



Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow

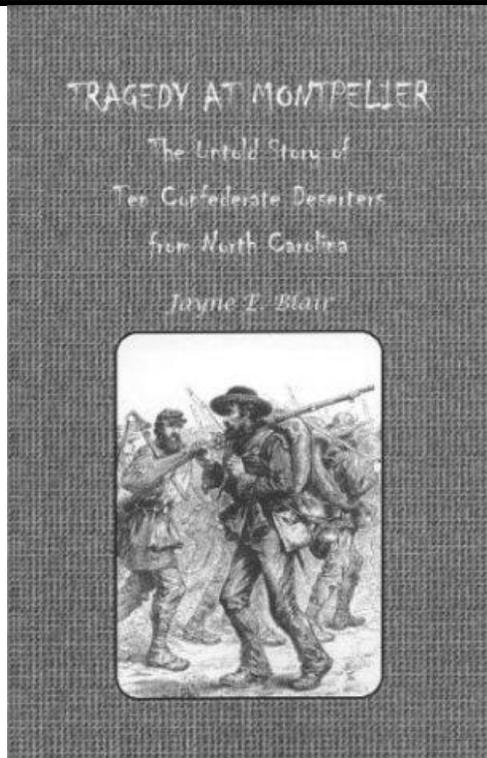


THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

February 2005



JAYNE BLAIR SPEAKER AT FEBRUARY MEETING

The Society membership meeting will be held on February 20, 2005 at 2 p.m. in the auditorium of the Madison County Administration Building. Ms. Jayne Blair will talk about her book Tragedy at Montpelier, a narrative about Confederate soldiers who fought at Gettysburg and their unfortunate ultimate demise. Ms. Blair is a Senior Guide at Montpelier. Her book is based on evidence uncovered in research at Montpelier. After the talk refreshments will be

served in the Kemper Residence, next to the County Administration Building.



Kerry Grycznski speaks

SPEAKER FROM JAMESTOWN

Statewide interest is being generated in "Jamestown 2007", a celebration of the 400th anniversary of the settlement of Virginia.

Kerry Grycznski of the community outreach program of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation outlined plans for the observance at the November 21st meeting of the Society.

"This is an opportunity to put Virginia in the national and international spotlight", she said.

Goals of the celebration are to increase tourism development in all areas of Virginia, to expand economic development throughout the Commonwealth, and to renew educational awareness of Virginia's role in the building of the United States over the last four centuries.

President Bush has signed legislation authorizing the production of commemorative coins. The U.S. Mint will design the coin and will

produce 500,000 silver dollars and 100,000 gold \$5 pieces to be sold through 2007.

Sponsors of the historic celebration are encouraging all Virginians to become involved through the Virginia 2007 Community Program which is designed to promote state pride and take positive steps for growth and progress in the 21st century.

Gryczynski said 83 communities have completed applications to be included in the program and several dozen more are in the process. Each community will develop special projects and events. She said Orange County, where she lives, will undertake a genealogy program among other activities. In Culpeper County a tour of colonial sites is being developed. Fredericksburg is creating a heritage trail and Charlottesville is working on education programs on democracy.

After a question and answer period the group adjourned to the Kemper Residence for conversation and refreshments.

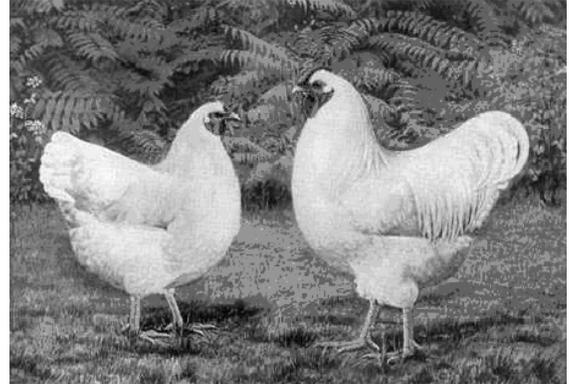
PIEDMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

On Saturday, April 9, 2005, from 9 am until 2 pm, the annual conference of the Historical Society of the Virginia Piedmont will be held at the Madison County Office Building auditorium. This conference provides an opportunity for historical societies in the area, ranging from Henrico in the east to Amherst in the south and Rappahannock in the north, to share their ideas and experiences.

