



Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

May 2006

TED KITCHEN SPEAKS ON OLD CRIGLERSVILLE SCHOOL

Ted Kitchen, who attended the Criglersville School for 11 years, spoke to 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. 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 Blakenbaker 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 female (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 not 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.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Annual Membership meeting of the Madison County Historical Society was held on Sunday, February 19, 2006 at 2:00pm. Rita Cunningham, Penn Bowers, Tucker Hill and Michael O'Connor were elected to three year terms on the Board of Directors. The Annual Report of the Society was made available to members. There are some left and they will be available at the next meeting. Following the program the Board of Directors met briefly to elect officers. The officers are: President; Rita Cunningham; Vice-President: Penn Bowers; Secretary: Betty Lynne Yowell; and Treasurer: Bill Scholten.

ANTIQUES APPRAISAL

The Society will sponsor an "Antique Appraisal Event" on Saturday, February 25th from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Kemper Residence on Main Street. Appraisals will be conducted by Steve Hoffman, local Historian, and Sarah Francis Hays, owner of Quail at the Wood Antique Shop in Culpeper. Mr. Hoffman is an authority on furniture, toys, tools, antique arms and armor, paper and documents. Ms. Hays is an expert on china, crystal, glass, fine arts (prints), and silver. Cost of an appraisal is \$10.00/item or \$25.00 for three. For more information you may contact Rita Cunningham at 948-6542 or Jane Volchansky at 923-4584.

In exhibiting items Hoffman explained the history behind them. For instance he showed an early tax bill that showed taxes had been paid in kind. This was fairly common in an economy that was basically based on the barter system. Tax bills from 1846 and 1847 showed payments of 1 ton of hay and 10 bushels of oats. In early days taxes were paid to the sheriff. Steve had a tax bill for the year 1857 with an assessed tax of \$91.85.

MEMBERSHIP

Since the last Newsletter, we have gained 4 new memberships and have received 29 renewals. It has been very gratifying to see so many of the renewals upgrading their level of membership. The Board is most appreciative. Thank you. Our new members are: Jim and Erline Arthur of Radiant, Joyce Jenkins Gentry, J. Crigler and Myra Price, and Mary Wright, all of Madison. We are happy to have you with us and hope you have a rewarding membership experience.

KEMPER TEA

The Society will host its Spring Tea on Wednesday, March 22nd at 12:30pm. The menu features an assortment of savorys, scones, sweets and fruits. This special event will be held at the Kemper Residence on Main Street. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Rita Cunningham at 948-6542. Handicapped seating is available upon request. The cost of this delicious tea is \$18.00/person.

ARCADE MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Many museums close down for a few months during the winter. WE DO NOT! In fact during 2005 we had more visitors during the month of January than either May or June.

Our faithful and steady volunteers make this possible. We are so grateful to all of them. This time I want to mention the three Imlay siblings - Linwood, John, and Millie and her husband, Paul Wieser. They are filled with history, some having worked in museum situations during their younger years and have extensive collections of Civil War, World War II and other interesting topics. They have been the leading force behind our Saturday openings during the summer months. We thank them and all of our other volunteers.

Keep in mind that we are open year- round three days each week - Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. We do close on snow days. Please visit your local museum. We are here for you!

THE ARCADE MUSEUM

It was a year ago that your Historical Society Board of Directors submitted a grant application to the Virginia Genealogical Society (VGS) for funds to arrange and catalog the items entrusted to the Society. That grant was awarded in the amount of \$3000 to "assist in retaining a professional archivist to advise on properly arranging and cataloging the collection." That grant has been the impetus for several significant improvements. We were fortunate to retain the services of Edward Gaynor and Ellen Welch of the University of Virginia Library's Special Collections section as our consultants. After their very thorough examination of the items in our collection, they submitted a detailed report on the care of each item. That report stressed the importance of storing items in acid-free boxes and paper. The grant specifies that the money is "not intended for equipment, supplies, storage facilities, publicity or the care of artifacts." So our Society members have come to the rescue and made it possible to purchase these materials. (See article "Society Members Come to the Rescue".)

