



# Preserving Yesterday Enriches Tomorrow

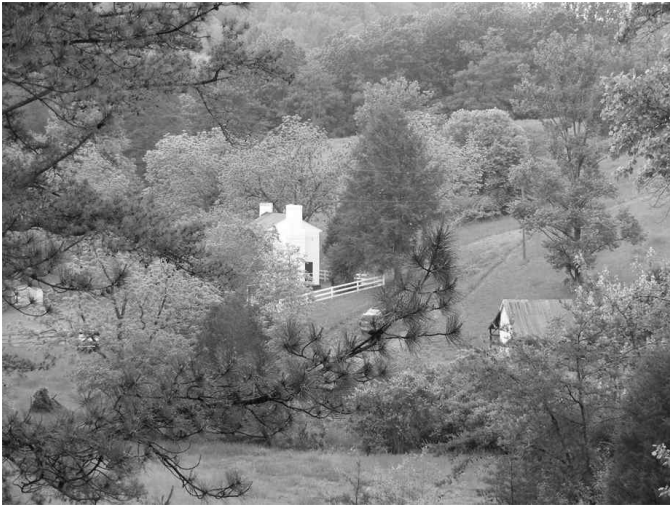


THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 467, Madison, Virginia 22727

August 2008

## SOCIETY TO VISIT FARM



Farm in Duet

Author, Maxine Weaver Crane, spoke at the May quarterly meeting of the MCHS. Her book, *Ask for Nothing*, tells the story of a young mother traveling west with several children in a horse drawn wagon around 1846. The woman and her children paused at the home of Fountain and Alpha Deal where the mother asked the Deals to take one of the children "off her hands". Thus began the unique life of Frances Henderson, the young girl left behind at a farm in Duet. Frances lived in this home with three families: the Deals, the Yowells and the Weavers. Her mother had asked that the child always remain in the house even if it were sold because she might come back to get her.

The August 17<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting of the MCHS will be a visit to the farm house in Duet where Frances Henderson lived first with the Deals, then the Yowells and finally the Weavers, until her death at the age of 84. A guided tour through the farm house where Frances lived will

be conducted by Maxine Weaver Crane from 2pm to 4pm on Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Directions:** For ease of access to the farm driveway it is recommended that off of Rt. 29 we take Rt.603 through Haywood, stay left on 642 after Haywood to Duet. At Duet turn left on 641 and continue to the farm, 2027 Weaver Hollow Road, which will be on the right.

## MAXINE WEAVER CRANE SPEAKS AT MAY MEETING



Maxine Crane exhibits bonnet

Maxine Weaver Crane, author of *ASK FOR NOTHING*, spoke at the May 18 meeting of the Madison County Historical Society. She spoke about the fascinating story of Frances Henderson, who was raised by three generations of a Madison County family after her mother asked the family of Fountain and Alpha Deal to keep Frances when they stopped at the Deal home on their way from Virginia to Missouri in 1846. Frances was the youngest of three young girls traveling with their mother by horse

and cart and the mother felt that her young retarded daughter was slowing them up in their quest to get to Missouri. The mother's one request to the Deals was to always keep Frances in their house in case she should come back for Frances some day. The mother had told Frances to be good and "don't ask for nothing." Frances always tried to do what was asked of her and was loved by all who knew her. In addition to Fountain and Alpha Deal, Frances Henderson lived with their daughter Sarah and her husband Rowland Godfrey Yowell after the Deals passed on. After the Yowells had died, Frances lived with their daughter Viola and her husband Charles Lovell Weaver. Frances died in 1925 at the age of 84 and was buried in Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Cemetery.

