

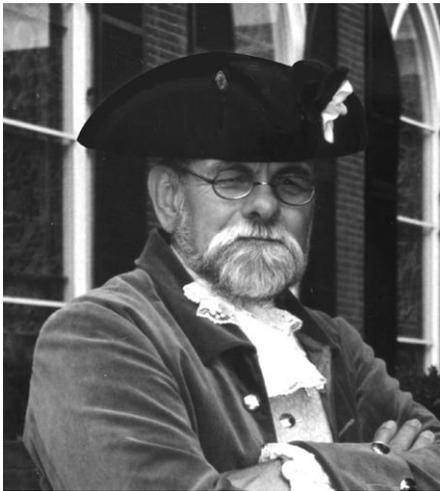
Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

February 2007



FRANK WALKER TO SPEAK AT FEBRUARY 18, 2007 MEETING

Frank S. Walker, Jr., well known Orange County resident, historian, author and raconteur will speak at the February 18, 2007 meeting of the Madison County Historical Society. In conjunction with the celebration of President's Day, the subject of his talk will be George Washington.

Mr. Walker, grandson of Robert Walker, who co-founded Woodberry Forest School, has dairy farmed, practiced law and guided tours for many years in Madison and Orange counties. He is the author of: *Remembering: A History of Orange County, Virginia*, published in 2004. He will present a series of six free lectures involving different chapters of his book, beginning February 3, 2007. For complete information regarding these lectures please contact the Orange County Historical Society.

Mr. Walker is very knowledgeable about heritage-oriented history, particularly that of the local area. Four of our first five Presidents were Virginians. It is fitting that we celebrate the first of these at our meeting on February 18, 2007 with some anecdotes about George Washington. The meeting will be at 2:00pm in the auditorium of the Madison County Administration building and will be followed by refreshments in the Kemper Residence next door.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Annual Membership meeting of the Madison County Historical Society will be held on Sunday, February 1, 2007 at 2:00pm. The terms of four members of the Board of Directors expire. The Nominating Committee submits the following to fill these terms: Maury Hanson, Carole Milks, Jill Schreiner and Jane Volchansky. The Annual Report of the Society will be available to members.

MEMBERSHIP

The following have become new members of the Society:

Daniel and Evelyn DeSantis,
Marilyn L. Canfield,
Mr. and Mrs. V. R. Shackelford

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

LEONTYNE PECK SPEAKS AT NOVEMBER MEETING



Leontyne Clay Peck, the speaker at the November Historical Society meeting, has over 20 years experience in African-American history. She is an educational consultant for Afritiques. Her recent book ***Silver Children African-American Children of Henry Clay*** is available at the Arcade Museum.

Ms. Peck grew up in Piedmont, West Virginia and discovered in 2003 that she had roots in Madison County. After moving to Charlottesville she decided to make a trip to the Madison County Courthouse where she met Carolyn Watts who assisted her in locating information on Amanda and Washington Clay. She contacted Jane Volchansky at the Arcade Museum who steered her to more resources. Another source was Miss Lottie Banks with whom she met and heard stories about her Clay family ancestors.

Following this she met Julian Burke at the African American Conference at Piedmont Community College who became her mentor and assisted her in discovering 300 years of her family history. She was able to locate Elmo Clay in Sperryville who turned out to be a cousin and then arrange a family reunion in West Virginia which was a high point for her ailing father.

Research indicates that many of Henry Clay's children were mulattos and were identified as "silver" children in the family bible. Many of these children were emancipated or went to areas where they could live as free blacks. It is their story that is told in Ms. Peck's book.

MANAHOAC CONFERENCE

As part of the state's celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the 1607 Jamestown settlement, "America's 400th Anniversary," the Madison County Historical Society agreed to serve as coordinator/director of the county's participation in the "Virginia 2007 Community Program." The Historical Society's primary contribution will be a conference on the Manahoac Indians of Madison County.

The Manahoac were a tribe or confederation of tribes occupying this part of piedmont Virginia. Bands of Manahoac warriors were encountered during Captain John Smith's 1608 voyage up the Rappahannock, and, through the intercession of a captured Manahoac, friendly relations were established. However, by the end of the 17th century the tribe seemed to have disappeared from the area. Various explanations for their disappearance have been put forth (warfare with other tribes, disease brought by the English, migration to other areas, and incorporation into other tribes) but so far no entirely satisfactory explanation has been provided. This conference will allow experts in the field to review for us the facts known about the tribe, to consider the possible causes of their absence and perhaps to suggest avenues for future research.

