

Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



Madison County
Historical Society

www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org

May 2019

Native American Sites In the Blue Ridge



Dr. Carole Nash, Associate Professor in the Department of Integrated Science and Technology and the Oliver Senior Endowed Professor in the College of Science and Integrated Technology at James Madison University, will be the speaker at the May 19th quarterly meeting of the Madison County Historical Society. The topic of her presentation will be "Gathering Places: Native American Sites in the Blue Ridge."

The movement of small family groups through the Blue Ridge was a pattern of Native American Life for thousands of years. The locations where hollows open to rivers were especially important for longer-term sites, which served as gathering places for people moving back and forth between the Blue Ridge and Piedmont. This presentation considers the role of these gathering places through the study of two sites occupied intermittently for over 10,000 years at the eastern base of Old Rag Mountain. Archaeological evidence tells a story of people

who were at home on Old Rag and whose travels connected them to communities beyond the local area. Recently when enlarging a parking lot at the base of Old Rag, Native American archeological remnants were unearthed and Dr. Nash was called to examine the artifacts. She specializes in Native American studies and human ecology.

A practitioner of citizen science, Carole co-directs the Archaeological Technician Certification program for the Archaeological Society of Virginia and the Department of Historic Resources. The catalyst for this work was in mountain settings. In August of 2017 she spoke to the Madison County Historical Society about recent historical research and archeological survey in Shenandoah National Park leading to the rediscovery of Belmont, a significant Warren County, Virginia vineyard and winery with origins prior to the Civil War.

Dr. Nash has 39 years of experience in the archaeology of the Middle Atlantic region and is a specialist in the archaeology of the Appalachians. She just completed four years as President of the Archaeological Society of Virginia and is the author of over 175 technical reports, scholarly papers and publications. Included among her studies is The Madison Archaeology Project (MAP), supported by the Madison County Historical Society from 1990-2000, and the basis for her Ph.D. dissertation in the Department of Anthropology, Catholic University of America on the prehistoric archaeology of the Virginia Blue Ridge region.

The meeting will be held in the Madison County Administration Offices auditorium at 2pm Sunday May 19th. Refreshments will be served in the Kemper home following the presentation and everyone is invited to attend.

PS Carole is a native of the Burnt Tree area of Madison County.

A Note From The President

As we are in a new season for the Museum, it is good to reflect on what has and will be going on. Beppy has organized several new exhibits and rearranged the main room as you enter the museum. Thanks to the cleaning crew for all of their hard work in getting the museum ready for opening day. There are several new books for sale on the display table.



Thanks to the "Tea Crew" for another wonderful tea. The teas are our only major fundraiser besides the dues. Mary Haught and her crew always do a fine job of organizing the tea and also helping us to spread a good word about the Society.

Many thanks to Penn Bowers for lining up our programs each quarter. We always have good ones and they are well attended. If you haven't been to one, I know that you would surely enjoy it. Watch the Madison Eagle and/or Facebook for upcoming programs.

I would like to encourage you to come to the museum if you haven't been. I think you will be surprised at the number of things that we have on display. The Mansion, Servants quarters, and the Law office are included in the tour. We would love to have groups to come and visit. We would even open the museum for groups, upon request, on days that it is closed. Our regular hours are Tues., Thur., and Friday from 10 AM until 2 PM. If your group is interested in a private tour, give us a call at 540-395-5119 and leave a message and one of our volunteers will return your call.

Many thanks to our current volunteers for all they do for us and while speaking of volunteers, we are always looking for people with a love of history to volunteer with the Madison County Historical Society. We hope to see you at the museum soon.

Thanks
Max Lacy

Your Board of Directors

Arlene Aylor, Mike Hale, Max Lacy, and Pam Nelson were re-elected to the Madison County Historical Society Board at the annual membership meeting on February 17, 2019. At the March Board meeting, the following officers were elected to serve through February 2020:

President: Max Lacy

Vice-President: Penn Bowers

Recording Secretary: Phil Brockman

Corresponding Secretary: Martha Breeden

Treasurer: Judy Mahanes

Supporting these officers are Museum Curator Beppy White, Membership Chair Arlene Aylor, and Oral History Chair Pam Nelson. Mary Haught manages rentals at the Kemper Residence and co-ordinates the semi-annual Teas that raise significant funds for the Society.

The twelve members of the Board for 2019-2020 are Arlene Aylor, Penn Bowers, Martha Breeden, Phil Brockman, Jean Busboso, Janice Carpenter, Mike Hale, Max Lacy, Judy Mahanes, Pam Nelson, Sandy Stowe, and Beppy White. Please do not hesitate to contact any of these members if you have questions about Society projects or suggestions for future endeavors.

HELP!

We are currently planning WW I and WW II exhibits for our museum.

