



Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

August 2006



JAMES WOOTTON TO SPEAK AT AUGUST 20, 2006 MEETING

James E. Wootton, Executive Director of The Capital Square Preservation Council, will speak at the August 20, 2006 meeting of the Madison County Historical Society.

The Capital Square Preservation Council is charged with the planning and review of projects that affect the State Capital, its historic artifacts, other historic buildings on or adjacent to Capital Square, and the landscape and archeological features of Capital Square. Mr. Wootton will speak to us about the important work being done at the Capital. Several of our members enjoyed hearing Jim speak at another venue on this subject and suggested that members of our Society would be quite interested in his presentation.

Mr. Wootton is a graduate of the University of Virginia's School of Architecture. After receiving his Architectural History degree he began

working in the administration of Ash Lawn-Highland, the Albemarle County home of President James Monroe. For more than twenty years he collaborated with the museum staff in research, interpretation, program development, and planning and has held the positions of Assistant Director and Curator. In 2000 he accepted his present position as Executive Director of the Capital Square Preservation Council.

Jim has participated in preservation projects throughout Virginia and the mid-Atlantic region, is the author of several books and has received awards as a writer and lecturer.

The meeting will be at 2:00pm in the auditorium of the Madison County Administration building and will be followed by refreshments in the Kemper Residence next door,

BILL SPEIDEN SPEAKS AT THE MAY MCHS MEETING

Bill Speiden, period American History re-enactor and interpreter, spoke to the Society on Sunday, May 21st. The topic of his talk was "The Lewis and Clark trip from the Indian point of view."

Bill spoke first on the doctrine of discovery and how in the age of discovery and exploration, various countries explored and colonized other parts of the world which were already inhabited by other peoples. In the case of America this was done by the Europeans. The native inhabitants here came to be called Indians. Bill gave us history and showed us slides depicting the consequences to the Indians resulting from the European arrival. He spoke of the many

injustices done to the Native Americans over the years.

Mr. Speiden also showed slides from his own personal contact and exposure to Indian culture when traversing parts of the Lewis and Clark trail. The slides and his interpretation of them were very interesting.

He also read to us an essay by Richard Littlebear, Ed.D- the President of Dull Knife College on the Northern Cheyenne reservation. This essay was a very balanced dissertation on the assimilation, or lack thereof, of Native Americans and the original European settlers even up to the present time.



BUS TRIP TO HISTORIC JAMESTOWN

The Madison County Historical Society is offering a bus trip to Historic Jamestown on Saturday, September 23, 2006.

Jamestown is the site of the First Permanent English Settlement on the North American continent. The event of this settlement four hundred years ago is being commemorated throughout the remainder of this year and all of 2007.

The trip is being offered initially to members of the Madison County Historical Society and their guests. Any remaining seats will be offered to the general public.

Skyline Coach of Culpeper is providing the bus service and the cost is \$30 per person paid in advance of the trip. The bus will make one fifteen minute rest stop enroute to Jamestown for necessities. A cafeteria is available for lunch in Jamestown and 10% off per person is offered for groups. The fee for entrance to the

Park is \$8 with free entrance for APVA members and those holding Golden Age Passport cards.

MCHS members are asked to reserve their seats no later than August 25th. To reserve your seats please make your checks payable to The Madison County Historical Society and mail them to:

Penn Bowers
543 Jacks Shop Road
Rochelle, VA 22738

MEMBERSHIP

The following have become new members of the Society:

John and Barbara Garr
William J. Grahm
Richard W. Young
David and Elizabeth Snead

We are happy to have you with us and hope you have a rewarding membership experience.



Madisonians enjoy chatting at a tea

KEMPER FALL TEA

The Fall tea is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27th at 12:00 pm at the Kemper Residence on North Main Street. The menu will feature an assortment of savories, scones, sweets and fruits. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Rita Cunningham at 948-6542. Handicapped seating is available upon request. The cost of this delicious repast is \$18.00/person.

