

THE BARKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF DRAKE WELL, INC.



FRIENDS OF DRAKE WELL MEMBER NEWS AND UPDATES

The Friends of Drake Well have been busy as both Drake Well Museum and Historic Pithole City are operating at full capacity for the first time since 2019. In addition to the heavy return of tourists to historic sites, we have had several large events of note.

The first Oil Boom Era Historic Dinner was held on Wednesday, May 18 inside the Visitor Center at Drake Well amongst the interior exhibits. Guests were treated to a four-course meal featuring recipes exclusively found in William B. Moore's new cookbook, *Titusville Eats: A Social History*. Moore has been published several times in the *OilField Journal*, and his new book shares the stories behind the people who submitted recipes to church cookbooks during the Titusville Victorian Era. The dinner raised money for the newly-created internship in honor and memory of David L. Weber, local historian, former staff member, and volunteer at Drake Well. Weber's family was in attendance at the dinner, and a special temporary exhibit showcased David's life, work, and interests.

This year the Meet-U in 5 and a Half transformed into the Oil Creek 5 & 13 Stacked Trail Races under the leadership of Race Director Jacob Kosker. Participants could run one or both races to win an overall stacked race prize. Over 200 registrations helped raise over \$4000 for local trails. FDW partnered with the Titusville Area Trail Association on this race in an effort to help guide tourists to Drake Well from the Jersey Bridge Trailhead that is owned and maintained by Drake Well.

One of the highlights of the year was a visit from Ambassador Khazar Ibrahim, the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States of America, visited the museum on Wednesday, May 25. The Ambassador spent several days in Venango County and offered a public presentation on the lawn at Drake Well and presented the Museum with a rug from Baku which is known not only for its beautiful rugs, but for the beginning of Azerbaijan's petroleum industry with a well strike in 1846, years before Drake struck oil.

The Ambassador's visit to the region has resulted in the plan for an Energy Summit at Drake Well in early October. Leaders from across the petroleum industry are being invited for a three-day discussion and excursion at Drake Well and through the region. We look forward to the discussion and idea-sharing that will occur during the Summit.

FRIENDS OF DRAKE WELL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- David DuBois, President
- Dick Baker, Vice President
- Stephen Coleman, Treasurer
- Carole Hall, Secretary
- Emily Altomare
- Bob Felton
- Art Jennings
- Ann Warner
- Michael Knecht (ex officio)

FRIENDS OF DRAKE WELL STAFF

- Toni Brown, Custodial and Curatorial Assistant
- Corky Fulton, Museum Store Clerk
- Gene Hale, Replica Operator
- John Hetrick, Replica Operator
- Mackenzie Hill, Intern
- Denali John, Intern
- David Mock, Replica Operator
- Vickie Ruppertsberg, Museum Store Manager
- Bill Stumpf, Replica Operator
- Erin Wanninger, Associate Director
814-827-2797 x102
c-ewanning@pa.gov



MEET THE STAFF: FRIENDS OF DRAKE WELL SUMMER INTERNS



MACKENZIE HILL



DENALI JOHN

Each Summer, the Friends of Drake Well offer internships for college students to work alongside PHMC and FDW staff to gain experience and aid in the everyday operations of the Museum. This year's interns are Mackenzie Hill (MH) and Denali John (DJ), and here are their answers to a recent interview:

Why did you apply to work at Drake Well this summer?

MH: I applied to work at Drake Well this summer because I wanted to learn more about my local community's history. I also wanted to explore the career opportunities available to me outside of what people expect me to do with an English degree.

DJ: I applied to work at Drake Well this summer because as I have grown older, I have become increasingly interested in the history of the landscapes around me. Drake Well is especially intriguing because without Edwin Drake's discovery, our lives would be drastically different. I look forward to spending this summer learning about the sites and how the environment/geomorphology affected the industry and the lives of those who flocked to Pennsylvania in the 1860s.

Tell us about your college and degree.

MH: I'm attending Robert Morris University and working towards a degree in English Studies. I will be a junior this fall.

