

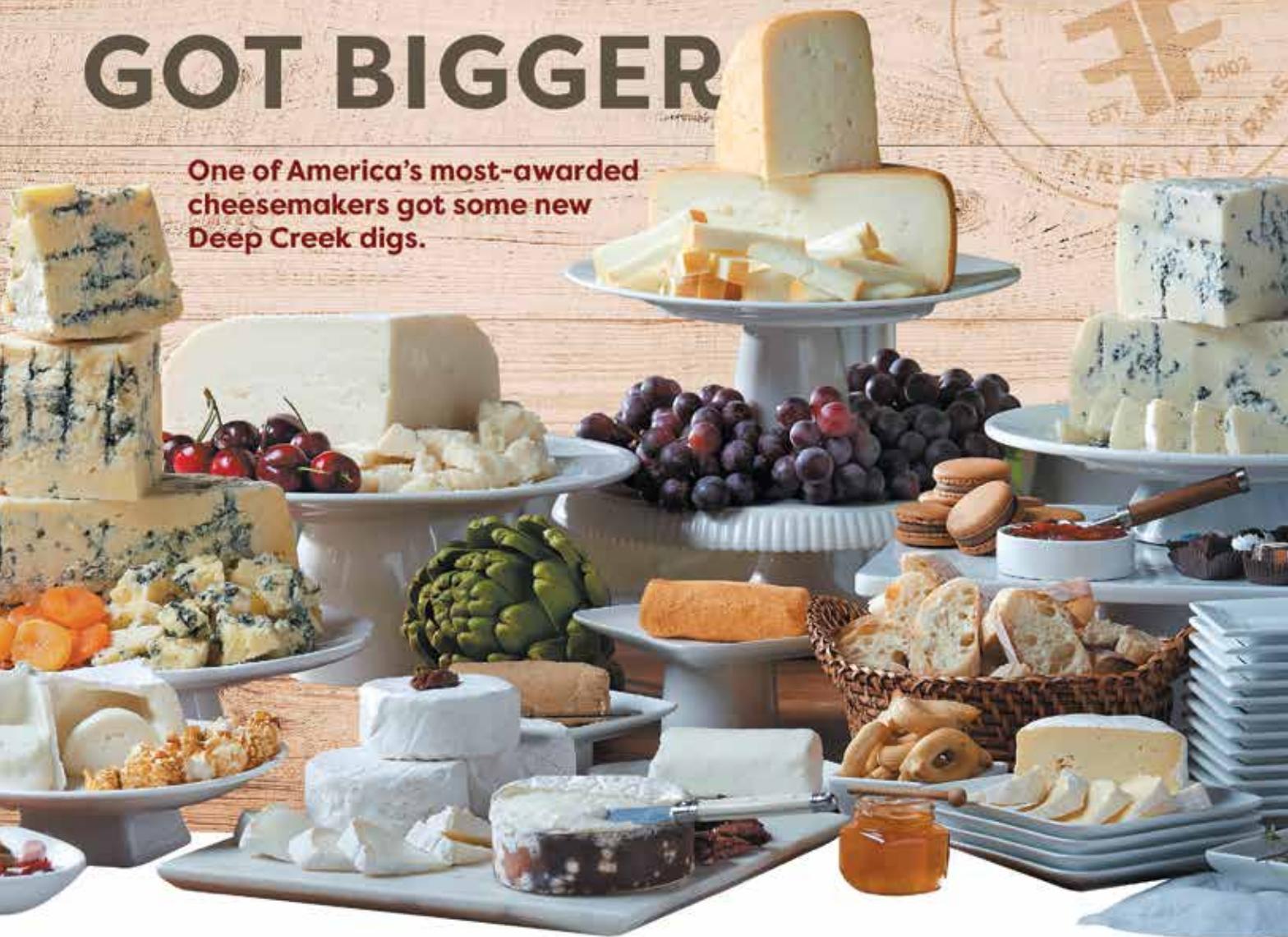
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Kathie L. Smith

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Lance C. Bell
Mike Calhoun

OFFICE MANAGER

Shelby Calhoun

STAFF WRITERS

Dan Whetzel
Sara Mullins
Mary Reisinger

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Mountain Discoveries
618 N. Mechanic St., Suite 1
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Phone: 301-759-2707

Email: questions@mountaindiscoveries.com

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In This Issue

Wisp and Wintergreen Resorts6

A Remarkable Life... Carved from a Coal Mine 12

Pouring on the Flavor 18

Neighbors Helping Neighbors22

St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church –
“The Church of the Presidents”24

Votes for Women, The Suffrage Movement
in Western Maryland, 1910 - 192029

For the Love of Place, Williamsport, Maryland32

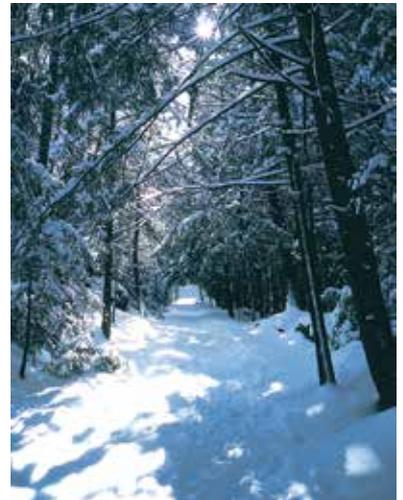
Arbor Day 2022.....36

Mary Elizabeth Garrett –
Philanthropist Extraordinaire40

A Look Back to the Old Schools in Allegany County 46

A Mountain Legacy – West Virginia’s Mont Chateau
Hotel and State Park 51

Allegany High School Students
Construct 8 Foot LEGO Model 58



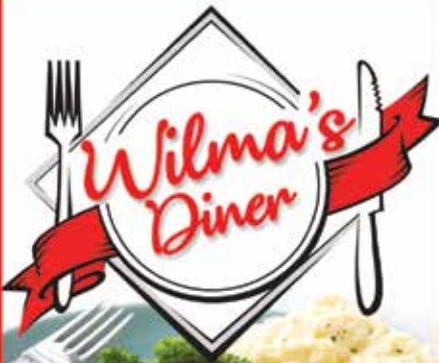
ON THE COVER

Winter path at Swallow Falls State Park, Garrett County, Maryland.

PHOTO BY LANCE C. BELL



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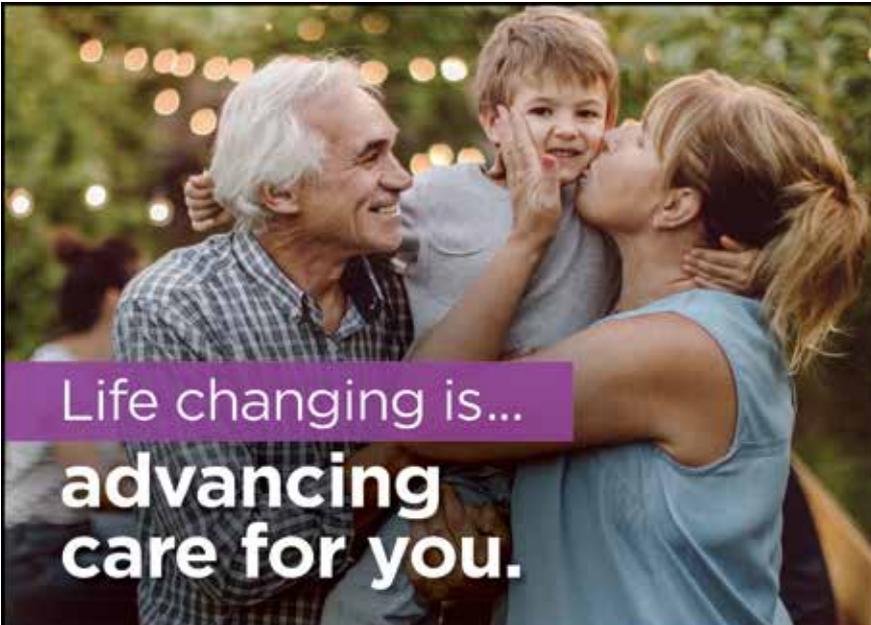


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Wisp and Wintergreen Resorts

THERE ARE TWO FOUR-SEASON SISTER RESORTS IN THE MID ATLANTIC THAT STARTED A BLENDED FAMILY OF RESORTS CREATED BY PACIFIC GROUP RESORT, INC., A PARK CITY, UTAH, BASED COMPANY.

Written by: **Christen Mangano** and **Josh Ellwood**

Photography provided by: **Wisp Resort** and **Wintergreen Resort**



Slopes and mountaintop at Wisp Resort. PHOTO BY LANCE BELL



Snow tubing is fun for all ages at Wisp Resort.



Tucked away in the mountains of Western Maryland near the shore of Deep Creek Lake lays Wisp Resort. Approximately 13 miles from Interstate 68, the resort is an easy 3-hour drive from the Baltimore/Washington, DC, metro area, 2-hours from Pittsburgh, PA, 4-hours from Columbus, OH, and less than 45-minutes from Morgantown, WV.

Wisp Resort was founded in 1955 by Helmuth 'Ace' Heise, starting with just a handle tow and ski rentals sold out of a car. Acquired in 2013 by Pacific Group Resort, Inc., Wisp



Resort has seen a lot of improvements; a recently renovated hotel and most recently, new snow guns and snowcat to optimize winter operations.

In the wintertime, Wisp Resort is a winter wonderland with skiing, snowboarding, and snow tubing. With 33 slopes to suit all levels of skiers and snowboarders, it is the perfect destination. For novices, our beginner area provides three carpets to introduce new skiers and snowboarders to the sport. Lessons and learning packages are also available to make it easy to get guests out on the mountain to learn and fine tune a lifelong sport.

Not only does Wisp Resort offer an active winter scene, but there are also three other seasons full of outdoor fun. As a four-season resort, the fun never ends. Ride the ever-popular mountain coaster every season of the year and enjoy the scenic views within each season.

During the summer months, Wisp Resort serves as your summer headquarters with a lively recreation scene. From the Mountain Park with canopy tours, gem mining, scenic chairlift rides and more – there is something for the entire family to discover.

After exploring the Mountain Park, make a splash at the world's only mountaintop whitewater rafting course. Take

Wisp offers 33 slopes to suit all levels of skiers and snowboarders.

in the scenic views as you explore the recirculating river on a guided raft. This is a perfect experience for those new to whitewater rafting. For the more experienced guests, private boating is available.

For those looking to relax and disconnect, spending time on the water is the ideal fix. Surrounded by the mountains is Maryland's largest freshwater lake, Deep Creek Lake. This 3,900 acre manmade lake has 69 miles of shoreline, is 13 miles long, and offers watersport enthusiasts and swimmers refreshing waters in the summer, while ice fishermen take advantage of the frozen lake in the winter months. Paddleboard, canoe, kayak or lie on the only public sandy beach at the Wisp Resort Beach Hut located at Deep Creek Lake State Park. While you're there, explore the lake by pontoon boat with an experienced captain. Take in the beauty of the lake and learn interesting tidbits about the lake and surrounding area.

If your passion lies on the links, Wisp Resort has two championship golf courses with breathtaking views. Lodestone Golf Course and Fantasy Valley Golf Course will challenge golfers while highlighting the spectacular mountaintop scenery, native rock outcroppings, and abundant wildlife.



Above: Enjoy spectacular views while golfing at Lodestone Golf Course, one of two championship courses at Wisp Resort.

Above right: The world's only mountaintop man made whitewater rafting course.

Right: The popular mountain coaster is available every season of the year.

Far right: Canopy tours are just one of the adventures at Wisp's Mountain Park.



Instruction is offered to those just picking up the sport or to experts wishing to improve.

Summer and fall are the time for outdoor events at Wisp. Every Wednesday in July and August, a concert and Farm & Art Market take place for locals and visitors to enjoy midweek. Listen to local artists and browse through the market for fresh greens and unique gifts from local farmers and artisans. In the fall, Oktoberfest is the event to be at. Guests can enjoy beer tastings, contests, and games for both adults and children. Not to mention Oompah music, an artisan village, and themed food. Holiday events and other activities can also be seen in the spring and winter.

All Wisp Resort activities are either on site with The Lodge at Wisp or no more than a 10-minute drive away. Make The Lodge at Wisp your basecamp for outdoor fun. Guests of The Lodge at Wisp can enjoy a pool, fitness center, outdoor firepits, and pet-friendly rooms. In the wintertime, guests can enjoy complimentary ski and snowboard lockers to store their equipment, not to mention staying slope side allows you to roll out of bed and hop onto the ski lift.

While in the Deep Creek Lake area, there are plenty of state parks to explore. Swallow Falls, a fan favorite, is fun to visit in any season. Enjoy the views while the leaves change or even during the first snow.





Wintergreen Resort

Wintergreen Resort is nestled in the heart of Virginia's beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains in Nelson County. Spanning from 3,500 feet at its peak to the valley below, about 150 miles southwest of Washington, DC, and a short 45-minute drive from Charlottesville, VA, Wintergreen Resort was acquired in 2015 and is also owned and operated by Pacific Group Resorts, Inc. Founded in 1975, it has evolved into a true four season resort providing year round fun and adventure for those who seek it.

With "winter" in the name, it's no shock that Wintergreen has become one of the premier ski spots in the Mid Atlantic. Wintergreen has 26 slopes with 1,000 feet of vertical drop on 125 skiable acres offering terrain for never-evers to advanced skiers and riders. If you are new to the sport, they offer lessons for all ages and programs for kids as young as 4. The superb skiing/riding conditions are created using a fully automated snow making system with over 40,000 linear feet of pipeline, 400 snow guns, and 45 weather stations. If skiing isn't your thing then head to The Plunge tubing park. The Plunge is Virginia's largest tubing park, comparable to a 10-story building in height and longer than 3 football fields. You can enjoy the thrills without the spills while sliding down the mountain at speeds up to 30 mph.



Above: Some of Wintergreen's slopes and slopeside accommodations.

Inset: A group of skiers ready for some winter fun.

Wintergreen's Discovery Kids Adventure Center offers tons of fun for the whole family that will be sure to satisfy even the most adventurous spirit. Activities include Gem Mining, Miniature Golf, Ninja Warrior Course, Summer Tubing, and a Disc Golf Course.

Wintergreen has some great options to enjoy your time in the sun while staying cool. Lake Monocan is a 20-acre scenic mountain lake located in Stoney Creek at the bottom of the mountain. This stunning location offers activities for everyone including stand up paddle boards, kayaks,

aqua cycles, and a blow up trampoline and slide. You can also relax on the sandy beach in an Adirondack and prepare a burger on the charcoal grills in the picnic area. There are several pools as well including Stoney Creek Pool and an indoor and outdoor pool at The Aquatics and Fitness Center.

Wintergreen is a golfer's sanctuary, featuring two courses with two completely different designs. Devils Knob Golf Course is the 18-hole mountain-top course with an elevation over 3800 feet making it the highest course in the state of Virginia and offering 50-mile views of the Shenandoah and Rockfish valleys. Devils Knob is private and open to Wintergreen Club members and Wintergreen Resort lodging guests only. Stoney Creek

golf course is located at the base of the mountain and features 27 holes of Reese Jones designed championship golf. The course is open to the public and provides beautiful panoramic vistas of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Wintergreen also has one of the top Racquet Sports Facilities in the country. Devils Knob features 3 indoor deco-turf courts along with 14 outdoor clay courts, and 8 brand new outdoor Pickleball courts. Stoney Creek has 4 outdoor courts as well. Wintergreen tennis academies have also been ranked in the top 50 tennis programs for many years. The Racquet Sports facility is open to Wintergreen Resort Club Members and Wintergreen Resort lodging guests only.

Wintergreen provides a variety of events as well including Memorial Day Weekend, July Fourth Jubilee, and Labor Day Weekend Cabin Jam. Wintergreen has also hosted the Wintergreen Music Festival for more than 25 years. This classical music festival is held every year for the entire month of July.

Wintergreen Resort offers a wide variety of lodging options from 1 bedroom lodge rooms to 9 bedroom



Top: Stoney Creek Golf Course, located at the base of the mountain, provides panoramic views of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Center left: Wintergreen's indoor racquet sports facility with deco-turf courts. Outdoor clay courts and pickleball courts are also available.

Center right: Wintergreen's Lake Monocan is a 20-acre scenic lake located at the bottom of the mountain.

