

Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



Madison County
Historical Society

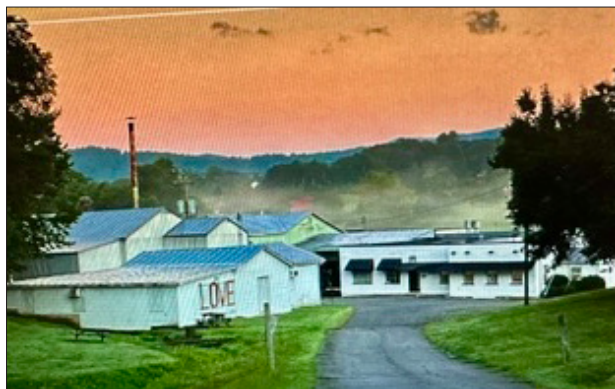
www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org

February 2024

Troy Coppage Tells the Clore Furniture Story

The speaker for the February 18, 2024, Madison County Historical Society quarterly meeting will be Troy Coppage, President of E. A. Clore Sons, Inc. Most if not all Madison County residents are quite familiar with the Clore furniture company here in Madison and many have its handcrafted furniture in their homes.

Troy is a native and lifelong resident of Madison County and a graduate of Madison County High School. He began working part-time at E.A. Clore in December 1984 while attending Piedmont VA Community College. Joining the Madison County Volunteer Fire Co in 1980, he is a life member and the current Fire Chief. Troy became President of the Clore furniture company in 2009.



Over this lengthy period the shop was destroyed by fire twice and a dust bin explosion in 1985 injured four workers one of whom died. In the meantime, Clore craftspeople have produced and sold unimaginable amounts of furniture which graces many homes here in Madison County and to far reaches well beyond.

This program tells the wonderful story of a multi-generational family business right here in Madison County.

The meeting will be held at 2pm Sunday February 18th in the auditorium of the Madison County office building adjacent to the Kemper Residence. Everyone is invited to attend.

Note: In the event that severe weather might cause cancellation of this meeting, please check the Madison County Historical Society's Facebook page.

Troy's presentation will be a history of the furniture company with accompanying pictures from various periods in its evolution. It began in a modest way in the 1830s with Moses Clore making a chair for a fellow church member. E.A. and brother J.C. worked with their father to make furniture until 1921 when E.A. built his own shop at the present site and formed E.A. Clore and Sons. In 1946, E.A. sold the business to four of his six sons; in 1960 the four brothers turned the partnership into a corporation. In 1984 the day-to-day management was turned over to the next generation with E.B. Clore, Jr. becoming President followed by Danny Clore and then Billy Coppage. In 2009 Billy passed the presidency to his son Troy Coppage, our

Spring is Coming: It's Tea Time

The spring luncheon tea will continue the Drive By format on Wednesday April 3. You will receive delicious food prepared by our team of chefs and packaged in attractive bags ready for your personal tea party. The requested donation to Madison County Historical Society is still only \$30 for each serving. Start getting your group together and make reservations now or closer to the date. Email maryhaught@hughes.net or call 540-718-2175.

A Note From The President

Here goes with another note from the President. We are now closed for the winter but will still do private tours for those that are interested. Call 540-395-5119 and leave a message. Someone will contact you to set up a date and time for your tour. Our regular schedule will resume in March. The Mountain Museum will open for the new season on March 3, 2024, and the Madison Museum at Kemper will open on March 5, 2024. Hours for the Mountain Museum are 1 PM until 4 PM each Sunday, and the hours for the Madison Museum remain 10 AM until 2 PM on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Gift shops will be open on any days the Museums are open. Our curator (Jennie Robinson) will be working on exhibits (both current and new) to get them ready for the openings in March.

Our program for this February will feature Troy Coppage talking about the Clores and their furniture making thru the years. For further details, see the article submitted by Program Chair Penn Bowers on page one of this issue.

