

## Covered Bridge Beautification Project

The first renovation and restoration project of the Monroe County Historical Society was the repair of the Indian Creek Covered Bridge. Beginning in 1965, volunteers first leased the bridge and nine-tenths of an acre around it, then contacted Oscar Weikel, who had constructed the original bridge in 1898 at the age of 16, with his brother Ray Weikel and uncles E.P. Smith Bros., and stonemason John C. Fullen.

They replaced the roof and floor of the bridge, and recruited Oscar's younger brother Walter Weikel to "rive" the new boards for the roof. By 1966, the bridge was opened to the public.

Now owned by the WV State Dept. of Highways, the bridge needs to have trees and brush cut back that have gradually grown up. We will be recruiting volunteers for this work soon!

DECORATING  
FOR AUTUMN

*Left to Right:*

**Ward Lefler**

**Joe Lusk**

**Sonny Smith**

**Ana Lusk**



Monroe County Historical Society

P.O. Box 465

Union, West Virginia 24983



# Monroe County Historical Society

October 2024 Newsletter



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# Monroe County Historical Society

The Waiteville Community Center will host the Monroe County Historical Society Quarterly Membership Meeting in the building which once served as the Waiteville School.

Built in 1950, it is situated on a quiet, rural road in this historic railroad town located in the eastern section of Monroe County between the ridges of Peters Mountain and Potts Mountain.

The building itself represents the architectural transition between the one-room schoolhouse educational facility and the mid-twentieth century efforts of consolidated schools. Designed by Charleston architect Henry T. Elden and constructed by local community members, the concrete block building features five classrooms, a cafeteria, indoor plumbing, large windows, and a coal-fired furnace in the basement.

At its peak, Waiteville School had five teachers and one principal educating 87 students. In the fall of 1958 students in grades 9-12 began attending Gap Mills High school across the mountain. From 1964 to 1967 there were 10 children or less attending class until the school's closure in 1967.

## October Quarterly Meeting Sunday, October 13th at 2:00 p.m.

Waiteville Community Center  
1735 Rays Siding Road, Waiteville, WV

Waiteville Community Center, established 1975



On July 14, 2023 the former Waiteville School was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The building remains the center of the community, serving as a gathering space for funerals, community dinners, voting, cooking and painting classes, family reunions, and is in the process of becoming an Emergency Warming Station for the Waiteville Valley.

You are invited to tour the historic school building on October 13 and listen to a presentation about the history and current activities. For more information, contact Janet McDaniel at 304-772-5465 or email [mcdaniel.janetl@gmail.com](mailto:mcdaniel.janetl@gmail.com)

## *Truly Unique—The West Virginia Federation*

### *Free Traveling Library*



*This trunk, once maintained by the Women's Literary Club of Sistersville, WV, holds a treasure trove of books that once traveled to remote areas, bringing knowledge and inspiration to communities over a century ago.*

### *History Unearthed*

*Discovered hidden in a dark corner of the Caperton Museum, dusty and untouched, but still holding a full collection of books in surprisingly good condition, this forgotten relic has been cleaned, researched and put on display by Toni Ogden, Americorps member and Museum volunteers. Seeking information, Toni showcased the trunk at the WV State Library Conference where librarians from across the state marveled at its contents.*

*"We believe it is the only traveling library trunk remaining in the state."*

**Caperton Museum phone 304 772 4449**