Bottom: Wintergreen's 26 slopes offer terrain for skiers and snowboarders, from beginners to advanced.

homes. Booking your lodging reservation through Wintergreen Resort ensures an inclusive, enjoyable getaway with the Wintergreen Advantage. You will receive exclusive access to the Aquatics & Fitness Center, Devils Grill, Devils Knob Racquet Facility, Devils Knob Golf, complimentary access to Lake Monocan, and the brand new Devils Knob Pickleball Facility. During ski season Wintergreen Resort lodging guests also receive guaranteed access for skiing and priority on advanced tubing ticket sales.

Wintergreen's location offers plenty of opportunity to get off the mountains as well. Wintergreen is surrounded by lush vineyards, presidential estates, and historic farms. Quench your thirst at some of the local wineries and cideries or take a self-guided tour on the Brew Ridge Trail featuring 5 of the nation's best craft breweries.

Under PGRI, Wisp Resort and Wintergreen share 3 other sister resorts – Ragged Mountain in New Hampshire, Powderhorn in Colorado, and Mount Washington in Canada. In the winter-time, season pass holders for skiing and snowboarding get the luxury of hitting the mountain at all five sister resorts.

During golf season, golf members can enjoy a reciprocal program between Wisp and Wintergreen that allows access to multiple courses between the two resorts. Both resorts offer various wedding sites including mountain-top ceremony sites. Reception areas are suited to fit elopements to grand celebrations.

From family reunions to corporate events, both destinations are ideal for disconnecting and reconnecting with friends and family.

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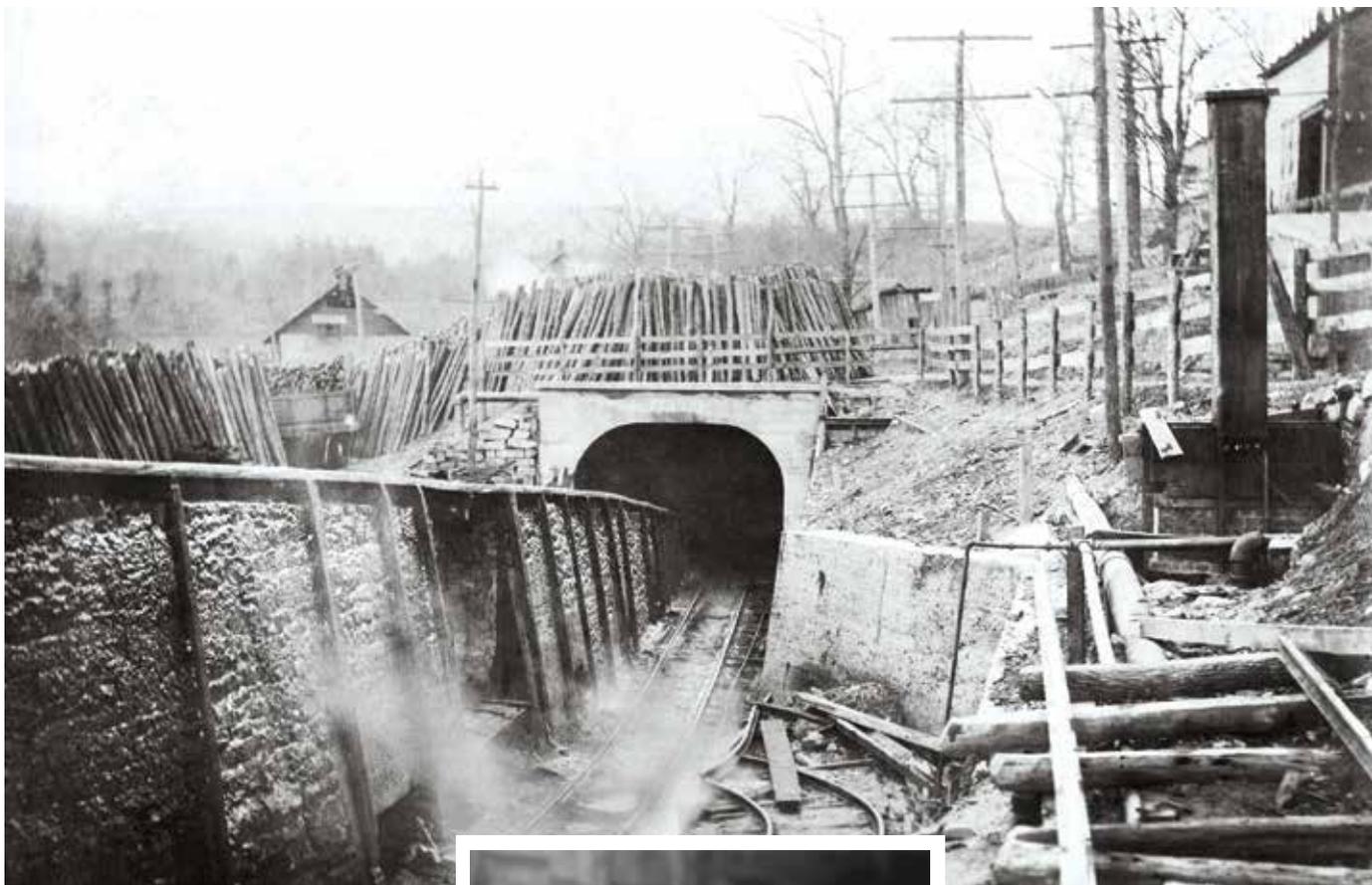
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A Remarkable Life...

Carved from a Coal Mine



Written by: **Bucky Schriver**

In the latter half of the 19th century, more than 12 million people emigrated from Europe in search of a better life in America. Most families who came to Maryland's Georges Creek Valley emigrated from Scotland, Ireland, or Wales. The majority came with the modest goal of finding work to sustain a meager day-to-day existence. The Social Security Act, union pensions, and any hope of a comfortable retirement would not be realized for at least another 50 years. The inconsistent demand for coal and low wages made it necessary for boys to abandon their



Sculptor George Conlon

good fortune, some families would escape the desperate cycle sooner than others.

Ocean Mine No. 1, one mile north of Midland, MD, was one of the oldest mines along Georges Creek.

PHOTO COURTESY ALLEGANY COAL & LAND

education and go to work in the mines at a very early age to help support the family. This often condemned the boys to a life of low-paying drudgery and an early grave from black lung, due to prolonged exposure to coal dust. For most families, it would be generations before they were able to break the coal miner's cycle of poverty. Through the combination of innate talent, hard work, and



James Conlon emigrated from Ireland in 1878. In 1886, James married Cumberland native Clara Bowers, and the couple made their home on Railroad Street in Lonaconing. In the early 1890s, the family moved to a rented house in Ocean, one-mile north of Midland, where James found employment in the Consolidation Coal Company's No. 1 Mine, better known as the Ocean Mine. Four of James and Clara's eight children were baptized at St. Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church in Lonaconing. The other four were baptized at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Midland. The couple's second child, George Alphonsus Conlon, was born on June 25, 1888, in Lonaconing.



A few of George Conlon's sculptures: General John "Black Jack" Pershing (top left); President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (top right); poet Robert Frost (bottom left) and Amelia Earhart posing with her sculpture (bottom right).

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY GEORGE CONLON FAMILY

In 1902, 14-year-old George Conlon joined his older brother Thomas and their father James as employees of the Consolidation Coal Company, at the Ocean Mine. James worked as a clerk and teamster, Thomas was a driver, and George worked as a slate picker and trapper boy. By 1910, the family was able to purchase a home on Broad Street in Midland. James Conlon and his sons Thomas and James all worked as coal miners to support the family. By this time, George Conlon's life had taken a dramatic change of direction.

At an early age, George manifested a precocious artistic talent. Working from a photo of Maryland Governor

Edwin Warfield, he decided to create a bust of the governor from clay that he had found in the mine. George's cousin Lorena Bowers said, in a 1927 interview with the *Cumberland Evening Times*, that the photo came from one of the governor's campaign buttons.

On June 12, 1906, Governor Warfield visited the State Normal School in Frostburg where he met the graduating classes of the Normal School and Beall High School. Afterward, the governor was given a tour of the Ocean Mine. He was shown George Conlon's sculpture and was so impressed that he sponsored George's enrollment at the



George Conlon in his Paris studio, working on his General John "Black Jack" Pershing bust.

PHOTO BY PAUL KORUNA

George Conlon's General Pershing sculpture is permanently on display at the American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana.

PHOTO BY LUCAS CARTER/THE AMERICAN LEGION



Maryland Institute for the Promotion of the Mechanic Arts (renamed in 1959 the Maryland Institute College of Art). While attending school at the institute, George was employed at the Fidelity and Deposit Company in Baltimore. Upon graduating with distinction in 1911, George was awarded the Rinehart Scholarship to study in Paris. The scholarship included a \$1,000 annual salary. George's passport to travel to France was issued on August 11, 1911. He lived in an artist's colony in Paris, and studied under renowned sculptors such as Paul Wayland Bartlett, who created the *Apotheosis of Democracy*, which is displayed on the pediment at the U. S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Bartlett finished the work in 1916, the same year in which George Conlon returned to the United States.

On February 24, 1916, George Conlon and his bride of two months, Marie Rose Gilson, departed from Bordeaux, France, aboard the passenger ship *Chicago* to escape the ravages of World War I in Europe. Marie was a native of Crozant, France. The couple arrived at the port of New York on March 10. George and Marie settled in Baltimore, and celebrated the arrival of a daughter, Georgia Ruth Conlon, on January 6, 1917. Georgia Ruth Conlon was affectionately known to her family members as "Babou."

On December 30, 1918, George was working at his studio in Baltimore while his wife and daughter were alone in the family's apartment. Marie was tending to a gas-fired heater when it malfunctioned, causing a large flame to leap from the front which caught her clothing on fire. People in the area rushed to Marie's aid when they saw her run from the building while carrying her young daughter. Bystanders wrapped Marie in a blanket to extinguish the flames, but not before she had suffered serious burns. Marie Conlon

passed away on January 9, 1919, three days after her daughter's second birthday. On January 20, 1919, 11 days after his wife's death, George's passport for a return trip to France was issued. George and his daughter would return to Paris again, where George could work in his studio while his mother-in-law helped raise little Georgia. George and his daughter would not return to the United States for another 22 years.

Meanwhile, the life of the Conlon family in Midland had also taken a turn for the worse. Between 1910 and 1920, coal production at the Ocean Mine had fallen by more than 60 percent, and employment had decreased proportionately. James and Clara Conlon decided to move to Columbus, Ohio, where they would spend the rest of their lives. James passed away on February 10, 1919, only a month after the death of his daughter-in-law Marie.

In 1926, George Conlon then married Mary Wilhowska, the daughter of a prominent Polish engineer.

During his second tenure in France, George created most of his greatest works. In 1927, the same year that Charles Lindbergh made the first non-stop transatlantic flight, George Conlon was commissioned to create a bust of Lindbergh for the American Embassy in Paris.

According to George's Conlon descendants, he had an affinity for aviators. Working from a photo taken when Amelia Earhart visited Paris, Conlon created a bust of the famous female flier.

On October 5, 1937, the 20th anniversary of the American Legion's pilgrimage to France, American ambassador to France William C. Bullitt presented the legion with George Conlon's sculpture of General John "Black Jack" Pershing. The bust is on permanent display at the American Legion's National Headquarters in Indianapolis.

On June 9, 1941 (which happened to be George's mother Clara's 76th birthday) George and his daughter Georgia arrived at the port of New York on the passenger ship *Excambion*. The ship had departed from Lisbon, Portugal, ten days earlier. The Conlons left Europe to escape the Nazi occupation of France. George's wife Mary remained in southern France to visit her sick

mother, with plans to join up with George and Georgia later. Due to the World War in Europe, communication between France and the United States ceased. On January 13, 1944, Cumberland Mayor Thomas F. Conlon received a cablegram from Bern, Switzerland, through the Red Cross, saying that his sister-in-law, Mary Wilhowska Conlon, had died on June 27 of the previous year. Thomas Conlon was burdened with the responsibility of telling his brother George that his wife was deceased.

Soon after returning to America, George began work on a bust of U. S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull. Completed in 1942, the sculpture was presented to the office of the *Cumberland Evening Times and Cumberland Sunday Times*. In December 1944, the bust was offered for display at the U. S. Capitol by Senator Millard Tydings, and was accepted by a joint resolution of the 79th U. S. Congress on January 3, 1945. John J. McMullen, publisher, and J. William Hunt, editor, represented the Cumberland newspapers at the congressional session. The bust of Cordell Hull was



George Conlon's bust of FDR's U. S. Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, was completed in 1942 and presented to the office of the *Cumberland Evening Times and Cumberland Sunday Times*. The bust was bronzed and is on permanent display in the reception room of the United States Senate. A bronze replica also resides at the newspaper office in Cumberland, MD.

PHOTO BY BUCKY SCHRIVER

bronzed and is on permanent display in the reception room of the United States Senate. According to George Conlon's obituary in the *Cumberland Evening Times*, the Cordell Hull sculpture had previously resided in the office of the Vice President of the United States for many years. The inscription on the base of the sculpture reads, "Presented to the nation by the *Evening and Sunday Times*, Cumberland, Maryland, 1944." Cumberland native David Lynn, architect of the Capitol, was credited with clearing some of the legislative hurdles for acceptance of George Conlon's sculpture. A bronze replica of the Cordell Hull bust was unveiled at the *Cumberland Times-News* office in Cumberland on New Year's Day, 1945. George and Georgia Conlon were the guests of honor at the unveiling. In a letter to John J. McMullen, Hull expressed his gratitude for the tribute paid to him. Cordell Hull was awarded the Nobel Peace

Prize in 1945 for his role in the founding of the United Nations.

George Conlon never remarried. George and Georgia settled in Washington, D.C., where George found work with the U. S. Geological Survey until his retirement in 1958, at age 70. George continued to indulge his passion for sculpting in his studio apartment on M Street, in the area of Dupont Circle. Due to his failing health in his later years, Georgia moved her father into her own Belmont Street apartment, so that she could attend to him. George Conlon passed away on December 14, 1980.

Georgia Conlon was an avid equestrian and was multilingual. Georgia, who never lost her lovely French accent, worked as an interpreter at the Russian embassy in Paris. After returning to America in 1941, she was employed at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. Georgia was an avid bibliophile who had a huge collection of books and an encyclopedic knowledge of art and world history. She was intimately familiar with the museums and art galleries

of Paris. Her cousin, Thomas Conlon, Jr., recalled feeling intimidated by Georgia's sophistication when he met her for the first time.

On Friday, July 20, 2012, Georgia Conlon's saga came to an end when she passed from this world at her apartment in Washington, D.C., with her beloved cat Sila and her cousin Frank at her side. George, Georgia, and Marie Rose Gilson Conlon are buried together at the New Cathedral Cemetery in Baltimore.

George Conlon also created sculptures of such famous people as Dwight D. Eisenhower, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Robert Frost, Shirley Temple, Clarence Darrow, Will Rogers, Marie Curie, and Ferdinand Foch.

Artistic talent and a proclivity for personal achievement were traits that characterized many of the Conlon family members. After losing his job in the underground coal mines,

George's older brother, Thomas F. Conlon, went on to work as an insurance agent, and later served a two-year term as mayor of Cumberland, Maryland, from 1942-1944. Thomas Conlon, Jr. followed in his father's footsteps and served two terms as mayor of Cumberland, from 1966 until 1974. Mary Conlon, daughter of Thomas Conlon, Jr., graduated from the same Maryland Institute College of Art as her great uncle George.

Governor Edwin Warfield's tour of the Ocean Mine in 1906 would set George Conlon's life on a dramatically different course. George's remarkable artistic talent allowed him to rise from the dark, damp confines of the underground coal mines to live in exotic places and interact with some of the world's most famous people. Many of his artistic creations are still displayed at prestigious places around the globe. In words taken from a *Cumberland Evening Times* article on



Georgia Ruth Conlon
(January 6, 1917 – July 20, 2012)

PHOTO COURTESY FRANK CONLON

June 20, 1916: "Schoolbook stories of artist's careers, over which every child has marveled, hold no more romance than the rise of George Conlon."

