

Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



Madison County
Historical Society

www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org

May 2021

The Kemper Tea is Back!



Our youngest volunteer Esma Owens ready to work!

The continuing Covid restrictions that forced cancellation of the much-loved Kemper teas last year spurred the Tea Team to try an experiment in 2021. With the blessing of the Board and the example of many restaurants, the Team decided to try a carry-out tea on a limited basis. After much planning and research, the group served a menu much like what they normally serve inside, but instead of using antique china, they presented the tea goodies in individual bags for guests to pick up. Food meant to be served warm was presented in safe containers that could be heated in the oven. Some guests took their bags home; others arranged luncheons for enjoying their treats together.

Construction at the County building next door disrupted traffic patterns, but chefs and guests adapted, and the event was successful. If post-tea analysis is positive, the same arrangements may be made for a fall tea. On the other hand, lifted restrictions and

increased confidence among individuals may allow the fall tea to be served inside the Kemper Residence. Only time will tell, but rest assured that the popular teas are back! Plans for the September tea will be announced in the fall Society newsletter.

As always, we are grateful for the loyal support of so many friends in the community who financially support the Society by attending the teas.



Delivery!

Madison Museum Reopens

We are excited to announce that the Madison Museum at the Kemper Residence reopens on Friday, May 7. Visitors are asked to wear masks and practice social distancing. The Museum will be open on Fridays only during May and then resume the normal Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday schedule in June. Hours are 10 AM to 2 PM. The Museum has been closed since March 12, 2020, so everyone needs to come see our exhibits and check out our Gift Shop! Use the Scavenger Hunt on page 3 to guide your visit. New Gift Shop items include our series of notecards featuring county churches, the *Shadows* DVD about the formation of Shenandoah National Park, and the picture book *Greater Culpeper Memories*. Do not be turned off by this title; the book contains many photographs of Madison County people and places. Visitors during May and June will also get a glimpse of the construction zone next door. The circle is closed, but there are parking places to the right of the Residence near the Law Office. Entry to the Museum will be via the back door until the building project is finished.

A Note From The President

Things are beginning to come back to near normal. Lots of us elderly people have had our vaccinations, but we still have to be careful. When we open the Madison Museum on Friday, May 7, we will have safety precautions in place such as wearing masks, keeping social distancing, and limiting the number of people that can be in the museum at one time. Most of our volunteers have had their shots, but we still need to respect members of the public that have not had theirs. Madison County has done a fantastic job of getting shots to the people. We hope that everyone has been able to take advantage of the opportunities as they become available.

Both Museums have been open for private tours during the pandemic. We are still able to give tours for interested persons. Just call the Madison Museum (540-395-5119) to schedule a tour of either Museum. We will welcome the opportunity to visit with folks.

Some work is in the planning stages at the Kemper Residence. There are issues with the carpet in the main room upstairs and with the steps at the back entrance downstairs. We have begun to look into both matters and hope to get things fixed sometime this year.

Work has started on the Kiosk Wall near the Monument in Criglersville. We hope to have that completed in time for an open house and dedication in early summer. Information will be posted on our web site and Facebook. We will try to send notes to our membership as to the date and time. We will have the MMC open at that time though the number of people allowed inside may be limited due to Governor's orders. The tentative date is June 27, 2021. We are still looking for pictures of families that were displaced when the SNP was formed. Pictures or other material relating to the Criglersville school or the community will be appreciated. We don't need the originals as we can take a picture of the items or scan them to make a copy.

We have recently become partners with the Piedmont Environmental Council and The Madison County Clerk's Office to digitize Park condemnation records in Madison County. We hope that this will enable our citizens to access records that have been unavailable or hard to find in the past. Each party will have copies of the finished product for people to consult when researching family history.

Finally, I offer a big salute and a huge thank-you to Mary Haught, Katy Cashman, and all the Tea Team for a successful Spring Tea. You can't keep these folks down. Put a pandemic in front of them and they invent a way to have a famous Kemper Tea without letting guests inside the door. Thank you for all you do to spread good will and raise a tidy sum for the Society's coffers!