If you have pictures or other memorabilia from a Madison County ancestor/relative who fought in either war, please consider sharing information about them with us.

Contact Beppy White, Curator at
540-395-5119 (museum)
or 540-718-5328 (cell).

The Last Year of the Locust Dale School

by

Jean Durham Busboso

I started first grade at the Locust Dale School in 1941. Although it had two rooms, only one was used for grades one to five. I was in grade one and my brother was in grade five. Students in higher grades were bused to Radiant School or to Madison High School. It was a framed building and it did have electricity, but there was no plumbing. There were two outhouses, one for boys and one for girls; neither had paper, not even a catalog. There was no water on the grounds. It was brought from a well at a near-by African/American house by the older boys and kept in a crock. Since I have no memory of having taken a drinking utensil to the school, I assume we all used a dipper. There was a pot-belly stove used for heating. It must have been sufficient as I do not remember being cold.

The teacher was a Miss Faye Williams, who was not a resident of the county. She boarded at a farm family's home several miles from the school. I have a picture of her and she does not seem very young or very old for that matter. I really know very little about her, but I do remember one of the older boys teasing her about not being from the county. She did not have a car but rode the school bus from her boarding home to the Locust Dale Post Office and then walked to the school, and I assume she did the reverse in the afternoon. She was always at the school when we arrived and there when we left for the day. As far as I remember, she never missed a day. Also, she must have maintained the fire in the stove. I do not think the building was locked.

My brother reminded me of a most unusual event that occurred with Miss Williams. One of the boys caught and killed a snake. She took it, placed it in a pot of water, and cooked it until only the bones were left, which she made into a necklace. However, I don't remember her ever wearing it. One of the things I remember most about Miss Williams was that she tried to teach us crafts. We learned to weave small baskets, but unfortunately, there are none in existence. However, I have beautiful hot-plate mats that we learned to make. She had a board with nails (I think) that we used to weave the mats. When I look at the intricate detail on them now, I wonder how in the world we made them.

The furnishings in the building were sparse—tables and chairs. I don't remember any pictures or a flag, and definitely no library. I believe that above the blackboard there was the alphabet in cursive letters.

We were a small group, probably around 10 students. With one exception, we were all children of tenant

farmers who worked for landed gentry in the area. We all walked to school, with some coming from quite a distance. We must have had recess, but I don't remember anything that we did. There were woods nearby, and the boys built a structure like a lean-to there. The teacher did not read stories to us, nor did we try to learn any songs. According to my report card, I was graded on reading, writing, and spelling. Also, I was graded on arithmetic the second part of the school year. I don't remember the lessons, except for one time, when I tried to fudge a spelling lesson and got caught.

Once a month a church group came to teach us Bible stories with the use of a flannel board. Also, someone once or twice dropped off apples which were a treat for us. By the second half of the year, the USA were involved in World War II, and more than once a week we and the teacher walked down to Route 15 to watch the long lines of convoys with trucks and jeeps full of soldiers. Near the end of the year it was decided that we would have a picnic in the village of Rapidan. One of the students knew a place where we would be allowed to have it. Someone took us there, but we had to walk back. I remember being very tired after the journey.

In the summer, someone came with a petition to have the school closed. My mother was quite upset with my father because he signed it and the school was closed. In September a few of us then took the bus to Radiant School. However, most of the students went to a Culpeper school, and I never saw them again. The building was then turned into a residence. I believe it was purchased by the adjoining farm for use as tenant housing. In later years it was rented, and unfortunately the building burned in 2015.



Visit the Museum

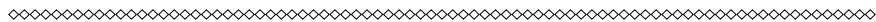


The Madison Museum reopened on March 1 for the 2019 season. The Museum is located on the lower level of the Kemper Residence at 412 N Main Street in town. Visitors also get to tour the upper floors of the residence as well as the Servant Cabin and Kemper-McMullen Law Office in the back yard. New exhibits include "Odds & Ends", a display of antique toys, a stereoscope picture viewer, and a leather covered box containing a mustache curler. Also, our recently obtained portrait of Francis Henry Hill hangs near an exhibit showcasing the Hill-Hume Family Bible. Thanks to Beppy White and Sandy Stowe for updating these exhibits.

Permanent exhibits include Everette Weakley's model of the West Virginia Lumber Company's railroad, an original copy of the Madison County map drawn by John Wood in 1821, and a dental drill dating back to the early 1900s and powered by foot! Another popular exhibit is the "Before the Park" display of photographs and household items from the 1930s.

We invite all to stop in to see us, whether you have never visited the Museum or come frequently to chat or shop in our Gift Shop! We recently hosted the SCA from Waverly Yowell Elementary School when seventeen students and two teachers took a walking field trip!

The Museum is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Arrangements for group tours may be made on other days by contacting an officer of the Society.



