



Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



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

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DR. ERIC L. LARSON SPEAKER MAY 20, 2018 MEETING

The speaker for the May 20, 2018 Madison County Historical Society Quarterly meeting will be Dr. Eric L. Larson, Staff Archeologist at the Germanna Foundation. The topic of Dr. Larson's presentation will be "Continuing the Search for Fort Germanna: Archeology of a Frontier Community, 1714-1750."

While archeologists are looking for the remnants of one of Lt. Governor Alexander Spotswood's 1714 Forts, the results will hopefully illuminate much more of the changing community in and around Germanna. The 5-sided fort originally served as home to a group of German immigrants brought to Virginia by Spotswood. Several families lived within the Fort from 1714 until 1718. In 1717 Spotswood brought a second group of Germans to Germanna. They settled near the

Fort and were a part of the larger Germanna community. Around 1720 Spotswood seems to have built a mansion for himself (which is now known as the "Enchanted Castle") on the same spot where the Fort once stood. Germanna was growing as a community as settlement of Colonial Virginia moved westward into the Piedmont. Both the "First and Second Colonies" picked up and moved away from Germanna in order to claim their own lands. The structure being searched for, Fort Germanna, had only a short existence. Its mark on the cultural landscape of Colonial Virginia, however, is far reaching and worthy of further investigation. Dr. Larson will tell us of the progress of this investigation.

Dr. Larson brings more than 25 years of archaeological experience to his position with the Germanna Foundation. His undergraduate degree was earned at The American University and initially he worked as an Archaeological Technician for the National Park Service at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. He pursued graduate studies in Archaeology and earned his PhD from the University of Buffalo. He has directed fieldwork at the Freedmen's and Contraband Cemetery for the County of Alexandria, Virginia and more recently assisted with excavations at George Washington's boyhood home at Ferry Farm (near Fredericksburg) for the George Washington Foundation. He has taught introductory classes and trained numerous students through several Field Schools conducted in the Mid-Atlantic states. The meeting will be held in the Madison County Administrative offices auditorium Sunday May 20th. Refreshments will be served at the Kemper House. Everyone is invited to attend.



DR. HINTON

The Madison County Historical Society was honored to have as its speaker for the February 25, 2018 quarterly meeting, Dr. Hortense Hinton-Jackson. Dr. Hinton spoke to the Society about the beginning of the Civil Rights movement and the ultimate establishment of the George Washington Carver school to provide secondary school education opportunity for African American young people. 1948 was the tail end of the Jim Crow era as the Civil Rights era began. Up until 1948, 3rd and 4th generations of African Americans had been taught in “separate but equal” schools, mostly one or two room and up to the 7th grade. There was no secondary school educational opportunity. Virginia passed a law allowing counties to operate regional schools as the need was recognized to consolidate for cost efficiency and satisfy black parent’s desire for a regional secondary school in Culpeper, Orange, Madison and Rappahannock counties for African American students. Land was acquired in Rapidan on Route 15, construction began in 1946 and the George Washington Carver School was opened in 1948 to 450 students. A full curriculum was offered with sports teams and a band. In 1954 the Supreme Court in Brown vs Board of Education ended segregation. In Virginia there was massive resistance against integration but by 1963 some Carver students went to local white

high schools and in 1967 the last full class graduated from Carver and Dr. Hinton was a member of that class. GWC closed and in 1969 became Piedmont Community Vocational School the name being restored as Carver Research Center, with tech and farming training. The Alumni hope to have a museum there.

There were a number of Carver alumni at the meeting and a full discussion and reminiscence followed Dr. Hinton’s presentation. There were 10 from Madison in the first class to graduate. Dr. Hinton and others expressed their pride in being Carver graduates and she spoke of the clear difference her education has made in her life expressing “take whatever you have and make the most out of it.” Research is being done to find out who went on to college and who were/are achievers. There are Year Books. They had a marching band which was quite good with uniforms and majorettes (Madison County High School did not have a band!) There was a Choir, a Glee club, etc. and the sports teams played other African American schools. Attending Carver alumni reminisced about field trips, NYC trip in 7th grade, State Fair, etc. Attendees at the presentation, both Madison County High school graduates and Carver graduates, remembered and spoke about the period from 1954 on as a period of evolving desegregation.



Salubria

ANNOUNCING GERMANNA REUNION

The 61st Annual Conference and Reunion of the Germanna Foundation is set for July 12-15, 2018. Activities on Thursday, July 12, include the Registration Open House, visits to the Fort Germanna and Enchanted Castle Archaeological

Site, and special gatherings of the Clore Family and the Fishback/Rector Family.

