



Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

May 2013

JOHN BLANKENBAKER TO BE SPEAKER IN MAY

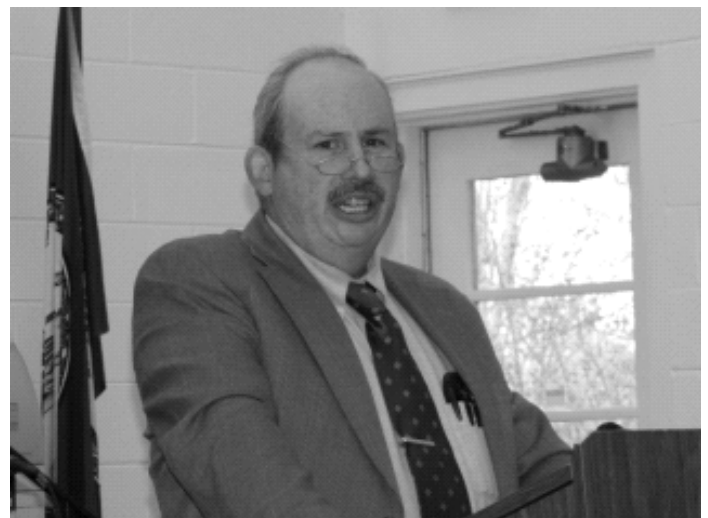


John Blankenbaker

The speaker at the May 19, 2013 quarterly meeting of the Madison County Historical Society will be John Blankenbaker. The title for his talk is "The First Settlers of Madison County." After his retirement as a computer engineer, Mr. Blankenbaker began working on the history of the Germanna people of whom he is a descendant and he has written several books and a newsletter on the subject. Germanna was a German settlement in the Colony of Virginia, settled in two waves, the first in 1714 and the second in 1717. Virginia Lt. Governor Alexander Spotswood encouraged the immigration by advertising in Germany for miners to move to Virginia and establish a mining industry in the

colony. Mr. Blankenbaker will tell us that the first settlers here in Madison County were Germans and will name individuals and show their historical background including their history in Virginia and their origin in Germany. The colonial records show who they were and many of the German names are still present in the county even though their names have been anglicized, some examples being Clore, Utz, Carpenter, Blankenbaker, Fink and Weaver. The meeting will be held in the County Administrative Offices auditorium at 2pm Sunday May 19th. Everyone is invited to attend and refreshments will be provided in the Kemper Residence next door following the presentation.

HAROLD WOODWARD TALK



Mr. Woodward speaking at the February meeting

The speaker at the February quarterly meeting of the Madison County Historical Society was Harold Woodward, Jr., a well known local Civil War historian. The subject of Mr. Woodward's

talk was "Madison County 150 years ago," and presented a picture of the County as it existed during the Civil War years in a very enlightening and informative way. He presented very interesting Census statistics of the total numbers of individuals within the County during that period with the numbers of whites and slaves. Mr. Woodward discussed the life, culture and means of livelihood of the residents of Madison County during that time period as well as the ways the County was involved in the War.

Madison County was the pathway for Federal and Confederate army units to and from battles and there were two engagements within the County, the most significant being the Battle of Jack's Shop on September 22, 1863. This battle was also one of the largest cavalry engagements of the Civil War and as Mr. Woodward says "it is the largest Civil War battle never recorded." Fought from dawn to dark, the running battle involved thousands of troopers from two divisions of the federal army under Generals Buford, Kilpatrick, and Devin who had ambushed General Lee's cavalry division under General J.E.B. Stuart. A commemoration event of this battle will take place September 21 of this year.

MEMBERSHIP

Members that have membership renewals in 2013 have been notified with a mailing in early March. The response to date has been positive. Acknowledgements are in the mail. If you have not yet renewed for 2013, please keep us in mind.

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Society to date for 2013:

Mike & Katy Cashman

Edward L. Napier

Janet & Bill McDermott

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

2013 BOARD OFFICERS ELECTED

The Board of Directors has elected the following officers for 2013:

President: Bill Scholten

Vice President: Penn Bowers

Recording Secretary: Jim Lillard

Corresponding Secretary: Carole Milks

Treasurer: Roger Schreiner

These officers will serve until the next general membership meeting in February, 2014. We are grateful for their service.