Recent Acquisition Unique Fire Screen

The Society recently received the gift of an unusual fire place screen. The small screen, featuring a cross-stitched dog, was adjustable to shield a lady's face as she warmed herself in front of the fire.

Susan Fletcher of Louisa bought the screen last fall at an estate auction in Graves Mill. It had belonged to Kathleen and C.K. Rhodes. She later decided that she would like to see it stay in Madison County and contacted the Historical Society. We are so grateful for her generosity. The screen is currently on display in the Museum's entrance room.



New Gift Shop Items



The Madison Museum's Gift Shop has added two recently published books and a series of notecards to its offerings. The cards feature scenes of the area painted by local artist Frances Lacy, who generously donated the art to the Society. All who see them rave about how beautiful they are! Thank you, Frances for sharing your talents with us!

The new books are

- *Daily News, Little Papers are Journalism Too*, a memoir, published in 2018 by Madison County resident Kathleen Hoffman about her years as a reporter for the Culpeper Star-Exponent.
- Terry L Miller's *African Americans in Culpeper, Orange, Madison, and Rappahannock Counties*, published by Arcadia in 2019 as part of its *Images of America* series.

Many other items, including the famous Kemper Tea, are available for you to browse and buy! We accept cash and checks but do not process credit card charges.



Membership Report

We would like to welcome five new members since our last newsletter. They are:

- Lucy DeYoung—Woodinville, WA
- Pat Mingee—Manquin, VA
- Charles MacDonald—Sperryville, VA
- Martin & Brenda Lyddane—Locust Dale, VA
- James Lohr—Brightwood, VA

Thanks to all those renewing their memberships so promptly this year. However, approximately 33% of our active members have not renewed to date. There is still time to get your renewal in for 2019. We sincerely appreciate the support of the 180 (more or less) members of the Society.

Luncheon Teas Support the Society

The Tea Team is once again gratified that reservations for the spring tea reached capacity by the end of February. We are grateful for the support from so many in the community and surrounding areas who attend the teas and invite others to join them.

Thanks go to Museum Curator, Beppy White, for making it possible to offer accessible seating for the first time since the museum moved to the Kemper Residence. She and other museum volunteers shifted some of the exhibits so we could accommodate a few guests on the ground level. We received requests for additional seats after the available tables were spoken for.



Arlene Aylor and Martha Breeden, Historical Society officers and museum volunteers, offered to serve as hostesses for those seated in the museum. This additional space made it possible for a few extra guests to enjoy the tea...and most importantly, to support the Historical Society. The volunteer chefs are happy to increase their donations of food delicacies to serve additional guests, and to benefit the Society. Since all the food is donated by the chefs, all income goes directly to the Society.

Plans are under way for the fall tea, scheduled for Wednesday, September 25. Please mark your calendars to you can make reservations as soon as you receive the fall newsletter. We hope you will plan to join us to again enjoy a delightful social occasion while supporting the Madison County Historical Society. The teas are the main source of revenue for the Society outside of our dues.

If you have questions or comments or questions, send a note to maryhaught@hughes.net.





News from Germanna

The Germanna Foundation has announced several Public Access Days when you can visit its properties without prior appointment.

- **Salubria**, 19173 Salubria Lane (off Route 3), Stevensburg, VA
 - ~ Friday, June 21, 2019, from 10:30 AM until 2:30 PM
 - ~ Friday, July 5, 2019, from 10:30 AM until 2:30 PM
- **Fort Germanna archaeology site**
 - ~ Thursday, July 18, 2019, from 10:30 AM until 4:00 PM
 - ~ Thursday, August 1, 2019, from 10:30 AM until 2:30 PM

Report to the Germanna Visitor Center at 2062 Germanna Highway, Locust Grove, for directions to the Fort site. The Visitor Center shares an entrance off Route 3 with the Locust Grove campus of Germanna Community College. Many of you will remember the interesting presentation by Germanna Archaeologist Dr. Eric Larsen at our meeting last May.

Plans have also been announced for the Germanna Foundation 62nd Annual Conference and Reunion. The dates are July 18–21, 2019. This year's conference features a Heritage Tour to Jamestown on Friday in observance of the 400th anniversary of Virginia's "Red Letter" Year.

Saturday events include the Historical & Genealogical Conference and Annual Meeting at the Daniel Center in Culpeper, followed by Tours, Dinner (catered by Bavarian Chef), Drinks, and Music at Salubria.

On Sunday, Reunion attendees are invited to worship at Little Fork Episcopal Church in Rixeyville or at Hebron Lutheran Church here in Madison. Sunday lunch will be at Graves Mountain Lodge.

Contact the Visitor Center for more details and registration information.

The Visitor Center is open Tuesday–Saturday, 1:00 PM–5:00 PM.

