



Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
[http:// www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org/](http://www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org/)

P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

(540) 948-5488

August 2016



Nancy Knighting

NANCY KNIGHTING SPEAKER FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING ON AUGUST 21, 2016

Our speaker for the August 21, 2016 Madison County Historical Society quarterly meeting will be Nancy Hawkins Knighting, a native Madisonian. She will be presenting a video featuring her father, Ralph Clinton Hawkins, talking about being born and living on the Rapidan River near Hoover's Camp.

In 1995 Mr. Hawkins took a trip back to the area with Doug Graves and Dolly Seekford and Doug recorded the conversations. Nancy, with help from Mr. Bruce Livingston, has made this trip

and these conversations into a video. The video will show the Hawkins home place, the Wilhoite family cemetery, the road that was built to serve President Hoover's camp, and pictures of the Hawkins family.

Having always been interested in her genealogy, Ms. Hawkins has acquired a collection of pictures and information on both the Hawkins and Knighting families. Feeling that all history stories are important, she is delighted that the stories are now being told about the families that were forced to leave their lands in order to create the Park. She is thankful to all of the family members who were so willing to share pictures and stories and is happy to share her family's story with others.

Nancy has lived in Madison County all of her life and is a graduate of Madison County High School. After graduation she worked for a bank in Culpeper, VA and has worked for the Madison County School system and Eddins Ford, and is retired from Plow and Hearth.

The meeting will be held in the County Administrative Offices auditorium at 2pm Sunday August 21st. Everyone is invited to attend and refreshments will be served following the presentation.

MEMBERSHIP

We have several new members this quarter.

Leona Taylor

Bill Gentry

Deborah Napier

Nancy Elizabeth Fitch

Dwight Whitney
Kathleen Bowen Simons

Welcome to the Society.

Remember that Society membership is a wonderful gift any time of the year. A copy of the Society membership application can be obtained at the following link:

www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org/application.pdf

Applications can also be obtained at the Arcade or by mailing a request to the Society.

For those that have renewed your membership for 2016, many thanks. Society dues are our major source of income.



Susan Eisenfeld

SOCIETY MEETING SPEAKER MAY 15, 2016

Our speaker for the May 15, 2016 Madison County Historical Society quarterly meeting was Sue Eisenfeld, a freelance writer, communication consultant and faculty member in the Johns Hopkins University M.A. in Writing Program and she spoke to us about her book Shenandoah: A Story of Conservation and Betrayal. Ms. Eisenfeld and her husband hiked, backpacked and bushwhacked the hills and hollows of Shenandoah National Park for 15 years unaware of the tragic history behind the creation of Shenandoah National Park.

In her book she presents her journey of discovery through the Park which she describes as a “broken hearted love story about

conservation at the cost of dispossession.” Business leaders in Shenandoah wanted economic development and Presidents, Senators, Secretaries of the Interior, philanthropists, etc. supported the idea. There was a desire by some elites to create national parks in the east because most of the U.S. population was along the eastern seaboard.

William Carson, a lawyer, state senator and business man was chosen to oversee the process of raising money, acquiring, surveying and mapping the land and determining ownership. Ultimately he was responsible for the condemning of the land and turning 180,000 acres over to the Federal government. This resulted in many families being removed from their homes on this land, some forcibly, and having their homes burned.

The Park has abundant fauna, flora, cemeteries, ruins of homes some of which are sizeable, relics and artifacts. Old Rag is the most liked area in the Park and 100,000 people ascend its 2,200 foot mount each year. Before the Park the view from Old Rag would have revealed clapboard homes, farm machinery, orchards, farm animals, cemeteries, churches, stone walls, trails and roads.

Forty people were allowed to live out their lives in the Park because they “gave no trouble.” The last resident died in 1978.

All in all it was a very poignant story of the tragic betrayal of many lifelong residents and their forebears on land they had long possessed and lived upon in order to create what has become a beautiful National Park. In her presentation, Sue Eisenfeld reflected upon the emotions one feels when learning of this story and which she shares in her book.

FALL LUNCHEON TEA PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER 21ST

In this warm summer weather, it’s hard to think about fall, but plans are underway for the next luncheon tea scheduled for 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21st. Our chefs are testing recipes so we can soon finalize the menu.

As usual, there will be some new items along with the popular standbys. You’ll just have to join us to find out what will be new! We promise

you will feel your \$25 donation to the historical society is a good investment.

