



Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

May 2002

TOM FAIRCLOTH TO SPEAK AT, MAY 19TH MEETING

The May 19, 2002 membership meeting will be held at the Kemper Residence at 2:00 PM. Our speaker, Tom Faircloth, will present "Germanna Roots in Madison County", a talk about the early Madison County settlers from Germanna, their descendents, and other areas of the country where some of their descendents settled. Mr. Faircloth is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Germanna Foundation, in which position he studies and interprets history of the Germanna community from the 1700's to the present.



HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR ON JUNE 1 AND 2

The Historic House Tour co-sponsored by the Garden Club and the Society will be held on June 1 and 2. The Society sent the brochure, five tickets and ticket handling procedures to most members. Thanks to those who have

volunteered their time and talents to this project. We could not do it without you.

Thank You

THANK YOU, JOAN CHESTON

It's hard to imagine the Kemper Residence without Joan Cheston. Fortunately, we don't really have to at this time. Joan is moving to Sunnyside and has decided to relinquish her position as Curator of the Kemper Residence. So it's now appropriate to recognize the major contributions she has made to this historic house and, through that work, to the Town, the County and the people of Madison

Joan has been involved with the Kemper Residence since the early days of the Historical Society's efforts to restore it. She has been Curator since 1992 and in that capacity has been directly responsible for the work done there. She has worked with Ann Miller and representatives of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to assure that the restoration is authentic and appropriate to the building. She has met with contractors, obtained bids and monitored the work. She has worked with the County administration and the Board of Supervisors to assure that the building has been properly maintained. She has led the effort to obtain period furnishings, given antiques of her own and encouraged donations and loans by organizations and individuals in the Madison

community. She has worked with the Madison Garden Club in landscaping the area around the house. She has been the person in charge of rentals and scheduling of all the events that take place there, setting up for those events, making sure that the arrangement of furniture suits the particular event. Whenever any system malfunctioned, as systems are wont to do in old houses, Joan was the person contacted. Many times she has made the trip from Syria to Madison at night to check a problem or make sure things were all right. And, in addition to all that, she has been, as she puts it, "the maid," cleaning up after rentals and after construction, hanging drapes, washing the curtains, even washing the windows.

In addition she has been an active member of the Madison Garden Club and of her church and also an attentive mother, grandmother, sister and aunt. Is it any wonder that a committee is required to take over part of her duties. Joan dismisses the magnitude of her work, saying she did it "just to get things done," and that "lots of people helped."

Fortunately for Madison and for the Historical Society, Sunnyside is not far away and Joan will remain on the Board of Directors and will continue to advise on matters relating to the Kemper Residence. For that and for all the fine work she has given to this historic house, to the Madison County Historical Society and to Madison we say "Thanks." All of us, along with the fine old house itself, are lucky to know Joan Cheston.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Tucker Hill designed a membership card for the Society. The Arcade and Kemper Residence are featured on the front and statements on the Society's purpose and mission are on the other side. Your card is enclosed.

2003 ORNAMENT

The 2003 ornament will feature the Kemper Residence. The first ornament in this series was issued in 2002 with the Court House as the feature. We anticipate delivery of the 2003 ornament in mid-May.

STUDENTS' ART FEATURED IN 2003 CALENDAR

Building on the success of the Society's first calendar, we are at work creating the 2003 edition to be published late this summer. The 2002 Calendar featured drawings of Madison County landmarks commissioned and loaned by the Second Bank & Trust Company. This year the calendar will focus on the familiar buildings along Madison's Main Street as seen through the pen and pencils of Richard Young's Madison County High School students. Using photographs of Main Street buildings furnished by the Society, students will select their favorite buildings as a subject. The best 12 drawings will be used in the calendar. The project will be done in conjunction with the County's Department of Social Services which has been sponsoring art contests with the High School for several years.

"Focusing on Main Street seems appropriate with all of the recent activity in improving the appearance of the historic Town of Madison," says Rita Cunningham, the Society's Board President. "Some of the students may choose to draw the Town's landmarks without the power lines and poles that line the streets to show what a difference some of the new improvements would make."

We expect the 2003 Calendar to be on sale at the Taste of the Mountains Street Festival, and to be available at several Madison locations through the fall and pre-Christmas season

KEMPER RESIDENCE

Tours - Students in grades 5, 6, and 7 at the Oak Grove Mennonite School toured the Residence on February 14. Arrangements were made for them to visit the Court House and the Arcade. It is always a pleasure to have students visit with us. The Chamber of Commerce hosted 35 members of the Virginia Department of Tourism on March 5. Bill Scholten and Rita Cunningham conducted the tour of Kemper. The group was very complimentary. English Basement - Bill Scholten has installed electric outlets and completed the trim work in

the north room of the basement. Bill and Mary Whitfield painted all the wood trim.

