



# Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



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

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P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

November 2008

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## SOCIETY TO VISIT WOODBERRY FOREST IN NOVEMBER



The Residence at Woodbury Forest

In the past, the Society has visited Montpelier, the home of James Madison, fourth President of the United States and Father of the Constitution. James Madison was the first of twelve children born to James and Nellie Madison. Two of his brothers settled on farms near Montpelier. Brother William (1762-1843), studied at Princeton Preparatory School, Hampden-Sydney Academy, and William and Mary, read law for a time under Jefferson's guidance and served briefly in the revolutionary army. In 1783 he married and settled on a farm, Woodberry, a few miles from Montpelier, and served in the Virginia Legislature on two occasions. He earned the title "General" while serving in the militia during the War of 1812 but what were apparently minor accomplishments during this

time went unrecognized. William also presented unwarranted pension claims for his Revolutionary War service, which his brother apparently refused to endorse. Though he outlived his famous brother, their relationship probably was not a close one, In 1889 Civil War veteran, Captain Robert Walker, then owner of Woodberry, brought a tutor to the farm to teach his sons and neighboring children and thus the school was born.

What was originally the home of William Madison is now "The Residence" of the Headmaster of Woodberry Forest School.

**At 2pm on Sunday, November 16, 2008,** Society members are invited for a tour of "The Residence" the original home of William Madison. **Those wishing to attend should RSVP to the Society at 540-948-5488 not later than November 13<sup>th</sup>. Please call as soon as you know that you will attend so an accurate number of attendees can be provided to Woodberry Forest School.**

Woodberry Forest School is located on Route 15, three miles west of Orange. From Madison take Route 230, nine miles to Route 15 turn left and travel one mile to the School. Weather permitting; parking will be the first parking lot to the right after passing the football field. Parking is also available near the residence alongside the road next to the tennis courts or behind "The Residence."

## MEMBERSHIP

Here are new members that joined the Society in the third quarter of 2008:

William and Tracy Tanner Bond Stanardsville, VA  
Alfred Goosens, Syria, VA  
William and Patricia Heenan, Madison, VA  
Carolyn Miller Miller, Purcellville, VA  
Virginia Nuta Montgomery, Village, MD  
John Richard Wilhoite, Huntsville, AL

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

## SOCIETY VISITS FARM IN DUET



Visitors to Farm in Duet

In May of this year, author, Maxine Weaver Crane spoke to the MCHS about her book, Ask For Nothing. It tells the story of a young mother traveling west with several children in a horse drawn wagon around 1846. The mother left a young daughter, Frances Henderson, with a Madison family living at a farm in Duet and asked that the child remain in this house even if it were sold because she might come back and get her. Frances lived in this home her entire life with three different families, the Deals, then the Yowells and finally the Weavers.



Farm in Duet

The August quarterly meeting of the MCHS was a visit to the farm in Duet where Frances Henderson lived until her death in 1925 at the age of 84.

The visit was well attended and Maxine Crane presented a description and overview of the farm and Frances Henderson's life there followed by very interesting tours through the farm house itself. Present also was Mae

Weaver Yowell, Maxine's aunt (now almost 93 years old), who as a nine year old sat beside the bed of the dying Frances. Aunt Mae was the source of many of the stories about Frances, both humorous and sad, which are found in the book.

The farm visit was enjoyed by all and our thanks to the author, Maxine Weaver Crane, and her family for providing this enjoyable tour through a unique bit of Madison history.

## KEMPER FALL TEA

The Fall benefit tea drew an extraordinarily high demand for reservations. That's the good news. The not so good news is that some regular attendees who didn't register early were left in doubt as to whether they would have seats. It all turned out very well and our second tea of 2008 was a financial success.

We were pleased to welcome a large delegation from the Fairfax County Retired Teachers Association. Members of this group have attended a number of teas and many of them said ours was the best of all.