Mrs. Crane explained how, in 1967, she came upon the story of Frances by finding the deed to the Deal house in a family bible stuffed in a box of old books to be sold at the public auction of the possessions of her grandparents, Charles and Viola Weaver. The deed stated that whoever bought the old home would also have to take care of Frances Henderson. She was "never to leave the property." Although Mrs. Crane did not know Frances or the history of her ancestors who had raised Frances, she began to gather information about Frances' life in Madison County from family members whom she interviewed over the next 30 years. In addition to specific events that could be remembered, family members added "diaries, legends, folklore, recipes, and living conditions" during Frances' lifetime. The book is written in the present tense with many true stories along with a lively imagination of what might have happened from day to day and using the country dialect of that time. Following her talk and a question and answer period in the Auditorium of the Madison County Administration Building, a reception was held next door in the Kemper House. Mrs. Crane continued to answer any questions attendees had about her book and autographed copies of the book. The book of Frances' life in Madison County is available for sale at the Arcade Museum in Madison.



Maxine Weaver Crane lives near Madison, NC, but will continue to spend time in Madison County, VA, as she and her sister have inherited the property on Deale Mountain where Frances Henderson was so lovingly cared for by the Deal/Yowell/Weaver families. Maxine indicated that she would be back in Madison for the annual "Taste of the Mountain" festival at the end of the summer.



Jay Mow donates check to Co-presidents Bill Scholten and Jane Volchansky

## **DONATION FROM QUESTERS**

At the Madison County Historical Society's Board of Directors meeting on June 12, Mrs. Jacqueline Mow, a Madison resident and President of the Piedmont Chapter of Questers, presented the Historical Society a check for \$700 for the Slave Quarters Restoration Project. Questers is a philanthropic group, with chapters throughout the US and Canada. There are seven chapters in Virginia. Members meet once a month, except for summer, usually at a member's home, for talks and discussion. In

addition to their search for objects of historic and/or aesthetic value they are interested in and support historic restoration and preservation. Their motto is "joy to seek and fun to find."



The Madison County Historical Society began its effort to restore the slave quarters located in back of the Kemper Residence last September with a dinner and an exhibit of Tucker Hills' prints. This was followed by an appeal to the Historical Society membership and to the community at large for contributions. To date over \$7,000 has been raised of the projected \$50,000 needed for the restoration. The Society will apply for grant support; however, foundations rarely provide complete funding for a project. Therefore the Historical Society continues to appeal to the Madison community to donate funds for the restoration. Donations may be made out to Madison Historical Society with a note in the memo section for Slave Quarters Renovation fund and sent to: Madison County Historical Society, P.O. Box 467, Madison, VA 22727.

## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOSTS GERMANNA GUESTS**

Again this year the Madison County Historical Society had a thrilling experience greeting Germanna descendants from all over the country. The large tour bus of forty-four began at Best Western in Culpeper, where most of the tourists were staying. Madison County native Emily Williams served as tour guide for the day. Headed to Criglersville, we entered Madison County on the Hoover Road where Conrad Amberger settled the Tryme area in 1733. Criglersville was first settled by the Clores for several generations and included over one-

thousand acres. Two Clore brothers spent the winter in 1726 clearing the land and building a house for their parents and younger siblings. This house was on the property that is now Coates land. Here hemp was grown for making rope and flax for burlap. Tobacco was the main money crop. Corn, wheat, oats and barley soon replaced tobacco, which depleted the land.

The Criglers, first cousins of the Clores, owned the adjoining land at the Banco intersection and began buying out their Clore cousins and a town began to grow - thus the name Criglersville. The German families were isolated in this new location except for two Quaker families on Quaker Run.

After a stop at Mount Carmel Baptist Church to see Frances Henderson's grave (yes, the author of *Ask for Nothing*, Maxine Crane and her husband were on the tour), we traveled slowly down Hebron Valley Road pointing out land grant sites along the way. Passengers were able to see where the Tanners, Wilhoits, Broyles, Blankenbakers, Utzs, etc. settled.

The trip to Wolftown was just as exciting as we passed through land grants settled by the English before again being on what-was German soil. Tourists saw Broyles, Rouse and Holt land grants (all German names). Michael Holt's first land grant was where the Acorn Hill Winery is now located. This 1726 land grant was the exact same date as that of the Clores in the Criglersville area. However, in 1728 Michael Holt acquired his second land grant adjoining his first land grant. This tract, now owned by David and Betty McMullen, provided the perfect high spot for walking the land and overlooking the surrounding English land grants. This was the western German frontier at that time.

