



Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

August 2009

BETH TAYLOR TO SPEAK AT THE AUGUST QUARTERLY MEETING

The August 16th Madison County Historical Society Meeting will feature Beth Taylor, Research Associate and Past Director of Education at Montpelier, speaking on Paul Jennings, the First White House Memoirist-Prominent Madison Slave and Freedman.

Paul Jennings began life as a Montpelier slave, became a White House footman, attended James Madison at his death, was freed by Daniel Webster, wrote a memoir of his time in the White House and ended his life as an abolitionist landowner in D.C.

Ms. Taylor has done extensive research on this fascinating man who was James Madison's enslaved manservant. Jennings attended Madison before his presidency, at the White House, and at his death at Montpelier. He began his life as a slave on the Virginia plantation of the eventual fourth U.S. President and Father of the Constitution, and ended it as a freedman, employed by the U.S. government, living in a thriving, primarily black community in the nation's capital city.

The life of Paul Jennings shows us a remarkable piece of American history, much of it previously unknown. It is the story of the first White House memoirist, slaves in the White House, the journey from slavery to citizenship, and the complicated nature of the relationship between slave owners and their slaves- particularly

between an enslaved black man and James Madison.

Ms. Taylor's lecture on this unique and compelling piece of our history is fascinating.

The meeting will be at 2:00pm in the auditorium of the Madison County Administration building and will be followed by refreshments in the Kemper Residence next door.

MICHAEL THEARD AND JIM RUMPLER SPEAK AT THE MAY MEETING



Jim Rumpler and Michael Theard

The subject of the May meeting was the Buffalo Soldiers. In 1866, two U.S. Army African-American regiments were formed, the 9th and 10th cavalries. Members of these two cavalry units and two all black infantry units, the 24th and 25th, came to be called the Buffalo Soldiers.

Michael Theard is a computer technology consultant who resides in Silver Spring, MD, and is a member of the Greater Washington Chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers. He spoke to the Society about the history and achievements of these soldiers as they were sent to the west to fight Native Americans and protect settlers, cattle herds and railroad crews, distinguishing themselves in many instances. One Buffalo Soldier, Clinton Greaves, began his life as a slave right here in Madison County, and after emancipation, joined the Buffalo Soldiers at the age of 23. For heroic action in an engagement in Mexico, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Jim Rumpler, a well beloved resident of Madison, also spoke to the Society about some of his history with the Horse Cavalry.

In 1930, at the age of seventeen, Jim joined what was then the Ohio National Guard, Troop I of the 107th. He was commissioned in 1936 and served in Troop A of the 10th regiment in 1941 as a Second Lieutenant. He regaled us with a few

of the many stories of his experiences with what was classic Army history when horses were the precursor of tanks.



Jim Rumpler's sword

He also brought some interesting artifacts- a sword issued in 1932 as a weapon of war which had been manufactured at the Springfield Armory in 1913, and some insignia worn by the 10th and 107th regiments of the horse cavalry. This meeting was attended by more than fifty people in what was a very interesting presentation.

MEMBERSHIP

Here are new members who joined the Society since our last newsletter:

Doris And Ray Lackey, Madison, VA

Robert B. Hardaway, South Pasadena, CA

We are happy to have you with us and hope you have a rewarding membership experience

NEW ADDRESS

The Historical Society's web page has moved. You can now find it at:

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

This site can be used to find the latest information on topics and dates of upcoming Society events. You can also purchase items from the Arcade Museum at cost plus postage. Visit our site to keep up to date on all the latest Society news

RUSS MYERS MEMORIAL DEDICATION



Penn Bowers, Steve Wixson, Wilma Myers

After the death of Russ Myers in 2006, Steve Wixson, of the Rhythm Bones Society, contacted the Madison Historical Society about the possibility of doing something to honor Russ. A plan finally came together this spring. The Bones Society would produce a DVD of Russ's life to present to the Historical Society along with a flat-screen TV to play it on, at a celebration arranged by the Historical Society.

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, June 28, 2009, a crowd of family, friends and admirers of Russ Myers came together to pay tribute to his life and love of music. Bill Scholten had asked the Possum Ridge Band to come and play for the occasion since Russ had been a member of the band. Some of his wife Wilma's friends from the Presbyterian Church brought refreshments and Wilma had loaned the Historical Society Russ's collection of rhythm bones along with other memorabilia for an exhibit. The exhibit was set up in the basement of the Kemper House along with the DVD player and refreshments. Family and friends who played that day with Possum Ridge in the gazebo in front of the Madison Library were his daughter Jennifer Walters, his son David, Sharon Mescher, Halbur, IA, Scott Miller, St. Louis, MO, Steve Wixson, Signal Mt, TN, Mary Lee and Frank Sweet, Palm Coast, FL and Kenny Wolin, Burke, VA .