Get together a group and enjoy a pleasant time together or come as a single and meet new friends. We can easily accommodate groups of four or six. To reserve your seat, call 540-547-4398, and leave a message with your name, telephone number and the number of reservations you are requesting. You will receive a call back to confirm your reservation.

If you prefer, reserve by email to maryhaught@hughes.net. If the past is any indication, the limited spaces will fill rather quickly, so don't delay.

Gift jars of the popular tea served at these events will be available for sale in several sizes, so be thinking of friends you can treat to a container of Kemper Tea for Christmas or other gift occasions. Or, you might want a supply for yourself.

We look forward to another successful tea to provide funds for the Madison County Historical Society. We hope to see you at 12:30 on Wednesday, September 21st at the Kemper Residence, on Main Street in Madison.



LINDA YURINAK

Linda Yurinak, wife of Jim Lillard, played a huge role in the planning and execution of our Mountain Memorial, which stands proudly in front of the Criglersville school building. She spent hours taking photographs of every step in

the process, creating an album to document the project for the future. She worked tirelessly with the metal-crafters to make sure the bronze plaque was perfect (and it is) and she was there for its dedication on Nov. 8, 2015

Linda passed away on May 6, 2016, at the age of 65.

The Historical Society is having a special plaque made to honor her invaluable contributions toward making Madison's memorial possible. It will be attached to the back of the memorial chimney next to some special stones chosen by Linda.

BLUE RIDGE HERITAGE PROJECT UPDATE

All is good at Criglersville. The pansies planted for the dedication festivities last November flourished during the winter and spring of 2016. The daffodils bloomed on schedule, and the chimney stands proudly to hold the plaque remembering Madison families displaced during the acquisition of land for Shenandoah National Park. Max Lacy and Jim Lillard continue to care for the Memorial area. They have added mulch, planted more flowers, and nurtured the three chestnut trees planted near the memorial.

Behind the scenes, the Historical Society has submitted an application to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to place a Virginia Historical Highway Marker to recognize the Old Blue Ridge Turnpike. When approved by the state, the marker will be placed near the chimney. The Society thanks Piedmont Environmental Council's Kristie Kendall who consulted with Ann Miller of VDOT and prepared the application. We hope that the wording for the sign and the exact location will be approved in time for installation and dedication this fall.

Madison, the only one of the eight counties surrounding SNP to have a completed monument, is proudly serving as a model for other counties. Albemarle is close to beginning construction at county owned Patricia Ann Byrom Forest Preserve Park in Crozet. Stoneworkers Darryl and Jackie Whidby will rebuild an old chimney that has been dismantled. This same duo used field stones collected in the Aylor area for Madison's chimney. The Greene County committee is

eyeing a location in Stanardsville. Rockingham and Rappahannock counties have committees working to identify displaced families, scout out locations, and raise money.

To learn more about work in other counties or to contribute to the building of their memorials, go to BRHP's new website www.blueridgeheritageproject.com.

Contributions for work in Madison County may be made via the website or mailed to Madison County Historical Society, PO Box 467, Madison, VA 22727. Write "Blue Ridge Memorial" on the check. Future projects for Madison include paying for the highway marker, installing a plaque thanking the late Linda Yurinak for all she did to bring the memorial to fruition, and the eventual creation of interpretative displays near the chimney.

4-H SUMMER PROGRAM

The Discovering Madison 4-H summer workshop is designed to help local youth learn more about their community's history. The overall goal this year was to show the youth how much history is in their own back yard and to give them a chance to explore more about it. They visited several historic locations along Main Street: the Courthouse, the Arcade, and the Kemper Residence. To help them collect interesting facts, all participants played scavenger hunt bingo. At each location, the children were able to learn new and interesting facts about our county's long history. During the stop at the courthouse, they learned about the role that our courthouse played when our county was officially founded and how it continued to be involved in historic cases and events. They also toured the records room and learned about what type of records are available to them for research purposes. The visit to the Arcade Museum allowed them to look at many different types of artifacts and provided a visual timeline for just how much history we have here in the county. While with members of the Madison Historical Society, facts or items they searched for

included "something connected to President Hoover", "something connected to money", "First Bank of Madison" trunk and the people who lived in our mountains before Shenandoah National Park was developed.

The group then went to the Kemper Residence and learned about James Lawson Kemper; his home, his law office and where his servants lived.

