



Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

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CAROLE NASH TO SPEAK

On Sunday, August 15, at 2 p.m. in the Madison County Auditorium, Carole Nash, an instructor in Archeology and Anthropology at James Madison University will present Worth Fighting For: The History and Archaeology of a World War II Training Camp in Madison County, Shenandoah National Park.

This camp was a satellite training camp for the 5th Battalion, Army Corps of Engineers ("Fightin' Fifth") out of Fort Belvoir. Its purpose was to train soldiers in road and bridge building and mining and demolition. The training was originally developed as a 12-week program, but by the fall of 1943, battle casualties were so high that the program was reduced to four weeks, two of which were spent at Big Meadows. 2000 men were brought in every two weeks; they spent their first and last nights in the Meadows, and the rest of the time they were on maneuvers around the Park.

Archaeology is the major tool for putting this camp back together. So far, Carole and her students have a general outline based on depressions that are probably associated with tents. The Park Service is very interested in history, and the new Big Meadows exhibit will include a panel on the camp. Several veterans (scattered around the country) who were at Big Meadows and who remember its beauty and harshness during that winter have been found. Many of the soldiers who trained there ended up in the European and Pacific theatres, and more than a few were involved in D-Day.

The site was discovered by Carole and her students while doing archaeological work at Big Meadows. This project raises all sorts of issues about the significance of sites that are only 60 years old. Records for this site are very poor. It is not known if there was a news black-out or if it was common knowledge, locally, that the soldiers were at Big Meadows. The camp was accessed by the Criglersville Road. If there are any folks with any knowledge of the camp, they are urged to attend the meeting and share their stories.

Carole is a Madison County native who has previously provided us with interesting presentations about her work on the Madison Archaeology Project. Come to the meeting and learn about this fascinating part of the county's history. Following the meeting refreshments will be served in the Kemper residence.

SOCIETY RECEIVES TAX EXEMPTION

Virginia's Department of Taxation approved the Society's request for a retail sales and use tax exemption. This applies to the purchase of tangible personal property by the organization when the Department's guidelines are followed. The exemption started on July 1, 2004 and expires June 30, 2009.



THE OPENING OF GOVERNOR KEMPER'S LAW OFFICE

At its Spring membership meeting on May 16 the Historical Society celebrated the restoration of the law office of Governor Kemper and Judge McMullan. The program began in the Supervisors' Auditorium with a welcoming to the standing-room-only crowd by Rita Cunningham, president of the Historical Society. Then Maury Hanson, the board member in charge of the restoration project, reviewed the history of the law office and gave thanks to the many volunteers, donors and workers involved in its restoration.

The meeting then adjourned to the lawn in front of the law office where board member, Emily Williams, presented the shingle, a reproduction of the original, to the President of the Board of Supervisors, David Jones, who hung it above the door. With the shingle in place the office was open for inspection. On view in the office were a copy of Governor Kemper's law license and also a collection of legal documents written by Governor Kemper, some in that office. The legal documents were donated to the Historical Society by Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Aylor. Refreshments were served in the main house and visitors moved back and forth between the main house and the law office.



Guests view the interior of the law office

The Historical Society hopes to furnish the office with two desks, a few chairs and a bookcase, all of the mid - to late 19th century, and appropriate to the space. The law office will be open for tours and has already been visited by a group of students from Waverly Yowell Elementary School.

Among those attending the opening ceremony were descendants of Governor Kemper and Judge McMullan: Mrs. Mary Lyman Jackson, the great-great granddaughter of Governor Kemper, and three cousins of Judge McMullan, Mrs. Jean Utz Trapani, Mrs. Betty McMullan Utz Warsavage and Mrs. Emily McMullen Williams.

2005 ORNAMENT



The 2005 ornament features Hebron Lutheran Church. It will be available at Taste of the Mountains. Previous ornaments (the Courthouse for 2002, the Kemper Residence for 2003 and the Arcade for 2004) are also available. You can purchase ornaments at the Arcade and the Library. Cost is \$10.00 plus tax. For more information call 948-548

2004 CALENDAR



“The Historic and Picturesque Barns of Madison County, Virginia” (The Madison County Historical Society’s 2004 calendar) features pen and ink sketches by the talented art students of Madison County High School. The Calendar is on sale at the Arcade, the Chamber of Commerce, Greystone TV and Appliance (Radio Shack), Handcraft House, Plow and Hearth Country Store, Museum of Culpeper History, and the Library.

