



Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

February 2008



Hoover's cabin at Camp Rapidan

RAPIDAN CAMP TO BE TOPIC AT FEBRUARY 17TH MEETING

Again this year in conjunction with President's day, the presentation at the Madison County Historical Society quarterly meeting will focus on a U.S. President.

Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey Riley, presently Field Historian, History Division, Marine Corps University, will speak about and present pictures of the "Marines at Camp Rapidan: The role of the Marine Corps in planning, building,

managing and guarding President Hoover's retreat in the Shenandoah Mountains."

Lt. Col. Riley is a graduate of Villanova University, the Naval Postgraduate School and

the Naval War College. He is presently stationed at Quantico Marine Base and travels here to Madison on February 17, 2008 to speak to guests attending the MCHS quarterly meeting.

The meeting will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, February 17 in the auditorium of the Madison County Administration building and will be followed by refreshments in the Kemper Residence next door.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Annual Membership meeting of the Madison County Historical Society will be held on Sunday, February 17, 2008 at 2:00pm. The terms of four members of the Board of Directors expire. The Nominating Committee submits the following to fill these terms: Emily Williams, Elizabeth White, William Scholten and Sandy Stowe. The Annual Report of the Society will be available to members.

MEMBERSHIP

Dona Hutchinson and Carroll and Joyce Good joined the Society in the fourth quarter of 2007.

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

GRAVES MILL HISTORY



Doug Graves speaks

Doug Graves, a resident of Madison County, spoke on the restoration of the Graves Mill at the November 18, 2007 meeting of the Madison County Historical Society.

In 1797 Thomas Graves applied for a permit for the construction of the mill. As part of the Jamestown Community Project the Graves Mill community, spearheaded by Doug decided to participate in the 400th anniversary Jamestown Settlement Festival. They launched the Graves Mill Historical Park. A flagpole was erected at the park.



Flag pole at Historical Park

A Civil War veteran's memorial plaque has been installed.



Civil War Veterans' Memorial

In the future the group also hopes to restore the 1905-1914 post office and erect a historical sign for the village of Graves Mill. The plan is to move the post office to the historical park as well.



Asa N. Estes Post Office 1905-1914

If you would like to support this effort checks can be sent to The Graves Mill Historical Project, c/o Doug Graves, 210 General Banks Lane, Graves Mill, VA 22727.

The mill at Graves Mill was designated a Virginia Landmark in June of 2006 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in August of 2006. It is significant both for its architecture and its representation of the industry of the period.

The original property was part of a 350 acre King's Grant made to David Jones in June 1, 1741 when it was part of Orange County. On June 19, 1751 the property, now located in Culpeper County, was deeded to Thomas Buckner.

By the early 1800's there was also a saw mill and hemp mill located in Graves Mill.

The mill in its present condition is a 30' X 40' building that is about ready to fall down. It has an overshot waterwheel for power. The grinding stone is made of a French stone. The Hurst frame with an English drive (which dates to the 1850's) can still be seen. Evidence of an Ellicott drive with a mortised beam indicates the existence of previous mechanics of an earlier period dating from the 1700's. The mechanics are located on the north side of the mill which receives the least amount of sun. There is also evidence of 2 stones. The mill was originally a four story building with a pine shingled roof. In 1921 the roof was lowered making the building three stories and a tin roof installed.

The mill has always been a central point of the community. At one time it served as a voting precinct of the county.

Note: All photos (with the exception of the photo of Doug, himself) included with this article are courtesy of Doug Graves.

KEMPER SPRING TEA



All members of the Society are encouraged to attend the Spring Tea at the Kemper Residence, which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26 at 12:30 p.m. This will be the first of a series of benefit teas in 2008.

The popular event features a menu of scones, tea breads, sweets, savories, fruits and other delicious treats, accompanied by unlimited pouring of Kemper House tea. The food is prepared and served by Kemper volunteers. Mary and Bob Haught have agreed to assume the duties of coordinating arrangements following the departure of Rita Cunningham, who began holding the teas five years ago.

