



# Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

February 2010

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## **CAROLE NASH TO SPEAK AT THE FEBRUARY 21, 2010 MEETING**

Dr. Carole Nash, a Middle Atlantic archeologist who specializes in Native American studies and human ecology in mountain settings, will speak at the February 21, 2010 meeting of the Madison County Historical Society. The subject of her talk will be Native American Communities of the Foothills. Dr. Nash is a faculty member at James Madison University where she is a Madison Teaching Fellow, and Director of the Environmental and Cultural Education Center.

The Madison Archeology Project (MAP), one of the earliest county-wide surveys in Virginia, has documented several hundred Native American archeological sites in Madison County over the past twenty years. These sites tell a story of Native communities in the foothills, connected by favored places for at least 12,000 years. The landscape so admired today framed the movements of these First People, and the locations of archeological sites in the county indicate that certain places were significant to group identity and interaction.

Don Strode, a past Madison County resident of many years, amassed and catalogued an extensive collection of Native American artifacts solely from the county which he donated to the Madison County Historical Society. Carol Nash is the curator of The Strode Collection which is housed in the upper level of the Arcade Museum. Dr. Nash has done a dissertation on the Strode Collection which is the basis for her presentation to the Society.

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

## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPENS RESTORED SLAVE QUARTERS**



On Sunday November 15 Chairman Eddie Dean of the County Board of Supervisors cut the ribbon to mark the official opening of the newly restored Slave Quarters behind the Kemper Residence on North Main Street in downtown Madison. The restoration was a two-year effort undertaken by the Madison County Historical Society. Mr. Dean expressed his gratitude to the Historical Society for their efforts in preserving this important historical structure.



Eddie Dean, Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors receiving the scissors for the ribbon cutting from Bill Scholten, President of the Historical Society.

The opening ceremony followed the society's quarterly membership meeting, at which local architectural historian Ann Miller presented a review with pictures of the entire restoration project.

Dr. Maury Hanson of the Historical Society, led the effort to raise funds, obtained the approval of the Department of Historical Resources, and engaged the services of Joe Wayner as general contractor. The Historical Society will now attempt to raise funds, an estimated \$6,900, for reconstruction of the chimney. Fortunately there is an excellent photograph of the chimney. Nineteenth century bricks will be used for it. Contributions toward its reconstruction, which are tax-deductible, can be mailed to the Madison County Historical Society, P.O. Box 467, Madison, VA 22727, and will be greatly appreciated.

## **ANNUAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 21, 2010**

The Annual meeting of the Madison County Historical Society will take place on Sunday, February 21, 2010. The Historical Society proposes the following for election: Linwood Imlay, Carole Milks, Doris Lackey and Max Lacey. Nominations may be made from the floor but according to Article IV, Section 3 of the By-Laws – "Anyone so nominated must have agreed in writing prior to the nomination".

## **SPRING TEA AT KEMPER**



The Historical Society Tea Group has set the Spring Luncheon Tea for Wednesday, March 24, at 12:30 p.m. Reservations are now being accepted from Historical Society members and friends. If any seats are still available, the public will be invited the first of March.

Space is limited due to building code restrictions. If the response is anything like the past several teas, we will reach our capacity well ahead of the date. Thus, members are encouraged to make their plans soon to avoid disappointment. Seating is available on two levels of the building, the lower level being handicap accessible.

The menu will include new delicacies as well as traditional favorites, accompanied by unlimited pourings of the special Kemper House tea. In keeping with today's economy the price remains unchanged at \$18. All food is prepared and donated by volunteers, so the entire amount is a donation to support Historical Society projects.

"By March 24, we all hope to see the beginnings of Spring", said Mary Haught, tea coordinator. "Lunch with your friends at the Kemper Residence is an ideal way to welcome the warmer weather", she said.

Coordinate plans with a group, or come as a single and be seated with new friends. Call 547-4398 and leave a message with your name, telephone number and the number of reservations requested. You will receive a return call to confirm. Questions may be directed to the same telephone number or to [maryhaught@hughes.net](mailto:maryhaught@hughes.net).

## **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**



Refreshments and conversation enjoyed by members

On Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> the Historical Society held a Holiday Open House at the Kemper House. The house was decorated for the holidays. A group of Society members gathered to enjoy cider, cookies and the festive holiday music of Hannah and Ethan Wagner.



Hannah and Ethan Wagner perform

## QUESTERS TO HOST FUND RAISER LUNCHEON

Madison Questers is hosting a luncheon Tuesday, February 2 at 11:30 to raise funds for the Kemper slave quarters chimney. A luncheon of soup, sandwiches and desserts will be \$15. After lunch, there will be a bridge tournament or board games for those who don't play bridge. Reservations can be made by calling Kay Hood at 948-4109

Questers is an international group which raises funds for historic preservation. Madison Questers priority has been to help the Historical Society raise funds for the slave quarters restoration

The Historical Society is most appreciative of Questers efforts and hopes you will support this endeavor.

