



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

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May 2016



Susan Eisenfeld

SUSAN EISENFELD SPEAKER FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING ON MAY 15, 2016

Our speaker for the May 15, 2016 Madison County Historical Society quarterly meeting will be Sue Eisenfeld and she will talk with us about her book "Shenandoah: A Story of Conservation and Betrayal."

Sue Eisenfeld is a freelance writer, a communication consultant and faculty member in the Johns Hopkins University M.A. in Writing Program.

For 15 years Sue and her husband hiked, backpacked and bushwhacked the hills and hollows in Shenandoah National Park, unaware of the tragic history behind the creation of the park. Her book presents her personal journey into the park's veiled past based on her off-trail

explorations. It is the story of her discovery of relics and memories which the few thousand mountain residents left behind when the government used eminent domain to remove the people from their land in order to create the park.

This is a story which remains even today deeply embedded in Madison County and surrounding counties involved in the creation of the Park. Madison County was the first to construct a memorial dedicated to those individuals displaced by its creation. The chimney shaped memorial symbolizing the old mountain farm houses stands in Criglersville and displays the names of local families who were displaced from their homes. Sue Eisenfeld was present for the dedication of this memorial.

The meeting will be held in the County Administrative Offices auditorium at 2pm Sunday May 15th. Everyone is invited to attend and refreshments will be served following the presentation.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS AND OFFICERS ELECTED

At the annual meeting in February membership elected the following people to serve on the society's board of directors: Max Lacy, Roger Schreiner, Arlene Aylor and Jim Lillard.

At the March monthly Directors meeting the following officers were elected:

- President-Max Lacy
- Vice Pres-Penn Bowers
- Treasurer-Roger Schreiner
- Recording Secretary-Judy Mahanes

- Corresponding Secretary- Arlene Aylor



Terry Brock

SOCIETY MEETING SPEAKER FEBRUARY 21, 2016

Our speaker for the February 21st quarterly meeting of the Madison County Historical Society was Terry Brock, Ph.D., Senior Research Archeologist at James Madison's Montpelier in Orange, Virginia. The subject of his presentation was the restoration of the plantation landscape at Montpelier.

Archeologists at Montpelier are working to bring the entire plantation to life, as house/home to the Madison's and as many as one hundred slaves, the focus being on Madison's presidential and retirement period. The archeological programs use archival materials and records, excavations, lab analysis, and proceed to reconstruction. Archeology is performed by volunteers supervised by professionals.

The evolution of the Madison landscape (1766-1844) began with the purchase of land in 1723 by Ambrose Madison, the future President's grandfather, who built Mt. Pleasant. James Madison Senior, the President's father built the original part of the present home in 1765 in the Georgian style. James and Dolley made it a duplex in 1802 and in 1809 additions were added and the home changed into a French style of architecture. Wings were added with indoor kitchens below. The back lawn was flattened and treescapes placed to block view of the slave quarters in the South yard.

Dr. Brock discussed uncovering slavery at Montpelier. Using an insurance map of the South yard from the period, archaeologists have

been able to determine the size and placement of smokehouses and quarters, finding trace modifications in the soil for foundations, post placements, root cellars, chimney placements, etc. along with ceramics and other objects. The North section of the plantation was where the stables and blacksmith shops existed. Well preserved evidence of brick bases of fire places provided accurate estimates of the size of the buildings. Further North was where the field quarters existed and in the East section is the slave cemetery.

A substantial grant to Montpelier from David Rubenstein permits future archaeological research of the plantation and restoration of slave quarters and smokehouses with a focus on slave life at Montpelier.



Members enjoy reception with Terry

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It looks like the new year is bringing many obstacles to the forefront. After voting to move the museum to the basement of the Kemper House, there have been some crooks in the path to completing the move. The brick walls in the basement are shedding dust. This is a major concern and, as yet, has not been dealt with. We are working on a solution, but it is a slow process. The electric bills have been pretty high according to county records, and we are working on a solution to that problem.

The Arcade Museum is open again and we would like to see lots of visitors during the spring and summer. We have lots to offer in the way of Madison County History.

Thanks to the Questers, we have a plaque on the mantle in the Servants Quarters showing that they helped furnish the Quarters.

Thanks to Mary Haught and her Tea Ladies for a wonderful Tea, helping to add to our coffers this spring. Other than dues this is our main source of income.