The honor of hosting the meeting is rotated among the societies, this year coming to the Madison County Historical Society. Most of the previous meetings have addressed a central theme, such as collecting written records, obtaining oral histories, enlisting volunteers, encouraging community participation. The topic of this year's conference will be Preservation and Display of Historic Objects: Wood, Paper, Photographs, Pottery and Stone. The speakers will be Steve Hoffman on wooden furniture, Mary Parke Johnson on paper and photographs, and Carole Nash on Native American artifacts (pottery and stone). In addition each historical society will have a display of material reflecting its interests and activities. During lunch the Kemper Residence will be open for touring and

after lunch at the conclusion of the talks participants will be taken on a tour of the Strode Collection of Native American Artifacts at the Arcade.

The conference is open, free of charge, to members of the Society. Box lunches will be available for purchase by advance order. People wishing to order a box lunch may call the Historical Society at 948-5488 between 10 and 2 on Tuesdays and Thursdays to speak with a volunteer or at other hours to leave a message on the answering machine. Please encourage your friends to attend.



THE ARCADE MUSEUM

The Museum's recent acquisition of two chicken coops from the old W. J. Carpenter Company factory on Route 29 north of Madison started us thinking about the importance of chickens on the farms of Madison County. Nearly every family had a chicken house whether they lived on a farm or not. Chickens took up little space, unlike cows and pigs. With even a small flock of chickens, there were fresh eggs and meat for the table.

The three most popular breeds that this writer remembers were the Dominiques (also called Dominikers or Plymouth Rocks), the Rhode Island Reds and white Leghorns. The Dominiques were introduced by the New England colonists. The Rhode Island Reds were developed in Rhode Island in the 1830's. They are a mixture of several other breeds. The Leghorns (pronounced "leggerns" in the U.S.) are considered to have originated in Leghorn, Italy. Leghorns produce white eggs while the other two breeds mentioned above produce brown eggs.

These three breeds were, for the most part, hardy and able to thrive on open range. Their egg production was good but many people preferred the Leghorn because it produced more

eggs than the other breeds. However, it was a poor choice if you were seeking meat for the table.

The W. J. Carpenter Company plant produced coops to transport chickens and turkeys to market when the raising of poultry became another source of income for farm families. (The R. C. Aylor Company in Brightwood was another manufacturer of coops.) The coops were made of hickory cut from the forests of Madison County. They were sold throughout the United States. With the invention of plastic, the wooden coops went out of favor because plastic coops were cheaper and lighter. The Carpenter Company, under Thomas Ford, then began producing "coop crafts" which were utility pieces using the same hickory construction.

The Museum currently features a display of items relating to the importance of chickens as a source of food and income. Displayed is a photograph of the employees of the W. J. Carpenter Company plant in 1935 as well as an egg crate and egg basket along with other items relating to chickens. You are invited to drop by any Tuesday or Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We welcome your suggestions for future displays!

ACQUISITIONS



One of many photos from the 19th century album

Alexander Hall of Richmond, Virginia, has again extended his generosity to the Historical Society by bequeathing additional gifts in memory of his late wife Russwyn Hume Hall.

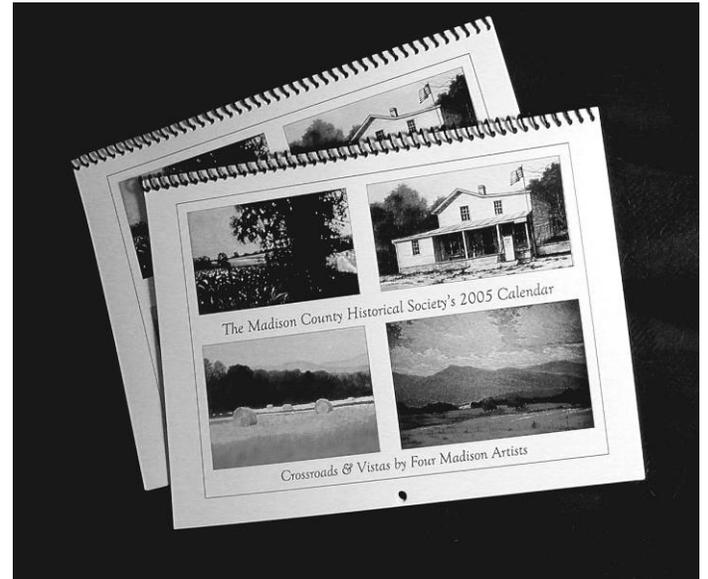
- A beautiful nineteenth century photo album containing photographs of Colonel Henry Hill, General A. P. Hill, Jefferson Davis and numerous unidentified family members.
- A genealogical book on the Hume-Kennedy and related families.

