

# Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



"Whimsy" Jane Volchansky



"Sunflower" Sandy Stowe

Madison County  
Historical Society

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

July 2020

## Come to the Mountain Museum



The August 16th program for the Madison County Historical Society will be a PREVIEW visit to our new Mountain Museum at Criglersville. Come anytime between 2:00 and 4:00 PM, weather permitting, to view the memorial site and the unfinished museum with Board members present to explain the site area and continuing plans for the museum itself. Everyone is invited. In particular, anyone who may have taught or attended school in the cottage might find the visit interesting.

For those who have regularly attended our programs or have received and read our past newsletters you would know that we have frequently focused on the

*(Continued on Page 7)*

## Madison County Launches Barn Quilt Trail

Pandemic weary residents and visitors have a new way to explore Madison County with a recently launched "Quilts of Madison County" Barn Quilt Trail. The Barn Quilt Trail Movement began in Adams County, Ohio in 2001 when Donna Sue Groves, a West Virginia native, dreamed of honoring her Appalachian roots by decorating rural barns with painted quilt patterns to create a driving tour through the countryside. Familiar with the hex signs often found on Pennsylvania barns, Donna wanted to showcase the artistic talents of local quilters in an agricultural setting. Today there are barn quilt trails in at least 48 states throughout the United States.

The Art Guild of Greene County began holding barn quilt workshops led by Vyvyan Rundgren, a local artist who has taught classes at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Asheville, N.C. After the Greene County trail was established, Vyvyan began offering workshops in Madison County at historic Hebron Lutheran Church. The result is a self-guided driving tour currently featuring 31 quilt signs. Plans are in place for the workshops to continue in Madison with signs as small as one foot and as large as eight feet - or more. Additional signs may be added to the tour with an insert to the current brochure. You do not have to be a traditional quilter accomplished with needle and thread to enjoy or create these quilts. In this case, plywood and paint work just fine!

The Madison County Barn Quilt Trail is sponsored by the Madison County Tourism/Economic Development Office. Nan Coppedge, Kaci Daniel, and Laura DeBoer volunteered to compile information for the brochure that documents the location of each sign on the tour with an address and a map created by the Piedmont Environmental Council. Although not every quilter has a barn for their sign, a successful scavenger hunt showcases the artistic beauty of quilts, the natural beauty of the countryside, and historic barns deserving recognition for their role in the history of Madison County.

Let a designated driver safely navigate the scenic highways and country lanes of Madison and have fun discovering some historic traditions in a fresh, new way!

*(Quilt photographs in this issue are courtesy of Laura DeBoer.)*



"Carolina Lily"  
Elizabeth Snead



Graves Mountain



"Family Heritage"  
Martha Breedon

## A Note From The President

*Out of consideration for our visitors and our volunteers, the Board decided at its July meeting to continue the closing of the Madison Museum for now. This policy will be reviewed on a month by month basis at each Board meeting. We will get the word out by all means possible when we decide to reopen. In the meantime, email me at maxlacy40@gmail.com if you wish to purchase something from the Gift Shop or show visitors from out of town around the Museum. We will try to arrange a temporary, short-term opening.*

These stay at home times have benefited our work, as we have had time to work on projects that may have been neglected during ordinary times. Martha Breeden and Judy Mahanes have been hard at work getting the material together for kiosks at the Chimney in Criglersville. The Board held its first meeting since the shutdown on June 11th at the Mountain Museum at Criglersville. We got a few things displayed before the Primary Election on June 23, 2020, but we have lots of work to do before the Museum is ready to open on a regular basis. The preview on Aug. 16 will give people a glimpse of what is to come. It has been a great effort by the Board to get this project moving toward its completion. We will be recognizing donors of time and/or material with plaques that will be displayed at the Museum. We will also honor those that made donations so that we could install replacement windows.

Please stay safe and try to make sure that others can stay safe. Hope to see everyone on Aug. 16, 2020 between 2 and 4 PM. We plan to have a Gift Shop table that day where you may purchase Shadows, a new video about the formation of SNP and current memorials, or some of our other popular items. Bring cash or your checkbook; we do not accept credit cards.

Max Lacy  
President  
Madison County Historical Society

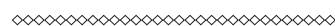
## Kemper Teas on Hold

The Spring Tea was a victim of Covid-19.

We regret to announce that the fall tea is also cancelled. Due to uncertainties of conditions in late September and out of an abundance of caution for our guests and hosts, the Society's Board of Directors and the Tea Group agreed we should not plan to host a fall tea this year. Clearly, there is no possibility of maintaining safe distancing across a tea table, nor have we located masks that can be worn while eating and sipping tea!