"The Kemper Spring Tea offers a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a pleasant lunchtime experience in a warm, historic setting," said Mary Haught. "Come with a spouse or friend, or get a group together. You'll be doing something good for yourself, and for Kemper."

The price of the tea will remain at \$18, with proceeds dedicated to the kitchen renovation project. Packages of tea and other items will be available for purchase.

Reservations for the tea are required. Because seating is limited, make your plans early. Call 547-4398 to reserve places. Leave a message with your name, phone number and how many will be in your party.

Remember: March 26, the Kemper Spring Tea. Don't miss it.

KEMPER OPEN HOUSE



Enjoying refreshments

On Sunday, December 9th the Historical Society held an Open House at the Kemper House. Members and friends enjoyed hot cider and cookies while listening to holiday music provided by Hannah and Ethan Wagner.



Hannah and Ethan Wagner provided holiday music.

This was the third annual Open House. The Society hopes to see more members at this event in 2008.



Maury Hanson, Mr. & Mrs. Row and Ed Williams enjoying the holiday music

2007 MADISON COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The Historical Society served as coordinator for Madison County's participation in the 2007 Community Program commemorating the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown. This eighteen month program was initiated by the Madison Garden Club with a patriotic flower show, "Let Freedom Ring," on 24 June 2006 at the Waverly Yowell Elementary School. Heidi Sage was chairman with Maryvonne Longley as co-chair and Rita Cunningham as chair of the associated fund-raising tea.

The raising of the 2007 Community Program flag occurred in front of Kemper House on 17 July

2006. Eddie Dean, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, along with supervisors James Arrington and Robert Miller and County attorney, V. Shackelford, Historical Society president, Rita Cunningham, and Madison custodian, Roger Berry, assisted. The flag was flown regularly through December 2007.

On Memorial Day, 28 May 2007, the Madison Garden Club dedicated a Patriotic Garden at the Madison County High School near the entrance on Route 29. This is part of a landscaping project, directed by Judy Ann Fray, for this prominent site at the southern approach to the town of Madison.



1559 prayer book service at Piedmont Episcopal Church was just one of many events as Madison celebrated Jamestown 400

The community of churches also contributed to the celebration. On 19 May '07 the Hartland Institute choir presented "A Festival of 17th Century Hymns" at the Hebron Lutheran Church. And on 28 October '07 Reverend Brad Jackson at Piedmont Episcopal Church offered the Service of Holy Communion from the 1559 Book of Common Prayer, the service as it would most likely have been observed at Jamestown.

During this period several exhibits were mounted at the Arcade: "The Germanna Settlement", "Old-fashioned Shoes", "Antique Toys", "Madison Black History", "Madison Genealogy", "The CCC", and "Life before the Park: A photo exhibit".

Madison County can be justly proud of these contributions from its citizens. The programs were of outstanding quality. The music provided by the Hartland Choir was beautiful. The Arcade exhibits were attractive and educational, presenting views of Madison County history.

The Communion Service from the 1559 Book of Common Prayer was a moving evocation of the settlers' devotion. The landscaping at the High School entrance will provide visual pleasure for years to come. And, as indication that this praise is not due to parochial bias, consider the awards received by the program that began our celebrations; the patriotic flower show, "Let Freedom Ring," presented by the Madison Garden Club, was judged best in its district, best in the State, and, by the National Garden Clubs, best in the Nation.

Special thanks for superb work go to Heidi Sage, Maryvonne Longley and Rita Cunningham for their award-winning flower show and tea, to Beppy White and Lee Decker for the professional quality of the Arcade exhibits, to Betsy Mayer, director of the Hartland choir, for an historically and musically imaginative program, to Judy Ann Fray for significant landscaping improvements at the High School, and to Reverend Brad Jackson for the magnificent celebration of the 1559 communion service.

ARCADE MUSEUM

The museum is closed during January and February while we change the exhibits and make some improvements. Some exhibits under consideration are: Private collections, Civil War memorabilia, old schools in Madison, Main Street homes and stores-then and now pictures, Life before the Park pictures, Hoover Days, old toys and Germanna settlers in Madison.

