



August 2026

MOUNTAIN MUSEUM

A History of the People of Madison County Displaced
by the Formation of the Shenandoah National Park

Open Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 or by Appointment

Madison County Historical Society
madisonvahistoricalsociety.org | 540.395.5119

Please join us 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm on September 13th as we "Take You Back to the Mountains These People Called Home." (Rain does not cancel the event though some presentations may be downsized.)

Notes from the Board

- A moment of silence was observed at the start of our May meeting to note the passing of Society President Max Lacy on May 8, 2026. Max was greatly involved in MCHS and had made many contributions to preserve the history of Madison County and surrounding areas. He was particularly involved in establishing the Madison Museum in Criglersville and in helping erect the Blue Ridge Heritage Memorial at the Criglersville Museum. Max loved history and will be sorely missed.
- The Board accepted the offer of the Madison County Quilters Guild to decorate the upper floors at Kemper with red, white, and blue quilts to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Nation. The Kemper House was open in the evening of July 2nd as part of the Madison 250 Celebration. The event went well with a good number of visitors stopping by the museum.
- Laura DeBoer agreed to be Interim President until the end of the current term in February 2027.
- In recognition of and appreciation for his twenty plus years of service to the Society, the Board named Penn Bowers an honorary, lifetime Director of the Society.
- Carolyn Yowell and Dwight Whitney were elected to fill out unexpired terms on the Board.
- The Board decided to open the Arcade during the "Taste of the Mountains" street festival on September 5, 2026. Come walk through the archway, admire the Garden Club's plantings, and check out the exhibits inside. Hours are 9am to 4pm.

Phil Brockman, Recording Secretary

From the Editor....

I am feeling lonely as I think about this page for this issue. Phil, Arlene, and Vicki have done a great job of reporting on activities within the Society, and I thank them. But during the seven years that I've been at the helm of the newsletter, this page has featured Max Lacy's "Note from the President." He was a hands on leader of our organization right to the end. We know of at least four phone calls he made on behalf of the Society on Friday, May 8, 2026. Our job is not to "replace Max" but to figure out how to distribute all his jobs among other members of MCHS. Thank you, Max. RIP

Here are the usual reminders:

- 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

## Happenings at the Mountain Museum at Criglersville

- In February, an eighth grade class from Wetsel Middle School toured the museum. They were participating in a project to identify how the 250th birthday of the country was impacted by their local history.
- A group of twenty-eight descendants of the Herba and Bessie Nethers family toured the museum in June. Many traveled from Ohio and other states to learn more about their roots. They also visited Nethers Mill and family cemeteries. Many stories were shared across multiple generations.
- The museum had some extensive damage from the rain in the Spring. Thankfully, no artifacts were damaged and repairs have been completed. Some additional work is being done with gutters, siding and replacing an exterior door. We anticipate all work to be completed in time for the Open House and Mountain Skills Day on September 13th. (Note, we are still open every Sunday 1-4 despite the construction.)
- We have some new volunteers at the mountain museum. Most are descendants of the displaced, however not all. All are passionate about sharing the history of the displacement of the folks for the creation of Shenandoah National Park. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the mountain museum volunteers. They are Arlene Aylor, Carolyn Yowell, Dwight and Ann Whitney, Ken Yowell, Essie Berry, Nancy and Linda Knighting, Judy Mahanes and Dyanne Holt. If you are interested in volunteering, please email me at [mountainmuseumatcriglersville@gmail.com](mailto:mountainmuseumatcriglersville@gmail.com) or mention it at the Open House. Also, huge thanks to our valued volunteer resource Buddy Woodward. He has spent countless hours researching every family that was displaced in Madison county and is currently working on the other counties impacted. If you're lucky enough to visit the museum when he is there, you will discover he is a walking encyclopedia of knowledge!

*Vicki Brown*

# Membership Report

We welcome the following members who have joined since our last newsletter:

Cathy Nethers Boykin—Thornville, OH

James A Goodall–Hancock, MI

Mary M Wehrle—Oakpark, VA

Carolyn Yowell–Madison, VA

The support of all our members is greatly appreciated, and we encourage you to stop by either Madison or Criglersville to visit and view our exhibits.

~~~ Arlene Aylor

Maxwell Edward Lacy, Jr.

1940 - 2026



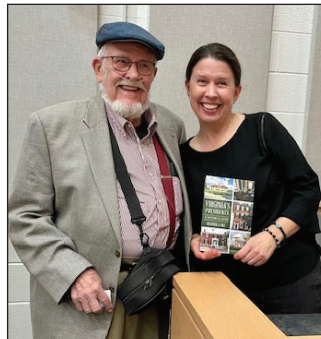
At Arcade with Connie Aylor
and Janice Carpenter



June 27, 2021



The Master Salesman



With author Heather Cole
in 2023



Frances & Max Lacy at
Flood Program, September 2025

Thanks for everything!!

Post Offices in the Mountains

By Max Lacy ~ May 2026

On the Making of Biscuits

By Max Lacy ~ August 2025

***Carpenter Motor Company
Madison, Virginia***

By Max Lacy ~ February 2024

Achsah, Uno, and Postal Tidbits

By Maxwell Lacy, Jr. ~ November 2021

CCC Camp On Quaker Run

By Maxwell Lacy, Jr. ~ July 2020

***The American Chestnut and Its effect on
people of the Blue Ridge Mountains***

By Maxwell Lacy, Jr. ~ May 2020

From Royal Charter to County Seat: The Land Grant History Behind Madison, Virginia

By

Michael Noggle and Lorrie Noggle

How did Madison, Virginia, come to be? From English royal grants in the seventeenth century to the hands of early settlers and former indentured servants, the small Piedmont town's recorded land history is as rich as its soil.

Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Royal Owners of these Virginia Lands

Going back to the beginning of the Europeans' claim to Virginia, King James I asserted England's sovereignty over this area of North America. This ignores Native Americans' prior occupancy of the land. Under James I's rule, England established the first North American colonies. This included the Jamestown settlement in Virginia.

In his 1606 First Virginia Charter, James I claimed land near the Atlantic coast. He revoked this charter and replaced it with the 1609 Second Virginia Charter, which claimed land from "sea to sea." Both charters granted a group of investors, the London Company, rights to found two American colonies. In 1624, James I revoked the London Company's charter and made Virginia a Crown Colony under royal authority.

After King James I died in 1625, his second (legitimate) son ascended to the throne as King Charles I. Charles I's forces were defeated by Oliver Cromwell in the English Civil War. He was then beheaded. His son, Charles II, asserted his claim to the English Throne while in exile.

Royal Granted Lands

As Charles II's wealth in exile was limited, he depended upon the crown's loyal supporters for funds. He needed these funds to regain the English throne. To entice supporters, he promised royal lands in the Virginia Colony to wealthy backers: Sir John Culpeper, First Baron of Shoresway; Ralph Lord Hopton, Baron of Stratton; Henry Lord Jermyn, Baron of Saint Edmundsbury; Sir John Berkeley; Sir William Morton; Sir Dudley Wyatt; and Thomas Culpeper. In September 1649, Charles II granted a large tract of land from the Chesapeake Bay up to the heads of the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers to these seven supporters in exchange for funds. In 1669, once back on the throne, Charles II formalized the land-grant agreement. He settled other debts he had also accrued.



King Charles II
by John Michael Wright

The Lords saw the promised property as unreliable. Most sold or bartered their grant to Lord John Culpeper. (Thomas Culpeper kept his share and was a silent partner to John.) Ownership passed to the Culpepers and their heirs. After several generations, the grant went to John's great-grandson, Thomas Fairfax of Virginia.

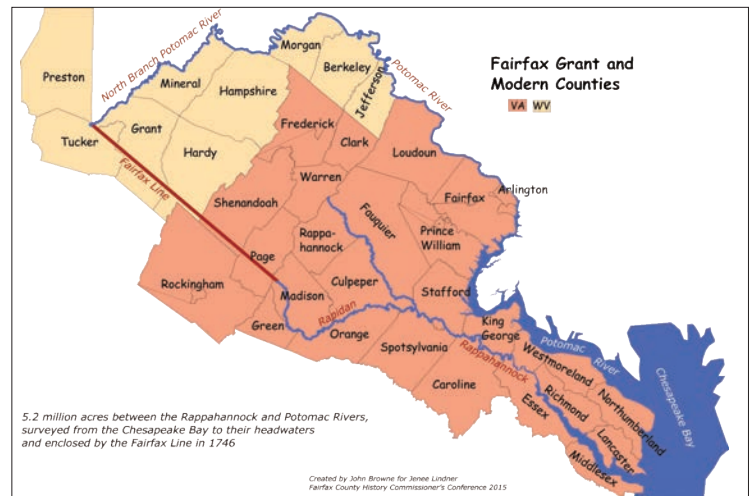
With the entire grant in his ownership, Thomas Fairfax pursued the operation of the Northern Neck Proprietors as an avenue through which to transfer the land to settlers and to generate revenue.¹

In 1745, the Crown tasked two survey parties with delineating the grant's final borders. Thomas Fairfax's neighbor George Washington joined one such party. The 1688 grant renewal by monarchs William and Mary defined the headwaters, or springs, of the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers. Once the surveys were approved, the grant's boundaries and area were officially measured. The approved tract of land measured about 5.3 million acres.

Early Grantees and Landowners of Madison, Virginia