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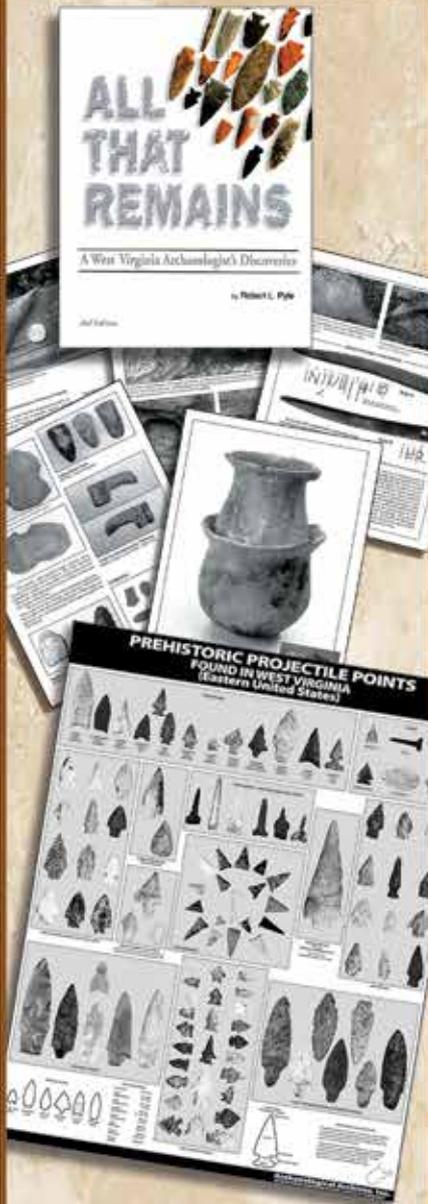
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RECIPE
Maple Glazed Chicken

RECIPE NAME _____

INGREDIENTS & DIRECTIONS:

1/4 cup maple syrup
1 Tbsp. butter or margarine
4 tsp. lemon juice
salt and pepper (to taste)
4 pieces chicken

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Mix maple syrup, lemon juice and butter together in a small saucepan. Simmer 5 minutes. Spray a baking dish and place chicken in it. Add salt & pepper to the chicken. Bake 10 minutes. Remove chicken from oven and pour on glaze. Bake 15 minutes more or until juices run clear.

Pouring on the Flavor

MAPLE SYRUP LEGEND,
PRODUCTION & FESTIVITIES

Written by: **Shelby Calhoun**

There are no authenticated accounts of how maple syrup production and consumption began, but various legends exist; one popular tale is that Chief Woksis of the Iroquois threw his tomahawk at a maple tree in the cold of winter. The next day, the sun warmed the sap inside the tree, and from the hole sprung forth the tasty syrup. His wife then cooked their meat in the sap, and it was so delicious the natives began to make maple sugar a part of their lives. Another explanation of the Native Americans' discovery is based on the fact that maple trees can create "sapsicles" in the winter. These are icicles with frozen sap in the middle of them that form when a twig breaks and releases sap from the tree. It is believed that Native Americans may have come upon these "sapsicles" and discovered the maple tree's sweet surprise.

Indigenous tribes developed rituals around sugar-making, celebrating the Sugar Moon, the first full moon of spring, with a Maple Dance. The Sugar Moon is named because

RECIPE
Maple Cream Pie

RECIPE NAME _____

INGREDIENTS & DIRECTIONS:

9" refrigerated pie crust
3 cups half and half
1 cup brown sugar
4 egg yolks
1/2 cup maple syrup
1/3 cup corn starch
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla

Bake pie crust according to package. Let crust cool completely. In a saucepan over medium heat, whisk together half-and-half, brown sugar, egg yolks, maple syrup, cornstarch and salt. Whisk until smooth and mixture has no lumps. Continue cooking for 8 to 10 minutes, whisking constantly, until mixture has thickened. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. Spread filling into cooled pie crust. Cover and refrigerate at least 6 hours before serving. If desired, top with a drizzle of maple syrup & whipped cream before serving.

March marks the time of year when the sap of sugar maple trees begins to flow and they can be tapped. The Algonquins recognized maple sap as a source of energy and nutrition.

Earliest peoples living in northeastern North America were the first groups known to have produced maple syrup and maple sugar. According to native oral traditions, as well as archaeological evidence, maple tree sap was being processed into syrup long before Europeans arrived in the region. In the early stages of European colonization in northeastern North America, local peoples showed the arriving colonists how to tap the trunks of certain types of maples during the spring thaw to harvest the sap.

At the beginning of the spring thaw, they made V-shaped incisions in tree trunks; then inserted reeds or concave

pieces of bark to run the sap into clay buckets or tightly woven birch-bark baskets. The maple sap was concentrated first by leaving it exposed to the cold temperatures overnight and disposing of the layer of ice that formed on top. The settlers soon discovered that a more efficient way to gather the sap was to bore a hole into the tree and place a spile in the hole to let the sap run out. They began with the collection of sap in wooden buckets and then boiled the sap in a row of iron kettles. As the syrup would thicken, they would spoon the thicker syrup into the next kettle and add more sap into the first pot. This ensured a more efficient process, with the last iron kettle always containing nearly finished syrup. The syrup in the last pot would be stirred until it crystalized, then molded into blocks that could be stored for later use.

Settlers of New England used the maple sugar as a food staple, but also made an excess to use as a trade item. Instead of having to depend on foreign plantations in the West Indies for sugar they were able to keep money circulating in the local economy.

About the time of the American Civil War (1861–1865), cane sugar replaced maple sugar as the dominant sweetener in the United States; as a result, producers focused marketing efforts on maple syrup. The first evaporator, used to heat and concentrate sap, was patented in 1858. In 1872, an evaporator was developed that featured two pans and a metal arch or firebox, which greatly decreased boiling time. Around 1900, producers bent the tin that formed the bottom of a pan into a series of flues which increased



Shoulder Yoke — used by a person to carry two wooden buckets of sap to the hauling cask for emptying.

Below: The Hauling Cask would be filled with sap from the trees, then hauled by horses or tractor to the sugar camp for processing.

PHOTOS BY MIKE CALHOUN



Tapping of maple trees progressed from wooden bucket to metal buckets but still had to be hauled to the sugar camp manually. *PHOTO BY DALE THOMAS*



the heated surface area of the pan and again decreased boiling time. Some producers also added a finishing pan, a separate batch evaporator, as a final stage in the evaporation process. Syrup producers also began using sleds and tractors to haul vats of sap from the trees being tapped to the evaporator. Various heating methods were used and filtration techniques were perfected to prevent contamination of the syrup.

Improved plastic tubing systems, during the 1970s, allowed the sap to drain from the trees and go directly to the evaporator housing. Vacuum pumps were added to the tubing systems, and preheaters were developed to recycle heat lost in the steam. Producers developed reverse-osmosis machines to take a portion of water out of the sap before boiling, increasing processing efficiency.

The syrup can also be heated longer and further processed to create a variety of other maple products, including maple sugar, maple butter or cream and maple candy or taffy.



Top: Plastic tubing, used since the 1970s, has replaced buckets and allows sap to be directly transferred from the trees to the evaporator housing. Miles of plastic tubing needs to be maintained throughout the year due to curious animals such as squirrels and deer.

Middle: The Reverse Osmosis Machine removes 80% of the water from the sap before sending it over to the Evaporator for boiling, increasing processing efficiency.

Bottom: The Evaporator — sap gets boiled down to its final syrup stage.

PHOTOS BY MIKE CALHOUN



The sugar maple tree (*Acer saccharum*) is a deciduous tree that can grow to a height of 60 to 75 feet or more. Native to the northeastern United States, it is the main source of maple products because the sap contains a larger percentage of plant sugars than other maple tree species.

The fruit of the maple trees are technically known as samaras, but you probably are more familiar with them being called helicopters, whirligigs or spinners due to their descent to the ground. Sugar maple samaras are green in the spring, changing to yellowish-green and then to light brown in the fall. The samaras fall from the trees in brisk winds and it is said they can fly as far as 330 feet from the tree.

Sugar maples are usually tapped beginning at 30 to 40 years of age. Each tree can support between one and three taps, depending on its trunk diameter. It takes approximately 40 gallons of maple sap to produce one gallon of maple syrup, and maple trees can continue to be tapped for sap until they are over 100 years old.

Tap seasons usually occur during late winter and spring and last approximately four to eight weeks. Specific weather conditions of the thaw period were, and still are, critical in determining the length of the sugaring season. During the day, starch stored in the tree roots for the winter rises through the trunk as sugary sap, allowing it to be tapped. Sap is not tapped at night because the temperature drop inhibits sap flow. As the weather continues to warm, a maple tree's normal early spring biological process eventually alters the taste of the sap, making it unpalatable, perhaps due to an increase in amino acids.



REGIONAL MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVITIES

Many areas known for their maple syrup production host festivals and tours during early spring. Demonstrations, farm equipment, food, craft booths and entertainment offer a welcome break to a long winter.

The Somerset County Maple Producers Association annually presents the Maple Weekend Taste & Tour, In and Around Somerset County. The Taste & Tour highlights 20+ participating sugar camps in and around Somerset County, PA. For more information on the March 11 & 12, 2023 event and locations, visit their website at www.somersetcountymaple.org.

The Pickens Historical & Improvement Society reserves the third full weekend in March each year to open their town for the Pickens, WV, Maple Syrup Festival. Buckwheat and Buttermilk pancakes are both available, along with craft vendors, festival food and small town hospitality. Visit pickenswv.squarespace.com/maple-syrup-festival for more information.

Located in the Laurel Highlands, Meyersdale, Pennsylvania (also known as Maple City, USA), will host the annual Pennsylvania Maple Festival April 22 & 23 and April 26 - 30, 2023. See their website at www.pamaplefestival.com for more details.

March 2023 Maple Syrup Festival Frederick, MD; maple syrup supplied by S&S Sugar Camp of Corriganville, MD. Visit their website at www.visitfrederick.org/blog/post/experience-the-tradition-of-making-maple-syrup. 301-271-7574.

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Neighbors Helping Neighbors

FROSTBURG INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY RECEIVES MAPLE SYRUP DONATION

Written by: **Shelby Calhoun**

A joint effort between the city of Frostburg, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Service and landowner Noah Yoder began around 2015 when Noah approached Randy Kamp (Forest Ranger who is now retired) about the idea of tapping some maple trees on the city's property. Randy asked the city staff at the time about the idea and they agreed it was a good plan. Randy designated a riparian forest buffer area along Piney Creek approximately 2 acres in size. He chose this area as the maple trees were likely to never be cut since they helped protect water quality. Within this area approximately 200 taps were put in place.

The city drew up a small contract with Noah specifying that Noah would pay the city \$1 to be able to tap the trees. It also stated that he would compensate them 50¢ for every tap on their property; however, they wished to have this compensation in the form of the finished product of maple syrup. This enabled them to be able to donate the Maple Syrup to the Frostburg Interfaith Food Pantry. Initially, the city paid for the cost of the bottles, however over time that cost comes out of the compensation from Noah.

Noah has done other forest management work for the city in the past. Prior to the maple syrup project, he completed various Timber Stand Improvement projects where undesirable pole-sized trees were removed and used for firewood and other purposes; this allowed the larger trees to utilize the extra growing space. These areas were marked by the Forest



FROSTBURG OFFICIALS AND FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

Back (left to right): Paul Gerhard, volunteer; Craig Kenny, volunteer; Chuck Durney, volunteer; John Horn, volunteer; Adam Miller, DNR Maryland Forest Service, Forester; and Hayden Lindsey, Director of Public Works.

Front (left to right): Donny Carter, Commissioner of Finance; Nina Forsythe, Commissioner of Water Parks & Rec; Bob Flanigan, Frostburg Mayor; Vickie Peterson, Food Pantry Director; Ella Hoffman, volunteer; Clair Hoffman, volunteer; Donna Gates, volunteer; Merry Medearis, volunteer; and Elizabeth Stahlman, City Administrator.

Service and then a contract was drawn up and trees were cut and hauled away.

Early in 2022, Noah asked Adam Miller (DNR Forester) about expanding the tapping area, so the city was approached again and they approved the proposal. The area has expanded to approximately 9 acres and around 900 taps in total. The area remains a riparian buffer along Piney Creek.

The sap is piped to Noah's property where it is cooked into syrup. He then takes his syrup to Brenneman's Maple in Salisbury, PA, and they bottle it for him with his label of Piney Creek Maple.

This year 100 16oz. containers of syrup were donated to the Frostburg Interfaith Food Pantry.



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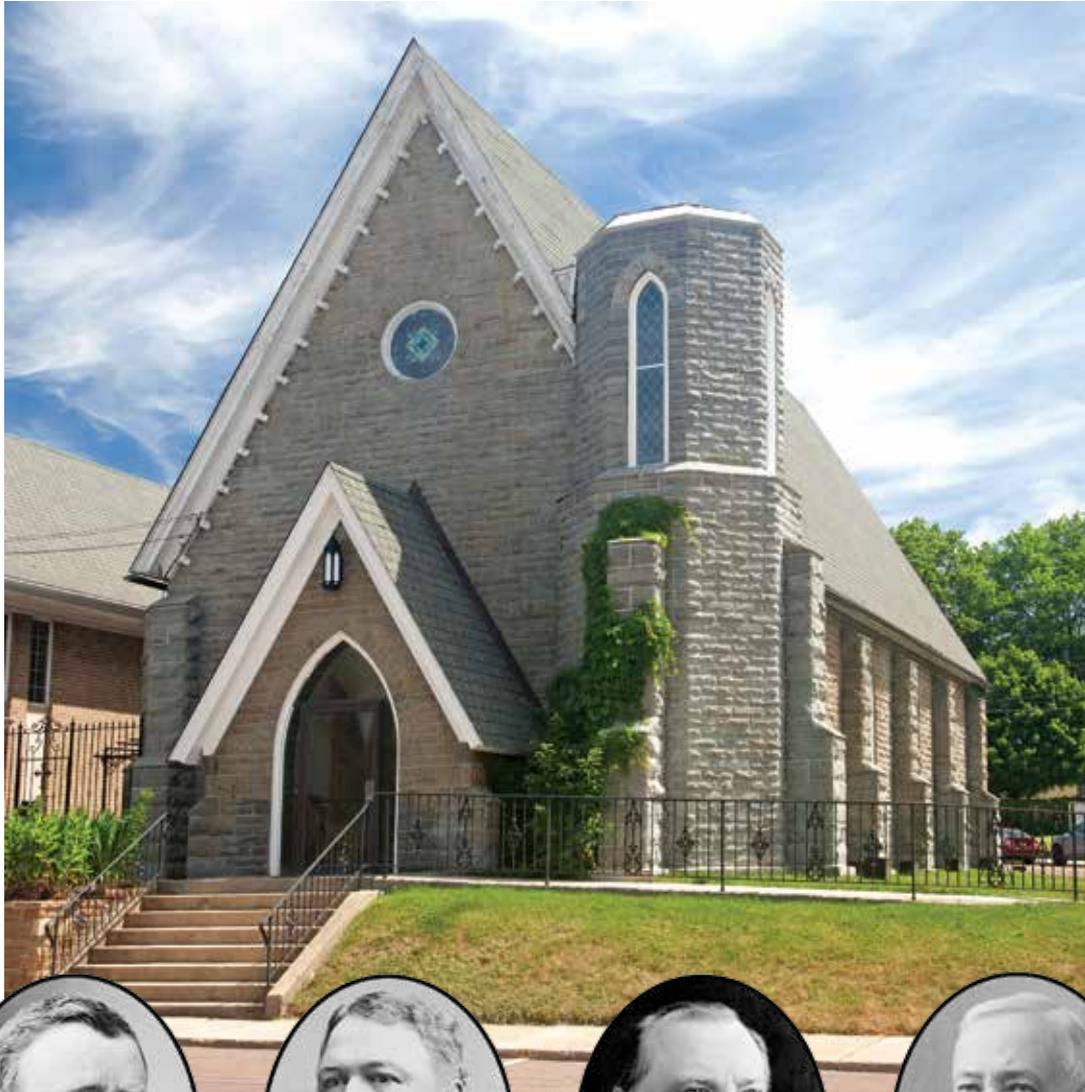


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St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

"The Church of the Presidents"

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**



Ulysses S. Grant



James A. Garfield



Grover Cleveland



Benjamin Harrison

The town of Oakland, Maryland, is closely associated with the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad that arrived in the mid 19th century and there are many reminders of the steam era for visitors to view. There is also an interesting building that one would not typically associate with the railroad that has earned a historical reputation for different reasons.

The noteworthy building located on East Liberty Street in Oakland is one that has served the spiritual needs of residents for nearly as long as the railroad boarded passengers at the nearby train station. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, built in 1869, is not just a historical monument but a present day faith community that strives to meet the needs of



At press time, the duplicate steeple has been delivered to the church awaiting final finishing before placing onto the bell tower.

