



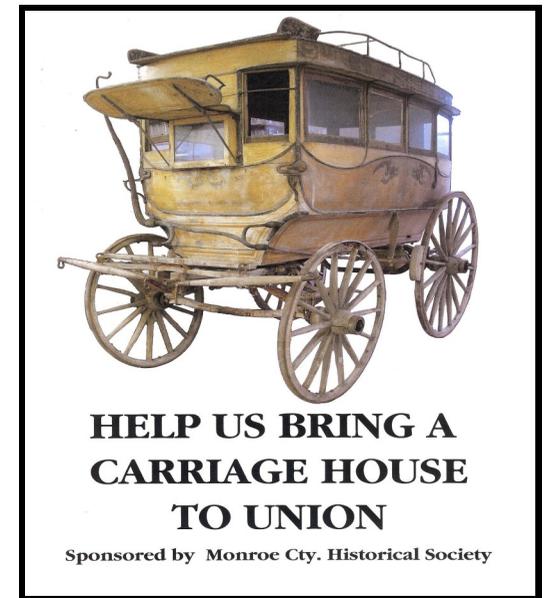
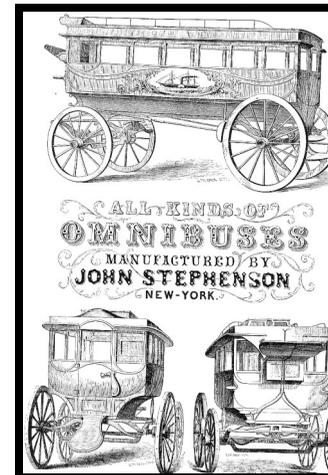
### A Carriage House for Union

The Historical Society owns some wonderful horse-drawn vehicles which are currently stored at the Sweet Springs Resort. Because the fate of Sweet Springs is in question, we have decided to build a "Carriage House" for them in Union. These vehicles include a spectacular omnibus that was used in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to transport visitors from the Alleghany Station to the spas at Sweet Chalybeate and Sweet Springs. The omnibus has been the subject of a study by Sidney and David Mitchell, details of which can be found on our website <http://monroewvhistory.org>. This elegant carriage was one of hundreds made in New York City by the John Stephenson Company, but only four are known to have survived the ravages of time. In fact, it is the only one that remains in good un-restored condition complete with the original paintings of country vignettes on both inside and outside. Also to be included in the Carriage House will be two well-restored surreys and a sleigh which were used at the Walnut Grove Estate, just north of Union, and donated to the Society by the late Nancy White.

The inspiration for the design of our proposed building is the Conestoga Wagon House adjacent to North House, the home of the Greenbrier Historical Society, in Lewisburg. This building is a rustic one with windows to allow the public to view the wagon and other relics at any time of the day. We plan a somewhat larger structure, about 40 by 30 feet, which will accommodate the vehicles as well as smaller displays of harnesses, tools and related artifacts. The Town of Union is very supportive of our Carriage House project and has offered to lease the Society a spacious lot near our Museum for a token sum. New neighbors on the block, Wes and Susan Sheridan, have offered to give us a right-of-way from the Museum to the new lot.



To promote the Carriage House project, the Historical Society had a poster on an antique pickup truck in the Farmer's Day Parade (see pictures). Also, we are planning a fundraiser dinner at the Creekside Resort on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will be patterned after our very successful fundraiser in November of 2009 during which we raised over \$8,000. Notices for this affair will be sent out in October and published in the Monroe Watchman as well. The Society already has a \$10,000 account that can be used for the Carriage House project, so we have a good start. But as usual, we will be relying on the generous support of Monroe County residents--present and past--to put this project "over the top"!



**MCHS**

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Monroe County Historical Society is partnering with the Friends of THE Second Creek, Inc. for an afternoon of events September 8, 2012 at Gap Mills, WV. Both groups are preservers of history in Monroe County. Since both groups had scheduled gatherings for the same afternoon, it was decided that they could meet at the same place and complement each other. FOTSC is celebrating a Watershed Afternoon in the yard at Carmel Presbyterian Church, Gap Mills, West Virginia from noon until 5 P.M. The MCHS will hold their meeting at 2 P.M. under the old oak tree.

Please bring your folding chair.