



The ARCADE BUILDING, Madison's oldest building, headquarters of the MADISON HERITAGE FOUNDATION

# Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



The KEMPER RESIDENCE, Governor Kemper's home circa 1852-1857

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## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Editor: Jill Schreiner

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P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

February 2002

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### ANNUAL MEETING AT 2 PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

The Annual Meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on February 17 at the County Auditorium. Bill Speiden will discuss the great Western migration and present a slide show on his "reenactment", with a wagon and a team of oxen, of a 208 mile section of the Oregon trail that was a major migration route of the "49ers" during the gold rush. Many items of hardware used on the wagon trains will be on display. Mr. Speiden, a resident of Orange County, retired from dairy farming after forty years, and has since pursued his passion of documenting the history of the Western migration along the Missouri River, with a particular emphasis on the role of oxen in that migration.



There will be a brief business meeting after the program. The **2001 Annual Report** will be

available. (If you can not attend this meeting and would like a report, please call the Society at 540-948-5488 and leave a message.) The **Nominating Committee** will nominate four outgoing Board members (James Arrington, Bill Scholten, Betty Lynn Yowell, and Emily

Williams) to serve for another term. Refreshments will be served in the Kemper Residence after the meeting.

If **weather** conditions are such that there may be doubt about whether the meeting will be held, please call the Society at 948-5488 after 10 a.m. on that day for a recorded message

### MEMBERSHIP

The Society has sent renewal notices to all members whose memberships expire in January and February. If you have not renewed, please do. If you prefer, you may bring your form and check to the Annual meeting. Those members whose memberships expire in other months will receive renewal information in the month that their memberships expire. If you have a question, please call Bob Lovegren at 540-923-4973.

Welcome to Bob and Mary Haught, Ann M. Ferguson, and Joe and Linda Shelton who joined the Society recently. We will miss Emily Couric, who died of cancer last fall. Long time business member, VF Jeanswear/Wrangler, has closed its Madison plant. Life Member Butch Davies gave a special donation to the Society in honor of Life Member Steve Hoffman for his dedication and in recognition of his sense of history

## KEMPER RESIDENCE

Thanks to Jill Schreiner, Mary Jo Dilling, Mary Haught, Heidi Sage, and Rita Cunningham for decorating the Kemper Residence for the Christmas holiday. Joan Cheston decorated the Christmas tree. Special thanks to Margaret Estes and Mary Haught for sharing greens from their gardens for this project. As always our appreciation goes to Lawrence Beasley and his helper for assisting with the garland on the front porch.

The Kemper Residence was open on December 20th for Christmas tours. Thanks to Ann Hughes for assisting with this project.



## HISTORIC HOME TOUR

The Historic Home Tour, co-sponsored by the Society and the Madison Garden Club, will be held on June 1 and 2, 2002, in honor of James Lawson Kemper's birthday.

The tour features five homes as well as the Arcade and the Kemper Residence. The following homes have been selected: David and Maryvonne Longley, Wolftown; Bill and Ann Tidball, Wolftown; Eugene and Jean Ince, Rochelle; Joyce Kipps, Aroda; and Mayo and Jean Yowell, Main Street, Town of Madison.

Responsibilities are divided between the Society and Garden Club on an equal basis and proceeds will be shared. The Society will need volunteers to assist in several areas: parking, signs, publicity, and docents. Please let us know how you plan to help out with this community project. Tickets will be available for distribution in early April. Each member of the Garden Club and the Society will be asked to sell five tickets. Your cooperation and help is needed to ensure the success of this project. Rita Cunningham is the coordinator between the two groups. You may contact her at 540-948-6542

## CALENDARS AND ORNAMENTS

Sales of both the 2002 Calendar and the Ornament showing the Court House were successful moneymakers. We had an additional production run of the ornament. Both items will be available for sale at the annual meeting. A committee is looking into the feasibility of printing a 2003 calendar. The next ornament will feature the Kemper Residence. The Plow and Hearth and Greystone TV and Appliance were sale leaders for the calendar. Mountaineer Sports and the Library were the leaders for the ornament. The "Madison Eagle" did a fine job in publicizing these items and where they could be purchased

## ARCADE

The James Madison exhibit with emphasis on archaeology at Montpelier continues. Photographs showing an earlier Main Street with trees and how poles and utility lines affect the potential charm of the Street are featured as part of the Main Street Project. Another exhibit shows Native American prehistoric tools. In February Black History Month will be celebrated with an exhibit of outstanding African Americans



## ACQUISITIONS

Ruth Ponton donated a museum quality bed (with canopy, springs, spreads, pillows, etc.) to the Society. This new acquisition is on display in the Kemper Residence and may be seen after the annual meeting

## NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Culpeper History Museum hosted the Society's November Membership Meeting. Zann Miner, Director of the Museum, led a tour of the facility

## HELP WANTED

Interesting assignments are available. Please call Rita Cunningham (948-6542).