Max Lacy
President, Madison County Historical Society

From the Editors....

My friend and fellow MCHS Board member Jean Busboso has been after me for years to write about the last year of Radiant School. I've blown her off numerous times by saying that I don't remember much of anything about that year. One skirmish led to her writing about the last year of Locust Dale School for our May 2019 newsletter. She is still after me to write; I still don't have a lot to say but finally broke down and penned the memories that begin on page five. The value of this piece is not so much about my days at Radiant; rather it is an invitation to you readers to recall and share memories of your early education. I am proposing that we start a "Letters to the Editors" column where you can submit short observations about your experience or correct and supplement my memories of Radiant. At this moment, I am especially interested in hearing from someone who went to the Radiant Elementary School on George James Loop. If your story stretches beyond a "Letter to the Editor", please know that longer articles are always welcome!

Our addresses are **madhistory467newsletter@gmail.com** for electronic submissions and PO Box 467, Madison, VA 22727 if you prefer to send paper. JGM

Welcome New Members

Daniel Bachman - Madison, VA

Dr. John R. Lauck – Ruston, LA

Deborah O'Neal & Maureen Ragan - Syria, VA

Mike & May Saxton - Orange, VA

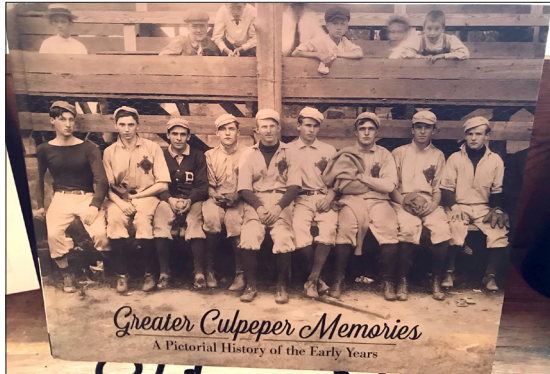
Nancy Garnett Williams - Madison, VA

HELP NEEDED

As we emerge from our Pandemic Vacation, we welcome your visits to our museums and we seek your help. Linwood Imlay and Dink Kreis, two long-time Volunteers at the Arcade and Kemper, have retired from active volunteering. We take this opportunity to thank them for the many hours they have given over the years. We invite you to consider filling empty slots in our schedule by calling the Museum at 540-395-5119 or sending an email to madisonvahistory@gmail.com. Better yet, visit the Museum any time we are open to get a quick overview of what the job involves. The typical time commitment is one shift (four hours) one day per month. No prerequisite knowledge is necessary; every effort is made to pair new volunteers with experienced folks. And we can certainly use more than two new volunteers. Many people work multiple days per month in Madison and also host visitors at the MMC. It will be wonderful to free them up for spending more time in Criglersville. If you are interested in volunteering at the Mountain Museum at Criglersville, please tell us that as well. Our operating hours there are in flux, but we can always use help.

Madison Museum at Kemper Scavenger Hunt

Visit soon and look for these items!



MOUNTAIN MUSEUM AT CRIGLERSVILLE

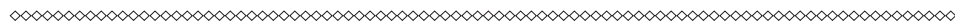
Recent Major Acquisitions

We have received several big acquisitions recently. The one mentioned in the last newsletter came from Chuck Dunn, a retired high school teacher from Greenville, North Carolina. A teacher of Trig and Surveying, he brought his students to the SNP for 33 years to explore and survey the area. They hiked and found old homesites that they could survey and map. We have some of the surveys and maps that they did. One of the most interesting things they did was to write about what they saw and how they felt on those trips. Some of the writings are very personal and touching. Chuck also wrote about his experiences on the visits, and he and the school made a book about those experiences. The book is titled "Land Lost, Discovering the past Shenandoah National Park." The book is dedicated to the wilderness, for without it, Chuck Dunn writes "my classroom would have walls." We were given 2 copies of the book. It is a treasure and will be available for viewing at the MMC. Also available will be "Life in Dark Hollow", a play Chuck wrote. It is a drama in the real and was presented by the "Trig Trip Players" of D H Conley High School near Greenville. Mr. Dunn also brought tapes and CDs of interviews he did with families of some folks displaced during the formation of SNP. These interviews contain interesting material about how the families' lives were affected by the departure from their homes.