Fairfax County Retired Teachers made up a large contingent for the Fall Tea

Special thanks go to Bob Krause for baking delicious bread for the beef sandwiches, as well as to all of the volunteers who prepare and serve the food. Because they do this at their own expense, all proceeds go to improvements at the Kemper Residence.

Special teas as well as Historical Society ornaments and a selection of children's books were available for sale. Attendees took

advantage of this opportunity to get a start on their Christmas shopping.



Betty Lynn Yowell makes a sale.

At the end of the tea a tour of the Kemper House was available to those interested.



Emily Williams gives a short course on the Kemper Residence to Frank Brummett, his niece Sarah, and Bill Sage

The 2009 Spring Tea will be held March 25, 2009. We urge all historical society members and their friends to mark their calendars and make their reservations early.

## **.WATER UPDATE**

Thanks to Madison County, the water line to the Arcade was restored in September, after being out of service since March due to a leak in the main supply line. As a first step, a hole was cut into the floor to provide access for examination of the old supply pipe and to search for a leak. This attempt proved to be futile, as no pipe could be seen. To fix the problem three sections of sidewalk between the water meter and the corner of the building were removed and a whole new supply line was installed under the floor from the meter to the far corner where the lavatory is located. The sidewalk and floor access hole have been recovered. Everyone is appreciative of the restored the water service, notably the volunteers who were carrying water, the garden club who relies on the Arcade water line for watering the garden in the courtyard, and the staff and visitors who once again have access to toilet facilities

## **ARCADE MUSEUM**

Plans are in the works for an 'Old Post Office' exhibit at the museum. We are in touch with Doug Graves who will lend us artifacts from an old Graves Mill P.O. Max Lacy has also agreed to lend us his collection of P.O. memorabilia. Could anyone having a picture of an old post office in the county please let us copy it? Thanks to a number of 'collectors' in the county, we are able to exhibit much more of Madison's history than we actually have in our collection. Other exhibits planned are old toys; Madison made chairs, old post cards, holiday cards and fans. We would also like to start working on an exhibit of the schools of Madison Co. If you have pictures or anything relating to schools please contact Beppy White at 948-4262

Another growing season is coming to an end and we at the Arcade Museum would like to thank the Madison Garden Club for the lovely garden at the back. It is such a peaceful place to sit during lunch when the weather is nice. Despite our lack of water and the dry season members managed to keep the flowers and plants looking great. Every week someone was there checking, weeding, clipping or watering. A lot of work and dedication go into maintaining the garden and we really appreciate it.

## MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

We welcome Jeff Hughes as one of our regular volunteers. He, along with Jane Volchansky, Beppy White, Dona Hutchinson, Carroll Good, Linwood Imlay, Carole Milks, Anne Ferguson, Virginia McGhee, Virginia Utz and Emily Williams come in on a regular basis (some twice a month, most once a month). They unlock the building, welcome guests, answer the phone and get other tasks done.

On some days we have assistants who work the desk, freeing up the regular volunteers to work upstairs researching, filing and entering information into our data base. These assistants are Ruth Penn, Marty Taylor and Gertha Houston. Gertha recently moved from a regular volunteer to an assistant. Other volunteers work on special projects including the cemetery project, making archival boxes and computer work. These include Mary Wright, Jill Schreiner and Sandy Stowe.

Then of course we need substitutes when trade-offs cannot be worked out. These substitutes are Michael O'Connor, Betty Lynn Yowell and Emily Williams. We welcome Betty Lynn to this new position after serving as treasurer and board member for many years.

At times we have special tasks and call in extra hands.

As you can tell, volunteers are always needed. Unlike larger museums we have no paid positions. So all of the time spent manning the museum is volunteer work for the community. The same is true for the exhibits and graveyard and cemetery work. When you consider this amount and caliber of work we can be extremely proud and grateful.

If you care to join this enthusiastic team, call Emily Williams, volunteer coordinator at 825-7503.