We are looking for additional glass display cases. Please contact Beppy White-948-4262, if you know of any. You may also leave a message at the Arcade -948-5488.

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

As we begin another year The Museum at the Arcade is very busy in a very different way. We are closed to the public this January and February to have various work sessions and put up new exhibits. A planning group met mid month and we outlined the following categories to get the job done. Some categories are new and some have been ongoing for some time. The categories are:

- Newspaper Clipping

- Copying and Filing Newspaper Articles
- Making Archival Boxes
- Establishing New Exhibits
- Compiling Genealogy
- Gathering Cemetery Data

Let us know if any of this work appeals to you. We can always use additional workers.

There have been two newspaper clippings days so far this winter. Would you like to join us in February? If so we will meet again on Monday Feb. 11th at 10:00. A light lunch is provided mid day and we visit off and on as we read and clip. We welcome your help.

On Friday ten members visited the newly renovated museum in Stanardsville which is in the Old County Jail. President Jackie Pamenter greeted us and Bill Steo and Roger Powell assisted in telling about the renovation and some of the special exhibits. The early settlements of the two counties share similar histories, especially family names. However, Greene County was formed forty-six years later than Madison County. They share similar geographical features and the inhabitants moved freely across what are now county lines. As this article goes to press a similar trip is planned for Rappahannock County Historical Society. What a great way to share information and learn from one another.

We will open to the public again in March. The days will be the same: Every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 - 2:00. Anyone wanting to work as a museum volunteer should call Volunteer Coordinator, Emily Williams at 825 -7503.



Front and obverse view of key chain

MADISON KEY CHAIN

Among the items available for sale in the communities supporting the Jamestown 2007 festivities is a key chain with the 2007 Jamestown logo on one side and "The Legacies of Jamestown: Representative Government, Rule of Law, Free Enterprise" on the other. The Historical Society decided to offer this item for sale at the Arcade, but to replace the Legacies of Jamestown with the Madison County Courthouse. The company distributing the items for America's 400th Anniversary was happy to work with us. Accordingly, Tucker Hill took a photograph of the courthouse. This was sent to the design studio in South Carolina where an artist rendered the likeness into a form that could be used to construct a die. That work was approved by the Historical Society and one hundred key chains were cast. These are available at the Arcade for \$10 each, mementos not only of America's 400th Anniversary but also of Madison County.

150 YEAR OLD LETTERS FIND WAY BACK TO MADISON

Bill Scholten recently received an inquiry from Mr. Rectenbaugh from Creston, Iowa: "Would the Society be interested in having some letters dated 1852 addressed to Madison Court House, VA?" Bill immediately replied, "Yes!" So Mr. Rectenbaugh sent three letters, all given in memory of his deceased daughter who was the

collector. Two of the letters are addressed to Dr. Andrew Glassel Grinnan. Both are from his brothers, D. M. Grinnan in Fredericksburg and R. A. Grinnan in New Orleans. The third letter has no envelope but begins, "My dearest sister" and is signed, "E. Glassell". It is dated June '73 from Lewisburg. Is this Dr. Glassel's aunt writing to his mother? This acquisition has sent us scrambling for information about Dr. Grinnan and his family.

Dr. Grinnan's name appears in several publications at the Arcade Museum but most of the information about him comes from Vee Dove Tull's book, MADISON COUNTY HOMES. In 1859 Dr. Grinnan purchased BRAMPTON (built in 1846) for his bride and he supposedly lived there until his death. The home stayed in the Grinnan family until 1940 when the heirs deeded it to Woodberry Forest. The Society would appreciate any additional information about Dr. Grinnan from its members.

Another interesting inquiry came from a gentleman in England who was researching the route of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart in October 1863 as he approached James City (Leon) just before that battle. He wanted to know the location of the Garr and Hill homes, both mentioned in Stuart's communication to General Lee on October 10, 1863. Using several maps, the home sites were located and the information forwarded to England



2008 ORNAMENT

The crossroads of Rochelle is the 2008 Ornament. Cost will be \$11.00. Previous

ornaments (Courthouse-2002, Kemper Residence-2003, Arcade-2004, Hebron Lutheran Church-2005, Piedmont Episcopal Church-2006, and Chestnut Grove Baptist Church-2007) are also available and may be purchased at the Arcade.

