

# Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



Madison County  
Historical Society

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

May 2022

## SNP DIGITIZATION PROJECT

The program for the May 15, 2022, quarterly meeting of the Madison County Historical Society will be **an overview of the Shenandoah National Park's creation and the eminent domain land takings**. It will be a panel presentation moderated by Kristie Kendall, Historic Preservation Coordinator for the Piedmont Environmental Council.

The eminent domain land takings involved with the Park's creation resulted in a massive court case and subsequent documents. This basically set the stage for why the documents from this court case are so significant. These documents have recently been digitized and Kristie will discuss PEC's role in this project. Some of the folks who are intimately familiar with the displacement may not be aware of the volume and availability of all the documents that were a part of this case. This presentation will make attendees aware of this availability and what an incredible resource it is.



*Kristie Kendall*



*Kristie Kendall & Victoria Garnett*

The presentation will allot time for others involved in the project including Leeta Louk (Madison's Circuit Court Clerk), Victoria Garnett (PEC intern who oversaw digitization) and a James Madison University representative, talking about the JMU website ***History Across the Blue Ridge***. There will also be a demo of how to navigate and use the website. This will be an informative and interesting meeting as we continue to learn about, honor and remember those individuals involved in this historical period of time.

The meeting will be held in the Madison County Administrative Auditorium at 2:00pm on Sunday May 15th. Everyone is invited to attend.

## REMINDER: BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

As a result of the Covid pandemic, the Society has had no membership meetings for transacting business since February 2020. Therefore, two elections must be conducted at the May 15th meeting. The terms of Penn Bowers, Martha Breeden, Jean Busboso, and Judy Mahanes expired in 2021. All of these members are currently serving another three-year term and will be presented by the nominating committee for re-election by the membership.

The terms of Arlene Aylor, Mike Hale, Max Lacy, and Pam Nelson expire in 2022. Arlene Aylor, Max Lacy, and Pam Nelson are each willing to serve another three-year term if presented by the nominating committee and re-elected by the membership. Mike Hale will retire from the Board, and the nominating committee is pleased to present Dennis Coppedge as his replacement.

The nominating committee will place both of these slates before the membership on May 15, 2022. For more information about the entire election process, see the article from Penn Bowers in our February 2022 newsletter.

## A Note From The President

It looks like we will finally be able to have a program on May 15, 2022, after more than 2 years of waiting. It will be good to see the many people that we have missed seeing during the pandemic. That day will also be election day for our Board of Directors during our Annual Meeting which is held in conjunction with the first quarterly program of the year (see the article on page 1 for details). In addition to seeing familiar faces on the 15th, we will also get to check out the newly refurbished County auditorium. I hear that the sightlines to the screen are greatly improved.

We have been busy since the last newsletter. The tea volunteers raised a large amount of money with their drive-thru tea on March 30, 2022. Thanks go to that very energetic group for the wonderful support they give to the Madison County Historical Society. We are also chipping away at our long list of (mostly) little "Things to Do."

Both the Madison Museum at Kemper and the Mountain Museum at Criglersville are open for the season. Madison Museum is open on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10:00 until 2:00, and the Mountain Museum is open on Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00. Both are available for special tours during other hours. Leave a message at 540-395-5119, and we will return your call and set up a tour for you or your group.

We have received several donations since the last newsletter. Steve Hoffman donated a shovel and an axe that were used at the CCC camp at Big Meadows. Greta Broyles Hammer donated two quilts that were made by her Grandmother Broyles. Greta has also sent pictures of the Criglersville May Day celebration when it was held at the CCC camp on Quaker Run. May Day was a very popular day at Criglersville as the other elementary schools in the County were invited to the celebration. After the Criglersville High School burned in January of 1946, May Day was held at the CCC camp where the 1st thru 3rd grade classes were held until the new school opened in the fall of 1948. The rest of the elementary classes were held at the Agricultural Building that did not burn. High School students were sent permanently to Madison. A new Criglersville Elementary School was built to replace the High School that burned.