Buddy Woodward, the Historical Society's recently named Research Consultant, has donated a lot of genealogy information about families that were displaced during the formation of SNP. Much of this information is available online, but Buddy has compiled it in a way that can be consulted at the Museum. He also donated wall holders to display the folders of information.

Everette Weakley has donated a book that he put together about his days at the Criglersville School. He is one of the very few or maybe the only person with a class ring from Etlan High School and a Diploma from Criglersville High School. How did this happen? He got his ring before the Etlan School burned and then did the rest of that year and his Senior year at Criglersville. He also donated a copy of the letter he received from Ripley's Believe It or Not about his unusual signature. Finally, he donated a poster that he put together about Sam Corbin. Corbin was taken from his family with the promise that he be returned when healthy. Instead, he was adopted out to another family and became a prominent citizen in the Tidewater area of the state. This was a hard experience for his birth family, but good in that he became a model citizen.



Introducing Buddy Woodward

Buddy S Woodward, a native of Madison County, attended Criglersville Elementary and Madison County High. He earned a BA degree, with majors in French & Russian Languages and Literatures, and a minor in Secondary Education, at Madison College. He earned a 'Certificat d'Etudes' at the University of Aix-en-Provence, France. He also studied German, Polish, and Swedish languages at the University of Virginia. He completed a course in Library Management at the Catholic University of America.



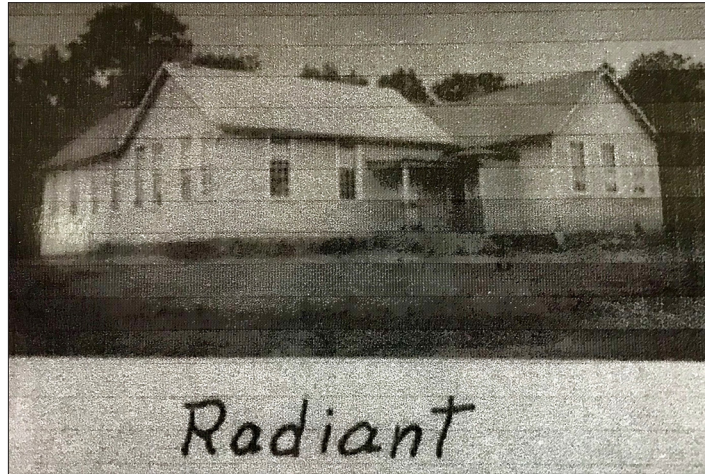
The Young
Buddy Woodward

Buddy taught English to Korean and Vietnamese immigrants. He learned American Sign Language and served on the Board of Directors of Ephpatha Village, a community for the deaf, in Charlottesville. His love for animals led him to volunteer at the Beath Shelter and Central Virginia Humane Society in Buckingham County, Virginia. He spent years in TNR of hundreds of feral cats in Albemarle, Fluvanna, and Buckingham Counties. He fostered and rehomed about 100 dogs, from a "kill" shelter, over a period of 10 years.

After 37 years of employment, in various roles, at the University of Virginia Library, Buddy retired in 2012. He returned to his roots in Woodward Hollow in 2015. Today, he devotes much of his time to genealogical research, gardening, and caring for his domestic "critters" (dogs, cats, goats) and wildlife. Buddy enjoys his involvement with the Madison County Historical Society and the Blue Ridge Heritage Project. You may view his recent video "Oh Shenandoah: Blue Ridge Mountain Home" on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/-3LHRFESGml>.