These items in addition to the Hume family bible will be on display at the Arcade Museum in the near future. We thank Mr. Hall for these generous gifts. This material will also provide invaluable information for those researching these families.

JACK AND MARTHA CORNWELL GIFTS

Thanks to Jack and Martha Cornwell for their continued support of the Historical Society. The Cornwell's have given a lovely walnut dough bowl and additional Blue and White china in the Bicentennial pattern. The china will be used for the seasonal teas and other special events held at the Kemper Residence

2005 CALENDAR



Art Work by Lou Mesa, Margaret Novak, Lawrence Altaffer and Tucker Hill

As with its three predecessors, the Society's fourth annual Calendar was introduced to the public at the Taste of the Mountains Street Festival. The 2005 Calendar features four of Madison's best known professional artists who

work in very different media, and for the first time, the paintings and prints for each month are reproduced in full color.

Each artist contributed three works to the Calendar, the proceeds of which go to the work of the Society. They are on sale for 10.00 plus tax at many local businesses including The Hand Craft Shop and Greystone, as well as the Arcade.

The Society thanks these four artists for making their art available for reproduction in its 2005 calendar.

KEMPER TEA



Rita Cunningham greets tea guests

The Winter Tea was ushered in by snowfall on January 19. However, it did not deter our faithful following. With the exception of three guests, the tea went as planned. Again we served our delicious repast of savories, sweets, tea breads, scones and fruits. Our faithful volunteers who prepared and served the rich fare were Lee Decker, Mary Haught, Anne Hughes, Genevieve McLearn, Heidi Sage, Jill Schreiner, Betty Lynn Yowell and Rita Cunningham. A special thanks to our scone baker Bob Haught. We are delighted to welcome Emma Berry into the exclusive Kemper Girl Club

The Spring Tea is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6th, at 12:30 o'clock. Seating is available on the main floor and in the English Basement which is handicapped accessible. Reservations

are required. Cost of the tea is \$18.00. Make your plans early as seating is limited. Call Rita Cunningham at 948-6542 to reserve a seat.

2005 ORNAMENT



The 2005 ornament features Hebron Lutheran Church. Previous ornaments (the Courthouse for 2002, the Kemper Residence for 2003 and the Arcade for 2004) are also available. You can purchase ornaments at the Arcade and the Library. Cost is \$10.00 plus tax. For more information call 948-5488.

STRUGGLES ON THE SOUTHERN HOMEFRONT IN THE CIVIL WAR

by Ann M. Ferguson

Ersatz in the Confederacy, Shortages and Substitutes on the Southern Homefront, by Mary Elizabeth Massey, documents factors that led to civilian deprivation and misery in the southern battleground states during the Civil War. She named Virginia as the state that suffered most, writing "From the first Battle of Manassas to the final surrender at Appomattox, from the seacoast to the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia was the major battlefield of the War." While Madison County was not the site of any major battles, its location was on a direct line of Confederate and Union troop movements bringing acute shortages to its civilian population. Following is a review of Miss Massey's material.

Before secession became a reality, voices were raised warning that the South's reliance on imported goods from the North and from

England placed it in a vulnerable position if those avenues were closed without some alternative source for goods. While there were several sizeable factories in the South in 1861, they were not capable of supplying all the demands of twelve million people. Nonetheless, by April 1861 the war began and the South was engaged in a battle for its independence while opportunities for other ways to obtain basic commodities had not been identified.

