



Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
<http://www.madisonhistoricalsociety.org/>

P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

February 2009

ANNUAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 15, 2009

The Annual meeting of the Madison County Historical Society will take place on Sunday, February 15, 2009 immediately following Mr. Lewis' presentation (see related article on page 2) in the Madison County Auditorium. At that time the terms of four members will expire. Jane Volchansky, whose term expires in 2010, has tendered her resignation as well. Therefore there will be five seats up for election. The Historical Society proposes the following for election: Linwood Imlay to fill the remainder of Jane Volchansky's term. Michael O'Connor, Carroll Good, Penn Bowers and Tucker Hill. Nominations may be made from the floor but according to Article IV, Section 3 of the By-Laws – "Any one so nominated must have agreed in writing prior to the nomination."



Kemper Slave quarters

SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANT ADDITIONAL FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED

Thanks to the generosity of the Historical Society's members and that of other individuals and groups the Slave Quarters Restoration fund held \$7,463 as of December. The architect's estimated cost of the restoration is \$50,000. Therefore this fall the Society applied to several foundations for grant support and in late December was awarded \$10,000 by the Richard and Caroline T. Gwathmey Memorial Trust. A condition of the grant award is that the money

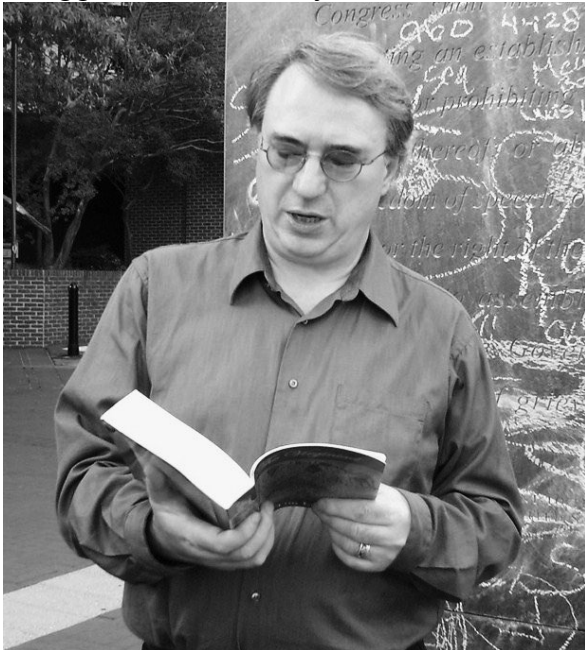
be used within the 2009 calendar year. The applications to the other foundations were not successful.

Now, with \$17,463 in the Restoration Fund, the Society is working with Joe Wayner, our restoration contractor, and with Craig Jacobs, a specialist in log buildings, to outline a plan that will allow staging of the restoration and make maximum use of the funds available. A particular problem in this restoration is the state of the existing log cabin. Most of the logs are badly termite-ridden. It will probably be necessary to disassemble the structure, saving and cataloguing all re-usable material, and then reconstruct it on a solid foundation, using all the intact original parts and replacing the damaged logs with logs that are structurally sound. This will be the stabilization phase of the restoration. The existing metal roof will be re-installed. Interior restoration, including the loft and the floor, hearth and mantle, as well as reconstruction of the chimney and installation of a new roof, will have to wait until further funds are available. Even so the stabilization phase itself is expected to cost more than our Restoration Fund presently contains, perhaps requiring a total expenditure of around \$22-23,000.

