



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 2016



ANN MILLER SPEAKER FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING ON NOVEMBER, 2016

Ann L. Miller, noted local Architectural Historian, author and lecturer, will speak to the Society on Sunday November 20, 2016. The topic of her presentation will be "Which Way Did They Go? – Evidence for the Spotswood Expedition of 1716 and Its Possible Routes." Through official records and other period documents, Ann Miller will discuss the background of Lt. Alexander Spotswood's 1716 expedition (sometimes called the "Knights of the Golden Horseshoe") through the Virginia Piedmont and into the Shenandoah

Valley, and will explore the evidence for the trip itself through the eyewitness account left by John Fontaine. The later interpretations of

Fontaine's record and the various theories as to the possible route of the expedition will be noted, compared, and critiqued. Finally, new evidence using analysis of county court records and land patents will be unveiled, and Ms. Miller feels that these strongly support one particular route.

Ann Miller is currently Historian for the Virginia Transportation Research Council (VTRC, the research arm for the Virginia Department of Transportation) in Charlottesville. She is the principle investigator for the VTRC's history program, including research into historic bridges, early roads, and other aspects of transportation history, as well as related cultural resource management.

Ms. Miller holds the degrees of Bachelor of Architectural History (1979) and Master of Architectural History with certificate in Historical Preservation (1989), both from the University of Virginia. Her special areas of interest include history, social history, architecture, cultural landscapes, and transportation history. She has previously spoken to the MCHS on early transportation in Madison County and is the author of several books, reports, conference papers, articles, and National Register nominations on matters relating to Virginia history.

The meeting will be held in the County Administrative Offices auditorium at 2pm Sunday November 20th. Everyone is invited to attend and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Mr. & Mrs. Lauren Willard
John S. Lynch

NANCY KNIGHTING PRESENTATION

Our presenter for the August 21, 2016 Madison County Historical Society quarterly meeting was Nancy Hawkins Knighting, a native Madisonian. The presentation was in keeping with several of our recent past presentations reflecting upon the use of eminent domain to remove a few thousand mountain residents from their homes to create Shenandoah National Park. Even today the story remains deeply embedded in Madison and surrounding counties involved in the creation of the Park. The Hawkins family was one of those removed, Nancy's father being one of the children in that family.

Nancy introduced a very well done video featuring her father, Ralph Clinton Hawkins, talking about being born and living on the Rapidan River near Hoover's camp. In a fine example of oral history Mr. Hawkins took a trip back to the area in 1995 accompanied by Doug Graves and Dolly Seekford. Doug recorded the conversations and the travelled areas were videotaped using GPS to identify the areas. Nancy with the help of Mr. Bruce Livingston, has combined the trip and the conversations into a video which traces the path back to the Hawkins homeplace, the Wilhoite family cemetery, the road that was built to serve President Hoover's camp, and pictures of the Hawkins family. It was a fascinating exploration of real history told by someone who lived it.

Questions and conversation followed with more shared information and experiences in a very well attended quarterly meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

We have several new members this quarter.

Jennifer James
Amos Thomas
Paulette Williams
Lloyd Paige
Nancy Hawkins Knighting
Sarah George Henshaw
Elizabeth M. Janthey

Welcome to the Society.

Remember that Society membership is a wonderful gift any time of the year. A copy of the Society membership application can be obtained at the following link:

www.madisonvahistoricalociety.org/application.pdf

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

For those that have renewed your membership for 2016, many thanks. Society dues are our major source of income. You should be receiving your 2017 renewal letters in December.



Old Criglersville High School

MADISON'S SCHOOL HISTORY

The society has established a new archive to record and document the county's school history.

The four current Madison schools embody and reflect the history of education in the county during the past 50 years. During the prior 240 years, more than 100 schoolhouses may have been active.

During the summer of 2015 a small group of researchers combed through historical resources at the Arcade Museum and developed a list of more than 150 school names (including at least 30 black schools). Linda Yurinak worked diligently recording names and the communities or locations served. This list will be used to organize the search for supporting details

related to the individual schools, teachers, and students.



Old Shotwell Hollow School Research will initially focus on community elders and our retired teachers, who may have attended a county school prior to the consolidation of schools at mid-20th century. The archive will provide space for members, and the public to donate copies of pictures and copies of school documents, such as: report cards, promotion certificates, graduation certificates, printed graduation ceremony programs, or school books. Interviews and oral histories will be conducted.

Bill McDermott has volunteered to facilitate and co-ordinate an initial data collection effort. Citizens and society members who wish to contribute, participate, or be more actively involved should call the Arcade Museum- (540) 948-5488 - and leave a message with name and contact information.

