

“Slaves of Monroe”

The Historical Society is preparing to publish a compilation of data on “Slaves of Monroe” which has been prepared by Greenbrier County resident, Sandra White. Sandy assembled the data for this work while working with original records in our courthouse in Union. It is based on wills that span the time from the founding of Monroe County in 1799 to the end of the Civil War in 1865, and also, on birth and death records representing a shorter time, that is 1853-65. The principle goal of this work is to provide data for African-Americans interested in tracing their family roots.

The main portion of this work is based on the wills, appraisals and sales of the property of some 175 slave owners of Monroe County over the 68 year period. Many owners had just a few slaves while Hugh Caperton had over a hundred, not including slave children, at his death in 1847. Information on the value, both estimated and realized, is included where available in this work. Slaves could be sold for \$2500 or more, even during the Civil War itself, demonstrating the confidence of some in the Confederate Army. Other slaves were freed on the death of their owners

and in some cases given funds and property to establish new lives. Still others were passed on to younger relatives. In short, much human interest material is included, and this gives perspective to the courthouse records.

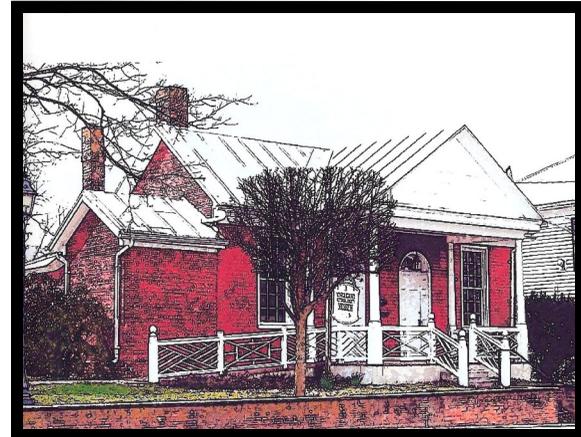
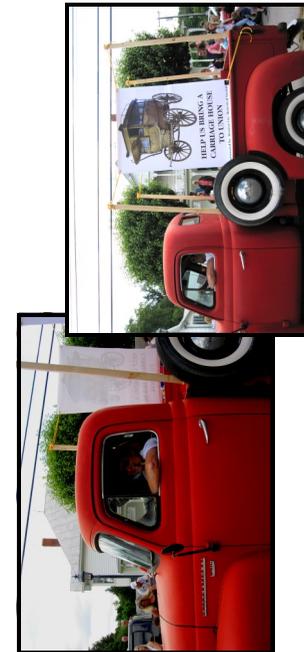
Census data from the time period indicates that over 10% of the population of Monroe were slaves, a proportion that rivals that found in the eastern counties of Virginia. So, it is perhaps no wonder that Monroe residents supported the Confederacy during the Civil War. “Slaves of Monroe” has been typed for publication by John Allen and is currently going through the editing process. We wish to thank Sandra and John for preparing this work which the Society recognizes as a very important contribution.

Museum Hours
The Monroe County
Historical Society Museum
is open
June through October,
Tuesday through Saturday
from
10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M.

Monroe County Historical Society

P.O. Box 465

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Union, West Virginia
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