CEMETERIES OF MADISON COUNTY

Members of the Historical Society lead by Sandy Stowe, continue to compile data from the cemeteries in Madison County. The project was begun by Earl W. Estes, Jr. in the early 1980's. He later passed his collection on to Sandy, who had already begun her own documentation for the Society. Last year we were fortunate to obtain the help of Mary Wright to begin incorporating all of this data into our FileMaker Pro program on the museum computer. In 2008, plans are to print a booklet of the old, inactive and fast disappearing family graveyards in the county. This will be for sale.

There will also be two research notebooks kept at the museum which will be available to the public. One will be an index of all people buried in Madison County with dates and location and the other notebook will be an index of all cemeteries with location, short history and a list of those buried there. These notebooks, as well as the computer data, will be updated periodically, with CD's for sale on request.

We are still looking for old family graveyards so if you have one on your property and don't know if it has been surveyed yet, please call Sandy Stowe at 948-6689 or the Arcade at 948-5488 so that it can be included.



Portrait of Judge Hay from Arcade Collection

JUDGE HAY'S RECOLLECTIONS (Chapter II continued)

Mr. Thornton F. Berry had just been elected sheriff of the county, after an exciting and close contest with Mr. R.A. Seal. Seal contested the election, but Berry was successful in the courts. There was quite an array of lawyers on both sides. Berry was represented by Governor James L. Kemper, Mr. Theophilus Smoot and Captain Humphreys, while Seal had for his counsel ex-Attorney General James G. Field, Mr. A.R. Blakey and Captain W.O. Fry. Mr. Berry was a genial gentlemen, and the soul of hospitality; his house situated in the forks of the roads, one leading from Criglersville to Peola, and the other from Haywood to Peola, and about five miles from Criglersville, was the stopping place for everybody who went that way, and while the house was not a large one, there always seemed to be room enough for one more. Mr. Berry had for one of his deputies, his brother-in-law, Mr. W.P. Finke (Pres), who lived with him, and who was as fond of entertaining and good company as was Mr. Berry, Pres Finks was known the county over, and was a lovable personality.

The two Commissioners of the Revenue were M.F. Berry in the Robertson district and Thomas S. Rowzen in the Rapidan district. Mr. Berry was a one-armed Confederate soldier, the brother of the sheriff, and very popular with the people. Tom Rowzen lived near Wolftown, was a farmer, a surveyor, a maker of almanacs, and a person who had the confidence of the people, and was elected to the office he held as long as

he cared to be. Dr. Wm. A. Hill was Superintendent of Schools, he was a Baptist minister, who lived in the Locust Dale district, was a man of education and energy, but in his efforts to do something for the schools of the county was greatly handicapped by lack of funds, both the state and county in those days being poor. Values were low, and my recollection is that the tax on \$100 worth of property, for state and county purposes alike, was only eight cents.

The members of the Board of Supervisors were Benjamin G. Wilhoite from the Rapidan, Captain William Lovell from the Locust Dale, and Captain Mark Call from the Robertson district. These were all good and substantial citizens, men of substance and property, and of high character. I do not now recall the Justices of the Peace of the different districts, but remember that Mr. G.H. Taylor was one of the Justices of the Rapidan district; he was afterwards Clerk of the Courts. Mr. S.H. Thomas was the Constable for the Rapidan district, and Mr. John H. Lillard held the same office in the Robertson district, and had held it for many years, and continued to hold it up to the day of his death, which was brought about by his being drowned in the Robertson River on his way to attend an election. There were three Overseers of the Poor, one for each magisterial district, their names have escaped me, but can be supplied by examining the records in the Clerk's office. There was also a Superintendent of the Poor House, in that day it was located in the Robertson district on the road from Criglersville to Peola Mills, the name of the Superintendent was Leathers. There was also a school board composed of nine members, three from each magisterial district. I remember that Mr. Larkin E. Jackson was the Clerk of the Board for the Rapidan district.

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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