The tour continued through Wolftown to Hood to view German Ridge, the Delph land grant and large acreage later acquired by the Weaver family, also German descendants with Clore ties.

Lunch provided by the Hebron Church afforded the tour group the special opportunity to be in the setting and place of worship of their ancestors. Here the bus tourists were greeted with a welcome home banner reading "Wilkommen da Heim" (Welcome Home in German), a reception line of Madisonians and words of welcome by County Supervisor Robert Miller and Historical Society Co-President Bill

Scholten. Local Madisonians with the same family names mingled and got acquainted. Bus tour cousins ate with their Madison cousins. Some Madison cousins brought old clippings, photos, ledgers, etc. to share with their new found cousins.

John Blankenbaker, Germanna Historian, showed the 1740 sanctuary and told a brief history of the Church.

The visiting Yeager family members who could not see their land grant sites from the bus were given a private tour by van and caught up with the main tour later. The Historical Society provided this service.

From Hebron Church the tour bus stopped at the Arcade Museum in Madison with the option of seeing records at the relocated clerk's office. Again van services were available if desired. The final stop was the Kemper Residence with the opportunity to see the law office as well as walk over to the Library. Members of the Historical Society assisted at all stops.

Seeing Madison County didn't end in the one-day tour as another hard-to-reach site was shown by the tour guide early Saturday morning before the seminars. Also, Sunday afternoon after the main events of the day far-away cousins visited with a Madison family.

Much is to be gained from family reunions - those we grew up with and knew as children and extended family that the older folks grew up with and still others who have many generations of family links before discovering common ground. The success of the tour depended on the support of the Madison County Historical Society. It was a joy to see the events of the day unfold so beautifully. Thank you all.

## MEMBERSHIP

Here are new members that joined the Society in the second quarter of 2008:

Maxine Crane  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kirtley  
Kathleen N. Olmstead  
E.C. Painter  
Rachel H. Sanborn  
Margaret Taylor  
Everette D. Weakley

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

## KEMPER FALL TEA



Enjoying tea at the Kemper House

Some new items have been added to the menu for the fall fundraising tea, to be held at the Kemper Residence Wednesday, September 24, at 12:30 p.m.

In addition to Belle Kemper's Cheese Wafers, Highland Scones and other favorites, the selection will include Ham Pinwheels, Mini Beef Sandwiches and Orange Cranberry cookies. A total of 19 delicious savories, sweets and fruit treats will be offered, along with cups of Kemper House tea. The price remains at \$18 for the popular luncheon tea.

The food is prepared and served by volunteers at no cost to the Society. All proceeds go to the kitchen renovation and other projects. Guests may wish to purchase packages of tea, Historical Society Christmas ornaments and other items that will be available.

"We encourage all Society members to enjoy a delightful dining experience with friends and neighbors in the former home of James and Belle Kemper," said Mary Haught, who coordinates arrangements with husband Bob. "Spouses and other guests are welcome, and we are also happy to accommodate small groups."

Because of limited seating, reservations are a necessity. To reserve places call 547-4398 and give your name, phone number and how many are in the party.

Mark the date - September 24 - for another in this series of benefit teas which started five years ago.

## ARCADE MUSEUM

The museum has an excellent Civil War display on loan from John and Linwood Imlay. There are many interesting personal items to see. It features a story and picture of their great grandfather John James Brown.



John James Brown

Mr. Brown was born in Madison County on March 10, 1837, one of seven children born to William Henry and Mary Yager Chick Brown. He was married on December 1, 1859 to Hannah Mildred Sparks. At the time of his marriage he was a merchant at Oak Park, VA. Mr. Brown joined the Volunteer Militia Unit, Richardson's guards in 1858. He later enlisted as a Private in the 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, Co. A on April 25, 1861. His enlistment was for one year; however, he was given a Certificate of Disability and discharged in October of 1861 due to 'Phthisis Pulmonalis'.