The Historical Society will apply to other foundations in an effort to supplement the Restoration Fund. However, the economic turmoil of the past year has affected charitable foundations much as it has the rest of the economy, and so has decreased our chances of further awards in the near future. The Historical Society, therefore, under obligation to use the grant award in 2009 and lacking about \$5,000 for stabilization of the building, urgently appeals to you, its members, for tax-deductible contributions to the Restoration Fund. When the economy improves larger amounts should again be available from charitable foundations. But now, to use the present grant effectively, we need about \$5,000. Any part of that amount will help. Please help us demonstrate again that the Madison community cares about its heritage and is willing to support preservation of its historic structures. Contributions of any amount are very welcome and should be sent, marked Restoration Fund, to The Madison County

TIM LEWIS, HISTORIAN, POET AND PUBLISHED AUTHOR, TO SPEAK AT THE FEBRUARY 15TH MEETING

TIM LEWIS is a 54 year old Englishman who is now a US citizen and resident of Charlottesville, Virginia. He is a published author, historian and poet with seven books to his credit. He has judged and won poetry competitions, including the Virginia Writing Competition, and runs writing classes and tutors authors across the country. Mr. Lewis will speak to the MCHS about his seventh published book, *THE VIRGINIAD*. Through the voices of many Virginians, he examines the history of Virginia from various perspectives in his completely original literary work of poetry. The poems explore Virginia from 1607 to the present through the eyes of ordinary people going about their lives as they unravel themes such as the fight for religious liberty, the expansion of the frontier, the civil war, and the struggle for democracy.



Poet Tim Lewis

In his poetry, Mr. Lewis presents the issues which have dominated Virginia history, through the eyes of slaves, Native Americans, tenant farmers, peddlers, nurses and clerks. The poetry mixes songs, hymns, cultural customs, religious awakenings, social beliefs and political

movements to present a far wider cultural context for the history of Virginia than usual. The meeting will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, February 15 in the auditorium of the Madison County Administration building and will be followed by refreshments in the Kemper Residence next door.



The Residence at Woodberry Forest

SOCIETY VISITS WOODBERRY FOREST

On Sunday, November 16th, twenty-seven members of the Society were greeted at The Residence of Woodberry School. Dennis Campbell, the seventh headmaster, spoke of the history of the school. The property consists of about 1200 acres with only three of them being in Orange County, making the school the second largest employer in Madison County. The school has a faculty of eight-seven and a staff of one hundred fifty-four. It has its own sewer and water system as well as a working cow/calf farm with about four hundred head.



Dennis and Lisa Campbell greet Society members

The house, named The Residence, was designed by Thomas Jefferson for William Madison, James Madison's youngest brother and built in 1793. In 1870 the property known as Woodberry Forest, was purchased by the Walker family for their oldest son. In 1889 the first tutor was appointed and in 1897 John Carter Walker became the first headmaster.

During the 1880's several changes were made to the original house including the installation of a moon window and two bay windows, moving the dining room downstairs and making three rooms into one room, the present day parlor at the rear of the house. The Campbells came to Woodberry Forest in 1997. The major change they made to the house was to completely gut the basement and make it into more useable space. There is now a dining room, large kitchen for entertaining, "Tiger" den, two bedrooms and a bathroom in this area. At the same time the foundation was repaired.

Mr. Campbell's wife, Lisa, invited members to tour the house and both Campbells were available to answer questions.



Members enjoy refreshments

Delicious refreshments were served in the well-appointed kitchen. The Society wishes to thank the Campbells for their hospitality.

MEMBERSHIP

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

Steve A. and Betty Grayson, Madison, VA
Maxwell Lacy, Jr. Oak Park, VA
Marty Taylor, Madison, VA

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



KEMPER SPRING TEA

Mark your calendar for the Spring Tea scheduled for Wednesday, March 25 at 12:30 p.m. Reservations will be accepted beginning March 1, and if the response is anything like the fall tea, it will be important to reserve your place early.

The first benefit tea of 2009 will offer a menu of scones, tea breads, sweets, savories, mini-sandwiches, fruits and other tasty foods, accompanied by cups of delicious Kemper House tea. One of the special recipes, introduced last year, is Belle Kemper's Cheese Wafers.

"In March, the weather often is still on the cool side, and enjoying this popular lunchtime experience in a warm, historic setting at the Kemper Residence is a perfect way to welcome Spring," said Mary Haught, tea coordinator.