We are thinking positively and hoping to get back on schedule with a spring tea in late March, 2021, but as with so many other activities, only time will tell.

We thank our loyal supporters and look forward to gathering in March of 2021.



## From the Editors....

This issue features two comprehensive articles that discuss issues surrounding the establishment of Shenandoah National Park (SNP). Please read them both! In the cover story, Penn Bowers also reviews the processes for establishing the chimney memorial and now the Mountain Museum. Most of this information has appeared in previous editions of this newsletter, but we thank Penn, Society Vice-President and Program Chair, for compiling it into one article for this issue. Ed Berry, our resident attorney and all-around Madison expert, has outlined just how the land transitioned from private ownership to a national park. He also introduces us to the recently restored map of the SNP area. Ed says, "for those who are tracking down their Shenandoah roots, [this map] is comparable to the Dead Sea Scrolls."

As we planned this newsletter, the question was raised about whether Barn Quilts are "historical" enough for this publication. Short answer: who cares? They are pretty! Slightly longer answer: we are showcasing our members. Thanks to Pam Nelson for bringing this project to our attention and writing the cover article. Of the thirty-one quilts featured in the brochure, five were created by Society Board members and another three were done by non-board members.

For additional information about the Barn Quilt project: Contact Vyvyan Rundgren (vyvyanr@gmail.com) to learn about future workshops. Go to madisonva.com or call 540-948-4455 for brochure information.

Finally, the usual reminder to our print subscribers: go to [www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org) to enlarge photographs and see the newsletter in full color. JGM



"Friendship Star"  
Arlene Aylor



"Carpenter's Star"  
Pam Nelson

# U.S. Geological Survey Map for SNP

By

Edward Berry

Since the 1970s, I've been fascinated by a plat of a survey of Madison County lands which were to be taken into the proposed Shenandoah National Park (SNP). The plat shows individual parcels of land identified by owner and numbered for cross referencing Court reports of ownership, boundaries and value of land and improvements. Rivers, streams and landmarks are also shown. The 82" X 47" plat was worn, torn, ripped and ragged, with pronounced creasing. This rare gem map is key to understanding Madison County's northern and western mountain land areas, roughly between the Hughes and Conway Rivers and our borders with Rappahannock, Page and Greene Counties. Officially titled U.S. Geological Survey Map of the Proposed Shenandoah National Park Falling within Madison County, Virginia, it is drawn on a scale of 4 inches to one mile and was filed with the Madison County Circuit Court on June 3, 1932. (This was part of the report of the Board of Appraisals Commissioner and attested by Bertha W. Pattie, Deputy Clerk of the Madison County Circuit Court.) On the plat, the Secretary of the Board of Appraisals noted the plat is a map of the lands described in the petition in the case of the State Commission on Conservation and Development of the State of Virginia, petitioner, vs. W.D. Anderson, and 55,000 acres, more or less, land lying in Madison County, Virginia, Defendants, to which reference is made in the report of the Special Investigation of the Board of Appraisal Commissioner appointed in these proceedings.

Historical actions prior to the plat's recording began in the early twentieth century when there began a push for a national park in the eastern United States. The Blue Ridge Mountains of the Upper Piedmont area of Virginia, including Madison County and seven other jurisdictions were proclaimed a pristine wilderness of medieval, virgin forests, and in 1926, Congress authorized a study of the affected area. Whereas western U.S. parks were on sparsely populated lands primarily owned by the federal government, the proposed SNP area had been settled since colonial days and was held by private owners and permanent residents, who had not been consulted.

Surveyors found 5,650 tracts of land, 3,250 homes, and set a purchase value of \$ 15.30 per acre. Early promoters had claimed \$ 6.00 per acre. A second survey was called for in adjoining counties regarding increasing valley air pollution and related environmental ills, so surveyors inventoried lands with direct ecological or land use relationship with the park. The data were used to create a sound technical base for future government planning activities for SNP, and the cost per acre was increased to \$ 21.00 per acre. Surveyors found not wilderness of primeval, virgin forests, but rather timberland cut over every three decades for the last 200 years and excellent grazing land. In 1927, USDA acknowledged the area to be some of the most productive beef acreage of the U.S. Additionally, most owners did not want to part with their lands. A third survey was undertaken to determine which lands to delete. The fertile hollows and lowlands would be exempted from the park boundaries.