After his discharge Mr. Brown returned to Oak Park to recuperate. He spent his entire life in Oak Park as a merchant and farmer and at various periods served the Locust Dale District as Supervisor and Road Commissioner.

Mr. Brown answered the last roll call on August 24, 1911 and was laid to rest at Mt. Zion Baptist Church Cemetery in Oak Park.

Also displayed are "Muster Rolls" for Richardson's Guards and the 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, Company A. Come see if your ancestor is on the list

## CEMETERY PROJECT SOCIETY MEMBERS SEEN ON NEWS

On July 10, 2008 Jennifer Black with Channel 19 of Charlottesville came out to Madison to interview Sandy Stowe and Beppy White about the ongoing Cemetery Project. Part of the filming and interview took place in the Arcade Museum and then Sandy and Beppy led Jennifer out to one of the fast deteriorating family graveyards in the county. The graveyard is located on the Walrond Farm and with a date of 1729, has the oldest marked stone found yet in Madison.

The piece ran several times on July 12 and could also be seen on the Channel 19 website.

We are still looking for these old graveyards so if you know of one and are not sure if it has been surveyed, please call Sandy Stowe at 948-6689 or the Arcade at 948-5488

## THE REST OF THE STORY

When our team working on the cemetery project found a gravestone with "Fido Rosser", they immediately guessed it was someone's pet and they were right. But the details were not made clear until Marion Rosser Homza called from Springfield, VA, with the story of that pet.

Marion grew up in Criglersville where her father, Wilmer Rosser, ran one of the country stores. When Marion, an only child, left home to attend nursing school, her parents missed her so much that they got a Jack Russell. Marion says, "We had never before had a dog and I kidded my father that I was replaced **by a dog!**" The dog became a beloved companion to both Wilmer and his wife, Lillie, who would hold him on her lap when the dog became old and arthritic. During hot summer days, the dog would crawl under the car in the carport to sleep. If the car had to be moved, Wilmer would always call the dog out from underneath before starting the motor.

One day Wilmer got a call to rush to the home of an area resident who needed to be transported to the hospital (no Rescue Squad in those days).

Wilmer started the car and backed up, only to feel a bump. He realized what had happened. The little dog had been caught under the wheel and had been killed. Wilmer and Lillie were devastated! Being so much a part of their family, the little dog was buried in the family plot in the cemetery on the hill in Criglersville. And that's the rest of the story.

## FROM THE ARCADE MUSEUM WATER WOES

The Arcade Museum has been without water since March when a huge water bill arrived indicating there was a leak in the water line under the building. It reminded us of the line from Coleridge's *The Ancient Mariner*, "Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink." The water line was turned off at the meter and the County is waiting for the engineers who will do the repair. In the meantime, volunteers bring their water bottles and one of our Board members brings cans of water with which to flush. Our Board members have been patient and our visitors have been very understanding



## THE BURNT TREE STORE

By Carroll Jay Good

This Burnt Tree Store had a special meaning to me, as it was where I got on the school bus my very first day for school in the first grade at Radiant School in 1939. Mr. Otis Brockman was the school bus driver. Miss Annie Elizabeth Kipps was my first grade teacher and Mr. Dewey Linwood Lohr was the school principal. The site where the store was located is on state road 685, which is now Burnt Tree Way.

When I started in the first grade in September 1939, we lived near the Burnt Tree Store. We lived on state road 679, now Deer Crossing Lane. We moved from that location on

December 25, 1939, into the house that was being built by my father and grandfather, on state road 684 near Radiant. When we moved into our new home, the house was under roof, but only one room was partially finished.

The store at Burnt Tree, Madison County, Virginia was originally built and operated by Mr. Kenneth Cash. Later, Mr. Cash sold the store to Mr. Oliver Dinwiddie Tucker. Yes, the same Oliver Dinwiddie Tucker, the professional baseball player from Madison County. Mr. Tucker operated the store until his death in 1940. After Mr. Tucker, Mr. James "Jim" Lohr operated the store for Mr. Tucker's wife, Thelma Parrish Tucker. Mr. Lohr operated the store until someone knocked him in the head and robbed him. In 1944, Mrs. Thelma Tucker sold the store, an adjacent dwelling house and 6.5 acres of land to Mr. Russell Edward Nash, Sr. The store sat vacant for about 5 years.