Memories of Radiant School: 1954--1959

By
Judy Mahanes



The final year for Radiant Elementary School was academic year 1958-59. The building still stands at the corner of present-day Orange Road (230) and Lost Mountain Road. Inside were four big classrooms, a hall area, and some cloak rooms. There were no bathrooms; rather we used two outhouses located at the edge of the woods between the school and the nearby Burnt Tree Grange Hall. I think there was running water in the building, but someone else will have to supply the details. I don't remember anything about wood stoves but have a vague memory of big heat ducts up in the ceiling. There must have been a furnace somewhere. The ceilings were high, so the heat was a long way away. Because of the chilly conditions, we girls could wear pants to school at Radiant during the winter—a habit that I had to give up when I graduated to Madison.

Who were we? We were the white (alas) neighborhood kids from an area including Radiant, Twymans Mill, Achsah, Woodberry Forest, and Locust Dale. There were some among us with an Orange RFD address and others who got their mail through the Aroda Post Office. One boundary was somewhere between Good Hope Church and Uno, another was just west of Aroda, and a third sent Oak Park students to Madison. How did we get to school? I can speak only for myself. George Lohr drove a "shuttle bus" from Radiant through Achsah to the Elly Road and then east on 230 to pick us up for the trip to school. My memory is that older students then switched to a different bus for their trip to Madison.

For many years, the school was staffed by the quartet of Annie E. Kipps, Elizabeth J. Weaver, Effie B. Tucker, and D. L. Lohr. They were there in 1931, and still there in my day. Mr. Lohr taught the oldest students and served as Principal. His room was in the left front corner as you approached the main entrance. By the fall of 1958, he and grades six and seven had moved to Madison. During that last year, the oldest students (including me) were fifth graders who had classes on the outside wall in a back corner room. Our teacher was Miss Tucker, who taught the fourth graders on the other side of the same room. That's where we had been the year before. Mrs. Weaver taught third graders. Miss Kipps taught first grade. When I was in second grade, part of us were in the Weaver room and the rest with Miss Kipps. In the five years that I attended Radiant, I only had three teachers. And I don't think they ever missed more than a half day every three years. I know they were never sick. The concept of "substitute teacher" had no meaning for us. I do remember one time Mrs. Weaver was gone from school for a bit. I don't remember who covered her room during that brief absence because I was gone too. Several of us had missed school on polio shot day so she loaded us into her Chevrolet and took us to town to be vaccinated.

Back to the school's last year: Mr. Lohr's room was mostly empty except for a piano and a refrigerator. Small red cartons of Sealtest milk were stored in the fridge and sold to students for 4 cents each. Otherwise, whatever we ate or drank for lunch, we brought from home. Radiant alums older than I remember bringing in ingredients occasionally for making big pots of soup for all to share. To the best of my knowledge, that did not happen in my day. This tradition must have been a victim of the oil furnace installation. Through the years, the piano was used during assemblies when we all crowded into the Weaver and Lohr classrooms (I think there was a moveable

partition between the rooms) for short programs that included singing. Some of the Songbooks that we used still exist at the Grange Hall which inherited them when the school closed. In that final year, the piano was used for piano lessons taught by Charlotte Lacy Thomas. Normally I went to her home in Oak Park for my lessons, but it seemed convenient for all to do the lessons at school this one year. My lesson must have been just before lunch because I remember being slightly embarrassed when people coming to get milk for lunch saw a pair of shoes parked by the door. Apparently, I was into wearing loafers in fifth grade and playing with them doing my lessons. That fun ended when Max's Aunt Charlotte made me leave them at the door when I came in for my lesson.

