



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

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November 2015

SOCIETY MEETING NOVEMBER 22, 2015



Teresa Roanne

The speaker for the November 22, 2015 Madison County Historical Society quarterly meeting will be Teresa Roane, Archivist/Librarian for the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The topic of her talk is "Minorities in the Confederate Military: Combat Support." Books about slavery are legion, however, not as many books have been devoted to the topic of Free People of Color. About a quarter million Free People lived in the South and they made significant contributions. They are truly the forgotten people in the 21st century but evidence of their existence lives on in documents throughout the South. It is 2015 and

the most suppressed history remains Persons of Color in the Confederate military. Yes, there were men who carried muskets, but historians have tried their best to marginalize combat support partly because they do not understand logistics or how an army operates. Men and Women of Color who served in combat support roles made more money than privates.

Ms. Roane was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia and earned her B.A. in history at Virginia Commonwealth University. She worked for eight years at the Richmond Public Library followed by fifteen years at the Valentine Museum's library. After serving as Archivist for the Museum of the Confederacy for seven and a half years, Ms. Roane became Librarian and Archivist for the United Daughters of the Confederacy and is a member of the Richmond-Stonewall Jackson UDC chapter. She has served on the boards of Friends of the Richmond Public Library, Alliance to Conserve Old Richmond Neighborhoods and Historic Richmond Foundation. She is the recipient of many awards and most recently the UDC North Carolina Division bestowed the Jefferson Davis Gold medal for excellence in history.

The meeting will be held in the County Administrative Offices auditorium at 2pm Sunday, November 22nd. Everyone is invited to attend and refreshments will be served following the presentation.

PIECES OF THE PAST

Though one sees little everyday evidence of their presence in modern-day Madison County, for thousands of years the area was home to a

great number of Native Americans, most notably a confederation of several groups known as the Monacans.

When John Smith first arrived in Virginia in 1607 there were an estimated 10,000 Monacans. In the intervening years, disease, war, and increasing European settlement reduced their population and forced survivors to move elsewhere.

But Madison's Arcade Museum is home to a trove of archaeological documentation of the Monacans' lives here—the Donald Strode Collection of Native American Artifacts.

Strode, a Madison resident who died in 2014, spent more than 20 years roaming the landscape of the county collecting artifacts, primarily stone objects. In that time he amassed a collection of more than 5,000 items—some up to 13,000 years old—and carefully catalogued each one including precisely where it was found. His records have provided archaeologists and researchers invaluable cultural and scientific data.

The Strode Collection was donated to the Madison County Historical Society in 2004. Because of its sheer volume everything cannot be displayed, but the Arcade exhibits nonetheless offer a fascinating look at varied types of chipped tools (such as arrowheads, knives, and scrapers) and ground tools (axes, pestles, adzes and grinding stones).

Reprinted from the October 29, 2015 issue of the Madison Eagle with gracious permission.

The Madison County Historical Society's Arcade, at 124 North Main St., is open from March–December on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

GRAVES MILL TOPIC OF AUGUST MEETING



Audience at Graves Mill Chapel

The August 16th meeting of the Madison County Historical Society was a “field trip” to Graves Mill. The speaker was long time Graves Mill resident and local historian Doug Graves. Attendees gathered in front of the chapel where “professor” Doug expounded on the history of the Graves Mill settlement, and some of its early residents, including his 5th great grandfather, Thomas Graves, who originally constructed the grist mill. He also spoke to us about the devastating 1995 flood. Doug referred to this small early settlement in humorous fashion as the “hub” as he related how Thomas Graves, the progenitor of the Graves family in Graves Mill, and his wife Sara Dulaney arrived in the area c.1750's and constructed a home about 500 yards north of the present day mill. Thomas developed a large agricultural industry which included a grist mill, a hemp mill, a blacksmith shop, a cooper shop and a sawmill operation. Grist mills were extremely important in the local economy and the land on which they existed was valued higher than land used for other purposes. In Madison County in the mid-1800's Graves Mill grist land was valued thirty times higher than land used for other purposes. Thomas Graves was active in County and community affairs, having been involved in organizing Madison County Courthouse when Madison became a county. He also became what in the present day would be a judge and also an appraiser of land. He operated the mill until he died in 1810 and the mill was operated and remained in the Graves name for approximately 100 years. It is presently back in the Graves family, owned by the descendants of the original Thomas and Sara Dulaney Graves. Other individuals who began their life in the “hub” were Paschal Graves who, amongst his other business enterprises, was involved in the formation of the privately owned Blue Ridge Turnpike Company, a macadamized (gravel) road between New Market and Gordonsville and became its President and chief stockholder. And there was Col. Linn Banks, born in Graves Mill in 1784, who graduated from William and Mary, “read law” and was admitted to the bar in Madison County in 1809. He served in the War of 1812, was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates and became its speaker in 1817. He was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1838. The Linn Banks Masonic Lodge in Madison is named after him

and after his death his wife moved to Madison from their home in Graves Mill. The "Eliza Banks" home is on main street Madison and is included on the historic walking tour of Madison. After our "history" lesson, all walked over to the Mill and sat on long log benches as Doug described the sophisticated features and workings of a Mill. He had various items on display and we were able to enter the Mill itself afterwards to view and help us understand what had been described to us.

It was a wonderful and educational "field" trip.

MEMBERSHIP

We have no new members to report this quarter. Remember that Society membership would make a wonderful gift for this time of the year. A copy of the Society membership application can be obtained at the following link:

www.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org/application.pdf

Applications can also be obtained at the Arcade or by mailing a request to the Society.

You will be receiving your membership renewal notification for 2016 in early December.

ARCADE MUSEUM

The Arcade Museum will be closing for the 2015 season on Friday, December 18th. It will reopen in the spring of 2016 and the opening date will be announced at that time. That doesn't mean you cannot contact the Society after that time, the Society email is always monitored for any special requests or suggestions.

FALL TEA AT KEMPER ANOTHER SUCCESS

The Fall Luncheon Tea on September 23rd, was at full capacity, thanks to attendance by a number of "regulars" and some who attended for the first time. The Tea Ladies and Gentlemen are grateful for continuing support from the community.

The Spring Tea is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, 2016, so if you wish to join us, make a note on your calendar and watch for a reminder in the Spring Historical Society newsletter. A donation of \$25 will give you a generous plate of luncheon savories and sweets, served with popular Kemper Tea.

Gift jars of Kemper Tea will be available for purchase at the Historical Society table at the December Farmers Market in the Fire Hall.

For the past several years, notice in this newsletter and word of mouth have generated enough reservations to reach our capacity, so we did not announce the upcoming tea in the newspaper for the community at large. If you know of people who would like to join us, please be sure to let them know about the date.

We have had considerable interest over the past few months from groups renting the Kemper Residence for showers, wedding party dressing, meetings and receptions. One Christmas party is already scheduled. Rental rates are very reasonable, and the income supports Madison County Historical Society projects. If you or someone you know is interested in discussing use of the building, contact Mary Haught at 547-3503 or maryhaught@hughes.net.

Thank you for your continuing support. We look forward to seeing you at the Spring Tea!

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. (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.



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