Much of the area around the town of Madison, Virginia, between White Oak Run and Little Dark Run, was settled by German immigrant families. These families had previously lived as indentured servants to Governor Spotswood in the Germanna area of then-Spotsylvania County. After their indentures ended in the 1720s and 1730s, many moved to the area around the future town of Madison to obtain land of their own.² Other principal land purchasers included William Eddins and Alexander Waugh. Together, they owned several thousand acres of adjacent land between White Oak and Little Dark Runs.

In 1745, Dr. William Lynn purchased a 230-acre tract from Alexander Waugh, then bought two more from William and Rebecca Eddins in 1747.^{3,4} In 1751, Dr. Lynn received two contiguous grants from the Northern Neck Proprietorship, adjoining each other and Waugh's property.⁵



Dr. Lynn's Dispersal of Land

Born and educated in Ireland, Dr. William Lynn migrated to Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1732.⁶ He owned properties throughout the Virginia Colony. Upon his death in 1757, Dr. Lynn's will dispersed his Madison area land holdings to his two daughters (Ann Dent and Hannah McCauly) and his grandchild (Mary McCauly).⁷ These lands included the site of the present Town of Madison and its surroundings:

In his will, Dr. Lynn names Ann Dent as his daughter and Hannah McCauly as his reputed daughter.

| Heir | Inherited Land | Provisions |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Ann Lynn Dent | 599 acres bought from Wm Eddins | If she dies with no issue, land goes to children of Hannah Lynn McCauly |
| Ann Lynn Dent | 230 acres bought from A. Waugh | If she dies with no issue, land goes to children of Hannah Lynn McCauly |
| Hannah Lynn McCauly | 582 acres bought from Wm Eddins | Or her heirs |
| Mary McCauly | 425 acres granted to Lynn by Proprietors of Northern Neck | |

Heirs of Dr. William Lynn

Mary McCauly, daughter of Hannah Lynn McCauly, married James Duncanson on January 12, 1766. He was a Fredericksburg merchant born in Scotland. James and Mary had four children together: Polly Duncanson Porter, Ann Duncanson Hackley, Finella "Fanny" Duncanson Urquhart, and James Duncanson, Jr. Mary Duncanson died on October 10, 1790. James Duncanson, Sr., died on March 4, 1791.

Ann Lynn Dent, widow of Captain John Dent, was named in Dr. William Lynn's will. She later married James Finnie. Neither marriage produced children.

Hannah McCauly had no other children and died sometime after 1791.

James Duncanson's will named a mixed-race enslaved daughter (Betty), with an unnamed enslaved mother. He freed both, granting them freedom as their sole inheritance.

Heirs' Land Sales in Culpeper County, Virginia

On May 13, 1767, James and Mary Duncanson, Hannah McCauly, and James and Ann Finnie jointly sold 1,255 acres of land inherited from Dr. William Lynn in Culpeper County, Virginia, to James Barbour, Jr.⁸ However, the 1,255 acres was not all the inherited land they received. In 1780, James and Mary Duncanson sold 420 acres of Lynn's land between White Oak Run and Little Dark Run to Thomas Porter. The deed named the land as previously owned by James Finnie. In this deed, James Duncanson stated: "And the said land and premises and every part thereof (sic) unto the said Thomas Porter⁹ his heirs and assigns . . . shall and will warrant and forever defend against him the said James Duncanson and his heirs or against all and every person whatsoever claiming by him or under him or any of these . . ."¹⁰

In 1781, Thomas Porter gave the 420-acre tract to his son-in-law, John Major, as a gift. In 1789, John Major sold all 420 acres to William Carpenter.^{11,12}

County and Town of Madison, Virginia

In 1793, when the Commonwealth of Virginia created Madison County from Culpeper County, the Gentlemen Justices chose to place the county seat in the center of the county. This was on a portion of the 420-acre property then owned by William Carpenter. William Carpenter sold and leased various-sized pieces from this 420-acre tract to several individuals. He also sold a 2-acre tract to the County of Madison for its courthouse. In 1800, the state ordered that 50 acres be set aside for the town of Madison.

