



# Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



---

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mast Head Pictures Courtesy of Tucker Hill

Editor: Jill Schreiner

---

**P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727**

**February 2004**

---



Emily Williams and Rita Cunningham view the Steve Hoffman exhibit

### **STEVE HOFFMAN SPEAKS AT MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Steve Hoffman was the speaker at the November 16, 1903 membership meeting in the Madison County administration building. He displayed his large collection of shipping bills, calendars, advertisements, wrapping paper, store money, matchbooks and many other items to illustrate what stores existed in the past and how commerce was conducted.

Customers had lines of credit at these stores and often paid up their accounts before the New Year. Stores also gave change in tokens which were "legal tender" at the issuing establishment and other Madison stores.

After the talk, members were able to view the individual items in the collection.

Refreshments were served at the Kemper Residence.

### **SPENCER DEJARNETTE TO SPEAK**

The next membership meeting will be held on Sunday, February 15, at 2 p.m. in the Madison County Auditorium. In the course of conducting an archeological assessment prior to the widening of route 3 east of Culpeper, an unusually large cache of Jasper shards was unearthed at one location. Further exploration led to the discovery of a Jasper mine at a depth of 12 feet below ground level, which was in use by Native Americans approximately 11,000 years ago. The archeological investigation leading to the discovery of the mine has been documented in a 30-minute long video entitled "Discovering the First Virginians". Spencer DeJarnette, life-long Culpeper/Madison County resident, collector of native-American artifacts, and employee of VDOT who closely followed the archeological study, will show the video and add his own personal observations about the discovery of the mine.

### **ANNUAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 15**

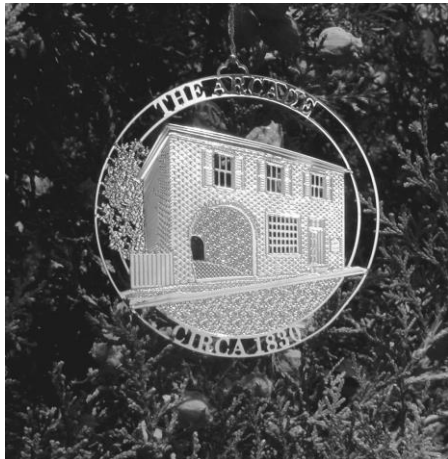
The Society's Annual Meeting will be held immediately following the program on Sunday, February 15, 2004 in the auditorium of the Madison County Administration Building. The program begins at 2 p.m. The terms of four

members of the Board of Directors (Joan Cheston, Maury Hansen, Genevieve McLearn and Jill W. Schreiner) will expire. Joan and Genevieve have indicated that they do not wish to be nominated for another term. The Nominating Committee will present its report at the meeting. Members then will vote for the Board. Refreshments will be served at the Kemper Residence after the business meeting concludes. The 2003 Annual Report will be available at the Annual Meeting. If you can not attend this meeting and would like a report, please call the Society at 540-948-5488 and leave a message

## WEATHER 'PHONE

If weather conditions are such that there may be doubt about whether the February 15 meeting will be held, please call the Society at 540-948-5488 after 10 a.m. on that day for a recorded message

## 2004 ORNAMENT



The Madison County Historical Society selected the Arcade for its 2004 Christmas ornament. You can purchase ornaments at the Arcade and the Library. Cost is \$10.00 plus tax. Previous ornaments (the Courthouse for 2002 and the Kemper Residence for 2003) are also available. For more information call 948-5488

## WELCOME – NEW MEMBERS

The Society is pleased to welcome the following new members:

- O. Frank Hoffman (Single)
- Gift memberships:
  - Four (single)
  - Two (family)

## 2004 CALENDAR



“The Historic and Picturesque Barns of Madison County, Virginia” (The Madison County Historical Society’s 2004 calendar) features pen and ink sketches by the talented art students of Madison County High School. The Calendar is on sale at the Arcade, the Chamber of Commerce, Greystone TV and Appliance (Radio Shack), Handcraft House, Plow and Hearth Country Store, Museum of Culpeper History, the Library, and the Mountain Store in Criglersville.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The Society has sent renewal notices to all members whose memberships expire in January and February. If you have not renewed, please do. If you prefer, you may bring your form and check to the Annual Meeting. Those members whose memberships expire in other months will receive renewal information in the month that their memberships expire. If you have a question, please call Bob Lovegren at 540-923-4973

## MEMBERS GIVE GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

One life member gave 2004 memberships in the Society to six people. Another member is providing Society membership as a gift to a family member. Other members may wish to give a membership. Call Membership Chair Bob Lovegren for details (540-923-4973).