The federal government would not become involved with land acquisition, but the state would have to acquire the land free of encumbrances (such as people living there), so the Commission on Conservation and Development of the State of Virginia was created. Using the power of eminent domain, each landowner had to be sued in the Circuit Court of the County in which the land was located, including jury trials and appeals. Any one of the individual defendants could hold up the process, so the Commission sought a "quick and speedy" plan that resulted in the 1928 Blanket Condemnation Act passed by the state legislature. One suit could be filed in each county, reducing thousands of suits to just eight. The Great Depression and Virginia's severe drought at the time forced further restrictions on the amount of land that would be taken. Congress again reduced the proposed SNP acreage to "a saw-toothed, jigsaw boundary" of mostly low value tracts resembling a "fish skeleton."

Madison County Historical Society (M.C.H.S.) seeks to increase exploration, interpretation, and promotion of Madison's mountain heritage. In discussions about a Mountain Heritage Museum at the Criglersville School site, the previously mentioned plat came up. Clerk of the Circuit Court, Leeta Louk, submitted several proposals to have the map preserved through the Library of the State of Virginia, but other needs took precedence. Ms. Louk again submitted the map restoration project for consideration by the



State Library Circuit Court Records Preservation Program. After an agent of that agency came to Madison and examined the map, it was accepted, and the preservation was achieved. Ms. Louk appeared before the Madison County Board of Supervisors June 23, 2020 and informed them of the project's completion and the return of a repaired map to her office. Additionally, Circuit Court Clerk Louk presented a fully restored copy of the plat to Max Lacy, MCHS president, who accepted on our behalf. Mrs. Louk noted, "This is an important part of Madison County history. It is important that the public be able to see and study it." The Clerk is in the process of making arrangements so that it can truly be a public record available for public inspection. Max Lacy is planning for the historical society's copy to be framed for exhibition at the Criglersville site. A smaller copy may also be displayed at the Madison Museum in town.

The reader may wonder why this acquisition is so special. SNP is an emotional issue for Madison County; as residents and visitors, we enjoy Skyline Drive's beauty, gourmet dining at Skyland and Big Meadows, hiking Old Rag Mountain, or the solitude of Jones Mountain. While the park has brought untold joy to countless people from around the world, that joy had a price, as people who lived, died and maintained their families for generations upon land enclosed by the park were displaced from their homes and a way of life without choice or consultation. The mountain residents and their way of life were manipulated and painted with a very broad brush of ignorance and poverty. Their previous homes, gardens, and grave sites have been taken over by the forest and briars. Many of the displaced are now deceased, just as their true stories are being told, but their families still ache for what was and could have been.



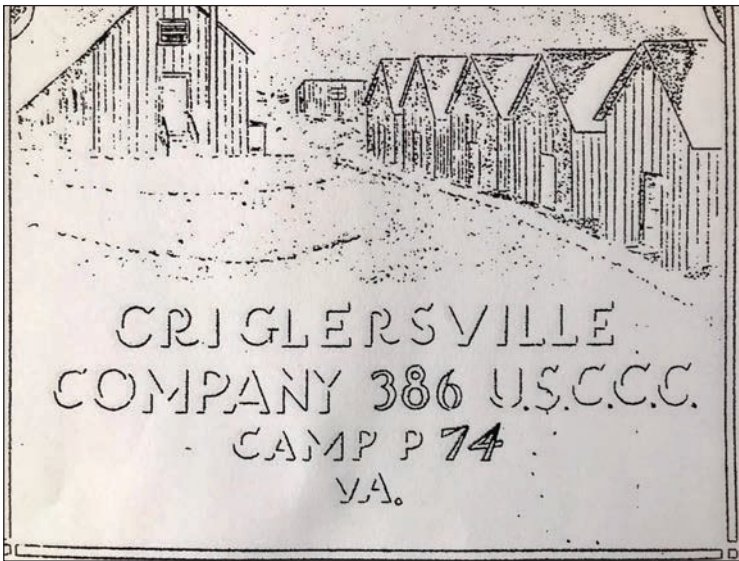
In addition to M.C.H.S. volunteers remembering the forgotten residents, advocacy groups like Children of Shenandoah, the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, and the Blue Ridge Heritage Project, along with authors Sue Eisenfeld and Madison native Katrina M. Powell have awakened us to the tragedy and fading opportunity to remember this past. Madison County ceded more land to the park than any other jurisdiction, and many of SNP's premier attractions lie within our borders. Now is time to examine and realize what has been lost. A seemingly simple map may be that golden opportunity of discovery.

Author Susan Eisenfeld sums it well in a Washington Post interview dated January 17, 2017: "Everyone agrees national parks are great. But what if it is your land? I can't really come to a conclusion. It's hard to say...someone else's suffering was a fair price for your pleasure. For me it deepens my appreciation to know who lived there before, how they lived, what choices they made. The bottom line is did those people, the never consulted, have a choice in their ultimate fate?"