## ACQUISITIONS



Jack and Martha Cornwell with Jane Volchansky  
Martha and Jack Cornwell presented Historical Society President Jane Volchansky with two additional place settings of Wedgewood Ivy china.

This pattern, no longer produced by the Wedgewood Company, is reported to have been used by Napoleon when he was exiled to Elba Island, off the coast of Italy.

Three years ago, the Cornwells had donated ten place settings plus many serving pieces, to the Society. When they had the opportunity to purchase the additional pieces, they did so to complete 12 place settings. Their china is a central part of the settings used at the fund-raising Kemper teas.

President Volchansky expressed deep appreciation to the Cornwells for this and their many other generous contributions to the Madison County Historical Society.

Other donations have been made to the Society for use at the Kemper Teas as well. Louisa Grogan donated a lovely teapot. Mary Haught donated six (6) teacups. These donations are greatly appreciated as they enhance the tables at our fund-raising teas.

## GENEALOGY SECTION GETS A BOOST

The Arcade Museum's genealogy section got a boost from the donations of two gentlemen whose contributions we appreciate very much. Jeff Perl donated the Kemper Genealogy and O. W. (Buddy) Smith, Jr., donated the genealogy of the Eddie Smith family. Both the Kempers and

the Smiths have long histories in Madison County. The genealogy section depends on the kindness of families who will share their family histories. Genealogies do not have to be bound volumes. We have some that are done in longhand on loose leaf paper. Our goal is to have as many Madison families represented as possible. Are your Madison ancestors represented in our files?



Portrait of Judge Hay from Arcade Collection

## **JUDGE HAY'S RECOLLECTIONS**

It was a daily custom for certain of the men to gather in the morning at Larkin E. Jackson's store. A little later some, if not all, of these men stopped on the corner at W.J. Cave and Cos.. and got together either in the courthouse yard, or Clerk's office according to the seasons. Among the ladies it was different, they visited each other frequently.

In those days large crowds attended court. The fourth Thursday of each month saw people riding into town from all parts of the county, and from Green, Orange and Culpeper. If you did not live in town, and had any business to transact, court day was the time fixed, with the consequence that everybody was busy, and nothing was done as well as it could have been done on any other day. If you owed anybody anything, you always fixed court day as the time to pay it. If you wanted to see somebody, who lived two miles from you, you rode two miles to court to do it. Court day was the time for all the people of the county to come together. It was, in

fact, an institution which should never have been done away with. More business was transacted by the courts; cases were more expeditiously tried, than they are today. If the cost was a little more than that of the present system, the benefits derived from the old court day system were inexpressible greater than those of today. We then had a judge, who was a resident of the county, for Madison had the judge from 1880, down to the time of the abolition of the county court system. The judge knew everybody in the county, he was familiar with all county problems, he had the greatest interest in maintaining order, in upholding the traditions, which had made Madison one of the best counties in the state, he knew the jury, he knew the parties, and being as he was a man of fine sense, good judgment and strict integrity, he held the scales of justice even. Then too county court day was the day for politics, and politics in 1880, were of vital interest to the people of the county and state. It was the time when Mahone was just beginning to control the destinies of the state. He had been defeated for the nomination for governor in 1877, and was busily at work in 1879, endeavoring to break up the Democratic party. A United States Senator was to be chosen by the legislature, which was to be elected in the fall of 1879. Mahone, assisted by John Paul, afterwards a member of the United States House of Representatives, and United States District Judge, H.H. Riddleberger, afterward United State Senator, John E. Massy, afterwards Lieutenant Governor of the state and Superintendent of Public Instruction, and a host of others formed what they called the Readjuster Party. In our county the Readjusters were very strong, they put forward as their candidate for the House of Delegates, Captain T.V. Fry, a gentleman of character, and one who had been a gallant Confederate soldier, he also had a large family connection in the county. The Democrats met in convention, either at Wolftown or Stanardsville, I forget which, and nominated the late Hon. John D. Fray. Mr. Fray was a young man who had just graduated at Roanoke College, he was not well known personally in the county, but he had a very large family connection, was energetic and able, and was the unanimous choice of the Democrats, or as they were then called, Funders. The battle

between these two candidates was a hard fought one; in those days everybody voted, and it was necessary for the candidates to make a house to house canvass, to see everybody, and to have a compact organization at every precinct. When the votes were counted it was found that Mr. Fray had won by a substantial though not large majority. When Mr. Fray got to Richmond he found that Mahone had carried a majority of the legislature, and in December 1879, he was elected United State Senator. *(This ends the recollections of Judge Hay.)*

