

December Quarterly Meeting



The next quarterly meeting of the Monroe County Historical Society Meeting will be held

on **Sunday, December 7, 2008 at 2:00** p.m. at Ames Clair Hall in Union, West Virginia. After our meeting, a Holiday Concert will be presented by the Monroe Arts Alliance from 3 –5 p.m. at Ames Clair Hall. Our grand piano will come alive with classical music played by Dr. Craig Mohler and Delphia Wright. Violin selections will be performed by Hannah and Peter Soukup. The public is cordially invited to attend. Ames Clair hall is handicapped accessible.

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The Thirteenth Annual WV History Day at the Legislature will be March 5, 2009.

2009 Dues are due January 1, 2009. Dues are \$20.00 for regular individual membership, \$30.00 for family membership, and \$100.00 for life membership. Please mail your membership dues to MCHS, PO Box 465, Union, WV 24983. We hope each one of you will continue to support the Monroe County Historical Society.

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

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December 2008 Newsletter



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Union, West Virginia
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Dreama Chew's Gift



In Dreama Chew's will she gave her collection of local photographs, newspaper clippings and various papers to the Monroe County Historical Society. This collection centers on life between 1900 and 2000 in and around Sinks Grove

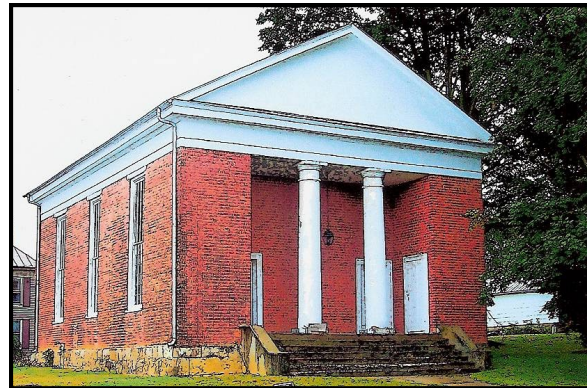
and Union. Dreama grew up in Sinks Grove and attended schools there and in Union. After her local education, she attended Dunsmore Business College in Staunton, VA. This college had its early beginning in Sinks Grove. Dreama then worked for Forest Roles, prosecuting attorney for many years in Monroe County. Dreama's vast collection of memorabilia will help all remember her thoughtfulness to the historical society.

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A heartfelt thank you is extended to the family of Irl C. Wallace and Fannie Echols Wallace for their generous donation. The family raised the donation by holding an auction during their 2008 family reunion.

Old First Baptist Church

Phase I of the renovation of the Old First Baptist Church is now complete! The Jeffersonian style church located on Main Street in Union now has a new metal roof; reconstructed gables-the front is wood, the back is brick; reworked 24 x 24 double hung windows; and new gutters and downspouts. A total of \$90,534.28 was paid to Allegheny Restoration for this work. Many thanks to committee members who spent countless hours seeing Phase I to completion and to the many people who donated money to match our grant, which totaled \$46,250. Information on Phase II will be available in the next newsletter.



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A new online tutorial, **Librarian's Guide to Helping Patrons with Genealogical Research** is, <http://home.tampabay.rr.com/centans/genguide.html>. This newly updated site could assist family history researchers.

Volunteer Appreciation Tea

A Volunteer Appreciation Tea was held on September 28, 2008 at Salt Sulphur Springs Resort. Everyone enjoyed eating,



drinking and socializing. While discussing the 2009 season, volunteers voiced strong approval about proposed hospitality and research training. Thank you volunteers and thanks to Betty Farmer for her gracious hospitality.

The Monroe County Planning Commission continues to meet monthly. During our December 2009 meeting, Craig Mohler explained the plan's history component and we later gave feedback to this part of the plan. Goals of the different components are being reviewed. The Planning Commission's next meetings will be held on December 4 and January 8, at 7 p.m. in the Health Center Conference Room in Union. Persons interested in Monroe's history and its importance in the County Plan should attend these meetings.

Thank you to Margaret Clark who opened her home to new member Kathy Bolasini of Florida. Kathy's ninth great grandfather, James Byrnside built Ms. Clark's home, and was one of the earliest settlers of this area.

We are still seeking a person willing to be the Historical Society's Vice President. This position must be filled in order for the Society to continue. Please contact one of the officers if you are willing to step up to the position.

"Personality can open doors, but only character can keep them open."

-Elmer G. Letterman