## LIFE MEMBER DONATIONS

One-third of the Society’s Life Members have made a donation to the Society. Total gift amount is \$ 810. Thank you for your continuing support

## 10 PER CENT DISCOUNT

Members at the Benefactor, Partner and Friend level can receive a 10 per cent discount on Society products at the Arcade Museum and Kemper Residence. Life members who make donations at these membership levels also qualify. Discounts do not apply to books and other items which we sell as a service to the public.

## ACQUISITIONS

- 3 piece china set of cups, saucers, luncheon and diner plates and a tea pot - Jill Scheiner
- 4 crystal footed bowls - Maryvonne Longley
- 3 Wedgewood creamware cups - Marise Craig

Thanks to everyone for their generous donations and continued support

## LAW OFFICE UPDATE

The restoration of the Kemper law office is almost complete. The initial work consisted primarily of evaluation and removal of the late alterations. On the first floor we removed the features installed by the University of Virginia: the plastic wall paneling, the acoustical tile ceiling, the fiberglass insulation beneath the tile ceiling, the vinyl tile and fiberboard (Masonite) flooring, the window and the exterior electrical breaker box on the west wall, and the storm windows. The small chimney, installed to serve a stove after the main chimney failed, was also dismantled. In addition we removed the concrete ramp installed at the entrance years ago to accommodate voting machines. This ramp abutted a main floor joist which was found to have some termite and moisture damage. Also the lower four courses of siding in this area on the north face of the building were later replacements of composition board.

Unfortunately no photographs of the original chimney on the west side of the building could be located; however, the siding inserted when the remnants of that chimney were removed indicated clearly its site and size. Douglas Gilpin, the architect who provided the restoration estimates for us in 2000, was hired to make blueprints for its reconstruction.

The damaged floor joist on the north side of the building was still strong, requiring only precautionary reinforcement. The composition board siding was replaced with appropriate wooden siding. A brick step now replaces the concrete ramp. The original threshold had been removed, probably when the ramp was built; a new threshold, fashioned of old heart pine, was installed.

Removal of the acoustical tiled ceiling and fiberglass insulation revealed a whitewashed ceiling (joists and boards) with smoke stains from the original fireplace and also at the site of the later stove pipe. The undersurface of each joist was randomly peppered with nail holes with no evidence of lath work, suggesting that these nails served to attach some sort of insulating material at a later date and that the original ceiling consisted of the exposed whitewashed joists and boards.



New chimney at Kemper Law Office

The main chimney was reconstructed on the west wall, using 19<sup>th</sup> century bricks. A handsome 19<sup>th</sup> century mantel was installed. The walls were rebuilt with plaster (west wall) and drywall with skim coats (none of the original plaster or lath work remained under the plastic wall paneling). Suitable baseboards were made and installed, and the walls and ceiling painted with a paint formulated to resemble whitewash. Fortunately the fiberboard flooring had been nailed, not cemented; to the original pine floor and so could be easily removed. The old flooring is sound and retains a dark finish, probably from early oiling. There are, however, spots of termite damage, the worst of which we have replaced with sections of old pine.



Outside stairway at Kemper Law Office

The stairway to the second floor, long absent, has been reconstructed. This is necessarily very steep and therefore not intended for use by the public. A chain and sign placed across its entrance warn the public against its use. Despite their steepness, however, the stairs recreate the original structure and offer access to the second floor with considerably more safety than a ladder. The second floor room has been left in its original state, the only change being removal of the later chimney and repair of the floor where the stove pipe came through.

Some touch-up painting and some minor floor work remain to be done but soon the office should be ready for viewing. Our plan is to have an official "opening" this spring.

We have now used all the funds provided by the grant from the Gwathmey Memorial Trust. The good news, though, is that, thanks in part to the generosity of our contractor, Joe Wayner, who provided expert guidance and also waived his fee, to Beau and Agnes Puryear who donated the bricks, to Ann Miller who shared her knowledge, to our volunteers who did the initial sorting and hauling of bricks, to Bill Scholten who did much of the removal work and to Mary and Whit Whitfield and Bill Scholten who have done most of the painting, and to Tucker Hill who has documented the restoration with his excellent photographs--- thanks to all these friends, we have accomplished this restoration for far less than the architect's estimate and have exceeded our grant funds by only a little over one hundred dollars.

## ARCADE MUSEUM

The ongoing exhibits at the museum including the train, early education, the Main Street Project and CCC photo, continue to draw

Madisonians and guests from neighboring counties and states, as well as visitors from more distant places. Volunteers enjoy assisting these folks connect with a distant cousin, find their way to a special destination or just chat about the county in general.

The Historical Society is very fortunate to have volunteers on hand to assist Curator Jan Harris each Tuesday and Thursday. Some that have served as greeters and manned the desk are now considering working upstairs in a room designated as a research room. We want to pull some of our materials from storage to this room to be more accessible to visitors. This will create openings for new volunteers to man the desk and serve as greeters. We encourage new comers and long time county residents to consider joining our group of volunteers. It is fascinating work and a great way to learn more about the county.