Photo by Julie Hartman



Cinder block sized stones from B&O property at the Cheat River quarry supplied the building material for the original church.

Garrett County residents. The unique church also blends a remarkable secular history with its contemporary spiritual mission.

John W. Garrett, president of the B&O Railroad from 1858 through 1884, spent a considerable amount of time in Oakland and nearby resort communities. His railroad invested in equipment and rails to complete service to Garrett County, and also in hotels and amenities for wealthy visitors. Metropolitan visitors welcomed the humidity free summers on the mountain top and often stayed for extended periods of time. The list of vacationers included powerful politicians and bankers—Mr. Garrett's stays in Garrett County were often spent with notable personalities.



John W. Garrett, president of the B&O Railroad from 1858 – 1884, built the non-denominational church in Oakland as a memorial for his brother, Henry Garrett.

Henry Garrett, brother to John W. Garrett, also enjoyed the town of Oakland and planned to build a church on a site that he selected. When Henry's death in 1867 preceded construction of the building, John followed through on the plan and built a memorial non-denominational church on East Liberty Street. Cinder block sized stones quarried from B&O property in nearby West Virginia supplied the basic building material for the rectangular structure featuring recessed stained glass windows. Named the Garrett Memorial Church, local worshippers and out of town visitors have benefitted from Garrett's gift for more than a century and a half. Garrett Memorial's noteworthy worshippers included United States Presidents Grant, Garfield, Cleveland and Harrison, providing it with the name "Church of the Presidents."

The church remained non-denominational until 1903 when it joined the Presbyterian community. In subsequent years the Presbyterian congregation dwindled, so a decision was made in 1936 to deed the building to the Episcopal congregation. In keeping with Garrett's wishes that the church be open to all worshippers, St. Matthews extended a welcome to other denominations as the needs arose. According to Reverend Dr. Chip Lee of St. Matthews, "John Garrett built the church for anyone who wanted to use it, and the Presbyterians started using it with that caveat. The Episcopalian community has also adhered to the principle over the years."

Reverend Lee recalled the church exterior underwent renovations in 1966, a prelude to more recent work started in 2020 that is intended to correct problems with the bell tower and steeple. It was decided to remove the steeple to a nearby location where it could be repaired. On



Left: Interior of the remodeled St. Matthews Episcopal Church. Above: "Nearly New" Thrift Shop located at the church. *Photos by Julie Hartman*

August 19, 2020, a large crane transported the structure to a parking lot where it unexpectedly collapsed during the night.

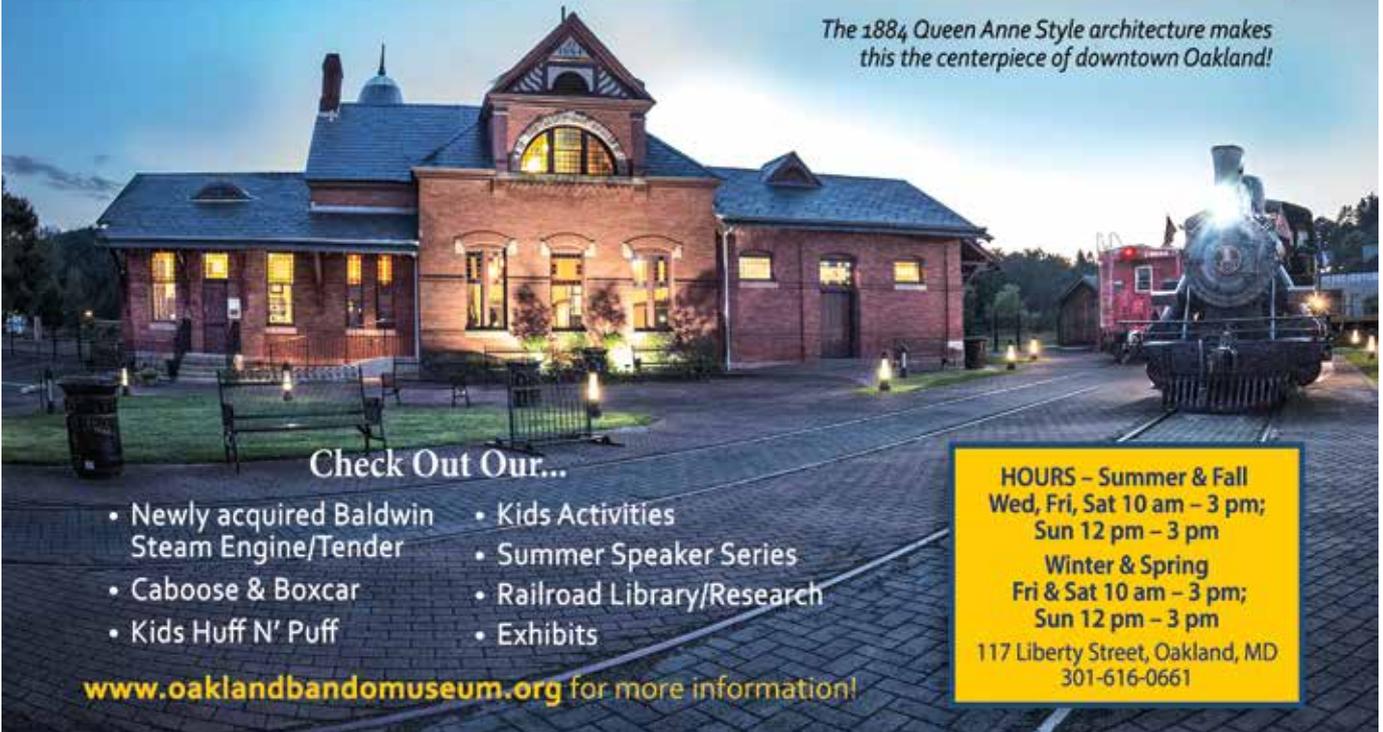
According to Revered Lee, there was nothing salvageable from the wreckage, so work is continuing on duplicating the steeple with durable materials."

Historic St. Matthews continues to serve in a number of ways, including weekend backpack lunches for students, the "Nearly New" thrift shop that supports the community outreach of the Episcopal Church in Garrett County, You Tube live streaming of services, morning podcasts, and a welcoming church environment.

St. Matthews Episcopal Church is located at 126 East Liberty Street in downtown Oakland, Maryland.

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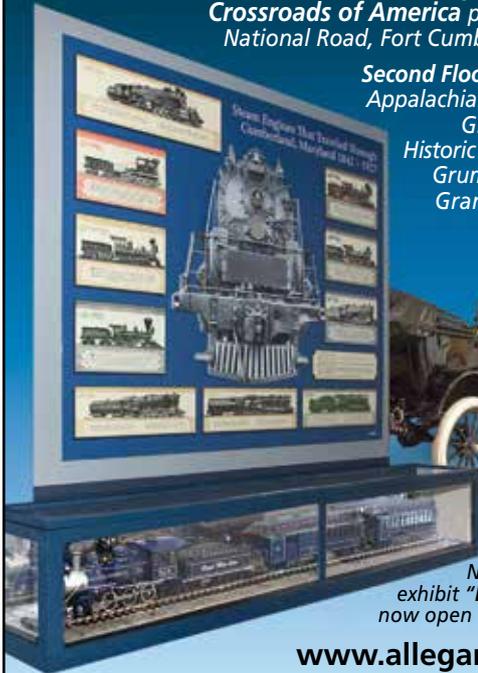
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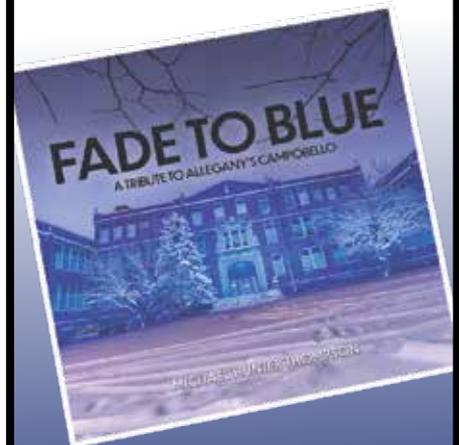
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Votes for Women, The Suffrage Movement in Western Maryland, 1910 – 1920

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**

THE TERM, WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SUFFERING BUT INSTEAD DERIVES FROM THE LATIN WORD "SUFFRAGIUM," MEANING THE RIGHT OR PRIVILEGE TO VOTE.

Achieving the right to vote was not an easy process for American women. Reformers fought a century long struggle against prejudices and legal obstacles that excluded half the United States adult population from participation in the democratic process.

When thinking of suffrage campaigns from the past, flickering newsreel images of elaborately dressed demonstrators usually comes to mind—public demonstrations, letter writing, and discussions with elected leaders became the trademarks of the movement. While the newsreels captured nationally known figures and events, they did not record the activities of western Maryland residents, and local history books remain mostly silent on the suffrage movement. It is now known that Allegany County suffragists demonstrated surprising strength and determination in the face of opposition from elected officials and an apathetic citizenry.

Maryland's twentieth century suffrage movement organized under the direction of several leaders including Edith Houghton Hooker, a Baltimore resident who formally created the Just Government League in 1909. The league became a leading force for women's suffrage in the state. Hooker's organization also affiliated with the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), one of the leading voting rights groups in the country.

Cumberland's Civic Club organized the first Allegany County suffrage event when it welcomed M.I. Manning, secretary of the Just Government League, on August 25, 1910. Manning's remarks to the group received coverage in *The Evening Times* and revealed a broad social and economic agenda. According to Manning, the rise of industry "left women practically without intelligent occupations." To remedy the ills, Manning highlighted the need for "education, pure food, pure water," and safe neighborhoods. The secretary returned on August 30, 1910, to address a "fair size audience at...the Emmanuel Church Parish House."



Women's Suffrage
postcard dated February 27, 1915.

FROM THE COLLECTION OF ANGELA AND ALBERT FELDSTEIN

Manning's introductory visits were followed by a well received appearance of nationally known Edith Houghton Hooker who also spoke at Cumberland's Emmanuel Episcopal Parish House on February 18, 1911. An editorializing reporter concluded the church group was "highly sophisticated," a statement that reinforced the class and racial distinctions of the time period and within the group itself.

Speaking extemporaneously, Hooker's comments were more focused on voting rights than Manning's Cumberland Civic Club address the previous year. According to a local newspaper article, Hooker believed that "women were the equal of men mentally," and even superior in some regards. "Taxation without representation is tyranny," recited Hooker, and voting rights for women followed as a necessity. Hooker concluded, "It is not right for a people living in a free country to keep half in slavery."

The state league's outreach efforts culminated on March 10, 1911, when it was announced that an Allegany County Just Government League would be organized. Officers introduced at the Parish House meeting were: Florence McKaig, Louisa Henderson, Marguerite Sloan, Kate Ernst, Isabelle Wheeler, Mrs. Anna Stubblefield, and Annabelle Troxell. Also attending the meeting was Merwin McKaig, husband of Florence McKaig.

Like suffragist organizations throughout the country, the Allegany County Just Government League was composed of wealthy and upper middle class white women, and several male supporters. A prime example of the groups' affluence was Merwin McKaig whose credits included industrialist, banker, and civic leader—one of the wealthiest men in the county. Women members of the league were regularly cited in newspaper articles as participants in social gatherings, extended vacations, and civic endeavors only available to wealthy individuals. It should be noted, however, that local leaders made attempts to recruit and inform working class women, particularly those at Footer Dye Works in Cumberland.

In February, 1914, the local league set course by planning a complete canvas of election districts in Allegany County under the direction of chair persons. The stated purpose involved the distribution of literature and the establishment of personal contacts to “arouse sentiment for franchise for the women of this state and county.” Increasing league membership would have also been a benefit of the canvas. One account from the time placed the membership enrollment at 100. Lonaconing and Frostburg also organized meetings and events, but it is unknown if those groups were counted in the county league.

On March 31, 1914, the local league announced “Suffrage Day” celebrations to be held in conjunction with National Suffrage Day on May 2, 1914. Announced plans included meetings in Cumberland’s public buildings where featured speakers were to address supporters and curious onlookers. The extent of preparedness was evidenced at the league’s Bedford Street headquarters where decorated rooms complemented the meals served daily during the noon and evening hours. An *Evening Times* reporter captured the enthusiasm for Suffrage Day activities when he wrote, “Whether a visitor favored suffrage or not, one noticed a most earnest and enthusiastic effort being put forth by the women of the Just Government League.”

An even larger multi-day event, held June 16-27, 1914, influenced both Allegany and Garrett counties when Edna Latimer of the state Just Government League led a “pilgrimage” to western Maryland. Organizer of a similar hike around Annapolis, Latimer organized an impressive summer campaign for the purpose of educating residents “along suffrage lines.”



Suffragists in Cumberland, Maryland, circa July 1912.

PHOTO COURTESY
ANGELA AND ALBERT FELDSTEIN

Women’s Suffrage buttons from the time period.



Robin McKenzie, Allegany College of Maryland library staff, created a unique display as part of the “Finish Her Story” Maryland Humanities Grant presented in March 2021. The display was also the centerpiece of the grant funded Community Artifact Day which invited the community to see the display and also to share artifacts, letters, photos, and diaries. The mannequin and suffrage clothing (left) were purchased as part of the grant. Project Coordinator for the grant was Cherie Snyder. Barbara Browning, ACM Librarian, served as a member of the “Finish Her Story” committee.

PHOTO BY MIKE CALHOUN



Arriving on Train #5 at Cumberland’s Queen City Station, local leaders escorted the participants to City Hall where public remarks were well received by the crowd. Moving from Frostburg into Garrett County the following day, the pilgrimage gathered momentum. Although the exact route is unknown, communities visited by the suffragists were Bittinger, Accident, Friendsville, Granstville, Sang Run, Mountain Lake Park, Oakland, Hutton, Crellin, Swanton, Kitzmiller, and Bloomington, all in eleven days. One can imagine the excitement created

by what must have appeared to be a colorful entourage hiking its way through the county.

According to the *Oakland Republican*, 820 “new soldiers” were recruited to the “army” of suffragists during their eleven day pilgrimage. In addition to recruits, 6,600 pieces of literature were distributed to the more than 6,000 attendees at 20 mass meetings. The local league reportedly planned a similar extended hike through Allegany County starting August 1, 1914.

The Allegany County Just Government League continued to campaign through 1919 by meeting elected officials and publicly demonstrating, including an event in South Cumberland that was sufficient to be reported by a local newspaper.

It was an uphill struggle, however, as key local officials opposed the measure.

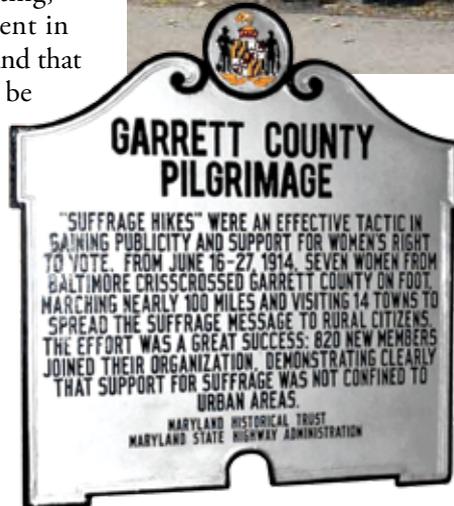
Local officials were not alone and Maryland ultimately failed to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment. While Maryland legislators hesitated, the required number of states voted in the affirmative by 1920, thereby enfranchising women in the United States. Maryland’s symbolic affirmative vote did not occur until 1941.

The local suffrage movement caught the attention of Cherie Snyder of Allegany College of Maryland who recently facilitated a program to investigate its leaders and activities. The pioneering work involved students who sought to research and document key leaders and events. Interest in the subject has not diminished and Cherie plans to continue the quest.

“We are looking forward to building on the foundation provided by the 2021 Allegany College of Maryland (ACM) project, “Finish Her Story” which was funded by the Maryland Humanities Council and focused on the lives and contributions of Allegany County suffragists. Four women emerged from this initial project and are currently the focus of deeper research: Louisa Patterson Henderson (Mrs. Robert), Florence McKaig (Mrs. Merwin), Allen Harris (Mrs. Edward), and Annabelle Troxell (Mrs. William).



