



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

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February 2017



Steve Hoffman at Colonial Days

STEVE HOFFMAN SPEAKER AT FEBRUARY 19, 2017 MCHS QUARTERLY MEETING

Our speaker for the February 19, 2017 Madison County Historical Society quarterly meeting will be Mr. Steve Hoffman and the topic of his presentation is "stills." Steve is a well-known Madison County native, having overseen the family business of period furniture restoration, and served in a myriad of local capacities including that as member of the Madison County Board of Supervisors, Madison County Volunteer Fire Co., Rescue Squad, Planning Commission and Chamber of Commerce to name just a few. His hobbies have included

amongst others the collection of antique tools, guns, coins (numismatics) and of course, "stills." Most everyone is familiar with what was the "moonshine industry" and, in particular, the untaxed liquor made in the mountains of Virginia and the lore surrounding this particular industry. Franklin County has the dubious distinction of being called the "Moonshine Capital of the World," and has garnered many intriguing stories of the moonshine industry there.

Steve will bring two stills to display and explain the present law governing the holding of a still. He will bring ledger books from the 1880's and speak to us about the history of moonshine in this County and the laws that apply.

We will learn from him how to make moonshine and he will tell us how the "proof" was determined. Steve has the gift for storytelling and this should be a fascinating and interesting presentation.

The meeting will be held in the Madison County Administration Offices auditorium at 2:00pm Sunday February 19th. Everyone is invited to attend and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

We have several new members this quarter.

Richard A. McDaniel
Buddy Sherman Woodward
Jim Koontz

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

To those of you that have already renewed your Society membership for 2017, thank you. For those of you that have not yet had a chance to renew, please do – we need your support.



Ann Miller speaking to the Society

KINGHTS OF THE GOLDEN HORSHOE EXPEDITION

Ann Miller, noted local architectural historian, author and lecturer was the guest speaker for the November 2016 meeting of the Madison County Historical Society. Her talk explored the background of Lt. Governor Alexander Spotswood's 1716 expedition through the Virginia Piedmont and into the Shenandoah Valley, sometimes called "Knights of the Golden Horseshoe."

Early explorers of the western territory included John Smith in 1608, Samuel Champlain in 1632, John Lederer 1669-1670, and Abraham Wood expedition 1671-1673.

In 1710 Lt. Governor Alexander Spotswood proposed a commission to explore the western territories because the French and Germans were coming south, but nothing was done. In 1716 there were reports of "a passage discovered through the mountains," possibly Swift Run Gap. This meant possible trade as

well as other profitable endeavors (such as iron mines) and also acquiring more land and checking the French expansion.

In August of 1716 Spotswood began his expedition which was composed of about 60 or more individuals including himself, John Fontaine (who kept a diary) James Taylor II, Dr. Robinson, Jeremiah Clouder, land scouts and rangers. There are no maps of the expedition which left Germanna on August 29th moving toward the Blue Ridge Mountains by the Rapidan/ Rappahannock rivers, Liberty Mills, Madison Mills, possibly South River (Greene County), Stanardsville, head of the James River (Swift Run) and crossed over to the Valley. The expedition included horses, dogs, food and alcoholic beverages and ended September 20th having covered as many as 450 miles.

In the aftermath, James Taylor II surveyed tracts of these explored lands in what is presently Orange, Greene and Madison Counties and ultimately acquired patents on about 13,000 acres. His eldest daughter Frances married Ambrose Madison and their son James became the "Father of the Constitution" and fourth President of the United States.

There are various accounts/opinions as to the actual passage through the mountains of the Spotswood expedition but Ms. Miller believes the most likely is Swift Run Gap. The historical impact of the expedition was the development of land in the area.



Ann Miller at the reception



Hebron Lutheran Church today

300TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEBRON CHURCH

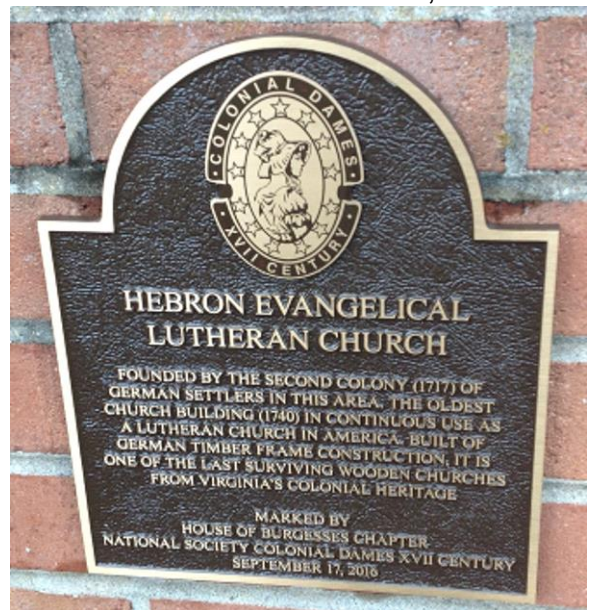
The congregation now known as Hebron Lutheran Church will observe its 300th anniversary as a congregation on the week-end of April 29—30, 2017. Back in 1725, approximately one hundred German immigrants moved from the Fort Germanna area to the Robinson River Valley in current-day Madison County. Their farms surrounded the area where the Hebron Church building stands. Today Hebron Church is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a denomination with over 9000 congregations and more than three million members, world-wide. The ELCA is headquartered in Chicago. Its Presiding Bishop is the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, who will be coming to Madison for the anniversary week-end!