Three Heritage Tours are offered on Friday. One tour comes to Madison County to drive through the Robinson River Valley, visit Hebron Lutheran Church, and enjoy lunch at Graves Mountain Lodge. Another group will visit areas in Orange, Culpeper, and Fauquier counties that were significant to the First (1714) Germanna Colony. A new tour this year is a trip to the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton to experience how people lived just before and just after the Germans came to America. Friday's activity concludes with the annual Banquet and Auction, held at the Lake of the Woods Clubhouse in Locust Grove.

On Saturday, everyone convenes at Germanna Community College's Daniel Technology Center in Culpeper for the annual Historical and Genealogical Conference. Our Historical Society will join other local organizations to participate in the Vendor Hall set up at the conference. Speakers this year include Ashley Abruzzo, John Blankenbaker, and Madison County native Carole Nash. There will also be a presentation by Kevin Duffus on the notorious, yet secretive, pirate Blackbeard. Pirate fun will continue Saturday evening at Salubria with traditional Octoberfest fare catered by Bavarian Chef restaurant and musical entertainment offered by the Low'n'Brows, a local German band. Attendees may also tour the Salubria mansion. The Reunion concludes with worship at Hebron Church on Sunday morning. After the service, all are invited to lunch organized by the women of Hebron's congregation.

Go to **Germanna.org** for more information about these events and instructions on how to register to attend any or all reunion events. Also, come to the Society meeting on May 20th to see and hear Eric Larsen's presentation on Germanna archaeology.

MEMBERSHIP

We have several new members this quarter.

Timmy Davis
Jeannie & George Long
Karen Stokes

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.madisonvahistoricalociety.org/application.pdf



IN MEMORIAM

The Historical Society acknowledges the county's loss of the two gentlemen who unveiled Madison's Blue Ridge Memorial in Criglersville. Culton Goodall (right) passed away in November 2017, and Alvin Meadows (left) in January 2018. We thank them again for their support of the Blue Ridge Heritage Project.

MADISON INDIANS

Have you ever wondered what it looked like in Madison County 12,000 years ago? Probably most of us would visualize a land forested by hardwoods with plentiful wildlife such as deer, bear, turkey, squirrel, etc. This is probably correct. However, most of us would not visualize human beings in this setting. After all, this was approximately 10,000 B.C.

Artifacts found in Madison show that Native Americans inhabited this area from 12,000 to approximately 200 years ago.

Who were these Indians; how did they live, etc? We do know they were basically hunters and gatherers; however, little of their history is known.

A little is known about the Indians that were in this area when the first Europeans traveled to this part of Virginia, but even here data is quite scarce. Captain John Smith of Jamestown traveled to Fredericksburg in the early 1600's where he contacted a party of Indians. The Indians told him they were Manahoac and that they lived west of there near the mountains. Captain Smith recorded the information gathered during this chance meeting. When a group of explorers entered what is now Madison County 10 years later, the Manahoac had departed from the area. Why they left and where they went is not known. Although little is known about the early Native Americans who lived so long in this area, we do know they left a great abundance of stone artifacts throughout the county.

This article appeared in a 1993 Malvern Newsletter and was written by Donald Strode.

Note: Donald Strode collected and documented thousands of these artifacts during his retirement years living in Madison. Because they are all from Madison County he wanted them to remain here for the enjoyment and benefit of Madison citizens and scholars interested in this field of study. Our own Carole Nash created a wonderful exhibit which opened at the museum on Oct. 2, 2005. It is worth a special trip to see this collection.

SPRING TEA ANOTHER SUCCESS

The Spring Tea on March 28th was another resounding success! We had a full house as guests dined on an assortment of savories and sweets, sipped our special blend of Kemper tea and enjoyed friends, old and new, at the event. Many of the guests were "regulars", who attend most of these semi-annual fundraising opportunities for the Society, but there were a few who had not been to the Kemper Residence before. They were overwhelmed at Madison's historic treasure.

The Fall Tea is scheduled for Wednesday, September 26th. We hope you will mark your calendars now, to avoid a conflict. We begin receiving reservations from Historical Society members when you receive the fall newsletter.

It has been a while since we acknowledged the chefs and helpers who make the teas possible. The chefs who prepare the delectable treats (in alphabetical order) are Katy Cashman, Bob Haught, Mary Haught, Pat Lattin, Maryvonne Longley and Heidi Sage.