Now we begin the process of improving our museum. Orders are being placed for the acid-free boxes, papers, sleeves, hygrometers etc. recommended by our consultants. Two members have made contributions designated for new display cases. Our members are removing the old wallpaper in the large room upstairs so that it can be painted. Josh Kitchens of the Germanna Foundation has come aboard to do data input for our retrieval system. (Josh will be paid from the grant monies since it allows for hiring personnel.) We continue to be given items of historical importance to be added to the collection. Our members can assist by reminding friends and acquaintances that we welcome family genealogies (no matter how incomplete), old letters, old pictures and any other items that relate to Madison County.

ARCADE MUSEUM EXHIBITS

The permanent displays of the Strode Collection of Native American artifacts and the Rapidan Railroad exhibit will continue. In February, the

rotating exhibit of the Hill and Hume families' genealogy will be replaced with a genealogy exhibit of the Jackson family.



Hill-Hume exhibit

The current exhibit on the 19th century Madison Woolen Mill will be replaced by an exhibit on Black History in Madison County.



Woolen Mill exhibit

Other rotating exhibits during 2006 will include: Civil War in Madison County; Germanna settlers in Madison County; Hoover Days; a look at Wash Day in old Madison County; Shoes and Clothing items found in Madison; and antique toys owned by Jesse Fishback and James and Braxton Berry.

The exhibits are coordinated by Lee Decker and prepared by other members of the MCHS with assistance from members of the community. Ideas for exhibits are encouraged; call Lee at 948-7808 if you have any ideas

ACQUISITIONS

The Society has added the following to its collection:

- ✚ Framed Indian Puzzle- Ed and Emily Williams
- ✚ Four teaspoons – Jean Wilkie
- ✚ Photo of Novem Baptist Church – Maryanne McGuire
- ✚ Old letters from inside the walls of Beulah's Restaurant – Sue Riley
- ✚ Six china cups and saucers – Sue Riley
- ✚ *MacMillan Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes* – Ed and Emily Williams



Indian puzzle donated by Ed and Emily Williams

2006 ORNAMENT



The 2006 ornament features the Piedmont Episcopal Church. It costs \$11.00 plus tax. This slight increase in price is due to an increase in manufacturing costs to the Society. Previous ornaments (the Courthouse for 2002, the Kemper Residence for 2003, the Arcade for 2004 and Hebron Lutheran Church for 2005) are also available and cost \$10.00 plus tax each. You can purchase ornaments at the Arcade and the Library. For more information call 948-5488.

PORTRAITS OF MRS. WASHINGTON AND GENERAL LEE

Maryvonne Longley has given a pair of portraits, one of Robert E. Lee and the other of Martha Washington, to the Madison County Historical Society. These are fine lithographs, mounted on canvas and in handsome matching 19th century frames. Neither portrait is signed and there is no indication of the artist or studio on the stretchers or frames.

In an effort to establish the provenance of the portraits, the Historical Society has called on the services of a number of institutions and experts. Surprisingly the search has not been easy and the results are still in part inconclusive. We do know now that Mount Vernon has in its collection the same portrait of Martha Washington, and that that portrait was made in the studio of Elijah C. Middleton (1818-1883) in Cincinnati, Ohio around 1866. Since our portraits of General Lee and Mrs. Washington are not only mounted identically but are on canvas that shows the same amount of darkening due to age it seems reasonable to assume that they are the products of the same studio, and we know that Mr. Middleton was preparing a series of portraits of famous Americans which he referred to as "National Oil Portraits." These were chromolithographs prepared with oil paints and mounted on canvas. Our next challenge was to discover the models used by Middleton, probably a photograph for General Lee and certainly a portrait or a copy of a portrait for Mrs. Washington.

