



Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

[http:// www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org/](http://www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org/)

P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

August 2011

DONNA BEDWELL SPEAKER AT AUGUST 21ST MEETING



Anniversary Coordinator Donna Bedwell

Donna Bedwell, 75th Anniversary Coordinator for Shenandoah National Park since July of 2009, will be the speaker for the August 21, 2011 meeting of the Madison County Historical Society. She will speak on the highlights of the decades leading up to the 75th Anniversary and give an overview of the events of 2011. She will also entertain questions.

In anticipation of this anniversary, Katy Powell spoke to the Society in May 2010 about her two books on the mountain people removed from the land which was to become the Park and the anguish associated with their removal. At the November 2010 meeting, Karen Beck-Herzog, Management Assistant of SNP, spoke to the Society about "Celebrating Shenandoah Connections: Past, Present and Future".

Mrs. Bedwell's professional experiences include being Director of Tourism in Orange, Marketing

Director for Montpelier, and Freelance Special Event Coordinator and Product Manager for Plow & Hearth. She is a native Virginian and currently she and her husband live in Monterey in her family home.

Shenandoah National Park has been an important part of Madison County's history and continues that role in present day Madison County and the state of Virginia. The MCHS is celebrating the 75th establishment of this National Treasure with these presentations.

The meeting will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, August 21 in the auditorium of the Madison County Administration Complex and will be followed by refreshments in the Kemper Residence next door. All are invited to attend.

JAYNE BLAIR SPEAKS AT THE MAY MEETING



Author, Jayne Blair

Jayne Blair, author of two books on the Civil War and a Senior Interpreter at Montpelier, was the guest speaker at the May meeting of the Madison County Historical Society. The subject

of her talk was the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War and why it is important.

Ms. Blair told us that the American Civil War is the most studied, the most researched, and the most interesting war fought in the last five hundred years. This war saw the young nation grow up. It was a nation just seventy five years old when the war came and still struggling with the role of a strong Federal government in their lives and the diverse opinions of the role it played versus that of the states. Just which one controlled the rights of its citizens, the states and the economy, the right to control the expansion of slavery into western territories and was there a right of secession from the Union if a state disagreed with the Federal government?

Ms. Blair explained how the votes in Congress were about equal regarding whether new states were to be admitted as free state or a slave state and the arguments as to how this would be achieved ultimately inflamed passions on both sides. Other events occurred which strengthened advocacy of both sides of the issue and the election of Lincoln, considered to be anti-slavery, eventually led to the secession of the southern states and the establishment of the Southern Confederacy.

Preservation of the Union was argued by most notably the Father of the Constitution, James Madison, and statements of the calamity which would result if dissolution occurred were made by Governor Sam Houston of Texas and Robert E. Lee of Virginia.

The trauma of secession and war would ultimately be momentous and brought revolutionary new ways of fighting war and new inventions. But moreover, the Country would change. It would be stronger than ever before with a strong united central government that is today the envy of the world

KEMPER FALL TEA TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 28TH

The time is approaching for the Fall Luncheon Tea at the Kemper Residence. The date is Wednesday, September 28, 2011, at 12:30 p.m. The past several teas have been fully booked, so we encourage Historical Society members to call on September 1, when we begin accepting reservations.

“Plan to enjoy a delightful dining experience with friends and neighbors in the former home of

Belle and James Lawson Kemper,” said Mary Hought, who coordinates arrangements with husband Bob.

“For a \$20 donation to the historical society, you will enjoy a bountiful lunch including scones with lemon curd, tea sandwiches, other savories and sweets,” she said.

Because seating is limited, reservations are a necessity. To reserve places call 547-4398 and give your name, telephone number and how many are in the party. We are happy to accommodate groups up to eight.

Mark the date – September 28 – for another in this series of teas which benefit the Historical Society. And also mark your calendar for September 1 to make your reservation.



Guests enjoying a fall tea

THE GENERAL IS BACK



Maryvonne Longley and Heidi Sage complete the hanging of the General's portrait

The only portrait we have of James Lawson Kemper has been missing from display, as a search went on for a suitable frame. MCHS member and "Kemper Girl" Maryvonne Longley came to the rescue. She donated the frame,

shown above. Governor Kemper is now back in "his" parlor at the Kemper Residence.

GENERAL KEMPER TO GREET VISITORS

During the Taste of The Mountains street festival on September 3, the Kemper Residence will be open from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. General and Mrs. Kemper (as portrayed by Dr. and Mrs. Daniel DeSantis of New Hope, PA) will be on hand to welcome visitors at that time. Come and hear his interesting stories about the life and history of the General.