ARCADE MUSEUM

The Arcade Museum has visitors of all ages and, although we still get visitors who think that we have electronic games, most of our visitors are well aware that the Arcade is Madison’s museum of county history. A recent visitor, referred to us by the good volunteers of the Chamber of Commerce, was looking for the burial place of some of his ancestors. When told that we were working on that but the information was still not in a form that we could easily access, he was visibly disappointed. He lamented the fact that he had not brought his papers with him and all he could remember was that he had a lot of Yowell ancestors with “Bible” names. When shown Vee Dove Tull’s book, he recognized the names Abraham, Simeon and Daniel and he immediately said, “I’ve got to have that book!” Fortunately, Vee’s book is available at the library and at the Commissioner of Revenue’s office so he went home happy.

Some of our younger visitors are fascinated by the Wolfstown Railroad and at least one of those visitors went home to have his dad explain to him what a cylinder was since the locomotive is described as having three cylinders. Some of our visitors are unaware that Herbert Hoover

had a vacation home in Madison County. One thing that volunteers have found is that, when that door opens, it’s going to be interesting. Our volunteers spend their time at the Museum greeting people and trying to answer questions. When not occupied with that, they find a wealth of information to read. One of the new books to read is Frank Walker’s new book REMEMBERING: A HISTORY OF ORANGE COUNTY, VA in which Frank tells about Woodberry Forest School and its beginnings along with other information about Madison. One of the current exhibits at the museum is of the schools of Madison County. We still seek information or pictures about the Oak Park Institute or its yearbook, “Tattletale”, as well as information about the Locust Dale Academy. Pictures, as well as print material, can be photocopied. If you know of someone who might have such information, please let the museum personnel know. Every little bit of information helps.

As the Museum develops and information is more easily accessed by computer, we can expect more visitors. Their questions can be answered because of people in the county who were willing to share their genealogical records, their memorabilia, and their photographs and because of volunteers who are willing to go the “second mile”.

WELCOME – NEW MEMBERS

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Shirley A. Jones (single)
- Betty Warsavage (family)
- Doris Webb (single)

FALL TEA

The Fall Tea is scheduled for Wednesday, September 29th, at 12:30 PM at the Kemper Residence. All of the wonderful tea sandwiches, tea breads, scones, cakes and other tasty treats are made by our loyal and dedicated Kemper Girls. Seating is available on the main floor and the English basement which is handicapped accessible. Reservations are required - make your plans early as seating is limited. Call Rita Cunningham, 948-6542 to reserve a seat.

ACQUISITIONS

Mary Pritchard - 4 china tea cups and saucers
Jill Schreiner - China tea pot
Rita Cunningham - 4 china luncheon plates
This lovely china will be used at the teas and other special events.

WAVERLY YOWELL STUDENTS VISIT HISTORIC SITES

The Society hosted a Main Street historic house and sites tour for a group of 3d, 4th and 5th grade students from Waverly Yowell Elementary School on July 12th. They toured the Kemper Residence, the Law Office, Arcade, Piedmont Episcopal Church and Madison Court House. Other interesting facts and homes were pointed out as we strolled south on Main Street to the Methodist Church and then returned to the Kemper Residence. Thanks to Jim Parker, Piedmont Episcopal Church and Caroline Watts at the Court House for their assistance. Also thanks to Society members Mary Haught, Lee Decker, Bill Scholten and Rita Cunningham for leading the walking tour.

GERMANNA FOUNDATION

A group of 50 members of the Germanna Foundation visited the Kemper Residence, the Law Office and Arcade on Friday, July 23rd. Kudos to Lee Decker, Bob Lovegren, Virginia McGee and Rita Cunningham for helping with this interesting group.

