



Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



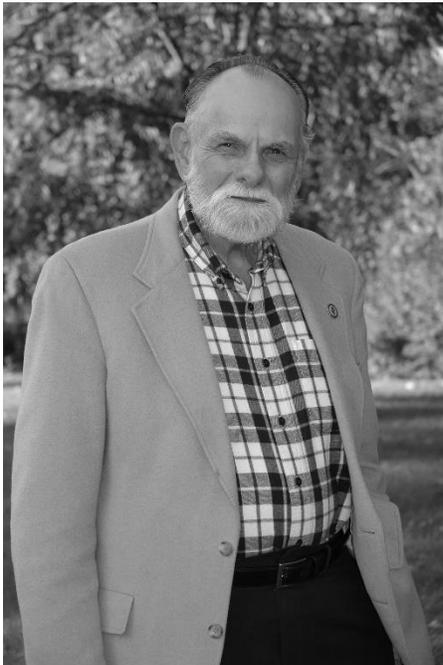
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

[http:// www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org/](http://www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org/)

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November 2018



FRANK WALKER RESCHEDULED SPEAKER NOVEMBER 18TH MEETING

The speaker for the November 18, 2018 Madison County Historical Society quarterly meeting will be Frank Stringfellow Walker, Jr, a Madison County native and in addition to his professional expertise in Agronomy and the Law he is a well-known historian, author and superb raconteur. The topic of his presentation will be "Gold Mining in the Wilderness." Few are probably aware that before the rich gold fields in California were developed in the mid-1800's, America's gold came from the Gold-Pyrite Belt running through its South Atlantic states. Some of the earliest

commercial operations were in North Carolina, but Virginia soon became a top producer. Its era of commercial production went from about 1827 to 1937. The most productive area in Virginia was its Wilderness, a roughly 70 square mile region existing primarily in eastern Orange and western Spotsylvania counties. It was a Temperate Zone jungle, created when its forests were clear-cut to provide fuel for the iron production that had taken place there in the 1720's. Mr. Walker will give us highlights of the history of some of the major mines and of the people who "mined" the investors as well as the ground while producing both gold and the stories of a fascinating era of Virginia's past.

Mr. Walker has earned a B.S. in Agronomy (V.P.I. & S.U.), an M.B.A. Darden School (U. VA) and a J.D in Law (U. Va.). He was President and General Manager of his family farm, Rosni Farms Inc. 1960-1979, practiced law in Orange 1981-1994, and was Founder and lead guide, of Tourguide Ltd 1994-2015. As mentioned, in addition to these professional qualifications, he is the author of two books about Orange County and is very knowledgeable about heritage-oriented history, particularly that of the local area. He has spoken to the MCHS in the past.

The meeting will be held in the Madison County Administrative offices auditorium at 2pm Sunday November 18th. Refreshments will be served in the Kemper Home following the presentation and everyone is invited to attend.

FALL LUNCHEON TEA A SUCCESS

Enthusiastic support from Madison and nearby communities made the fall tea another big success. The capacity number of guests included John Lynch, great great-grandson of James and Belle Kemper. John and his wife travelled from Williamsburg to participate in the tea for the second time.



John Lynch

Sales of gift jars of Kemper Tea were brisk. The same special blend of tea served to our guests was available for purchase. Additional jars are available in the museum for you to purchase for hostess or Christmas gifts. The jars are \$5, and each sale supports the Madison County Historical Society.

The week following the tea, the Society was pleased to receive a donation of 17 antique English bone china tea cups and saucers from Kathy and Robert Ellis. Kathy is a descendent of our local Crigler family and she is active in Germanna Foundation. She has attended a number of Kemper Teas over the years. Their generous donation also included a lovely antique demitasse set.



Kathy and Robert Ellis

The Tea Team looks forward to the spring tea, scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, 2019. A reminder will be in the spring newsletter, and we hope for another capacity number of guests.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Things have been busy lately. We had a work day at the Cottage and thanks to Warren, Martha, Judy, Arlene, and Phil we had a good day. The carpet was removed, and the upstairs was cleaned and Graves Mountain Lodge hauled all of the trash to the landfill. Planning for the Mountain Museum is in full swing. The material for the Handicap Ramp is in place and will be put in soon.