PHOTO BY DAN WHEITZEL



The Garrett Branch of the American Association of University Women celebrated the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment by sponsoring “Women’s Equality Day” on August 28, 2021, at Sang Run State Park near McHenry, MD. Participants marched in suffragist’s attire to the recently restored Election House and presented monologues at the nearby park. The group’s trek also celebrated the Just Government League’s march through the county in June 1914. The AAUW – Garrett Branch continues to organize events, including the most recent “Women’s Equality Day” program held in Oakland, MD, on August 26, 2022.

The Sang Run Election House was built around 1872 and served the local community until 1972.

It is the oldest election house still standing in Maryland. Restoration work began on the building in 2019 and was completed in time for the 2021 Women’s Equality Day event. Participants of the August 2021 program dressed as key personalities of the suffrage movement and celebrated the restored building’s reopening during festivities.

However, the names of over ten other women have emerged whose lives over time will also be researched.

The plan is to publish the results of our research in a booklet highlighting the Allegany County suffrage movement and the contributions of these women. Eventually, we would like to develop a self guided tour of the places that illustrate their lives, legacy and history of the suffrage movement in our community.”

For more information on the “Finish Her Story” project or to provide us with diaries, letters, pictures or other artifacts, call Cherie Snyder at 240-264-7426.

*The author would like to acknowledge and credit **Journal of the Alleghenies, Vol. LVIII-2022**, “**The Suffrage Movement in Allegany County, Maryland, 1910-1920**,” and Albert Feldstein for use of resources used in the article.*

For The Love of Place

WILLIAMSPORT, MARYLAND

Written by: **Sara Mullins**

Photography provided by: **Elmwood Farm**



Elmwood Farm, a bed and breakfast located just outside the Western Maryland town of Williamsport, invites guests to unwind and enjoy its peaceful rural setting and unique amenities. The Farm sits alongside Kendle Road as it passes by working farms, pastures and woodlots, yet it is easily accessible from Interstates 81 and 70. Guests will find a wide choice of activities and attractions nearby, ranging from athletic to restful, whether visiting on business or pleasure – or a combination of both.

Built in 1855 by carpenter John Corby for a wealthy C&O Canal Merchant, John R. Dall, Elmwood Farm has achieved national recognition in the United States as a significant historic site in the heart of Civil War History.

In 2012 the National Park Service included the Elmwood Farmstead in the National Register of Historic Places, stating, “Elmwood Farmstead retains a high level of integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association... The farmstead includes ten contributing buildings and structures, dominated by the house, a third quarter of the nineteenth century frame barn which replaced the original building, a frame milking barn, a hog barn, a ca. 1960 milking parlor, a silo, and a concrete block garage. A smokehouse and milk house, along with stone and wood fences, complete the scene.”

Since John M. Kendle purchased Elmwood Farm in 1909, it has remained in the Kendle family for more than 100 years. Innkeepers Selena and Lettie Wilkes are both 5th-generation descendants, committed to maintaining the family’s stewardship of the farm as an historic treasure.

Central to the 6-acre Elmwood farmstead is its imposing Greek Revival style brick farmhouse. With some assistance

from subcontractors, Selena undertook most of the work herself to restore the farmhouse to its original character, while adding modern amenities. Elmwood Farm Bed and Breakfast began welcoming guests in 2014. Today its historic farmhouse, spacious gardens, lawns, historic red barn, outbuildings and countryside mountain views provide a bucolic and memorable setting for weddings, festivities, fundraisers and other special events.

Selena and Lettie bring diverse backgrounds to their Elmwood Farm enterprises. Selena, a retired LPGA (Ladies Professional Golf Association) Futures Tour Golfer, learned about various aspects of the hospitality industry as a frequent traveler. She gained knowledge and experience in entrepreneurship, agritourism, historic preservation and interior design through her work with the restoration of Elmwood Farm. Lettie contributes experience and expertise in marketing, organizing and executing ideas for weddings and special events. Both women excelled as successful scholar collegiate athletes. Selena and Lettie are active in their local community and church, and have completed training as Certified Tourism Ambassadors, a professional hospitality training and certification program.

“Our goal is to make Elmwood Farm a true destination for visitors,” Lettie says. “We want our guests to have the whole farm experience, where they can make themselves at home,” Lettie says. “It can be peaceful or adventurous, depending on personality.” At Elmwood Farm, visitors can interact with their “Girls” – a bevy of 16 Alpacas that produce prized alpaca fiber. Several of their Alpacas enjoy participating in weddings.



Top: Sunset on the 6-acre Elmwood Farm B&B.
Above left: The scenic farm is a fabulous wedding venue.
Above right: One of the 16 friendly Alpacas at the farm.
A scrumptious country breakfast with a rotating menu is served daily at the B&B.

The farmhouse’s five guestrooms feature names and décor evocative of the late 19th century. All are furnished with queen-size beds, and each has a private bathroom with shower or bathtub. Cozy bathrobes are also provided. In a nod to the era when the house was built, all but one are referred to as “Quarters.” “Dall Quarter,” “Ripple Quarter,” “Lemen Quarter,” and “Kendle Quarter” bear the names of Elmwood’s former proprietors. The Innkeepers’ description of the handicap-accessible and pet-friendly “Soldier’s Retreat” suggests that this room would have been a comfortable secret hideaway for General Lee as he fled from Union forces.

Every morning, a scrumptious country breakfast is served downstairs in the Dining Room. While every day’s menu

is different, the feast always begins with a first course of fresh, seasonal fruit served with homemade ginger syrup. Favorites include Maryland Crab Eggs Benedict, Bake House Homemade Crepes, Waffles, Cheery Sun Dried Egg Frittata, plus other delights. The Innkeepers will accommodate special requests to meet any dietary needs.

Guests have access to several Common Areas at Elmwood Farm. The Grand Parlor and Living Room offers space to retreat into the pages of a book, celebrate a special event, or just hang out and watch TV. The General's Tavern in the lower basement features a fireplace, recliners, large table, flat screen TV and, of course, a pool table and bar.

The Western Maryland area surrounding the Farm is steeped in history. Options for day trips range from hiking to golfing to spelunking to exploring Civil War battlefields or neighboring towns. Bicycling is popular and convenient. The farm sits approximately 2.5 miles from Mile Marker 99.4 on the C&O Canal Towpath in Williamsport. Selena and Lettie offer convenient bike storage and shuttle service to cyclists. They'll even help you clean your bike if you get stuck in the mud during your cycling adventure. For a more relaxing option, guests can take the Ice Cream, Wine and Brewery Trails to enjoy a scenic drive along country roads and through small towns, with stops to enjoy. Given Elmwood Farm's relative proximity to urban centers, National Parks consisting of Antietam Battlefield and the C&O Canal National Park along with MD State Parks, historic sites and shopping opportunities, guests have a wide range of options from which to choose, in all seasons.

Elmwood Farm sells several handcrafted items in its gift shop. Elmwood Farm's Soapworks, branded as "natural and organic handcrafted soap art," include a variety of scented bars and lip balms. Also available are Elmwood Farm pottery mugs and crocks and apparel made from the farm's Alpaca wool. Plans are underway for the 2024 opening of a distillery to be named "Slick and Letts Distillery at Elmwood Farm."



PHOTO BY LANCE BELL

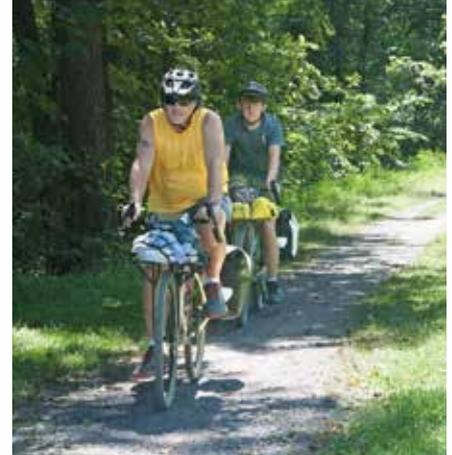


PHOTO BY MIKE CALHOUN

Some area attractions include the C&O Canal National Historical Park at the Cushwa Basin in Williamsport, Wine and Brewery Trails, and biking along the C&O Canal. Joe Vargo and Andrew Fortune are riding the towpath to Washington, DC.

The Wilkes sisters' vision of creating a destination goes beyond Elmwood Farm. In 2019, Selena and Lettie joined three other women entrepreneurs to form the Port 44 partnership, a real estate development group focused on revitalizing and transforming the town of Williamsport. Selena, founder and chief executive officer, oversees all aspects of Port 44's real estate development group. She is also a motivational speaker. Lettie, co-founder of Port 44, serves as its chief marketing and communications officer. She is a Certified Tourism Ambassador for Washington County, MD. Jesse Burgoon specializes in residential leasing and property management in addition to owning Elmwood Mortgage LLC. Susie Miller specializes in commercial leasing and acquisitions while serving real estate clients as owner of the Miller Group of Keller Williams Premier Realty. Dr. Brenda Paul focuses on the financial side of



The Port 44 partnership is focused on revitalizing and transforming the town of Williamsport, Maryland. *Left to right:* Dr. Brenda Paul, Jesse Burgoon, Susie Miller, Lettie Wilkes, and Selena Wilkes. Visit Port44.com

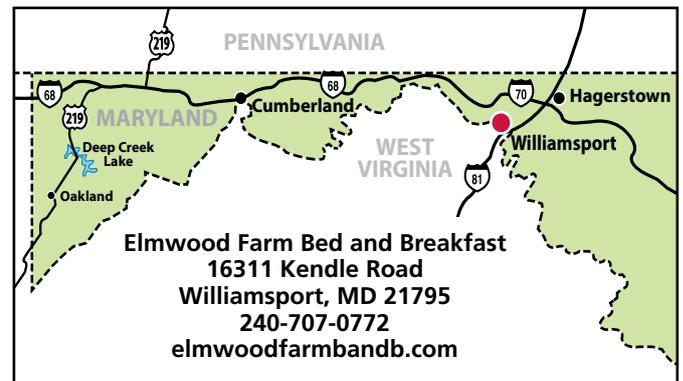
real estate development for Port 44 while maintaining a practice at River City Dental.

As stated on Port 44's website, the partnership seeks to "repurpose, revitalize and maintain quality properties in our community." These include both commercial and residential properties centrally located downtown on Conococheague and Salisbury Streets.

"All five members are businesswomen who were either born and raised in Williamsport or have run their businesses in Williamsport for some time," Lettie says. Each member brings a wealth of experience to Port 44, and all hold key roles within the team. The five women derived the Port 44 name from two names with local significance: WilliamsPORT and Lockhouse 44, located in Williamsport on the C&O Canal. The women of Port 44 envision Williamsport as a destination, given its proximity to Interstates 81 and 70, and its location at the midpoint of the C&O Canal.

"The area has dealt with a depressed economy for several decades," Selena says. "We're revitalizing our community, one historical building at a time. The exterior façade is important. We're reconstructing these buildings from the inside out to feature elements that show the history reflecting the years 1787 through the mid-1800s.

"We want to help our hometown make a comeback by providing services the town needs, and by revitalizing



current buildings and telling their stories," she adds. Their committed tenants include Mile Marker 99 Bike Shop, PowerHouse Health Hub, Sweet Notes Bakery, Andra Wealth Management, Kuczynski and Kuczynski Law Firm and Meadow Haus, an interior design and home goods store. Currently open are the Lotus Moon Café and the Still Smokin' BBQ eateries. Other local businesses in the works with Port 44 include Slackwater Art Gallery, a fine dining restaurant with a rooftop bar, fresh market grocery, a new home for the local food bank, a candy store, a brewery, a boutique, lodging and a general store.

"It's very rewarding for us, seeing the transformation of every building, engaging in a community project and transforming Williamsport into a quaint 'walking town,'" Selena says. "We're crossing the turn to be halfway done. There are challenges, but they make you grow. It's a beautiful spot."

A Tree's Plea

*No matter where you go, you might find me
A town, city, or out in the country
My leafy arms can provide you with shade
And are one of the ways your air is made*

*I can be any size, from short to tall
And I'm here winter, spring, summer, and fall
My leaves are green when it turns warm and hot
They change color and drop off when it's not*

*This is the way things are supposed to be
It's a cycle in the life of a tree
As the years have passed, things have gotten bad
The earth is no longer like I once had*

*My numbers have dwindled, making me scared
And many places I sowed have been-bared
This is because of things some people do
And why you don't see me like you used to*

*Please, I need your help so that I can be
A productive, fully grown, healthy tree
You mustn't ignore what I'm asking of you
Because it will just get worse if you do*

*I'm praying you will keep my hopes alive
And make some changes so we can survive
Return the earth to how it used to be
So that it's safe for a human and tree*

— **Eugene T. Frazier**
City Councilman



Arbor Day 2022

Written by: **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by: **Mike Calhoun**

Ninety elementary students from the Allegany County Public Schools After School Program recently celebrated Arbor Day at Constitution Park in Cumberland, MD, by planting trees and participating in activities relating to the national celebration. The two day fun filled program has become a county tradition as teachers, students, Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the City of Cumberland staffs collaborate to organize the April event.

Brad Ditto, After School Coordinator for Allegany County Public Schools, credits previous staff members and volunteers for creating environmental opportunities and resources for students. “In the past, Gary and Pat Delaney secured grants and coordinated a variety of outdoor activities. Kids had a fabulous time and Arbor Day has now become one of our important events. Kids get their hands dirty and enjoy the day.”

Teachers enthusiastically support the event. Lisa Chaney, After School Coordinator from John Humbird Elementary School, notes that “Students are so excited about the field trip. They have been learning about the environment, so they know what is going on when they arrive for Arbor Day. Students love it!”

Draven Blair, Georges Creek Elementary School student, summarized his experience in the program. “We learned how to care for trees and plant them properly. We actually put a tree in the ground. It's a good program.”

Trees were made available through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forestry Service via an Urban and Community Forestry Grant written by Cumberland's Shade Tree Commission. The local commission applied for the grants through DNR's Tree-Mendous Program that has



Top: Groups of students from the Allegany County Public Schools After School Program planted trees at Constitution Park in Cumberland, MD, during an Arbor Day event.

Students enjoyed getting their hands dirty while learning the proper way to plant a tree from Dan Hedderick, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forester.

assisted more than 3,000 communities, parks and schools in planting trees and shrubs, including those supplied to the Constitution Park Arbor Day event. In addition to state assistance, volunteers readily supported all aspects of the day from classroom activities to the planting of trees.

Dan Hedderick, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forester, stressed the importance of Arbor Day in drawing attention to the benefits of tree enhanced surroundings. “Arbor Day highlights the environmental, educational and health benefits of trees. We know that trees provide shade and cool our cities temperature by up to 10 degrees. We also know that tree canopies reduce stress and improve the overall health of children by providing a pastoral environment.”

The local Arbor Day event proved to be noteworthy for another reason. According to Marian Honeezy, supervisor of Urban and Community Forestry for the state, “The Constitution Park Arbor Day event was particularly important because the trees planted by students were the first to be counted within the 5 Million Tree program. Next year there will be another award and more trees will be planted on Arbor Day. The state of Maryland has committed to planting 5 million trees during the next decade and we are always ready to help groups complete the application.” Maryland’s 5 Million Tree program was passed by the General Assembly in 2021 and contains the pledge of planting and maintaining 5 million native trees in the state by 2031.

Marian also endorsed the environmental benefits of planting trees. “Trees planted in urban areas not only make individuals feel better, but they also clean the air, reduce water runoff, and improve mental health. Trees can accomplish all of that for a pittance of money.”

The city of Cumberland enthusiastically supports Arbor Day events and has received recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City for the past 25 years. Instrumental in the city’s efforts is the 9 member Shade Tree Commission that advocates for sound urban management practices and strives to preserve and enhance the beauty of Cumberland. Members were present at Constitution Park and supported the student activities.

Anita Simmons, who served as City of Cumberland Forester, collaborated with partners Diane Johnson of the Cumberland Parks and Recreation Department and Sherry Frick of the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service to plan the educational activities. According to Anita, “We planned for 3 student experiential activity stations. The groups rotated around the park and participated in related projects, including tree planting. Volunteers from the Master Gardeners were a tremendous help during the program. The students had a great time with lots of fun learning how important trees are and how to plant them.”

Activities included lessons from Project Learning Tree, a curriculum that uses resources to engage children in learning about the environment through the lens of trees and forests. According to Sherry, “In one activity students played the role of trees and what they do. Students were divided into parts of the tree and then simulated what each part of the tree does. The purpose was for students to learn the parts of a tree.”

The local Arbor Day coincides with similar activities across the country where students learn to plant, maintain, and preserve



Top: Younger students from Georges Creek Elementary listen intently to Adam Miller, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forester, while teacher, Ellen Walker observes.