ARCADE MUSEUM NEWS

For several years we have been fortunate to maintain many of our same volunteers at the Arcade Museum. In late spring this changed and three faithful volunteers had to leave their posts. This has made it impossible to open on Saturdays this summer but we have been able to continue to man the museum three days each week. In addition we have had two newspaper clipping sessions. Other volunteers joined some regular volunteers to make this happen. Wednesday September 20th has been set for our next newspaper clipping session. Come anytime between 10:00am and 2:00pm and join in. Every article clipped is one step ahead. We will guide you as we clip.

If you would like to join our group of regular volunteers and come once a month, we can use you to sit at the desk, answer the phone, greet guests and show them around. This year we hope to double the number of volunteers on board so if you are not ready to be at the museum alone, we can assign you to work with one of our skilled volunteers doing a variety of jobs.

I am happy to report that the Historical Society board agreed to purchase a chair for the volunteers sitting at the desk. This will make our volunteers' stay at the museum more comfortable and also convey the boards' great appreciation of the many hours of service donated to the museum.

We are open each Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. If you have questions or want to become a volunteer, please call Emily Williams at 825 - 7503.

TOO MUCH COFFEE OR MY EXPERIENCES AT THE ARCADE

The best way to clean up a mess is to make another one, or at least that is what I've always told myself. That was also what I repeatedly told Jane Volchansky from the moment I began working at the Arcade to "clean up" the mess. Although, I'm not too sure my attempted reassurance was always believed, and I can understand why. There was quite a bit of work to do at the Arcade. Stacks of boxes with quilts,

books, tin toys, and women's under garments at first seemed a little foreboding, but they were all sorted, labeled, packed in protective boxes and tissue paper, and entered into the new collection database program File Maker Pro. At times it was tedious, but in my opinion it was fun, especially when I had at least a half a pot of coffee.

Now before you commit me, or as we say in my native Georgia "send me to Milledgeville" (the headquarters of what was the largest asylum in the world), let me explain why I consider my time at the Arcade fun. It wasn't because of the cheap lunch at the Madison Drug Store, which has become my favorite place in Madison, or the pot of coffee (which I usually drank by myself) that Jane made every morning. No, it was really my personal enjoyment of organization and history. I took great pleasure in discovering the composition of the collection. There are some interesting nuggets at the Arcade, including several early nineteenth century school books and some interesting letters. I also enjoyed organizing the collection. I'm not sure if I can easily explain how I relished the moments when I'd get to sort papers and folder them in precisely titled folders containing, hopefully, not more than twenty pages. I'll admit that the satisfaction I received from organizing the manuscript of *Madison County: A Revised History* was a little odd, but at least I know I'm pursuing the right career path.

Beyond the satisfaction I received from working with the Historical Society collection because of my odd taste, I greatly enjoyed the time I spent working with Jane. I believe I was able to pick up a few new skills along the way from her. I now know how to make book boxes, although we sort of learned how to do that together. I also hope I was able to impart a little of what I've learned to her and the Historical Society as a whole. While my time in the piedmont is officially over, I would like to make it known that I would love to help out whenever I can because it was just so much fun-- that is if I can be put up with.

After going on about the fun I have, I must admit one thing. The work isn't done. It is too early to say mission accomplished. Much has been done, but there is still much left to do. While trying to climb our Mt. Everest, Jane, the Sir Hillary to our expedition, and I, the trusty Sherpa guide to the snowy archival peaks, kept

discovering new things that needed to be done, such as adjusting the database fields to make it a little more user friendly. Another item that must be accomplished is that now that the collection is organized a commitment to remaining organized must be maintained. Actually, this is the most important thing that needs to be done because if no one continues to keep the collection organized, all the work Jane and I did will be in vane. I can't stress enough how important it is to be organized, but then that's my job to worry about such things. So not wanting to end on a harsh tone, I will say that it is fun, and I will be back even if I did drink too much coffee.

(The above article was by guest contributor, Josh Kitchen. Josh has worked at the Arcade Museum assisting the Historical Society in updating its archival material.)

ARCADE MUSEUM EXHIBITS

"Local History: Germanna", the featured exhibit at the Museum now, was prepared by Emily Williams; it will be on display through September 2006. Emily highlights the first "Germanna Foundation Tour to the Homeland, 2003" with photographs and interesting details about the tour. Also included are copies of *GERMANNA*, a quarterly newsletter published by the Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia, Inc., and information about some of the Madison County families who came from Germany in the 1700s.