DJ: I am currently a Geology major at Slippery Rock University, going into my senior year. With my geology degree, I hope to continue learning and work to obtain my Professional Geologist Licensure.

What does a typical workday entail / What are your responsibilities?

MH: I'm a curatorial intern working with Sue, so my responsibilities so far have been helping with inventory and cataloguing. I started with working on the Besse Collection, which is a collection of documents from a Titusville family involved in the oil industry. I have recently been entering information about fireman badges into Argus. Currently, I am working on creating signage for Pithole.

DJ: A workday for me can contain a multitude of projects! A typical day consists of working with Sue on cataloging artifacts and collections, partnering with Sarah on building a lesson plan for Discovery Days, and learning as much as I can about both the Drake Well site and Pithole!

Do you have a favorite exhibit or artifact at Drake Well/Pithole? If so, what is it?

MH: I don't have a particular favorite exhibit/artifact, but I like learning about Roberts' torpedoes the most.

DJ: I absolutely LOVE Pithole and the fascinating stories that are to be learned there. My favorite exhibit is the diorama of Pithole City proper. It is fascinating to me to be able to physically see what the city looked like 150 years ago and understand the fast pace in which it was built, booming, and then disappeared.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC MUSEUM COMMISSION STAFF

- Susan Beates, Museum Curator
- Jerome Dowling, Maintenance Technician
- Sarah Goodman, Museum Educator
- Michael Knecht, Site Administrator
- Heather McFadden, Administrative Support
- Stewart McKinley, Site Foreman

MICHAEL KNECHT NAMED DRAKE WELL MUSEUM SITE ADMINISTRATOR

After months as Temporary Site Administrator, Michael Knecht has officially been named Site Administrator of Drake Well Museum. Michael will be moving from a role with the same title at Old Economy Village in Ambridge, Pennsylvania.

Michael is seen in this photo from Spring Gas Up wearing a Drake Well Marathon hat from when he competed in the race previously. He's signed up to participate in the Half Marathon on August 14! Be sure to cheer him on at the race.

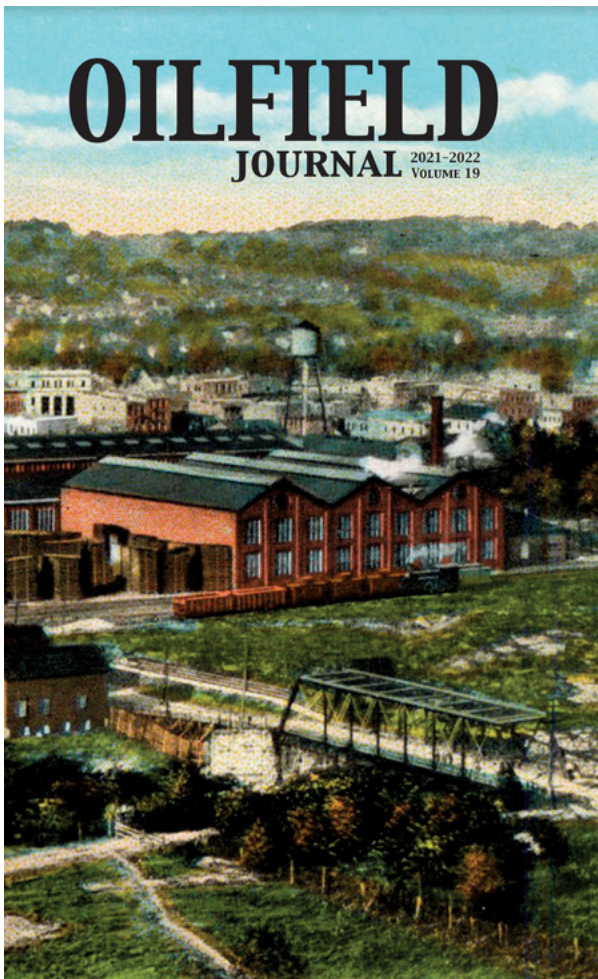


DENSMORE TANK CAR EXHIBIT UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Densmore Tank Car project is "on track" to be completed this summer with the aluminum tanks now on site. Fabricated and donated by Witherup Fabrication and Erection in Kennerdell, PA, these tanks will not be visible to visitors, but will preserve the outdoor exhibit.

