souvenir Album



This 16-page publication dates back to the early twentieth century. It contains 28 black-and-white images of West Virginia University's downtown campus and of its preparatory schools at Montgomery and Keyser. Some of the images of the Morgantown campus show the following buildings that no longer exist: the Commencement Hall, the Experiment Station, the Engineering Hall, and the Armory.

### Morgantown's Suburbs Booklet

Morgantown banker and developer J. W. Wiles published this 32-page brochure during the first decade of the twentieth century. The purpose of the publication was to introduce Morgantown to eastern "capitalists, investors, and home-seekers." The booklet contains information on Morgantown neighborhoods and photographs of private residences and industrial buildings. It also includes parcel maps of the South Park, Wiles Hill, and Seneca neighborhoods.



To stay informed about the latest events and exhibits at the Morgantown History Museum, visit our website at [www.MorgantownHistoryMuseum.org](http://www.MorgantownHistoryMuseum.org) or our page on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

## Thank You for Your Support!

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

Maxine Arbogast  
Andrea Argabright  
Gene and Sara Jane Ball  
Pamela A. Ball  
Robert D. Beach  
Jean Bennett  
BOPARC  
Susan Braid  
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Jane Corder Moore  
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Judith Stitzel  
C. Donald Summers  
Kevin D. Swisher  
Lori A. Tanner  
Rita Tanner  
Sheila Wexler  
Mark Wise  
Your Community Trust

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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 Museum Commission at (304) 319-1800 or at [morgantownmuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:morgantownmuseum@yahoo.com).

### WVU Honors Class Visits MHM

For honors students taking WVU Professor Cookie Schultz's *City as Text* class, the Morgantown History Museum has become a regular destination for a tour. The displays and resources available at the museum help students explore the culture of Morgantown and Monongalia County from the pre-Revolutionary period up to the present.



The students' tour of the museum, which includes a documentary film on glassmaking at Seneca Glass Company and a virtual tour of Morgantown in the year 1900, provides them with a good opportunity to gather ideas for a required research paper.

Preserving Morgantown's Cultural Heritage