Students had a great time planting the trees and then rotating around the park for other related projects.

trees. The idea for such a celebration is credited to Nebraska newspaper editor, Julius Morton, who realized the ecological importance of trees, particularly in his state. In 1872, Morton proposed a day that would encourage Nebraskans to plant trees in their neighborhood. Originally to be called “Sylvan Day,” the organizers changed the name to Arbor Day, literally “tree day,” for the debut on April 10, 1872. The event was a success and similar programs spread throughout the country. Since the inaugural Arbor Day, millions of trees have been correctly planted in celebrations that are normally held during April.

Students from the After School programs at John Humbird, Georges Creek, Westernport and South Penn schools were rewarded for their efforts by receiving “tree cookies” and sugar maple seedlings.

In addition, they also participated in ceremonies conducted by City of Cumberland officials, DNR staff members and adult volunteers. All participants agreed that Arbor Day will be eagerly anticipated in 2023.



Students enjoyed being part of the “shovel crew” to finish planting their tree.

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Mary Elizabeth Garrett (1854 – 1915)

Philanthropist Extraordinaire

Written by: **Mary Reisinger**

The name Garrett is familiar to people in Western Maryland. John Work Garrett, president of the B&O Railroad, was, after all, the person for whom Garrett County was named. Much less familiar is the name of his daughter, Mary Elizabeth Garrett. Mary preferred working behind the scenes, avoiding having her picture published, yet she was one of the most influential people in the country.

Born into a wealthy family, Mary led a privileged life. Her family had magnificent homes in Baltimore and a nineteen-room cottage in Western Maryland's Deer Park Resort. Her father owned hundreds of acres of land. They had their own stables. They filled many train cars when they moved between their homes, even taking horses and buggies with them. The Garretts traveled extensively in the United States and around the world. They dressed in the latest fashions, decorated their homes extravagantly, and collected many valuable artworks including china, books and paintings. John Work Garrett even began a museum attached to the family's mansion in Baltimore's exclusive Mount Vernon neighborhood—a project that Mary completed after his death.

Despite living as very few could in the 1800s, Mary faced several limitations. Because of an early injury to her ankle, she wore braces on her legs throughout her childhood and couldn't be as physically active as most children. She was lonely as the only girl in a family with three older brothers who took little interest in her. The most serious limitations arose simply from being female. She was denied the sort of rigorous education she craved. The role expected of her was to function in the home and in the community in "acceptable" ways.

Mary, a determined and resilient person, broke through many of the barriers she encountered. She read avidly and taught herself Italian, French, German, and Greek. When her parents acquired a large property with stables, she became stronger as she spent time outdoors and developed into an accomplished equestrian.

Mary and two friends formed a reading group that met every other Friday when they were schoolgirls. They called themselves the "Friday Night." Later, two more young



This 1904 painting of Mary Elizabeth Garrett by John Singer Sargent was commissioned by the trustees of the Johns Hopkins Medical School, but Mary chose the painter, traveled to London to pose, and paid half the cost.

women joined. The five members explored the question of what women should be able to do with their lives, and they vowed never to marry so as to retain their independence. Mary later claimed that this decision was reinforced by her father's disapproval of her suitors.

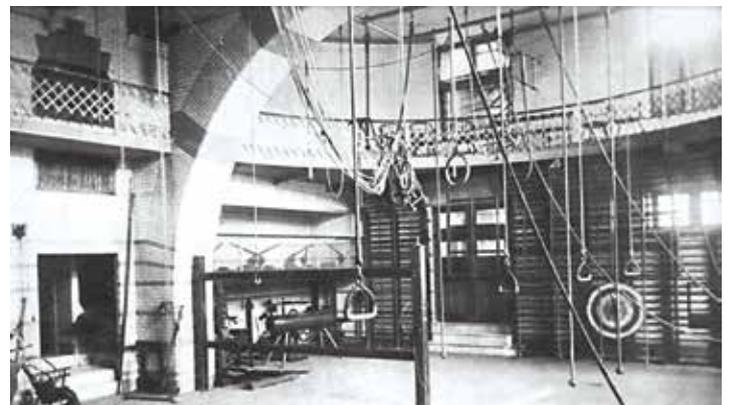
When Mary did take a college entrance examination, she did very poorly and thought perhaps she was "not cut out for" academic life. Her father played a role in this also, forbidding her from continuing her studies even though she "begged" him to let her go to college or to study abroad.

Mary was thwarted in following the usual path of marriage or the less usual path of college, and it would have been considered ridiculous for a woman of her status to have a career. She was completely dependent on her father for financial support. By her mid-twenties, she began to experience depression and both psychosomatic and physical



The Bryn Mawr School for Girls at the corner of Cathedral and Preston Streets, Baltimore, Maryland, circa 1890s was established to prepare girls for higher education such as the newly opened Bryn Mawr College in Philadelphia. According to a *Baltimore Sun* article, Saturday, January 12, 1889, the new school would house a gymnasium; separate rooms for French, Latin, Mathematics, History, German, Greek, English, and other classes, a teachers' room, and silent study-rooms. A dormer skylight would be used for astronomical observation.

Inset: The fully equipped gymnasium.



ailments. A British neurologist advised her to abandon any idea of studying, to drink weak tea, to avoid alcohol, to lead a simple life with ordinary recreation, and above all not to work.

Fortunately, Mary had other sources of inspiration. She was particularly interested in women physicians, including Mary Putnam Jacobi, who had an impressive practice in obstetrics and gynecology as well as a husband and children. Gradually, Mary began to establish more independence. She rented an apartment in New York City and traveled there frequently. She expanded her circle of friends and maintained extensive correspondence. She delighted in theater and music.

Her father often lamented that she was not a boy because she would have been the perfect person to take over his business interests. Even without being formally employed,

Mary experienced the demands of enterprise and of facing challenges such as the Civil War through her father's position on the board and then as president of the B&O Railroad. As an adult, she served as her father's personal assistant and learned to enjoy analyzing problems, interpreting financial data, and negotiating. From the example of her grandmother, mother, and others, she also saw the possibilities for women to act outside of the home while engaged in charitable and reform work.

Mary's mother, Rachel, died from injuries sustained in a carriage accident in October 1883, just a few days after the family's return from their annual trip to Europe.

In the following months, Mary and her father moved frequently between health spas in New Jersey, their homes in Baltimore, and their cottage in Deer Park. In addition to caring for her father, Mary supervised all aspects of their



Members of the “Friday Night”— five Baltimore friends dedicated to what women should be able to do with their lives — M. Carey Thomas, Mary Garrett (center), Julia Rogers, Mamie Gwinn and Bessie King.

lives. As her biographer observes, this could be as varied as “the digging of a well at 101 West Monument, the care of her father’s thoroughbreds at Montebello, the interior decorating at the Deer Park cottage, or the needs of his business correspondence.”

Mary’s father’s health declined rapidly; he died in 1884 while staying in the peaceful surroundings of his cottage in Deer Park, surrounded by all his family. Unusual for the time and to Mary’s surprise, her father left Mary one third of his estate, worth about two million dollars, making her one of the wealthiest women in the United States. Furthermore, he stipulated that this property would be Mary’s and not under the control of “any husband she may have.”

Mary used some of her funds to maintain the extensive holdings she had inherited—two homes in Baltimore and the cottage in Deer Park, a total of twenty-five hundred acres in Western Maryland and Baltimore, B&O Railroad stock shares, and many income-producing rental properties. She continued her lifestyle of traveling and socializing. She helped in the transition of the railroad to her brother’s leadership. Later, with one invalid brother, one whose health collapsed, and one who died in a boating accident,



The Garrett cottage at Deer Park, MD, one of the properties Mary inherited in her father’s will.

PHOTO COURTESY GARRETT COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM, OAKLAND, MD

Mary took over management of her father’s business interests.

John Work Garrett had given generously to many good causes including the YMCA, the Peabody Institute, the Baltimore Zoo, Lafayette College (his alma mater), and Washington and Lee College. He donated land for a school in Oakland, Maryland. He underwrote lectures and exhibitions. After his death, Mary received numerous requests for funds, which an assistant helped her to evaluate.

Mary began to narrow the focus of her charitable work to her deepest concern, the welfare of women. Having learned from her father’s methods, Mary planned her charity carefully. She became part of a class of donors sometimes called “coercive philanthropists,” giving to causes she cared about, but attaching conditions that had to be met. Many of her gifts have had long-lasting effects.

In 1885, the Friday Night launched an ambitious plan for a school in Baltimore that would prepare young women for higher education. The girls would study classical languages, mathematics, and science, and they would have physical education. To graduate, students would have to pass Bryn Mawr College’s rigorous entrance exam. As most remaining members of the Friday Night turned attention elsewhere, Mary continued to lead the effort. She oversaw the construction and furnishing of a new building for the school. She included a fully equipped gymnasium and a pool, despite warnings from some that women should be prepared



Above: Mary Garrett along with M. Carey Thomas, raised money to keep Bryn Mawr College in Philadelphia afloat. Mary made a commitment to donate annually to the college as long as Carey remained president. Mary had a room at the college and spent several months of each year there until the end of her life.

Inset: Women's Fund Memorial Building (left) of Johns Hopkins Medical School (1912). Through Mary's efforts to organize women all over the country to raise money, the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine opened in the Fall of 1893 to welcome both female and male students.



solely for “housekeeping and homemaking” and that climbing the stairs in the new building would “affect future childbearing.” After five years in rented space, Bryn Mawr School opened in 1890 in the new building. Now at a much larger campus, the school continues to educate girls in Baltimore today.

President Grover Cleveland and his wife Frances, and President Benjamin Harrison and his wife Caroline vacationed in cottages in Deer Park, next to the Garrett Cottage. Mary got to know both first ladies. Acquaintances such as these were vital to the next project upon which the Friday Night group embarked—to fund the Johns Hopkins Medical School.

Johns Hopkins, with the help of Mary's father, had planned that his estate should be used for a university, hospital, and medical school. The university opened on February 22, 1876, but construction problems and the need for additional fundraising (to which Mary contributed \$5000) delayed the hospital until 1889. Next, Hopkins President Daniel Coit Gilman began searching for a wealthy man who could supply the \$100,000 needed to proceed with creation of a medical school.

Members of the Friday Night formed a bold scheme—to organize women all over the country to raise this money and thus ensure that the medical school would be coeducational. Frances Cleveland joined in New York. Caroline Harrison headed the committee in Washington, D.C. Mary contributed nearly half the total, and the money was offered to the Hopkins board with the condition that women be admitted on an equal basis with men.

The board then increased the amount needed to \$500,000. Ultimately, Mary donated most of the additional money, but she increased the conditions. Among these were stipulations that the medical school must be a graduate school, students must pass exams for entrance and for graduation, and women would be included in all aspects of medical education. The medical school's first classes were held in 1893. In commemoration, Mary arranged for two portraits—of herself and of the four founding doctors of Hopkins—to be painted by John Singer Sargent.

The Friday Night disintegrated during the protracted struggle to raise money for the medical school, but Mary and another member of this group, M. Carey Thomas, continued to work together on another goal that arose—

to keep Bryn Mawr College afloat. Carey, who had earned a Ph.D. in Europe, was dean at the college. When the president announced his retirement, Mary saw an opportunity to ease the school's financial problems and gain the presidency for her friend. She made a commitment to donate annually so long as Carey was president. Mary had a room at the college and spent several months of each year there until the end of her life.

Throughout the time she spent improving educational opportunities for women, Mary had been an enthusiastic suffragist. When Susan B. Anthony and Rev. Dr. Anna Howard Shaw came to visit at Bryn Mawr College, Mary discovered a concrete way she could aid in the cause. The women proposed having a convention in Baltimore, a city which had grown conservative following the Civil War. Mary supported the convention with her organizational skills, social standing, and money. She hosted the luminaries of the group in her home, and she spearheaded a

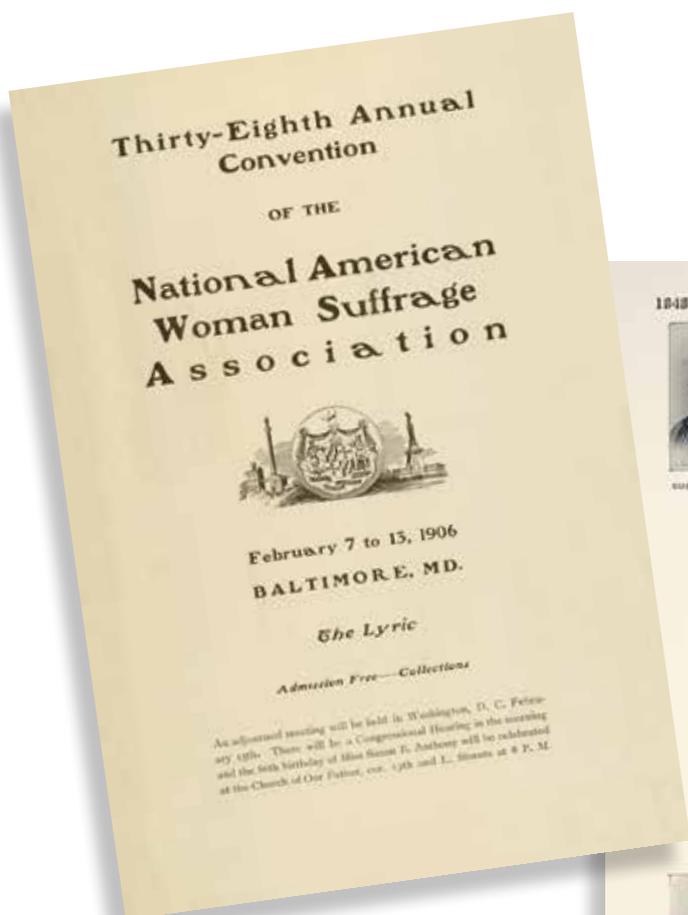
fundraising effort to raise \$60,000 to underwrite the future expenses of the movement.

Mary died at 61 of leukemia. Her will released Bryn Mawr Girls School from any indebtedness and provided for her invalid brother, but the bulk of her holdings—including homes in Baltimore and her cottage in Deer Park—went to her longtime friend M. Carey Thomas. Had Mary outlived Carey, other causes would have benefited, particularly the Hopkins medical school. True to form, she made that gift conditional on the school including females among the faculty. Her controversial will was contested by her relatives, but eventually upheld by the courts.

The little girl who lived with physical and academic limitations made it possible for other girls and women to receive the highest quality academic and physical education. The woman who could not officially assume her father's business leadership opened the way for other women to vote, to enter the medical profession, and to achieve whatever goals they set for themselves.

Mary Elizabeth Garrett is memorialized with these words: "A woman of quiet realized enthusiasms, she served her day and generation well and will be long remembered by those for whom she laboured." She has *not* been remembered

as well as she should have been, but a century after Mary's death, biographer Kathleen Waters Sander (*Mary Elizabeth Garrett: Society and Philanthropy in the Gilded Age*, 2008) and others are bringing well-deserved attention to her remarkable accomplishments.



Mary Garrett supported the suffragist movement, especially the 1906 convention in Baltimore. Shown here is the program booklet front cover and a page showing the keynote speakers.