Kevin Morgan has continued to do interviews for his project. You may check it out by going to SNP 52 for samples from some of these interviews. Several were conducted at the Mountain Museum. Kevin also set up a special visit on New Year's Eve with Colter and Charlie Adams who created a fiction Podcast involving a journalist (Jessica Matthews) who investigated the disappearance of four high school seniors near Rockfish Gap. The Adams brothers are now delving into another radio drama (Tales from Rockfish Gap) with a goal to entertain and also engage fellow National Park lovers with the complicated history of this region's ambitious and deeply flawed conservation project. For listeners unacquainted with the region, the series will captivate with a blend of suspense, horror, history, and comedy. Go to <https://rockfishshow.com> for more details. Many thanks to our volunteers who participated with the interviews for this project.

Thanks for your support
Max Lacy, President
Madison County Historical Society

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Article IV, Section 3 of the Society's By-Laws states:

The Madison County Historical Society Board of Directors shall be elected by the general membership. One third of the Board shall be elected at the first designated regular membership meeting of the calendar year. A Nominating Committee shall nominate members. Nominations may also be made from the floor. Anyone so nominated must have agreed in writing to serve prior to the nomination. A Board member whose term has expired may be re-elected.

The four members whose terms are expiring in 2024 are Penn Bowers, Martha Breeden, Jean Busboso, and Judy Mahanes. Penn Bowers, Martha Breeden, and Judy Mahanes are each willing to serve another three-year term if presented by the nominating committee and re-elected by membership. The nominating committee presents Essie Berry to replace the retiring Jean Busboso.

The nominating committee will place this slate before the membership during the meeting on February 18th.

If any of our members wish to serve on or nominate someone for the Board, please speak with any current board member.

Membership Report

During the 4th quarter of 2023, we welcomed the following new members:

John Giannico - Brightwood, VA
Betty and Mike Long - Locust Dale, VA

Many thanks to those who have sent in your 2024 membership renewals. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

From the Editor....

My thanks go out to the Noggles for sharing with us the results of their research into a famous Madison businessman of the past. Reading their article and soon thereafter failing to recognize a photograph of the Carpenter Motor Company reminded me that we need to start documenting 20th century history of places in the town of Madison. We found a few photographs of the Arcade and vicinity, but I'm betting that some of you have even better ones. If so, please contact us so we can take pictures of your pictures.

