

Historical Society Quarterly Meeting at Cook's Old Mill



The Quarterly Meeting of the Monroe County Historical Society will be held at the historic Cook's Old Mill in Greenville, on Sunday, October 16, 2022 at 2:00 pm.

It will feature a PowerPoint presentation by Dr. W. Stephen McBride and Dr. Kim A. McBride on a forthcoming booklet about community response to eighteenth century frontier hostilities, including the building of forts, with a focus on Monroe and Summers counties.

At least 24 forts, some of which may have been fortified houses, will be summarized, along with discussion of the importance of the county militia and other community responses to frontier defense.

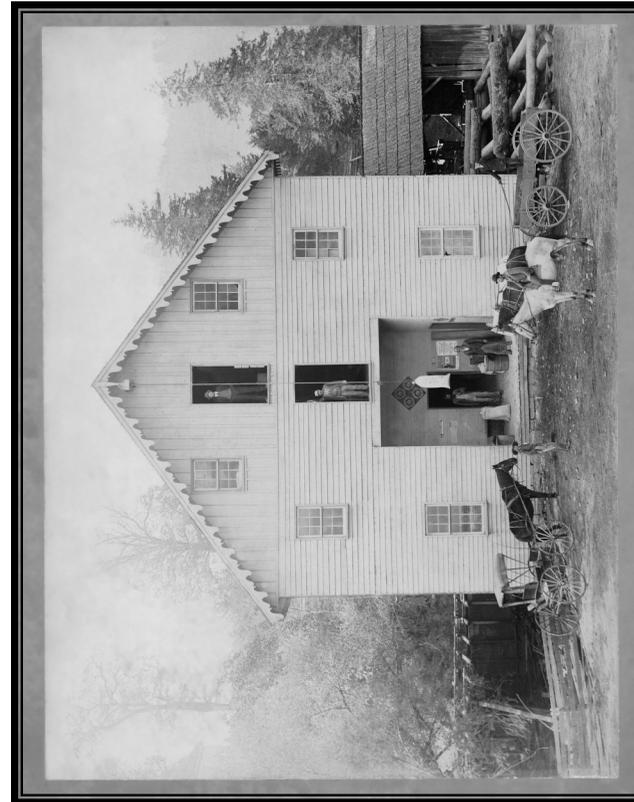
Members may recall a lecture last year on the recent excavations at Cook's Fort, a 1774 fort in Greenville, within sight of Cook's Old Mill. The McBride's will provide a brief summary of the Cook's Fort findings for any members who missed that talk, and an update about recent investigations at Thompson's Fort in Pickaway. This lecture, and the booklet, are made possible by a grant from the West Virginia Humanities Council.

The public is invited to attend.

Monroe County Historical Society

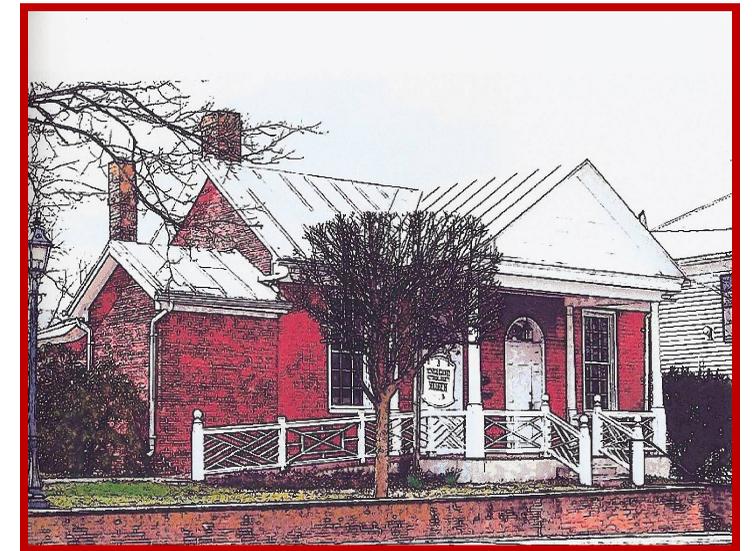
P.O. Box 465

Union, West Virginia 24983



Monroe County Historical Society

October 2022 Newsletter



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Union, West Virginia
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MCHS Fall News : THANKS VERNESSA! YOU ARE SPECIAL!



Vernessa Pontius is second from the right, beside Judy Wagner, Board member. On the left is Larry Emerson, President, and Ward Lefler, Vice President, decorating outside the Museum for Autumn Harvest Festival, with Anna Lusk, Corresponding Secretary, taking the photograph.

For three years, Vernessa Pontius has served as an AmeriCorps member in the Preserve West Virginia project of the Preservation Alliance of WV. Her sponsor is the Monroe County Historical Society, and we have greatly benefited from her service. Her main tasks were coordinating the volunteers for the museums, and organizing the archives and collections. Vernessa's main interest is helping people discover their history, through genealogy and through learning about the past. Even when the Museum had to be closed during the pandemic, Vernessa made good use of that time to update the records and files so that we knew what was in our collection and where to find it.

She has trained volunteers to work as museum tour guides, and answered many genealogical queries which come to us through our website. She has made stronger links with other organizations in our county, most recently the Old Rehoboth Church.

Lynn Cutter, site supervisor for Preserve WV AmeriCorps project, and Past President of MCHS.

Maize, Corn, Zea mays

Lynn Cutter

Developed by farmers in southwestern Mexico 8000 - 10,000 years ago, maize became the staple food of most of the people living in North America. Today it is the most widely grown grain in the world.

The early farmers discovered that it grew best in a field with companion plantings of beans, squash, peppers, tomatoes, avocados, melons, sweet potatoes, jicama, amaranth, and mucuna (a legume).

Trade between the tribes brought the dried seeds and agricultural knowledge north. By 2200 years ago, people in the Ohio River Valley were planting "The Three Sisters" - corn, beans, and squash. Sunflowers were also cultivated for the oil in their seeds and their attraction for pollinators.

Nine hundred years ago, farmers of the Fort Ancient culture settled large areas of bottomland along the New River. In the first few years of European settlement, four hundred years ago, Native Americans shared corn and cultivation techniques, preventing mass starvation.



The basket came from the Harvest Festival of 1986, and was made by a Monroe County resident, initials E.L.P. This miniature popcorn I grew is similar to the earliest varieties of maize. The Latin name is Zea mays.

Help Needed

MCHS is looking for someone willing to do small repair jobs on a task-by-task basis. If you are willing and able or if you know someone you can suggest, please call Larry Emerson at (304) 661-6551 or e-mail him at ldemerson55@gmail.com.