

Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow

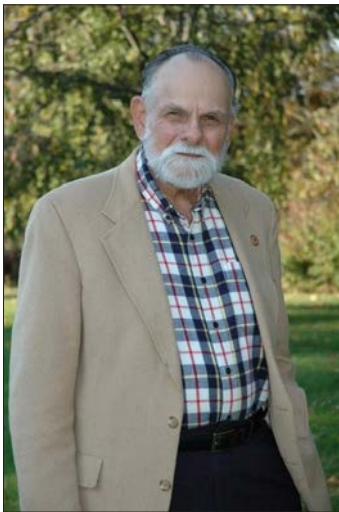


Madison County
Historical Society

www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org

May 2024

May Program: Reflections from Frank S. Walker, Jr.



Frank Stringfellow Walker will be our speaker for the May 19th, 2024, quarterly meeting of the Madison County Historical Society. Mr. Walker is a well-known Orange County resident, historian, author, and a superb raconteur. He is the grandson of Robert Walker who cofounded Woodberry Forest School, was born and raised on the family dairy farm Rosni in Madison County, practiced law in Orange County and conducted guided tours for many years in both Madison and Orange counties. His most recent book is:

REFLECTIONS- sketches of life and work on a farm in the Northern Piedmont of Virginia. ca. 1930-1980

The topic of his talk on May 19th will be REFLECTIONS ON REFLECTIONS.

Mr. Walker earned a B.S. in Agronomy (V.P.I. & S.U.), an M.B.A. (Darden School, U. Va) and a J.D. in Law (U. Va). He was President and General Manager of his family farm Rosni Farms Inc. from 1960 through 1979. Later he practiced law in Orange from 1981 through 1994. In his third career,

he founded and served as lead guide of Tourguide Ltd from 1994 until 2015. In addition to his professional qualifications, he is the author of two books about Orange County and is knowledgeable about heritage- oriented history, particularly that of the local area. He has spoken to the Historical Society several times in the past.

The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Madison County Administrative building at 2pm Sunday May 19th. Everyone is invited to attend.

FOR RENT!

As you plan spring and summer activities, remember--and remind your friends-- that the Kemper Residence is available to host your activities. The entire main floor, including the small kitchen may be used for a \$100 donation to the historical society.

Over the years, it has been the scene for numerous baby or wedding showers, rehearsal dinners and even a wedding or two.

Contact Mary Haught at 540-718-2175 or maryhaught@hughes.net to plan a tour for making arrangements to hold your event in this lovely historic building.



A Note From The President

It is newsletter time again. We have been busy preparing both museums for 2024 season. Jennie Robinson (our Curator), with the help of Nancy Garnett Williams, has been busy at Kemper with the new school exhibit. Jennie has also helped with new acquisitions at the Mountain Museum in Criglersville.

The neatest thing that has happened at MMC is the addition of chestnut logs from an old cabin in Madison County to the inside of the closed in porch. The new floor consists of old flooring from another building in Madison. It is not a finished product as we still have some work to furnish the new room. The logs were donated by Chad Kelly and the flooring by Craig Jacobs of Salvagewrights of Orange. Salvagewrights provided the labor to install the logs and floor of the addition.

We have a "beaten biscuit table", an old wood cook stove, a low chair, a rocking chair, an up and down churn, window curtains made from an old feed sack, and other items that will be moved into the new room. An antique table will also be part of the décor. We are very thankful to the descendants of displaced families for what they have done to help furnish this museum.

A big shout out to Troy Coppage for doing our program about the Clore furniture business over the years at our February meeting. We have so much history here in our Madison County.

Our May program will be by Frank Walker about *Reflections*, his new book about life on his farm. Read the article on page one that Program Chair Penn Bowers has prepared about the program. Mr. Walker is a gifted speaker and storyteller.

We have been in the process of upgrading our phone and computer system at the Madison Museum at Kemper. We will soon have everything all finished. It will be nice to have fast internet and a good phone system in place to help our volunteers assist our visitors.

As always, we welcome visitors to both of our museums. Hours at Kemper are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 AM until 2PM. The Mountain Museum is open on Sundays from 1PM until 4PM. If you are unable to attend during those hours, please call 540-395-5119 to set up a time for a tour that suits your time frame. If no answer, leave a message and we will return your call as soon as we can. You will be amazed at the history we have and are

preserving at both museums. We also have books that may be purchased at both museums. Book sales are not our main moneymaker, but we have them for the convenience of our visitors.