We had a very good Apple Harvest Festival as we sold over \$500 worth of books and collected about \$180 in the donation jar. There were two checks donated for a total of \$2500. As soon as we can start on the Museum we will have enough funds to replace the windows.



Phil Brockman and Max Lacy man the MCHS table

Thanks to the tea ladies for a wonderful tea. It also produced another program for us. The grandson of General Kemper was there and offered to do a program for us about World War I as he has done some reenactments. This would be good timing as this year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of the war.

The Madison Museum has had quite a few interesting visitors since the last newsletter. One of the most notable was Maxine Crane (the author of "Ask for Nothing"). Thanks to all of the volunteers who have manned the Museum during this time. Thanks to Bob and Mary Haught the landscape outside the Museum is looking much better and more improvements are in the works. Thanks to Governor Kemper's grandson we have been offered what is supposed to be Governor Kemper's Desk. We have only seen pictures of it, but it looks really nice in the picture. We will learn more about that in the future.

Thanks again for all of the work the volunteers do, and a special thanks to the Board for all they do. The annual Colonial Days will be held at Waverly Yowell School on November 20th at 9:00 AM for those that wish to visit. We will report on that in the next newsletter.

MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECOGNITION IN GERMANNA FOUNDATION TIME CAPSULE 2018–2068

We were honored to be asked to participate in the Germanna Foundation's first Time Capsule. The Germanna Foundation will place a sealed container holding records or objects which represent a current culture in the wall of the new resource center which is under construction. The new Hitt Archaeology Center will be located near the Germanna Visitors Center at Locust Grove, VA. The ground breaking for this center was held on October 11, 2018.

Since Madison County was home to the 1725 Germanna settlers, we sent a letter of representation as to the mission of our Historical Society and the 2018 Officers and Board of Directors. A timeline of Madison County historical events from 1725 to the present was also included.

Our hope is that 50 years from now our grandchildren, great grandchildren and other citizens of Madison County will be in attendance at the opening of this Time Capsule in the year of 2068.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT MADISON COUNTY

1725 German settlers came from Germanna to the Hebron Valley area. The land then belonged to Spotsylvania County.

1732 Orange County was formed from Spotsylvania County and Madison became part of Orange County

1748 Culpeper County was formed from Orange County and Madison became a part of Culpeper County.

1752 The old-style calendar was changed so that the year began on January 1 rather than March 25.

1763 Taxes amounted to forty cents a year per person. They were 16 times greater in England.

1777 Lord Fairfax gave a patent to a Mr. Martin for Big Meadows. Patents had reached the mountains.

1792 Act passed for Madison County to be formed from Culpeper County (effective May 1, 1793)

1800 Population of Madison County was 8322.

1803 Several old hemp mills were used in the county.

1805 A whipping post was erected in the public lot.

1808 Cotton was grown in the county for home use.

1810 Richard Early built his home which was the first in Madison with sky-lights.

1812 The county was paying bounties on wolf scalps. Aaron Lacy began his wagon factory.

1814 A license was issued to Thomas Bohannon to drive a four-wheeled carriage.

1820 Population 8490.

1822 Pepperbox threshing machines were being made at Aaron Lacy's shop.

1831 One thousand dollars was granted by the County for a Poor House.

1834 The first Poor House was built.

1838 Thomas Aylor made coffins for \$2.

1839 All men over 21 had to work 2 days on roads.

1846 Prices of the day were: corn forty cents a bushel, rye fifty cents a bushel, buckwheat forty cents, flax seed one dollar a bushel, bacon ten cents per pound, tobacco ten cents per pound, brandy forty cents per gallon, whiskey fifty cents per gallon, labor twenty-five cents and to make a pair of shoes-thirty-six and one half cents.

1848 There were 50 houses in Madison.

1849-1850 There was a great small-pox epidemic in the county.

