



Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

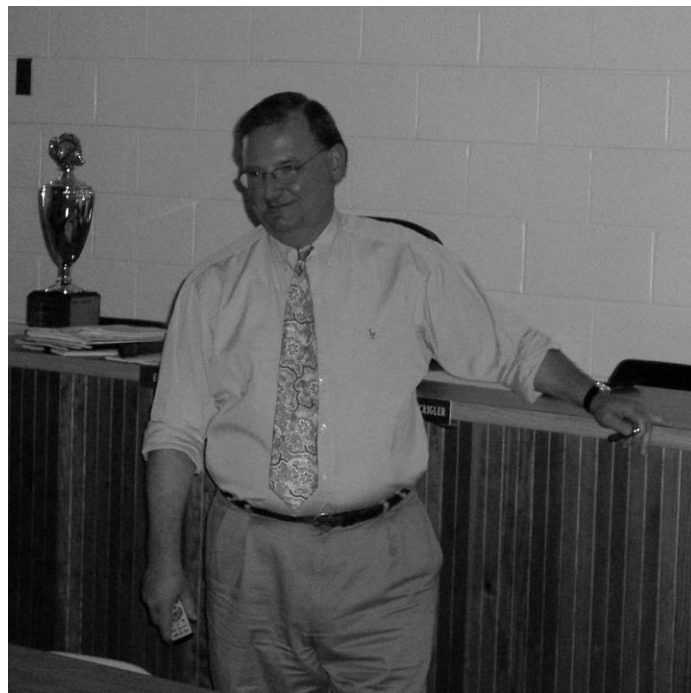
November 2006

LEONTYNE PECK TO BE NOVEMBER SPEAKER



Leontyne Clay Peck is an author, speaker and entrepreneur. A graduate of The American University, she has more than twenty years of experience in African American History and Culture. She is also the founder of Afritique, an educational consulting company. She has recently completed the history of her family, entitled, ***Silver Children-The African American Family of Henry Clay***. This is the story of her ancestor's journey from Madison County, Virginia to Piedmont, West Virginia. Ms Peck will have copies of her book available for purchase at the meeting which will be held at 2:00pm at the Madison County Auditorium.

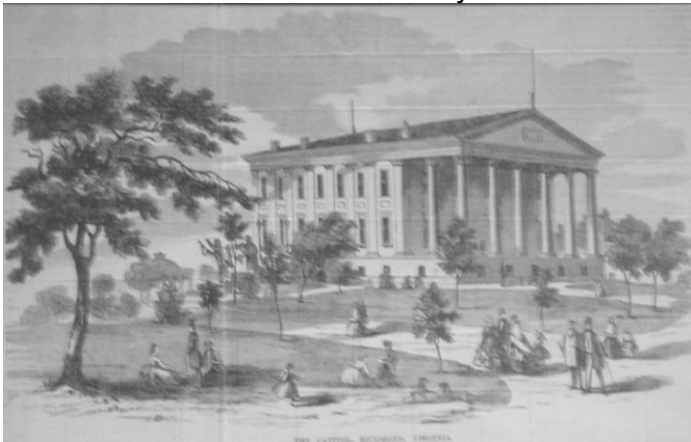
Refreshments will follow at the Kemper Residence. Please join us for this interesting presentation.



JAMES WOOTTON SPEAKS AT AUGUST MEETING

James E. Wootton, Executive Director of The Capitol Square Preservation Council spoke at August meeting of the Historical Society. His topic was "Virginia's Capitol – It's Past, Present and Future". Thomas Jefferson suggested that the capital be moved from Williamsburg to Richmond as the falls of the James provided a natural defense barrier and recommended the construction of a capitol in the Roman style.

