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MORGANTOWN HISTORY MUSEUM



useumNews

Spring 2015

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MHM in Museum Assessment Program (MAP)

The Morgantown History Museum has been selected to participate in this national program. Through self-guided study and on-site consultation with a museum professional, participation in MAP will empower the museum to provide better services to the citizens of Morgantown. This process will also help the museum to meet and exceed the highest professional standards of the museum field.



INSIDE . . .

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The program is funded by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and administered by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). As part of the IMLS National Leadership Program, MAP advances best practices and fosters improvements in museums. Participation in MAP is initiated by local institutions, and accepted venues invest considerable human and institutional resources into the assessment.

MAP is a confidential process of self-study, peer review, and implementation. Museums use the assessment process to strengthen operations, build capacity, and enhance communication throughout the organization and in response to community needs.

Institutions going through the MAP process also take the AAM's Pledge of Excellence. Thereby participants commit themselves to

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**Morgantown Museum
Commission**

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Representative

James Snyder

Christy Venham, Co-chair

**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

info@morgantownhistorymuseum.org

Tuesday – Saturday
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Greetings from the Chair

Dear Friends,

Once again, spring has returned to our fair city. It was a particularly hard winter for most of us. But hope springs eternal, and we just knew that soon our beloved trees would bud and that our gardens would burst forth with daffodils, tulips, and other beauties of nature.

In the last several years the Morgantown History Museum has been collaborating with other organizations to produce exhibits that would appeal to our museum visitors. This year, during late winter and into the spring, we have collaborated with the Friends of Deckers Creek, a Morgantown environmental organization, to produce a very interesting exhibit about the Richard Mine. Folks have really enjoyed this exhibit. If you haven't had a chance to see it, please come into the museum to check it out.

The Morgantown Museum Commission, museum staff, and volunteers have been working hard through the winter writing grants, preparing materials for the Museum Assessment Program, planning the beginning stage for the construction of the flatboat, and giving presentations about our upcoming grassroots Kern's Fort Project to area organizations.

We have also been planning our annual fundraising project, The Best Chef Cook-Off, which will occur on August 6 at the Lakeview Resort at Cheat Lake.

We at the Morgantown History Museum appreciate all that you do for us. YOU make us what we are.

Thanks!

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

Morgantown History Museum Receives Flatboat Grant

The West Virginia Humanities Council has awarded the Morgantown History Museum a \$1,300 grant to support efforts to build a circa 1820 flatboat in Hazel Ruby McQuain Park.

Construction of the boat is planned to begin in May. The installation will be an interactive living-history exhibit about Morgantown's role in westward expansion during the 1700s and 1800s. During that period Michael Kerns, one of Morgantown's early entrepreneurs, operated a boat-building business on the banks of the Monongahela near Deckers Creek.

Historians are compiling stories about flatboats and are conducting research on their role in our local, regional, and national history; on the tools and building methods used in their construction; and on the music and clothing typical of the time. Builders will wear period costumes and use tools and methods of the period to build the boat, which will be about 12 feet wide and 40 feet long.

"The Monongahela River played a significant role in the early history of our community and our nation, providing transportation to markets and frontiers south and west for trade goods and people," says project leader Steve Stathakis. "We believe that this project will prove to be a point of interest for citizens of Morgantown and visitors alike."

Anyone interested in participating in the project should contact Steve at mizzen@nard.net.

MHM in Museum Assessment Program cont.

strive to operate according to national standards and best practices to the best of their abilities and in accordance with their resources.

"Choosing to be part of MAP is indicative of the commitment to civic involvement, public service, and overall excellence on part of the Morgantown History Museum," said Ford Bell, president of AAM. "Studies have shown America's museums to be among the country's most trusted and valued institutions. MAP is designed to make them even better."

Since its creation in 1981, MAP has served over 4,300 museums. MAP is supported through a cooperative agreement with IMLS. For more information, including a complete list of museums participating in MAP, please visit www.aaam-us.org/map.