540-423-1700

foundation@germanna.org

GERMANNA.ORG

Mother of the Year 1959 Alma Blanche Crigler Clore



In a Madison County Day Program for May 9, 1959, Betty Parker Ashton wrote a feature article to honor Alma Blanche Crigler Clore as "Mother of the Year." Married at age twenty-two to Edward Ashby Clore, "Miss Alma" became part of the E. A. Clore family furniture business established by Moses Clore in 1830. She was the mother of twelve children – six sons and six daughters. A civic-minded citizen, Miss Alma's activities included a charter membership with the Madison Home Demonstration Club, the Madison Garden Club, the Madison County Grange, and the Community League (PTA). She was also a member of Hebron Lutheran Church. To end her article, Ashton writes "Through her sense of responsibility, her kindness, understanding, wit, enthusiasm, and her hospitality, Mrs. Clore has spread the quiet influence of a gentlewoman throughout Madison County and beyond."

Mrs. E. A. Clore's Favorite Recipe - Old Time Chocolate Pie

- 1 ½ cup cream
- 1 ½ cup milk
- 1 ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup butter
- 4 tablespoons flour (rounded)
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 square chocolate

Mix above ingredients and pour into 2 unbaked pie shells. Shave one square chocolate over filling. Bake in medium oven until done.

Jennings and Adams Entertain and Educate in February



The speaker for the February 17, 2019 quarterly meeting was Dr. Dena Jennings, Orange County physician and maker of gourd banjos. Dr. Jennings grew up in Akron, Ohio acquiring a love for music at a young age, ultimately teaching herself to play many percussion instruments and earned a medical degree. In the year 2005 she purchased a hand-made banjo and apprenticed herself to the maker of this banjo, ultimately purchasing his shop in Canada. While in Canada she met and married Donald Jennings, an organic herb farmer and moved her studio to the farm in Orange County where she continues to practice medicine and to grow gourds from which she makes banjos of different designs. She also gives lectures on the gourd banjo and its history "from Africa to Appalachia."

For the presentation we were fortunate to have with us her friend Mr. Greg Adams, archivist, ethnomusicologist and musician, currently serving as Assistant Archivist at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage in Washington, D.C.

We were treated to a fascinating afternoon of song, banjo music and its history. The banjo has its roots in Africa and came to the U.S. through the Caribbean and slave trade. The slaves had their own instruments which they made. Dena sang a song in Swahili and English accompanied in part by Mr. Adams using hand- made wooden "bones."

A primitive instrument from West Africa (an Ekonting) with three strings and made from a gourd was displayed and played. A "Banza" made in the Caribbean from a smaller gourd and fewer strings was played while singing a Virgin Mary Song. An 1680's Jamaican banjo was played with song. A ca. 1850's U.S. round banjo with metal work and keyboard with frets to tune had a much mellower sound and is much more modern in appearance. A tune was played on this instrument accompanied by a tambourine. This was the centerpiece of the commercialization of the culture: blackface minstrel shows, etc. Sears sold banjos!! and people learned to play them. Mr. Adams played a toe tapper from the late 18th century on this banjo. Banjos developed into many different shapes and styles of music: Appalachian, Blue Grass, Low Country, etc. The Jennings Jig "I'm On My Way" was played using the fiddle and the banjo.

Banjo in the Kentucky Mountains. Mrs. Jennings found that her forebears on her mother's side came from the Cumberland Gap and moved to Akron, Ohio taking their music, religion and food with them. She played and sang in Scottish Gaelic and English from her region, "Down to the River to Pray" and the audience joined in- fascinating!!

She played a Gourd Drum with bells which she had made and sang "Oh Death" (Gullah and Kentucky) accompanied by bones. She sang "Lumberjack using the wooden "Dummy" dancing on a board- masterful!

Modern Banjo: 19th and 20th Century. More metal, frets and modern manufacturing. Mr. Adams played "St. Louie Tickle" from the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. It was played by plucking rather than strumming the strings.

A wonderful and instructive afternoon enjoyed by all.

Mrs. Jennings finally showed us an old copper banjo which she had purchased and remade into a banjo ukulele. Playing it, she sang a song which she had composed, "Yo Yo Beau" which sounded ragtime and was another toe tapper.

This program was fascinating and many kudos go to Dena Jennings and Greg Adams.



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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 and donations, major sources of income for the Society, are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Membership application forms are available at the Museum and on-line at www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org. (Click "About Us" and scroll down the page.) Memberships run for one calendar year and include the following categories:

Sustainer	\$500 or more	Business	\$50
Benefactor	\$250 to \$499	Family	\$30
Partner	\$100 to \$249	Single	\$20
Friend	\$50 to \$99	Student	\$5

For more information about any of our activities, call the Society Office at 540-395-5119. Leave a message if no one answers so we may return your call. Our email address is madisonvahistory@gmail.com.

Our physical address is 412 N Main Street in the town of Madison.