



Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

May 2009

MICHAEL THEARD TO SPEAK AT THE MAY 24, 2009 MEETING



Michael Theard

Just who were the “Buffalo Soldiers?” This will be the subject of the May 24th quarterly meeting of the Madison County Historical Society.

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 regiments, the 24th and 25th, came to be called the Buffalo Soldiers. By 1867, the first Buffalo Soldier units were sent to the West to fight Indians and protect settlers, cattle herds, and railroad crews. For more than two decades these units distinguished themselves in the Great Plains, in New Mexico, Arizona and along the Rio Grand frontier. They also distinguished themselves in Cuba during the Spanish-American war.

One of these Buffalo Soldiers was Clinton Greaves, born into slavery on August 12, 1855 here in Madison County. He enlisted in the Army in November 1872 at the age of 23. For heroic action in an engagement in New Mexico on January 24, 1877, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Michael Theard (married to Alease Simms Theard of Madison County) will tell the story of the Buffalo Soldiers using slides to enhance his presentation. Mr. Theard will include information about Clinton Greaves in his presentation.

We will also be honored to have present, “Trooper” Jim Rumpler, a beloved Madisonian and one of the last members of the U.S. Army horse cavalry before it became the armored cavalry. Jim will regale the audience with some interesting stories from his time as an active horse soldier and he will bring some personal effects from his cavalry duty.



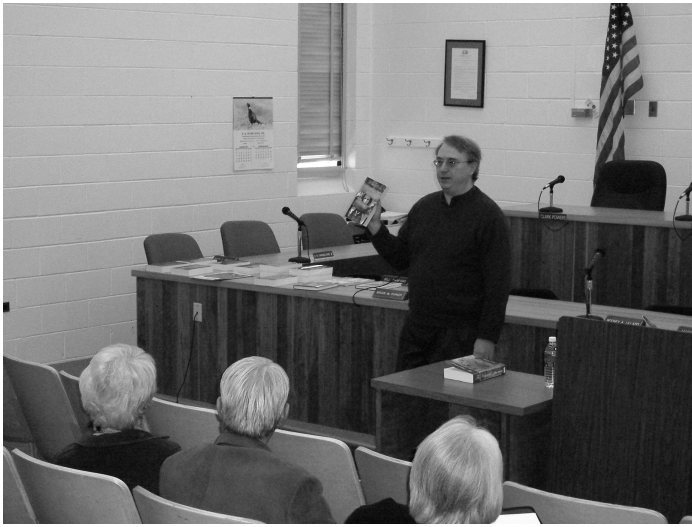
The meeting will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 24 in the auditorium of the Madison County Administration building and will be followed by refreshments in the Kemper Residence next door.

ANNUAL MEETING

At The Annual meeting of the Madison County Historical Society on Sunday, February 15, 2009 the following people were elected to the Board: Linwood Imlay to fill the remainder of Jane Volchansky's term, Michael O'Connor, Carroll Good, Penn Bowers and Tucker Hill.

The Board elected the following officers: Bill Scholten, President and Treasurer; Penn Bowers, Vice-president; Maury Hansen, Recording Secretary and Carole Milks, Corresponding Secretary. The following appointments were made as well: Jill Schreiner, Newsletter; Penn Bowers, Programs; Carole Milks and Carroll Good, Genealogy; Beppy White, Museum Curator; Sandy Stowe, Cemetery Records; Michael O'Connor, Membership; Tucker Hill, Acquisitions; Mary Haight, Kemper Manager and Emily Williams, Volunteer Coordinator and Germanna liaison.

TIM LEWIS, HISTORIAN, POET



Poet Tim Lewis

Tim Lewis, born in Britain but now an American citizen read from his latest book *The Virginian* at the February meeting of the Madison County Historical Society. Lewis described his book as a people's history of Virginia in poetry form. His first reading described a woman's arrival in the New World. Her travails on the ship including illness and living among the animals were poignant reminders of what the average person endured on their voyage from Great Britain. Other readings described a woman's life as mistress of the house, a coachman's view of Patrick Henry's speech and in "My Sweet Virginia", a description of the geography of Virginia. Mr. Lewis explained that his book was an attempt to bring history alive and illustrate it using the observations of the common people.

RUSS MYERS MEMORIAL VIDEO TO BE DEDICATED JUNE 28



Russ Myers

Madison County's own Russell Bordley Myers was recognized as one of the best rhythm bones players in the world. At the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress you can hear a recording of Russ's rhythm bones playing and storytelling that they made in recognition of his excellence. At the time of his death a few years ago he was an active member of a group of local musicians called the Possum Ridge String Band. Russ was also a founding member and first assistant director of the Rhythm Bones Society, a non-profit educational society whose goal is to preserve and pass on this unique and most likely prehistoric musical instrument. The Society was formed at Bones Fest III on the back deck of the Brightwood home of Russ and his wife Wilma. The Rhythm Bones Society has produced a Russ Myers Memorial Video commemorating his rhythm bones life. The video and a television with built in DVD player contributed by the Rhythm Bones Society will be presented to the Madison County Historical Society at a dedication ceremony on Sunday, June 28, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the Kemper Residence. The Possum Ridge String Band will be performing and the memorial video will be played for the first time. Members of the Rhythm Bones Society will also be present. Everyone is invited to help celebrate the life of a renowned Madison musician and enjoy an afternoon of good fellowship and music. After the ceremony, the video will be on permanent display at the Historical Society's Arcade Museum. This video

will also be shown on the Rhythm Bones Society's website, rhythmbones.com.

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.