Now the story of the Texaco gas pump: The gas pump (as seen on the far right side of picture of Burnt Tree Store) was one that required someone to operate the pump handle, back and forth, to pump the gas from the underground tank up into the glass reservoir in the upper part of the pump stand. The gas could then be dispensed, by the gravity flow method, via a hose, into a vehicle's gas tank or a gas can or gas drum. The maximum amount of gas that could be pumped into the glass reservoir at one time was 10 gallons. There were markers (1-10), placed vertically, inside the glass reservoir to indicate the amount of gas, in gallons, being pumped into the reservoir.

In 1948, my father, William Lohr Good, decided that he would start buying gas, in bulk, for his business operation, from the Texaco gas distributor, Arthur E. Sims, in Orange, Virginia. My father's business was threshing grain, bailing straw and hay for farmers and saw milling. My father made an arrangement to use the gas pump and the underground tank from the Burnt Tree store because it was not being used at the store anymore. I went with my father when he went to see Mr. Russell Nash, Sr. I can recall Mr. Nash showing us his new car, a 1948 Pontiac Streamliner four-door sedan.

Mr. Nash said he was so proud of it because it was the first new car that he had owned. It was the first car that I had seen with a wiper on the rear window. My father took his work crew and

they dug up the tank and took the tank and pump to our place near Radiant. My father used the tank and pump until he closed his business, due to health problems, in the mid 1950's.

About 1949, Mr. Welford Curtis Lohr rented the store from Mr. Russell Nash, Sr. and reopened the store. During this time, in addition to selling general merchandise, the store became a gathering place, at night, in the community for card playing (mostly, the game of set back), telling tall tales and discussing the latest happenings of the day.

In the early 1950's, an added incentive was provided to cause persons in the community to frequently visit the store at night. Mr. Welford Lohr purchased a DuMont black & white TV set, with maybe an 8-inch screen, and had a TV antenna installed on a 25-30 foot mast to allow for reception of TV signals from Washington, D.C. The main draw was Tuesday night wrestling, with announcer, Dennis James. On these nights the store was packed with all the chairs being occupied and persons sitting on nail kegs or whatever was available.

Sometime later in the early 1950's, this store was closed and Mr. Henry Lohr built a new store across the way on Route 230, Orange Road. Route 230 was built in the 1939-1940 era to replace portions of the old highway between Rt. 29 and Rt. 15, the main roadway between the towns of Madison and Orange.

Following the closure of the old Burnt Tree Store, the Burnt Tree Grange rented the building until the new Burnt Tree Grange building was built along side of Route 230 (Orange Road), at Radiant. The original Burnt Tree store was moved down state road 679 (Deer Crossing Lane) and became a dwelling house.

1. The picture of the Burnt Tree Store was copied from a post card obtained from Mary Eloise "Peggy" Good Johnson

2. Some of the above information was obtained by telephone interviews with Mary Eloise "Peggy" Good Johnson, Emily Frances Lohr Jenkins and Russell Edward Nash, Jr.

3. Oliver Dinwiddie TUCKER and Carroll Jay GOOD are 2nd cousins 1 time removed. Their common ancestors are Reuben TUCKER Jr. and Polly (Mary) B. EAGAN.



The crossroads of Rochelle is the 2008 Ornament. Cost will be \$11.00. Previous ornaments (Courthouse-2002, Kemper Residence-2003, Arcade-2004, Hebron Lutheran Church-2005, Piedmont Episcopal Church-2006, and Chestnut Grove Baptist Church-2007) are also available and may be purchased at the Arcade.



Portrait of Judge Hay from Arcade Collection

**JUDGE HAY'S RECOLLECTIONS**  
will be continued in the next edition of the Newsletter.

## 2008 ORNAMENT

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	\$20
Partner	\$100 to \$249	Single	\$10
Friend	\$50 to \$99	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

