



## City of Meadville Pennsylvania

It was 1863. Our country was deeply involved in the middle of the Civil War and one of the most critical events in our American history was about to unfold on the battlefields of Gettysburg. Here in Meadville, we had not yet grown from a Borough into a City. That wouldn't happen until three years later in 1866.

Evans W. Shippen owned iron foundries near Philadelphia, but the prospect of joining his brothers and engaging in the emerging oil industry brought Evans and his family back to Meadville. Upon his return, Evans brought with him a gift for the town - a simple iron fountain that would forever change the landscape of the center of this beloved City. What was later to be called the "Shippen Fountain" in honor of its creator, this beautiful iron structure gave rise to every other monument and memorial in Diamond Park. The Shippen Fountain started the transformation of a barren ground used for grazing animals into a central gathering spot for generations to follow.

Believed to be the second oldest iron fountain in the country, the Shippen Fountain has been hit hard by oxidation and rust. Some parts have eroded to wafer-thin and some other pieces are simply missing. The Fountain is structurally sound, and has undergone several smaller attempts at repair, but it is now time for a complete dismantling and full restoration. Almost 150 years later, our Shippen Fountain needs our help. The Fountain has been witness to Meadville's history and has stood the test of time. We have been blessed to enjoy her beauty and it is our sincere hope that she will live on for at least another 150 years. We are respectfully asking for your donation to help ensure that the Shippen Fountain will once again be the magnificent centerpiece of Diamond Park that it once was.

It will take approximately \$75,000 to complete the restoration. We are planning for the Fountain and fence to be restored during the winter months and be fully functioning in time for Memorial Day 2011. Please honor the memory of Evans Shippen and his wonderful gift to Meadville by making your tax-deductible donation to "The City of Meadville – Shippen Fountain Fund".

Click [here](#) to open a fillable donation form that you can print off and mail in or drop off to the City of Meadville Treasurer's Office with your donation.

Most sincerely,

John Christopher Soff, Mayor  
The City of Meadville

*Meadville starts with "me"...be the positive change you want to see in our City!*