

Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



Madison County
Historical Society

www.madisonvahistoricalociety.org

February 2023

February Speaker: Betty Mallory

We are very fortunate that Betty Utz Mallory, originally scheduled for the November Madison County Historical Society quarterly meeting, can join us at our next meeting on February 26, 2023. The subject of her presentation will be her cookbook **"To Be Blessed"** which is a "Lifetime Collection of Her favorite Recipes from Family and Friends."

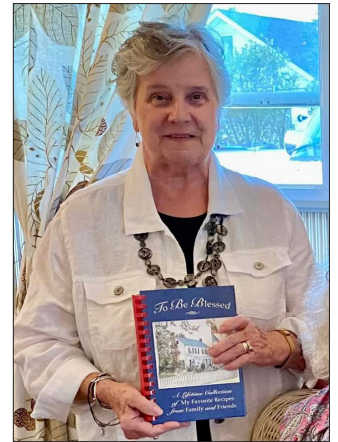
Betty is a lifetime resident of Madison County. A 1962 graduate of Madison County High School, she worked as legal secretary for the Commonwealth's Attorney in Madison, began a catering business which has grown over 25 years and is now retired from the Madison County Public Schools System. One of her lifetime dreams was to write her very own cookbook and upon retirement from the school system, the dream began to happen and "To Be Blessed" was born.

In her cookbook she has included stories of living on a farm most of her life. In her words, "We planted, harvested and preserved most of our food, raised chickens, hogs, and beef, cut firewood for heat, and made many items from the cotton bags that the chicken feed came in. Some of the stories are of butchering hogs, making apple butter, gigging for frogs, just to name a few. There are ten categories in the book and I have been told that the recipes range from caviar to hog's feet." The book has been beautifully illustrated by Pat Lattin who will be in attendance with Betty.

In the program Betty wishes to share her early life on a farm, carrying on family traditions, and many years of collecting recipes through the pages of **"To Be Blessed."**

Whether you were born on a farm, have lived on a farm or have been a city dweller, this will be an entertaining and informative program.

The meeting will be held in the Madison County Administrative building auditorium on February 26th 2023, at 2pm and everyone is invited to attend.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Article IV, Section 3 of the Society's By-Laws states:

The Madison County Historical Society Board of Directors shall be elected by the general membership. One third of the Board shall be elected at the first designated regular membership meeting of the calendar year. A Nominating Committee shall nominate members. Nominations may also be made from the floor. Anyone so nominated must have agreed in writing to serve prior to the nomination. A Board member whose term has expired may be re-elected.

The four members whose terms are expiring in 2023 are: Ed Berry, Phil Brockman, Janice Carpenter, and Beppy White. Ed Berry, Phil Brockman, Janice Carpenter and Beppy White are all present Board members, each willing to serve another three-year term if presented by the nominating committee and re-elected by the membership.

At the first scheduled meeting of this year the nominating committee will place this slate before the membership. If any of our membership wish to serve on or nominate someone for the Board you are encouraged to do so by contacting Penn Bowers, Chair of Nominating Committee, before the meeting on February 26, 2023.

A Note From The President

Welcome to another newsletter with coverage of our programs, projects, and museums. Since we had to cancel the November program because of last-minute sickness, we plan to do the program on February 26, 2023, at the County Auditorium. See the article by Penn Bowers on page 1 for more information. The date for this program is a week later than normal to allow people to attend the Carver program at the Madison Fire Hall on February 19, 2023 at 2 PM. February is also the month for elections to the Board Of Directors.

George Washington Carver Regional High School Alumni Association will be sponsoring programs in all four Counties whose African American students attended this school from 1948 until 1968. The program at Madison will present Rev. Frank Lewis as the featured speaker. The program will consist of dinner along with music from the era and other entertainment. Rev. Lewis graduated from Madison County High School in 1968, since Carver closed after the 1967 school year. 2023 marks the 75th Anniversary of the opening of Carver (1948). Prior to this, there were no African American High Schools in the four counties involved (Culpeper, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock). Greene County was originally involved but decided that travel to Jackson P. Burley High School in Charlottesville was a shorter distance to bus its students. If you would like to attend the program, reservations need to be made by February 13th. The cost of the dinner is \$15. Reservations can be made at: carver4cm@gmail.com

The Mountain Museum porch enclosure is complete on the outside and now we can begin work on the inside. After the inside is finished, we hope to furnish it with period items to make it look like a log cabin kitchen.