We are in need of members to monitor the various rooms in the Residence at that time. No knowledge of the Residence history is required. If you can spare an hour or two please sign up by calling 948-5488. If no one answers, leave a message and your call will be returned.

Thanks in advance to all who volunteer.

GERMANNA FOUNDATION MEMBERS VISIT TOWN OF MADISON SITE

On Friday, July 15, members of the Memorial Foundation of the Germanna Colonies in Virginia (familiarily known as the Germanna Foundation) visited the town of Madison as part of the Foundation's tour of historic sites in Madison County. The organization's membership is made up largely of the descendants of the early German settlers, originally brought to the vicinity of Germanna in Orange County, who subsequently came to what are now the counties of Madison, Culpeper, Fauquier, and surrounding areas, early in the 18th century. Madison County Historical Society Board member Ann Miller gave the visitors a presentation on the early history of the Madison County Courthouse and associated buildings, including a tour of the exterior and interior of the National Register-listed Madison County Courthouse. The Foundation members then toured the central portion of the town of Madison, including the Arcade, where they were greeted by Board member Beppy White and a corps of volunteers.

The following is a brief adaptation of the information presented to the Germanna Foundation members about the early years

(1793 to 1830) of the Madison County courthouses and related buildings in the "court square" or "public lot."

The Earliest Court Buildings and the Establishment of the County Seat (1790s):

Madison County was created from Culpeper County by an act of the Virginia General Assembly which became effective on May 1, 1793. The "Gentlemen Justices" of the county court (the forerunners of our present Board of Supervisors and General District and Circuit Courts) were directed to hold their first sessions at the house of John Yager, Jr., about a mile from the present town of Madison, and to plan for a permanent location and public buildings. The first court was held at Yager's house on May 23. At the next (June) court, the Justices chose the nearby land of William Carpenter "laying in Finnell[s] old field" as the site for the county seat, and began to make plans for the erection of public buildings. At the July court, a courthouse and public buildings were ordered built on Carpenter's land, and a tract of two acres near the "Musterfield spring" (the site of the present courthouse) was purchased from Carpenter the following September.

An early priority was the building of a jail—a building measuring twelve by sixteen feet, with a ten-foot pitch (height at the eaves), to be built of squared oak logs nine inches thick. For added security, the interior of the building was to be lined with two-inch oak plank secured with five-inch iron spikes. The single window was to be fitted with iron bars an inch square, and there were to be two doors, one made of flat iron bars, and the other a double door of one-inch plank. A second jail, probably for debtors, was built in 1795.

The court moved to the vicinity of the land acquired from Carpenter after the November 1793 court term, and court sessions apparently were held at various local homes until the courthouse was completed two years later. This courthouse, on the site of the present courthouse, measured forty-two by twenty feet, with a pitch of twelve feet, had two brick chimneys, and contained three rooms. It was of log construction, and was probably covered with weatherboards. There is little record of the interior or furnishings of the courtroom, with the

exception of the mention of an armchair to be provided for the Commonwealth's Attorney.

The courthouse and its associated buildings were located within the two-acre, roughly square tract acquired from William Carpenter. Through the middle of this "court square" or "public lot" ran the main thoroughfare, known as Market Street and later as Main Street. On the west side of the street were the courthouse, debtor's jail, and a tavern. On the east side were the jail for criminals, the clerk's office, and another tavern. The whipping posts and stocks were located nearby. Around the public lot were the "prison bounds," an area of ten acres in which those prisoners not incarcerated for felonies or treason were allowed to take their exercise. This area became the nucleus of the town of Madison, established by act of the General Assembly in 1800.

The New Jail (1822)

In 1822, a new jail was ordered constructed. The plans called for a two story building, thirty-six by thirty feet, with living quarters for the jailer and his family on the first floor and separate rooms for debtors or runaway slaves and criminals on the second floor. (Attorney—later judge—Richard H. Field, who was retained to prepare the contract for the county, suggested that the windows to the jailors quarters should have strong iron grates so that no one could climb in and steal the jail keys while the jailor was asleep.)

The New Courthouse and Clerk's Office (1829-1830)

In early 1828, a new courthouse and clerk's office were proposed by the county court. Three joint "undertakers," or builders—brick mason William B. Phillips, carpenter Malcolm F. Crawford, and Richard S. Boulware—presented themselves to the county commissioners in charge of the project. Letters of recommendation were received from Thomas Jefferson Randolph (grandson of Thomas Jefferson) of Albemarle County, from Alexander Garrett (Bursar of the University of Virginia) and from Reynolds Chapman, Clerk of the Court of Orange County. (Both Phillips and Crawford had previously worked with Jefferson on the construction of the University of Virginia; all three builders had apparently constructed

Chapman's home, Berry Hill, near the town of Orange in 1827.) A contract was finalized in June 1829. After some discussion, it was decided that the new courthouse would be built on the site of the old. The old courthouse was moved across the street and was subsequently sold for \$77.90. Local tradition indicates that the logs from this structure were used in the construction of the Charles Gibbs house (now Miss Pattie's Antiques) a short distance to the south of the public lot.

