



The Friends of Mountwood Park Newsletter

Spring 2022 Issue Vol. 13, No. 2

Friends of Mountwood Park Officers:

Peggy Squires, President
Carolyn Naylor, Secretary
Mike Naylor, Treasurer

*Friends meet the 2nd Thursday of each month
at 6:30 pm.*

*Our mailing address is:
PO BOX 2094
PARKERSBURG, WV 26102*

Spring is the Best Season!



Spring Letter from the President

Spring finds us setting dates and making plans for this year's events. So far, our list includes an Easter Egg Hunt at Mountwood Park on April 16 at 11 am. Ages to 13 will be able to hunt Easter eggs and in 50 of the eggs

there will be a slip of paper stating the one finding the egg can present the slip for an Easter basket. This event is presented by The Friends of Mountwood Park and Mountwood Park with additional help and donations from the Route 31/50 Community Association, Colonial House, Harmony Ridge, and Woof Fest Pageant winners. We thank all of you for the help. We couldn't do it without you.

We have set the dates for Adventure Camp for Monday, June 20 through Friday the 24th. The Camp is for children ages 9 – 12. I will be attaching an application to our Friends of Mountwood Park website soon. There will be a lot of outdoor fun for the participants. We fish, hike, learn and practice archery, and many other fun activities.

Our Woof Fest event will be on Sunday, October 2, with an addition of a mud run for you and your dog, There will be a costume contest and pageants as well as activities for you and your furry friends. The times will be announced later. We are hoping for a bigger and better Woof Fest as we resume our activities.

The museum will open for the season beginning on May 7 at 1 pm. If you have some free time and wish to volunteer at the museum, please call Mike Naylor. You can contact him by phone at 304-485-5365. Mike can also answer any questions you might have.

From the looks of our schedule, it appears we are going to be busy after our long break. We are all glad to be back and hope to see you at the Park. You are welcome to come to our meetings every 2nd Thursday of each month at the Park Administration Building.

Peggy Squires

Calendar of Events

April 16

Easter egg hunt

May 7 - 8

Museum/Visitor Center will be Open from 1pm to 4 pm

June 20 - 24

Adventure Camp

September 23 -25

Volcano Days

October 2

Woof Fest

Volcano Abreast of Technology

Submitted by Steve Parker, Morgantown, WV

The Volcano Lubricator, October 26, 1871—

A newly invented fly paper in Titusville, Pa., is covered with nitroglycerin, glue and molasses. The flies attracted by the molasses, alight, and are stuck fast by the glue. Should any get away, they proceed to rub their legs together in ecstasy (sic), when the friction of their own shins causes the nitroglycerine adhering to their feet and limbs to explode, blowing them to atoms.

ABOUT A GOLD-HEADED CANE

Parkersburg Daily Times, September 28, 1888

“The other day a certain Democratic candidate of this county, went out to **Volcano** on a little electioneering expedition, spent some money during the day, had a good time, and night coming on he began to feel the need of a little repose. He accordingly went to the house of a friend near-by and retired for the night. It happened however, that on that particular night the man of the house was not at home at the time of the arrival there of said Democratic candidate. But a little thing like that was not supposed to disturb the enjoyment of the hospitalities of the occasion.”

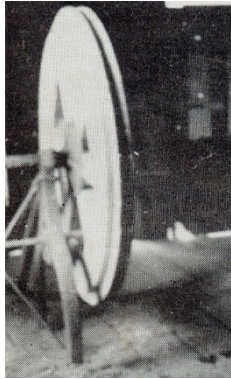
“All went merry for a while but the male member of the household put in an appearance just when least expected, and then—well there was Hades to pay. There was a fight then and there, and in the melee that ensued a gold-headed cane that the Dc. was in the habit of carrying was broke in several pieces, and the end with the gold on was tossed through a window.”

“The Dc. finally got out of the house alive, but was scratched up considerably, and he proceeded to the village of Volcano and gave two young fellows whom he met five dollars each to go and search for the head of that cane, which they accordingly did. After considerable searching around they found the much-prized article and returned it to its owner. He received it graciously and came home happy—or as happy as the circumstances would admit.”

Museum News

By Mike Naylor

Paul Reese, a long-time supporter of Volcano history, donated two band wheels from an endless cable system that operated in Volcano. The wheels will be displayed in the shelter the Park is building for the bull wheel. Pictured below is a band wheel.



Paul has made many donations to the museum and was instrumental in leading the effort to have “Volcano Days” at Mountwood.

Dave Wilson is repairing a model oil rig that pumps oil. The slow leak has become a messy issue for the museum!

