

2024 Membership & Donations

Please consider this your invoice for 2024 dues.

Since the MCHS year begins January 1st and goes through December 31st, now is the time to renew/join. Or, perhaps you would simply like to make a donation.

Just return the form below with check made payable to Monroe County Historical Society,
PO Box 465, Union, WV 24983.

Annual Dues:\$20 per individual \$_____

\$30 per couple \$_____

Life Dues: \$500 per individual \$_____

And/or: Donation \$_____

Name_____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Thank You Very Much! We are a thriving organization and treasure your participation – volunteers are more than welcome and appreciated. We continue to develop an e-mail address list for our membership and friends. We do love to send the Newsletter by e-mail. You will receive your news in a timely manner, it will be in color, and you'll save the Society the cost of a stamp. In addition, we have found occasion to send "breaking news" by e-mail and we're sure you'll want to be included when that happens!

Monroe County Historical Society

P.O. Box 465

Union, West Virginia 24983



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January 2024 Newsletter



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Monroe County Historical Society

Monroe County Historical Society Restores Log Structures



Tanner Farnack

The Monroe County Historical Society expects to complete restoration work on two of its historic structures before Farmer's Day next June. These buildings located in Union are in themselves important artifacts in the society's collection. Additionally, they hold MCHSes significant collection of local items. Unfortunately, as happens with many old log houses, interior damage from moisture and insects can go unnoticed until there is a crisis requiring major funds to remedy.

The Clark-Wiseman house which faces Main Street had been built to conform to Union's first zoning ordinances established in the year 1799. It was slated for demolition but offered to MCHS; volunteers moved it a short distance from its original location. The Owen Neel house, circa 1790, connected to the town house by a short hyphen, is an important example of a settler's home. It was donated to the historical society and moved from Gap Mills to Union.

The Wiseman/Neel houses do not qualify for state or federal preservation grants because they were moved from their original sites – a good thing as otherwise they would have been lost to the county's history. Fortunately, financial help has come from the Seneca Trail Charitable Foundation. The late Chuck Lewis, as president of the organization and a local historian in his own right, was instrumental in directing funding to assist area non-profit historical societies in their mission to pre-

serve their local history. A few years ago, when a new roof was needed for the Clark Wiseman house, STCF came to the rescue. And now, their generosity is making possible the major restoration of both log structures.

Tanner Farnack, who has a deep appreciation for log buildings, was delighted to be given the opportunity to save these two. A rotten sill under the Clark Wiseman house and a few other logs are being replaced. The round Neel cabin logs, typical of earliest homes, have been shaved flat to eliminate the spaces where water and insects have long collected. The buildings were treated for insects and Tanner will apply materials to strengthen and protect the wood for the future. And finally fresh chinking will keep out the birds, bugs and elements.

It's been sad to have to turn away visitors who want to look through the houses. They are true jewels of the museum complex and full of local artifacts with stories to tell. We look forward to celebrating and sharing these precious community resources once again when the museums reopen on Farmers Day in 2024.

by Toni Ogden

MCHS Quarterly Meeting Sunday, January 14, 2024, 2:00 pm

Monroe County Library, Union, WV

Program by Tanner Farnack. "Reviving the Past: Historic Log Cabin Restoration and the Evolution of Tools—A Journey into Preservation and Techniques"