During my Radiant years, we had a few extras. A traveling county music teacher came occasionally to teach us some ditties and allow us to play rhythm instruments. We also had monthly visits from Mrs. Johnson of Children's Bible Mission. She used an elaborate collection of flannel boards to tell Bible stories and presented bookmarks to us during our birthday months. The Radiant 4-H Club also met during school hours. We could join in 4th grade. County Extension agents came to school for monthly meetings during the school year. I was elected President at some point. That is significant because with Virginia Rucker Crigler in charge as Home Demonstration Agent, I had no choice but to learn the rudiments of parliamentary procedure! During the summer, we 4-H girls had workshops in our homes to learn baking (banana bread and then Sally Lunn). Some people learned to sew.



Judy in 4th Grade

I remember nothing about the closing of the school: when it was decided, how we found out, what our parents thought. Both of my parents had attended Radiant so surely, they had an opinion. We fifth graders would have been leaving anyway so maybe we just didn't care. If there was any farewell observance, I don't remember it. I have no informal photographs taken at school. I was sick on "picture day" in first and second grades (chicken pox and measles) but can still unearth my third and fourth grade school pictures. Nor do I remember much about our education, except that Miss Kipps did not believe in teaching first graders how to print. Instead, she sent us to the chalkboard to practice letters and write our names in cursive. I do remember how hard it was for the first grade me to create a beautiful script "J"! I admit to some apprehension about going to Madison to be thrown into classes with the town kids. We need not have worried. Our Radiant teachers prepared us well. We held our own. Radiant alumnus Robert Nelson (Bill) Lohr was valedictorian of our 7th grade class at Waverly Yowell Elementary School. [A note for history: my classmates and I were sixth graders during 1959-60, the first year for WYES.]

Kemper Descendants Help Make Mother's Day A National Celebration

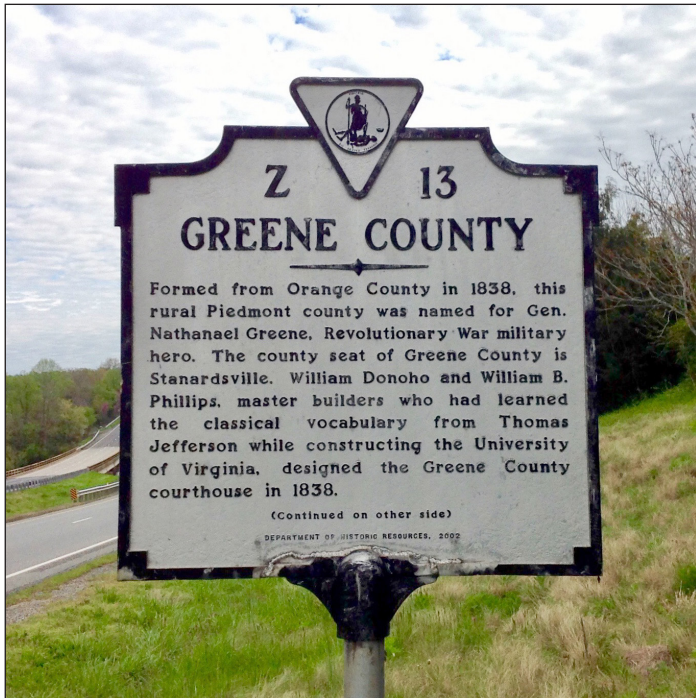


What is the connection between James Kemper and Mother's Day? According to the Germanna Foundation, it was Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis, a Culpeper native born in 1832. Her mother, Nancy Kemper Reeves, was a descendant of Johannes Kemper, a 1714 Germanna colonist with Governor Alexander Spotswood's Fort Germanna settlement. Married to Granville Jarvis, a successful West Virginia merchant, Ann Marie was the mother of eleven children, although only four lived to become adults. She was inspired to organize "Mother's Day Work Clubs" to help improve the living conditions for families and continued to work through the clubs to help both Union and Confederate troops during the Civil War. Significantly, Ann Marie never abandoned her vision for a specific day to be set aside for Americans to honor mothers.

