Background on Pulaski Field (South Wheeling) Compiled by Dr. Charles A. Julian, PhD – July 19, 2022

In 1909, under the auspices of the Wheeling Board of Trade, the Wheeling Playgrounds Association was organization was created.

The aim of this group was to recommend (and potentially find funding for) playgrounds throughout the City of Wheeling. Early sites were located in 1908 at East End (16th and McColloch), on Wheeling Island, and at 26th Street.

Initial documentation related to the site of Pulaski Field was found in the 1911 Wheeling City Directory and noted as the 47 and Jacob Street Playground:

PARKS.

Mozart Park, E. end 43d.

Wheeling Base Ball Park, S. end Island.

Wheeling Park, Nat. Rd., 4 mi. E.

Wheeling Play Grounds, 16th and McColloch, 26th and Woods, and 47th and Jacob.

1911-47th St Playground-Whg City Directory-1911-p758

This site was confirmed in a 1911 newspaper article – "Life on City Playgrounds" which included photographs of the playground.

[See next page for article...]

LIFE ON CITY PLAYGROUNDS

THE KIDS UNDERSTAND AND AP

Manly Boys and Womanly Girls Mad From Untamed Savages of the City Streets.

Plenty of room for dives and dens,
(Oiltier and glare and since
plenty of room for prison beas,
Plenty of room for fails and courts,
(Willing enugs to pay)
But have a place for the last to race,
No. hever a place to play!

Planty of your for shops and stores,
(classmoot must have the best!)

Planty of two for shops and stores,
(classmoot must have the best!)

Planty of the city's breast
The hearts of our youth astroy,
But liver a cent on a playfround spent.

No, neven a place to play!

Pienty of rooms for schools and halls,
Plenty of room for art;
Plenty of room for art;
Plenty of room for bas and balls,
Plettorm, stage and mart
Proud if the city—she finds a place
From its the city—she finds a place
From many a fact to-day.
Prop slow more than blind if she fails to
Applace for the boys to play!

Applies for the boys to play:

Give them a chance for fundent sport,

Give them a chance for fundent sport,

Setter a playeround lot than a court

And a jall when the harm is done!

Give them a chance—If you stint them

Town you'll have to pay

Lizzar bill for a darker till

So give them a place to play!

Dennis A McCarthy, in American

Yournal of Education.

Corract feet as place to have been coursel of Education.

When the memorles of childhood are beginning to grow dim and all the softer feetings of life have been dilled and seared by the daily strugglo with the cold, hard dietates/of necessity, then take a trip to the play grounds of Wheeling. Hard indeed must be the heart that can remain considered by the spontaneous, unreduced by the spontaneous, unreduced by the spontaneous, unreduced by the spontaneous, unreduced by little lassies and urchins who conspegate in those blessed breathing pots which the big-hearted men and women of this city have provided for them. No matter what objections of discouragements may be offered by skeptical persons, any one who works for the welfare of the boys and girs will be amply rewarded by an hour at the play grounds. Some splendid work the play grounds. Some splendid work has been done for the kids of the Wheeling, streets, and the finest part is that the kids understand and appredicts to the will be found on the grounds.

clate it.

At almost any hour of the day some of them will be found on the grounds, but it is in the evening that the big frowds come. Five oclock sees the anguard approaching, and from that time until reclock they come in anyon-ending stream of juvenile hymother, Many of them live a mile or more away, and have never seen enough money to pay a street car fare, but they all get there, just the lame.

inverse anding stream of juvenile his mailty. Many of them live a mile or more away, and have notes een enough money to pay a street carrier, but they all get there, just the same.