I would like to welcome our new Board members: Arlene Aylor and Jim Lillard. I would also like to thank Ren LeVally for volunteering to be our Tech person. Thanks to all of our Volunteers for the things they do to help our Society grow.

I know this newsletter reaches only our members, but you, as members, could help us in recruiting new members and volunteers to the Society. Please consider asking your neighbors and friends if they would like to become a part of a great organization that is dedicated to growing the history of Madison County.



Max Lacy at the Blue Ridge Memorial

SOCIETY PRESIDENT RECIPIENT OF LIONS CLUB MADISON AWARD

The Madison County Historical Society nominated Maxwell Lacy as its candidate for the 2016 Lions Club Madison Award. Max is the current President of the MCHS. The Lions Club selected Max as the recipient of the 2016 award which is given annually to the person deemed most worthy of recognition for unpaid community service in the county. The award is intended not only to recognize outstanding community service but to encourage it.

Max is a Madison County native and fourth generation Lacy postmaster at Oak Park. He began his many years of community service at a

very early age helping his mother raise money for the Women's Missionary Society at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Oak Park, thus setting a pattern for his service to the community all of his adult life and which continues to this day.

In the mid 1960's Max was very active in the local chapter of the Jaycees and spearheaded money raising activities to assist their endeavors to give back to the community.

As a member of the Madison Boosters he accomplished many things to help high school sports activities and facilities and was very active in youth sports in the 70's and 80's both in coaching and raising money for youth sports activities. He is famous for his money raising BBQ's.

He leads the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Men's group which has raised funds for mission trips, memorial funds, support for MESA, the Madison Learning Center the Senior Center and other worthy causes.

As a bass in the Beulah Land Quartet, Max can be found using his musical skills as another avenue to raise funds for endeavors such as Habitat for Humanity, the Literacy Council and the Madison Library as well as entertainment for nursing homes, the senior center, funerals and revivals.

Max has done things too numerous to entirely cover here but he has been a near lifelong volunteer of his intellectual, artistic and physical talents in service to Madison County.

The ceremony honoring Max and the award presentation will be at the Lions Club meeting banquet on Tuesday evening, May 17th at Graves Mountain Lodge at 7:00 pm. The cost of the dinner will be \$23.00 per person. The program begins at 7:00pm but all will gather downstairs for beverages and a social period at 6:00 pm.

Anyone planning to attend should notify Bud Kreh at 949-7629 or budkreh@realtor.com not later than May 10th.

Let's all be there to support Max as he is honored for his years of service to our community.

MADISON'S SCHOOL HISTORY

Our four Madison schools embody and reflect the history of education in the county during the last 50 years. During the prior 240 years of

Madison County history more than 150 school houses were active.

Last summer a small group of researchers combed through historical resources at the Society Museum and developed a list of 170 school names (including at least 30 black schools). Linda Yurinak worked diligently recording the names and communities or locations served. This list will organize a search for supporting details related to the individual schools, teachers, and the students.

A call for community participation, to launch a research effort will be publicly announced in the near future. The research will initially focus on community elders, and our retired teachers, who may have attended a county school prior to the consolidation of schools in the mid-twentieth century. The researchers will request community members donate copies of pictures and school documents, such as: report cards, promotion certificates, graduation certificates, printed graduation ceremony programs, or school books. Interviews and oral histories may be conducted.

Bill McDermott has volunteered to facilitate and coordinate the data collection effort. Society members who wish to contribute, participate, or be more actively involved should leave a message for Bill at the Arcade or call the society line - (540) 948-5488 - and leave a message with your name and contact information.

MEMBERSHIP

We have several new members this quarter.

Ned Ellerbe

Alan Lacy

Welcome to the Society.

Remember that Society membership is a wonderful gift any time of the year. A copy of the Society membership application can be obtained at the following link:

www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org/application.pdf

Applications can also be obtained at the Arcade or by mailing a request to the Society.

For those that have renewed your membership for 2016, many thanks. Society dues are our major source of income.

PIECES OF THE PAST

When it comes to evoking fear and dread, few mechanical sounds can match that of the shrill, high-speed whine of the dentist's drill.