# CCC CAMP ON QUAKER RUN

By

Maxwell Lacy, Jr.



Yes, there was a CCC (Civil Conservation Corps) Camp (#386) on Quaker Run back in 1934. The camp was established in November of 1934. Camps were established all over the United States during the Administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt to help families that were hit extremely hard by the GREAT DEPRESSION. Each boy was paid \$30 a month and had to send \$25 of that home to his family. Most of the Parks that exist in the US today were built by these young men. Not only did they build the parks, they also learned trades and could further their education. Camp 386 classes were held at night at Criglersville High School. They left camp by truck at 6pm and returned at 9pm. The teaching was done by W. C. Crigler, who taught Forestry, Science and Algebra. Forestry

was very important as a lot of the trees were used to build homes in the mountain. Some were cleared for land to farm and land for orchards as land grants required settlers to have an orchard, especially apples. It was not all work at these camps, as there were movies and trips into town to help with relaxation.

The first camp at Quaker Run was a camp that consisted of mostly Virginia boys (I have not found a roster of names yet.) from needy families in VA. They signed up for 6 months at a time but could reenlist if they wished. The camp was operated very much like being in the Army. They had work uniforms and barracks similar to what they would have had in the army. They were fed three good meals a day, and slept in bunks, but when the camps first opened, they used tents until the barracks were built by these same young men. They had foremen to oversee the work that they were doing. This first camp had about 80 young men and there was always some coming and going during the time the camp was in operation.

In February 1936, these officers were in charge: Captain, Lieutenant, Surgeon, and educational Advisor. Technical support was provided by the following: Project Superintendent, 5 Foremen, Mechanic, Blacksmith, and an assistant Superintendent.

Many of the boys enrolled at this camp accepted an invitation of the Young Women's Democratic Club of Criglersville to attend a box social at the High School. Spirited bidding by the boys made the social a huge success and it further promoted the good will between the camp members and the people of the Criglersville community. Some of the boys even found a wife in the area. I am sure that was the case in a lot of the United States as the boys were allowed to go into town once in a while.

The boys built roads, bridges, overlooks, walls, and did landscaping of trees and plants as well. Billions of trees were planted throughout the United States in what are now National Parks. The government provided trucks to haul the trees, rocks to build the roads and walls. Skyline Drive is a perfect example of the work that was done by these boys. Look at the marvelous work that was done the next time that you visit Shenandoah National Park.

On Feb. 7, 1936, an 18-inch snowfall occurred in the mountain and the boys had to dig out, and of course they enjoyed playing in the snow. Three of the foremen in the group took a bulldozer and cleared the road to rescue a group (6) of marines that were at the former Hoover's Camp, eight miles from base camp. The men and a Sargent, plus a dog and a cat were found in the mess hall when the bulldozer fought its way through the almost impassible and treacherous mountain roadway to reach the trapped men.

A farewell party was held on Dec. 20, 1935 for members of Camp 386 who would receive expiration of service discharge. The date was early because of the upcoming holiday and the coming and departures of other young men. A fine chicken dinner was prepared with all the fixings. A guest speaker was also obtained for the occasion. The replacement company (5435) from Georgia was organized on May 10, 1936 and sent to Quaker Run on May 26, 1936. They arrived via a special train at 9:15 PM. Eighteen boys from Camp 386 were transferred to the company from Georgia. These boys of camp 5435 were from Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Alabama.

CCC boys from throughout the United States comprised much of the armed forces that fought for our freedom during World War II. The onset of War pretty much ended the CCC program. It was definitely a wonderful program that taught the boys discipline and got them in great shape. The word is that a lot of them gained weight by eating the good food that they had. Jobs were available as the boys learned trades and added to their education as well.

One last bit of information: The high school at Criglersville burned on Jan. 21, 1946 and they needed a place to have school. The barracks and other buildings that were left behind from the CCC Camp were used to house grades 1 thru 7 until the new school was built for the 48-49 session. The high school students used the Home Ec cottage (built for the 35-36 schoolyear), the Agriculture building, the Cannery, and the Odd Fellows Hall for classes until the new school was finished.

Most of the information in this article was gleaned from newsletters written by Camp 386. Our own Carole Nash provided some of the information during her research and dig at Big Meadows. We welcome any additional information that readers of this newsletter may have to share.