SOCIETY RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers visit while enjoying lunch

In appreciation of the services of the many volunteers who contribute time and energy to the Society, and back by popular demand, on March 22nd the "third annual" recognition luncheon was provided by Board member Max Lacy and the men's group at the Mount Zion United Methodist Church. This year an added treat was provided by the "Thrown Together Band" that entertained early arrivals before lunch was served. The following people or groups were recognized:

1. Recently retired Board members Bill Tidball and Carroll Good.
2. Roger Schreiner for his maintenance of the Society's web site.
3. Jill Schreiner for her editing and organizing of the Newsletters.
4. The "Kemper Girls" for keeping house in the Kemper residence. Present members of this group are Mary Haught, Pam Krause, Maryvonne Longley, Kay Reiss, Heidi Sage, and Jill Schreiner.
5. All those who help with preparation and serving of the semi-annual "Kemper Tea"

fund raisers. The teas are coordinated by Bob and Mary Haught with the able assistance of Bob Krause, Pam Krause, Meredith Krause, Maryvonne Longley, Kay Reiss, Heidi Sage, and Jill Schreiner.

6. The volunteers who staff the Arcade. Beppy White is the coordinator of this group. Others who volunteered in 2012 are Jane Volchansky, Michael O'Connor, Linwood Imlay, Carole Milks, Carroll Good, Virginia Utz, Gertha Houston, Dona Hutchinson, Marty Taylor, Susan Theiler, Doris Lackey, Ruth Penn, Jim Lillard, Judy Mahanes, and Kathy Lyons.

Everyone had a thoroughly good time dining on good old country fare of roast pork, beans, stewed tomatoes, greens, corn bread and pound cake. The crowd had high praise for Max and his crew. Demand for a "fourth annual" recognition dinner next year is a high probability.



"Thrown Together Band" entertains early arrivals Left to right: Dave Davidson, Dexter Sanders, Wayne Ashbrook, Hank Utz, Jesse Jenkins, Joe White, and Calvin Davis.

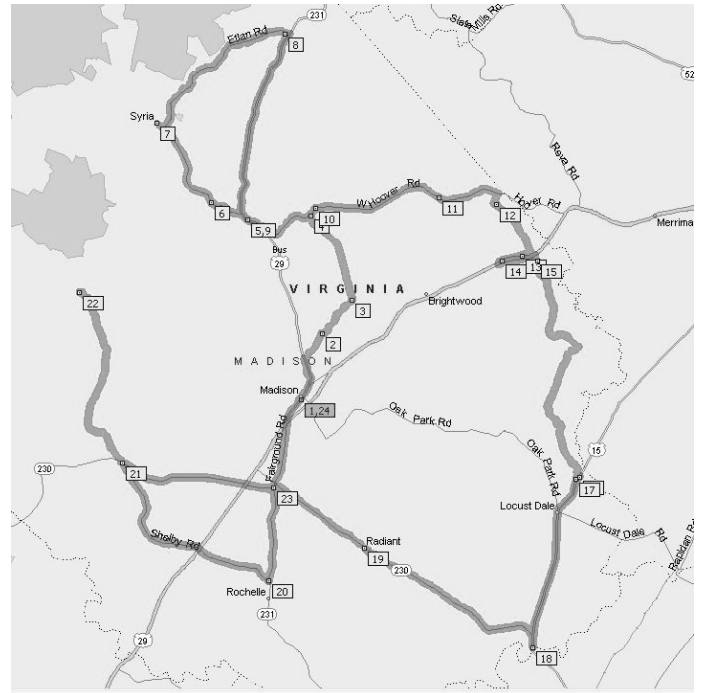
MADISON COUNTY DRIVING TOUR

Several members of the Society have been working on developing a driving tour for Madison County. The initial version of the tour is pretty much complete and should be available at the Arcade by the time you receive this newsletter. The cost of the guide has not yet been determined. The tour as it currently exists would take about 2 hours and 45 minutes (not for the faint of heart) and cover over 80 miles of driving. It also offers several side trips. You may be interested in this 32 page document whether or

not you want to take the tour. Contained in the tour is much information about Madison County history. Should you purchase the guidebook and take the tour, we would of course be interested in any feedback you may have.