Volunteers - The Society has six volunteers to oversee the upkeep of the Residence. They meet on the last Wednesday of each month to thoroughly clean the house. Other cleaning is done as needed. Rita Cunningham and Mary Haught are handling rental arrangements. Other volunteers are Jill Schreiner, Mary Jo Dilling, Vi Hillard and Heidi Sage. The group of happy volunteers is affectionately known as "The Kemper Girls".

New rental agreement - The Board of Directors approved the use of a new rental agreement after legal review by the County Attorney. The English Basement is now available for rental. There was a small increase in rental rates

"LIFE ON MAIN STREET" FEATURED AT THE ARCADE

A new exhibit of selected articles will illustrate life on Main Street in the 1800-1900 period. Who were we? How did we live? What can be restored under the Main Street Project? Artifacts will be changed from time to time in this continuing exhibit.

Everette Weakley's H.O. gauge train that depicts the train that ran between Wolfstown and Orange will continue on display. Another current exhibit – Dorothy Hood's collection of photographs-include her father, George Nethers and a Rappahannock County School bus of the 1920's. The President Madison exhibit will continue through June. After July 4 President Hoover's exhibit will replace the Madison exhibit. Some new tools have been added to the Native American display.

OPENING THE ARCADE ON SATURDAYS??

The Society would like to open the Arcade on Saturdays if we can recruit volunteers to do this duty. Jan Harris staffs the building on Tuesdays and Thursdays. When she has to do a project upstairs in the Arcade or is away, we have volunteers to open this historic building. If you agree to serve, Jan will provide an orientation to hosts. Tentative hours are 10 am to 1 pm.



CEMETERY SURVEY

The Society is in the process of surveying and compiling a record of all cemeteries and family graveyards in the County. Several church cemeteries have been recorded and others are in the process. If you would like to assist with this project call the Arcade at 948-5488. If you have a family graveyard on your property, please let us know so it can be included. The Society plans to publish the information.

BOD MEMBERS ATTEND PIEDMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

Rita Cunningham, Genevieve McLearn and Bob Lovegren attended the 13th annual Piedmont Historical Society Conference at Lovingston, Virginia on April 6. The Nelson County Historical Society sponsored this event with the theme of "Research, Record and Relate".

The three workshops on "Piecing Together the Puzzle of History", "Oral History" and "Compiling Community Histories" were well done. The presentation on oral histories had many fine ideas that our Society can use. Meeting with other historical society leaders and seeing what they are doing also provides help in strengthening our own endeavors.

Some ideas from this conference:

1. Develop a web site.
2. Publish a children's coloring book.
3. Print note cards showing various historic sites.

4. Prepare a history of Madison County to be used in the 4th grade.
5. Conduct van or bus tours.
6. Publish food recipes by subject – breads, deserts, etc. rather than or in addition to a complete recipe book.
7. Assist property owners in registering historic properties and in the placement of permanent markers on the properties
8. Cooperate in the celebration of the Lewis and Clark expedition. (Mrs. Henley in Keswick is the National President of the Lewis Clark Expedition)

4. Revise the leaflet on the Kemper Residence
5. Prepare a leaflet on the Arcade
6. Develop a publication list and recommend methods for selling publications
7. Write for the Newsletter

Please call President Rita Cunningham (540-948-6542) for additional information, to volunteer, or to provide your ideas on how you might help in other ways.

SYMPOSIUM ON FUNDRAISING

A symposium on fundraising, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Alliance of Virginia and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, was held in Warrenton on March 11. Approximately 30 people attended, including members of many community organizations from the surrounding counties. Rita Cunningham and Maury Hanson attended as representatives of our Society. John Borders, president of a consulting firm specializing in fundraising, conducted the sessions. The topics discussed included types of funding, funding information and resources, the role of staff and Board of Directors, and fundraising tools (one-page solicitation, concept paper, full proposal). A common theme that emerged in discussion was frustration in obtaining grant support from private foundations.

APVA TOUR

On April 6 the Thomas Jefferson Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities sponsored a bus tour to Waterford and Oatlands. The APVA, founded in 1889, is the oldest statewide preservation organization in the nation. Today the APVA owns and maintains 35 historic properties in Virginia, including Jamestown Island, the first permanent English settlement in North America. The Thomas Jefferson Branch advances the cause of historic preservation by awarding certificates recognizing the proper restoration of historic properties in this area of the Piedmont. The Kemper Residence received the award in 2000.

ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 17

Four Directors (James Arrington, Bill Scholten, Betty Lynn Yowell and Emily Williams) were reelected at the Annual Meeting on February 17. Bill Speiden spoke on the great Western migration and presented a slide show on his "reenactment" with a wagon and team of oxen of a 208-mile section of the Oregon Trail. He also had many items of hardware on display

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTS OFFICERS

Following the Annual Meeting the Board of Directors elected the Society officers: President Rita Cunningham, Vice President Bill Scholten, Treasurer Betty Lynn Yowell and Secretary Emily Williams



HELP WANTED

The Society could use help in several projects, such as:

1. Grave site identification
2. Host and greet visitors at the Arcade
3. Prepare a new Madison County Historical Society pamphlet

Eight Madisonians took part in the Waterford trip. The Waterford Foundation provided a tour of public buildings and private homes in the well preserved Quaker town. In the afternoon Oatlands was visited, with a tour of the mansion and gardens.

If you would like to join the APVA in its quest to preserve the history of Virginia, information is available through the main office, 204 West Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 223220-5012 or www.apva.org.



THE NAMES OF PLACES AROUND US - PART II

(This is the second article by Member Ann Ferguson on this subject and is based on information from Madison County Place Names published in 1978 by the Virginia Place Name Society.)

Communities

Criglersville - Post office established in 1833; discontinued in 1965. Named for the Crigler family, among the first settlers of the area. A high school operated there until it was destroyed by fire in 1946.

Etlan - Post office established in 1899; discontinued in 1965. Clay Call was the first postmaster and named the village for a close family friend. Reopened as a branch office but is no longer in operation

Locust Dale - Post office established in 1823 as Locust Grove - the name derived from its location in a stand of locust trees. Name changed to Locust Dale in 1825.

Madison - The first post office in the county was established in 1801 as Madison Courthouse. The name was changed to Madison after incorporation of the town in 1892. The county was created by an Act of the General Assembly in 1792 to honor then statesman, later President, James Madison, Jr..

Pratts - Formerly known as Hales Store the name changed when the post office was moved from Old Pratts. Post office established in 1885; named for the family who owned the land.

Rochelle - Post office established in 1854 - earlier names were New Bethel (for a nearby church) and Jack's Shop (for a blacksmith shop ½ mile away). Once called Kingdom Come. Present name is from the French "La Rochelle" headquarters of the French Huguenots at the end of the religious persecutions. (There were several Huguenot immigrations to Virginia).

Ruth - Post office established in 1900; discontinued in 1940, named for the daughter of the first and only postmaster, Wade H. Tanner.

Shelby - Post office established under the name of Glory in 1895; discontinued in 1969 - the name was changed to Shelby in 1911.

Syria - Post office established in 1898 under William Berry, the first postmaster. Name picked at random from the Bible by Ambrose Murray, a "sincere Methodist".

Uno - Post office established in 1893; discontinued in 1969. Carl Tappy, a longtime postmaster, reported that people walking on the road near a popular barroom when asked where they were going replied, "You know." An earlier name was Glory.

Wolftown - Post office established in 1828 as Rapid Ann, name changed to Wolftown in 1857. The present name derives from a spring once located on a knoll in the center of the village that wolf packs used as a watering hole.

Geographic Feature Names

Crooked Run - A stream flowing into the Robinson River that forms part of the county boundary. Name is drawn from the configuration of its course; once known as Meander.

Fork Mountain - A mountain (elevation 3852) named for its three peaks which project like the tines of a fork.

Hogcamp Branch - A stream on a slope of Stony Mountain that flows into the Rose River. Wild hogs roamed the upper mountains 75 years

ago and were lured by trails of corn into large log traps. Temporary buildings, set up during the trapping process, were called hogcamps.

Indian Run - A stream on a slope of Thorofare Mountain that flows into the Hughes River. Nearby resident reported finding many arrowheads along this run in 1915.

Old Rag Mountain - A mountain (elevation 3268) with a ragged outline against the sky seen from certain directions. In the 1760s it was called Great Mountain and in the 1780s Ragged Mountain.

Thorofare Mountain - From the 1850s to about 1930, foxhunters could ride atop the mountain (elevation 1224), as though on a thoroughfare.

TEA AT THE KEMPER RESIDENCE

Plans are underway to have high tea at the Residence. Volunteers will serve as hostesses, make tea sandwiches, scones, cookies and other treats. Attendance will be by reservation. After initial set up costs, proceeds will go toward the continuing restoration of the Residence, Governor Kemper's law office and the servants' quarters. The Society is seeking donations. Do you have surplus china teacups, luncheon size plates, teapots or teaspoons. They do not have to match.

MEMBERSHIP

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
Benefactor \$500 to \$999
Sustainer \$250 to 499
Partner \$100 to \$249
Friend \$50 to \$99
Business \$50
Family \$20
Single \$10
Student \$5

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.