The members of the Historical Society enjoy giving tours to groups and we encourage everyone to take advantage of this learning experience.

We thank Kristi Aylor and Kelly Mallory for bringing this group.

WHO COMES TO THE MUSEUM?

The Historical Society currently operates a museum and small gift shop at the Arcade Building. Beppy White is Curator of the museum. She is assisted by more than a dozen volunteers who staff the museum on a rotating basis. Operating hours are 10 am – 2 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from March 1st through mid-December. The museum is also open on most Saturdays during June, July, and August.

Volunteers have made informal notes about visitors and invited them to sign the Guest Book for years; however, we first began counting attendees systematically in 2014. We do not keep track of where visitors reside. Many are local residents, making their first visit despite passing by the building all the time when in Madison. Others come from all over the country. According to the Guest Book for March—June 2016, visitors came from Texas, Ohio, Georgia, West Virginia, Maryland, Florida, Arkansas, South Carolina, and Ontario, Canada. Groups who have visited include 1st Graders from Madison Primary School and a 4-H History Group. In most years, the Germanna Foundation bus tour of the Robinson River Valley includes a stop at the Arcade. The Arcade

and Kemper Buildings are open each year for Taste of the Mountains in August. If you are one of those people who have never been to the museum, please come! And if you are interested in spending a few hours a month helping to staff the museum, contact Beppy White at (540) 718 -5328 or email at Beppy@usa.com. Finally, stop by to check out the Gift Shop!

PIECES OF THE PAST

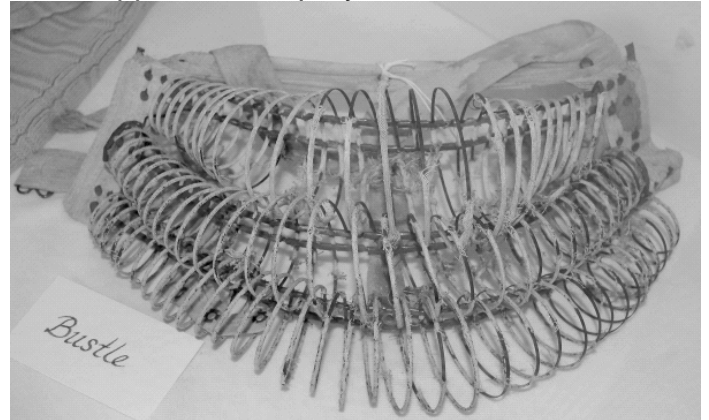


A woman wearing a bustle with her dress circa 1890

Museum displays of clothing from various historic periods are not at all unusual, but most such exhibits do not include undergarments—

either male or female. The Arcade, however, is an exception, featuring several typical articles of women's clothing from the late 19th century, including some items seldom seen in public, either in the 1800s or today.

Most interesting, perhaps, is a bustle. A bustle? Bustles have not been fashion accessories for more than a century. It was a framework that in its heyday was worn under a skirt (in the back and just below the waist) to expand the fullness of or support the drapery of the skirt or dress.



This bustle is made with a looped wire frame. Worn around the waist, it was secured with linen straps.

It first appeared in the mid-1860s, reached its zenith in fashion in the 1880s, and by 1905 was essentially extinct. It was replaced by another item in the Arcade's display, the corset. The latter most commonly was used to slim the body and emphasize a curvy figure—minimizing the waist and exaggerating the bust and hips.

The bustle was donated by Mary Ellen Fray; the corset by Lucy Frances Coppage. Other items in the display reflect more commonly seen fashions of the era, including delicate lace gloves, scarves, and a hand-warming muff. For an interesting foray into history showing the remarkable differences between women's garments today and those of yesteryear, drop in for a visit and view.

*Reprinted from an edition of the **Madison Eagle** with gracious permission.*

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. Memberships expire at the end of the calendar year. Membership and other contributions to the Society are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Types of Membership:

Sustainer.....	\$500 or more	Business	\$50
Benefactor	\$250 to \$499	Family	\$30
Partner	\$100 to \$249	Single	\$20
Friend	\$50 to \$99	Student	\$5

Membership applications are available at the Arcade and the Kemper Residence, and on-line at the Society's web page - www.madisonvahistoricalociety.org. (Click on "ABOUT US", and then on "application"). For more information, call the Society Office at 540-948-5488. Please leave a message if no one answers. We will return your call. You can also email us at madisonhistory@verizon.net.

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



AUGUST 2016