I was very fortunate to be a mentor to Sam Bartczak for his Blue Ridge Virginia Governor's School project. His Senior Capstone Presentation involved his research about Appalachia, his community service, and his internship. It was such a pleasure to be involved with this fine young man. I attended his presentation along with several other students' presentations. What a joy it is for me to see young people involved with our history.

Our main fundraisers are annual dues and of course the teas that the Tea Team so graciously provides each spring and fall. This dedicated team provides these teas at no cost to our society, so the proceeds are all donated to our general fund. If you happen to receive one of these newsletters, we invite you to join if you are not already a member. All of the history that you see at our museums is organized and preserved for the benefit of visitors by our dedicated volunteers, as we have no salaried people in the Madison County Historical Society.

Until next time, please come and visit to see what a "great history" is Madison County.

Max Lacy, President

Madison County Historical Society



From the Editor....

My thanks this month go to fellow board members for their contributions to our newsletters. Penn Bowers has introduced dozens of speakers during his long tenure as Program Chair. Pam Nelson wrote the summary of Troy Coppage's talk and made the brilliant suggestion to publish the recipe for his grandmother's famous pie. Photography Editor Martha Breeden has an unending supply of beautiful photographs from around Madison County. And Max Lacy stands ready to prod us and thank us for whatever we are trying to do!

- 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

# Membership Report

During the 1st quarter of 2024, we welcomed the following new members:

Weaver Works, Inc.  
Madison, VA

Richard Jenkins  
Warrenton, VA



# Public Education through the Years: Consolidating Elementary Schools

By

Edward Berry and Judy Mahanes

In our May 2022 issue, we offered a snapshot of public schools in Madison County for academic year 1949–1950. In examining the existing school system of that time, we cautioned the reader to remember that this was a time of racial segregation and that the county maintained two separate school systems. Those two systems were referred to as the White and the Colored or Negro Schools. Some readers may well find those terms offensive, but they were the terms used at the time with Colored or Negro used interchangeably, sometimes within the same document. The writers intend no offense to anyone when we reference information from a document by using the terminology in that document.

In September 1949, there were thirteen public schools (seven for white students and six for Negro students) within the county system. Today, Madison County Public Schools is one system operating four schools: Madison Primary School, Waverly Yowell Elementary School, William Wetzel Middle School, and Madison County High School. Madison County High School came into being for white students in the whole county after the 1946 fire destroyed the building housing Criglersville High School. George Washington Carver Regional High School provided a modern high school education for Negro students in Culpeper, Orange, Madison, and Rappahannock counties from 1948 until 1968. Consolidation of elementary schools continued into the 1960s. In this article, we look at Negro schools.

The following chart summarizes data in a report to the State Department of Public Education from Superintendent of Schools A. W. Yowell for September 1949.



*Strother building in 2024*

| Negro Schools      | Grades | # Students | # Teachers | Head Teacher        |
|--------------------|--------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| Madison Training   | 1-7    | 105        | 3          | Frank A. Jackson    |
| Radiant            | 1-7    | 120        | 3          | Emma A. Davis       |
| Uno                | 1-6    | 30         | 2          | Grace Broady        |
| Oak Grove (1 room) | 1-7    | 19         | 1          | Roberta Jones       |
| Strothers (1 room) | 1-6    | 28         | 1          | Erma Rice           |
| Haywood (1 room)   | 1-7    | 30         | 2          | Rosa Benson Francis |

During this time teachers were generally compensated \$1,670 per year for two years of college and experience. Teachers with a 4-year degree and no experience were paid \$1,820 per year. This scale applied to both white and African American teachers. On January 1, 1947, the School Board had ordered, in response to a request made by the colored teachers, that their "pay should be equal to white teachers with the same qualifications." African American teachers received the same pay as white teachers, but their student load was generally much, much higher. We found several instances where fifty or more pupils were in the same classroom.

A booklet "Our Schools Speak" prepared as part of a University of Virginia extension course listed five schools with colored teachers in 1952-53:

- Madison Training School: Ernest Wheeler, Principal, Mrs. Virgelia D. Price, Mrs. Helen G Southall, Miss Lillian Turner
- Radiant Elementary: Mrs. Emma A. Davis, Principal, Mrs. Sadie W. Arrington, Miss Pattie M. King
- Uno Elementary: Mrs. Grace D. Broady
- Haywood Elementary: Mrs. Pearl H. Washington
- Strothers Elementary: Mrs. Dollie H. Speight

These schools were bursting at the seams. In September 1953, second and third graders were bussed from Madison Training School to Rochelle School in an effort to relieve overcrowding. Short term plans were made to construct four additional

(Continued from Page 3)

classrooms at the Training School. Then in May 1954, state-sanctioned, segregated public schools were declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States. Shortly thereafter, a delegation of citizens met with the School Board to ask that school construction plans be put on hold until a "statement of policy" could be crafted in light of the Brown v. Board decision.