Mark Ware of the Somerset Historical Society will be visiting Drake Well to join Replica Operator and Cooper Bill Stumpf to construct new barrels for the exhibit constructed from 96 white oak staves. Once complete, and steel hoops will hold the staves in place.

A dedication ceremony will be announced to members as soon as the project nears completion. Commemorative Densmore t-shirts and other memorabilia will be added to the Museum Store for the opening of the exhibit.



MEMBERS WATCH YOUR MAILBOX FOR OILFIELD JOURNAL V. 18

The OilField Journal is an annual peer-reviewed journal publishing original manuscripts related to the mission of Drake Well Museum. The Friends of Drake Well have been publishing the Journal since 2002 and are proud to announce the publication of Volume 18 this summer. Please note that our printer is experiencing a paper shortage and will print the Journal as soon as the paper arrives.

We look forward to sharing the research found in the 74 pages of the award-winning journal, including:

- *The Murder of David Tate*, by William D. Moore
- *The Town Oil Built: An Essay in Historic Postcards*, by Jessica Hilburn
- *Plum Dungeon Falls and the Secret Estate*, by James McQuiston
- *The Original Petroleum Company*, by Kathy Flaherty
- Memorials, Acquisitions, and Call for Papers

Individual, Family, Grandparent, and Corporate members of FDW receive the journal as a yearly membership benefit. Additional copies will be available for purchase in the Museum Store and on the Drake Well website for \$19.99 + tax, minus your 10% off FDW store discount.

You can view a complete index of past issues of the OilField Journal by visiting: <https://www.drakewell.org/join-and-support-us/the-oilfield-journal>

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS THE FOCUS OF 2022 INVENTORY

BY SARAH BELL, MUSEUM COLLECTIONS INVENTORY SPECIALIST

The inventory of Drake Well's entire collection continues during Spring 2022 with an emphasis on the Manuscript Collections.

Curator Sue Beates and Inventory Specialist Sarah Bell have continued their work in the Museum's Clean Room with the Manuscript Collections. An additional total of 922 boxes have been inventoried through the end of June. These boxes include large collections such as the Roberts Collection, the Tarbell Collection, the Quaker State Collection, and the United Refining Collection. Manuscript collections include a plethora of paper-based products that include photographs, correspondence (both business and personal), checks, receipts, meeting minutes, handwritten research notes, advertising components, patents, blueprints, and stock certificates.



Stock Certificate, Robert Petroleum Torpedo Company. DW76.17.15

The Roberts Collection includes documentation from the Roberts Torpedo Company, the Titusville Country Club, the Canadohta Club, the Berea Oil Company, W.B. Roberts and Son Company, the Rochester and Tidioute Oil Company, Titusville Gas and Water Company, Roberts National Bank of Titusville, Mechanics Land and Loan Association, Roberts and Company Bankers, Rice Robinson and Foggins, McEowen and Company, American Gas Improvement Company, Phoenix Glass Company, United Gas Improvement Company, Titusville Gas Company, Titusville Trust Company, Roberts and Sterrett, the Houghton Roberts Company, the Roberts Petroleum Torpedo Company, Wanango Oil Company, and the Connelly-Critchlow Company. This collection is a mixture of the records of the Roberts Torpedo Company including nitroglycerine factories, financial records, and shooter records. There are Patent Gazettes and patents related to the many litigation

cases included in the collection. The Roberts Brothers Bank and W. B. Roberts & Son Bank and other business activities of Col. E. A. L. Roberts and his brother Walter B. Roberts.

The Tarbell Collection consists mainly of Ida Tarbell's research into the Standard Oil Company and the resulting publication of the research for a series in McClure's Magazine then in the two volumes, *History of Standard Oil 1906*. It contains correspondences, court documents, research reports, newspaper clippings, company documents, and various other materials. The collection also houses some of Tarbell's later works and personal papers as well as materials on celebrations held in her honor in Titusville. Lastly, the collection also includes two boxes of correspondence and business papers of Ida's brother William W. Tarbell.