The 2023 Volcano calendar will soon be available for sale. This marks the 12th year of selling the calendar and the proceeds help us improve the museum.

A new item available for sale will be the “Volcano, WV” T-shirt. During the winter, we sold nearly half of the original order.

The biggest obstacle facing the museum is recruiting and maintaining volunteers. If you would like to help, please let us know.

2 Rules of Life

GIVE IT TIME: Time Heals Everything. Unknown

SMILE: You Don't Own All The Problems In The World, Time Heals Everything. Unknown

First Volcano Reunion

The Daily State Journal, August 24, 1893

The Volcano Colony Picnic. The picnic near Recreation park last week given by and for the Volcano colony of people in Parkersburg was a very pleasant affair until the rain interfered.

Many of the people eligible to attend did not go out until late in the afternoon. By supper time when the long tables were spread under the trees there were nearly 150 people present. The coming together of the people who at one-time lived in Volcano was decidedly pleasant and these picnics are assured every year now.

Robert Alexander made a speech of welcome which was eloquent and graceful. He stated the object of the picnic and what brought the people together. Those who heard him say his remarks were not only appropriate but very interesting.

Justice could not be done the supper prepared by the ladies, in a newspaper article. It was simply immense. The unique invitations issued last week give a good idea of the purpose of the picnic. They read as follows:

There will be a grand reunion of the former residents of Volcano, their children and grandchildren, the sons and daughters-in-law of the old folks, and the lovers of the young folks, at Recreation Park on Wednesday, Aug. 16, 1893. The band will play; there will be

speaking. Services will commence at 2 o'clock p.m. Supper will be served (Volcano style) from 6 to 7 o'clock p.m. You are in it! Bring your basket.

Committee of arrangements—Mrs. J. L. Clark, Mrs. A. J. Worley, Mrs. R. Alexander, Mrs. J. T. Arnold, Mrs. T. M. Silcott, Mrs. S. S. McCandless, Mrs. D. W. Fouss.”

Volcano Lubricator, September 9, 1873
Our friend C. M. Magill Postmaster, has received a supply of postcards.

W. H. Baldwin has purchased a team and will go into the huckster business.

W. H. Baldwin, Esq., has purchased the residence of W. S. O'Brien, on Raymond street. (sic)

Al King, the bold butcher boy, wants every man that owes him a red to step up and pay up. So do we.

Shafer & Steen have just received a new, and choice lot of Gents' Ready-Made Clothing. Give them a call.

Look out for the cholera, keep the grounds around your house clean for a few weeks more, and Volcano will escape the plague.

Regular services at all the churches next Sunday.

Reckard's Livery Stable, in Marietta, O., is the place to get good teams.

Henry C. Jackson firm of Thompson & Jackson was in town last week.

Col. J. F. Vinial had a boiler burst on Saturday night last. Two boilers in one week; not a good week for boilers, either.

We notice that Mr. Fletcher has started a tailor shop in the rear of Esquire McGuire's office. Mr. Fletcher comes well recommended.

We notice by the Parkersburg papers that our friend Wm. Stahlman has united himself in marriage with Miss S. Ahis. May success attend them.

We notice that the proprietors of the Parkersburg *Orthopolitan* have changed the name of that paper to the *Parkersburg Examiner*. Let it be recorded.

We notice that Mr. George Elletson, of Parkersburg, has invented a patent chase. We hope George may get rich by it, as we know of no one more deserving.

Rev. S. D. Tompkins held regular services at the Emanuel Church on Sunday last. We are happy to announce to our readers that he has almost entirely recovered from his recent illness.

The new machine works of M. J. & W. S. O'Brien, at Parkersburg, are up and all ready for the roofing. They will be ready for occupancy about the 1st of November.

J. King & Co. have just received from Baltimore, a choice lot of ladies', gents', and children's shoes, of the *latest eastern pattern*. Call before the stock is exhausted.

The Mite Society, connected with the Episcopal Church will meet on Wednesday evening next, at the house of Mrs. Lyman B. Dellicker, all friends of the church are invited.

T. F. Cook, has purchased of W. C. Stiles, Jr. the lumber in the old Parshall House. Mr. Cook will soon remove that unsightly structure from the public gaze. The Lord be praised.

Ed Skinnard, the elocutionist and facial artist, paid our place a visit for the purpose of making

arrangements to give an entertainment, or a series of them, sometime during the present month.

The School Board for the district organized on Tuesday evening of last week, and John A. Lafoy was chosen Secretary. The schools will open about the 29th. The Board has not yet chosen the teachers.

