



# Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



---

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mast Head Pictures Courtesy of Tucker Hill

Editor: Jill Schreiner

---

**P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727**

**February 2003**

---

### **ANNUAL MEETING DATE SET**

The annual meeting of the Society will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 16, 2003 in the auditorium of the Madison County Administration Building. Nomination and election of three members of the Board of Directors will be held at this time. Refreshments will be served in the Kemper residence following the presentation. If weather conditions are such that there may be doubt about whether the meeting will be held, please call the Society at 540-948-5488 after 10 a.m. on that day for a recorded message

### **2002 ANNUAL REPORT**

The 2002 Annual Report will be available at the Annual Meeting. If you can not attend this meeting and would like a report, please call the Society at 540-948-5488 and leave a message

### **ARCADE EXHIBITS**

The Arcade is featuring four exhibits. "Black History" is the newest. It will be open in February. The Madison Schools exhibit will be featuring the Criglersville School. There will be a repeat of the Main Street Project exhibit. The exhibit will include photographs of present day Madison as well as those illustrating Madison at the turn of the century. The Rapidan Railroad exhibit will continue for another month. Visit the Arcade on Tuesday or Thursday during the hours of 10:00am to 2:00 pm for a look at these fascinating exhibits.

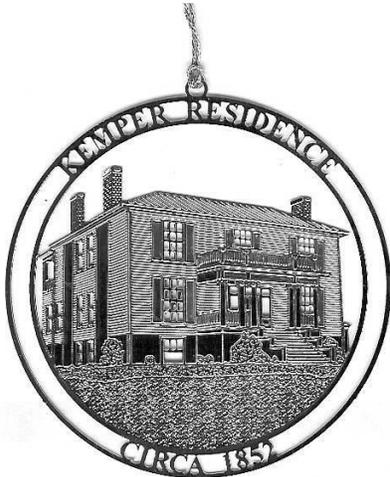
### **FLUVANNA TO HOST 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The Fluvanna County Historical Society in Palmyra, Virginia will host the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Piedmont Virginia Historical Societies on Saturday, April 5. The theme is "Heritage Preservation – the Proactive Approach." Kat Imhoff, Vice President of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation will be the keynote speaker. The hosts are planning panels on African American history and research, on the Fluvanna initiatives, and on membership communications and outreach.

President Cunningham and other Board members have attended past conferences and found them very helpful. It provides an opportunity to share information with others interested in historic preservation. Our Society developed the annual calendars and the annual ornaments after seeing what others had done.

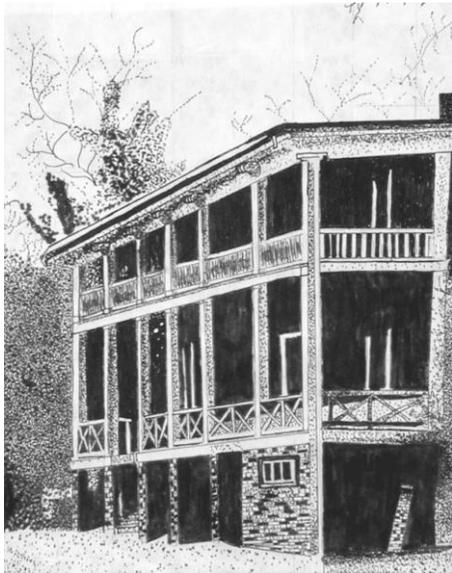
Fluvanna will be sending additional information on the conference. If you are interested in attending, please advise Bob Lovegren at 923-4973. We will provide more information to you when it is received. .

## 2003 ORNAMENT



The 2003 ornament featuring the Kemper Residence has arrived. They may be purchased at the Arcade for \$10.00 plus tax (\$10.45 total).