Dennis Coppedge and I erected the Criglersville Shiloh Cemetery sign in late December. The Historical Society decided to purchase this sign because many people stop at the MMC to ask directions to the Cemetery. A picture of the sign is in this newsletter. The MMC also had the pleasure of a visit from clients of the Madison Senior Center; they stayed about an hour on their way to Graves Mountain Lodge for lunch. Because it is always nice to have visits from groups, we will open for them on special occasions, by request.

We will reopen the Museums in March and are always in need of new volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please let someone on the Board know your intentions. During this year, we also hope to have some displays at the Arcade that we can showcase on announced occasions, but not on a regular schedule.

Thanks for your support
Max Lacy, President
Madison County Historical Society



Kemper Tea planned for March 22, 2023



Plans are underway for a spring tea on March 22. After thorough consideration, the MCHS Board of Directors has recommended that we offer another Drive By event.

As of the date of this newsletter there are still many cases of Covid, RSV and flu in the community, and the last thing we want to do is create an environment that might spread any illness. Therefore, members of

the Board felt we should not yet have the close contact of an indoor tea.

Those who have participated in the carry out teas of the past three years know the menus are the same as the traditional events inside the Kemper Residence. The advantage is our elegant delivery bags provide everything you need to host your own tea party.

Your donation of \$30 for each serving will provide generous portions of tea delicacies, including popular Kemper Tea bags.

Spaces are limited, so make your reservations as soon as possible. Please email maryhaught@hughes.net or call 540-718-2175 to let us know how many servings you would like to order.

We appreciate your continuing support of this event. All elements, including packaging, are donated by our Tea Team volunteers, so your entire check goes directly to support Madison County Historical Society.

From the Editor....

A bit of good news and bad news this time. First, the not so good. We must acknowledge and correct a couple of errors. The first appeared in the May 2021 issue where we attributed Everett Weakley's ring and diploma to Etlan and Criglersville schools. The correct schools are Criglersville and Madison. Secondly, the science teacher named in the November 2022 Carver article is Miss Alease Scott (not Smith.) Our apologies for these and any other miscues.

The good: at its recent meeting, the Historical Society Board voted to fund printing the newsletter in full color throughout. Martha Breeden and I say, "Thank you, Board!"