The permanent displays of the Strode Collection of Native American artifacts and the Rapidan Railroad exhibits will continue.

Please call Lee Decker, 948-7808, if you have an idea for an exhibit.

2007 ORNAMENT

The 2007 Ornament will feature the Chestnut Grove Baptist Church and will be available at the Taste of the Mountains Street Festival. Cost is \$11.00 plus tax. Previous ornaments (the Courthouse -2002, Kemper Residence - 2003, Arcade - 2004, Hebron Lutheran Church - 2005, and Piedmont Episcopal Church - 2006) are also available. Ornaments may be purchased at the Arcade. For more information call 948-5488

THE MYSTERIES OF HISTORY SUMMER ENRICHMENT CLASS

The Society hosted a three part program for the third/fourth grade enrichment class from Waverly Yowell Elementary School. Rita Cunningham visited the School on July 5th and spoke on the fundamentals of family research. The students were encouraged to begin their research by interviewing parents, grandparents and other relatives on family names, places and dates of birth, and any other significant information. She also referenced genealogy books housed at the library such as census records, family histories, church records, etc. The class walked to the Kemper Residence on July 12th. Students toured the house and law office and were briefed on previous occupants of the Residence to include the Kemper and McMullen families. The Arcade was the point of interest on July 19th. Jane Volchansky pointed out the Rapidan railroad exhibit, Germanna Colony exhibit and the Strode Collection of Native American artifacts.

This is the fourth year that the Society has participated with Ms. Gail Temple and her students.



Roger Berry prepares to hoist the flag held by Eddie Dean and Rita Cunningham watched by James Arrington, Bob Miller, Maury Hansen and V.R. Shackelford III

A NEW FLAG FLIES IN MADISON COUNTY

The year 2007 marks the 400th anniversary of an event that changed this continent and the world,

the settling of Jamestown, Virginia in 1607, the first permanent English settlement in North America. Commemoration of the Jamestown settlement will involve not only Jamestown itself, with special programs and exhibitions by the APVA (the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities) and the National Park Service, but also most of the communities, counties and cities in Virginia, including Madison County. The 2007 programs for Madison County are being coordinated by the Madison County Historical Society.

To mark Madison County's participation in this commemoration, officials raised the 2007 Community Program flag on July 11th in front of the Kemper House and the County Administration Building. Eddie Dean, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and Rita Cunningham, president of the Madison County Historical Society, led the flag-raising ceremony. The flag will fly there during the 18 month period of recognition, from now through December, 2007.

Madison County rang in its 2007 programs with a very fine flower show, "Let Freedom Ring," presented by the Madison Garden Club on June 24th. Other community groups plan special events that will attract visitors to the county and will also provide insight into Madison County history. The Historical Society will present a number of exhibits at the Arcade during this period, including ones on the Germanna settlement, on Madison Black History and on Madison Genealogy. The Madison County Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the Taste of the Mountains Festival on September 2 and the annual Christmas Parade on December 8, 2006. The Madison Garden Club will dedicate a patriotic garden at the Madison County High School on April 7, 2007. Piedmont Episcopal Church will hold a service of Holy Communion from the 1559 Book of Common Prayer on Sunday, October 28, 2007 and the Madison County Historical Society will sponsor a conference on the Manahoac Indians of Piedmont Virginia (the tribe that occupied Madison County in the 17th century) in April, 2007. Information on these local events may be obtained by calling the Historical Society at 948-5488.

A number of signature events are scheduled throughout the Commonwealth: the Godspeed

Sail, May 27-July 30, 2006; the Virginia Indian Symposium, October 5-6, 2006; Democracy Forum, September 16-19, 2006; the African-American National Symposium, February 9-11, 2007, and the Smithsonian Folk life Festival, June 27-July 8, 2007. Information on these events may be obtained online at www.americas400thanniversary.com.

Among the educational programs offered in conjunction with the Jamestown anniversary are "Jamestown Live! Experience the Journey that Changed the World," a live Web cast to national online audiences of students in grades 4-11 on November 9, 2006, and a curriculum Web site, www.JamestownJourney.org.

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.

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