As mentioned, several people contributed to the creation of the tour. Frank Walker provided much of the historical information about the Hebron Valley area from a tour he had created for the Germanna tours. Doug Graves provided most of the material from the Wolfstown and Graves Mill areas. Penn Bowers and Jim Lilliard made several contributions including taking a dry run of the tour. Roger Schreiner put all the pieces together and organized the final document. A number of others have provided comments. It will be a work in progress as we receive feedback from those that take the tour. Once the content is settled, we hope to produce a CD for an audio tour sometime next year.

The following is the overview map extracted from the tour that gives you an idea (if you have excellent eyesight!) of the areas of the county that are covered by the tour.



We may develop other targeted tours if this tour meets with success. We are also considering developing community histories. Doug Graves has provided enough information for Graves Mill to do this. If anyone might be interested in developing a local community history, please contact the society.

MADISON COUNTY MOUNTAIN HERITAGE DAY



The restored Edgar Meadows cabin

On March 2, 2013 the Piedmont Environmental Council sponsored an open house of the Edgar Meadows cabin above Syria at the Finks Hollow site. There were historical exhibits including many from the Arcade museum. There was lots of good food, mountain music, trail walks, and a "Mountain Memories" slide presentation. Over 200 folks attended, including many from the Madison County Historical Society. Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Meadows were in attendance and shared many of their family stories and their history. Believe me, a fine time was had by all.

WINTER BREAK

While the museum was closed for the winter, volunteers met several times to clip obituaries from our collection of old Madison Eagles. Ruth Penn is working on copying these and putting them in alphabetical order for our Research Room. Anyone interested will be able to look up the obits of Madison Co. residents.

Another project accomplished was clearing and organizing the work/storage room on the second floor. A kitchen area with small refrigerator and microwave was added to the workroom. Volunteers will now have a place to make a hot drink or keep their lunch cool.

The exhibits have remained about the same for now. In the near future all of the photos in the 'Before the Park' display will be reframed. The museum is in need of more volunteers. We would like to have two people working together

on each open day. We would also like very much to be open on Saturdays during the months of June, July and August. Anyone interested may come by the museum on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday between 10am and 2pm or call Beppy White at 540-718-5328. Most volunteers only work one day a month. Please join us.



New kitchen set up in Arcade Museum workroom

SPRING TEA ANOTHER SUCCESS



Tables set up for spring tea

“Neither rain, nor wind, nor power outages can prevent these volunteers from completing preparations for the Kemper Tea ...”

A storm the weekend before our Spring Tea caused three of our chef households to lose electric power for varying lengths of time. One was still “powerless” over the weekend before the tea, and she had made arrangements to do her baking at the Kemper residence. Another food item was about to be replaced by something another member could do in her kitchen.

But providence prevailed, and everyone’s power came back on line in time for all the food to be prepared as usual. Planning flexibility is just one way our volunteers are dedicated to offering guests a good experience at the semi- annual tea.



Meredith Krause serves tea to guests in the English basement

Once again, we had a capacity attendance. We are grateful to those loyal friends and supporters who plan to be a part of every one of our teas. This event has become a major source of funding for projects of the Madison County Historical Society.

The Fall Tea will be Wednesday, September 25, so mark your calendars to avoid scheduling a conflicting appointment that day. We will begin receiving reservations on September 1.

Thanks go out from the historical society membership to all those who support the teas.



Kay Reiss pours tea for Wilma Myers and Louisa Grogan

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 the Arcade and the Kemper Residence, and on-line at the Society's web page - www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org. (Click on "ABOUT US", and then on "application"). For more information call the Society Office at 540-948-5488 Please leave a message if no one answers. We will return your call. You can also email us at madisonhistory@verizon.net.



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