## 2003 CALENDAR



The Society's 2003 Calendar, which features pen and ink sketches of Main Street landmarks by Madison County High School art students will be available at the November 17 Membership Meeting. Other locations where the Calendar is sold are: the Arcade, the Chamber of Commerce, Greystone TV and Appliance (Radio Shack), Handcraft House, the Library, the Mountain Store (Criglersville), the Museum of Culpeper History, and the Plow and Hearth's Country Store. The cost is \$ 10 plus tax.



Members and friends enjoy the Winter Tea at Kemper

## TEA AT THE KEMPER

The second in a series of Benefit Teas was held at the Kemper Residence on January 22nd. A great selection of savories, sweets, fruits and teas were served to a full house of guests. Many compliments were received and plans were made to attend the Spring Tea on March 26th. Seating will be available on the main floor and the English Basement, which is handicapped accessible. Reservations are required - make your plans early. Volunteers who prepared and donated the delicious food as well as served as hostesses are: Mary Haught, Vi Hilliard, Betty Lynn Yowell, Jill Schreiner, Anne Hughes, Mary Jo Dilling, Genevieve McLearn, Heidi Sage and Rita Cunningham

Appreciation also goes to those who loaned teapots, china, flat ware, linens and a folding screen: Heidi Sage, Mary Haught, Pat Fray, Jill Schreiner, Genevieve McLearn, Rita Cunningham. Cash Donation - Jan Harris

## KEMPER RESIDENCE

### Acquisitions:

Chamber pot and vase - Joan Cheston

Tea Pot - Genevieve McLearn

Cash Donation - Nell Bancroft & F. Beale Wilhoit

**Leaflet:** A new leaflet is now available which provides a brief narrative of the life of James Lawson Kemper. These are available at the Residence, Arcade and the Chamber of Commerce. Eddins Ford made this publication possible.

**Cellar:** Bill Scholten and Russell Whitfield installed lights and a new ceiling in the English basement. The ceiling will be painted to

complete the project. Kudos to Bill and Russell for an excellent job.

## ARCADE BROCHURE

A new brochure featuring the history of the Arcade is at the printers and will be ready for distribution in the near future. This brochure was researched and written by Maury Hanson and photography by Tucker Hill. Historical Society member and local businessman Bud Kreh, Montague Miller & Company, covered printing costs



## INTERESTING PROJECTS TO DO

The Society has several interesting projects that need helpers. They include:

1. **MERCHANDISING PROGRAM** - Review publications and other items which the Society sells or could sell. Develop agreement to be used with suppliers. Prepare marketing plan
2. **WRITING PAMPHLET** – Prepare a new Madison County Historical Society Pamphlet. Outline the history of the Society. Provide illustrations of past achievements. Present reasons why the Society needs to be supported today.
3. **GRAVE SITES** – Join other members in locating and recording gravesites through out the County.
4. **RAPIDAN RAILROAD** – Research the route the railroad followed from Wolftown to Orange in 1920-24.
5. **HOST/HOSTESS** – Serve as a host/hostess at the Arcade and/or the Kemper Residence.

Please contact President Rita Cunningham at 948-6542 or Bob Lovegren at 923-4973 for additional information, to volunteer, or to provide your ideas on how you might contribute to the Society in other ways.

## WELCOME – NEW MEMBERS

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members:

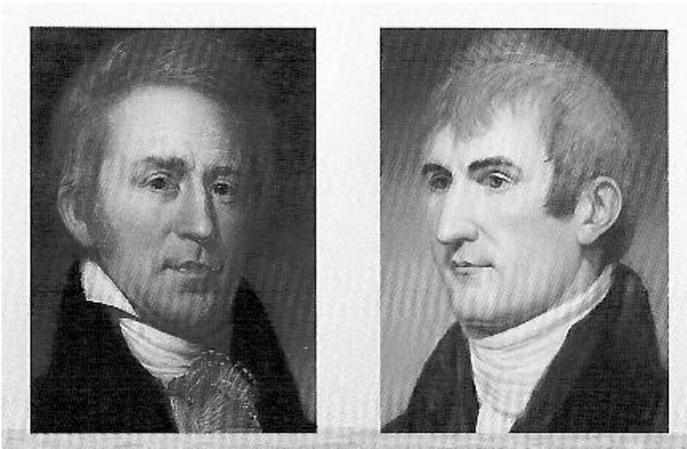
- Stan Berns (single)
- Lee Decker (single)
- Jim and Cathy Fort (partner)
- Fred Mohr (family)