The number of visitors at each of the Museums has increased since the reopening in March. Now that the weather is getting warmer, we hope you will plan a visit to one or both of our museums. And I hope to see a lot of people at the program on May 15 at 2 PM.

Thanks  
Max Lacy

## Spring Tea

During the past 21 years, luncheon teas offered by volunteers have provided significant financial support for the society. This tradition continued in March 2022 when our talented chefs again offered a Drive By Tea, with delicacies packaged



*Packaging the Goodies*

for patrons to take home and enjoy at their own Tea Parties. The team took precautions when packaging the food items and followed all safety guidelines. The Society is grateful that the number of patrons remained the same as it was when past teas were served inside the Kemper Residence. We look forward to returning to the indoor teas whenever that format provides proper safety.

## Membership Report

Many thanks to those who renewed their membership for 2022 and a warm welcome to our newest members:

Gary & Chrissy Jenkins - Etlan, VA

Robert & Michelle Powell - Brightwood, VA

Bruce Venter - Goochland, VA

## From the Editor....

This issue welcomes Penn Bowers back in his familiar role as our Society's Vice-President and Program Chair. He has waited patiently for two years to have a program to announce! We are so grateful that he can again bring his enthusiasm, excitement, and love of local history to the task of arranging and introducing programs for the public.

Whether you once knew her as Annie V Weaver or now as Vee Tull, you have likely also heard of her as Vee Dove, author of one of Madison County's most famous books. Thanks so much to Pam Nelson for creating the wonderful article about Vee and her book that begins on page 3.

In this issue, Ed Berry begins a series of articles on the history of public education within Madison County. He will give facts and figures, explore controversies, and share anecdotes. When he sent the article to me, Ed wrote "With all going on with our school board and public education in Virginia today, I think it is important that the public be reminded what our school system was like at one [earlier] time."

The usual reminders:

- Past issues of this newsletter may be accessed at [www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org).
- Print subscribers can go to the same site to enlarge photographs and see the newsletter in full color.
- We welcome feedback and letters to the editor. Our addresses are [madhistory467newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:madhistory467newsletter@gmail.com) for electronic submissions and PO Box 467, Madison, VA 22727 for paper.

~~~Judy Mahanes

# Vee Dove Tull and *The Homes of Madison County*

By

Pam Crigler Nelson

Have you ever passed by an older home and wondered about its story? If it was a pre-Civil War home in Madison, chances are you can find it in *Madison County Homes: A Collection of Pre-Civil War Homes and Family Heritages*, written and published by Madison County native Vee Dove Tull. Compiled from a series of weekly feature articles Vee researched for the *Madison County Eagle*, the book is a treasured source of information about the homes as well as the genealogy and folklore of the families who created them.

On a recent visit, Vee shared with me the history of creating *Madison County Homes*. The idea for the Madison homes book began when Vee cleaned out a desk drawer while working for the *Madison County Eagle*. She discovered unpublished research on the structure of several old homes written by Claude Yowell, prominent local historian and author of *The History of Madison County*. When Mr. Yowell gave the information to Vee to use as she desired, she created a weekly newspaper article on local homes with an expanded focus on family genealogy and traditions. Almost fifty years ago, the seed for the Madison homes book started to grow.

Information in *Madison County Homes* is based primarily on Vee's extensive research with deeds and other legal documentation in the Clerk's office, access to family Bibles and cemeteries, and personal visits to more than 170 homes where she took more than 300 pictures. To be included, a home had to pre-date the Civil War and still be standing. Once "Home of the Week" articles started appearing regularly in the *Madison County Eagle*, local residents often stopped by the newspaper office and requested to have their homes included. Vee admits she missed a few homes, including her own great-great grandfather's, but no one can deny she made a valiant effort.

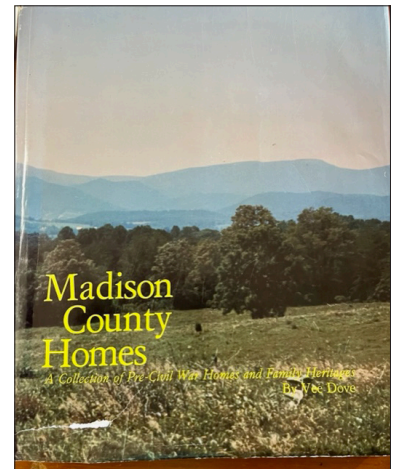
As Vee visited homes throughout the county, she also wrote about architectural elements which reflected an earlier, more self-sufficient way of life. Windows were found with wavy, hand-blown glass panes and doors featured traditional "Bible and cross" panels. Some of the original log cabins were embedded within later additions, while others had exterior walls covered with weather boarding. Some first-floor rooms had a separate stairway linking them to only one second floor bedroom. Although many of the outbuildings are now gone, spring houses originally

provided cool running water which could be directed through troughs for refrigeration. Removable stair treads sometimes concealed secret hiding places used during the Civil War to conceal food, silver, money, and other valuables. Hand-hewn chestnut beams are still a treasured discovery in vintage construction.

After working on the newspaper articles from 1973-1975 Vee self-published 3,000 copies of *Madison County Homes* in 1976 to coincide with the Bicentennial celebrations. It was originally sold for a pre-publication price of \$18.00, which helped cover printing costs. Once published, the price was \$25.00, later increased to \$50.00 as copies became increasingly scarce. Today copies occasionally appear at auctions or on eBay with prices that seldom fail to impress.

*Madison County Homes* did not get published without several unexpected adventures. One occurred when Vee was researching grave sites in a small, somewhat remote family cemetery completely enclosed inside a protective rock wall. There was no gate, but Vee eventually managed to scramble over the wall into the cemetery. It was not until she had completely documented the grave sites that she realized there was no easy way out. Fortunately, she was able to struggle back over the wall before a search party was dispatched. The second mishap occurred when the final draft did not arrive at the publishers as expected. Vee and her husband, Graham, had to make a last-minute dash to Tennessee where she stayed up most of the night reviewing text and making final edits to meet the publisher's deadline. That night Vee was especially grateful for the proofreading of the weekly articles by Lucy Catherine Bowie, editor of the *Eagle*.

Information in *Madison County Homes* is especially accessible because of the detailed index created by Sarah Frances Johnston. Sarah Frances, who later became Madison's mayor, volunteered to create index entries on a weekly basis as the newspaper