Musicians who performed at the Memorial Dedication

Russ was a world renowned rhythm bones player who received many awards for his talent. More than the honors though, he enjoyed showing and teaching others about his passion. It was never about him, he just loved sharing this unique form of music with everyone he met. However, he did own up to being the best bones player in south Brightwood, VA.

The Rhythm Bones exhibit and DVD are at the Arcade Museum for all to enjoy. Many thanks to the Rhythm Bones Society for this generous gift.

Museum hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday—10am until 2pm..



Steve Wixon give Jane Volchansky a lesson in playing the bones while Penn Bowers look on

NEW MUSEUM SIGNS

The Society has purchased new signage for the Arcade Museum. After noticing that the word museum did not appear on any of our signs, we went to Todd Brown in Orange to remedy the situation. Pictured are two of the new signs.



SLAVE QUARTERS RESTORATION, PART ONE



Slave quarters before deconstruction

During the first two weeks of June Craig Jacobs and his team of specialists in log buildings carefully dismantled the slave quarters. To each

element (siding, log, molding) they attached a metal tag with an ID number on it and photographed every part and its ID tag in situ prior to dismantlement. In this way they created a record identifying every part of the building and its position in the original structure. Also every day throughout the disassembly process Ann Miller, the architectural historian, visited the site to examine the parts revealed and assess the dating and sequence of the building's construction.

Interior parts (flooring, mantle, the bracing installed three years ago) were removed first. Next the siding was removed, uncovering the exterior surface of the logs and disclosing two aspects of the building's history that had not been known before: 1. The logs had never been exposed directly to weather. Therefore the slave quarters had been built originally with siding. 2. The lower two courses of logs had been replaced at some time, indicating that the problem of log deterioration was an early one and also that the building had at one time been picked up in order to replace the lower logs.



With siding removed

Even the newer logs were in very bad shape. Next the chinking was removed. Then the roof, whose frame structure was original and in good shape, was freed, lifted by a very large forklift and deposited in the parking lot of the Health Department to await re-installation.



Roof removal

Finally the logs were taken down, saving any that could be re-used. Unfortunately very few, eight at the most, were sound enough to be used in the reconstruction.



Off site reconstruction

During the dismantling process the team discovered several items left behind by early residents: a small wrought-iron butter knife, a tin plate (small dinner-size) with embossed Egyptian motifs, three doll dresses, a doll's straw hat, and, between the siding and the logs of the chimney end of the building, a small (6") doll with bisque head and extremities. We will report more on these findings later when we learn more about them.



The Kemper House will be open between the hours of 11:00 and 3:00 on Saturday, September 5, 2009. Come see the House and visit with "General and Mrs. Kemper". The Arcade Museum will be open from 9:00am until 4:00pm.

KEMPER FALL TEA SEPTEMBER 30, 2009



Enjoying the tea



Site as seen presently

Then Dr. Carole Nash, archaeologist from James Madison University, came with a team of volunteers from the Archeological Society of Virginia and very systematically investigated the cabin site, removing and sifting the soil, layer by fine layer. This work, done over a period of ten days, disclosed a large stone at each corner, placed there clearly as piers to support the structure. In between piers on the west and north walls were single courses of foundation bricks, laid on edge. Adjacent to the east wall was a similar course of bricks, laid flat rather than on edge, and possibly intended as foundation (there is a slight slope to the land, requiring a higher foundation for the west wall). Dr. Nash's team recovered some artifacts and will sort and evaluate these at JMU.

If work proceeds as hoped we will be able in the next issue of this newsletter to report on the rebuilding of the slave quarters.

The volunteers, who prepare and serve food for the bi-annual fund raising teas at the Kemper Residence, are giving special consideration to members of the Historical Society and their friends.

The past three teas have been booked to capacity, with waiting lists. So, for the September 30 event, our members will have the first opportunity to make their reservations.

Starting Monday, August 17, Historical Society members may make their reservations by leaving a message at 547-4398. You will receive a call back with a confirmation. Reservations will open to the public on Tuesday, September 1.

"We are holding the line on the price", says Mary Haight, who coordinates arrangements with husband, Bob. "We have made no price adjustments in more than five years," she said, "so once again, you will be served a generous luncheon tea for only \$18."

That entire amount is a contribution to the Historical Society, since all food is prepared and donated by dedicated volunteers.

TASTE OF THE MOUNTAINS

Plan now to get a group together and enjoy lunch in our historic Kemper Residence. And call early to be sure you can get a reservation.

