

New Additions to the Museum

The Society has received several gifts recently, including the CCC Camp memorabilia of Olia W. Sowers of Crab Orchard, WV. Mr. Sowers had two, 6-month terms at the Camp Rowan, just south of Union, in 1935-6 and later married Violet Mae Wilson of Union. His two sons, Donald and Clarence made the donation and prepared a nice display of the artifacts and this has been installed just inside the front door of the Museum. Included is a trunk with personal effects ranging from straight razor to cigarette papers, and a number of photographs including a panoramic view of over 150 men who attended the camp. So, come on in and see if you can find your grandfather in this photo!

Mr. and Mrs. Randy Burdette have contributed the very first edition of the newspaper, "West Virginia Farm Journal" published in 1872 in Union. This copy has the name, H.G. Caperton, penciled in the upper corner and is in fine condition. It contains interesting articles and advertisements of the day.

Also, Julia Johnston Belton has contributed the complete wedding outfits worn by her grandparents, Albert Sidney Johnston and Izzie McNeer Johnston, on their wedding day in Union in 1894. Mr. Johnston was the editor of the Monroe Watchman for many years and the author of a pamphlet on Chapman's Battery which has been reprinted for sale in our Museum. He also served in the State Legislature. The Society is looking for manikins to display these two costumes, so if you have some in the attic that you are not using, please make a donation!

PAWV Meet & Greet

The Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, together with the Historical Society, organized a reception in Union on May 12th which proved to be very successful. Some 65 attendees gathered at the Clarke-Wiseman house on a beautiful May afternoon, and these included PAWV officials from across the state, members of local historical societies, interested town folk, as well as our own Society members. The party moved along Main Street to the Old Brick Church to examine the newly completed front steps and to talk about plans to re-plaster the columns, to re-point the bricks and to improve the drainage around the building.

The high point of the afternoon was a visit to Elmwood on the north margin of town. The owners of the mansion, Chris and Anita Wszolek, were on hand to discuss the renovations which are well underway. The visitors were thrilled to see the interior with its 12 foot ceilings, the original architectural details and the panoramic views of beautiful Monroe County.



The afternoon finished at Ames Clair Hall where Mary Pearl Compton and Fred Ziegler discussed the impact the Historical Society has had on preserving the historical buildings of Union. Future plans for the "Carriage House" were introduced including current discussions with Mayor Caroline Sparks to lease a lot on Middle Street, near our Museum, for this new structure.



Three of the Monroe County Historical Society's horse drawn vehicles.



Recent Monetary Donations

We are grateful to the following for donations to the Monroe County Historical Society. These moneys are critical to our ability to maintain and restore our four buildings, to improve our displays in the Museum and the Clarke-Wiseman House and to develop new ventures like the Carriage House.

Bank of Monroe **Walter Crone**
Stephen Ellison **Jeanne Hamilton**
Ralph Mann **Julia Pence Stephens**

Also, we are delighted to announce the gift of \$3,000 from the organization, Monroe 219. The citation for this gift reads as follows:-

"In recognition of the work undertaken by Dr. Ronald Ripley and members of the Monroe County Historical Society to achieve National Historic Landmark status for the Pickaway Rural Historic District, and thereby defend an important section of Monroe County from possible environmental degradation concomitant with plans for a four-lane limited access highway (an Appalachian Corridor), and with appreciation for the Society's continuing work to preserve, protect, and defend Monroe County's history, historic sites, material culture, and physical and natural features, the organization Monroe 219 recognizes and supports the Monroe County Historical Society with this gift of \$3,000."

Fawn Valentine President, Monroe 219

E-Mail Addresses Needed

We continue to develop an e-mail address list for our newsletter. So far, this seems to work well for those members who have high-speed internet service, but some who don't have this service have experienced difficulty. If you would like to receive your newsletter this way, please send an e-mail message to Helen Graves (Helen.graves@mail.wvu.edu). This will ensure that we have your correct address. Beginning with the next newsletter, you will receive it sooner and also save the Society the cost of a stamp. Thank you! (Note: If you are receiving an e-mail copy, there is no need to message Helen).