

HISTORY

Frederick Kalmbach & Kalmbach Memorial Park

Frederick Kalmbach was a man with a vision who wanted to share his ideals of patriotism and his love of nature with the citizens of Macungie and the surrounding community.

Read on to find out how he made his vision a reality!



1879

After immigrating to the United States, at the age of 25, he further developed his tool making profession at the Goertz Optical Company in New York City. Three years later he founded the General Machine Company of New York. In 1907, he became the sole owner and president.

Frederick Kalmbach was born in Altensteig, Germany on August 10, 1879. Early in life, he developed a talent as a tool and instrument maker working for various firms in Germany, Switzerland, and France. This technical ability, and a meticulous attention to details, would later be his passport to success.

1904-1907

A major breakthrough occurred when the company contracted to produce an automatic anthracite coal stoker marketed under the name Electric Furnace Man. These stokers revolutionized the coal heating industry because of their self-feeding automatic ash removal system.



1922

The company needed to own and operate its own foundry and after a short search for a new location, the business was moved to the vacant Zollinger-Schroth Silk Mill in Emmaus.

The idea worked so well that it necessitated almost complete cur of the company's other activities. The company was producing almost half of the automatic coal stokers produced in this country and was becoming too large for its operation in New York City!

1940

July 29, 1941 Mr. Kalmbach bought a 17.2 acre tract in Macungie, part of the old John Singmaster farm along Cotton Street, where he resided until his death on July 31, 1953.

1941- 1953

Linda McCreedy was hired as park Administrator. New plantings of trees, wildflowers, and a garden soon appeared, and in 1995 renovations were completed turning the existing 19th century barn into a spacious new community room. Frederick Kalmbach's dream "not only exists but grows and flourishes."

1991

June of 1999, Laura and Michael McCreedy took over as administrators and continued until May 2019 when they passed the torch to Denise and Michael Brosky. Under the support of Trustees; Don Young, John Albright, and Karen Holt, today Kalmbach Memorial Park provides a variety of programs geared to all ages and interests of the Macungie Community.



1999

Historical programs, lectures on botany, interactive learning, and health events all foster learning opportunities. Kalmbach Memorial Park also opens its doors to non-profit community groups that need a space to gather for their meetings. Newly added nature trails and walking paths meander through fields and wooded areas of the estate. It is truly a gem of Macungie!

TODAY