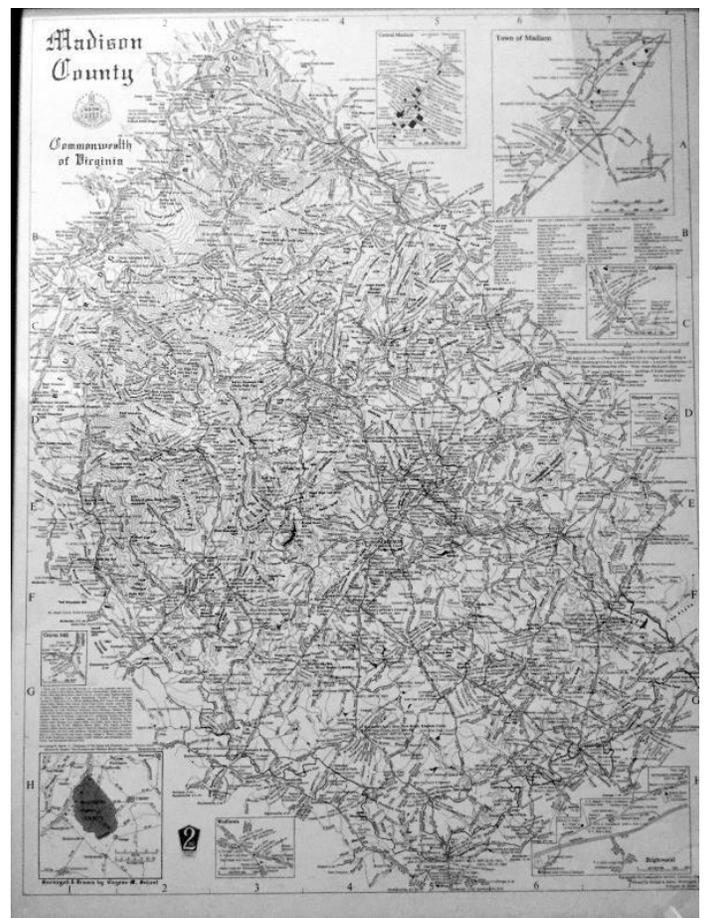
MAPMAKER—EUGENE SCHEEL

Eugene Scheel began doodling maps of imaginary places while a youngster in the Bronx, New York. That early passion led to an undergraduate degree in geography, and some years later a full-time career as a mapmaker. A longtime resident of Loudoun County (since 1965) Scheel has written nine volumes on Virginia history and is well known among researchers and historians. But it is his handdrawn maps that bring him most distinction. His first job after college was with renowned map producer Rand McNally & Co. in Chicago. After a stint in the Marine Corps, he joined the staff of National Geographic magazine,

producing graphics. He then returned to academia, earning two master's degrees (University of Virginia and Georgetown University) before starting his own mapmaking enterprise in the early 1970s.

Since then, in addition to writing history he has produced more than 50 maps, most of them covering counties and regions of Virginia, including Madison County. Thirty-one of the original maps are kept in the Library of Congress. A curator there was quoted in Virginia Living magazine as calling Scheel's works "great cartographic contributions to Virginia history." All Scheel's exhaustively detailed maps combine his historian's penchant for accuracy with his artistic flair and precision. The map of Madison County was first underwritten in the early 1980s by the 2nd National Bank of Culpeper through its Madison branch.

SCHEEL MAP INDEX



SCHEEL MAP OF MADISON

The Madison County Historical Society recently published an Index of Scheel's Map of Madison

County, Virginia. The map itself was made back in the 1980s by Mr. Eugene Scheel. He spoke with old-timers to pinpoint locations of historical sites in the county, and he collected alternate names for many of these places. The first draft of the Index contained over 1,750 names taken directly from the map. When the names that Mr. Scheel included in parentheses were given their own line, the index grew to 2,065 entries. There is also a list of twenty-three Civil War sites that were shown on the maps with the dates of the skirmishes.

Beppy White orchestrated the project to produce the Index. Judy Mahanes pored over the map for hours and compiled the Index. Gary Jones proof-read her work, and Mary Wright prepared the document for printing. Mary also created a CD version, useful for searching. Copies of the Index are available for purchase at the Historical Society Museum at the Arcade. Anyone already owning a copy of the map will surely want the Index to guide searches for mountains, streams, mills, graveyards, stills, stores, schools, churches, and other aspects of Madison County's past and present.

Copies of the Scheel Map hang in various places in town, including the Clerk's Office, County Administration Building, OrangeMadison Co-op, and the Arcade. Keep your eyes open for these and more sightings (many folks have their own copies.), or go to the Madison County Library to purchase a copy of your own.

MADISON GETS A HISTORICAL SIGN

A new highway historical marker, sponsored by the Madison County Historical Society, is one of seven that have been approved by the Virginia Board of Historic Resources.

The sign—commemorating the Blue Ridge Turnpike—is to be located at 1106 Old Blue Ridge Turnpike, near the Madison County Mountain Memorial and the old Criglersville School. The Madison County Historical Society is underwriting the cost of the marker.