All Sizes There, the stream of invenient and the stream of the high school. All sizes are there, from the little loodier who has to be carried part of the way in the arms of the big sister of brother, it the boy or girl almost ready to ether. High school. And all types of childhood are represented in that hap by throng. There are the fat boys and girls, the tall thin ones, the strong has thy ones, the little frail lones, the biack-headed ones, the tow-headed ones, the red-headed ones, the strong has been one who has never visited the play ground before thered is a very noticeable difference between the large property in the world. No inquiry is ever made there as to the rating in Bradstreets of Tommy Smiths father, or the sectal standing of the children of the yeary poor meet and play on equal terms, for no class distinctions are tolerated. A child within those prechets is merely a human being, born free raid equal with all theres, and is entitled to equal privileges and reduction of the yeary poor meet and play on equal terms, for no class distinctions are tolerated. A child within those prechets is merely a human being, born free raid equal with all theres, and is entitled to equal privileges and reduction to the children of the year of the streets, and is entitled to equal privileges and reduction to the children of the year of the str

SCHUTE-THE-SCHUTE



the Forty-sixth street grounds One of the most popular play devices on the where hundreds of children congregate each day.

but they are taught to obey and to have confidence in the instructor,

have confidence in the instructor, while at the same time retaining their individuality.

The directors are young men selected for natural aptitude in sports and ability to handle children. They teach the boys and girls the proper way to use all of the apparatus, how to flay kites, how to play hall and all the other games, and in most cases they are the children's heroes. They are always kind and patient, and respond promptly to every, complaint of injury or unfairness made by one of their little charges against another. This arbitration of disputes alone is a task worthy of a Solomen, and the director

very seldom makes an error. The kids feel that he is just, and his decisions are accepted without question.

Flag-Raising a Feature.

At the Twenty-seventh street play ground, which is the largest of the city, the afternoon program is opened with a flag-raising. The larger boys with a flag-raising. The larger boys handle the ropes, and as Old Glory is holsted to the breezes, all those present join in singing some partiotic song. A large proportion of the children at this play ground are of foreign deacent, and they are thus taught their first lessons in loyalty and particular their first lessons in loyalty and parti

descent, and they are thus taught thair first lessons in loyalty and patriotism. After the flag-raising the little boys and girls are taken in charge by the kindergarten teacher, while the larger ones play ball and practice on the parallel bars, swings, sities and other apparatus. In the kindergarten class the tots are instructed to cut pictures and do clay modeling.

Two ball teams have been organized on the grounds, and many spirited games are played. A special program is being prepared for the Fourth of July, including ball games, races and other field speris. The sport of sliding down a cable on pulleys is a favorite one with all, and the demand is so great that the director has to enforce striet rules as to forming in line and length of time of using the pulleys. Sometimes a little youngster will start down the rope and on account of his light weight and inability to handle the pulley properly will stick and hang in mid-air immediate live a learner how will run out, seize him by one leg and pull him down to the end of the line. by one leg and pull him down to the end of the line.

end of the line.

Amusing incidents happen, on the play ground every minure, and to any one wanting the benefits of a hearty laugh it is the place to go. No profane language or meanness of any kind is permitted, and in one or two cases it has been found incressary by the directors to benish larger tought from the grounds. In every respect the Wheeling play grounds are an unqualified success and active are entitled to the support of the city and every right-minded man and woman in it.

THE SWINGS



A daily scene at Forty-sixth street grounds,

Subsequent articles dealt with the need to raise funds to enable the Wheeling Playground Association to open additional playgrounds with the goal of having facilities in each ward of the City.

CAMPAIGN IS PROGRESSING

Committees Will Meet This Morning to Report Amount Raised.

The campaign for a \$10,000 play-ground fund was continued through-out yesterday by the seven committees who are supporting it and it is expected that at the meeting to be held this morning, when the progress of each worker will be reported, it will be found that almost half of the entire amount has been subscribed.

It was stated yesterday by one of the workers that all working for the interests of the playground are confident that Wheeling people will respond to this call for funds which shall be used to give the "kiddies" a place to play and also provide amusement and recreation for the grown folks as well

It will be impossible for the committee workers to reach everyone in the city who might care to contribute and it has been suggested that those desiring to help the good work along, fill out the following form and mail it to R. B. Naylor, secretary of the Playgrounds association, Board of Trade building

WHEELING PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION

"The Boy Without a Playground is Father to the Man Without a Job."

The undersigned hereby subscribes \$.....to the work of Wheeling Playground association in the maintenance and improvement of our playground and recreation system. Said sum to be payable on call of treasurer.

