

# Monroe County Historical Society

## Monroe County Heritage Days

This year the Historical Society sponsored a “Living History Event”, that is, the recreation of the 1864 Civil War occupation of Union by Federal forces led by General George Crook. Saturday morning on August 27th, residents were startled by the gunfire of skirmishing ground troops on Pump Street accompanied by cavalry and wagons and this was followed by banging on doors by hungry troops, demanding handouts—our log houses were included in one of these scenarios as was the Bank of Monroe. In the afternoon, there were demonstrations of troops drilling and canon firing near the encampment in the fields around Elmwood. The culmination of the afternoon activities was a raid on a ladies tea at Elmwood and here the women of Union appeared on the front porch in hooped skirts and fancy blouses and confronted the Yankee invaders.

On a lighter side, a cottillion dance was held in the evening and many of the participants arrived in period dress. Instructors were on hand to lead the participants through elaborate routines, and during breaks a quartet sang Civil War era songs to the delight of all. Finally, on Sunday morning there was a church service in Ames Clair Hall and again the singing group performed. All of this took a lot of organization and this was done by the new Monroe County Heritage Days group organized by Scott Womack and Chris & Sabrina Johnson. The Humanities Council of West Virginia provided the funding, and for this we are very grateful. The events portrayed were based on historical records made available through publications of the Historical Society, and, it was a time for all of us to learn about the tumultuous events of the Civil War period.

In connection with this event, the Society published a pamphlet entitled, “Civil War Campaigns around Monroe County, W.V.” by Fred Ziegler and this is available through the Society for \$8.00. This short paper is illustrated with maps of troop movements, and timelines of war-related events. The targets of Federal Troops are discussed as well as the strategies of the Southern Commanders who tried to stop them.