Before Quaker State and Pennzoil merged in 1999, Quaker State executives in Houston, TX sent Drake Well Museum and Park a collection of business correspondence, a number of artifacts, and the Quaker State Hatfield truck that is on display in the Museum Gallery. The business correspondence included films, audio recordings, photographs, advertising campaigns, corporate records books, and corporate records dating back as far as 1927. Some of the advertising materials will be utilized for the upcoming NASCAR display being formulated for the museum.

The United Refining Company Collection consists of bills, orders, correspondence, publications, and government documents. These documents include are personal papers, farm records, and corporate records for Elk Refining, Tiona Refining, the National Transit Company, South Penn Oil Company, and the Warren Savings Bank and Trust Company. Also included are community and political activities as well as minutes and correspondence from the American Petroleum Institute, National Petroleum Association, and the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Oil Association.

Beates and Bell have finished inventorying the manuscript and artifact collections including the outdoor exhibits.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are essential to the operation of our historic sites, and we are always looking for more people to join the volunteer team at Drake Well Museum and Historic Pithole City! Below is a list of current opportunities :

- **Tour Docent:** Docents are trained to interpret the founding of the oil industry in Pennsylvania for groups by educating about the persons, places, and events important to the development of the petroleum industry and its growth into a global enterprise.
- **Historic Interpreters:** In historic attire or Drake Well shirt, volunteers are trained to demonstrate historic activities.
- **Curatorial Volunteer:** Curatorial volunteers work with curatorial staff to do a variety of task with artifacts, documents, and materials.
- **Outreach Volunteer:** Outreach volunteers assist the Education Department by going out into the community and teaching the rich history of the oil region and the oil industry through presentations and hands-on activities.
- **Event Maintenance Volunteer:** Event Maintenance Volunteers prepare for special events held at the site.
- **Gardening Volunteer:** A Garden Volunteer aids in maintaining the site's flower/plant beds throughout the site
- **Front Desk Volunteer:** A Front Desk Volunteer is the first-person visitors encounter at the museum. Volunteers greet visitors and provide information on the services available during a visit and answer questions about the site.
- **Pithole Volunteer:** There are many opportunities for volunteering at Pithole, including assisting as a tour guide, cleaning, in the store, and at special events.
- **Clerical Volunteer:** Assist with data entry, newsletters, mailings and more.

Our volunteers all have their clearances and are provided with ongoing training. To learn more, contact Sarah Goodman, Museum Educator at sargoodman@pa.gov or (814)827-2797 ext. 111

PHOTOS FROM RECENT EVENTS



Ambassador Khazar Ibrahim—the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States of America—visited the museum on Wednesday, May 25.



The Oil Boom Dinner at Drake Well on May 18 raised funds for the David L. Weber Internship for Research and featured delicious historic food.



West and East Forest School Districts brought their third through fifth grade classes to Pithole for a day of learning in partnership with the PA Woodmobile!



Calendar of Events

**JULY
7, 14,
21, 28**

Discovery Day Camp
(Ages 8-12)
Discount for FDW Members

**JULY
9**

Pithole Wildcatter Day
Discount for FDW Members

**AUG
14**

**Drake Well Marathon
and Half Marathon**
Discount for FDW Members

**JULY
17**

Author Visit
Alicia Puglionesi

**AUG
27**

**Drake Day:
World of Motor Sports**
Free for FDW Members

**SEPT
10**

**Fall Gas Up with Pioneer
Steam and Gas Society**
Free for FDW Members

**OCT
1**

Pithole Lantern Tours
Member-only presale on
August 27 at Drake Day!

Blacksmith demonstration by the Oil Valley Blacksmith Association
take place on the last Saturday of April - October from 10am-3pm

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Independence Day
Labor Day
Columbus Day
Veterans Day
Thanksgiving Day
Friday after Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
New Year's Eve
New Year's Day

EDUCATION UPDATES

BY SARAH GOODMAN, MUSEUM EDUCATOR

We are halfway through the 2022 Calendar of Events and there is still a lot more to come. The first part of 2022 was great here at the Well! It has been wonderful to be back to in person meetings, programs and events. We have had great attendance at each of our events so far and we are looking forward to the rest of 2022 being just as wonderful.