"With current economic conditions, everyone is watching their wallets. So we are keeping the price of the tea at \$18," she said. All the food is prepared, donated and served by volunteers and all proceeds are contributions to the Madison County Historical Society. Packages of tea and other items will be available for purchase.

Watch for an announcement in the *Madison Eagle* for information on making reservations. But remember to hold the date: Wednesday, March 25th.

CEMETERY PROJECT

Work continues on identifying old graveyards in Madison County. This seems to be a long slow process but we are making progress. Much data has been entered on the Arcade computer and is available upon request. We are still looking for these old graveyards so if you know of one and are not sure if it has been surveyed, please call Sandy Stowe at 948-6689 or the Arcade at 948-5488

ARCADE MUSEUM

One of the earliest businesses in Madison County was furniture making, especially chairs. Mr. Moses Clore and his sons were the first to build a factory devoted exclusively to the manufacture of chairs. J. D. Weaver started a chair factory in 1870 and the Clore and Hawkins factory began in 1910. Mr. Albert Aylor also made chairs for many years. And of course, the E.A.Clore factory makes furniture as well as chairs to this day.

The Arcade Museum is fortunate to have on exhibit this entire year a changing collection of old Madison-made chairs belonging to Steve Hoffman. The first group is children's chairs with some doll chairs. As the year goes on we will change to adult chairs of different time periods. This is an extensive collection well worth seeing. Linwood and John Imlay have removed their Civil War exhibit in order to show a collection of old ink wells. They come in all sizes and designs and are made of many different materials.

Everette Weakley is giving the permanent Rapidan Train exhibit a new, more realistic look. Be sure to see this one.

The wonderful collection of old toys and books from Steve Grayson, Sandy Stowe and Ann Ferguson will remain for a while longer so that more people can appreciate it.

There is still a display of old items from Maxwell Lacy's Oak Park Store and Post Office as well as a temporary exhibit of articles discovered in the old Graves Mill Post Office on loan from Doug Graves.

Upstairs we have the Strode Exhibit of Madison County Indian artifacts as well as the Claude Yowell Indian collection plus a permanent display of photographs of the families who were living in our mountains before the formation of

Shenandoah National Park. We are also planning a Musical Bones memorial to Russ Myers thanks to the generosity of many of his friends.

VOLUNTEERS HARD AT WORK

The museum was closed during the holidays and the month of January. Groups of volunteers came in several times in January to sort and categorize stacks of documents that have been saved over the past 20 years. Old photos are being scanned and newspaper articles are being copied to eliminate the acid news print which makes documents deteriorate. Sorted documents were then put into new acid free file folders. Two large file drawers are devoted to family genealogies and other drawers hold assorted subjects such as: mills, stores, schools, buildings, people, etc. The public is welcome to come in and request information from these files.

During January there was also work done on creating and improving exhibits.

KEMPER HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



On Saturday, December 13th from 3:00 to 5:00PM more than thirty guests enjoyed the refreshments, music and convivial conversation at the Historical Society Open House. One of these guests was Joan Cheston, former curator of the Kemper House. The Society was pleased to see her and share this pleasant time with her. The music was provided by Hannah and Ethan Wagner playing the violin and cello.

We look forward to having Society members and friends join us again next year for this annual holiday event



Hannah and Ethan Wagner playing holiday music

GRANDMA'S APRON

Author Unknown

Everyone who attended the Historical Society's August Open House at Maxine Crane's can relate to the following item which appeared in the Greene County Historical Society Newsletter (Fall/Winter 2008). One of our members suggested that it might be enjoyed by those who do not get the GCHS Newsletter. So here it is for all to enjoy with our thanks to Jackie Pamentor, the GCHS President, who says, "It has been circulating the internet for some time."

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts

of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that "old-time apron" that served so many purposes.

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw. They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron. I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron.

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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