



# Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
<http://www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org/>

P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

May 2015

## SOCIETY MEETING MAY 17, 20015



**ALPHA VISION FILMS**  
a new vision of independent film-making  
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The program for the May 17<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting of the Madison County Historical Society will be the showing of a documentary film entitled "In This Land: The Camp Lyndhurst Saga. German Prisoners of War in the Old Dominion." Lyndhurst is near Waynesboro in Augusta County. This new feature documentary, from Virginia Independent film group Alpha Vision Films, explores a little known and fascinating chapter in Virginia history. It was produced and directed by James Overton who will be present to introduce the film and to discuss it following the presentation.

There were three distinct eras to Camp Lyndhurst, each reflecting a different use. It was first built during the Great Depression as a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp, in an attempt to take men off the streets and give them paying jobs. The main project was the construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway. When the war broke out many of these men enlisted in the Army or were drafted into the service. The camp remained vacant for a couple of years but

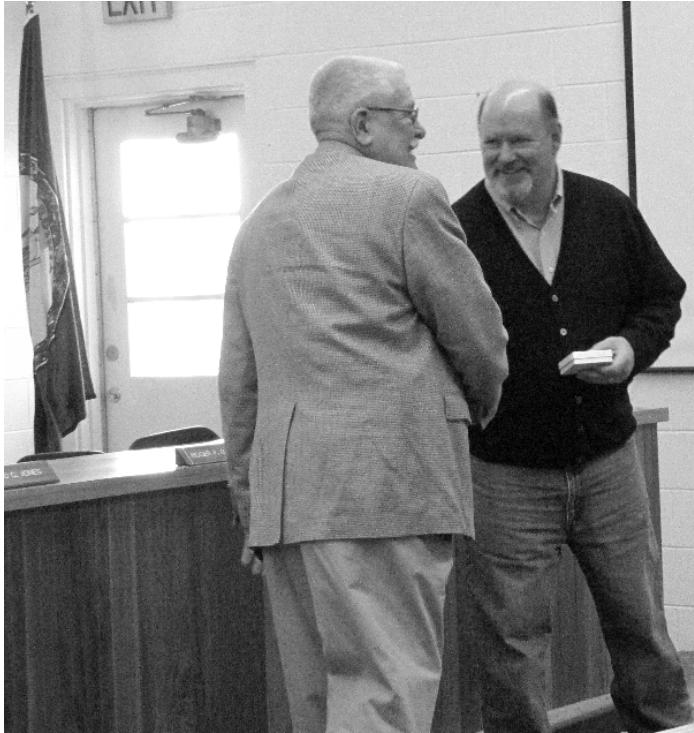
was eventually turned into Civilian Public Service Camp No. 29 to house conscientious objectors to the war. At the camp they were not paid but were required to carry out farm work and to finish the Waynesboro section of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Then there were a significant number of people, particularly in the Shenandoah Valley, who were of pacifist based religions which included the Mennonite Church and the Brethren community who were conscientious objectors. They were kept at the camp, unpaid and overseen by the U.S. Army. Once the parkway was completed they were moved to a service camp in Bedford County to continue work on another section of the parkway. Once again the camp was shut down and left abandoned until it was given the more unusual purpose in 1944 of housing German prisoners of war. They were kept under guard and provided manpower for the farms in the Shenandoah Valley because all of the able bodied men were in the Service.

The meeting will be held in the County Administrative Offices auditorium at 2pm Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to attend and refreshments will be served following the presentation.

## MEMBERSHIP

We do not have any new members to the Society this past quarter. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2015, please do so at your earliest opportunity.

## ERIC BUCKLAND FINALLY SPEAKS ON MARCH 8TH



President Max Lacy gives Eric Buckland a thank you gift Our speaker for the twice postponed February 22, 2015 quarterly meeting of the Society was Eric W. Buckland and the subject of his talk was "Mosby's Rangers," one of the most famous units of the Civil War. Colonel John Singleton Mosby, commander of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Virginia Cavalry was an excellent judge of character and it must be remembered that there would never have been a "Mosby" had it not been for the men and boys who rode with him. They were outstanding, audacious and courageous and most became very successful after the war as noted physicians, lawyers, ministers, lawmen and millionaires. In 1992 Mosby was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame at Fort McPherson. Mosby said that in general his purpose was to threaten and harass the enemy on the border and compel him to withdraw troops from his front to guard the line of the Potomac and Washington, and in this he was successful. He was pretty much on his own but reported initially to Stuart and after Stuart's death to Lee. He began in early 1863 with 9 men and finished with 800. A powerful recruiting tool was the Partisan Ranger Act (4/21/1862) which permitted the men to retain captured materials and Mosby's unit was one of only two units which operated under this act. To ride with Mosby a man had to have a horse and the Colt

.44 which was their weapon of choice. His men were disciplined and attacked like a swarm of locusts and his secret was to keep his forces dispersed in various locations and never to bring them all together.