Decades later, a flaw was found in this chain of title. The issue was specifically in the 1780 sale of the Lynn/Duncanson lands to Thomas Porter. This led to a landmark 1824 decision by the Virginia Court of Appeals affecting dozens of Madison County landowners. Learn more about this case in the forthcoming companion article, "Don't Sell What You Don't Own."

1 An account further detailing the grant and its history is presented in an internet article titled "The Fairfax Grant" by Virginia Places: Virginiaplaces.org/settleland/Fairfaxgrant.html

2 "Beyond Germanna Newsletter" collection by John Blankenbaker, 2004.

3 Orange County Deeds; Deed Book 11, p. 116 (Waugh to Lynn).

4 Orange County Deeds; Deed Book 10, pp. 459-464 (Eddins to Lynn).

5 Virginia Northern Neck Land Grants: Abstracts Compiled by Gertrude E. Gray 1988, Grant Book G.

6 Doctor William Lynn: Loretta Lynn Wayman, "Baron of Lynn" The Scottish Genealogist, Volume LVII, No. 1, Scottish Genealogical Society March 2010.

7 Doctor William Lynn Will: Spotsylvania County Will Book B, p. 10.

8 Culpeper County Deeds: Deed Book E, p. 351 (Duncanson, McCauly, Finnie to James Barbour, Jr.).

9 Culpeper County Deeds: Deed Book K, p. 311 (Duncanson to Porter).

10 Culpeper County Deeds: Deed Book K, p. 311 (Duncanson to Porter).

11 Culpeper County Deeds: Deed Book K, p. 248 (Porter to Major).

12 Culpeper County Deeds: Deed Book P, p. 124 (Major to Carpenter).

Travels of the Clore Travel Chest

One of our newer acquisitions at the Madison Museum at Kemper is a small calfskin covered chest. It measures approximately 24 inches by 12 inches by 11 ½ inches. No one knows exactly where its journey began but its story notes that it “came over the mountains” to the Louisville, KY area in the late 1800s with the family. That family may have included James William (Willie) Clore (1855–1937) and this leg of the journey possibly began here in Madison County. Willie, the son of John Jamison Clore of Madison County, certainly spent part of his life here in the county.

The chest was “discovered” in the late 1960s at the Wilcox-Clore farm in Avoca, KY (west of Louisville.) This farm had been handed down to James William (Willie) Clore and his wife Belle Wilcox Clore. Their great grandson Daniel (Dan) Clore Plaster asked to keep the chest. It lived with Daniel in Lexington, MA until 2018 when it moved to his garage in Redondo Beach, CA. Dan wrote that “in it were stored a brush, probably from the farm, two prized Tonka Toys and a home-made set of nun-chucks.”

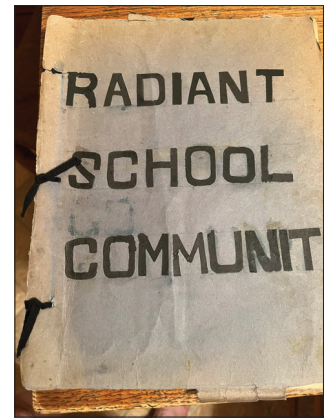
The chest now resides in the Law Office on the Kemper Property. Dan Plaster shipped it to the Museum in early summer 2024. During the Germanna reunion in July 2026, he stopped by to tour the museum and visit his old toy box.

We thank Dan Plaster for the gift of the chest and invite our readers to visit the Museum at Kemper to take a look at it.



Visit Kemper!

Come to the Museum at Kemper to check out new items. Recent acquisitions include two scrapbooks filled with newspaper clippings, a booklet created by Radiant School students in 1939, and an antique record player. The latter came from members of the Colvin family and was used for dances in Wolftown. It came with two albums of records!

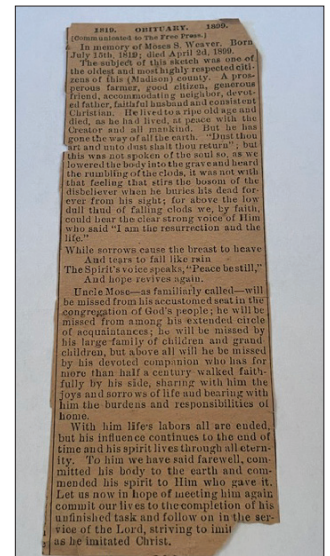


Wanted: Obituaries

During the 2026 season, volunteers at the Madsion Museum at Kemper are getting back to a project begun by Ruth Tucker Penn back in the early 2010s. Ruth clipped obituaries from the Madison County Eagle, photocopied many of them, arranged them into five blue binders that she donated to the Historical Society. At some point, Judy Mahanes created an index in Excel so Ruth could check on what she'd done without thumbing through the binders. All this happened when the Museum still resided at the Arcade. For several years before the Museum moved to the Kemper Residence in 2017, museum volunteers spent the winter months going through files and piles of old newspapers to clip obituaries for Ruth's project. The Museum moved, but for whatever reason, the binders and boxes of clippings stayed at the Arcade until last year.

Ruth filed 450 obituaries in her binders. We are now up to a few over 900 and have switched to five larger white binders. We have more clippings to process but Volunteers have been working so fast that we will soon need more!

The BIG request: If you have an obituary collection and are debating what to do with it... don't throw it away. Don't let your children or grandchildren throw it away. Give the obituaries to us! 540-395-5119. Better yet, come visit the Museum and bring what you have.



