Monroe County Historical Society

Fall Quarterly Meeting

Ames Clair Hall

Sunday, October 8, 2017 2:00 P.M.

Rocky Parsons will present a lecture on "The General History of Mining in Monroe County. We do not normally think of Monroe as being a mining area, mainly because there is no coal, but during the Nineteenth Century, there was much activity. Common rock types such as limestone, clay and chert were mined, as well as salt, saltpeter, iron and manganese. In fact, place-names in the area, such as Crimson Springs, Sweet Chalybeate, Hematite and Paint Bank all hark back to the iron industry. Some of these spots were even sources for war paint in pre-historic times, while the chert was used for arrow heads, so even the Native Americans found the area attractive. Also, Monroe is especially endowed with saltpeter, a key gunpowder ingredient, so this was used as a source from the Revolution through the Civil War.

Rocky serves on the Monroe County Planning Commission, and is the retired Deputy Director of the WV Dept. of Environmental Protection's Office of Mining and Reclamation. He managed a regional office responsible for permit review, inspection and enforcement of all mining operations for a 37 county area of Northern West Virginia. His hobbies include flying an ultra lite aircraft, fossil collecting and woodworking.

Monroe County Historical Society
P.O. Box 465
Union, West Virginia 24983

Monroe County Historical Society

October 2017 Newsletter

P.O. Box 465

Union, West Virginia

24983