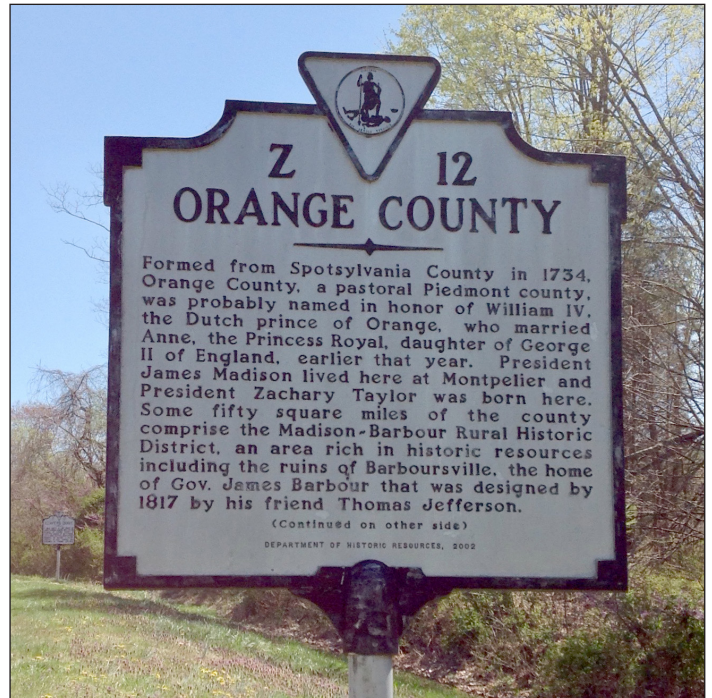
On the first anniversary of Ann Marie's death, Anna Jarvis (1864-1948) embraced her mother's campaign for a national Mother's Day. By 1909, unofficial Mother's Day observations were held in at least forty-five states. However, it was not until 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson gave his approval to a Congressional resolution that a national Mother's Day was officially recognized and scheduled for the second Sunday in May.

HISTORY ALONG THE ROADSIDE

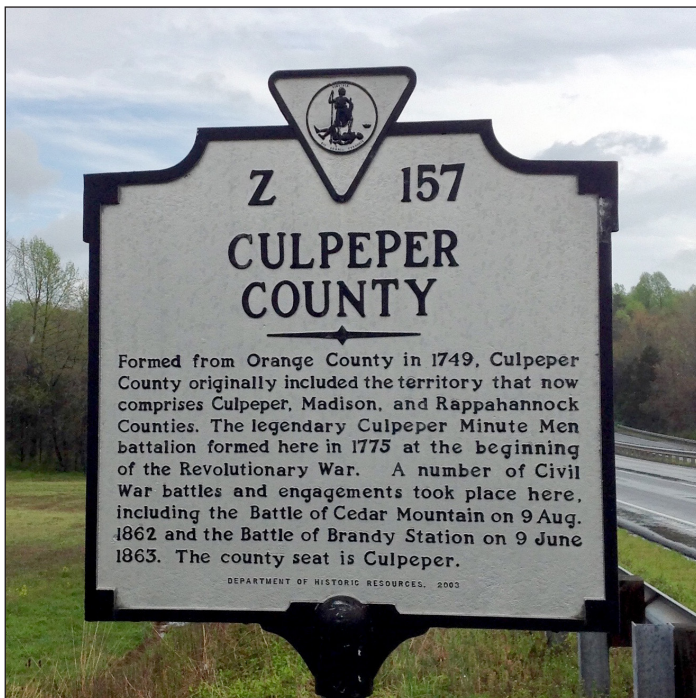
Leaving Madison County



Greene County, Marker Z 13
US 29 at Rapidan River



Orange County, Marker Z 12
US 15 at Rapidan River



Culpeper County, Marker Z 157
US 29 at Crooked Run



Rappahannock County, Marker Z 11
FT Valley Road (231) at Hughes River

Madison County Historical Society
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Madison, VA 22727
540-395-5119

Address Service Requested



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madisonvahistory@gmail.com

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.