Moses S. Weaver
(1819-1899)

The Culpeper Minutemen

Our speaker for the Society's quarterly program on Sunday, May 17, 2026, was Colonel Bill Schwetke. After graduating from Texas A & M University, Schwetke served in the US Air Force for many years and later as a civilian pilot with Southwest Airlines. More recently, he has been active in the Sons of the American Revolution organization; he is an expert on the Culpeper Minutemen. In his talk, he led us on a tour of events leading to the march on Hampton in 1775.



In the years leading up to the American Revolution of 1776, Virginia was the largest, wealthiest, and most populous of the American colonies. Meanwhile, Britain was focused on recovering after fighting the Seven Years War (1756–1763). Parliament needed money to repay debt and repair ships. American tobacco was money, a valuable resource whose trade Britain wanted to control. Colonists resented that they had no representation in Parliament. Labor-intensive tobacco farming was dependent on the labor of enslaved persons. The royal governor of Virginia was worried about a slave uprising. Who is in charge? Nobody is happy.

By August 1774, colonists began to form "Committees of Safety" to oversee duties once done by royal governors. They elected delegates to Continental Congress. In August 1775, the Third Virginia Convention passed an ordinance for forming sixteen military districts in Virginia. Each of these was directed to form a minute battalion of skilled riflemen. The Culpeper

district consisting of Fauquier, Orange, and Culpeper (which included present day Madison) counties was one of the few in the Virginia colony able to meet its quota of trained soldiers ready to fight quickly. The uniforms for these "Minutemen" were hunting shirts dyed either green or brown. The exact design of their flag is unknown, but it likely included a rattlesnake and slogans like "Liberty or Death" or "Don't tread on me."

In October 1775, active fighting moved beyond Massachusetts when the British prepared to bombard the port of Hampton. The Culpeper Minute Battalion was sent to be part of the defense of Hampton. The well-trained riflemen began shooting at the six British ships. British sailors took shelter below deck. One ship ran aground, and the other five sailed away. The Patriots suffered no casualties. What if the British had prevailed at Hampton? We can't really answer that. Nor can we say the Culpeper Minutemen won the Revolutionary War via this battle, but Colonel Schwetke emphasized that the Minutemen certainly helped keep the revolution alive.



4th Grade Walks the Town

The Fourth Grade Walking Tour in the town of Madison occurred on Monday, May 18, 2026. Students walked up the street from Waverly Yowell School to visit the county administrative building where they were greeted by Brian Gordon. They got a quick look into the Kemper Law Office and cabin and stopped under the Library trees for a short presentation from the librarians. Then came the long hike to the Arcade and shorter strolls to the War Memorial lawn and the Court House and Clerk's Office. They took a direct route back to school to get there in time for lunch. The Board thanks all volunteers and county officials who made this a special day for the students.

Madison County Historical Society
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Address Service Requested



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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 Museums and on-line at <http://www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org>. (Click "About" and scroll down the page.)

For more information about any of our activities, or to schedule a museum visit outside of normal hours, call the Society's office at 540-395-5119. Leave a message if no one answers so we may return your call.

VISIT OUR MUSEUMS

Madison Museum and the Kemper Residence

412 N Main Street

Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

(Closed mid-December - March 1st)

Mountain Museum at Criglersville

1128 Old Blue Ridge Turnpike

Open Sunday, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

***Memorial chimney and kiosks
open all the time.***

Graves Mill Park

52 Bluff Mountain Road

Open all the time.

Arcade

124 N Main Street

Open by special announcement.