Completed in 1853, the Blue Ridge Turnpike linked the Shenandoah Valley to markets in the

east. From an area near New Market, in the valley, it crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains at Fishers Gap, terminating at a railhead in Gordonsville. Because of damage incurred during the Civil War, the company that had built the road abandoned it soon thereafter. Traces of the road's original path still exist in the county along Rte. 231 and Rte. 670 and in parts of

Shenandoah National Park

The Virginia highway marker program was begun in 1927 with installation of the first historical markers along U.S. Rte. 1. It is considered the oldest such program in the nation. Currently there are more than 2,500 official state markers.

The full text of the new Madison County sign is as follows:

The Blue Ridge Turnpike, completed in 1853, passed near here on its 56-mile route from the vicinity of New Market to the railhead in Gordonsville. Crossing the mountains at Fishers Gap, the road linked the Shenandoah Valley to markets in the east. The Blue Ridge Turnpike Company financed the \$176,000 project by selling shares of stock to individuals and to the Commonwealth of Virginia. After the road sustained heavy damage during the Civil War, the company abandoned it. Counties along the route took over maintenance about 1870. Traces of the original alignment exist along State Routes 231 and 670 and within Shenandoah National Park.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING FALL TEA

Once again, a capacity attendance helped make the Fall luncheon tea a huge success. We are grateful to friends in Madison and surrounding communities for their support.

This ongoing enthusiasm is gratifying to the group that prepares and donates the food for the events. We are pleased to be a part of a successful project that provides funding for the Society's preservation efforts in Madison County.

Plans are underway for the Spring event, which will be scheduled for late March. The date will

be confirmed as soon as we can be sure it will not conflict with another county event, and it will be announced in the Spring newsletter. We hope you will be able to join us.

If you did not pick up your gift jars of the special blend of Kemper Tea, they will be available at the Historical Society booth at the Farmer's Market holiday event at the Fire House on December 17. Jars are priced according to the ounces of tea they contain. They make great hostess or holiday gifts.

We hope to see you at the March tea.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The Arcade Museum offers several nice items for Christmas giving. The special blend of Kemper Tea comes in different sized attractive jars priced from \$4 - \$8. Also available are seven different Christmas tree ornaments representing Madison's historical buildings at \$5 each.

On the book shelves are some wonderful local stories: *Ghost Girl* by Delia Ray, *Ask For Nothing* by Maxine Crane, *Simple Gifts* by Dr. Harold Jenkins and *Shenandoah* by Sue

Eisinfeld along with *Madison History and Images of America: Madison*. These and more are available at the Arcade on regular open days: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am until 2pm. The Historical Society will be at the December 17th. Craft Market at the Fire Hall with gift items.

Gifts may also be purchased from the website at (madisonvahistoricalsociety.org) (See price list on page 5)

The Museum will close for the winter on Dec. 20, 2016.

SEALE LOOM

Visitors to the Kemper Residence during Madison's Taste of the Mountains festival this past summer got an unexpected taste of history—Madison's Candace Fountain demonstrating weaving techniques on the large Seale Loom that is housed there.



Seale Loom

The 1920s-vintage loom, made in Ohio, is seldom seen because of the residence's limited public openings, but even rarer is to see it in operation.

The loom is so named because it was purchased sometime in the 1920s by Madison resident Harry S. Seale. Seale had been in the U.S. Navy during World War I and was discharged with a disability that landed him in the Veterans Administration hospital in Martinsburg, W.VA. There, as part of his rehabilitation therapy, he learned to weave rugs.

When he returned to Madison after his hospitalization, he bought the loom. It was enjoyable work, and the sale of the rugs he made helped support him and his wife, the former Mary Burford—a nurse who had earlier tended to Harry's ailing father. She, too, learned to weave. When Harry's condition worsened and he had to return to Martinsburg, he instructed Mary that he wished for the loom to stay in Madison County. On this sojourn at the hospital Harry learned to tool leather, crafting and selling billfolds, belts and women's purses. Mary, meanwhile, took a nursing assignment in Banco, and heeding Harry's wish that the loom stay in Madison County she took it with her and wove and sold rugs in her spare time there.

Mary became acquainted with a couple that had built a cabin above Criglersville, between Hoover Road and Quaker Run. When that couple moved to California the cabin was sold to Benton and Jennie Milster, also friends with Mary Seale.

With their health deteriorating, the Seales decided to sell the loom to someone who would keep it in the county. The Milsters purchased it around 1961. Jennie Milster was a weaver and hoped to resume that hobby; the loom was moved to the Criglersville cabin—but was never set up to operate.

Thus, when Benton Milster died, Jennie wanted to divest herself of the loom, but remembered the Seale's wish that it remain in the county. At the suggestion of her friend, Charlotte Aylor Berrey, Jennie Milster in 1990 donated the loom to what today is the Madison County Historical Society.

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:

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| 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.madisonvahistoricalsociety.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
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NOVEMBER 2016