Chris Lattin is a valuable help in setting the tables, serving tea and removing tables and chairs afterward. Jill Schreiner is a huge help in keeping our linens in good condition and Bill Scholten helps with logistics of the tea tables. Historical Society volunteers work extra hours on tea day, keeping the museum open for visitors from "upstairs". Those helpers are usually Martha Breeden, Judy Mahanes and/or Beppy White. Without all these dedicated volunteers, the teas could not take place.

We hope you will plan to join us on September 26th, to again enjoy a delightful social occasion while supporting the Madison County Historical Society. The teas are the main source of funding for the Society outside of our dues

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thanks to all the volunteers, the Museum is back in full swing. Some new displays are there and thanks to Beppy, they look great. We have had a nice number of visitors despite the amount of cold weather that we have had.

Thanks to Penn and others we had a really good February program. Dr. Hortense Hinton-Jackson did a wonderful job of explaining the ins and outs of the Carver School. It sounds like their Museum is making strides to get open. Thanks to John Slaughter, we had a nice display of pictures and displays from the Carver School. Janice Carpenter also brought some of her mementos from her school days at Carver. The hope is that we can continue to have programs concerning Black History each and every February. Thanks to all that made this one happen.

It looks like more and more groups are using the Arcade for meetings etc. I am glad that we can make that available to them as well as us having our meetings there.

We now have an indefinite Special Use Permit to use the cottage at Criglersville for our Mountain Museum. We have some things to do to be able to open it, but the County is working with us to get

this going. Hopefully we can have this ready for the Fall Festival at Graves Mountain Lodge. We would like to welcome Pam Nelson to our Board of Directors. I am sure she will be a valuable asset as she has already come up with some things that we need to do in order to get our Oral History revived and moving again.



Repton Mill today with the water wheel still intact

MEMORIES OF REPTON MILL

By Ann M. Ferguson

(This is a continuing effort to present some of the more interesting articles that have appeared in previous newsletters. This article appeared in the November 2003 newsletter. It has been updated to reflect the Mill in its present condition.)

The Virginia Historical Inventory Survey of Madison County Mills, compiled in 1937, identified Repton Mill as one of the few mills of the 21 known to have existed in the county that was still standing, having five stories and with the original floor plan and equipment. The survey went on to note that the mill, located on Beautiful Run, is a square building, 40 x 40, with a lean-to, 25 windows and four doors.

The mill was built by Robert C. Carter in 1806 on an eleven-acre tract, inherited from the Reubin Beal estate; Mr. Carter was married to Reubin Beal's only daughter. Over the next almost one

hundred years, the mill changed hands numerous times until it was purchased by M. L. Lohr in 1905. The Lohr family remains owner of the property to the present day.

A glimpse of the years when this substantial building was a bustling center of activity for residents of Madison County can be seen through the memories of people who knew the building as part of their everyday life.



Road to the mill with the wrought iron fence on the left

Woody Lohr was born in 1916 and his recollections of the mill began in the 1920s when he was about seven years old. His Uncle Luther (M.L. Lohr) was the miller then and Woody and his parents would travel by buggy for Sunday afternoon visits to the house on the property believed to be well over 100 years old.



M.L. Lohr house today

The house still stands, and its size and design make it evident that this was a "grand old lady" in its time; a decorative wrought iron fence can still be seen to the rear of the home. It was used as a residence until 1990 when fire damage made it

unsafe as a dwelling. The ice cream served at the end of lunch was a highlight of the Sunday visit for Woody Lohr. No doubt this special treat was the result of a lot of hand cranking. Another memory he shared was the trips he and his brothers would make to the mill on Saturday nights to enjoy a shower under the water from the spillway. As he got older, he was sent to the mill to get a supply of flour and cornmeal, a trip of almost six miles. From time to time his Uncle would ask why he passed another mill near Good Hope to travel the extra distance to Repton Mill. Woody always gave the same answer: "I don't know, I was just told I was to come here."

James Hale lived about a mile away from the mill and his earliest recollections begin in the 1930s when he was a boy of six or seven. His father would lift him onto the saddle of a horse and then he would place two bags, tied together, hanging from the neck of the horse; one bag contained corn and the other wheat. James Hale recalls he made a careful trip to be sure his cargo didn't slip off and it would take about 20 minutes to get to the mill. While M.L. Lohr went about the task of grinding the raw material, he told young Jimmy to just stay out of the way. Jimmy Hale used the opportunity to teach himself to swim in the millrace, an activity he never discussed with his parents. The Hale family owned an automobile at the time, but the trip to the mill on horseback was a way to keep a youngster busy while his father and older brothers went about men's work.