In May, the site was again filled with the sound of children and educators with the return of field trips to Drake Well and Pithole! We saw several new school groups this year and several of the regulars. I would like to take a moment to thank all our school tour volunteers. They did a fabulous job with the children and received rave reviews from the schools who visited. We also did an outreach program at the Warren County Fairground. Various organizations from around Pennsylvania gathered at the fairgrounds to educate all third-grade students in Warren County. We spoke to the students about everything from the oil strike to pipelines.

On July 9, Wildcatter Day will take place at Historic Pithole City on July 9 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (See the Pithole section of the newsletter for details). Also, in July we have Discovery Days Camp for youth ages 8-12 years old which is both an educational and fun day for the children. I am very much looking forward to having the children here discovering new things from not only us here at the Well, but from our partners too. Several organizations are helping present Discovery Days, such as Klapec Trucking, the Society of Women Engineers, and the DEP to name a few. Each day of camp is a new adventure.

In August, we will be celebrating the anniversary of the Drake Well oil strike with Drake Day on Saturday, August 27. The day will feature the opening of a new temporary exhibit on motor sports, and visitors will have the opportunity to interact with motorsport racers.

RETURNING THIS OCTOBER



THE PITHOLE LANTERN TOUR

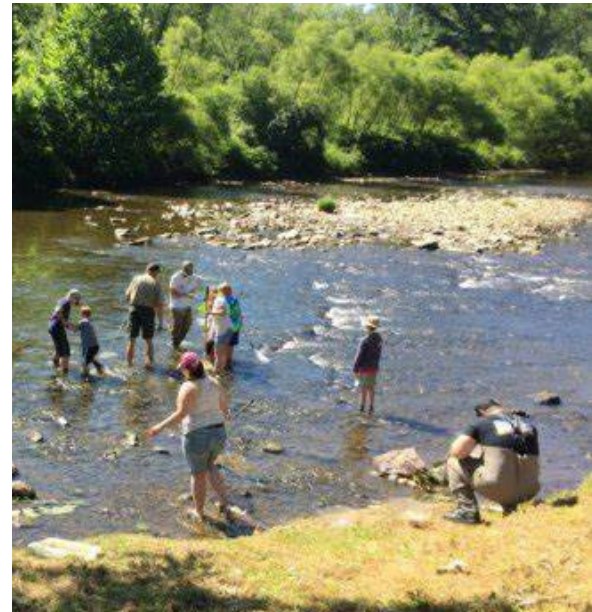


As of publication, there are still a few spots left in our Discovery Days Camp. Every Thursday in July, youth ages 8-12 can participate in day long, hands-on programming and learn about the Oil Region's rich history and environment. Each week will be filled with engaging presentations by a wide variety of professionals and dynamic hands-on activities, nature exploration, experiments, historical discovery through artifacts and exhibits, and much more!

Registration Information:

- FDW members - \$20.00/child/day or \$75.00/child for 4 days
- Non-member - \$30.00/child/day or \$100.00/child for 4 days
- Limited to 25 children per day. Space will be filled on a first come, first served basis.
- Nutritious snacks and pizza lunch will be provided each week.

Registration includes all daily activities, programs, handouts, crafts, and more. Register by calling 814-827-2797 or visit drakewell.org/events/discovery-days-camp.