We are going to have a meeting of the Arcade Museum Volunteers February 18th at 10 o'clock in the basement of the Kemper Residence (Enter on the ground level to the right of the front steps). Susan Pell will tell us about the Main Street project. We will talk about setting up the research room. Since we will need more volunteers, please bring someone with you that may be interested.

If February 18th is a snow day we will meet the following Wednesday, February 25th (same time and place).

Thank you, volunteers, for all that you do at the Arcade Museum for the Madison County Historical Society.

If you have questions call Emily Williams, Volunteer Coordinator (825-7503) or Jan Harris, Curator, (923-4438).

## WINTER TEA

The fifth in a series of benefit teas was held at the Kemper Residence on Wednesday, January 21st. A delicious assortment of savories, sweets, fruits, scones and teas were served to another full house. Forty-two guests were in attendance with a waiting list of others in case of cancellations. Many of our guests are "regulars" who have attended past teas. The next tea, the Spring Tea, is scheduled for March 24th at 12:30 o'clock. Seating is available on the main floor and in the English Basement which is

handicapped accessible. Reservations are required - make your plans early. Volunteers who prepared, donated and served this delicious repast are: Mary Haught, Vi Hilliard, Betty Lynn Yowell, Genevieve McLearn, Jill Schreiner, Ann Hughes, Heidi Sage, and Rita Cunningham. Lee Decker has joined us for the first time. Special thanks to Bob Haught who baked the wonderful scones. Thanks also to Bill Scholten who assisted with setting up the tables and chairs. Last but not least, kudos to Jill Schreiner who designs our lovely menus. The teas have proven to be a very popular event in the community and will continue to be a primary fund raiser

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Society is seeking volunteers to help the organization in several ways. Activities and projects include:

1. **KEMPER GIRLS** – They proudly keep the Residence in museum quality condition and host the benefit teas.
2. **MARKETING** – Seek out other products that the Society could sell. Develop agreement to be used with authors. Study the feasibility of mailing items or providing them to merchants for sale.
3. **PAMPHLET** – Prepare a new Madison County Historical Society pamphlet with the history and accomplishments of the organization and why businesses and individuals should join.
4. **GRAVE SITES** – Join other members in locating and recording gravesites in the County.
5. **RAPIDAN RAILROAD** – Research the route the line followed from Wolftown to Orange in 1920-24.
6. **HOST/HOSTESS** – Serve as a host/hostess at the Arcade Museum and/or the Kemper Residence. Help at the Taste of the Mountains Street Festival.

Rita Cunningham (540-948-6542) will be happy to talk to you regarding these opportunities.

## **A RETURN TO THE HOME OF JAMES MADISON**

By Ann M. Ferguson

*(A significant restoration project now underway at Montpelier will return the home of James Madison to its early 19th century appearance. From time to time, an update on the project will be presented in the MCHS newsletter).*

An announcement released by the Montpelier Foundation on October 20, 2003 set in motion a \$20 million restoration project at the home of James Madison. The decision to undertake this work was based on the results of an 18-month long investigation which confirmed that more than 80% of the original Madison home was still in place under the alterations made after 1836, mainly by the du Pont family. Foundation President Michael Quinn stated: "Montpelier is the last home of a Founding Father to become a public site and to undergo restoration . . . No restoration project of this significance to the founding of the American republic will ever be undertaken again."

Major funding will be provided by the estate of Paul Mellon. Another \$1 million has been approved from the federal "Save America's Treasure Program" administered by the Interior Department. It is expected that additional funding will come from private sources to assure that original Madison and period furnishings can be purchased for display in the restored mansion. The estimate for completion of the restoration is five years.

**What Was Learned:** Based on extensive research, a decision was made to focus the project on removal of alterations made to the home after 1836, the year of President Madison's death. Most of the changes occurred in the early 1900s after the home was purchased by William and Annie du Pont. As an example, in the years 1809 to 1812 north and south wings added to the central mass were one-story with basement kitchens and roof terraces. Under du Pont ownership the height of both wings was expanded to two stories and a third attic space with dormers and both wings were widened. In addition, Madison era covered staircases were removed and replaced by large open stairways and multiple service spaces were added on the north end of the mansion during the du Pont years. It was determined that

Madison's home consisted of 22 spaces at the time of his death in 1836; the home was expanded to 55 spaces in the years that followed.

Research went beyond looking at the lathes, nails, bricks and mortar that make up the physical characteristics of the Madison home. Old documents were mined to dig out every bit of evidence to support or refute a finding; photographs were studied with high magnification equipment to identify details that revealed vital information, and account books validated that materials ordered by Mr. Madison were the same items found in the research. At the conclusion of the investigation it was determined that most of the Madison home remains intact. The location of almost every door, window, wall, chimney, and hearth was located, many found to be unaltered. One example -- it was found that the 1836 home had 51 doorways and researchers found 38 Madison doors are still at Montpelier although more than half today are in other locations.