As early as the summer of 1861, an article in the Southern Cultivator, a widely read agricultural journal, listed some everyday articles that were no longer available, including clothing, shoes, paper, candles, oil, kerosene, glass, rope, cordage, soap and starch. The piece went on to offer suggestions to remedy the problem and encouraged the southern people to “originate”. Another newspaper expanded on the theme and offered instructions for the making of scarce items such as cloth, soap and starch and what substitutes could be used for coffee and tea. At the same time, other newspapers published editorials to bolster the courage of southerners, encouraging a complacent attitude. A Richmond editor admitted there were shortages in these early days of the war, but readers were assured these were temporary thereby creating hope instead of determination.

As the flow of basic staples slowed to a trickle, the situation worsened when President Lincoln declared a blockade on the Confederacy. Southerners at first felt optimistic that it would be impossible to effectively blockade three thousand miles of coastline. By 1862 it became clear that the blockade was working more thoroughly with each passing month.

Women played a key role in blockade-running. The style of feminine clothing at the time made for ease in sewing items, particularly scarce medicines such as quinine, morphine and other drugs, into the clothing because of their small bulk.

The scourge of the population at the time was the speculators who bought up salt, bacon and leather to sell at inflated prices. In early 1862, the Wilmington Journal accused speculators of having done “more harm than the enemy”. Scattered instances of hoarding were another evil that added to the problem. However, for every speculator and hoarder, there were hundreds of generous, patriotic citizens who

gave of their resources until they were forced to do without.

The diminished availability of a means to transport goods added to the problem. Wagons and the horses, mules and even oxen needed to pull them were sent to the military leaving only remnants of the once generous supply for use on the homefront. This meant that even when a source of scarce goods was found transportation was not available to bring it to the areas in need.



Food A shortage of food became the most serious problem. The civilian population was willing to make-do with leftovers after the military needs were met. However, labor to harvest, plant for the next season, and do the many tasks needed to insure a bountiful harvest was in short supply. Women, children and the elderly and disabled made up the work force since all able-bodied men were off fighting.

Many sections of Virginia suffered from a lack of food because they were in a see-saw position that saw Union and Confederate troops repeatedly criss-crossing their region during the war's four years. Sometimes the enemy laid waste to planted fields or troops from both sides would forage for food thereby aggravating the already acute shortages for the civilian population.

Coffee, tea, salt and sugar were the first items that disappeared from store shelves. Recipe books published during the war stressed shortages and modeled recipes to fit the times. The recipes were simple and names that befitted the conflict were given to some of the concoctions such as “Rebel Bread” and “Beauregard Cake”.

Everyone was encouraged to plant food crops including city dwellers with small properties.

Even that became a problem in many areas as seed was scarce. In the spring of 1863 pea, bean, corn and tomato seed was hard to find in Richmond. In February 1865, an amateur gardener in the same city bought a quarter ounce of cabbage seed at \$10 an ounce.

The shortage of meat stayed acute throughout the war. Fish was a good substitute, but even those willing to fish for their food sometimes faced a shortage of the essentials needed to catch them. The lack of salt was probably the most serious problem that aggravated the shortage of meat when available meats spoiled because there was no salt to preserve it. People scraped the top dirt from their smokehouse floors, boiled it in water and skimmed the residue it produced. However, that solution was quickly exhausted.

Sugar was a very scarce commodity and sorghum became the most popular substitute. Honey and a variety of syrups were used, but their supply was never sufficient to meet the need. Persimmons were used to make sugar and both watermelons and figs were made into syrup for use as a sweetener.

The high grade of white flour needed to make dainty desserts and pastries was almost unobtainable. A recipe that used white potatoes in the making of pie crust was used and corn meal was often substituted in the making of pastries, cakes and waffles. Spices and flavorings such as vanilla also began to disappear from household pantries with no available replacements. Cooks in the Confederacy found substitutes in the leaves of trees, especially fruit trees. Peach leaves were substituted for vanilla. Vinegar could only rarely be found if it was available at all. Recipes for making vinegar were among the most frequently published in newspapers. One recommended mixing molasses and water together and letting it stand for two months. Another said that blackberries, water and molasses mixed and set in the sun for two weeks made "excellent vinegar".