Among the latest arrivals at Volcano, we notice our friend S. R. Dresser, Esq., of Parker City, Pa. We are pleased to note that Bro. Dresser looks perfectly happy, and as if the world was using him easily.

GOOD NEWS. Some enterprising citizens of Volcano, has (sic) been the means of ridding Volcano of five or six worthless curs. Keep it up, and if you don't get your reward here in the shape of money, you will have the knowledge that you have the thanks of a grateful people.

J. Burdett, the State Treasurer, writes a card to the Parkersburg papers denying a statement made by the *State Journal*. This was entirely unnecessary, as every knows how untrustworthy the statements of that paper are.

Squires have a hard time answering some questions that are asked them. Enter, a snake hunter—"Squire, if a feller that hain't got nothin', marries a gal that hain't got nothin', is her things his'n or his things her,n, or are his'n and her'n both his'n?"

We notice that our young friend Jas. Mehan, of Parkersburg, has a fine trade in the grocery and

produce business. Any of our citizens who want anything in his line should give him a call. About the first of October, he will receive a choice lot of oysters, in the shell, fresh from Baltimore.

Rev. W. L. Hyland preached at the Emanuel Church, on Friday evening, to a large and attentive congregation. The discourse was on the forms and ceremonies of the Episcopal Church, and the subject was well delivered. The Rev. Hyland is one of the most brilliant and eloquent divines it has ever been our good fortune to hear.

A large and stationary boiler, belonging to the Locust Grove Oil Co., busted on Thursday of last week. The boiler was thrown endways through the derrick breaking off one of the legs of the derrick, knocking down the post, and finally breaking the bull wheel shaft in two. The engineer, Mr. Monks, was at supper, no one being present when the explosion took place.

Your interest in Mountwood Park is appreciated and your comments and inquiries are always appreciated. Below is how you can get in touch with the Park:

**Mountwood Park
1014 Volcano Road
Waverly, WV 26184
Phone: 304-679-3611**

Note: I want to thank Roger Nedeff for all the information he provided about the Catholic Church at Volcano.

St. Louis Catholic Church Volcano, West Virginia



We unfortunately don't have a photo of St. Louis Catholic Church. However, perhaps St. Louis didn't look much different than this church which was built later at Cairo.

In the early days before Volcano was established, the needs of the parish were served by the priests of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Parkersburg. *Note: Parkersburg had a resident pastor beginning in 1849.*

The first recorded baptism in Volcano was when Father Thomas Quirk from St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church baptized Patrick Francis Joyce, son of Anna (Walsh) and Patrick Joyce, on February 11, 1872. Father Quirk performed a second baptism on March 31, 1872, when he baptized Minerva O'Brien, daughter of Michael and Penilla O'Brien. Since there wasn't a Catholic Church at Volcano, the baptisms must have taken place in the home. Since baptisms are to be performed in a church, there must have been unusual circumstances for them to have received permission to have it performed elsewhere. Perhaps they weren't sure the babies or their mothers could make the long trip to St. Francis Xavier in

Parkersburg. After all, it was in February and March. Back then traveling long distances was no easy venture to take on, especially with a newborn. I hope it was problems with the weather and not illness.

In 1873, the population of Volcano was 900. According to Roger Nedeff, Volcano was never mentioned again for several years. He suggested it may have been lumped in with Eaton's Tunnel and Cornwallis (Church of the Holy Trinity).

White Oak, West Virginia Alias Volcano (The Resurrection of a Ghost Town) by Linwood Lowden--
“The Catholic Church was the fourth known church to establish a congregation at Volcano. On the eleventh of August 1877, W. C. Stiles sold to Bishop J. J. Kain (representing the Catholic Church) a lot just short of an acre upon which is to be erected a Catholic Church and parsonage, said lot to be used for no other purpose, except for said church and for burial of the dead. Book 38, Page 12.”

“This church was located on the Laurel Fork and Sand Hill Railroad at the third trestle about a mile from the village. Later Bishop Kain would lease an in-town lot for a parsonage (rectory). The house that was built for this purpose still stands and is occupied.”

Father Pierre Turmel, First Catholic Priest at Volcano

A growing Catholic population in the Volcano area created a problem because there were insufficient numbers of priests. The Bishop began recruiting foreign priests, mainly from Ireland. However, in 1872, Father Henry Parke recruited French priests to work in West Virginia. One of those priests was Father Pierre Turmel.

Father Turmel arrived in Parkersburg in August 1875 and was assigned to the mission circuit. He resided in Parkersburg and visited Volcano once a month. He would have traveled by horseback and occasionally by train.