Mr. Buckland, who has written five books on the men who rode with Mosby, then went on to tell us specifically about many of these men in some detail, including Charles Henry Dear who left VMI at age 16 and Robert "Captain Bob" Stringfellow Walker, founder of Woodberry Forest School here in Madison County.

Mr. Buckland's presentation was fascinating and informative.

## ARCADE MUSEUM NEWS

The Arcade museum is open again after a winter off. Volunteers including Judy Mahanes and Arlene Aylor spent hours organizing our filing cabinets which contain genealogy information on Madison families and general information about buildings, villages, schools and mills to name a few. We had new volunteers Martha Breeden and Don Ross working on genealogy and newspaper articles with Bill McDermott researching schools. Jean Busboso and others worked with old newspaper articles. Pat Lattin made lots of archival boxes and with Don, cleaned paintings and frames.

The Society thanks these wonderful volunteers for all the work that got done while we were closed.

We have many new books in our gift shop including A Moonshiners Son, A Bittersweet Story, Ghost Girl, In the Shadow of the Blue Ridge, Virginia Back Roads, The Tree Army and the rewritten Herbert Hoover's Hideaway.

Come in and see some new exhibits and meet our new volunteers. The Museum Hours are from 10:00AM to 2:00PM on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Also note that the Museum will be open on Saturdays during the months of June, July and August during the same hours.

## HISTORY OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY TEA

The Madison County Historical Society Board of Directors wish to convey their great appreciation to the "Kemper Girls" for another successful tea on March 25th. The Board realizes the planning, cooking and serving efforts of these ladies accounts for the majority of funds raised by the Society. We would like to acknowledge each individual but thought the history of the tea, provided by Mary Haught, would enlighten everyone as to the girls and guys who contribute to this wonderful spring and fall event.

Twelve years ago, Rita Cunningham, then president of MCHS was looking for a creative way to raise funds, and suggested a tea. Four of us hosted that first one, using our own teapots, cups and plates. The inaugural tea was a success so we planned another one. Gradually we began collecting dishes and teapots, and the host group increased.

Meanwhile, Rita needed help in keeping the Kemper Residence dusted and vacuumed so it would be ready for people who wanted to rent the building for special events. She gathered several of us and we met monthly to spruce up the building. People have come and gone throughout the years but the present group of cleaners is Mary Haught, Heidi Sage, Kay Reiss and Maryvonne Longley.

Pam Krause assists with the tea as well as Pam's husband, Bob Krause, who makes home made bread for sandwiches, their daughter, Meredith, who lives in Northern Virginia and her husband, John Jarvis. The Krause family is an integral part of our teas for their culinary skills and physical help in serving at the teas. Bob Haught took on the job of making scones, and provides recorded period background music for the events. Pat Lattin is the "rookie" participant, and she has jumped right in and is generous with her time.

These volunteers contribute what they can to the cause of keeping our historic treasure running smoothly. Those who are able, help clean each month. Others prepare food for the teas when needed. Jill Schreiner creates our table menus. One special person, Bill Scholten, hauls tables up and down stairs for the teas. This eases the physical work for those who are cooking.

The time and effort this group expends on behalf of the Kemper Residence and the MCHS are labors of love. Each treasures our historic building and enjoys their part in keeping it at its best.

Mark your calendars now for our fall tea which will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 12:30PM at the Historic Kemper House.

## OPEN HOUSE AT THE KEMPER RESIDENCE

The Kemper House will be open from 3:30 PM until 5PM on June 11, 2015.

There will be guides there if people want to tour the Kemper Mansion, the Law Office and the Slave Quarters.

The Kemper grave ceremony at Walnut Hills Plantation in Orange will be at 6:30pm following the Kemper Open House.

Harold Woodward will be the guest speaker, the 7th Virginia will do the rifle salute and taps, Carpenter's Battery will do a cannon salute, the SCV 19 will present the colors, Madison and Orange supervisors chair and SCV 19 will do a welcome.

Refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

## MADISON MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL



The photograph shows the Madison Mountain Heritage monument recently erected at the Criglersville School site along the Old Blue

Ridge Turnpike. Jim Lillard requested placement of this temporary memorial during the April session of the Madison County Board of Supervisors. They quickly responded with a very welcomed and unanimous approval. Already the memorial has received much attention. It is our hope it will generate additional interest and, of course, donations so that a proper, permanent monument honoring the families displaced by the Park's formation may be constructed.

The Blue Ridge Heritage Project and members of the MCHS have also been busy with other activities. They attended Rappahannock's Mountain Heritage open house at the Thornton Gap Primitive Baptist Church along with approximately 250 others. Jim Lillard gave his "Mountain Memories" presentation to a full house (church). Additionally, Judy Mahanes, Jim Lillard and Kit Johnston attended meetings of the newly formed Children of the Shenandoah organization which meets in Stanardsville.