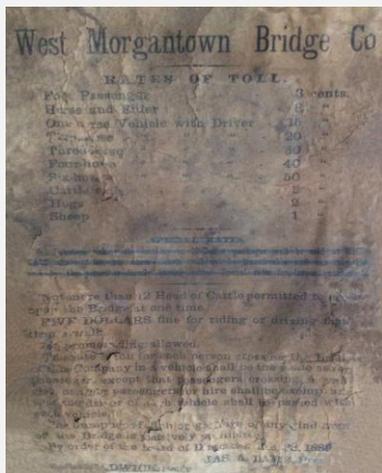
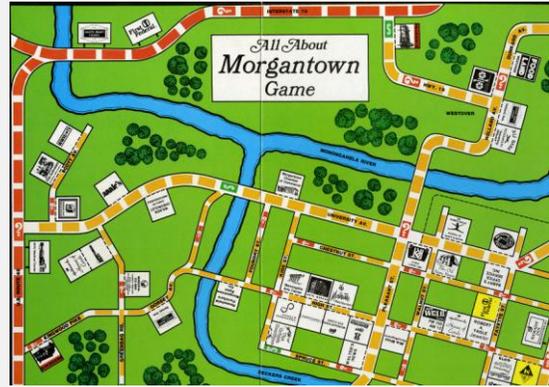
AAM is the only organization representing the nation's entire museum community and has been dedicated to promoting excellence within the museum field for over 100 years. For more information about AAM, visit www.aam-us.org. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. To learn more about the Institute, please visit: <http://www.ims.gov>.

To stay informed about the latest events and exhibits at the Morgantown History Museum, visit our website at www.MorgantownHistoryMuseum.org or our page on www.facebook.com.

New Acquisitions Now on Display at the Museum

All About Morgantown Game

This limited-edition board game was available in 1982. The layout of the board shows the major streets of downtown Morgantown and some roads in the surrounding area. Squares marking well-known local businesses and six residences are located along these routes. The game includes six playing pieces, two dice, play money, travel cards, and surprise cards. Each player starts with \$100 at one of the residences. The objective of the game is for players, using dice and playing pieces, to acquire 8 travel cards by moving about the board. The first player to acquire 8 cards and to return to his or her residence wins the game.



Poster with Bridge Toll Rates

The West Morgantown Bridge Co. announced its 1889 toll rates and conditions of use for the Morgantown bridge across the Monongahela on a poster. Foot passengers paid 3 cents, riders on horses 8 cents, and one-horse vehicles 15 cents. Promenading was not allowed on the bridge and not more than 12 head of cattle were permitted to cross the bridge at a time.

Edison Gem Phonograph

The Gem was the smallest phonograph available from Edison. The model donated to the museum was introduced in 1907 and featured a crane from which a horn could be suspended. The museum also received two Edison Blue Amberol Records that could be played on Edison phonographs. These records are cylinders with a core of plaster of Paris coated with a layer of blue celluloid. The two cylinders are recordings of Harry Lauder (1870-1950), singing "I love a Lassie," and of Cal Stewart (1856-1919), telling the story "Uncle Josh Buys an Automobile."



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:

American Alliance of
Museums
Pamela Ball
Paul and Barbara Beulla
BOPARC
Michael Breiding
Julie Bryan
Jenifer Cañas
City of Morgantown
Chelsea Elliott
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Friends of the Morgantown
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Harold Shaver
Jane Moore-Snyder
James Snyder
Nancy Stabane
Deanie VanCamp
Betty Wiley

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

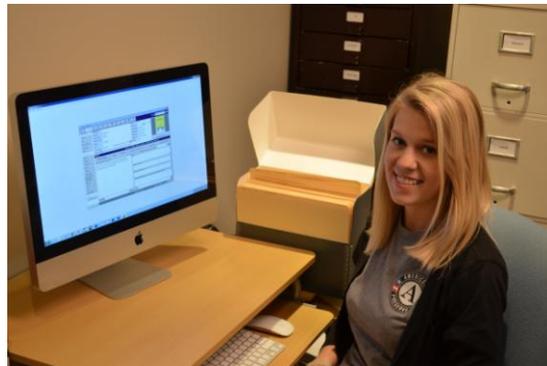
Morgantown, WV 26505

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

To make a monetary donation, go to <https://npo.justgive.org/nonprofits/donate.jsp?ein=26-0859732>.

Meet Our AmeriCorps Service Member!

Chelsea Elliott has been with the Morgantown History Museum since September of 2014 as an AmeriCorps Service Member through the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia. She will be here through the summer working to help improve the museum. Chelsea works on the museum archives, and she manages all volunteers that assist in the daily functions of the museum. She is a senior in history at West Virginia University. Starting in the fall of 2015, Chelsea will begin pursuing her Master of Arts in Public History at West Virginia University. If you are interested in volunteering at the museum contact Chelsea at celliott@morgantownhistorymuseum.org.



Preserving Morgantown's Cultural Heritage