KEMPER NEWS

Two items on loan to the Society have been removed from the Kemper House. As a result we are now in need of a picture frame for the copy of General Kemper's portrait that hangs in the parlor. The frame opening should be at least 15" X 19" in size and appropriate to the time period of the late 19th century. A mirror to hang above the piano in the meeting room is also needed. The mirror should be at least 4' X 3' in size and appropriate to the late 19th century. These items may be loaned or donated to the Madison Historical Society. Your donation is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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 Historical Society, P.O. Box 467, Madison, VA 22727.



Sue Riley, Bill Scholten and, Jacqueline Mow

QUESTERS CONTRIBUTES TO KEMPER SLAVE QUARTERS RESTORATION

On March 27 Mrs. Jacqueline Mow, a Madison resident and President of the Madison Piedmont Chapter of Questers, presented the Madison County Historical Society a check for \$1,000 for the Slave Quarters Restoration Project. Questers is a philanthropic group, with chapters throughout the United States and Canada. There are seven chapters in Virginia. Members meet once a month, except for summer, usually at a member's home, for talks and discussion about antiques and collectibles. In addition to their search for objects of historic and/or aesthetic value they are interested in and support historic restoration and preservation. Their motto is "It's fun to search and a joy to find".

The slave quarters is a clapboard-covered log building located in back of the Kemper

Residence. The Historical Society began its effort to restore the slave quarters in September, 2007, with a dinner and an exhibit of Tucker Hill's prints. This was followed by an appeal to the Historical Society membership and to the community at large for contributions. At the end of 2008 the fund contained over \$7,400 toward the projected cost of \$50,000 for the restoration. In January, 2009, the Society received a \$10,000 grant, raising the total funding to about \$17,500. A stipulation of the grant is that the money be spent during the 2009 calendar year. Since this leaves the funding well short of the total needed, the Society is planning a phased restoration.

The estimated cost of the stabilization phase is \$23,000. Mr. Jacobs has offered a matching challenge grant of \$2,500 which would reduce the needed funding to \$20,500. A recent appeal along with the \$1,000 donation from the Questers has brought the total funding to \$19,306 as of March 28, so that another \$1,200 is needed to meet the challenge. Contributions toward that challenge can be mailed to the Madison County Historical Society, P.O. Box 467, Madison, VA 22727, and designated for the Slave Quarters Restoration Fund.

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

Bill Jones, Los Angeles, CA

Marylyn Wolever, Forest Grove, OR

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



Heidi Sage serves tea



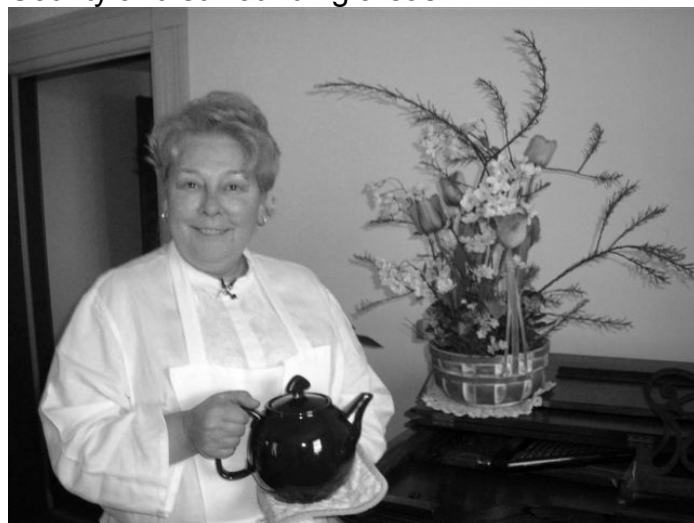
Old cemetery in Madison County

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

KEMPER SPRING TEA

Once again the Spring Tea proved to be a popular community event. The first benefit tea of 2009 was a huge success, thanks to the generous response from citizens of Madison County and surrounding areas.



Maryvonne Longley with her spring arrangement
 The Kemper Residence, decorated with lovely spring flowers, was filled to capacity, as guests enjoyed a lunchtime menu of scones, sweets, savories, mini-sandwiches, fruits and other tasty foods, served by a group of dedicated volunteers. As usual, all proceeds go to fund Madison County Historical Society projects. The demand exceeded the seating capacity well in advance of the deadline for reservations and callers were offered an opportunity to be placed on a waiting list. Mark you calendars now for Wednesday, September 30, 2009 when the Fall tea will be held. Watch for a public announcement in the *Madison Eagle* and call early to assure yourself a place at the next tea



"Before the Park" Exhibit

ARCADE MUSEUM

John and Linwood Imlay share a love for 'Inks'. They started collecting ink bottles, master inks and related writing items in the early 1990's. They each now have several hundred ink related items in their collections.

They have been generous enough to allow us to display a representative collection of these 'Inks' in our museum. Glass is the predominant material for ink wells but they were also made from stoneware, wood, metal, coal and combinations of these materials. There are many beautiful colors and endless shapes like: umbrellas, domes, teakettles, animals, etc. In the display are also master ink bottles, pourers, sanders and quill pens.

The Civil War exhibit was not removed (as stated in the last newsletter). This is also on loan from the Imlays.



Everett Weakley with his train exhibit

Everett Weakley has completely remade the Rapidan train exhibit and it is amazing to see. The exhibit of old toys is still on display as well as items from the old Graves Mill post office. The first in a collection of old Madison-Made chairs is displayed on the upper level as well as the permanent exhibits of Indian artifacts and "Before the Park" photos. We have new lighting in each case now so exhibits are easier to examine.

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