Carole Nash, an archaeologist at James Madison University, has agreed to organize and chair the conference which will be held Saturday, April 14, here in Madison (exact location still to be determined). There will be a morning session of papers by experts in the field and an afternoon round table discussion in which the speakers can discuss various aspects of the Manahoac mystery and audience members can comment and question the speakers. To date the list of speakers and their topics are: Carole Nash, "The People of Hilly Countries: The Manahoac of the Northern Virginia Piedmont"; Dr. Stephen Potter, National Park Service, "The Potomac Valley at Contact: A Regional Perspective on the Virginia Interior"; Dr. Douglas Sanford, Mary Washington University, "The Indians at Germanna"; Dr. Christopher Stevenson, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, "Spotswood and Fort Christianna: The Removal of the Indian People from the Interior"; and Dr. Michael Barber,

Virginia Department of Historic Resources: "Archaeology and the Lost Tribes of the Interior. Details concerning location, time and registration will be announced well before the conference.

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

As we review the number of volunteers throughout the last couple of years we are impressed to see we have had as many as twenty-six. Of course we have not had this many at any one time since health concerns and other reasons take volunteers on and off actual duty from time to time.

In addition to keeping our museum open on a regular basis, our goal for the winter months has been to clear out the many bags of newspapers by clipping articles we need for our family files. We scheduled four sessions for the winter months and are grateful for the extra pairs of hands to move this project forward. We are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. With a good turnout for the Jan. 29th, Feb 5th and 26th sessions we should be ready to spend more time on phase 2, which is preparing the clipped articles for copying. We will focus on phase 2 in the fall.

With phase 1 about half completed we can begin to move around the storage room more easily and think about better use of the storage area.

We are happy to have new folks join us for any of these sessions. Come anytime between 10:00 and 2:00. Give the full four hours or cut back your time if you have other commitments. We will be delighted to have you join us for any of these clipping sessions.

Remember our museum is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The hours are 10:00-2:00.

The Historical Society is grateful to our many volunteers who have been so faithful. It is greatly appreciated. The museum is fortunate to have such great workers. Thank you over and over again. Along with our great collection, volunteers, too, are great gems!

AT THE ARCADE

The Arcade has a new exhibit. This one features the Madison Woolen Mills. Yes, there was a mill on the Robinson River which

produced woolen blankets. Built by a Mr. Larkin in the 1880's, the mill was later owned by Hamilton Berry. Vee Tull, who is the granddaughter of Hamilton Berry, gave the Museum several of the blankets which had been produced in this mill. If anyone has more information on this mill, please call the museum at 948-5488. There seems to be very little information in print and this unique part of Madison history may be lost without input from those who might remember it or have a photograph of it. An artist's drawing of the mill is on display.

Do any of our readers remember mention of the hand-woven sheets and coverlets given to the Society? The donor said she bought them at one of Aylor's auctions near Reva in 1999 and we thought they may have been woven here. After asking many questions we have determined that the articles were not woven in Madison after all but, instead, were brought here from North or South Dakota by the Arms family. Like several of our holdings that are not uniquely Madison, we will hold the linens because of their rarity.

The consultants made available to us through a grant from the Virginia Genealogical Society have looked at the holdings of the Madison County Historical Society and have given us their written report. Edward Gaynor and Ellen Welch from the University of Virginia Library System spent a day with us, looking at our storage methods and analyzing our needs. They recommended a computer program called Filemaker to assist in the retrieval of information. This program, however, calls for Windows XP or 2000. Our computer is not quite large enough to run this program. They also specified which items in the collection required acid free paper or boxes for proper storage. These items all have to be purchased. Funding for the computer program, the larger computer and the acid free papers and boxes will be of much concern to those whose responsibility it is to care for the items in the collection. Any financial help from our members will be appreciated.

We continue to have visitors looking for information about their ancestors. And we continue to ask for copies of unpublished genealogies—no matter how incomplete.

Please note the *FAMILY SEARCH* column in this issue of the newsletter.