*Madison Elementary from across  
Fairground Road*

Then just a few weeks later, in June 1954, the County Colored Advisory Committee petitioned the School Board to increase the number of new rooms from four to six. Members of that committee were Russell Humes, Dixie Taylor, John Joynson, Robert Jefferson, Clifton Hill, and William Turner. Mr. Turner was President of the Radiant School P. T.A.

In a September 1954 article in the Madison County Eagle newspaper, School Superintendent S. C. Morgan declared new and remodeled buildings at the Madison Training School campus on Thrift Road ready for the opening of school. The six classrooms in the

new building housed grades one through four with grades five through seven having classrooms in the older building. Mr. Morgan said that the availability of these spaces will relieve the overcrowded conditions in the other colored schools in the county. In actuality, plans were afoot for the closing of at least four of the smaller schools. When teachers were announced for the 1955-56 school year, there were only two schools with colored teachers. The faculty of Madison Training School consisted of eight teachers and principal Mr. Ernest Wheeler. The other colored school was Strothers Elementary with Mrs. Grace D. Broady as its only teacher.

The situation was much the same for 1956-57. Grace D. Broady was the sole teacher at Strothers School at Achsah. Madison Training was staffed as follows:



*Madison Elementary Building*



*Madison Training Building on  
Thrift Road in 2024*

- |                                           |                                     |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Principal: Mr. Ernest D. Wheeler        | • 4th grade: Mrs. Virgelia D. Price |
| • 7th grade: Mrs. Lovie Jackson           | • 3rd grade: Miss Frances Price     |
| • 6th grade: Mr. Lewis Crowder            | • 2nd grade: Miss Edith L Brown     |
| • 5th grade: Mrs. Emma A. Davis           | • 1st grade: Mrs. Pearl Washington  |
| • Special Education: Mrs. Sadie Arrington | • 1st grade: Mrs. Mattie Tolliver   |

During this same time, plans were in the works for constructing new school buildings in the county. As early as 1950, Negro citizens advocated for a consolidated, centrally located elementary school built specifically for Negro students. In his "Historical Survey of Changes in Education in Madison County 1792-1970", John Dwyer reports that in 1953, the School Board acquired a tract known as the Price property on Route 607 for this purpose. At about the same time, the Board bought the Gordon property on US 29 as a future site for a new high school building—for whites. In June 1953, the School Board prepared applications to the State School Construction Fund for a new colored elementary school and a new white high school. By the fall of 1957, the modern Madison Elementary School with library, auditorium, and lots of classrooms opened for the education of the county's African American elementary students. At this time, the last one-room school (Strothers) closed.

Here is a listing of the faculty of Madison Elementary School in 1963-64:

- |                                                |                                        |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| • Principal: Mr. King Broady                   | • 3rd & 4th grades: Mrs. Emma A. Davis |
| • 7th grade: Mr. Sherley E. Stuart             | • 3rd grade: Miss Marian T. Johnathan  |
| • 6th grade: Mr. Lewis Crowder                 | • 2nd grade: Miss Betty A. Smith       |
| • 5th & 6th grades: Mr. Nathaniel Davis, Jr.   | • 2nd grade: Mrs. Bessie R. Hoffman    |
| • 5th grade (semester 1): Mrs. Mildred Collins | • 1st grade: Mrs. Sadie A. Crowder     |
| • 5th grade (semester 2): Mrs. Grace D. Broady | • 1st grade: Mrs. Mattie Tolliver      |
| • 4th grade: Miss Shirley J. McBea             | • 1st grade: Miss Ruth Hudgens         |

By the fall of 1966 when racial integration became the norm in Madison County, Madison Elementary School ceased being an all-black institution. Instead, it housed all county first, second, and third graders who were not attending Criglersville Elementary School. Mr. King Broady was the principal of the reconfigured school.

The Madison Elementary building currently houses the Madison County Public Schools Administrative Offices. The Madison Training School building on Thrift Road was reconfigured for use as School Board offices and later for several departments of the Madison County government. Encompass Community Services (formerly Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services) recently purchased the property from the County of Madison and is in the process of renovating the original 1935 school building for its programs. Auxiliary structures, including the classrooms built in 1954, have been removed.