Name	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	,	•	•	٠	
Addr	•	S	5		•								•	•			•	•	•			•

Wheeling Daily Register, March 18, 1914-p6

ated under the laws of the State. 1nis met with instant approval, and a motion to that effect was unanimously adopted. Tresident's Address.

With the board of trade assembly room in the Market Auditorium almost filled with association members and friends, the meeting was called to order at 8 o'clock, by President Johnson C. McKinley He reviewed briefly the work of the organization since its inception five years ago, speaking of the modest start with the East Wheeling playerounds, and referred to the success of the Twentre-sith strate grounds and the Forty-seventh street grounds and the Forty-seventh street prounds and the directors engaged in the work. President McKinley declared that the work is still in its infancy and will continue to increase in scope and achievements.

The treasurer's report was submitted by Treasurer James Cummins and was received and filed. It showed receipts from the first of the State of t

ENTHUSIASTIC RALLY STARTS

PLAYGROUNDS CAMPAIGN FUND

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dere against injuries, and added that if more playsprounds were constructed to there would be less children growing up with maimed bodies and legs and arms of the would be less children growing up with maimed bodies and legs and arms of the maimed bodies and legs and arms of the work of the present construction to utilize all the possibilities of the carcellent work of the present playsprounds, especially in the East End is played to the excellent work of the present playgrounds, especially in the East End played prounds movement as a civic enters of the citizens of Wheeling, and predicted that the campaign will be successful. "Haygrounds will pay dividends bligger and sweeter than were ever obtuined from glass factories or steel mills." Haygrounds will pay dividends bligger and sweeter than were ever obtuined from glass factories or steel mills. "Haygrounds will pay dividends bligger and sweeter than the women are heartily in the campaign and will co-operate that the women are heartily in the campaign and will co-operate that the women are heartily in the campaign was then strength on the campaign and will co-operate that the women are heartily in the campaign of the campaign and will co-operate that the women are heartily in the campaign was the campaign and will co-operate that the work will be carried on the cause of the more than the campaign was then they will assemble at the board of the cause of the committees. The plants of the cause here, giving us a new and the citizens of the cause here, giving us a new and conferences, including presented to the cause here, giving us a new and conferences, including presented to the cause here, giving us a new and conferences, including presented to the cause here, giving us a new and conferences, including presented to the cause here, giving us a new and conferences, including presented to the cause here, giving the campaign will be a carried on the caus

PULASKI FIELD IS DESIGNATED

COUNCIL AUTHORIZES CHANGE OF NAME OF FORTY-SEV-ENTH ST. PLAYGROUND.

The Forty-seventh Street play ground will be known as Pulaski field hereafter, according to the action taken by city council Tuesday evening. The change of name was made upon the petition of the Polish American Political club and was made on an unanimous vote.

The center has been named in honor of Count Casimer Pulaski, who aided the United States during the Revolutionary war Councilmen John Gallagher, Edward Diehl and James Maloney made addresses in which they urged the change in name

The following petition was presented by the Polish-American Political club

The undersigned residents and voters of the City of Wheeling humbly petition your honorable body that the name of the Forty-sixth Street playgrounds in the city of Wheeling; be changed to Pulaski field.

In presenting this petition we do so in the full confidence of the recognition by the American citizens of their everlasting debt of gratitude to the memory of Count Casimer Pulaski as a young man of noble birth becoming interested in the welfare of a handful of people struggling for freedom to the extent that he sev ered his home ties, departed from his inherited estate and cast his tor! tune and his life in the balance with those patriots in a war for independ ence against the great power of England at a time when the struggle of the Revolutionary soldiers seemed hopeless.

Your petitioners submit that the memory of this patriot who gave his life fighting the rause of American independence without hope of per sonal profit or reward, but solely because of his love for freedom for his fellowmen, should be duly recognized by every American community, and that the city of Wheeling, with this wonderful opportunity before it, take its place in the list of communities that have seen fit to preserve his memory for all time.