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A Look Back to the Old Schools in Allegany County, *Then and Now*

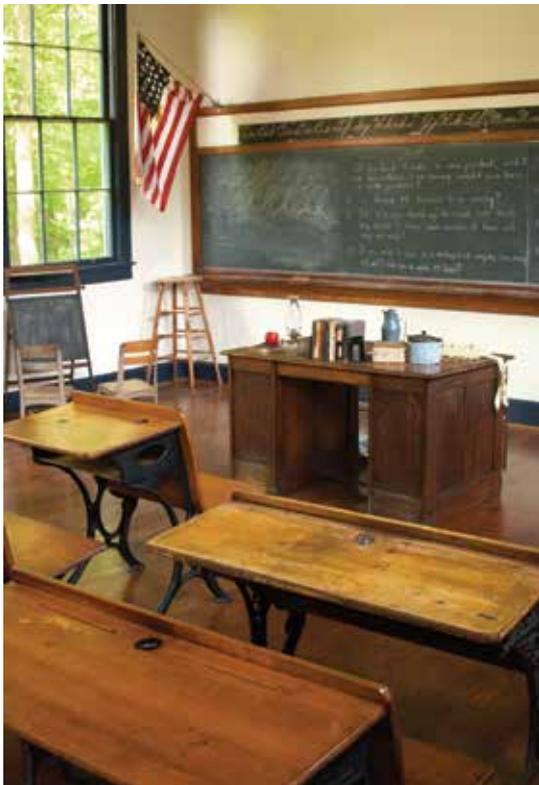
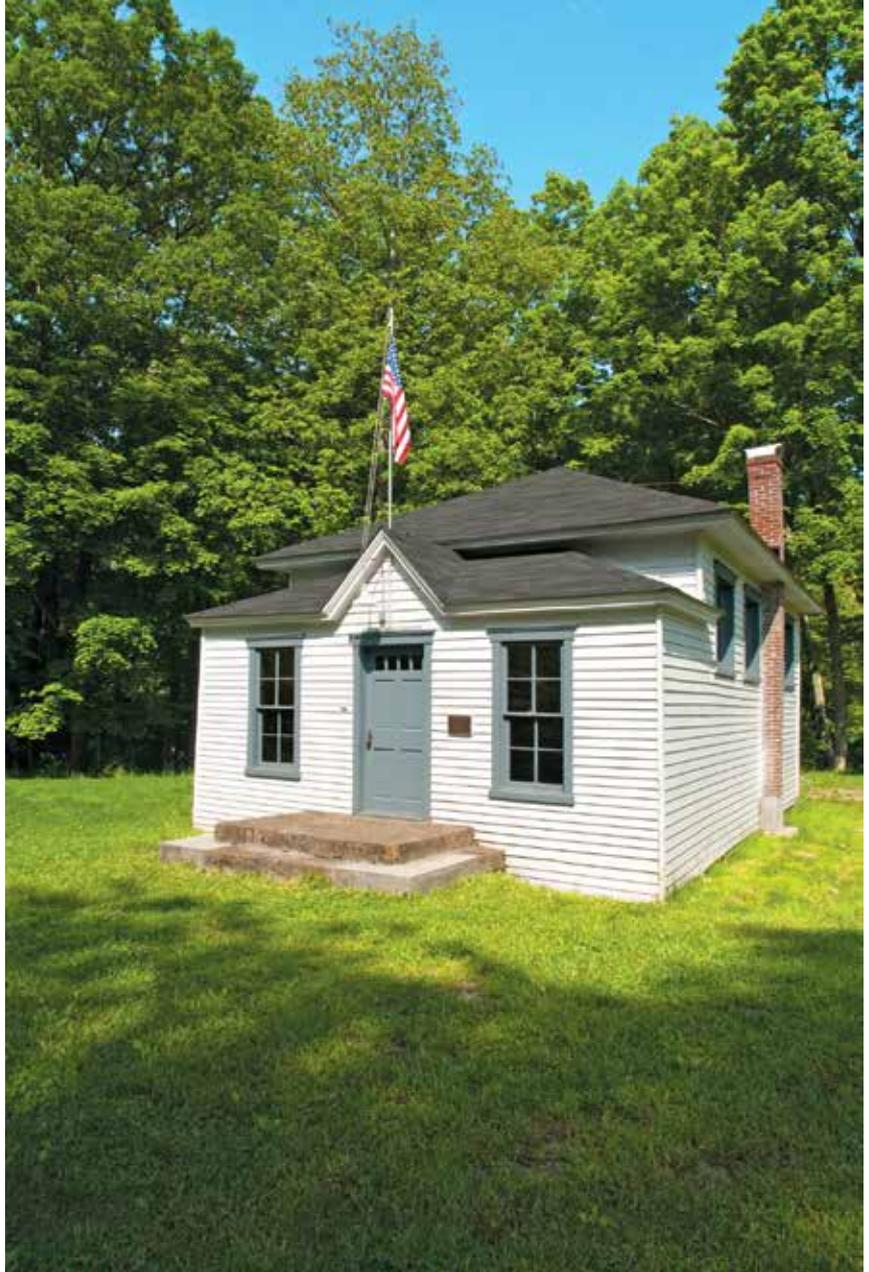
Written by: **Dan Whetzel** and **Jason Huber**

*SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS, DEAR OLD GOLDEN RULE DAYS
READING, 'RITING, AND 'RITHMETIC
TAUGHT AT THE TUNE OF A HICKR'Y STICK*



With the “Old Allegany” High School recently razed, it makes us wonder how many other old schools were there in Allegany County, Maryland? When were they open? When and why did they close? Are any of them still standing?

According to our research, between 1904-1905 there were 112 schools operating in Allegany County. We believe that to be the most public schools operating in the county at one time. Some of their whereabouts may be lost to history, but many still can be found if one knows where to look.



The Union Grove one room schoolhouse on Mason Road in Cumberland, Maryland, was built in 1901 to replace Wilson Academy of 1874. It is owned by the Allegany County Historical Society, has been fully restored and is open for tours at various times. *PHOTOS BY LANCE C. BELL*

Identifying Old Schools

Most of the old schools standing today were built from brick or clapboard. The schools constructed from brick are easier to identify than the ones built from clapboard or other materials. The brick schools were typically built more recently in areas which had larger populations, and look like a school one would visualize when told to picture a school house. Several of the old brick schools in Allegany County have been repurposed for apartment buildings and other uses. Even after the transformations, it is generally easy to determine their original purpose.

The schools built from clapboard can be more difficult to identify; however, there were 3-4 popular architectural designs that most of the schools share. So, once one gets an idea of what to look for, it becomes easier to find them. Many of the schools have been repurposed into private residences and display additions that can make it a bit more difficult to identify, but usually a friendly neighbor can confirm the building was originally a school.

Another way to determine the locations of schools is by researching maps. Cartographers generally note schools because of their size and importance to communities. The oldest school we identified was found on a map dated 1842. Although the school name was not recorded, it was clearly marked along the National Highway between Eckhart and Frostburg.

No matter the construction materials or architectural designs, Allegany County's early school buildings shared one unfortunate characteristic—they were in poor physical condition. The extent of the problem was summarized in a report to the state superintendent of schools. "Nothing short of burning up some of our school houses could possibly warm them throughout some portions of the winter."

Increased funding over the decades remedied the dangerous conditions.

Brick Schools Still Standing

Many of the old schools built with brick are still standing and have found new purposes. These buildings can be found in our small towns and cities.

Western Part of the County

The McCool School is currently used for self storage. The former Bruce high school is currently home to Westernport Elementary. The last Barton Elementary School serves as a church. The Hill Street School in Frostburg served as the



Top: The town of Luke's offices are now housed in the old Luke school.

Bottom: The McCool School is currently used for self storage.

Frostburg Museum until the museum moved into the former Saint Michael's School on Main Street. The town of Luke's offices are housed in the old Luke school. The Pullen School in Frostburg hosts offices for Frostburg State University's Admissions, Financial Aid, Disabled Student Services, and Residence Life departments amongst others. The last and repurposed Lincoln school is also a part of Frostburg State University.

Central Part of the County

The Columbia Street and Mount Royal Schools in Cumberland have been transformed into apartment buildings. Gephart School is now a church building. The Allegany Academy building became the Washington Street branch of the Allegany County Library system. Allegany County High School on Cumberland Street, the first modern high school in the county, is home to the Human Resources Development Commission (HRDC) Head Start program in Cumberland.



The last Ellerslie School contains storage items. Johnson Heights in Cumberland is now part of the hospital system. The Carver School, named after George Washington Carver, is home to the Carver Community Center in Cumberland. Although not thought of as traditional school buildings, both Ebenezer Baptist and AME churches hosted public school classes during the segregation era. The former Baptist church is now a private residence while the AME church continues to serve as a house of worship.

Eastern Part of the County

Piney Plains School became part of the Little Orleans Volunteer Fire Department complex. Schoolhouse Kitchen is now a restaurant in the former Oldtown School.



Brick Schools No Longer Standing

A number of brick school buildings have been razed. In many cases another structure has been built in place of the school, in other cases there is an empty lot with little clue that a school ever stood in that place.

Western Part of the County

An apartment building now stands where the Hammond Street School once stood in Westernport. The first Beall School stood where the current Beall Elementary stands. The second Beall (junior/senior high) sat on the property where Mountain Ridge High now serves students. A park has been constructed where the old brick Barton school once stood. The Midland school was recently razed. Central in Lonaconing was also razed and a community park is now in its place, while the nearby Jackson Street School was demolished.



North Central Part of the County

The early Mount Savage School has been razed and is now an empty lot.

Central Part of the County

Just as “Old Allegany” was razed to make way for new housing, so was East Side. The last lower LaVale School was also demolished and now has houses where it once stood. The site of Maryland Avenue School is an empty lot, while Centre Street School now has a park in its place.



The Virginia Avenue School stood near the present HRDC building in South Cumberland, and Pennsylvania Avenue’s location now hosts apartment buildings. Greene Street School stood where the Coca-Cola building now operates in Cumberland. A parking garage stands in place of the Union Street School, which also served as the central office of the Allegany County Board of Education from approximately 1901-1922.

These four brick schools are no longer standing (top to bottom) – Midland School, Mount Savage School, Maryland Avenue School, and Centre Street School.

Clapboard Schools

Many of the smaller communities and mining camps had smaller school buildings constructed of clapboard or batten board, while the majority of antebellum schools were built of logs. Surprisingly, many of the clapboard structures are still standing and in use today. Many have been converted to private residences, while others have undergone remodeling thereby making it a bit challenging to recognize them.

Clapboard Schools Still Standing

Western Part of the County

Charlestown, Detmold, and Rockville in the Lonaconing area and Borden Mines, Bowery Street, and Porter in the Frostburg/Eckhart areas are private residences. Moscow is a private residence and Pekin looks like it may be used for private storage. The Dayton School, outside of McCoolle, still stands and looks to be unoccupied. Grahamtown, one of the most impressive older schools, serves as a church.

North Central Part of the County

Dutch Hollow in Mount Savage is a private residence.

Central Part of the County

Lena Street, believed to be one of the oldest school buildings in the county, is now an apartment complex. Union Grove is owned by the Allegany County Historical Society and is open for tours at various times. Wilson, Corriganville, and Lindnerville serve as private residences.

Eastern Part of the County

Slider is privately owned and used for storage. Twin Oaks, also known as Double Pines and Imes (Iames), is privately owned and used as a hunting cabin.

Clapboard Schools No Longer Standing

Eastern Part of the County

Brickhouse, Crock, Dailey, Deffenbaugh, Sulphur Springs, Green Ridge Station, Lower Green Ridge, Mertens, Roby, Twiggstown, Upper Green Ridge, and Warrior Mountain are no longer standing.

Central Part of the County

Early LaVale schools stood on the site near present day Fratelli's restaurant, near the Five Mile House on National Highway (Everstine), in Boetcherville (Butcherville) near Old Cash Valley Road, and on Winchester Road near Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant (Winchester Bridge). Paper Mill (Locust Grove), the last one room school to operate in the county, was demolished as was Barrelville's two primary school buildings.



Top to bottom: Dutch Hollow School in Mount Savage is now a private residence. Slider School is privately owned and used for storage. Winchester Bridge School and Barrelville School are both no longer standing.



Pleasant View School was located in District Number 1, an area encompassing Little Orleans. Twenty-one students were enrolled at the school in 1903.

The Fair Ground School, located in South Cumberland, was razed to make way for Chapel Hill on Virginia Avenue, just as Chapel Hill was demolished to make way for the brick Virginia Avenue facility. Mary Hoyer School on Independence Street in Cumberland became a YMCA

facility for black residents prior to demolition.

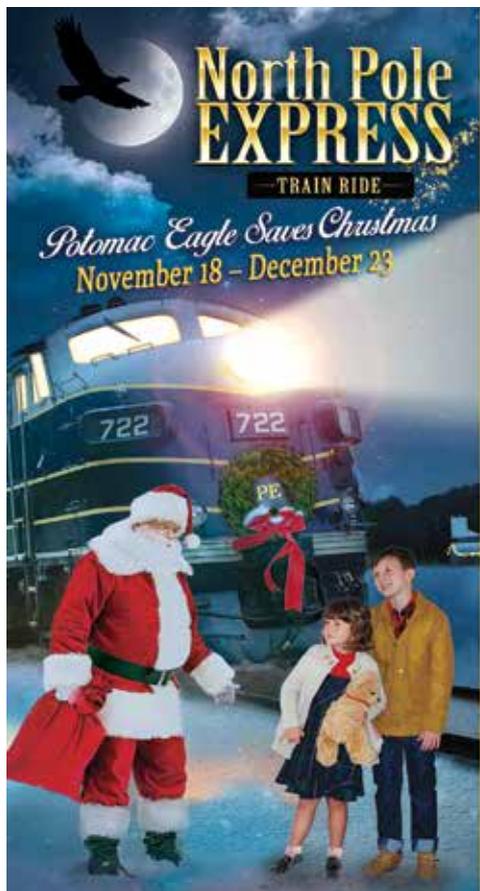
North Central Part of the County

The early 20th century Ellerslie School has been demolished.

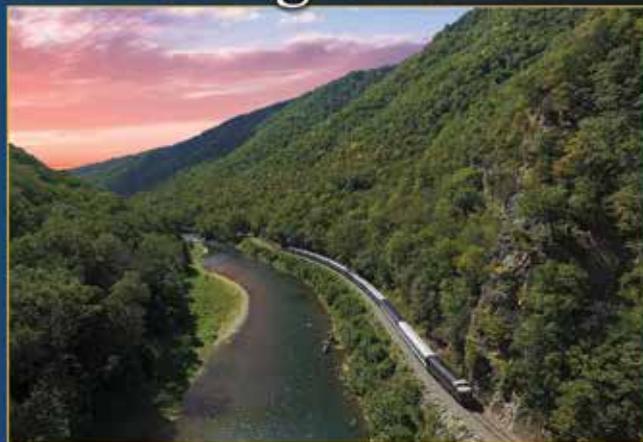
Western Part of the County

The original Lincoln schools on Oak Street and later Park Street in Frostburg were demolished. Lord (Klondike) was razed and is now the location of a dwelling. Lonaconing’s school for African Americans was demolished and is now a vacant lot. Beechwood in Lonaconing fell into disrepair and was razed, while only a foundation remains for Dye school near Dan’s Mountain State Park.

The authors are still working to identify and map the schools of Allegany County. If you have any information, pictures, or anything else to share on the schools mentioned in this article or any schools not mentioned please feel free to contact the authors at: alleganycountyoldschoolproject@gmail.com.



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A Mountain Legacy

West Virginia's Mont Chateau Hotel and State Park

Written by: **John May**



PHOTO CIRCA 1900

MONT CHATEAU LOOSELY TRANSLATES FROM FRENCH AS **MOUNTAIN CASTLE**

Eight miles east of Morgantown, WV, nestled in the scenic Cheat River Valley, overlooking Cheat Lake, stands the historic Mont Chateau Lodge. Today it is the Mont Chateau Research Center, home of the West Virginia Geological & Economic Survey, with its popular Museum of Geology and Natural History and Gift Shop.

A Rocky Start (1894–1898)

The original Mont Chateau Hotel, the “Old Mont,” was completed on a 42 acre tract once owned by lumber businessman Christian Ley. The land had been purchased in 1893 by Pittsburgh native Fred Dean, who envisioned building a grand hotel on a long popular camping and fishing area of the Cheat River. The Hotel opened on August 5, 1894 and was operated by the “Mont Chateau Hotel Company,” comprised of Dean’s wife Ellen, George Hardy and Captain John Dales acting as manager.

An early review held high promise for the new enterprise:

After descending to the Cheat River, crossing that stream by [Ice’s] ferry, and ascending the opposite mountains some distance, there is the Mont Chateau Hotel, a large building, but almost hidden among the massive rocks and dense forest trees. The location is wild in the extreme and will no doubt become a popular resort for those who admire nature strictly unadorned. Not opened until late in the season, it contains 33 bed chambers. In the large parlor are great fire-places in which huge black logs are burned ... which give an old-time home-like appearance to the mountain hotel. (Pittsburgh Press, 9/23/1894)

Unfortunately, after only two years, the hotel went into default and Mont Chateau was sold to the Cheatmont Resort Company in 1896. And after only two more years, the hotel was sold again in 1898 to Alexander Voigt of Pittsburgh, who hired his son-in-law, Frank St. Clair, as Manager. Marketing primarily to the Pittsburgh area, Voigt and St. Clair operated the Mont Chateau Hotel and its seven cottages successfully for the next 21 years.

An Upscale Resort (1898–1919)

The hotel became popular throughout the East, setting record attendance with each succeeding season. Visitors came to Morgantown via railway or Monongahela River steam-driven packet boat, and thence to Mont Chateau by horse-drawn coach.