# Madison History through the Decades:

1724-1726--German settlers remove themselves from Germana to what is now Madison County, settling on both sides of what is now known as Robinson River and White Oak Run.

1774--Robert Williams preached the first Methodist Sermon in the Madison area at the home of Henry Fry. Isham Tatum, in 1781 was to establish the Methodist faith in the county.

1814--Thomas Bohannon was issued a license to drive a 4 wheeled carriage.

1874--Madison native, lawyer and Civil War General, James L. Kemper was elected and took office as Governor of Virginia.

1884--The first two-roomed school in the county was placed in use at Madison Court House.

1894--George Freeman Pollock opens his "Skyland" Resort on the 5,371 acre Stony Man Tract of land owned by his father, George H. Pollock.

December 19, 1924--The Madison Power Company was first incorporated. Electricity was first used August 1, 1926. A hydro-plant was built on the Robinson River on a 6 acres tract of land known as the Madison Woolen Mills Property. Originally the plant served the Brightwood area and the Town of Madison. It consisted of two kilowatt units. Gradually the lines were extended to other parts of the county. Madison Power Company became a part of the Potomac Edison system. In 1965 the site on the Robinson River was sold and the dam broken.

Fall, 1964--Nancy Garnett, her brother Larry Garnett and their cousin, Clifford Brown became the first African American students to attend Madison County High School, a previously all white school. Madison County Public Schools became fully integrated in the 1966-1967 school term and remain so today.

March, 1974--Georgeanna Gibbs and her mother, Mrs. Ralph Fowler, conducted a survey to determine the number of Roman Catholic families in Madison County. From this initial survey grew the founding of the Our Lady of the Blue Ridge Roman Catholic Church.

*Compiled by Edward Berry*



Wolfstown, VA



Our Lady of the Blue Ridge  
Catholic Church

## Your Board of Directors

Welcome to newest board member Essie Berry who was elected at the February membership meeting to fill the seat being vacated by Jean Durham Busboso. During Jean's twelve-year tenure on the board, she coordinated the Society's effort to open the Arcade Museum on Saturdays and promoted the idea of gift memberships in the Society. She was also diligent about keeping Board members informed about events and publications promoting the history of the area. Jean continues to volunteer at the Madison Museum at Kemper.

Here is the full listing of the 2024 Directors for the Madison County Historical Society.

- Arlene Aylor, Membership Chair
- Essie Berry, Director
- Penn Bowers, Vice-President & Program Chair
- Martha Breeden, Corresponding Secretary
- Phil Brockman, Recording Secretary
- Janice Carpenter, Director
- Dennis Coppedge, Director
- Max Lacy, President
- Judy Mahanes, Treasurer
- Pam Nelson, Director
- Beppy White, Director

Martha Breeden manages the Society Facebook page and serves as Photography Editor of the newsletter. Judy Mahanes is Editor of the newsletter.

In non-board roles, Mary Haught manages rentals of the Kemper Residence and chairs the Kemper Tea Team. Katy Cashman oversees the Society webpage. Jennie Hill Robinson is Curator of Exhibits for the Society's museums.

## Date for Fall Tea Announced

Plans are under way for the fall fundraising tea on September 25, 2024. It will again be the Drive-By format. Reservations are limited, and the semi-annual events are usually fully booked.

Please put the date on your calendar and start thinking of getting your group together for a fall gathering of friends to enjoy traditional goodies and support the Madison County Historical Society.



# Clore Furniture is Alive and Well!



It was standing room only when Troy Coppage, president of Clore, spoke about his family and the traditional hardwood furniture that Clore has crafted since the 1930s. Michael Clore first immigrated from Germany in 1717. After serving as indentured servants for eight years with Governor Spotswood at Germanna, he and other settlers moved to what became known as the Hebron Valley in Madison County. Moving from generation to generation, Troy described how E.A. Clore and Sons became E. A. Clore Sons and, finally, Clore, with the last re-branding in 2018. The factory burned twice, in 1927 and in 1930, helping to inspire the creation of the first volunteer fire department in Madison with support from the Clore family. In 1963 a *Washington Star* reporter wrote a story about the factory and when it was published Clore furniture sales increased significantly. Tragedy struck again in 1985 when a sawdust bin exploded with several employees injured and one fatality. Additional preventative safety measures were put in place and the factory continued to produce furniture.