articles were published. Returning to Madison each weekend from her job in Washington, D.C., Sarah Frances arrived on a Trailways bus driven by Madison County native, Irvin Graves. She walked from her family home, the Hunton House and former hotel, on Main Street to the *Eagle* office to deliver the latest updates. As you might expect, index entries are primarily organized by family names, but other topics include wolves, ghosts, arrowheads, and stills.

Vee is quick to share credit for the book's success with her unofficial support team. In addition to Sarah Frances Johnston who created the index, Lucy Catherine Bowie wrote the preface, Charles Ross provided support for her ongoing research at the Clerk's Office, Claude Yowell provided inspiration, and Dewey Lillard was always willing to answer questions and share his expertise. Her husband, Graham Tull, helped in countless ways and took the dust cover photograph overlooking Hebron Church Road with the Blue Ridge Mountains in the background. More than anything else, Vee expressed appreciation for the people of Madison County who welcomed her into their homes, shared their stories, and allowed her to take pictures.

As our conversation came to a close, we talked about the possibilities and challenges of a second printing and even an updated version. Vee shared how she regularly reviews obituaries in *The Charlottesville Daily Progress* and the *Madison Eagle*. She saves notices for people referenced in *Madison County Homes* and inserts them between "their" pages in her personal copy of the book. This special tribute exemplifies her dedication to Madison County and her gratitude to those who graciously shared their homes and stories with all of us. Vee begins *Madison County Homes* with the following dedication:

"To anyone who has known her charms, Madison County, Virginia, captures a warm spot in the heart. Through the years, her people have kept her heritage alive, handing down from generation-to-generation pride in the past and strength for the future. To the people of Madison County, who have opened their doors and lives so that a small part of their great heritage might be recorded for their children, this book is dedicated."

In the pages of *Madison County Homes* readers can find many gems of local history which could easily be forgotten if not recorded for future generations.

Did you know.....

- The William Terry Place was said to have only one window on the ground floor. In the original log kitchen was a "bear window" which was purposefully cut too small for a bear to enter. (p.205)
- The Shotwell Home in Shotwell Hollow is said to be near a foot trail used by Cherokee Indians to avoid crossing rivers. (p. 55)
- The Old Joseph Story Home was once known for an extensive herb garden. People regularly came by oxcart to obtain medicinal herbs. (p. 9)
- Locust Shade is believed to be the first frame house in Madison County. (p. 16)
- Thomas Shirley owned almost 50,000 acres and the home Shade of Doubletop. He also had numerous distilleries in the surrounding mountains and made daily deliveries to Fredericksburg with wagons pulled by oxen. The first bananas, as well as the first goats, in Madison County arrived on Thomas Shirley wagons. (p. 185)
- Spring Hill on the John T. Gallihugh Estate is believed to have the first tin roof in Madison County. (p. 4)
- The George Eve Home on Main Street is believed to be the only county home with twin chimneys and a warming room. (p. 277)
- Emma Bell Crigler etched her name and wedding date with her engagement ring on a hand-blown windowpane at the Crigler home - December 25, 1888. In 1902, she became the first person to be buried in the cemetery at Hebron Lutheran Church. (p. 69)
- Mountain Prospect, home of the Kemper family, was said to have what became known as the Tree of Prayer. Mrs. Kemper was seated on a rock seat under the tree when she first heard the news of a son's death. It became her special place for daily prayer. (p. 65)

Today the positive impact of Madison County Homes extends far beyond the county borders. Cathi Clore Frost, Germanna Foundation Trustee and Genealogist writes, "Madison County Homes by Vee Dove is a treasure. Since I don't have the privilege of having ever lived in Madison, the book enables me to read about the historic homes and connect them to the people I am researching. I especially enjoy reading stories the author included as they help flesh out the biographies of the residents. Some of my favorites involve ghosts, feeding Indians, hiding turkeys in the basement, and the apple brandy distilling ...."

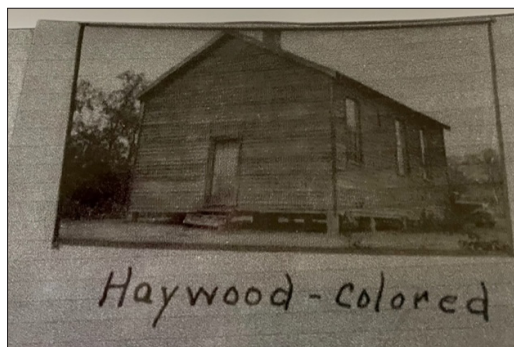
Editor's Note: Cathi Frost lives in St Helens, Oregon.

# Public Education Through the Years: Part I

By

Edward Berry

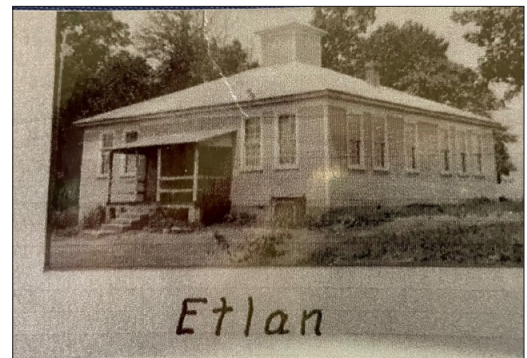
