

## Monroe County Historical Society

### Lecture & Meeting

January 12, 2014



Clay and Stone marbles found in WV

Gary Reed will give a presentation on Native American artifacts. Over the years Gary has put together an amazing collection of all sorts of Native American stone tools and other types of objects which he has found at sites in Monroe and Greenbrier Counties. Hunting implements, cooking tools, even a tic-tac-toe game will be passed around for closer inspection. Gary has studied early Native American cultures for over 35 years and will talk about how those cultures dictated the form and function of the artifacts on display. He will explain how each was fashioned, the stone it was created from, its age and how it was used. The one thing he won't reveal is the exact location where these treasures were found. While reminding us that it is still possible to find many ancient artifacts if one knows how and where to look for them, Gary will also address the important points of ethical collecting, protecting important sites and the rights of property owners. Gary is a resident of Alderson and is retired from the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The audience is invited to bring their local Indian artifacts to the lecture for identification. The talk will be at the library in Union, lower floor on Sunday January 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.

## Carriage House Progress

The timber-frame substructure for the Carriage House was raised in early November by builder Chip Sills, with the help of a crane and a bunch of volunteers. Subsequently the roof was added by December 19<sup>th</sup> and the building will be left this way until warmer spring weather arrives. The structure has received quite a number of favorable comments and we are very pleased with it.

This winter we will be seeking more 19<sup>th</sup> Century vehicles to put in the Carriage House. At this time we have the iconic Omnibus, the Summer Rockaway and the Mountain Wagon which are both beautiful two-seat carriages, the Santa Claus-type sleigh which is identified as a Portland Cutter, and a Doctor's Buggy. We can accommodate two to three more full-sized vehicles. We are seeking donations of a farm wagon, a buckboard, a pony cart or any vehicle that is local in origin and differs from what we already have.

Also, we seek vintage photographs of carriages or wagons from the local area for inclusion in a book, "Carriages of Monroe County". This book will also contain about 15 articles published in The Monroe Watchman over the past six months. These articles document the place of 19<sup>th</sup> Century travel in the county and were designed to raise interest in the Carriage House project. Already about 40 photographs have been assembled but we are appealing to you, our members, for more; so that we can make this book as complete a record as possible. The book will be ready for the opening of the Carriage House in June.

The fundraising efforts have gone very well for us. Since November of 2012, we have raised over \$70,000 and this November we had a very successful "Wine & Cheese Reception" at Salt Sulphur Springs that grossed \$6,300.00. This was organized by Mary Pearl Compton with the help of hostess Betty Farmer in addition to many others. A popular item has been our offer to engrave bricks for the porch of the Carriage House for \$100 apiece. If you are interested, we can include your name, or the names of your choice as long as they will fit on three lines with 13 characters per line. Some folks have chosen to honor ancestors that arrived as early as the 1770's while others include their children or grandchildren. Send checks to the Monroe County Historical Society at PO Box 465, Union, WV 24945 and as usual, these will be tax deductible.