If your experiences at the dentist bring a shudder, step back in time with a visit to Madison's Arcade Museum. On display now: A drill used by Madison's R. E. Lee Taliaferro more than a century ago—which, believe it or not, likely will make you grateful for today's equipment.

Dr. Taliaferro (pronounced "Tolliver") was born in Madison Mills in 1866. After graduation from the University of Maryland and an internship, he began practicing medicine and dentistry from his home in Madison. A nephew opined that when his uncle entered medicine the world lost a fine engineer, for Taliaferro was intensely interested in all things mechanical.

Thus it is no surprise that he had a then-state-of-the-art mechanical drill in his home. Like the earliest of such devices, in large part it was based on the mechanical principles of the spinning wheel, powered by a foot-pedal. Imagine your dentist drilling a tooth while at the same time vigorously pumping a leg to keep the drill spinning!

The Madison County Historical Society's Arcade Museum, at 124 North Main St., is open through mid-December on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. From Memorial Day through Labor Day it also opens (same hours) on Saturdays.



A photo of Dr. R.E. Lee Taliaferro's dental drill, which was powered by the foot pedal at its base. Sometimes a dentist would have an assistant pump the pedal, but often had to work the machine alone.

APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

On March 23rd we held our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at Mt. Zion United Methodist church in Oak Park. Max Lacy and his church men's group cooked wonderful food as usual.

A special thank you goes to our retiring Board members Carole Milks and Pat Lattin. Carole has spent many years doing a wonderful job as Correspondence Secretary, writing many thank you letters and keeping organized notebooks of all of our records. She also took

pictures at many of our events and always brought tasty scones to the quarterly programs. Thankfully, she is still volunteering at the museum and helping people with genealogy. Thank you to Pat Lattin. She has been fun to work with, making archival boxes at the museum and using her artistic skills in many other ways. She now has a long awaited chance to travel with her husband Chris.

To all of our museum volunteers--thank you for all you do at the Arcade, for taking good care of our visitors, for being dependable and willing to fill in where needed. Welcome to our newest volunteer Bill Graham.

A big thank you goes to Mary Haught and her 'Kemper Ladies' who keep the Kemper Residence looking great and put on the most popular Tea Party in the area. This is our only fund raiser.

Last but not least, thank you to Jill Schreiner for putting this newsletter together every quarter. I know it is sometimes challenging.

SPRING TEA RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The Spring Tea on March 30th was another resounding success! We had a capacity attendance and a waiting list. Guests dined on an assortment of savories and sweets, sipped our special blend of Kemper tea and enjoyed friends, old and new, at the event. As always, the Society is grateful for enthusiastic support from members of the community. These events are a major source of funds for the Society.

Many of the guests were "regulars", who attend most of these semi-annual opportunities to support the Society, but there were a few who had not been to the Kemper Residence before. They were overwhelmed by this historic building. The Fall Tea is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21st. We hope you will reserve the date on your calendars. Reservations will be accepted beginning in mid-August. Be sure to reserve promptly to avoid being disappointed when we reach capacity.

Thanks go to loyal members of the team that make these fundraising events possible: Katy Cashman, Pat Lattin, Maryvonne Longley and Heidi Sage along with Bob and Mary Haught.

We were fortunate on this occasion to also have help from Pat's husband, Chris Lattin. These volunteers set the tables, wash the dishes, put away all the chairs and wash the linens. Those responsibilities take place before and after they create and donate the tasty treats for these occasions. Special assistance continues to be offered by Jill Schreiner and Bill Scholten.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Fall Tea on September 21, to continue your support of the Historical Society.



KEMPER ITEMS ON DISPLAY

We are extremely fortunate to now have on loan one of the crutches used by James Lawson Kemper after he was wounded in the War Between the States. Joseph Shelton, a Kemper impersonator, brought a number of items to the Historical Society for display in the Kemper Residence.

Another item of particular interest is his 'dog tag', a round disk imprinted with JAMES KEMPER on one side and 7 VA INF RGMT on the other side. Other memorabilia include a silver spoon, a lovely tea cup and saucer, pictures of Kemper's coat and sword and a list of servants, by first name only, born from 1827 through 1861.

We are very appreciative of the generosity of Mr. Shelton, who will be our guest speaker on June 11, 2016 at the annual Kemper Birthday celebration. This event is held at Kemper's last home, Walnut Hill, in Orange County.

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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