



STANTON
PARKS & RECREATION

History of Gypsy Hill Park Inside!

*past life
regressions*

**co-ed
kickball**

*civil war
battlefield studies*

Encaustic Wax Art

native american
DRUMMING

"To whose vision and energy the initial development of this park is due." -1889
A Memorial to Captain William Purviance Tams, Father of Gypsy Hill Park



Staunton Water Works & Pump House

Water was first brought to Staunton from county springs in 1839. Western Lunatic Asylum and the town united to bring water from Kinney's Springs (on Middlebrook Avenue) in iron pipes, but the quality was inadequate for both places. In 1848, Staunton piped water from "Buttermilk Spring." This spring is on the road by the same name which is an extension of Straith Street. This spring is also formerly known as "Stoney Spring". Later Staunton began piping it's water from the springs in Gypsy Hill Park, then known as "Spring Farm", when owned by Peter Hanger. (Shirey)

The spring water was gathered in a "well" in the pump house and forcefully pumped up to city's reservoir on Madison Street, what is now called Reservoir Hill. From that high altitude, the reservoir via gravity fed water to the city below. (Tams)

Staunton and Gypsy Hill Park sit on top of a huge formation of degraded limestone known as Karst. This allows for springs, sinkholes (for which Staunton is famous, not to mention the surrounding area), caverns, and caves. Karst and its relative instability allow springs to reach the surface. Some are pure water, but some, due to the porosity of this type of rock can allow pollutants to filter down to the water supply. Our area's early settlers had little concern about water pollutants, unfortunately we don't have that same luxury today .

Reference: Paul Shirey, *The Mirror of Staunton*, March 25, 1966, pg. 4; William Purviance Tams Jr, Newsleader article; Susan Blackley (oral history)