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

~~~Judy Mahanes

# The Official Seal for Madison County

By

Pam Nelson

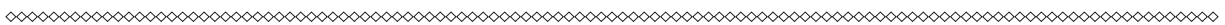
Almost fifty years ago the local American Revolution Bicentennial Committee's first project was to develop an official seal to represent Madison County. Everett Weakley, chairman of the seal committee, organized a countywide contest. Ultimately, there were twenty-five local entries submitted anonymously at the Madison County Eagle office for judging by the members of the committee. In addition to Mr. Weakley, other judges included Jeannie Light, Joyce Eddins, and Elizabeth J. Weaver. Madison County Farm Bureau donated cash prizes of \$50, \$25, and \$15 for the top three entries. All entries were originally submitted in black and white with winning entries later reproduced in color.



The first place entry, which became the front of the official seal, was submitted by Dena (Dee Dee) Wilcox of Syria. It features Madison's historic courthouse and fifteen stars to represent the fifteen states which existed when Madison County was formed in 1792. It became the official seal on July 4, 1974.

Although the original plan was to select a one-sided seal, it was decided to select a back side as well. The submission of Lou Messa, second place winner, was selected for its portrayal of Madison County's natural beauty. It includes the mountains in the distance as viewed from behind a chestnut rail fence. A well-known local artist, Messa had only lived in Madison for approximately one year when he won. Officially, this side cannot be used alone, but rather only with the front side.

Many of the entries featured the Blue Ridge Mountains, including Old Rag and Doubletop Mountains. The third place entry submitted by Bula Crigler featured mountains and included the Native American phrase "Okee paezee." According to Claude Yowell's account in *The History of Madison County*, this phrase was believed to mean "God is nigh." Dianna Jones, Ron Gore, and Martha Dudley rounded out the top six winners. Mr. Weakley declared the contest a success and today the county seal has withstood the test of time proudly displayed on official county correspondence and on county owned vehicles. The seal also appears at the top of page one in each issue of this newsletter.

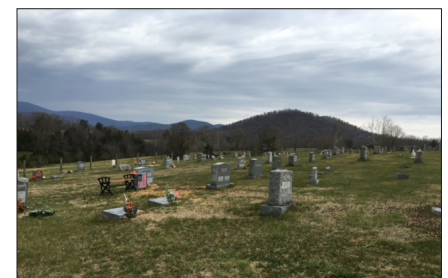


## Criglersville Shiloh Cemetery



The historical society recently partnered with an adjacent landowner to erect a sign pointing visitors toward the Criglersville Shiloh Cemetery. This cemetery is situated on a hill that is very visible from the back parking area at the Mountain Museum. It is easy to see where the cemetery is, but until now, it has been difficult to tell visitors how to get to there. Thanks to Dennis Coppedge and Max Lacy, we now have signage to direct visitors to the site, which is in the middle of a pasture field. When you visit Criglersville Shiloh, please obey all signs about keeping gates closed so the cattle stay in their field!

The cemetery dates back to 1925 when Criglersville's Shiloh Baptist Church acquired "one acre and one rood, more or less" and a right of way to Route 670. It remained under the auspices of the church until 1995 when the Shiloh Baptist Church trustees transferred the real estate to trustees of Criglersville Shiloh Cemetery. Sandy Stowe and Beppy White surveyed this (now) community cemetery in 2010 as part of the Madison County Historical Society's Cemetery Project. At that time, 274 burial sites were identified.





# Students and the Historical Society

## 2022



*Frances Lacy & Vickie Watts at Colonial Day*

Recent issues of this newsletter have been filled with reports on the history of education in Madison County. Now we write to assure you that the Society's involvement with schools is alive and well in the present. During 2022, we had numerous meaningful interactions with local students. Most recently, twelve students and three adults from Oak Grove Mennonite School visited the Kemper Residence for a full tour of the residence, cabin, and law office. We were impressed by their enthusiasm and great questions, most of which we could answer! In parting, they thanked us for allowing them to tour and said: "I wish we had allowed more time for this stop on our morning tour."

Just before Thanksgiving, President Max Lacy organized the 2022 edition of Colonial Days for the Waverly Yowell Elementary School fourth graders. Exhibits were set up in the school gym and one classroom, and students visited in five groups. Clyde Jenkins showed how to prepare

splits and make baskets. Nan Coppedge and Becky Thompson showed quilts, explained how they are made, and invited fourth graders to take a turn with the needle. Vickie Watts and Frances Lacy discussed the progression of fiber production from shearing an animal to creating a handknit sweater made from the wool. Katie Gigliotti, WYES art teacher, demonstrated paper making. Finally, Jim Lillard showed pictures from his Mountain Memories presentation and led a discussion of life in the first half of the twentieth century.

Earlier in the fall, Max Lacy, Ed Berry, and Judy Mahanes accepted an invitation from Charlotte Wood, Madison County High School librarian, to attend a meeting of the school's literary magazine club. We shared refreshments with the members, talked a bit about our organization and museums, and shared tidbits of Madison history. One senior reported that she knew all about the Mountain Museum because she had just been there to vote. The club was compiling a long list of possible new names for their publication; we think they added a couple of our suggestions.