## FREED MADISON SLAVES LEAVE LASTING LEGACY

Fourteen years before President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, a Madison County planter made a decision that, while perhaps not unprecedented, was nonetheless remarkable in kindness and scope. James Twyman died in February 1849, at age 68, and in his will decreed that his 37 slaves were to be freed. But the bachelor landowner, whose substantial holdings lay in the area now traversed by Twyman's Mill Road, did not simply declare that the slaves were free to go and leave it at that. He made some extraordinary provisions.

Twyman deemed three longtime servants—elderly and frail Noah, Winney, and Joe—to be incapable of moving on, so stipulated that they be cared for as long as they were in Madison County. To three others—Jenny, Amanda, and Frances Ann—said to be his favorites, he bequeathed ample support.

For the remaining 31 slaves he left \$10,000 (roughly \$335,000 today), clothing, farming implements, and livestock. That group soon left Madison for the promise that lay in the free state of Ohio. It is believed that the departing group numbered 30; one slave, named Washington, at

this point vanishes from records—which for slaves are fragmentary at best in this era.

Via wagon train the group journeyed roughly 400 miles to the point on the Ohio River where Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky converged. West Virginia did not exist at the time. A Twyman nephew and three other Caucasian males rode along lest the group attract the attention of troublemakers, especially those who overzealously hunted runaway slaves.

Entering Lawrence County, Ohio, across the river from what today is Huntington, W.Va., the group by that time numbered 31, an aptly named infant—William Traveler Smith—having arrived en route. In October 1849 the band purchased 640 acres of land in Burlington from one Isaac Frampton for \$6,000.

These new Ohio citizens, known even today as the "Burlington 37"—a reference to all those who had been freed—prospered in what they called "the promised land," quickly acquiring reputations as hardworking, upstanding members of the community. They forged a tradition that continued through generations, producing successful doctors, lawyers, teachers, business owners, and farmers throughout the region. One modern-day descendant, O.J. Mayo, currently is a starting guard for the Milwaukee Bucks of the National Basketball Association.

The three females who remained in Madison—Jenny; her daughter, Amanda; and Amanda's daughter, Frances Ann—may have had to leave Virginia briefly to satisfy an arcane law regarding freed slaves. But their decision to stay (or return) to Madison had good reason: Twyman provided handsomely for them. For starters, he left \$18,000 (nearly \$500,000 today) to be invested by trustees, with the interest going to the trio's support.

Further, his will bequeathed them "all my silver plate, my clock and watch, my household furniture of every description, two good horses, four good milk cows, all my fowls . . . and plentiful supply of provisions for [the livestock] . . . and all the hay, straw and long food which may be and remains on the land [that is given] to them . . ."—the latter tract being about 200 acres. Additionally, Amanda and Frances Ann each received \$800 in cash—about \$22,000 today.

If there were offspring from that trio, there are no known records of them. Nonetheless, the link

from the 37 freedmen to modern-day Madison County is strong. Of the three servants Twyman presumed too old and frail to leave Madison, one—Noah, born in 1780—was in Ohio by 1850, using the surname of Twyman. In 1870 grandson Ambrose Twyman was back in Madison County. One of Ambrose's granddaughters, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Twyman (1894-1964) spent her life here, during which time she bore 12 children. One of them, at least—Dorothy Jasper Greene, a great-great-great granddaughter of Noah—lives here today, as do dozens upon dozens of others whose lineage and ties to Madison County date to that long-ago time.

Given the tenor of race relations in Virginia in 1849—and human nature—it is not surprising that some of James Twyman's relatives contested the will. When their challenge did not stand up, the vindictive kin took petty retribution: The man who had granted freedom on exceptionally generous terms was denied burial in the family graveyard.

By Donald Ross and Martha Breeden  
Special to the Madison Eagle

*The writers are members of the Madison County Historical Society. Readers having knowledge or documents pertaining to the emancipation of James Twyman's slaves are encouraged to contact Martha Breeden at [mfbreeden.08@gmail.com](mailto:mfbreeden.08@gmail.com).*

*Reprinted from the February 12, 2015 issue of the Madison Eagle with gracious permission.*

Update: Since the "Burlington 37" article was printed in the February 12, 2015 issue of the Madison County Eagle, four descendants have responded by phone and e-mail stating they were related to the Twyman family and would like to know more about their family. The descendants were from Madison, Culpeper, Fredericksburg and one from Ohio. We were contacted initially by Chis Saunders who lives in Burlington, OH and his letter stated that the group still living in Ohio would like to make a connection to descendants who may still live in this area. In fact one person states that she believes her great-grandfather was the son of Frances Ann Twyman who was one of the "favorites" mentioned in the will of plantation owner James Twyman.

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 expire at the end of the calendar year. 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](http://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](mailto:madisonhistory@verizon.net).



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Historical Society  
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**MAY 2015**