The Saturday events include meetings and worship led by Bishop Eaton for Pastors of the 154 Lutheran congregations in the synod of Virginia. The Rev. James Mauney, Virginia Synod Bishop, the Rev. Christopher Price, an Assistant to Bishop Mauney, and many of the Synod's 250 Rostered Leaders (trained religious professionals) are expected to attend. The Rev. Price is one of ten Sons of Hebron who have become Lutheran Pastors over the past three hundred years. On Sunday, everyone is invited to Hebron to worship God, to celebrate the Germanna colonists who staked out the land, and to thank their hardy descendants who have kept the church alive for 300 years.

And now a bit more history for those of you who have done your arithmetic and questioned why

something started in 1725 is observing a 300th anniversary this year. The year 2017 marks the 300th anniversary of the congregation, which was not organized here, but rather in London, England where a group of Germans were awaiting passage to America. Evidence exists to show that the group took communion together and had babies baptized in London. They also began planning how to secure a pastor once they were established in America. This dream did not die during the years of their indenture to Lt. Governor Alexander Spotswood, who financed their trip across the Atlantic and organized their original settlement near the First Germanna Colony. After being released, they moved into what is now Madison County and built the oldest part of the current Hebron church building in 1740. This section is the oldest building used continuously as a Lutheran place of worship in America.

Yes, today's Hebron congregation invites one and all to worship, visit, and eat with them on April 30, BUT they need to know how many of you there will be. Advance reservations are essential. Go to www.hebronlutheranva.com for instructions and more information,



Colonial Dames plaque



SOCIETY MOURNS THE LOSS OF DON ROSS

The Historical Society mourns the loss of one of our volunteers, Don Ross. He died suddenly at his home in Malvern on Nov. 26, 2016.

Don was a fairly new volunteer but had certainly left his mark in writing for our Newsletter and the Madison Eagle. He wrote monthly "Pieces of the Past" for the Eagle about interesting items and displays in the Museum. He and Martha Breeden did extensive research on a group of slaves who were sent from Madison to Ohio and then he wrote the story.

After serving in the Marine Corps he was an editor at USA Today, the national newspaper and the Statesman Journal in Salem, Ore. He came to the Freedom Forum, the organization that funds the Newseum, in 1998 and worked in publications and then exhibit development. He left the Newseum in 2008 and worked as an editor at the U.S. Naval Institute in Annapolis, Md.

In retirement, he volunteered at the National Museum of the Marine Corps as well as our Arcade Museum.



Candice Fountain(seated) and Connie Deatherage demonstrating to students and seniors

COLONIAL DAYS AT WAVERLY YOWELL SCHOOL

Colonial days was held on Nov. 22, 2016 with a total of 6 different demonstrations being conducted either inside or outside of the school. We had spinning, weaving, and carding; done by Candice Fountain and Connie Deatherage, Basket making; done by Clyde Jenkins, Shingle Making done by Steve Hoffman, Quilting done by Pauline Racer, Lula Marks, and Frances Lacy, Paper making done by Katie Gigliotti, and Outdoor cooking and travel necessities done by Susan Williams and David Reeves of the Burgandine House in Culpeper.

It was a very nice program and the 4th Graders seemed to really enjoy it. Tommy Ford and Max Lacy supplied the wood for the fire and kept it going while the outside demonstrations were going on. This was the 6th year for the program and it always seem to be a hit with teachers and students each year as a grand finale for their November studies of Colonial History. It is an honor for the Historical Society to be able to do this for our young students each year. This year was special as some of the folks from the Madison Senior Center came and seemed to really enjoy the program.

SPRING TEA SET FOR MARCH 29TH

Plans are underway for the spring luncheon tea scheduled for Wednesday, March 29th, at 12:30 p.m., at the Kemper Residence. The \$25 charge is a donation to the Society. It does not cover any of the expenses, all of which are donated. Some menu items will be familiar while you can also expect a few new treats.

You have read elsewhere in this newsletter that changes are being made in the building to move the Historical Society's museum into the lower level of the Kemper Residence. All tea seating will now be on the main floor so we must strictly limit the number of guests for the tea. You may want to reserve your place early so you will not be disappointed when we reach capacity. Create your own group of two, four or six, or come as a single and be seated with other guests.

Please call 540-547-4398 and leave a message to reserve your place. We will call you back to confirm. Reservations will be accepted as soon as you receive this newsletter.

As always, your entire \$25 donation directly supports the Madison County Historical Society. Make your plans to welcome warmer weather by joining friends at the Kemper tea on March 29th.

MUSEUM IS MOVING

For the past several years the Historical Society Board has been looking for a more spacious location for the museum. The Arcade is a unique and historic building but it has been getting crowded. Several alternatives were investigated but for one reason or another none of them worked out.

Last winter an investigation began into the possibility of moving into the basement of the Kemper Residence. There were problems that needed to be resolved even with this option but after many months of negotiations, problem solving and construction there is light at the end of the tunnel. There was much to be done. Most of HVAC system, which was very old and inefficient, was replaced. Wiring was redone. The back room in the basement, which was not redone during the late 1980s restoration was finished. The County replaced waterlines and moved the hot water heater.

One of the reasons for this move was to have more of our buildings open to the public. In the past the Kemper Residence, Law Office and servants cabin were only open to visitors 2 or 3 times a year. When the Museum has moved visitors will be able to see all three during our normal museum hours which are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am-2pm.

The Society will continue to use the Arcade. The upstairs will be used for acquisition records and

storage. We hope to offer the main room on the ground floor as a meeting place for small organizations or groups.

The Madison Garden Club will continue maintaining their beautiful public garden inside the white fence.

With the expanded facilities, we will need more volunteers. If you have an interest in our local history and would like to spend one day a month (only 4 hours) with likeminded, interesting and fun people please contact Beppy White at 540-718-5328. Donations towards the renovation can be made to the Madison Historical Society and mailed to P.O. Box 467, Madison, VA 22727.



Kemper basement back room before improvements



Kemper basement back room improvements

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.

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