With the adoption of the Underwood State Constitution, the Commonwealth of Virginia declared in 1871 that each school age child in this Commonwealth was entitled to and should be furnished a free public education. Over the years this idea took many interesting twists and turns as Madison County tried to implement this policy. A key date in this history was September 6, 1949, when a new school term was set to open. The decade of the 1940s had produced a declining school population. The 1940 U.S. Census report for Madison County shows a total population of 8,465 people and the 1950 census would show a total population of 8,260 for a net 2.4% population loss. The 1930s and 1940s had been years of the "Great Depression" and World War II. The County had also lost a considerable portion of its tax base and area of human settlement with the creation of the Shenandoah National Park. Those lands were no longer subject to county real estate taxes and the inhabitants were dispossessed and "resettled" outside the Park's Boundaries. Military service took Madison's young men far from the county for the duration of the war. Their wives, girlfriends, sisters, and mothers were working either in government service or defense plants in support of the war effort. American Silk Mill and Virginia Metal Products in Orange were major employers of these Madison County workers. With the end of the war, the men were returning home and many of the women were leaving the work force to concentrate on raising a family; and thus, began the "Baby Boom," 1946 to 1964. The birth rate in the United States soared. In 1949 the boomers had not yet enrolled in the public schools, but they were coming.



The Madison County Historical Society has in its Archives a file which has proven to be a "Treasure Trove" of information on the Madison County School System as it existed on the eve of the arrival of the Baby Boomers at the schoolhouse doors. In this series of articles, I shall attempt to give the reader a view as to the public schools as they existed at that time and the pressures that our school system would have to face.

Why 1949-1950, the reader might ask? Within a

month's time of the opening day of school, I, this aging baby boomer, was born; and we possess the documents necessary to make the examination. This is also the last school session of the Depression and WWII decades. As we examine the existing school system of that time, I caution the reader to remember that this was a time of racial segregation and that the county maintained two separate school systems. Those two systems were referred to as the White and the Colored or Negro Schools. Some readers may well find those terms offensive, but they were the terms used at the time with Colored or Negro used interchangeably, sometimes within the same documents. The writer intends no offense to anyone but when those documents are referenced, I will attempt to use the terminology used in the document. The copies of the original documents are available and open to inspection at the Kemper Museum.

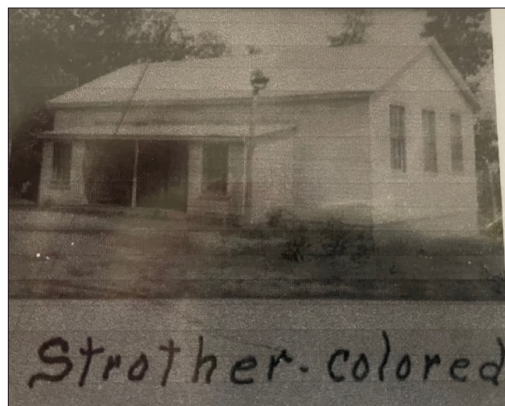


The 1940s was a decade in which many schools were closed: Weakley School (1941), McDaniel School (1941), Ruth (1942), Locust Dale (1942), Oak Park (1945) and Etlan (1948).

Throughout the decade enrollment in the schools was declining as can be seen from the first-grade enrollment numbers for the decade.

| School Term | White Enrollment | Negro Enrollment |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1940-41     | 205              | 102              |
| 1941-42     | 199              | 114              |
| 1942-43     | 198              | 119              |
| 1943-44     | 200              | 108              |
| 1944-45     | 168              | 108              |
| 1945-46     | 189              | 95               |
| 1946-47     | 182              | 94               |
| 1947-48     | 171              | 91               |
| 1948-49     | 170              | 85               |
| 1949-50     | 159              | 60               |

The enrollment figures for the latter years of the decade reflect children born during the years that the United States was at war.



In a report to the State Department of Public Education in Richmond, the Superintendent of Schools certified the following public schools in operation within Madison County, the grades taught at each school, and the official enrollment numbers for September 1949.

| White Schools     | Grades | # Students | Negro Schools      | Grades | # Students |
|-------------------|--------|------------|--------------------|--------|------------|
| MCHS              | 1-12   | 540        | Madison Training   | 1-7    | 105        |
| Criglersville     | 1-7    | 265        | Radiant            | 1-7    | 120        |
| Radiant           | 1-7    | 136        | Uno                | 1-6    | 30         |
| Wolftown          | 1-6    | 104        | Oak Grove (1 room) | 1-7    | 19         |