## MEETING OF AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Nelson County Historical Society is hosting the 2002 Conference of Historical Societies in the Virginia Piedmont on Saturday, April 6 in Lovington. Those interested in going, please contact Bob Lovegren at 923-4973



## The Names of Places Around Us - Part I

*(Ann Ferguson, a new member, volunteered to write articles for the Newsletter. This is the first and is based on information from Madison County Place Names published in 1978 by the Virginia Place Name Society, Douglas Tanner, Director. This publication was part of a series intended to survey all counties in the State of Virginia and identified the names and location of geographic features (mountains, meadows, and waterways), communities (referred to as "hamlets"), properties (including homes, schools, churches and businesses) and roadways. Part II will continue with information on the history of other geographic features and communities in Madison County.*

Recorded exploration of the land within the boundaries of Madison County dates as far back as 1670 and permanent settlement began in 1725. Boundaries forming Madison County were drawn in 1793 and remain the same today.

Lifetime and longtime residents are familiar with the origin of the names they have heard for decades. Newcomers are fascinated and curious about the background of a unique name which often has a charming story.

The Post Office Department (POD) held broad authority in the naming of communities,

especially in the 19th and early 20th century. In some instances, residents would submit a name and the POD would reject it because of its similarity to another name that would hamper the delivery of mail. In other instances, the postmaster would simply exercise his authority and choose the name. Post offices existed in great numbers back then as transportation was limited and delivery of mail and packages was a vital link to the outside world for rural customers.

**Aroda** - The post office was established on May 27, 1922. Local people wanted the name Polo after another post office down the road. The POD would not allow it and the name "Aroda" was chosen by George Taylor, the first postmaster, from a list submitted by the Post Office Department.

**Banco** - The post office in Banco was established on October 10, 1901. Its first postmaster, James F. Aylor, submitted three names to the POD including "Banco" a name Mr. Aylor had heard of in West Virginia.

**Brightwood** - The post office was established on March 6, 1855 in what was then called Dulinsville, Burr P. Dulin was the postmaster. The name was changed to Brightwood on October 28, 1895. The reason is not recorded except that Mrs. Belle Crigler Fray is credited as instrumental in accomplishing the change.

Some interesting geographic names are:

**Baldtop Mountain** - In the late 1800s, Dallas Aylor cleared off the top of this mountain (elevation 1647 feet) to grow crops and this bare land led to its name. While the top is now grown over, the name remains.

**Beautiful Run** - A stream located west of Pratts that flows into the Rapidan River. Named for the many beautiful vistas along its course, the first mile (to the first fork) was once known as Lunch Branch.

**Brokenback Run** - A stream that rises on the north slope of Robertson Mountain and flows into the Hughes River. So named because at one point it divides into several parallel streamlets.

The Madison County Historical Society is a non-profit organization founded and operated for the perpetuation and preservation of Madison County heritage and traditions. The mission of the Society is to record, preserve, and stimulate interest in the history of Madison County, its families, occupations and way of life.

Membership is for one year with renewals due on the anniversary date of membership. Membership and other contributions to the Society are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Types of Membership:

Patron \$1,000 or more	Business \$50
Benefactor \$500 to \$999	Family \$20
Sustainer \$250 to 499	Single \$10
Partner \$100 to \$249	Student \$5
Friend \$50 to \$99	

Membership applications are available at the Arcade and the Kemper Residence. For more information call the Society Office at 540-948-5488 and leave your name, telephone number, and address. We will send you a membership application or return your call to answer your questions. You may wish to call the Membership Chair at 540-923-4973 or e-mail him at [bjlove@summit.net](mailto:bjlove@summit.net).



Madison County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 467  
Madison, Virginia 22727