The building is a full scale replica of a Roman temple. This style, popular in the 19th century was known as monumental classicism. The rectangular shape of the building with a triangular pediment supported by columns help identify its style. In 1785 the Commonwealth's Directors of Public Buildings requested a design from Jefferson while he was serving as minister to France. The site chosen for the new building, Shockoe Hill, overlooked the falls of the James River in Richmond. Jefferson consulted certain Greek and Roman temples, such as a temple at Baalbek and the Erechtheum and at this time probably developed the idea of the Capitol as a "temple" to Liberty or Justice. He eventually chose as a model the Maison Carrée, which Clérissseau convinced Jefferson was one of the greatest Roman buildings. The building was to have an open central court to accommodate a statue of George Washington which can still be seen in the present day capitol. During the construction this statue is protected by an air conditioned house. Unveiling of the statue is scheduled for December of this year.



Rendering of the capitol in 1802

In 1816 the surrounding area was landscaped in the French style providing three entrances. In 1817 a fence enclosure was erected to regulate the square. In 1850 the landscape was modernized to include a statue of George Washington on horseback, curving pathways and 11 entrances making the area a pedestrian park.

In April of 1870 the second floor collapsed, killing 63 people and injuring another 240. Restoration was completed and in 1893 a new state office building was constructed. At this time the two wings (for the Senate and House of Delegates) were added. The design replicates the original building but the wings are set back

from the original building's front. In 1904 the front steps were added.

The 2004 restoration will bring the building into the 21st century. The exterior will be covered with a lime based stucco to allow the building to breathe. The entire electrical system will be updated. There will be a major renovation of the Oliver Hill building (the 1893 office building). The George Washington building (built in 1923) will be completely updated. The 1941 State Library Art Deco building, the Executive office building and the Patrick Henry building will all be renovated and restored. An underground addition at the front of the original capitol building will provide for an entrance on Bank Street. This will make the building more secure as well as provide a space for exhibits. This entrance design is based on the Temperance Temple in Bremon. The trees have been recycled to other state buildings. The earth was removed and stored and will eventually be returned. When the project is completed there will no longer be any regular parking on Capitol Square. The Council hopes that their stewardship will be appreciated by the owners – the people of Virginia. Funds for this project (\$93-94 million in public funds for the restoration and \$6-7 million in private funds for the exhibits) came from both the public and private sectors. The legislatures are scheduled to reconvene in the restored building in April of 2007. For more information regarding this project see www.virginiacapitol.gov

BUS TRIP TO HISTORIC JAMESTOWN

On Saturday, September 23, 2006, forty five members and friends of The Madison County Historical Society participated in a bus trip to JAMESTOWN. This was in conjunction with the yearlong 400th anniversary event commemorating the 1607 founding of America's first permanent English colony.

Skyline Coach Lines provided comfortable transportation for the day long visit to the National Park site which includes the excavations of the original fort and a very interesting Archearium, which housed well done exhibits displaying tools, weapons and

describing living conditions of these early settlers. We then visited the Settlement Site where we had lunch and browsed through the indoor galleries before exploring the recreated Powhatan Indian Village, the replicas of the ships upon which the settlers traveled to their new land, James Fort and the riverfront. At all of these sites costumed historical interpreters were our guides to the past.

It was a fun and informative tour, the weather was fine and it was a great way to visit some of our earliest history.

(See photos at the end of the newsletter)

MEMBERSHIP

The following have become new members of the Society:

Martha & Dennis Hart

Pamela Kraus

Harold & Carol Lehman

Mr. & Mrs. V. R. Shackelford

We are happy to have you with us and hope you have a rewarding membership experience.

KEMPER FALL TEA

Another successful tea was held on Wednesday, September 27th. Special thanks to the "Kemper Girls" (Mary Haught, Heidi Sage Jill Schreiner, Betty Lynn Yowell, Anne Hughes, Beppy White, Genevieve McLearen, Lee Decker, Kay Reiss, Pam Krause, and Rita Cunningham) for all their delicious food creations and to those who served as hostesses. Our special Kemper House Tea was served and is available for sale. The next tea, the Spring Tea, is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, 2007, at 12:30 o'clock at the Kemper Residence, North Main Street. The menu will feature scones, tea breads, sweets and fruits. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Rita Cunningham at 948-6542. Handicapped seating is available upon request. Cost is \$18.00 per person

ARCADE MUSEUM NEWS

We now have fifteen faithful volunteers who keep our museum open three days a week (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday). New faces this fall are John and Barbara Garr and Dreama

Travis. Rejoining the volunteer staff is Virginia Utz. With this additional help we are able to have two people working at the museum on some days.

