

The Historical Society would like to acknowledge the gifts that have been received since our Christmas appeal. As usual, our organization is a volunteer one and we depend on our members and friends for financial and other support.

Carriage House:

Bob/Andi Allen  
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Clyde Mitchell  
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Thomas Woodward Jr  
Eleanor Shanklin

Bank of Monroe

## MCHS Publishes Genealogy Study for Black History Month

The Historical Study has just issued a 43 page pamphlet entitled, “*Slaves of Monroe County, WV*”. This is a compilation by Sandra White, based on our Courthouse records from 1800 to 1865, and the primary purpose is to aid African Americans in searching for their ancestors. Some 970 slave entries are documented from the Wills Book alone, and a number of others come from Birth and Death Registries, as well as Marriage records. In short, Sandra has included virtually all of the existing data on some 163 slave owners in this volume. In addition to the slave names are their owner’s wishes as to whether to leave an individual to a family member, friend, or to sell or even free the slave. Also included are available appraisal or sale values of the slaves.

A Foreword to this work by Fred Ziegler includes background information on slavery in Monroe in relation to surrounding areas as well as some tables summarizing the data and relevant references, published and online. Monroe had 1114 slaves in 1860, over 10% of the population, which was less than eastern Virginia

(30%) but more than western Virginia counties as a whole (3%). Hugh Caperton owned 117 when he died in 1846 but the next highest number is Robert Campbell with 44 in 1847. About half of the owners, however, had from one to three. An intermediate category, with 4 to 9 slaves, or 35%, controlled 36% of the slave population. We can assume that most slaves were used in farming, although quite a few were domestic servants, and the rest worked in businesses, particularly at Sweet Springs and Salt Sulphur Springs.

“*Slaves of Monroe*” may be obtained for \$12 from our website <[monroewvhistory.org](http://monroewvhistory.org)> or by writing directly to the Monroe County Historical Society at P.O. Box 465, Union, WV 24983.



Figure Caption: Celebrating Black History Month and the publication of “*Slaves of Monroe*” are (l. to r.) Jill Fischer, Justine Nall, Herman and Carol Lewis, John Allen, Sandra White, Walter Patterson and Fred Ziegler.

## Call for Volunteers



The Museum will reopen for the season in June, and once again we will depend on volunteers to staff it, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm. We are encouraging people to commit to specific days of the week, if possible, from June through September, and this will simplify the scheduling problem. It will also reserve your favorite time period in advance. If you have not volunteered before, the visitor flow at the Museum is light, allowing for time to get work done, read our books on local history, or even help sort out the Society’s many files! And, you can guide visitors through the Museum or the adjacent log houses.

To sign up, or receive more information, call Judy Wagner at 304-772-4468. Thanks very much!