Coffee was the most sorely missed beverage. The most popular substitute was rye which was boiled, dried, and then ground like coffee. Other substitutes often used were okra seed and corn. Both were dried and parched similar to the preparation used for rye. Sweet potatoes became another expedient for coffee. The

potatoes were peeled and cut into "chunks" the size of coffee berries, then spread out in the sun to dry, parched until brown, after which they were ground. The grounds were mixed with a little water into a paste and then hot water was added. When the grounds settled to the bottom of the pot, the beverage could be poured. The sediment was said to be a good cleaning agent for carpets, curtains and other household accessories. Acorns, dandelion roots, sugar cane, parched rice, cotton seed, sorghum molasses, English peas, peanuts, wheat and beans were also used as coffee substitutes.



Clothing A shortage of clothing developed more slowly than the scarcity of food, but by the end of the war it was serious. The South was used to receiving most of its clothing materials and shoes from Europe and the North. The skins of deer, sheep and goats, squirrels and pigs were used for shoes during the war. Pigskin was conceded to be unsatisfactory as the leather stretched out of shape after only a few days wear. Shoes were also made from old leather articles.. Anything that contained enough suitable material for a pair of shoes could be converted including leather furniture, belts, saddles and trunks. If no substitutes could be found for leather shoes, various kinds of cloth were used such as canvas and duck sometimes with wooden soles. All wood shoes, similar to Dutch footwear, were made from ash, poplar and willow trees and the roots of the black gum tree. These woods were chosen because of their light weight.

Old clothing was made over several times during the war as women who had done little sewing except for fancy hand work found themselves reconverting old garments. Women in the

Confederacy turned to knitting, carding, spinning and weaving – using the old fashioned arts that were not entirely forgotten.

The shortage of wool led to new combinations of material ingeniously worked out by women in the South. An often-used combination was that of cotton and rabbit, or raccoon fur. Cow hair and dog hair too, were combined with cotton, producing a wool-like material.

Draperies and curtains were soon turned into new garments and even carpets were cut up. However, that was usually for the making of suits and coats. Sheets, pillow cases and tablecloths were converted into clothing, especially for undergarments. These sources were not in plentiful supply as they were a priority for use in making bandages for the war effort.



Paper, Ink and Pens The scarcity of paper was most noticeable in the production of newspapers. The south had several good-sized paper factories in 1861, but the needed rags, chemicals, machines and type were not available in sufficient quantity to maintain normal production. By June 1862, all four Richmond newspapers had been reduced to a half sheet. As time passed some editors resorted to the use of wallpaper to publish the news. An enterprising editor in Alabama devised a way to take notes for his daily stories by using a shingle that he would wipe off each day for re-use over and over.

Paper for letter writing was a luxury of the past in most areas and many southerners used the margins of pages from books to write their letters and journal notes.

Ink became scarce and a substitute was made from pokeberries. Even steel pens disappeared in some parts of the south so that people returned to the use of quills.



Odds and Ends Lard was used as a hair oil substitute, sometimes mixed with rose petals. Toothbrushes, if they could be found, sold for \$2 each. Pig bristles and twigs became the standard substitute. Toys could not be found and rag and nut-faced dolls were made along with assorted toys carved from wood. Boiled walnuts and assorted berries were used for dyes.

The small supply of basic items brought such inflated prices they were out of reach for most people. When available, salt was \$1 a pound, brown sugar \$2, calico was \$1.25 a yard and a cord of wood that was \$5 before the war was bringing \$30 in 1863.

The homefront showed fortitude and ingenuity in their survival of the war years. Its struggles are well documented in this carefully researched book.

Ersatz in the Confederacy by Mary Elizabeth Massey was first published in 1952 and re-issued in 1993 by the University of South Carolina Press. .

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:

Benefactor	\$250 and above	Business	\$50
Partner	\$100 to \$249	Family	\$20
Friend	\$50 to \$99	Single	\$10
		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.

Madison County Historical Society

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