**The Wishes of Mrs. Scott:** In the Last Will and Testament of Marion du Pont Scott probated in 1983, Mrs. Scott stated that "The property known as 'Montpelier' was formerly the home of James Madison, President of the United States, and it is appropriate that it be owned by an organization which will restore the mansion house in such manner as to conform . . . with the architectural pattern which existed when said property was owned and occupied by President Madison." She further stated her wish that ". . . the mansion house be furnished with furniture and furnishings formerly owned by James Madison . . . and that 'Montpelier' as restored be made available to the general public as an historic shrine . . ."

The work to fulfill Mrs. Scott's wishes has begun. In December, the furniture collection was removed from all rooms in the mansion and in January 2004 the work continued through careful removal of all elements in the rooms that will be demolished: cornices, window and doorframes, light fixtures, radiators, baseboards,

etc. Measured drawings and photographs of the rooms along with samples of all elements will be retained in archival storage as study tools of this period of construction



Demolition will begin on the south side of the mansion

Photo courtesy of Ann Ferguson

**First Steps:** Demolition will begin on the south side of the house to uncover the original 1810 wing that served as Mother Madison's chamber. The President's mother, Nelly Conway, lived at Montpelier until her death in 1829. Removal work on the south wing will follow in about two months. Once the original fabric is exposed, it will be covered with protective butler building enclosures so that restoration experts can begin their work. The process will include recreation of the 1810 wings, roof terraces and the basement kitchens. Also, later alterations made to the 1760 house built by the President's father will be removed and the spaces will be restored to their original configuration.

Archaeology is a major component of all restoration efforts. Since the fall, a team has been at work in the space beneath the portico at the front of the house. Their goal is to discover what evidence remains to define the early use of this space during the residency of James and Dolley Madison. It may have been a storage area or it may have had a specific, "out of sight" purpose that assisted in other domestic functions of the mansion.

Major "digs" in areas on the grounds around Montpelier will go forward simultaneous with the house restoration. Vital information about the history of the Madison family may be found underground when the du Pont additions are removed. Research shows that the very early (late 1700s) yard of Montpelier and assorted fill deposit areas were buried during a leveling of the backyard when the 1810 addition was built by James Madison. The area that will be studied is 3.5 feet below the present grade.

**A Grand Exhibit:** The Madison furniture, period pieces, and reproductions that were removed from the mansion for the duration of the restoration are now displayed in the Education Center building - a five-minute walk from the house. Three spaces are available: one spotlights the role of James Madison as Father of the Constitution, the second shows impressive dining room and sitting room backdrops furnished with original Madison items and period pieces, and the third displays a collection of furniture in settings that recreate its use in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.



The impressive Adams ceiling will be removed from the mansion to be recreated in the future du Pon Gallery.

Photo courtesy of Ann Ferguson

**Du Pont Gallery Planned:** As part of the overall project, a new Visitor's Center will be constructed in the vicinity of today's parking to the south of the mansion. The building will house the du Pont gallery to include an authentic recreation of Mrs. Scott's Red Room in its 1930's Art Moderne style and a "great room" that will show elements of the formal settings added to the mansion by Mrs. Scott's parents in the early 1900s. An exhibit with highlights of the du Pont history at Montpelier will also be presented in the gallery.

**Tours Will Continue:** Tours of Montpelier will continue throughout the restoration period so that visitors can learn about the process of reclaiming a home that underwent major alteration. Visitors are given a briefing of the changes underway in a slide show presented every half hour and tours of upstairs and downstairs rooms that demonstrate the research work and its results are offered every hour. A visit to the Education Center provides visitors with information on the President's role as Father of the Constitution and offers a glimpse of the Madison dining room and Mrs. Madison's chamber plus a room displaying original Montpelier items and period pieces. The array of special grounds tours offered in warm weather months on Saturdays and Sundays will be expanded beginning in March 2004. The du Pont tour that includes selected outbuildings and the enslaved community tour that takes visitors to the slave cemetery will continue to be offered on Saturday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. In March, on alternate Sundays, guided tours to the Old Growth Forest, tours of the formal garden, and tours of the area that served as a Civil War Encampment plus the Gilmore cabin will be made available. To confirm dates and times before a visit, call the Visitor Center at 540/672-0003.

For more details on the mansion investigation, you may go online to [montpelierresearch.org](http://montpelierresearch.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. You may wish to call the Membership Chair at 540-923-4973 or e-mail him at [boblove@nexet.net](mailto:boblove@nexet.net).



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