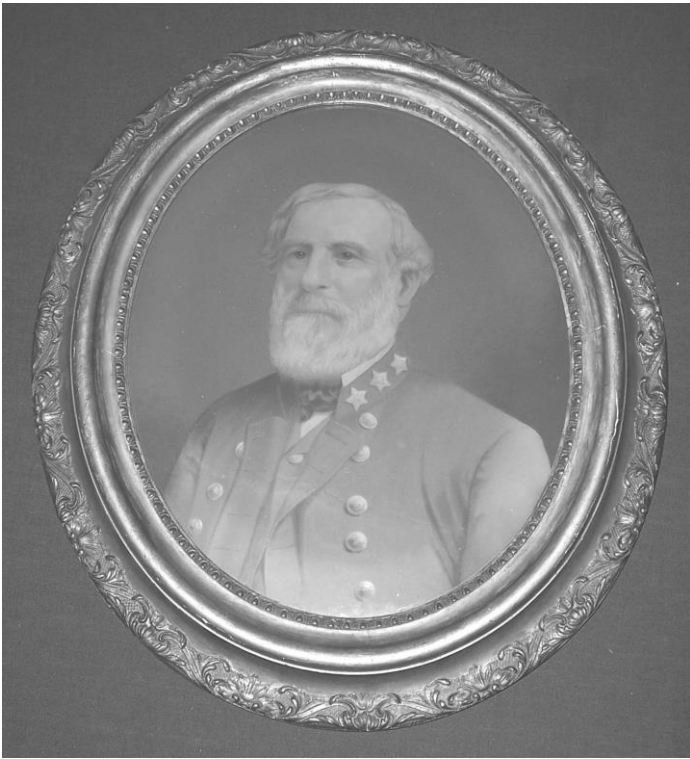


The model for the portrait of Martha Washington was difficult to locate but the trail was interesting and finally rewarding. The Internet, our ultimate encyclopedia these days, was searched with no helpful results. None of the many sites devoted to portraits of Martha Washington contained an image that closely resembled our Mrs. Washington. Curators of various collections were then consulted. The staff at Mount Vernon did not know the model for their Middleton portrait of Martha Washington. The famous portrait of Mrs. Washington in her later years, the so-called "Athenaeum portrait," by Gilbert Stuart, on display at the National Portrait Gallery, served as model for many later copies, but, while the general pose in the Stuart portrait is similar to that in this portrait, the drapery is different, and a close model for our portrait could not be identified. The Internet was explored again, using several search engines. Among all the museum and publication websites no model for the Middleton portrait was found. However, tucked in among all the expected sources was the website of an antique currency dealer. On opening that unlikely source there, on a U. S. one silver dollar certificate of 1901, we found our Martha Washington. The dealer checked his references and reported that the image of Mrs. Washington was an engraving by Charles Burt, based on a portrait by Jalabert. The National Bureau of Printing and Engraving confirmed that the image on the silver certificate was that of the

Burt engraving, based on a portrait by Jalabert, and used on U.S. postage stamps (1902, 1922) and on the silver certificates (1886, 1901), but they had no information on the Jalabert portrait. Charles Francois Jalabert (1819-1901) was an acclaimed French painter, known especially for his portraits. However, no record could be found of his producing a portrait of Martha Washington. At this point the National Portrait Gallery, with this information in hand, referred us to the Frick Art Reference Library, and there the mystery was solved. Jalabert made a portrait of Martha Washington in 1855, based on the Gilbert Stuart portrait. Reproductions of Jalabert's portrait were published by his dealer, Goupil, who had a New York branch where these reproductions and those of other prominent Americans were available. The Jalabert portrait was popular and several copies are documented, those of Wellstood and Buttre, as well as that of Burt.

The original portrait by Jalabert was last recorded in a private collection in New Jersey. There is, however, some confusion as to its medium; it has been variously described as being oil on canvas and "crayon" (probably pastels). Another fascinating aspect of this portrait's history is the statement by Jalabert in his correspondence that he had made a portrait of the mother of Washington. Jalabert acknowledged elsewhere that his portrait was based on that by Gilbert Stuart, but he believed that the portrait he copied was that of Washington's mother. Moreover he says it was done on the basis of a written description, meaning probably a written description of colors or technique but certainly, in view of the general resemblance, with at least a sketch of the original, a copy, or a copy of a copy.¹ In turn a copy of Jalabert's portrait would have been used by Middleton, making our portrait at least a third generation copy of the Jalabert portrait and at least a fifth generation copy of the famous Stuart portrait.

¹ "J'ai fait le portrait de la mère de Washington sur description écrite." Émile Reinaud, *Charles Jalabert, L'homme, L'artiste, d'après sa correspondance*, Paris, 1903, p. 158.



The identification of the model for the Lee portrait has been complicated by Elijah Middleton himself. Mr. Middleton's National Oil Portraits project was well under way in January 1866 when he wrote to General Lee reporting that General Sherman, whom he had recently visited in St. Louis, suggested that he do portraits of General Lee and General Jackson and requesting that General Lee send him photographs of himself and General Jackson with descriptions of their complexions. In March of the same year he sent the following letter to General Lee:

*Gen. R. E. Lee
Lexington Va.*

Dear Sir

Allow me to introduce to you Mr. E F Lutz of Baltimore.