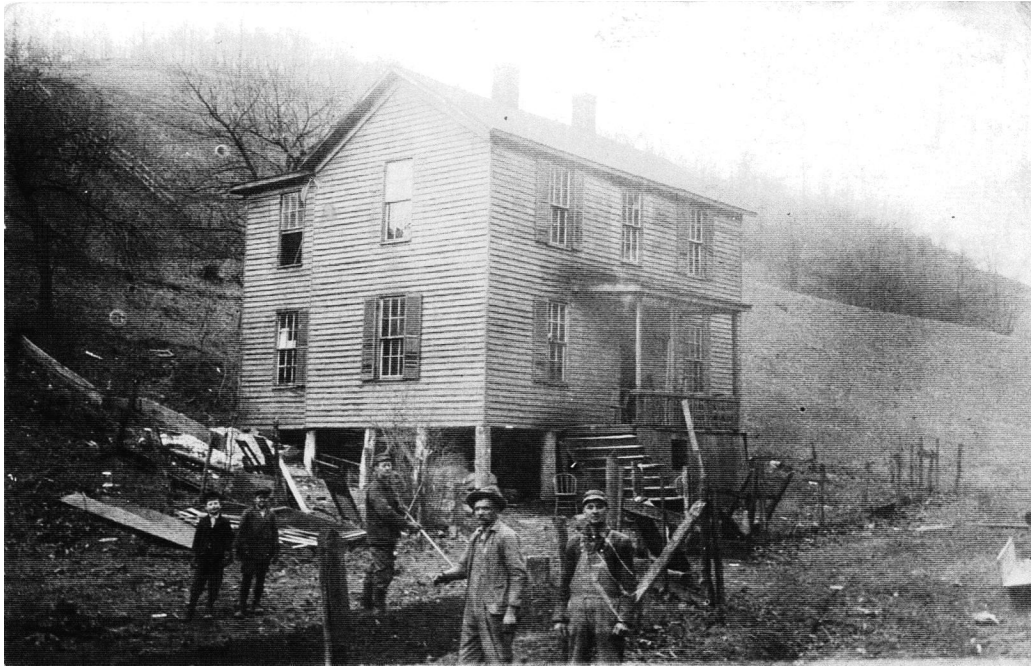
At the beginning of 1877, \$1,095 was paid for the building of a church at Volcano. On November 1, 1877, Father Turmel went off the books at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and moved to Volcano where he established St. Louis Catholic Church. The parish was named after the King of France, Louis IX, commonly known as Saint Louis or Louis the Saint. Louis IX is the only French king to be made a saint. The Roman Catholic Church made him a saint to honor his efforts in the crusades.

White Oak, West Virginia Alias Volcano (The Resurrection of a Ghost Town, by Linwood Lowden (page 113). “Described on September 18, 1878, by White Oak as the “largest most elegant church edifice on the works,” the Catholic Church was not conveniently located for those who worshipped there. This is in contrast to the other four churches which were located in proximity to residential clusters. The walk to church for Catholics was long and awkward along the railroad right-of-way. In January of 1880, new boards were put down on the high trestles which added “materially to the comfort of walking to church”. At evening it was necessary to carry lanterns. Globe lanterns proved to be the best for this purpose.”

At one time, the Church Directory reported that St. Louis' stature as a parish and church had grown and for a time seemed to be more of a center for Catholic activity than Parkersburg! The following missions were attended from Volcano:

- Asphaltum Mines
- Burning Springs
- Hammets Landing (Wood County)
- Claysville (Wood County)
- Cornwallis
- Cow Creek (Pleasants County)
- Eaton's Tunnel
- Lee Creek
- Davis Settlement
- Church of the Holy Angels (Walker's Depot)
- St. Mary's

The 1885 Roe's Atlas of Wood County show the Catholic Parsonage as being located on Lot 1 of W. C. Stiles, Jr's property. The rectory later served as the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Jacob L. Clark. Currently, the rectory is the home of Phil and Tina Reger.



In his annual report of January 1878, Father Turmel reported that he attended mass every fifth Sunday, and occasionally festivals. The new church had 32 pews, 2 sets of vestments, chalice and other altar items such as candelabras and flower vases. It had a \$132 organ for which they paid \$13, every three months. With the exception of \$80 due on carpet and other altar articles, the church was paid for. There was also a graveyard with a fence around it. Father Turmel reported the church had 28 families with 145 members.