HELP NEEDED AT THE TASTE OF THE MOUNTAINS FESTIVAL

The Society plans to open the Arcade, the Kemper Residence, and the Law Office for the Taste of the Mountains Festival on Saturday, September 4th. Volunteers are needed to staff these historical properties and to sell calendars, ornaments, and other items. The Festival is open from 10 am to 5 pm. Please call Rita Cunningham at 948-6542 to sign up for a shift.

MONTPELIER RESTORATION UPDATE

by Ann Ferguson

(The first steps in the restoration at Montpelier were reviewed in the February 2004 MCHS newsletter. A description of the work accomplished during the past four months is offered in this issue.)

Work crews were on site six days a week during February, March, April and May, removing du Pont rooms that surrounded the wings of the home of James Madison. By early April, the

south wing of the mansion once again showed the dimensions and scale of the 1810 Madison addition.



A view from the east shows the early stages of deconstruction of the DuPont additions on the north end of Montpelier.

At the same time, the north end of the house was being readied for demolition beginning with the removal of electrical, heating and plumbing elements soon followed by peeling away the du Pont additions. Once the exterior work was completed, interior work in all spaces of the mansion began with removal of all non-Madison plaster from walls and ceilings. The major demolition phase was completed in mid-May, five weeks ahead of schedule.



Extensive masonry repair of the back porch columns will be needed before they are covered with an early 19th century stucco recipe.

A coarse form of stucco, possibly mixed with Portland cement, was removed from the columns of the front portico and the back porch exposing the underlying brick to assess its condition and need for repair. Once these columns are fully repaired, they will be covered with stucco made from ingredients that closely replicate the 1797 recipe used on the portico

and the 1810 version used on the east side porch.



Removal of stucco from the walls of the portico reveals brick that, when cleaned, shows a rich red color.

Removal of stucco from the façade on the portico was completed and a careful cleaning of the brick revealed a rich red surface. Evidence of a red-hued “wash” was found on other portions of the house. It is believed that this “wash” was used to create a uniform appearance where bricks fired in 1760 met bricks fired some 40+ years later in the two subsequent James Madison, Jr. additions.

As sections of the mansion are stripped down to basic framework exposing joists and bearing timbers, a careful assessment is being made to determine weight bearing capacities. Stabilization of all levels of the house from basement to roof line is a priority that must be met before the meticulous work begins to restore interior finishes.

In mid-April the door to the Madison dining room (a 1797 space) was opened once again connecting this space with Dolley’s chamber in the 1810 north wing – the first time these two rooms were accessible to each other in more than 100 years!

On the highest level of the house, a King Post Truss from the Madison era was exposed along with other struts and boards from the 1760/1797 era. A fascinating find in this upper story is that some of the pieces of wood are marked with Roman numerals, e.g., I, II, III, IV, leading to the conclusion that these marks guided workers some 200 + years ago as they installed the roof framework.

Lengths of wood bearing remnants of paint and found at several locations were set aside for

further study. When laid out they delineated a set of stairs giving dimensions of risers and treads. It is believed that this wood was part of a set of stairs that connected the service area in an 1810 wing with its basement kitchen and later removed by the du Ponts when they built other access stairs. Construction of stairs restoring a connection between the basement kitchens and the north and south wings will now be based on actual measurements instead of conjecture.



A view of Madison era arches opening from the foyer

In mid-March, tours inside Montpelier were restricted to one basement kitchen. This change was initiated based on concerns that the air quality created with the removal of non-Madison plaster from ceilings and walls throughout the house could be unhealthy for visitors; the work was completed in late June.



Uncovering of the 1810 wings gives a view of Montpelier as it was during the lifetimes of James and Dolley Madison.

Beginning in early July visitors are once again guided through main rooms on the first and second floors where they can see original laths, bricks, nailers, and window and door headers. A visitor to James Madison’s home today is given the special experience of seeing a significant work in progress. (Photographs provided by Ann Ferguson)

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:

Benefactor	\$250 and above	Business	\$50
Partner	\$100 to \$249	Family	\$20
Friend	\$50 to \$99	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 boblove@nexet.net.



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