You will remember having received from me a few weeks ago a letter written in Cincinnati, in which I requested you to favour me with such a likeness of yourself as was satisfactory to you, and your friends, to be copied in my style of Oil Colors, to which you replied that "you had no such likeness, nor had you seen any that was satisfactory to you."

Having learned that Mr. Brady of Washington City had succeeded in producing a very fine

Photograph from a sitting (sic) you gave him, a few days ago, I have visited this City for the purpose of procuring a copy of the same.

Mr Lutz, my general agent for Maryland, and Virginia, visits you for the purpose of presenting you with a few copies which I trust you and friends will endorse as correct.

I regard these copies as beautiful works of art, and if I can get the desired endorsement, I propose to proceed at once to copy the same in my style of Oil Colors.

By your permission, Mr Lutz will make a few notes of your complexion; he will also show you a sample of our style of Arts, in the portrait of Washington which is the same style, and size that we propose for your portrait.

Very Respectfully Yours,

E C Middleton²

This time his request was apparently successful and a Lee portrait was produced. However, none of the Mathew Brady photographs of General Lee that we have been able to locate would serve as a model for this portrait. There may well have been further communication between Mr. Middleton and General Lee; at any rate, we know that Middleton published at least three different Lee portraits.³ Our portrait very much resembles, moderately in face and almost exactly in the tunic, the photograph taken by Minnis and Cowell in 1863. This was a popular photograph, used by a number of artists, and Middleton may well have used another copy of it as his model. One fine copy of the Minnis and Cowell photograph is an engraving by Paul Giradet, published around 1865 by Goupil & Co., the same company that published Jalabert's portrait of Mrs. Washington. The possibility certainly exists that Mr. Middleton obtained not only his model for Martha Washington but also his model for General Lee from the New York shop of this French art dealer.

For the information obtained in this search special thanks are due to the following institutions and individuals: John and Ruth Ann

² Reproduced by permission of the Robert E. Lee Papers, Special Collections, Leyburn Library, Washington and Lee University

³ Communication from Wendy Wick Reaves, Curator of Prints and Drawings, National Portrait Gallery

Cosky of the Museum of the Confederacy, Wendy Wick Reaves and Ellen Miles of the National Portrait Gallery, Jacqueline L. Rogers of the Frick Art Reference Library, Vaughan Stanley of Special Collections, Leyburn Library, Washington and Lee University, Christine Hennessey of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Library of Congress' Prints and Photographs Division, , Gretchen Goodell and Barbara McMillan of George Washington's Mount Vernon, Roger Schreiner for photographs of

the Historical Society's portraits, Ray Marrello of Antique Currency, the Cincinnati Historical Society, the Cincinnati Museum of Art, and the National Bureau of Printing and Engraving.



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

THE VIRGINIA 2007 COMMUNITY PROGRAM MADISON COUNTY

WHEREAS, in 2007, Virginia and America will be in the national and international spotlights as people everywhere commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Commonwealth and the origins of our nation; and

WHEREAS, at this time, we will recall the founding of Jamestown in 1607, the first permanent English settlement in the New World, thirteen years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth; and

WHEREAS, the great legacies of Jamestown—representative government; common language, customs and law; the free enterprise system; individual opportunity; and cultural diversity— will serve as the backdrop for the 2007 commemoration; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the Virginia 2007 Community Program are to expand tourism, economic development and educational opportunities throughout Virginia and will involve all regions of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, participating communities have agreed to follow the Virginia 2007 Community Program five-step process which consists of creating a diverse commemorative committee; adopting a project that highlights the community's history; examining the community's strengths and weaknesses to discover ways to make it a better place to work, live and visit; adopting a project to be completed before or during 2007 that will be a lasting legacy for present and future citizens of the community; and planning activities in 2007 that will invite visitors from around the nation and world to "Come Home to Virginia";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark R. Warner, do hereby recognize **MADISON COUNTY** as an important contributor to the **VIRGINIA 2007 COMMUNITY PROGRAM**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Mark R. Warner

Governor

Anita A. Rindler

Secretary of the Commonwealth

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.

Madison County Historical Society

P.O. Box 467
Madison, Virginia 22727