From its opening in 1894 through 1919, Mont Chateau catered mostly to the “carriage trade,” particularly the Pittsburgh area’s upper class. It was reported that many famous persons visited, including Thomas A. Edison and a young General George C. Marshall.

From 1915 to 1919, Mont Chateau hosted West Virginia University football’s pre-season training camp. A baseball field less than a mile down-river from the Hotel served as the practice site. The *Pittsburgh Daily Post* considered the camp amenities to be among the best in the country: “Mont Chateau was ideal with its comfortable rooms, dining arrangements, grounds, swimming, and other

accommodations. In fact West Virginia has not been outdone by any other [team of] eleven training camp facilities.”

The Mont Chateau “Clubhouse” (1920–1924)

The clientele became more exclusive in 1920 when several distinguished leaders in the fields of industry, law, medicine and science, all members of Pittsburgh’s prestigious Duquesne Club, met to organize the “Mont Chateau Club” for the purpose of purchasing the property from the Voigt family. Prophetically, one member was Dr. I.C. White, first director of the West Virginia Geological & Economic Survey (1897–1927).

During 1920–1924, this group operated Mont Chateau as a private resort, retaining Frank St. Clair to continue managing what now was called the “Clubhouse.” Membership was pricy at \$500 (about \$7,000 in 2022 dollars).

The Club invested heavily to renovate the property, installing an electric generator for lighting the Clubhouse, cottages, and grounds, all new plumbing, and building one of Mont Chateau’s most distinctive features: a 100-yard-long cut-sandstone wall overlooking the Cheat River 150 feet below.

WVU’s football teams, including the school’s first undefeated 1922 squad, were invited to stay at the Clubhouse on nights before important home games, starting a long tradition of sequestering off-campus that continued, off and on, to this day.

Cheat River Hydroelectric Dam Forms “Lake Lynn” (1925)

Mont Chateau’s proximity to the river had always enabled the hotel to offer swimming, boating, and fishing. But the river was about to become a 1,730-acre lake, 13 miles long! In the early 1920s, property owners along the Cheat River were compelled to relinquish land that would be flooded by a new hydroelectric dam being built a few miles north, near the state line with Pennsylvania. The Mont Chateau Club had to cede 9.6 acres of riverfront in 1923.

At the dam, water-operated turbines began generating 52 megawatts of electricity, starting on December 23, 1925 and continuing through today. Although it took land from

riverside owners, the dam created a beautiful recreational lake. (Originally named Lake Lynn to honor a power company official, it officially became Cheat Lake in 1976.)

From Hotel to Private Home to Hotel Again (1925–1955)

The private resort venture proved a financial failure and, in 1925, the Club leased Mont Chateau to Frank St. Clair to manage it once again as a hotel. Amenities during this latter half of the Roaring Twenties included tennis, golf, and dancing to the music of Mont Chateau’s own orchestra.



One of Mont Chateau’s outstanding features: a 100-yard cut-sandstone wall overlooking the Cheat River.

PHOTO COURTESY JOHN BOCAN, WVGE&ES

The stock market crash that heralded the beginning of the Great Depression occurred just as Mont Chateau was closing its doors at the end of the 1929 season. Not immune to the economic hardships of the day, Mont Chateau was sold to a Pittsburgh bank for \$10,000 in a foreclosure sale in July of 1930. It would not re-open as a hotel for another 21 years.

In November of that year, Mont Chateau

Club member Samuel E. Diescher, purchased the Hotel, its cottages and 42 acres, for use as a personal residence. Extensive renovations were undertaken to transform the Hotel into a grand home. Three separate suites, as well as common entrance, living, dining and kitchen areas, were created out of the 43 rooms of the old Hotel. The Dieschers used Mont Chateau as a weekend retreat, living in a Pittsburgh hotel during the week to manage the family businesses.

Mont Chateau was home to some prosperous and noteworthy people during 1930–1950. Diescher was an internationally recognized consulting engineer who was credited with inventing seamless steel tubing. His father, Samuel A. Diescher, had been a renowned Pittsburgh civil and mechanical engineer who designed and built many of that city’s notable structures, including the Duquesne Incline. Mrs. Diescher was a prominent leader in civic affairs who appeared frequently in Pittsburgh society pages. Year-round residents of Mont Chateau during this period included Diescher’s brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Benson. The Bensons hosted many prominent visitors in



what became known as the “Mont Chateau Mansion,” a Morgantown center for social affairs. Another perennial resident was Diescher’s mother-in law, Mrs. Caroline Benson, once an assistant to a lady-in-waiting for Queen Victoria, living in English palaces and often seeing the “Old Queen.” Her father had been a sculptor from whom the Queen commissioned several pieces.

Samuel Diescher died in 1950, and Mont Chateau was sold by his heirs to Morgantown attorney Arthur Walker and businessman Paul Layman. Under the new owners, the hotel, dining room, and cottages reopened to guests once again, after a long hiatus.

The End of the “Old Mont” (1955–1956)

In 1955, the State of West Virginia entered the picture for the first time when the WV Conservation Commission purchased Mont Chateau from Walker and Layman to create a year-round state-run resort. Plans were made to renovate the hotel and excavation had already begun by year’s end on construction of a new wing to add 18 rooms to the main building. This would become West Virginia’s 21st State Park, to open in the summer of 1956.

But in the early morning of May 6 that year, smoke was discovered coming from the old lodge. By the time firemen reached the remote location, the building was in total ruins, with only the chimneys left standing. It was reported that flames reached as high as 200 feet and were visible from Morgantown, eight miles distant. Today, only the stone carriage house, entrance gate, and overlook wall remain of the original Mont Chateau resort.



Architect’s rendering of proposed lodge at Mont Chateau State Park, 1956.

The spacious lobby in the lodge of Mont Chateau State Park, circa 1958.

Directional sign to former Mont Chateau State Park, 1966.

A New Lodge and State Park Rise from the Ashes (1956–1962)

In June 1956, only one month after the fire, the state’s Conservation Commission announced plans to erect a new building on the site of the old hotel. The new Mont Chateau would be one of only three “Super Lodges” in the Mountain State park system, together with Cacapon and Blackwater Falls, to have 50 or more guest rooms and dining room seating capacity of 250.



Today Mont Chateau Lodge is the home of the West Virginia Geological & Economic Survey and houses a Museum of Geology & Natural History featuring dinosaur skeletons, minerals, and fossils from around West Virginia and the world. Call 304-594-2331 or visit <http://www.wvgs.wvnet.edu> for more information.

Inset: The end of the WV Geological & Economic Survey building still features the Mont Chateau logo.

PHOTOS BY MIKE CALHOUN

Designed and constructed by the Walter Butler Company of Miami, Florida, the new Lodge's style was referred to as "mid-century rustic." Native stone, quarried in Aurora, WV, comprised the lower third of the building's front, as well as the columns supporting the portico and the buttress and connecting curved retaining wall. Dominating the building's front was a large flat white wall sporting the black metal "Mont Chateau" script. The remainder of the exterior was constructed of red-stained pine.

On June 7, 1958, West Virginia's newest state park was dedicated with a ribbon-cutting by Governor Cecil Underwood and the reigning Miss West Virginia, Miss Janice Sickle. Soon after opening, Mont Chateau added a stable and trails for horseback riding, a beach house with snack bar, sand beach, water slide, and diving platform.

In 1962, to provide meeting space, a new Activities and Convention Center was built directly behind the lodge. Designed by Henry Eldon & Associates and built by the Liston Construction Co., this facility hosted the Mont Chateau Summer Theater for several years, plus countless meetings, conventions, weddings, and other events.

During its first year, the lodge operated at capacity on many days, with numerous reservations for varied social and business activities. At year's end, the Conservation Commission reported over 16,000 people had visited Mont Chateau during its first six months of operation, providing the park system with its third-highest source of revenue.

State Park Unable to Turn a Profit (1962–1977)

By 1962, however, the new park's novelty had worn off, visitations waned, and room occupancy fell to only 29%. Due to continuing losses, park operation was leased to

a resort management company, Holiday Hosts, making Mont Chateau the only entity in the park system not operated directly by the state. But in 1967, after sustaining losses for five years, Holiday Hosts opted not to renew its lease.

What then? The WV Department of Natural Resources (DNR), successor to the Conservation Commission, contracted with West Virginia University to manage the Park starting July 1, 1967. This enabled WVU to use park facilities in the off-season for school-sponsored conferences and workshops. (WVU is believed to be the first American university to manage a state park.) After six years, however, WVU cited financial problems, and terminated its lease effective June 30, 1973.

In July of 1973 a 10-year lease was signed with a local company, Quarry Management, to operate the Park. The lessee later secured a liquor license for a supper club to be housed in the former recreation room of the Lodge. Because the sale of alcoholic beverages was prohibited in State Parks, Mont Chateau, as of 1975, was no longer considered a State Park and all references designating it as such on signage and in promotional literature were removed.

Facility maintenance problems grew throughout the term of the lease and disagreement ensued over which party should be responsible. Consequently, no major repairs were undertaken and the Lodge began to be referred to as “dilapidated.” In 1977, by mutual agreement with DNR, Quarry Management terminated its lease.

Unable to find another lessee, and given the building’s condition, DNR recommended selling Mont Chateau. A resolution to sell the property for not less than \$1,000,000 was passed during the 1977 session of the WV Legislature but was later reconsidered and rejected at the urging of delegates from Monongalia County, home of Mont Chateau. Repurposing the lodge was explored; the U.S. Department of Labor’s Job Corps was interested but then deemed it “not large enough...and too expensive to convert [for] our purpose.”

Mont Chateau Becomes the Home of the West Virginia Geological Survey (1977–today)

In June 1977, Governor Jay Rockefeller announced that Mont Chateau Lodge would be leased to the West Virginia Geological & Economic Survey, then housed in WVU’s White Hall and in several leased facilities in Morgantown. Of Mont

Chateau’s 42 acres, 13 would be occupied by the Geological Survey and the other 29 were partitioned from the park and eventually leased to and, in 1985, traded to the private sector. When Mont Chateau’s original construction bond was retired in 1981, the property was deeded to the Geological Survey.

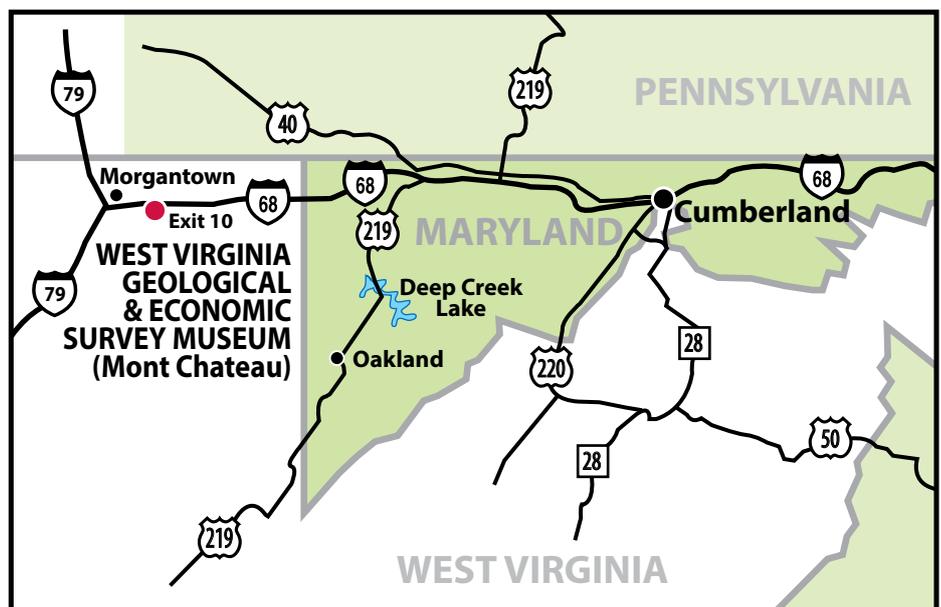
Over the past 45 years, the Geological Survey has been diligent in its efforts to maintain Mont Chateau’s legacy through the rehabilitation and preservation of its facilities, enabling today’s visitors to enjoy the agency’s Museum of Natural History, Gift Shop, and beautiful grounds.

Historic Designation Sought (2022)

The West Virginia Historic Preservation Office has approved an application to nominate Mont Chateau’s land, current buildings, and remaining stone structures from the original resort as a Historic District. A formal application to the National Park Service for placement on the National Register of Historic Places is planned for this year. Increasing encroachment of commercial development in the Cheat Lake area has made the achievement of this goal critical.

Visitors are welcome at the Geological Survey, Museum and Gift Shop weekdays 8:00 – 5:00. Mont Chateau is off I-68, “Cheat Lake – Exit 10.” It’s about 45 miles (50–55 minutes) from Oakland and Deep Creek Lake, and about 70 miles from Cumberland or Pittsburgh. The address is 1 Mont Chateau Road, Morgantown, WV 26508.

For additional information, please visit the Facebook page “Historic Mont Chateau,” which offers further historical information on Mont Chateau and the surrounding Cheat Lake area – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/311784593238731>.



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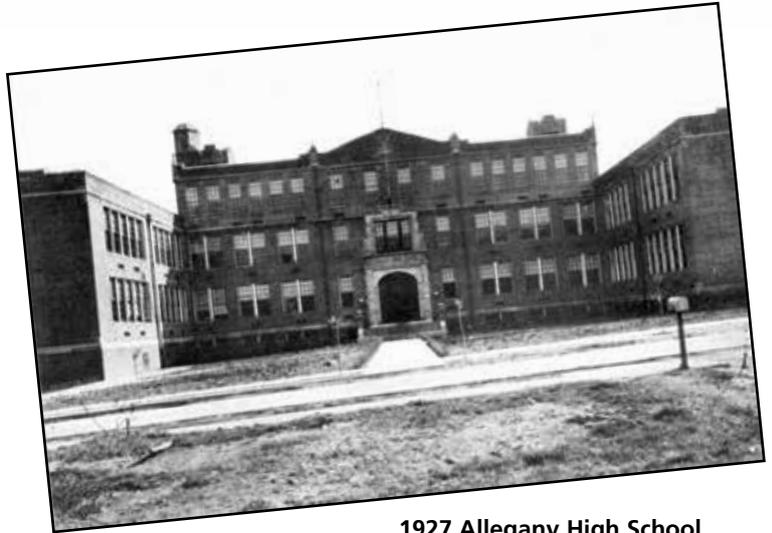
Allegany High School Students Construct 8 Foot LEGO Model *of Former School*



In our Spring/Summer 2022 issue of *Mountain Discoveries* we featured an article on the “**American High School Experience**” presentation that took place the entire month of July at Allegany Museum in Cumberland, Maryland. The exhibit was curated by current Allegany High School students in Mr. Brian White’s Historical Research Methods class and included large panel displays, photographs, memorabilia *AND* the Lego replica of the Sedgwick Street building. Allegany High School was housed at the Sedgwick Street location from 1926 through 2018 when it was moved to a new state-of-the-art facility at 900 Seton Drive in Cumberland.

The Lego project required interdisciplinary skills that stretched beyond typical social studies classes. The students took multiple photographs of the exterior and studied engineering and other aspects of the structure as well as original floor plans. They used Minecraft, a creative building block computer game, to build a 3D blueprint of the school and also to create the scale needed for the Legos — 1 Minecraft block = 1 Lego block. The students needed to build inside supports from Legos to hold up both the walls and the ceilings, which was especially important because the Lego project featured no glue whatsoever.

Three students, Drake Rose, Cole Fiscus and Daniel Gregory were the primary Lego builders with research collaboration from other students and teachers. The project took the entire academic year to complete, about 200 man hours and over 35,000 Lego pieces. The Lego building measures 44” wide by 96” long and the cost was estimated at about \$2,000 from donations and class budget. It is three and a half times larger than Lego’s largest box set, *Titanic*.



1927 Allegany High School, Sedgwick Street, Cumberland, Maryland. Although there had been several additions and upgrades, the basic structure of the school remained the same. The Lego model accurately represents this photo.

Following the “**American High School Experience**” exhibit, the Lego building will be permanently displayed at the new high school on Seton Drive, as well as some of the large panels and other memorabilia. It is fitting, timely and rewarding to have these pieces preserved as the high school at Sedgwick Street has since been demolished.

Use this QR code (click/scan with your phone) to connect to a YouTube video showing the Lego project in progress.



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