The new courthouse, completed in 1830 and still in use, was two stories high, with an arcaded front, and was built of extremely fine brickwork, laid in Flemish bond (i.e. the brick laid in alternating headers and stretchers), and with finely-struck mortar joints. The cost of the building was \$3600. The main level of the building, which contained the courtroom, had a brick floor (later covered with a plank floor, but recently restored). The courtroom originally contained the Court bench, jury bench, two Sheriff's boxes, the criminal's box, and a table for the clerk. Two staircases led to the second-level gallery which was located over the arcade, and contained a jury room and a judge's chamber. Paint analysis done in the early 1990s revealed that the interior of the courthouse, now painted white, originally had a green and brown paint scheme. The walls were color washed a pale green, portions of the woodwork were painted a vivid green, and baseboards and some other elements were finished with green and brown marbleizing.

The much plainer and smaller clerk's office, built at the same time, stands in contrast to the elegant courthouse. Its brickwork is laid in common bond, and it was a utilitarian structure with little decoration. It contained a desk for the clerk, a writing counter, a stove, and, along one wall, cases for books and papers. Its price is also in contrast to that of its more imposing neighbor: the contract for its construction stipulated that the cost was to be held to no more than \$650.

MADISON COUNTY PICTORIAL HISTORY



Sandy Stowe and Beppy White selling the pictorial history at the Germanna Reunion

Sales of the Madison County Pictorial History book continue at a vigorous pace. The society has sold about 60 copies since May 1. We were fortunate to be invited to set up a sales table at two art shows sponsored by the Firnew Art Circle. We sold 22 copies at Firnew farm on Mothers day and 5 copies at the Ducard Winery on June 12. In addition, 12 copies were sold to attendees at the annual reunion of Germanna Colony descendents on July 16th and 17th. If you haven't already purchased you copy, pick one up at the Arcade for \$23, including tax.

GERMANNA REUNION

The Second Colony Tour left Culpeper and drove to Madison via US 29, Wolfstown-Hood Road (230), and Thrift Road to see land patented to Broyles and Kaifer among others. Throughout the bus ride, John Blankenbaker offered narration and pointed out locations of land grants.

In Madison, the group gathered at the Courthouse. Ann Miller spoke from the Clerk's Office steps about the geography of the court square, the role of Blue Ridge Turnpike and the court building itself. Then everyone went inside

the Courthouse for a brief look around. After this, folks were free to roam around town. They went to the Arcade Museum where many bought books and enjoyed the displays. Some also visited Joan Tanner's Feed Store antiques before boarding their bus for Hebron Lutheran church.

At Hebron, they heard John Blankenbaker talk about the church and its history then had a delicious fried chicken lunch. Judy Ann Fray was asked to speak a bit about Hebron's efforts to maintain the building---and John and Cathi Clore Frost made sure there was an offering plate by the door for contributions! After lunch, some people roamed around the cemetery. Some of us may wonder how many times people want to hear John talk about the church----but when he asked how many people were making their first visit to Hebron, many hands went up. The same had been true last year.

After the church visit came the ride through Hebron Valley. John pointed out more land grants before and after their visit to Maxine Crane's Deale Mountain Farm. Maxine wrote a very popular book about her Weaver family called "Ask for Nothin". The bus couldn't get to the house so part of the group got out and walked across the little stream while other people stayed at the bus.

After Deale Mountain Farm, the bus drove to Criglersville for Crigler, Clore, Carpenter, Kerker, etc., land before turning around and heading back through Madison. The final stop on the way back to Culpeper was Prince Michel Winery for tasting, shopping, tour, and relaxing. The winery had for sale wine labeled with family names from the Second Colony.

Thanks to Judith Mahanes for contributing most of the information for this article. Later this year we look forward to her helping hand at the museum.

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:

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

Membership applications are available at the Arcade and the Kemper Residence, and on-line at the Society's web page - www.madisonvahistoricalociety.org. (Click on "ABOUT US", and then on "application"). For more information call the Society Office at 540-948-5488 Please leave a message if no one answers. We will return your call. You can also email us at madisonhistory@verizon.net.

Madison County Historical Society

P.O. Box 467

Madison, Virginia 22727

August 2011