## MEMBERSHIP

The Society has sent renewal notices to all members whose memberships expire in January and February 2003. 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 any questions, please call Bob Lovegren at 540-923-4973

## POWHATAN INDIANS PRESENATION

Pat Early combined an interesting talk with demonstrations of cooking utensils, clothing and other examples of the Powhatan Indian Culture at the November 17, 2002 quarterly meeting. As outreach instructor for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Mrs. Early displayed broad knowledge of the tribe that had been dwelling in Virginia about 10,000 years before the first white settlers arrived. Using illustrations, she traced the cultural transformation of Pocahontas from Indian maiden to an English lady after she was kidnapped and sold to the English for one copper kettle. "Copper was highly valued by the Powhatans," she said.



## LEWIS AND CLARK SONS OF VIRGINIA

By Ann Ferguson

Over the next three years many events will mark the bicentennial anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Virginians made significant contributions to this singular event and Virginia will be the site of special exhibits exploring the accomplishment of its native sons, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. It is well known that two prominent Virginians, Jefferson and Madison, had key roles in the initiation of this spectacular venture. Their contributions form the backdrop for the accomplishment itself.

President Thomas Jefferson took the first step in exploring the country west of the Mississippi River when he sent a confidential letter to Congress in January 1803 requesting approval of \$2,500 to finance an expedition. Congress approved the funds, as the amount was so small. (In fact, at its end the cost of the expedition was \$38,000). The President's first act, after funds were approved, was to name Meriwether Lewis, his secretary and a fellow Virginian from Albemarle County, as Commander of the expedition. Jefferson believed Lewis had the qualities needed to make this unique endeavor a success. Captain Lewis selected William Clark, an officer he met in 1795 during his military service, also a native Virginian from Caroline County.

Named the Corps of Discovery, the expeditionary force was a military group. In its early planning, the group was to be small in number, only a little over a dozen men. The intent was that a small band of men would be seen as a non-threatening presence by France and Spain, the nations then wrangling over control of the territory known as Louisiana. The

territory extended east from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains on its western edge and north from Canada south to Mexico.

As Lewis and Clark continued with their plans for the journey, other events were moving forward in France. Robert Livingston, Minister to France, was pursuing a goal set by President Jefferson. Mr. Livingston arrived in France in late 1801 and spent the following year negotiating to buy New Orleans. This port was vital to the shipment of U.S. products from the then western frontier. The President added the Floridas to the proposal for purchase, but the negotiation stalled on all issues and no encouragement from Napoleon was forthcoming. President Jefferson decided a new face might advance the matter and named James Monroe as Envoy Extraordinary and dispatched him to France to join Mr. Livingston's in pursuit of a successful end.

Almost immediately following James Monroe's arrival, an astonishing offer was made to Robert Livingston. He was told Napoleon would sell the Louisiana territory, including New Orleans, to the United States for \$22,500,000. The basis for this surprising offer from Napoleon was his need to set priorities for his military agenda. Military engagements he felt would bring quick victories failed; his plan to move a large contingent of soldiers to the Louisiana territory to establish a French presence in the New World was abandoned when bad weather set in, England remained a very serious threat to his future plans, and costs to support his troops in a vigilant and ready condition were depleting the French treasury. In the final analysis, he needed money.

This unexpected and markedly expanded offer to sell created a serious quandary for the U.S. diplomats; they had no authority to commit the U.S. to payment of such a large sum of money. Nor did they have a contingency plan to expand the territory under discussion beyond New Orleans and the Floridas. However, they proved to be up to the challenge and, in the belief this would benefit the U.S., they continued the negotiations. The final outcome was that 8,000 square miles of land was purchased from France for \$15,000,000. Ultimately all or part of fifteen states was formed from the Louisiana territory. Transfer of the lower half of the

Louisiana territory was marked with a formal ceremony held in New Orleans in December 1803. The upper half was transferred in ceremonies held in St. Louis in March 1804. Now the Corps of Discovery could begin its journey without concern that they would be treading on the toes of foreign interests.