- Past issues of this newsletter may be accessed at www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org.
- Print subscribers can go to the same site to enlarge photographs.
- For feedback and letters to the editor, our addresses are: madhistory467newsletter@gmail.com and PO Box 467, Madison, VA 22727.

~~~Judy Mahanes

# The Short Life of an Original Madison Merchant

By

Michael Noggle and Jonathan Noggle

Perhaps one of the most important jobs of the late 1700s and early 1800s involved operating a store. Trading, purchasing, and selling to residents, businesses, travelers, and other merchants proved vital to the growth and sustenance of small communities throughout the rapidly expanding United States. A local merchant also became one of the more influential and prosperous individuals in small communities.

An article about Steve Hoffman in the Madison County Historical Society Newsletter (November 2019) and his talk at the Historical Society's August 18, 2019, meeting about old Madison stores addressed early commerce in Madison County. Even though Madison County was formed in 1792, merchant licenses were not recorded until 1798. Although specific names of active merchants in Madison County prior to that date are unknown, some of the merchants found on that first list of taxed merchants had, most likely, been in business even when the area was part of Culpeper County. One of those licensed Madison County merchants recorded in 1798 was a man by the name of William Joseph Eve.

William Eve was not only an original Madison County merchant, but also the owner of a farm on the Robinson River, a Madison County militia captain, a Madison County court gentleman justice, and builder/owner of one of the oldest dwellings in the Town of Madison. With limited historical and genealogical records available about William Eve, due in part to poor survivability of original records from the earliest days of Madison County as well as his short lifespan, the following documents what we know of the life and legacy of William Joseph and Clarissa Kirtley Eve, an original Madison County family and merchant.



202 N. Main Street

*Photograph Courtesy Jonathan Noggle*

Born in Culpeper County, Virginia in 1773, William Eve was the oldest son of George Eve, Sr. and Elizabeth Cave Johnson. William's father was a noted local Baptist preacher and a correspondent of future U.S. President James Madison. George Eve, Sr.'s correspondence with Madison during the development of the United States Constitution helped influence the inclusion of the amendments related to freedom of religion in the U.S. Bill of Rights.

On Christmas Eve 1794, William Eve married Clarissa Kirtley, daughter of Lieutenant Jeremiah Kirtley and Mary Robinson, and granddaughter of Major William Kirtley, a Revolutionary War soldier. William and Clarissa's three children Milton, Lavenia, and Clarissa were born in 1797, 1799, and 1802, respectively.

The first Madison County record for William Eve is a 1793 deed where his father sold him a 100-acre farm on the Robinson River (Page #1, Deed Book #1). The following year, William Eve leased a 0.5-acre lot in the Town of Madison from William Carpenter for \$1 per year. In 1801, William Carpenter leased a 1-acre lot to George and William Eve. Interestingly, William Carpenter stipulated in both deeds that if spirituous liquors were retailed on the property, then the leases would be voided, and repossession of the property would ensue. As William Carpenter operated a tavern in the Town of Madison, this appears to be an attempt to limit competition, a common practice by Mr. Carpenter.

Madison County property tax records from 1792-1797 show William Eve taxed as an individual. No record was found from this period indicating Madison County required merchants to purchase a license; however, records indicate that, in 1798, William Eve (along with a few others) purchased Madison County merchant licenses. William Eve operated his retail business from his property in the Town of Madison,

reportedly using a one-story, 800-square-foot brick building (now 201 North Main Street) as his storehouse. More recently, from 1964 until 2021, this building was the office of the Madison Eagle newspaper. Eve's home, a two-story wooden structure sitting on top of a stone foundation of late-Georgian architectural style (now 202 North Main Street) and the storehouse across the street were both likely constructed around 1798. In 1800, William Eve brought his brother George, Jr. in as a partner in his business.

In addition to his merchant's license, tax records show William Eve paid personal property tax on one to two polls, up to two enslaved persons, various numbers of horses, and a stud horse. He purchased his final business license in Madison County in 1802, and records indicate he left the area sometime around 1802 or 1803, joining the westward migration with many others from the county (including William and Clarissa's parents who had moved a few years earlier) to newly opened land in Kentucky.