## THANK YOU MAURY HANSON



Bill Scholten presents photograph to Maury Hanson

In October Maury Hanson retired from the Board of Directors to relocate to a retirement community in Lexington. Maury joined the Board in 1999. He was responsible for the restoration of the Law Office and the Slave Quarters dependencies of the Kemper residence. He tirelessly pursued grant support and community fund raising efforts for these restoration projects. When adequate funding was obtained he secured the necessary approval from the State Department of Historic Resources, procured the services of the prime contractor, and oversaw the projects. The complete sequence of events involved in restoration of the Slave Quarters is summarized in the November, 2009 issue of the Newsletter. In honor of his efforts in these restorations, at the November 6 luncheon honoring the people responsible for the restoration of the slave quarters, the Society presented Maury with a framed photograph of the two Kemper dependencies and a text that read:

To Maury Hanson

*without whose tireless efforts the restoration of the  
Law Office and Slave Quarters*

*on the grounds of the Kemper Residence would not  
have been accomplished.*

*Presented by the Madison County Historical Society,  
November 6, 2009*

Maury proved his worth as an historic researcher with an investigation of the provenance of two portraits that were contributed to the society in 2005. One was

obviously of Robert E. Lee. The other was of a woman, presumed at first to be his wife. With the persistence of a first-rate sleuth worthy of a broadcast on the *History Detectives* television show, Maury was finally able to identify the portrait as one of Martha Washington made in the studio of Elijah C. Middleton (1818-1883) in Cincinnati, Ohio, around 1866, and that the portrait was used on U.S. postage stamps from 1902 to 1922 and on U.S. one dollar silver certificates from 1886 to 1901. (A detailed review of the investigation is contained in the Society's May, 2006 Newsletter.) He demonstrated this type of persistence once again in investigating the metal plate that was found under the eaves of the Slave Quarters. He discovered that two scenes depicted in George Rawlinson's "Seven Great Monarchies of the Eastern World" were identical to those on the plate. (See the November, 2009 Newsletter).

In addition to these and other valuable contributions, Maury served the Board as recording Secretary from 2006 until his retirement. His perceptive observations and sage advice at the Board meetings will be missed. We extend our best wishes to Maury in his new environs.

The Board has appointed Doris Lackey to complete the remainder of Maury's term, which expires this month. Doris will be nominated for approval of a full three year term at the Membership meeting on February 21.

## MEMBERSHIP

Are you among the missing? For those members who have not renewed in 2009, this will be your last newsletter. If you would like to retain your membership in the Society, and we sincerely hope that you will, you may contact Michael O'Connor, Membership Chair, at 540-923-4131 or [westviewva@hughes.net](mailto:westviewva@hughes.net), for a renewal form.

## THANK YOU LUNCHEON FOR SLAVE QUARTER WORKERS



Attendees at the Thank you luncheon

At a luncheon at the Madison Inn on Friday, November 6 the Madison County Historical Society honored the people responsible for the restoration of the slave quarters. The honored guests were Joe Wayner, general contractor and adviser, Ann Miller, architectural historian, Craig Jacobs, specialist in log construction and proprietor of Salvagewrights, Ltd., Brent Ryder, mason, who built the new foundation, Steve Nash, assistant to Craig Jacobs, and Ray Ezell, archaeologist, who studied the soil removed for the foundation. Honorees unable to attend were Carole Nash, who with a team of volunteers did the major part of the archaeological work, Charles Ryder, assistant to Brent Ryder, and Paul Crocker, assistant to Craig Jacobs. Representatives from the Historical Society were Bill Scholten, Jane Volchansky, Beppy White, Emily Williams, Tucker Hill, Carroll Goode, Carole Milks, Michael O'Connor and Maury Hanson, who led the introductions of the attendees and described their contributions.

## ARCADE MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS TO VISIT OTHER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETIES MUSEUMS

An annual activity that has proved educational, helpful and fun for our volunteers is a field trip to near-by county historical museums. While we break for two winter months, we not only get work done at the Arcade; but we use this time to learn from our neighboring counties. Swapping



ideas is always a win-win situation. There are always similarities and differences in our local histories.

Last year we visited museums in Greene and Rappahannock Counties on two separate days. This year visits to Orange and Louisa are forthcoming on the same day. We will tour Louisa in the morning and Orange in the afternoon. We will have lunch at a near-by restaurant where we can all be together.

When we volunteer to man the Arcade Museum we are often there alone to greet the general public as they visit. Other than a few meetings a year there is very little opportunity for our volunteers to get to know other volunteers who are there on other days. Social time over lunch while on field trips provides this valuable opportunity.

It is our goal to continue to grow as volunteers in every way that we possibly can. We all look forward to this great day together.

Interested in volunteering? Call the Arcade Museum (948 5488) and leave us a message.

## **NEW EXHIBITS AT THE ARCADE MUSEUM**

When the museum re-opens in March there will be some new exhibits. Our children's chair display will be replaced by some of Steve Hoffman's collection of very old adult chairs made here in Madison County. These will be displayed on the upper floor.

Downstairs on the main level will be displayed Old Hand Tools. These are also on loan from Steve.

During our closed period we will be doing some cleaning and repairs and possibly refurbishing or changing some other exhibits. Another plan is to have more old maps framed and on the walls.

The museum will re-open on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. Open: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am—2pm.

## **ARCADIA PUBLISHING**

Last summer the Society was contacted by Arcadia Publishing, offering to print a picture book for Madison County. There would be no charge to us but we would have to gather all of

the old photos and write the captions plus an introduction and plan the layout. After much thought and discussion and with the leadership of our new Board member Doris Lackey, we have decided to go forth with this project. This is very exciting and will be an excellent chance to show Madison's history in pictures.

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  
P.O. Box 467

Madison, Virginia 22727