| Brightwood        | 1-6    | 122        | Strothers (1 room) | 1-6    | 28         |
| Rochelle (1 room) | 1-5    | 26         | Haywood (1 room)   | 1-7    | 30         |
| Jarrell (1 room)  | 1-7    | 22         |                    |        |            |

In the same report the Superintendent reported on the physical amenities of each of the schools. The report showed that only Madison County High School and Criglersville Elementary along with the Home Economics Cottages located at each school had water under pressure and flush toilets. None of the one room schools had electric lights.

There were eighteen teachers assigned to Madison County High School (Grades 1-12) with the following curriculum offered:

4 years of English

American History, World History, U.S. Government

General Science, Biology, with Chemistry and Physics offered in alternating years

French

General Mathematics, Algebra I, Algebra II, Plane Geometry

Vocational Agriculture, Vocational Homemaking, General Home Economics

Business Education courses: Bookkeeping, Typing, Shorthand and Junior Business Training

A Vocal Music class satisfied the fine arts requirement.

C.L. Yowell began the year as principal of Madison County High School, but Ernest R. Worrell assumed the position later in the year.

The following chart shows the number of teachers assigned to the remaining schools and the person designated principal or Head Teacher:

| Negro            | # Teachers | Head                | White         | # Teachers | Head                  |
|------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Madison Training | 3          | Frank A. Jackson    | Criglersville | 8          | Celia Miller          |
| Radiant          | 3          | Emma A. Davis       | Radiant       | 4          | D.L. Lohr             |
| Uno              | 2          | Grace Broady        | Wolftown      | 3          | Mary J. Hood          |
| Haywood          | 1          | Roberta Jones       | Brightwood    | 4          | Earle H. Blankenbaker |
| Oak Grove        | 1          | Erma Rice           | Rochelle      | 4          | Pauline Bowman        |
| Strothers        | 2          | Rosa Benson Francis | Jarrell       | 1          | Irma Fletcher         |



Teachers were generally compensated \$1,670 per year for 2 years of college and experience. Teachers with a 4-year degree and no experience were paid \$1,820 per year. Principals at the elementary schools were required to undertake teaching duties as well. Despite its higher school population Mrs. Miller, Principal at Criglersville taught 7th grade as well. No one ever doubted her ability to thoroughly handle her duties. There may have been some compensation for these extra duties, but the rate varied with the teacher and the school. Contained within our artifacts is a school board report showing each teacher, their assigned school and salary. These are available for review at the Kemper Museum.

*(This story will continue in future issues of this newsletter.)*



# Germannna 2022

The Germanna Foundation is excited to announce that it will have an in-person Conference and Reunion this year! The dates are July 15–17, 2022. Plans are still being nailed down so visit [www.germanna.org](http://www.germanna.org) periodically for updates and registration information. So far plans include combined 1st and 2nd colony tours on Friday. The Historical Society has invited the groups to visit the Madison Museum at the Kemper Residence and the Mountain Museum at Criglersville as part of these tours. Evening events will include a banquet on Friday and a meal at Salubria on Saturday with church and a picnic to follow on Sunday.

The Foundation has also announced the following dates for Public Access Days at Salubria. Again, go to [www.germanna.org](http://www.germanna.org) for details.

Saturday, May 21

Saturday, June 25

Thursday, July 14

## Coming Events

Sunday, May 15, 2022, at 2:00 in County Auditorium  
Membership meeting and quarterly program on  
SNP Digitization Project

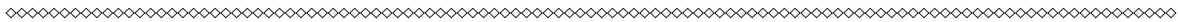
Friday, July 15, 2022  
Germanna Reunion tours to Madison and  
Criglersville

Saturday, July 16, 2022  
Germanna Conference in Culpeper

August 21, 2022  
Quarterly program: topic to be announced

Saturday, September 3, 2022  
Taste of the Mountains: Kemper Residence  
open with exhibits outside

Sunday, September 11, 2022  
Mountain Skills Day at Mountain Museum at  
Criglersville  
(Clyde Jenkins, Craig Jacobs, and more)



## HISTORY ALONG THE ROADSIDE



## Replacement Marker US 15 at Madison Mills

Madison County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 467  
Madison, VA 22727  
540-395-5119

### Address Service Requested



[www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org)  
[madisonvahistory@gmail.com](mailto: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](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.