## SLAVE QUARTERS PROJECT CONTINUES



The Society continues its quest to raise enough money to restore the slave quarters to the rear of the Kemper House. To date over \$7,300 has been raised. The Society is actively seeking grants but any contributions we receive will count toward any matching funds we may be required to raise in order to receive grants. If you are considering making end of the year contributions please consider this project. Checks can be made out to the Madison County Historical Society with a note in the memo section for Slave Quarters Restoration. Mail your contributions to the Madison County Historical Society, P.O. Box 467, Madison, VA 22727.

## CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

Are you looking for some ideas for Christmas gifts? Search no further than the Arcade

Museum. The Museum has something for every member of the family from books for adults and children, ornaments for holiday or all year decoration and puzzles for children. A list of available items is listed on the following page.

## KEMPER HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE



Hannah and Ethan Wagner provided holiday music at the 2007 Open House

On Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00PM the Historical Society will hold a Holiday Open House at the Kemper House. The house will be decorated for the holidays. Members and friends are invited to enjoy hot cider and cookies while listening to holiday music provided by Hannah and Ethan Wagner.

**ORNAMENTS**

Court House	\$11.00
Kemper Residence	\$11.00
Arcade	\$11.00
Hebron Lutheran Church	\$11.00
Piedmont Episcopal Church	\$11.00
Chestnut Grove Baptist Church	\$11.00
Rochelle Crossroads	\$11.00
Jamestown Medallion Key Chain	\$11.00

**BOOKS**

Adopted Son By Greg Glassner	\$12.00
Confederate Bowie Knives By Harold Woodward	\$5.00
For Home and Honor By Harold Woodward	\$18.95
Madison County, A Revised History By Margaret Davis	\$15.00
Madison County Land Grants 1722-1865 By Dewey Lillard	\$25.00
Tragedy At Montpelier By Jane Blair	\$18.00
The Anguish of Displacement	\$35.00
Herbert Hoover's Hideaway	\$5.95
Shenandoah National Park and its Neighbors	\$19.99
Lost Trails and Forgotten People	\$7.50
Of Time and Place - A Shifflet-Morris Saga	\$29.95
President and Mrs. Hoover's Rapidan Camp	\$1.00
Ask for Nothing By Maxine Weaver Crane	\$18.00
In the Shadow of Ragged Mountain By Audrey Horning	\$16.95
Shenandoah National Park Undying Past By Darwin Lambert	\$16.95

**CHARTS**

Twelve Generation Family Charts	\$4.00
Eight Generation Family Fan Charts	\$6.50
Four Generation Family Tree	\$3.50

**OTHER**

Walking Tour of Madison County	\$2.00
Madison County Almanac 1907	\$4.50
Madison County Directory 1896	\$4.50
Bicentennial Plate	\$2.00
1776 Map Culpeper, Madison, Rappahannock	\$10.00
Note Cards (Arcade) - per package	\$1.00
Note Cards – Photos by Martha Cornwell	\$1.25
Legacy of the Land note cards, series 1	\$15.00



Legacy of the Land note cards, series 2	\$15.00
Playing Cards – Court House	\$3.50
Madison County Calendar - any year	\$2.00
Indian Tribes Puzzle	\$16.00

#### **HEBRON LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Hebron Lutheran Church History (hard back)	\$22.50
Hebron Lutheran Church Postcards (church interior)	\$0.30



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

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