Through the years, the Clore family has maintained longstanding relationships with businesses, schools, and individuals who have returned again and again to purchase furniture. Clore rockers line the Lawn at the University of Virginia. Perhaps the most famous customers were the Hoovers after Clore supplied furniture for Camp Hoover on the Rapidan. Mrs. Hoover continued to order furniture and she "loaned" the Clores \$200 after the first fire to help rebuild the factory. Mrs. Hoover was repaid, but she never cashed the check.



Following the presentation, Troy took questions from the audience. He described the newest Clore items, including personalized furniture with laser engraving which has been popular for graduations and other special occasions. Troy shared the process for installing and replacing cord chair seats, the

challenges of attracting young workers, successful consignment sales of vintage Clore furniture, and hints for making minor repairs on damaged furniture surfaces. Looking ahead, Troy predicts that Clore will continue to produce handcrafted furniture and provide the exemplary customer service which have been the backbone of Clore's success for almost two hundred years.



*A Clore Chair!*

## Clore Genealogy

Michael Clore (1687–1763)

George Clore (1716–1751)

Peter Clore (1750–1827)

Moses Clore (1787–1847)

James Osborne Clore (1833–1911)

Edward Ashby (E. A.) Clore (1875–1962)

Lucy Frances Clore Coppage (1913–2006)

Willie Ashby (Billy) Coppage

Troy Coppage

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, May 19, 2024:** Quarterly meeting featuring Frank Walker, 2:00 PM, at County Auditorium next door to the Kemper Residence

**Friday, July 19, 2024:** Historic Germanna's 2nd Colony tour will visit the town of Madison (Arcade and Kemper), Hebron Church, and the Mountain Museum.

**Saturday, August 31, 2024:** Taste of the Mountains. The Kemper properties will be open during this festival so people can visit on a weekend day.

**Sunday, September 8, 2024:** Annual Mountain Skills Day at the Mountain Museum at Criglersville

**Everyday:** Visit the Graves Mill Park at 52 Bluff Mountain Road.

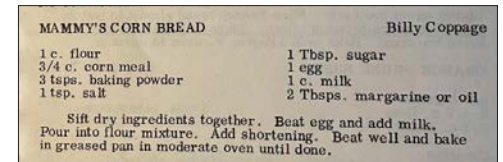
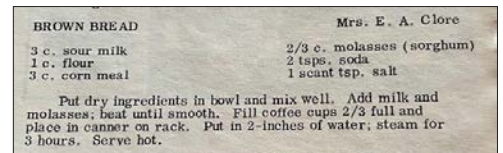
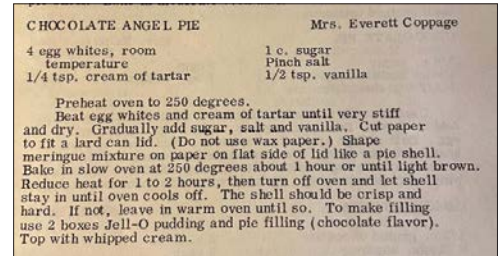


# Cooking with the Clores

The main focus of Troy Coppage's presentation in February was on furniture making. After all, that was his assigned topic. However, he could just as easily have discussed the history and current operation of the Madison County Volunteer Fire Department. Long-time residents of the county know that members of the Clore family and employees of the furniture factory have given countless hours to this organization dedicated to keeping the people and buildings of Madison County safe. Troy is the current Fire Chief.

The Clores are not just known for furniture making and firefighting. They like to eat, and they like to cook. Although it was not included in Troy's presentation, women in the Clore family were known to be good cooks with many of their recipes included in community cookbooks. The most popular was perhaps Lucy Frances Clore Coppage's Chocolate Angel Pie, which was nicknamed "Slop Bucket Pie." Cooked chocolate pudding was placed in a huge pie shell created from homemade meringue and topped with whipped cream. Cooked in the top of a lard can because it was so large, the pie was always a huge hit at church dinners.

Printed here are three recipes from "Cooking Favorites of Madison," published by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Fire Department in 1963. Contributions from three generations in the same little cookbook! Troy Coppage is too young to have contributed to this cookbook, but he is famous for making and sharing a Sausage & Egg Casserole. Find the recipe at Tasteofhome.com. This dish has a trace of fiber and lots of sodium. It is so good!



700 S. Main Street in Madison

## Visit Museums in Madison!

Come to the Madison Museum at Kemper (412 N Main Street) to see the new exhibit on county schools and look for other items that have been added to our displays. Then pay attention as you drive by the Odd Fellows Hall at the south end of town. If a car is there, stop and visit with the curators. We are excited about combining our efforts with those of the Madison County African American Historical Society to tell the story of our county's past.



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.