Back in May, the Society organized a Walking Tour of Madison for the "about to graduate" fourth graders. See the May 2022 issue of this newsletter for details of that event.

Students are always welcome at MMK and MMC, whether coming as an organized school group or individually with family or friends. Our only request is that we have advance notice if a big group is coming. Contact the Society at 540-395 -5119 or speak with a Board member.



### ***From the Past:***

250 years ago (1773): Rapid Ann Baptist Church was organized with 37 members.

230 years ago: May 23 & 24, 1793, the first court was convened in Madison County.

110 years ago (1913): A. W. Yowell, principal at Etlan High School organized a boy's corn club, the beginning of 4-H Clubs in the county.

70 years ago (1953): The Hunton Hotel of Madison ceased operating as a hotel and became the private home of its owners, cousins John Thomas Hall and Sarah Frances Johnston.

50 years ago (1973): Madison County Mountaineers football team won state championship.

*Compiled by Edward Berry*



*Rapidan Church Today*

# Public High School Education for White Students

By

Judy Mahanes



*Etlan High School*

Some years ago, I graduated from Madison County High School. My school was on Route 29 south of the town of Madison. Students a few years older than I also graduated from Madison County High School, but their school was on North Main Street in town. Folks my mother's age graduated from Madison High School on Schoolhouse Road in town. Members of the Class of 1939 also graduated from Madison High School, but their school was on North Main Street. Everette Weakley, long-time Madison educator, mail carrier, insurance agent, historian, and master storyteller has a class ring from Criglersville High School and a diploma from Madison High School (MHS). What's going on? In other articles, we have researched and written about secondary education for black students in the County. This article will explore how white high schools fit into the public school system.

While there has never been an accredited African American public high school within Madison County, there have been three such schools for white students. Etlan School began as a two-room school in 1911, quickly added two more rooms, and offered high school work for the 1913-14 session. Longtime educator and historian Claude L. Yowell graduated from Etlan High School before matriculating at the University of Virginia to earn B.S. and M.S. degrees. Future Superintendent of Schools A. W. Yowell was the first principal of Etlan School.

Later, there were two high schools in the county: one in Madison, built in 1916 and accredited in 1919 and the other established at Criglersville in 1921 and accredited in 1925. At the same time, two or three years of high school subjects were offered in the larger elementary schools. In 1929, however, the School Board authorized one year of high school only at Wolftown, Radiant, Rochelle, Brightwood, and Oak Park schools. By 1933, no high school students were assigned to four-room schools; all were sent to either Madison or Criglersville. Photographs from that era reveal a striking similarity in the appearance of these school buildings. The trend continued with matching home economics cottages built for the 1935-36 session to provide expanded training for young women. (The Criglersville cottage now houses the Historical Society's Mountain Museum.) The School Board authorized an Agriculture Building for Madison for 1929-30 and one in Criglersville for 1930-31. Federal and state aid during the depression facilitated the funding for these buildings. Noises may have been coming from Richmond about consolidating high schools, but multiple schools were purring right along in Madison.

Then Madison High burned on August 19, 1937. School officials orchestrated a mad scramble to conduct classes for Madison students during the 1937-38 term in the undamaged home economics and shop buildings and other county spaces, including the War Memorial Building. And they had to build a new school. The old location on Schoolhouse Road was deemed inappropriate and land was purchased on N Main Street in town. The new Madison High School (that also housed elementary grades) opened on November 5, 1938 and was formally dedicated on May 5, 1939. This building is now the center of Waverly Yowell Elementary School, established during the consolidation of white elementary schools.



*Madison High School on Schoolhouse Road*

High school education proceeded as usual in Criglersville. Also, by September 1945, Supt. Yowell had invited A. G. Richardson, Assistant Superintendent of Negro Education in Virginia, to address the School