MADISONIANS HOST GERMANNA REUNION

Madison County was the setting for two days of the three day annual Germanna Reunion. The usual Friday bus tour on July 17th cruised along Hebron Valley Road with each 1726 land grant pointed out by tour director, Emily Williams. Circling the Mt. Carmel Church, Germanna descendents from around the country could see where Frances Henderson is buried in the church cemetery. This gave Ohio Weaver cousins an opportunity to learn about the book, "Ask for Nothing" by Maxine Weaver Crane. The story takes place at the foot of the east side of Deal Mountain.

On to Criglersville where the Clore brothers spent two years prior to 1726 clearing the land and building a house for their parents and younger siblings, the bus paused along Shotwell Run where the two Clore land grants joined his sister, Suzannah Clore Weaver Crigler and new husband, Jacob Crigler's land grant. The 1000 plus acres of Clore property grew flax, hemp and many grains for the market in Fredericksburg. Thus several mills were scattered around this huge acreage in the wilderness. The only known neighbors were two Quaker brothers across the Robinson River along Quaker Run. These two land grants to Benjamin and William Rush, together amounting to about 800 acres, were actually granted over a month before the Clores. Cut off by the river, did they even know the Clores?

As the Clores moved elsewhere in the county and country, their Crigler cousin acquired some of the land which fell to future generations of Criglers; thus the town of Criglersville sprung forth; unlike the previous scattered houses, barns and mills on the Clore Plantation.

A new adventure for this year's bus tour was driving by the scenic Poor House with Deal Mountain in the background. Later generations of Madison County's poor lived here and worked the land.

Heading south on Rt. 231 after crossing the

Robinson River, we passed through Kerker and Carpenter land grants, some of which became a faster pace in the Wolftown area, as family names merged.

Yes, Germanna and other German and English settlers were as far west toward Wolftown as were the Clores and two Quaker brothers in church farm (or glebe) with slaves working the land. Money raised in Europe to build the church in 1740 included enough to purchase the glebe and slaves. The present day Glebe Road is this old farm road on the church's land used over 275 years ago.

The bus swung around Hebron Church viewing Smith Island, Clore Furniture Factory and crossed White Oak Bridge (one of the few covered bridges of its day).

There was no town of Madison when the Germans arrived but Wolftown was fast becoming a budding community first called Thoroughfare because settlers along the Rapidan, Middle and South Rivers were searching for a land route to the Criglersville area. However, there seems to have been more settlers earlier, indicating early cultural interchange between German and English pioneers.

The Germanna pioneer Michael Holt (who in the 1730's went with the first pastor of Hebron Church to Europe to raise funds) patented land from the north of Rt. 230 as early as 1726, maybe 1725. His first land grant began just beyond Plow and Hearth and included Sweely Estate Winery. From there his second land grant included the mountain and continued almost to the cove where German Ridge picks up. In 1724 John Eddins located an old Indian clearing there and spent two winters hunting animals for hides to take to market. His land grant dates to 1726.

The tour included all of the above before breaking for lunch provided by the ladies at Madison Methodist Church. This was convenient because The Clerk's Office is located close by, temporarily, due to the Court House renovations.

The afternoon was spent in the town of Madison with visitors strolling along Main Street and touring the Arcade Museum, Drug Store and Tanner's Feed Store before boarding the bus for the Kemper Residence, Kemper-McMullan Law

Office, site of the Servants' Quarters and Library. The Servants' Quarters building is currently undergoing restoration.

Our active and supportive Historical Society made this successful day possible. MCHS President Bill Scholten shook hands and greeted each guest personally as they entered the church fellowship hall. MCHS member and Museum Volunteer, Virginia McGhee organized the meal with the assistance of other church and MCHS members. Other MCHS members were on hand to meet and greet cousins of the same family tree. It was like old times when families hadn't seen each other for years and family tree lines were connected in person where faces could be put with names. This mingling is growing each year and it is a joy to see true family fellowship bond tighter each year.

I might add that touring the county is one thing but relatives from California, Oregon, Washington State and all across the country getting together with Madisonian cousins is what it is all about to me.