In 1803, William Eve insured his residence in the Town of Madison with the Virginia Assurance Society. The insurance documents list the residence as a two-story (with rock-walled basement), 24' x 44' structure, which matches the original dimensions of the building at 202 North Main Street (excluding the addition(s) of kitchen, dining room and bathrooms). Eve wrote in the insurance documents that a man named John Walker occupied the building at that time. The building was insured for \$2,000—the cost to rebuild the structure at that time, considerably less than the 2023 current appraisal value.



202 N. Main Street (Side View)

Information about William Eve becomes scarce upon his arrival in Kentucky. According to a suit brought by Administrator James Collins in Madison County Court in an effort to recover funds from several business ventures, William Eve died in Boone County, Kentucky of unknown causes on March 20, 1804. No information has been obtained regarding how William died or where he was buried. At the time of his death, court documents indicate William Eve was in a partnership with his brother John Eve and William Sebree, a local merchant in Kentucky. The business intended to purchase and ship produce from Virginia to Kentucky and Orleans. William evidently died prior to getting this venture up and running.

Two additional records, a lawsuit and an obituary, give the final clues as to the Eve family's fate after William's death. His brother John filed suit against a local farmer who had kept and bred out services of William's stud horse Goliath, requesting fees be paid. A short article in 1805 from a Philadelphia newspaper indicated that Clarissa, William's wife, died on July 20, 1805, by her own hand. Her death left behind three orphans: Milton, 8, Lavenia, 6, and Clarissa, 2.



201 N. Main Street

Life was more difficult during the late 1700s and early 1800s on the frontier of this country, and deaths of what we would consider young adults today were not uncommon. William was only 31 years old when he died and Clarissa, likely overwhelmed and despondent as a young widow, was only 25. The only known monument to William and Clarissa is their Madison, Virginia home at 202 North Main Street.

*Michael Noggle is an engineer and a part-time genealogical researcher and historian based out of Richmond, VA. Jonathan Noggle is a real estate developer focusing on historical restoration in Madison, VA.*

# The Arcade and Its Surroundings

The November issue of this newsletter reported on several museum exhibits recently installed on the lower level of the building at 124 N Main Street in the town of Madison. There was no space in that article to say much about the building. A comprehensive history of the property is still beyond the scope of this issue, but we offer a timeline of significant (or perhaps just interesting) dates along the way. We are discussing the current building (considered the oldest in town), the rear garden, and the bricked area surrounding a crepe myrtle on the south side.

1795: A one acre lot, containing a storehouse, was deeded from William Carpenter to John Walker.

1820: John Wright was licensed to run an Ordinary in his house on the lot.

1840s-1850s: A frame building with porch and balcony was constructed adjacent to the brick building.

1870: Census records identify resident Robert A Seal as a hotel keeper.

1880s: Meals for inmates at nearby jail were prepared in the hotel kitchen. The dining room doubled as a dance floor, and the building acquired the name "Madison House."

1915–1919: John Hall and his wife Anna Thrift lived in an apartment on the second floor.

1919: Fire! The frame building burned, and the inside of the brick section was destroyed. The brick walls held and helped to stop the fire from spreading further north. [See the November 2019 issue of this newsletter for a full report on the fire.]

1920–1958: Members of the Carpenter family owned the property. [See next article.]

1947: Blue Bell, Inc opened a denim manufacturing plant on the second floor of the Carpenter building, next to Arcade building. There were 40 employees.

1968: Madison County bought the property.

1975: The Eagle reported that local gentlemen (Bane Aylor, Lee Blankenbaker, Cecil Coppedge, Carlyle Crigler, Joe Crigler, Mayor Joe Drake, Billy Gibson, JW Price, Winchell Royce, and Ernest Yowell) created a "man cave" in one room for conversation and card playing.

1976–1981: Restoration of the Arcade was the primary focus of the Madison Heritage Foundation, founded in 1976 and renamed Madison County Historical Society in 1999. In a press release from this period, Edward DeJ Berry and Polly Powell wrote that the Arcade building has been "a symbol of neglect for years."

