

Monroe County Historical Society

Dating the Historical Society's Log Houses

Dendrochronologists are able to assign calendar dates to rings from dead trees by matching ring-width patterns through time. Dendrochronologists from West Virginia University, lead by Dr. Amy Hessl have been working in our area since 2011. They have dated Cooks Old Mill in Greenville, determining a felling date of 1868 for the beams used in the construction. This confirmed the suggestion that the original mill had been burned in 1862 by Yankee troops. They have also dated the Barracks in Lewisburg and the supposed McCoys Fort in nearby Williamsburg.

This winter, Dr. Kristen De Graauw, a graduate of the program, obtained a grant from the WV Humanities Council to work on our log houses. Altogether she collected 42 cores from the two buildings, a statistically valid sample.

The Clark-Wiseman House was built after the town of Union was laid out in 1799 and represents a typical town house of the period. The house was moved to the museum site from the current site of the Union Place Apartments, and was re-erected closest to Main Street. The dendrochronologists have determined that the logs for the Clark-Wiseman house were felled between 1815 and 1817.



Dr. De Graauw taking samples from the Log Houses

The Clark-Wiseman and Owen Neel Log Houses



The Owen Neel House which was donated by the Clark and Evelyn Hansbarger family had been moved from Rowan Road in Gap Mills.

This building proved to have been constructed in two phases, 1799-1801 with the second floor added in 1826-1827. The building is connected to the Clark-Wiseman House by an enclosed "dog-trot" hall.

Dr. De Graauw describes the structure as a "lofted saddleback cabin", meaning that the lower floor was constructed as two rectangular cabins separated by the chimney and with hearths facing both cabins. Twenty-five years later the second story was added to what had been a sleeping loft.

The Museum is Open!

The Museum is Open through Oct. 31.

Tuesday- Saturday 10-4

We strive to give you a good experience and to ensure you and our volunteers are safe.

Safety is a priority. Please respect our rules:

- **Plan your visit for another time if you are sick**
- **We practice Social Distancing**
- **Shoes, shirts and face coverings are required**
- **Please use hand sanitizer upon both entering and leaving**
- **Four people or less in the museum at one time**
- **Please do not touch displays**

THANK YOU



Honoring Toni Ogden as she transitions from Board Member to Advisory Member