Board (J. R. Clore, chairman, E. T. Krider, and W. H. Benton) about the work being done to improve Negro education in the state. Things continued to purr right along. Then fire claimed the frame Criglersville building on January 21, 1946. Another mad scramble ensued to house students in the Cannery, Civilian Conservation Corps Camp, Oddfellows Hall, and the undamaged agriculture and home economics buildings, and to plan for a new building. In February of 1946, a state representative touted building a new elementary school in Criglersville, creating more high school space in Madison, and establishing a modern elementary center at Radiant to meet the needs of whites in that part of the county. On March 25, 1946, the School Board passed a resolution citing a "general sentiment over the county to build a modern and comfortable elementary school at Criglersville," to take steps needed to consolidate high schools for "broader and more economical type of secondary instruction," and to commit funds for establishing a regional Negro high school in Culpeper. The School Board requested that the Board of Supervisors allocate \$241,000.00 for these projects: \$143,000.00 for new Criglersville Elementary School, \$53,000.00 for adding classrooms and a cafeteria at MHS, and \$45,000.00 for the Carver project. School officials were kept busy negotiating an insurance settlement, developing architectural plans, securing funding, and dealing with a squabble.



*Criglersville High School*

In March of 1947, the board received a letter from six heads of families in the county questioning the plan to build an elementary school at Criglersville and reminding the School Board that their earlier request (made in person and in writing) to be heard on the matter "was totally ignored." The letter contended that building a new elementary school was unnecessary and ran counter to state recommendations to centralize schools whenever possible. Likewise, spending money to enlarge the MHS building was unnecessary in light of state recommendations to separate elementary and high school students. The writers suggested that the money would be better spent to create a central school for the upper elementary grades.



*Madison High School at Dedication in 1939*

Finally, the letter pointed out that no provisions were being made to provide adequate facilities at other elementary schools within the county. The letter was signed by Charles J. Ross, James O. Clore, W. J. Huckstep, Hugh R. Ross, J. H. Hood, and Elmer T. Lohr. The letter did not comment on the appropriation for Carver.

Nor did the School Board alter its plans. The new Criglersville Elementary School, dedicated on April 21, 1949, went on to become a beloved institution in that section of the County (and later a thorn in the side of numerous boards of supervisors.) A. Waverly Yowell resigned as superintendent of schools on January 20, 1949. The MHS building was expanded to house grades one through twelve through the spring of 1959. The name of the school transitioned from MHS to Madison County High School during academic year 1946-47 when the would be seniors from Criglersville joined their MHS counterparts. Everett Weakley was a member of the combined Class of 1947. The Class of 1959 was the last to graduate from the building on North Main Street. Radiant Elementary School remained a standard, country elementary school for white students until its closure in 1959. George Washington Carver Regional High School opened in Culpeper County in October of 1948.



*Madison County High School in 1958*

# MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 2022

### Finances in Review

#### Income

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Membership Dues            | 10,354.00 |
| General Donations          | 2,400.60  |
| Donations for Facility Use | 975.00    |
| Tea Income                 | 2,310.00  |
| Gift Shop Sales            | 2,243.50  |
| Royalties on Images book   | 101.68    |
| Interest                   | 29.68     |
| Designated Donations       | 2,675.00  |
| Total                      | 21,089.46 |

#### Expenses

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Arcade Utilities & Security    | 2,533.21  |
| Arcade Maintenance             | 585.98    |
| Kemper Utilities & Security    | 2,211.59  |
| Kemper Maintenance             | 1,554.41  |
| Mt Museum Utilities & Security | 2,170.35  |
| Mt Museum Projects             | 4,003.85  |
| Insurance                      | 560.00    |
| Graves Mill Park Expenses      | 162.59    |
| Office & Exhibit Supplies      | 594.87    |
| Postage & PO Box Rent          | 335.00    |
| Printing                       | 1,955.97  |
| Web & Software Fees            | 270.14    |
| Gift Shop Inventory            | 181.50    |
| Sales Tax to State             | 145.31    |
| Miscellaneous Expenses         | 1,533.91  |
| Total                          | 18,798.68 |

*Judith Mahanes, Treasurer*

## Membership Report

Thanks for the prompt renewal by so many members this year. If you have not renewed for several years, there are no back dues; just pay for the current year. Your continued support will be greatly appreciated.

We welcome the following new members joining since the last newsletter:

Elizabeth Birkenbeuel - Pasadena, CA

Wesley Coker - Nashville, TN

Deborah Napier - Amissville, VA

Sherman & Carmela Patrick - Madison, VA

James Perry - Somerset, VA

## Kemper Descendant Visits Kemper Residence

Back in October 2022, Arlene Aylor and Eilene Smith, volunteers on duty, welcomed Ben Thompson to the Madison Museum at Kemper. It was an exciting day! Not only does Ben hail from Ashford, Kent in the United Kingdom, but he is also a great-great-great nephew of James Lawson Kemper! Some days, the camera just has to come out!



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.