1978: The Foundation signed a lease agreement with the County.

1981: The restored building opened to the public on July 2, 1981, and featured a museum on the main floor.

1986: The Madison Garden Club supervised and paid for leveling the roadway under the arch and creating the "Arcade Memorial Garden" behind the building.

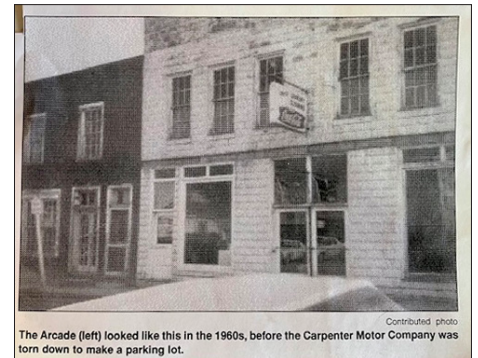
1989–2000: While continuing to house museum exhibits, Arcade space was rented on a part-time basis to the Chamber of Commerce, Visitor Center, and the Town Office, among others.

2017: The Madison County Historical Society moved its main museum from the Arcade to the Kemper Residence. The first floor was then set up as a meeting room with a few exhibits along the walls.

Throughout the years, there have been many changes to both the interior and exterior of the brick building. One feature that has stood from the beginning, however, is the arcade itself: a series of arches, supported vertically and creating a covered passageway—to rear doors or stables, to the back lot of a car dealership, or to the lovely garden maintained by the Garden Club today.



*Tires for Sale!*



*Carpenter Motor Company*



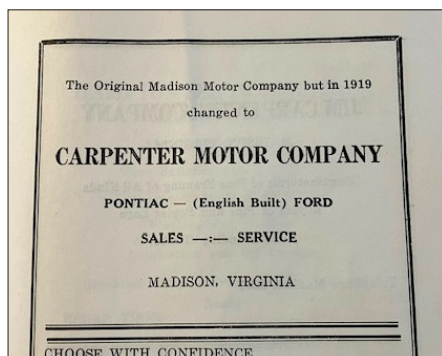
*Arcade Building in 1976*

# Carpenter Motor Company Madison, Virginia

By  
Max Lacy

The Arcade property was purchased in 1920 by the Carpenter Brothers (E.A., Fred A., John B., and Alfred D.) They repaired the part that was damaged by the fire of 1919 and added a cinderblock building beside it that housed the Carpenter Motor Company.

This company was a dealership for Pontiac and Crosley automobiles. The Arcade's archway was used as an entrance to the Dealership and its repair shop. The downstairs was the headquarters for the Dealership, and the upstairs was used as a dance hall in the early days. A dance ticket from 1937 that was found indicated that the cost of admission was \$1 + tax for admission and announced that there would be chaperones there to oversee the festivities. In later years, the upstairs housed the Blue Bell Jeans Plant when it first came to Madsion. The Carpenter family owned the building until they sold it in 1958, thus bringing an end to the Carpenter Motor Company car dealership.



1957 Madison County Day Booklet

The Madison County Board of Supervisors bought the property in 1968 and decided to tear down the cinderblock part to create more parking. In 1973, the Madison Jaycees contracted to tear the building down and haul the rubble away. During that process it was noted that the addition to the rear of the Arcade had used the Carpenter Motor Co. outside wall as the outside wall of that addition. When the building came down, the furnishings inside the addition were exposed.



The Jaycees got some grief about "ruining" an apartment, but we assured everybody that we had nothing to do with how the addition was built

## MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2023

### Finances in Review

#### Income

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Membership Dues            | 10,715.00        |
| General Donations          | 899.07           |
| Donations for Facility Use | 1,100.00         |
| Tea Income                 | 2,440.00         |
| Gift Shop Sales            | 2,080.00         |
| Interest                   | 173.79           |
| Designated Donations       | 3,189.75         |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>20,597.61</b> |

#### Expenses

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Arcade Utilities & Security    | 2607.78          |
| Kemper Utilities & Security    | 1291.78          |
| Kemper Maintenance             | 197.80           |
| Mt Museum Utilities & Security | 3091.23          |
| Mt Museum Projects             | 3041.71          |
| Insurance                      | 640.00           |
| Graves Mill Park Expenses      | 525.18           |
| Office & Exhibit Supplies      | 1059.89          |
| Postage & PO Box Rent          | 580.34           |
| Printing                       | 2167.31          |
| Web & Software Fees            | 389.81           |
| Gift Shop Inventory            | 498.85           |
| Sales Tax to State             | 104.60           |
| Miscellaneous Expenses         | 893.99           |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>17,090.27</b> |

Judith Mahanes, Treasurer