(Continued from Page 1)

mountain people removed from a number of Virginia Counties in the 1930s to create what is now Shenandoah National Park. In 1928 the Commonwealth of Virginia surveyed and acquired three thousand tracts of land and condemned the homes of five hundred mountain families so that their land could be "donated" to the federal government under the auspices of the National Park service. Much of the land and many of these homes were in Madison County. In May of 2010, Katrina Powell spoke to the Society about two books which she has written which memorialized these families; *THE ANGUISH OF DISPLACEMENT* (2007) and *ANSWER AT ONCE: LETTERS OF MOUNTAIN FAMILIES IN SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK, 1934-1938*. For many this was our first introduction into this story which even today remains deeply imbedded in Madison county and surrounding counties involved in the creation of the park.

At the 2012 meeting of the MCHS, Jim Lillard then a MCHS Board member, gave an excellent presentation to the Society entitled *Mountain Memories* about the families who lived in our local mountains before they became a portion of the Shenandoah National Park. At that time Jim was involved with the Blue Ridge Heritage Project which was projecting a plan to memorialize these displaced mountain folks. In June of 2014 Jim asked the MCHS Board to create a fund within its accounting to hold funds donated for a memorial in Madison county. The Board approved this request and Jim spent much of 2014 introducing plans for a memorial to county officials and the public locally and in surrounding counties. In July of 2015, the Madison County Board of Supervisors approved construction of a permanent memorial at a site on the grounds of the former Criglersville school and the completed memorial was unveiled at dedication ceremonies on November 8, 2015. Seven of the eight counties which had families removed from their land for the formation of the park have now erected memorials to those individuals. Augusta is in the process of creating its memorial.

At the May 15, 2016 MCHS quarterly meeting the speaker was Susan Eisenfeld who spoke to us about her book "*Shenandoah: A Story of Conservation and Betrayal.*" In it she shares her personal discovery of a story about which even many of our local community citizens are unaware. 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. In her book she 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. The chimney shaped memorial symbolizing the old mountain farmhouses stands in Criglersville and displays the names of local families who were displaced from their homes.

At the November 2017 quarterly meeting of the MCHS, Jim Lillard presented his *Mountain Memories II*, an updated reprise of his earlier version of the families who lived in the mountains before their removal for the making of SNP. In *Mountain Memories II*, Jim presented a lighter side to the story of these mountain people. He began with two films, one from 1928 showing mail being delivered at Old Rag Post Office and the second from 1930 of First Lady Hoover at a mountain school with the children singing "Carry me Back to Old Virginia." Jim identified some of the children in the film. He showed survey maps of properties before the Park was established, some 500 homes and 2,000 people. There were photos of homes, mills, barns, and fields, some of the farms being prosperous with many outbuildings. These farms were either purchased or burned to evict owners. All the farms had a horse or mule and sometimes several and some even had Model A and T Ford cars. They had cows for milk and butter, chickens, and hogs (with families sharing butchering chores) and plenty of wildlife such as deer and wild turkey. They grew mostly corn and apples, the apples being a cash crop, for eating, brandy, apple butter, drying, cider, etc. Sorghum was grown for molasses and many had beehives. In essence they lived off the land. There was social life of course and the socials were centered around church, the music generally being the banjo and fiddle. This was a wonderful overview of life in the mountains before the Park was established. The last family was moved out in 1939.

From early 2017 the idea emerged for obtaining the use of the small cottage at the Criglersville school memorial site for the purpose of making it a museum to commemorate the families of Madison removed from the mountain for the formation of SNP. Our President, Max Lacy, took that bull by the horns and has run with it ever since. By February of 2018 plans were beginning to take shape for the museum and by May of 2018 we had an indefinite special use permit to use the cottage at Criglersville for our Mountain Museum. Improvements were made including painting the roof and building a handicap ramp, but the project was put in a holding pattern until April of 2019 as the BOS made attempts to sell the Criglersville School. This did not occur, and Max ultimately managed to get the lease approved to our satisfaction and work continued on the cottage improvements. The volunteers who helped with all the work will not be named here but they will receive their reward in heaven and perhaps sooner. An item worth mentioning is that at the last BOS meeting Max Lacy was presented with a huge map of park land (before the park) with the owners labeled. See Ed Berry's article elsewhere in this newsletter for more information about this project. When framing is complete, we hope to hang the map at the Mountain Museum at Criglersville.

Certainly, everything has not been completed and it is not a "finished" museum at the moment, but it has been an exciting project well worth a preview. We hope to see you there anytime from two to four pm Sunday August 16, 2020.

Madison County Historical Society  
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Return Service Requested



*Graves Mountain*

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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](http://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](mailto:madisonvahistory@gmail.com).

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