According to his annual report submitted January 1979, he attended all meetings at the places and times specified. In the spring and summer months, he taught all Sunday school classes. In the fall and winter months Sunday school was not taught because it was too difficult for children to attend.

Volcano, West Virginia by Michael L. Naylor. "The evening of August 3, 1879, had been a hot one. A thunder storm had raked the valley from one end to the other leaving the streets filled with debris. Most of the citizens were in the drinking holes passing as saloons, or at Nellie's (Red Neck Nellie). At ten o'clock the thunder could still be heard rambling in the distance. It was one of the times when the air filled with expectancy and foreboding. No one talked of the present, the past and future were discussed in low tones. An old settler said he knew something would happen that night but he did not know what." H. E. Matheny

The following morning, August 4, about 4 am, the Volcano's citizens woke up to the cries "Fire!" Since there was a shortage of water and the structures were wood, the only thing they could do, was watch them burn. (The citizens weren't aware that their lives and Volcano would begin to change. It would become necessary for some to pack up their family and belongings and move to other oil towns to find work. Many headed west.)

According to the 1880 West Virginia census report, Father Turmel, his niece Agnes Levey (age 10) and his nephew John W. Levey (age 14), were boarders at the home of William S. O'Brien (machinist) and his wife Jane O'Brien. Also boarding at the home was a young woman, Kate Tate, age 24, who supported herself working as a servant. Father Turmel boarded at the O'Brien home until the parsonage was built.

Father Turmel's 1880 annual report given January 7, 1881, stated that the Volcano parish consisted of only 25 families in Volcano and 17 families in Silver Run. He also reported there were 18 baptisms; 3 deaths; 6 marriages, and 5 first communions. Congregations with Walker's Station (Church of Holy Angels), Claysville, Union Township, Ritchie Coal Mines. Pleasants County were outside dependencies. The *Volcano Walking Bean* dated May 22, 1880, reported that Father Turmel held services on the first and third Sunday of each month.

In 1881, the Catholic Directory lists Father Turmel as pastor of St. Louis Catholic Church of Volcano. On September 18, 1881, Father Turmel was replaced by Father William Lambert. In 1883, Father Turmel's name was not listed as a priest in West Virginia or the United States. Perhaps he returned to France.

Father William Lambert

William Lambert was born on January 22, 1827, at Coal Center, Washington County, Pennsylvania, the son of William Lambert and Lydia (Jones) Lambert. William's father was an immigrant from Drinagh, County Wexford, Ireland.

On September 18, 1881, Father William Lambert replaced Father Turmel. Father Lambert's 1881 Annual Report, from September 29, 1881 to January 1, 1882, stated that he attended the Volcano church on the third Sunday of each month. There were only eight families in the church. His salary was \$30 a month.

Note: Linwood Lowden provided the following information in his book, "White Oak, West Virginia Alias Volcano (The Resurrection of a Ghost Town)" (page 112).

"Bishop John J. Kain sold the rectory (Lot# 1 of the Longmore tract with the premises to Thomas Eagan for one dollar. (Book 46, Page 192 -November 2, 1882) The original cost of constructing the rectory was \$1,400. (Petroleum)."

"The sale of the rectory was by raffle. Eight hundred tickets were sold for one dollar each. Thomas Eagan won the raffle. The funds raised were used to defray the indebtedness of the church. Because of his other charges, it was not convenient for the priest to live in Volcano."

Father Lambert reported in his 1882 Annual Report, given Jan. 11, 1883, that the Church collected \$222.00 from the raffle of the house at Volcano.



In 1891, it was reported that Father Lambert had moved to Cairo even though there was no church there. (Note: Volcano isn't mentioned again.) It was easier to serve the missions. Father Lambert attended the following missions from Cairo: Ritchie Asphalt Mines; Cornwallis; Eaton's Tunnel; Pennsboro (St. Joseph's); Silver Run; West Union; and, Wilsonburg (Wood County).

In 1897, Father Lambert was transferred to Mason County/Pt. Pleasant. St. Patrick Parish in West Union and Father James J. Kennedy were assigned the missions of Ritchie, Pleasants, and Wood Counties.

Father Lambert was 73 years old when he died May 4, 1900, at Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia. He is buried at Calvary Cemetery, at Elizabeth, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.



Editor: Carolyn Naylor

Contributors: Carolyn Naylor, Mike Naylor, Roger Nedeff, Steve Parker, and Peggy Squires

Proofreader: Donna Richards



Like us on Face Book!

Below is a message from the wall at Philippines Best Food on 7th Street in Parkersburg.

**Be Kind
Work Hard
Speak Truth
Love Others
Show Grace
Be Grateful**