# At Home with the Virginia Presidents

Can you name the U. S. presidents who were born in Virginia? Four of the first five presidents were Virginia born and there have been eight all together. They were the focus in December 2023 when author Heather Cole made a presentation for the Madison Historical Society. Describing herself as a public historian and digital archivist, Heather is the author of the book *Virginia's Presidents: A History and Guide* available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble and a variety of bookstores throughout Virginia. Part history and part travel guide, Heather's interactive presentation included fascinating facts for everyone!

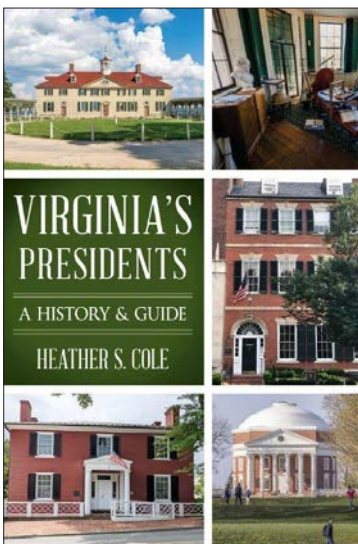
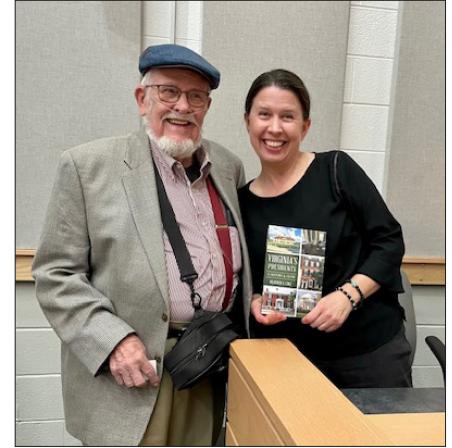
**George Washington**, the only president to be elected unanimously, never lived in the White House. However, his home, Mount Vernon, became one of the earliest examples of historic preservation, opening for tours in the 1860s. Washington's birthplace, Pope's Creek, burned in the 1700s. In the 1920s a group of women organized to build a replica only to realize later it had been rebuilt on the wrong foundation.

**Thomas Jefferson** was born at Shadwell in 1743 and lived at Tuckahoe Plantation in Richmond from the age of 2 until 7. At this time, children could legally run a plantation at the age of 12 depending on family circumstances. Monticello, Jefferson's home in Charlottesville, and Poplar Forest, his rural retreat, are popular attractions today. Montpelier, **James Madison's** home in nearby Orange County was described by Cole as having the most family-friendly tour. The remnants of the Dupont family's renovations have largely been eliminated to reveal the home as it existed for the Madisons. **James Monroe** lived down the road from Jefferson's Monticello at Highland (called Ash Lawn by other owners). For years, visitors toured a building thought to be part of the Monroe home. Then after extensive research another house foundation was discovered and it was determined that the structure shown to modern day visitors was not the main house, but instead a small guest house. Curators reworked the exhibits to reflect this new information during the Covid shutdown months.

**William Henry Harrison** was born at Berkeley Plantation located on the James River. A popular war hero, he was the first president to die in office. After giving a two-hour speech for his inauguration, Harrison served only one month before his untimely death. **John Tyler** was the first president to remarry in office after the death of his first wife. His home, Sherwood Forest, in Charles City is believed to be the longest wood frame house in colonial America with room for his 17 children. Still owned by the Tyler family, some say it is occupied by a resident ghost. **Zachary Taylor** was born in Virginia when his parents stayed with relatives at Montebello in Orange County for several weeks on their way to Kentucky. Taylor was the first president without prior political office; some believe he may have been poisoned.

**Woodrow Wilson** was born in Staunton and lived there eighteen months before his family moved to Georgia. His wife, Edith Bolling Wilson was born in Wytheville, Va. When President Wilson had a stroke halfway through his second term, Edith Wilson, the first lady, is believed to have covered for him, essentially running the country. Wilson's presidential library and museum are located in Staunton today.

With so many connections, Virginia has earned the title, "The Mother of Presidents." Many of the home tours have been expanded in recent years with more inclusive interpretations of the contributions of all residents. Let Heather Cole be your guide for a history road trip telling the story of Virginia born presidents and their homes.



Madison County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 467  
Madison, VA 22727  
540-395-5119

Address Service Requested



[www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org)  
[madisonvahistory@gmail.com](mailto:madisonvahistory@gmail.com)

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.

Memberships and donations, major sources of income for the Society, are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Membership application forms are available at the Museum and on-line at [www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org). (Click "About Us" and scroll down the page.) Memberships run for one calendar year and include the following categories:

|            |                |          |      |
|------------|----------------|----------|------|
| Sustainer  | \$500 or more  | Business | \$50 |
| Benefactor | \$250 to \$499 | Family   | \$30 |
| Partner    | \$100 to \$249 | Single   | \$20 |
| Friend     | \$50 to \$99   | Student  | \$5  |

For more information about any of our activities, call the Society Office at 540-395-5119. Leave a message if no one answers so we may return your call. Our email address is [madisonvahistory@gmail.com](mailto:madisonvahistory@gmail.com).

Our physical address is 412 N Main Street in the town of Madison.