1853 Peter Lauck built a tannery on Quaker Run. He also built his home the same year with one hundred loads of stone.

1857 A group of families went in covered wagons from Madison to settle in Indiana. The greatest snow storm of the nineteenth century began January 19 and drifted from ten to twenty-five feet deep. The Masonic Hall was built in Madison.

1859 The first newspaper was printed in the county---The American Eagle.

CRIGLERSVILLE SCHOOLS



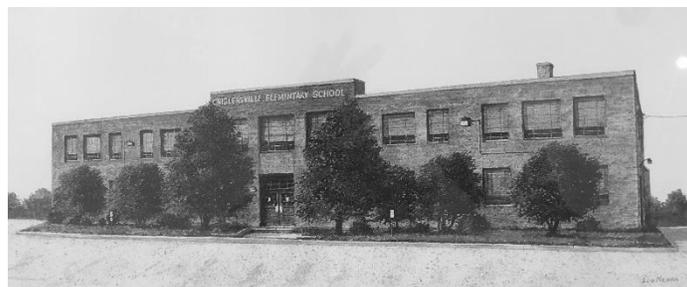
Criglersville High School ca. 1940

This is a reprint of an article from the May 2006 Society Newsletter:

Ted Kitchen, who attended the Criglersville School for 11 years, spoke to the Society on Sunday, February 19th. Using a Lou Mesa print as an illustration he described the history of the schools in Criglersville. An original school was located where the Methodist parsonage is today. Following that a school was built near the present-day site of Mount Shiloh Baptist Church. The building is now located behind the Mountain Store in Criglersville. (painted bright blue at present). This building had school rooms on the first floor. The second floor was used by the Odd Fellows. In 1915 the Criglersville High School was built on the site of the present-day school. It served the pupils of the Robertson District which included, Aylor, Brightwood, Criglersville, Etlan, Nethers, Novum and Syria. It originally had 4 classrooms on the first floor and an auditorium on the second floor. A later addition added another 4 classrooms (2 on the first floor and 2 on the second) in the rear and a porch on the front of the building. The building had a full basement where lunch was served (at a cost of \$0.15). Pupils could bring commodities (i.e. eggs, green beans) to exchange for lunch. There was also a chemistry lab and athletic changing rooms. Agriculture, Shop and Home Economics were taught in other small buildings on the property. Mr. Kitchen spoke of Miss Mae Blankenbaker who held the record for longevity as a teacher in Criglersville. She had attended school there as well. Miss Lucy Davis was the principal for 16 years. She was a feared individual. Each morning she appeared at the door and announced

“Attention” at which time the pupils had to line up in order to enter the building. During this time all teachers were single females (no married women were allowed to teach) with the exception of the agriculture and shop teachers. This changed (of necessity) during World War II. The school became accredited in 1926 and was in existence until January of 1946 when it burned during the night while school was closed for vacation. High school pupils used the out buildings for the remainder of the year. In the fall of 1946 they began attending the high school in Madison. The elementary school pupils used an abandoned CCC camp until the new elementary school was built. The school housed 11 grades. There was no kindergarten or 8th grade. Since there were only 8 classrooms some grades were combined. This would be different each year depending on the number of pupils in each class. Mr. Kitchen said that when he was in 4th grade some 4th graders were with the 3rd graders and some were with the 5th graders. He felt fortunate to be with the 5th graders. He felt that the maximum number of pupils in the school at any time was 200. Every Wednesday a different homeroom was responsible for presenting a program in the auditorium for the school. Since there was no

gymnasium all activities were outdoors. The program concluded with a tape showing some activities at the school in 1936. The original silent movie was produced by Frank Moser who was the violin teacher. Besides showing a nine-year-old Ted Kitchen singing we also were treated to a scene with girls dancing, boys and girls playing sports and the Board’s own Jane Volchansky playing the violin. Mr. Kitchen concluded with the remark that the Criglersville School had been a large influence in his life.



Lou Mesa painting of Criglersville School

Note: Jane Volchansky has recently donated an original copy (VHS) of Frank Moser’s movie to the Society. As soon as we can get it transferred to a DVD it will be available for watching at the museum.

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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