In May 1804, the now enlarged corps, left St. Louis on the Missouri River using a keelboat especially made for the journey along with two pirogues. They numbered more than 40 men and included two civilians, one an interpreter and another who served as boatmen.

The corps traveled along a route that headed north at what is today Kansas City towards present-day North Dakota where they built Fort Mandan to spend the winter. During their stay, a man named Charbonneau approached them and requested that he and his Indian wife, Sacagawea and an infant not yet born, join the expedition when it continued its westward trek in the spring. Lewis and Clark agreed to this proposal and Charbonneau proved to be valuable as an interpreter with river Indians. Sacagawea, a member of the Shoshone tribe, who had been kidnapped as a child, became more valuable than just for her skill as an interpreter. When the expedition needed horses to proceed through the Rocky Mountains, it was Sacagawea who succeeded in getting the Shoshone tribe to provide them.

From Fort Mandan in the early spring the corps headed west through what is today Montana and Idaho and finally arrived at the westernmost edge of the continent in today's state of Oregon. There they had the first sighting of the Pacific Ocean. The excitement of this moment can be sensed from a short field note written by Captain Lewis on November 7, 1805 shortly before he reached a spot at the ocean's edge: "Ocian [sic] in view! O! the joy."

It was too late in the year for the corps to begin its return journey. They encountered the Clatsop Indian tribe and were given a friendly welcome and help with their plans to spend the winter with them. The corps built Fort Clatsop for their winter stay and named it in honor of the tribe. The trip east began in March 1806. When Lewis and Clark and their corps of brave men returned to St. Louis more than five months later

in September, they had covered about 8,000 miles. Maps of previously unknown areas, hundreds of plant and animal species for study by scientists and information about the friendly and unfriendly Native Americans they had encountered were part of the legacy from their incredible journey.

Lewis and Clark recognized the contributions of the key supporters of their expedition when they named the three forks of the Missouri River for President Jefferson, Secretary of State Madison and Secretary of the Treasury, Gallatin.

Thomas Jefferson entered his presidency with a strong desire to see exploration of the western lands of the North American continent. The successful expedition by Lewis and Clark brought Jefferson's dream to a reality. His close friend, Virginia neighbor and Secretary of State, James Madison gave Mr. Jefferson loyal support for the venture. James Madison was responsible for oversight of the expenditures of the corps and for seeing that funds were approved to keep the venture going. Virginians can take pride in the collaboration of these two men whose vision for the future of our country was realized when Meriwether Lewis and William Clark returned to St. Louis. The information they developed from their journey was used over many decades in the development of an area that doubled the size of the United States. All of these sons of Virginia made unparalleled contributions to the accomplishment of western expansion

Events marking the expedition include:

**Monticello** - "Framing the West at Monticello" An exhibit on Jefferson's stewardship of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. (Through December 31, 2003).

**Montpelier** - "James Madison: Secretary of State in an Age of Expansion & Exploration" The exhibit celebrates the accomplishments of Lewis and Clark and the work of Mr. Madison, often behind the scenes, as a member of the Jefferson cabinet in supporting the venture. (Through January 4, 2004).

**University of Virginia** - Alderman Library (Special Collections - 2nd floor) "Lewis and Clark: The Maps of Exploration 1507-1814." View how cartographers imagined the west before the Lewis and Clark expedition. (Through May 5, 2003). -

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	\$500 or more	Business	\$50
Benefactor	\$250 to \$499	Family	\$20
Partner	\$100 to \$249	Single	\$10
Friend	\$50 to \$99	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 [boblove@nexet.net](mailto:boblove@nexet.net).



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