FAMILY SEARCH

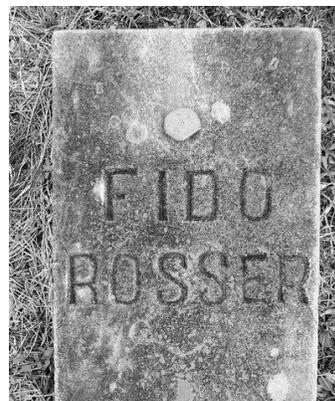
ARCADE DISPLAYS

There is a display for February-Black History Month at the Arcade. It features a book written by Leontyne Clay Peck about her journey to find her father's roots. It finally leads to Henry Clay of Madison County. The book called ***Silver Children*** is for sale at the Arcade.

There are also several documents and articles about other Madison county citizens on display. We have made use of a recycled display stand to better display the books and other items for sale in the Arcade.

The old 'Gibbs and Estes' desk has been moved to the restored Kemper Law Office where, being typical of the time period, it will be more fully appreciated. This will give us more room for our displays

Elizabeth Hobbs from 1789 Gloucester Rd. in Gloucester Point, VA 23062 is seeking information on ancestors who lived in the Old Rag, Hazel Mountain, Nethers Mill area. These ancestors are Norris Jenkins, Gabriel Nethers, Francis Weakley and Mary Berry. If you can help her, please contact her at the above address or call Jane Volchansky at 923-4584 who will relay information to her.



CEMETERIES IN MADISON COUNTY

Sandy Stowe is working hard to finalize information for the first book documenting Madison County cemeteries and old graveyards. There are still many graves which have not yet been visited, so there will be at least one more volume at a later date. This has been a long slow process for Sandy but with recent help from a number of our members, she is planning to have it published and on sale at the Arcade in 2007. Pictured are two of many interesting stones she has discovered



2007 ORNAMENT

The 2007 Ornament featuring the Chestnut Grove Baptist Church is now available. You may purchase this Ornament as well as previous ornaments (The Court House, Kemper Residence, Arcade, Hebron Lutheran Church, and Piedmont Episcopal Church) at the Arcade Museum for \$11.00 plus tax. For more information call 948-5488



This rock marker was hand painted by Diane Perl



Front and obverse view of key chain

MADISON KEY CHAIN

Among the items available for sale in the communities supporting the Jamestown 2007 festivities is a key chain with the 2007 Jamestown logo on one side and "The Legacies of Jamestown: Representative Government, Rule of Law, Free Enterprise" on the other. The Historical Society decided to offer this item for sale at the Arcade, but to replace the Legacies of Jamestown with the Madison County Courthouse. The company distributing the items for America's 400th Anniversary was happy to work with us. Accordingly, Tucker Hill took a photograph of the courthouse. This was sent to the design studio in South Carolina where an artist rendered the likeness into a form that could be used to construct a die. That work was approved by the Historical Society and one hundred key chains were cast. These are available at the Arcade for \$10 each, mementos not only of America's 400th Anniversary but also of Madison County.

KEMPER TEA

Spring Tea at the Kemper Residence will be held on March 28, 2007, at 12:30 o'clock. The menu will feature a delicious assortment of scones, tea sandwiches, tea breads, sweets and fruits. The special Kemper House Tea will be served and will also be available for sale. A wonderful exhibit featuring a variety of antique shoes, hats and other garments will be a highlight of the afternoon. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Rita Cunningham at 948-6542. Cost for this event is \$18.00 per person.

HOLIDAY EVENING AT THE KEMPER RESIDENCE

The Society hosted an open house at the Kemper Residence on Friday, December 1, 2006. Hot cider and cookies were served. The Residence was decorated for the Christmas Season and music was provided by harpist John Kovac. A special exhibit of antique children's toys was on display in the parlor. It proved to be a very enjoyable evening as the lovely music filled the house.

KEMPER RESIDENCE ANTIQUE ROADSHOW

The second annual "ROADSHOW" will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2007, 10:00AM to 2:00PM, at the County Administrator's Auditorium on North Main Street. Appraisals will be conducted by Steve Hoffman, local historian and furniture restorer, and Sarah Francis Hays, owner of Quail at the Woods Antique Shop in Culpeper. Mr. Hoffman will evaluate furniture, toys, tools, antique arms and armor, paper and documents and Ms. Hays - china, crystal, glass, fine arts (prints) and silver. Cost of an appraisal will be \$10.00 per item or \$25.00 for three. For more information you may contact Rita Cunningham at 948-6542.

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

P.O. Box 467

Madison, Virginia 22727

