

**MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO  
HOST TEXTILE PRESENTATION**

For its July quarterly meeting, the Monroe County Historical Society will present a program on 19<sup>th</sup> century woven coverlets. The speaker, Toni Ogden will give an introductory slide show on the history and construction of woven coverlets and then discuss and answer questions about the colorful array of coverlets that will be on display.

Ms. Ogden invites you to bring your own coverlet to add to the conversation. Both hand woven and mill woven coverlets are of interest and it will be especially valuable to know, if possible, the name of the weaver or the mill at which it was made. Fancy Hollywood Mill coverlets are a study in themselves. Every coverlet will be photographed and documented as part of a weaving and coverlet history of our area being compiled by Ms. Ogden.

The Monroe County Historical Society will host this event on the afternoon of Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. in the library in Union (lower level). Ms. Ogden will explain how to clean and preserve these important textiles for future generations.

As Museum Coordinator for the Greenbrier Historical Society, Toni Ogden is responsible for the care of the North House Museum's collections. A life-long textile enthusiast and a weaver for nearly thirty years, Ms. Ogden is currently documenting the 19<sup>th</sup> century woven coverlets and weavers of Monroe and Greenbrier Counties. She is completing her Certification in Museum Collections Management and Care through Northern States Conservation Center. Ms. Ogden lectures, teaches and demonstrates around the state on the fiber arts and textile care.



**M.C.H.S.  
Breaks Ground  
on Carriage House Museum**

The Historical Society has begun work on a Carriage House on Middle Street. The perspective drawing shows the view from the direction of the Kalico Kitchen. The building will be in a traditional timber frame design of over 1,000 square feet with a portico facing north. The builder is Chip Sills, owner of Earthwind Construction of Greenville.

The Carriage House is being constructed for a priceless omnibus owned by the Society and also two smaller carriages and a sleigh. The omnibus was made some time after the Civil War and was used to transport visitors from the Alleghany Railroad Station to the resorts at Sweet Chalybeate and Sweet Springs. Although it was one of thousands made by the John Stephenson Co. of New York, it is the only one known to have survived in good original condition. These vehicles have not been on display for years but will form the basis for a collection of 19<sup>th</sup> Century horse-drawn vehicles here in Union. The smaller carriages are surreys of an elegant design and were left to the Historical Society by the late Nancy White of Walnut Grove.

The timbers for the substructure are being shaped and pre-assembled at the shop of Chip Sills on Ellison Ridge. When ready, late in the summer, they will be carried to Union and set up on a pad being built at the moment. Volunteers are working with Chip and if you have time, and are interested in learning the timber-framer's trade, you are welcome to join the group. Also, more money is needed to complete the project and new fundraising efforts will be begun soon. And, the museum will be sufficiently large enough to accommodate other carriages, so if you have one you would like to donate, contact us at the address below. Finally, the omnibus is currently being stored at Cooks Mill in Greenville, so if you are interested in a private viewing of this magnificent vehicle, contact Fred Ziegler at 832-6060 or email [frednbarbara@frontier.com](mailto:frednbarbara@frontier.com). Later in the summer, there will be an open house at the Mill to see the omnibus.