On October 11, 1931, an elaborate ceremony, parade, and banquet will held in honor of Count Casimir Pulaski and erection of the partially completed memorial arch/entrance was dedicated.

GOUNT PULASKI HONORED WITH ABORATE PROGRAM ON SU

POLISH-AMERICAN TIONARY PATRIOT'S MEM-POLISH-AMERICANS

BENEKE, BECKETT, BERKOWSKI ARE SPEAKERS; PARADE AND BANQUET FEA-TURED AFFAIR

A great American patrio: and soldier was paid all due honor Sunday afternoon when hundreds ut citizens of Polish extraction gathered at Pulaski field in South Wheeling to pay their respects to, the memory of Count Casimir Pulaski, Polish-American Revolutionary patriot, and "Father of the American Cavalry." A program of speak og at the field, in the afternoon and a banquet at St. Ladislaus' school in the evening, were the outstanding features of "Pulaski Day" Sunday. E. Charles Front, chairman of the state Pulaski Day Memorial committee, was in charge of the ceremonies.

Following a mammo'n parade through South Wheeling, a program of speaking was enjoyed at Pulaski Field, with State Senator George Beneke, Mayor-Manager T. Y. Bock ett, and Hon C. J. Berkowski: U-S commissioner at Steubenville, and Rev Emil Musial, rector of St Ladislaus church, making addresses Front Speaks

Chairman Front, in his opening remarks, reminded the audience. that just as Count Pulaski had had courage enough to come to America to take up a just and noble cause, so the citizens of the United States should have courage to forge on ward despite the present low ebb of financial conditions in the country. and to aim for a bigger and better citizenship.

He then introduced Mayor Mana ger Beckett, who urged upon the group cooperation with municipal officials, forces of law and with of ficials of industry, and especially with the Wheeling coal committee in putting over the Wheeling plan as a salvation to the coal-industry

Beneke Sponsors Bill State Senator George Beneke. sponsor of the bill in the West Vir ginia legislaturo which inaugurated October 11 as Pulaski Day, then He sketched the life of spoke Pulaski from his arrival in this country to aid Washington, up to the time he was killed, during an a' tack by the British forces n Savannah He advocated the follow Pulaski here that we might achieve be held Wednesday evening

the height of good citizenship to which he rose.

Commissioner Berkowski, Steu-benville, declared that demonstra-tions such as the one in which he was participating were not enough, that something should be done by which the great masses of the people, and especially school children, might receive information on the character and life of such a man as Pulaski

Polish Pastor Speaker

Father Musial, St. Ladislaus pas tor, was the only speaker to make his address in Polish. He expressed the opinion that what had already been achieved was a small thing in comparison with the debt of gratitude which America owes her Revolutionary heroes and further advo cated the achieving of something material by which their respect and

admiration might be shown
This concluded the program of, speaking for the afternoon An electric hook-up carried the speecches to all parts of the field by amplifiers and following the program a football game was enjoyed.

Before the program of speaking began, the dedication of the memorial arch to Pulaski field took place. The arch has been only partially completed, as has the fence surrounding the field. It was an nounced that both will be completed in the very near future

Conley Not Present. was to have been guest of honor at the ceremonies, was unable to leave Charleston, but transmitted his greetings and congratulations by letter Hon W Ocetkiewicz, consultor Poland, stationed at Pittsburgh. also declined the invitation extend ed him, since he had made previous arrangements to dedicate a memor-

ial tablet in Erie. Pa
A banquet was held in St. Ladie laus school in the evening, hegin ning at 6 o'clock E C Front acted as toastmaster Representatives of 36 organizations were represented at the affair

1 program of speaning which in chided short talks by Charles Nolle-Joseph Vieweg C. J. Bockowski, T. A. Beckett Hon John Urrich Father Musial and Casimir K. Oveny editor of a Polish paper

At a meeting following the ban-quet, members of the memorial com mittee discussed the possibility orecting a monument to Pulaski. somewhere in Wheeling fecording to E C. Front, chairman it was def initely settled that such a mopu Savannah He advocated the follow ment will be erected and further and of the principles which led plans will be made at a meeting to