DISCOVERY DAYS CAMP REGISTRATION

Name of Camper _____
 Date of Birth _____ Grade in Fall _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____
 Guardian Name _____

Circle days attending:
 July 7 14 21 28

Payment method (select)
 Check - Make out check to Drake Well Museum)

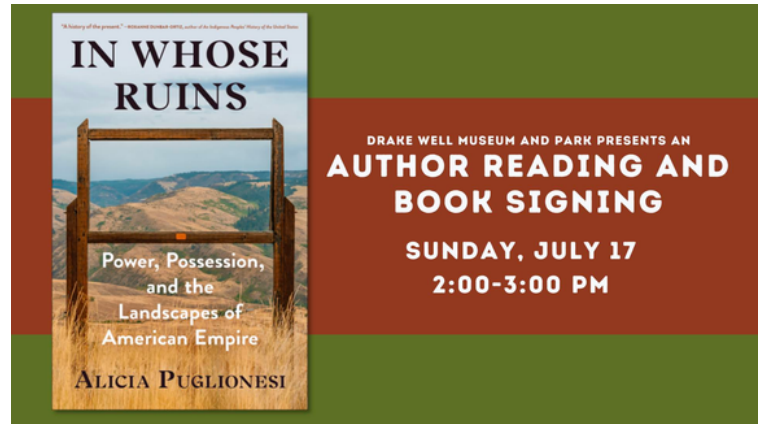
Credit card
 Card Number
 Expiration Date CVV
 Signature

You will receive confirmation of your child's registration and required forms in the mail. Please complete the forms

MEMORIAL BENCH DEDICATED TO GERALD C. ENGLISH

On June 25, the family of Gerald Cletus English held a memorial luncheon at Drake Well Museum, the site that has been so greatly impacted by Gerry's longtime involvement. As one of the Charter members of FDW, he raised money to improve the orientation theater and updates to the museum in 2012 during its most recent major renovations. He also led the Board and staff through several strategic plans.

With the addition of the bench in his memory, loved ones can sit and look over the site. They can also continue to hear Gerry's voice inside the Drake Well Engine House Replica where he was recorded telling the story of Drake Well for visitors to hear when there is not an operator on site.



UPCOMING AUTHOR VISIT

Baltimore author Alicia Puglionesi visits Drake Well on July 17 at 2:00 p.m. to read from her new book *In Whose Ruins: Power, Possession, and the Landscapes of American Empire*. Join her on the patio outside the museum for a reading and time for questions and answers. Books will be available for purchase at that time.

Puglionesi is a featured author in an upcoming edition of the Friends of Drake Well's publication, *The OilField Journal*. The author will read from her recently published book *In Whose Ruins* which reveals four sites in the US landscape as places where historical truth was written over by oppressive fiction—with profound repercussions for politics past and present.

Alicia Puglionesi is a writer and historian. She earned a PhD in the history of science, medicine, and technology from Johns Hopkins University in 2015 and has taught at Johns Hopkins and MICA. Her first book, *Common Phantoms: An American History of Psychic Science*, explores how the practices of seances, clairvoyance, and telepathy both questioned and reinscribed social boundaries.





SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2022

RACE DIRECTOR: ADAM PETERSON

The Drake Well Marathon and Half Marathon will take place on August 14, 2022. The race features a beautiful course which travels through the main streets of Titusville and historic Oil Creek. This Boston Qualifier marathon is a small-town race with a community of amazing volunteers ready to cheer you on. The proceeds from the event support the Friends of Drake Well, Inc. Registration is open via the Drake Well website at drakewell.org/marathon

Full Marathon \$100

Runners begin their 26.22 mile race at 7:00 am on August 14. There is a \$200 prize for the overall male and female winner in this race. Race registration includes a ¼ zip pullover, finishing medal, and a buff (register before July 25 to guarantee a shirt). Register by: Monday August 8th, 2022 at noon.

Half Marathon \$70.00

Runners begin their 13.11 mile race at 7:00 am on August 14. Race registration includes a short-sleeve t-shirt pullover, finishing medal, and a headband/buff (register before July 25 to guarantee a shirt). Register by: Monday August 8th, 2022 at noon.

Virtual Full Marathon \$50.00

Runners must complete their 26.22 mile race in one run between August 1 -13 and send their GPS information to the race director by August 19 to be eligible to receive a virtual finisher's award by mail. Race registration includes a ¼ zip pullover and finishing medal (register before July 25 to guarantee a shirt). Register by: Monday August 8th, 2022 at noon .