Many thanks to the seven volunteers who assisted with our on-going newspaper clipping project in September. We have clipped years 1995-1999. Many of these clippings need to be copied and filed. The additional years still need to be clipped. We will set some dates in January and February, so if you want to join this on-going project please call Emily Williams at 825 – 7503 or Rita Cunningham at 948-6542..

MCHS AWARDED GRANT

At their September meeting, the Virginia Genealogical Society (VGS) awarded the Madison County Historical Society (MCHS) one of their **2006 Matching Grants to Support Archival Programs**. The grant is for \$250 and will be matched by the MCHS. With this grant, MCHS will be able to purchase suitable shelving to place at the Kemper Residence for the purpose of storing those items in our collection already in acid-free boxes. Space at the Arcade Museum is limited but, more than that, the temperature and humidity there is less than satisfactory. The Kemper Residence is kept at a more constant temperature year round and provides a better atmosphere for items greatly affected by heat and humidity. This is the second grant awarded MCHS by the VGS. The first grant allowed us to hire consultants and to have better records of our holdings. We are grateful to the Virginia Genealogical Society for their interest and their help.

AT THE ARCADE

We are always amazed and excited about the things we find in the Museum. Jan Harris collected articles for years for the Museum so it is not as exciting for her as it is for those of us who have just begun working there. One of those items happens to be Judge Hay's story of Madison written in 1927 when he was forty-eight years old. His first chapter is priceless because he identifies each house on Main Street in Madison and tells who lived there. His second chapter is about the people. He names officers

of the court, lawyers, ministers, doctors, merchants, etc. In subsequent chapters, he speaks of court days in Madison—one notable section addressing the advantages of having a county judge over that of a district judge (the position of county judge had just been eliminated). He says:

“(County Court day) was, in fact, an institution which should never been done away with. More business was transacted by the, courts; cases were more expeditiously tried, than they are today. We then had a judge who was a resident of the county, for Madison had the judge from 1880, down to the time of the abolition of the county court system. The judge knew everybody in the county, he was familiar with all county problems, he had the greatest interest in maintaining order, in upholding traditions, which had made Madison one of the best counties in the state, he knew the jury, he knew the parties, and being, as he was a man of fine sense, good judgment and strict integrity, he held the scales of justice”.

A copy of Judge Hay’s story may be read at the Arcade.

Another interesting letter comes to us from Mrs. Benton (Jennie) Milster who donated the Seale Loom to the Madison County Historical Society. Jennie just celebrated her 100th birthday at Goodwin House in Alexandria. She is another of the many people who moved to Madison County and gave it so much. Her letter comes to us from Louise Aylor who found it among the papers of Charlotte Aylor Berrey, now deceased. In the letter, Jennie gives Charlotte the “genealogy” of the loom and how she acquired it. In the letter she says,

“I gave our old loom to the Madison Heritage Foundation. Mr. Phil Jenkins transported it from the cabin to the Arcade in Madison on July 28, 1990. Ruby Thomson let us in. Mr. Steve Hoffman expects to assemble the loom in the Kemper Mansion.”

The loom is, indeed, at the Kemper Residence and has been used most recently by Gene Ryan to weave rugs, which was how the Seale’s used it.

Some of our members who remember Josh Kitchens, the Germanna Foundation archivists who helped with our collection last summer, will be interested to know that Josh is working on another degree at George Mason University in

Fairfax. In his spare time, he works with the Planned Community Archives digitization project at the Fenwick Library Special Collections.

New at the Arcade is a display case acquired during the summer from an antique shop in Sperryville. This helps us display objects formerly displayed on a table. Good display cases are terribly expensive if purchased new so we are always on the lookout for good used cases.