James Hale recounted a tragic event in his family's history connected with the mill site. A store was located across from Repton Mill, operated by Mike Hale, his uncle, who also served as the postmaster for Pratt's. In the early 1920s, Beautiful Run was swollen with floodwaters and Mike Hale saw his seven-year old daughter with a playmate being swept towards the bridge in the fast running current. He jumped into the water, holding onto the underside of the plank top wooden bridge hoping to catch the children. The churning water caused him to lose his grip and he was swept away and drowned. The girls survived, and Mildred Hale went on to serve as a nurse in World War II.

Russell Lohr was born in 1927 and he remembers Repton Mill when it was operated by his Great Uncle Luther (M.L.) Lohr. He reminisced about the amazement he felt when the waterwheel would turn the gears, cogs, and

wheels inside the mill to operate the grinding stones. Some families would bring their entire harvest of wheat and corn to the mill, storing a large part of it on one of the upper floors and taking one hundred-pound bags of flour and meal at a time for household use. (The corn and wheat would be lifted to the upper floors on a pulley, belt-type device.) His older brother, Belvin, worked for their great uncle, driving a Chevrolet truck to make deliveries of the mill products on a route that went as far as Syria and Orange.

In response to a question on the various uses made of the flour and meal, Russell recounted his mother's daily morning chore when she baked 100 biscuits for the family's breakfast. There were ten children in his home and at the end of the meal not one biscuit was left. One use he recalled for the cornmeal happened at hog killing time. Russell's wife, Janet, offered the following recipe: Using the pork broth, add cornmeal until the mixture reaches a thick consistency. Pour the product into loaf pans and set in a cool place. When formed, cut into slices and deep fry until it is crispy on both sides. The more familiar name for this is scrapple, but in the Lohr home it was called "panhaus," a German word that loosely translates to "house bread."

Russell talked about the byproducts from the corn and wheat that were saleable products. From the wheat, bran was left that was used as cow feed and from the corn, a product called "husks" was mixed with other ingredients and served as livestock feed.

Repton Mill ceased to operate sometime in the late 1940s. In 1806, the year it was constructed, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were making the return journey from their exploration of the lands to the western boundaries of the United States. The mill stood on the banks of Beautiful Run during the days of the War of 1812 and the Civil War. It was there when horses and wagons brought the corn and wheat for grinding and it saw the day when cars and trucks would pull in to have the raw products ground or to buy some from the miller. Our country put a man on the moon during the history of Repton Mill and in the year 2000 another century turned. The mill still stands today with the signs of the passing years marking its walls. Now it serves as a storehouse for memories of days gone by in Madison County. Repton Mill has stood on the banks of Beautiful Run for almost 200 years.

My thanks to James Hale and Woody and Russell Lohr for sharing their memories of Repton Mill and to Vivian and Randolph Lohr for allowing me the opportunity to visit the mill property.



JUDGE FRANCIS MARION MCMULLAN PORTRAIT UNVEILED

On February 8, 2018 the unveiling of an official portrait of Judge Francis Marion McMullan took place at the Kemper Residence. The portrait was on display in the Madison County Courthouse along with two other judges for many years. This portrait now hangs over the mantel in the home of Judge McMullan and his wife Virginia Ann McMullan. James Lawson Kemper and Francis Marion McMullan were law partners in Madison for several years. The McMullan family purchased the Kemper Residence in 1881 and established the Madison Female School. A McMullan descendant, Emily McMullen Williams, was in attendance to unveil the portrait and share her knowledge of this distinguished gentleman.



Emily McMullen Williams speaks after the unveiling

Last summer a great-grandson of Judge McMullan, Robert Hardaway from California, stopped by the Museum and spent time with Max Lacy telling him about spending summers in Madison visiting his grandparents. He gave a vivid description of the home and the outdoor surroundings which he remembered from these visits. Mr. Hardaway wanted to know if the Historical Society would be interested in providing a home for this portrait. After requesting the release of the portrait from the Madison County Circuit Court Judge, the Historical Society was honored to have this portrait returned to the home where the Judge and his wife had lived from 1881 to 1902. The McMullan family members owned the property until selling to the University of Virginia in 1962.

The Madison County Historical Society would like to send our sincere appreciation to the McMullan family members for the honor of this portrait to be in our keeping.

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 Kemper Residence and Museum, 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 540 395-5119. Please leave a message if no one answers. We will return your call. You can also email us at madisonvahistory@gmail.com

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