Virtual Half Marathon \$40.00

Runners must complete their 13.11 mile race in one run between August 1 -13 and send their GPS information to the race director by August 19 to be eligible to receive a virtual finisher's award by mail. Race registration includes a short-sleeve t-shirt and finishing medal (register before July 25 to guarantee a shirt). Register by: Monday August 8th, 2022 at noon

Additional Information:

- Active-duty military and Veterans Discount Code: Please email the race director at rd_dwm@yahoo.com to receive a coupon code
- Online registration closes on August 8. There will only be race-day registration after that point
- No ticket refunds

SPONSORSHIPS

Interested in sponsoring the race? Please get your sponsor information to us by August 6 for inclusion on all gear and publicity. Thank you to every donor who has sponsored an event this year. The next edition of the newsletter features a look at our event donors and we can't wait to say thank you!



NEWS FROM HISTORIC PITHOLE CITY



PITHOLE SIGN REPLACEMENT PROJECT & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

The Pithole Signage Replacement project is moving along! In May, the Board of Directors voted to move ahead the project to replace all of the interpretive signage. In our last issue, we let you know the Pithole Committee was looking for ways to support funding the \$20,000 project.

Due to the harsh weather at Historic Pithole City, many of the interpretive signs at the site are in complete disrepair. In fact, a recent assessment showed that there are over 40 signs in need of replacement. It is essential that the signs we purchase can hold up to the strong weather elements.

We are happy to report a \$5,000 contribution by Will and Linda Hilton toward the signage project! They are also offering a matching opportunity for donors. If we raise \$2,500 toward signs, their family will add on an additional \$2,500.

Members who wish to sponsor a replacement sign are urged to contact our Associate Director at 814-827-2797 x102 or email drakewell@verizon.net to discuss the available signs and pricing levels. Plaques will be placed on each sponsored sign.



Pithole Committee Members assessed the condition of all signs on the site.

MEMBERS VISIT PITHOLE FOR FREE!

OPEN SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 10AM-4PM

ENJOY A GUIDED TOUR OF THE VISITOR CENTER BY FDW VOLUNTEERS



In our last edition, we announced the siding was to be replaced on the Visitor Center at Historic Pithole City this summer. Unfortunately, the siding project is delayed until Fall or 2023. In the meantime, here is a photo of the building when it was erected in 1974 by the PHMC., and a recent photo. We look forward to seeing the updated siding!



**HISTORIC PITHOLE CITY IS ADMINISTERED BY DRAKE WELL MUSEUM,
WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC MUSEUM COMMISSION.**

2022 PITHOLE

WILDCATTER DAY

INTERACT WITH LIVING HISTORY

JULY 9, 2022

10 AM – 4 PM

EVENT ADMISSION

\$10 ADULTS

\$8 SENIOR 62+

\$5 YOUTH 3-17

FRIENDS OF DRAKE WELL
MEMBERS SAVE \$2 /TICKET

ENJOY:

- LUMBER SPLITTING DEMONSTRATIONS
- WALKING OIL HISTORY TOURS
- PHOTOGRAPHY WITH COSTUMES AND PROPS
- HISTORIC FASHION SHOW
- CIVIL WAR REENACTORS AND WEAPONS
- CRAFTSPEOPLE
- FOOD TRUCK AND MUSEUM STORE OPEN

HISTORIC PITHOLE CITY

14118 Pithole Road, Pleasantville, PA 16341

WWW.DRAKEWELL.ORG



HISTORIC PITHOLE CITY IS ADMINISTERED BY DRAKE WELL MUSEUM,
WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC MUSEUM COMMISSION.



FRIENDS OF DRAKE WELL, INC.
205 MUSEUM LANE
TITUSVILLE, PA 16354

NEW IN THE MUSEUM STORE!

We're excited to share that soon you'll find new souvenirs featuring Drake Well, Pithole, and McClintock Well #1. Your purchase supports the operation of the Friends of Drake Well, Inc. and don't forget - Friends of Drake Well Members receive 10% off on Museum Store purchases!

DRAKE WELL MUSEUM & PARK



PLEASANTVILLE, PA
EST. 1865

McCLINTOCK WELL №1