Emily McMullen Williams

Second Colony Germanna descendant, tour guide 2009

(To be continued: Germanna Reunion-Sunday at Hebron Church-part 2 (next issue))

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Exhibits at the Arcade include the Rapidan Railroad, Civil War items, old ink wells, old toys, Madison-Made children's chairs, Before the Park pictures and many Indians artifacts. Our newest exhibit is the Russ Myers Tribute which includes his Rhythm bones collection and other memorabilia, a Memory Notebook created by his wife Wilma and a DVD which can be watched on our new player



Before the Park pictures

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT THE KEMPER RESIDENCE SLAVE QUARTERS



Final mapping of features by ASV volunteer Jackie Cuyler (Warrenton) and JMU graduate Sarah Ellis (Fluvanna)

The restoration program for the Kemper Residence Slave Quarter includes archaeological testing that was designed by Carole Nash, James Madison University and carried out by her and her students and volunteers from the Archeological Society of Virginia in late June and early July. The archaeology was undertaken in accordance with the Historic Easement placed on the Kemper property and was approved by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

The goals of the archaeological study are to further an understanding of the dates of occupation and alterations to the Quarters, as well as to catch glimpses of the lives of those who lived there. As one of only two remaining

dependencies on the Residence property, the Quarters holds important clues to daily life from a time of great change. Given its continued use as a servants' residence after Emancipation, the Kemper Quarters represents a temporal and social 'bridge' between two historic eras and experiences: Enslaved and Freedmen.

The structure is believed to have been built late in the antebellum period, raised during the same timeframe as the Residence -- between 1852 and 1857. Initial research into the 1860 Census indicates that the household included seven slaves who were listed by age and gender but not name. While all seven probably did not live in the Quarters (there was also a detached kitchen in the back yard, long since removed, but whose foundations were discovered during an archaeological investigation in 1990), the 198-square foot structure would have been quite small for a family of any size.

Field work began with a five-foot grid being laid across the Quarters' floor (uncovered during the removal of the structure) and the adjoining yard. This 'floor' is not a dirt living floor, but rather the ground surface under the floor joists that were removed several years ago. The first phase of archaeological work included troweling the floor by five-foot square to look for features such as a builder's trench, sub-floor storage pits (common in Virginia Piedmont slave quarters), and a hearth. All soil was screened through ¼" mesh and the discovered artifacts were placed in bags by square and soil level. High accuracy global positioning systems (GPS) technology was used to map the grid and features.



Brick chimney pad exposed and stove platform bisected.
Uneven surface of chimney pad caused by rodent burrowing

The archaeological research shed a great deal of light on the construction of the Quarters, as

well as the endless repairs that kept it standing until this year. The mid-nineteenth century date of construction is confirmed by ceramics and bottle glass dating to that time period, recovered during troweling. This work also exposed four large fieldstones that acted as corner piers; these held the building only inches off the ground, which explains why the logs, which acted like wicks for ground moisture, fared so poorly. The bricks that were visible around the base of the structure were much later additions; they were not part of the original foundation, but were slid into place at different times to support the outer joists. While Salvagewrights found a great deal of evidence for replaced logs and joists during the removal of the Quarters, the most dramatic evidence of renovation comes from four large pits that were dug next to each of the stone piers. We believe these pits were dug to get leverage for tools that jacked the Quarters during log replacement. We don't yet know when this occurred, but artifacts from the late 19th century in the pits indicates that the Quarters stood only thirty years or so before seeing major repair work.

Another surprise came in the lack of evidence for an interior hearth. While analysis is ongoing, it appears that the Quarters had a wood and (later) coal-burning stove that tied into the chimney. Excavations around the chimney pad found a dense layer of clinkers from an iron forge, covered with mortar – this was the pad for the stove.

We will continue our reports of the analysis in future issues of the newsletter. Aside from the bisque doll found during the removal of the logs on the south wall, the most interesting artifacts recovered thus far are the buttons. We have found almost seventy glass, shell, and bone buttons from across the floor.



Pier stone and later pit probably dug to jack structure during log/
joist replacement

We would like to thank Maury Hansen, Bill Scholten, and Jane Volchansky for their tireless efforts on this project. In good Madison County form, they treated the crew to lunch at the Madison Inn and came by almost every day to see what we were finding. Craig Jacobs' Salvagewrights' crew has done an excellent job of documenting the structure, and their insights have been very important to interpreting the archaeological remains.



ASV volunteer Kay Veith (Harrisonburg) trades maturity for
digging

Carole Nash
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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.

Membership is for one year with renewals due on the anniversary date of membership. Membership and other contributions to the Society are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Types of Membership:

Sustainer.....	\$500 or more	Business	\$50
Benefactor	\$250 to \$499	Family	\$20
Partner	\$100 to \$249	Single	\$10
Friend	\$50 to \$99	Student	\$5

Membership applications are available at the Arcade and the Kemper Residence. For more information call the Society Office at 540-948-5488 and leave your name, telephone number, and address. We will send you a membership application or return your call to answer your questions.



Historical Society
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