2007 ORNAMENT

The 2007 Ornament featuring the Chestnut Grove Baptist Church is now available. You may purchase this Ornament as well as previous ornaments (The Court House, Kemper Residence, Arcade, Hebron Lutheran Church, and Piedmont Episcopal Church) at the Arcade Museum for \$11.00 plus tax. For more information call 948-5488

HOLIDAY EVENING AT THE KEMPER RESIDENCE

The Society will host an open house at the Kemper Residence on Friday, December 1, 2006, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, following the Madison Christmas Tree lighting. Hot cider and cookies will be served. The Residence will be decorated for the Christmas Season with music by harpist John Kovac.

KEMPER RESIDENCE ANTIQUE ROADSHOW

The second annual "Roadshow" will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2007, 10:00AM to 2:00PM, at the Kemper Residence on North Main Street. Appraisals will be conducted by Steve Hoffman, local historian and furniture restorer, and Sarah Francis Hays, owner of Quail at the Woods Antique Shop in Culpeper. Mr. Hoffman will evaluate furniture, toys, tools, antique arms and armor, paper and documents and Ms. Hays - china, crystal, glass, fine arts (prints) and silver. Cost of an appraisal will be \$10.00 per item or \$25.00 for three. For more information you may contact Rita Cunningham (948-6542) or Jane Volchansky (923-4584).

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.

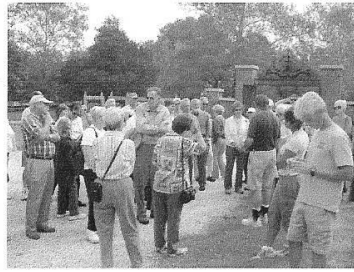
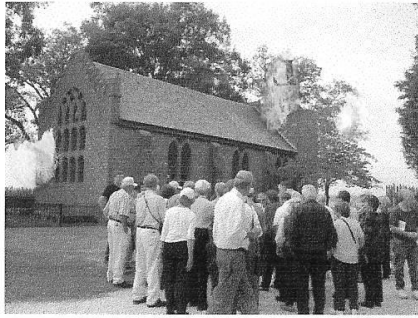
Membership is for one year with renewals due on the anniversary date of membership. Membership and other contributions to the Society are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Types of Membership:

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.

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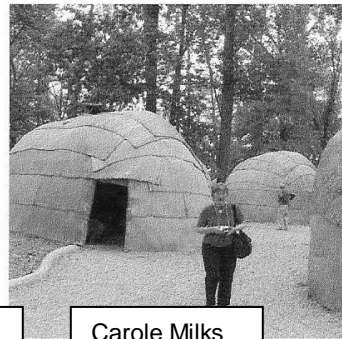
Joyce Gentry and granddaughter



Bob & Judy Lovegren



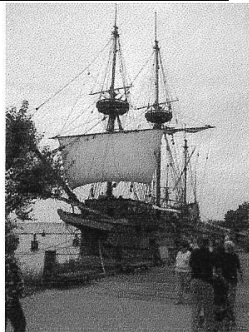
Harry & Dorothy Holliday



Carole Milks



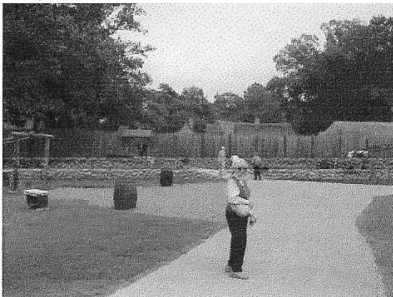
Basket weaving



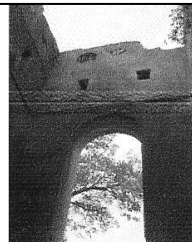
The Susan Constant



Emily Williams reading about Discovery



Emily Williams



The Church



The Blacksmith

**Madison County Historical Society bus trip to Jamestown
September 23, 2006**

Photos courtesy of Emily Williams