



# 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

November 2011

## ANN MULLER TO SPEAK



Ann Miller, Architectural Historian

Ann L. Miller, noted local Architectural Historian, author and lecturer, will speak to the Society on Sunday November 20, 2011. Ms. Miller will speak to us about early transportation in Madison County.

The history of transportation is closely allied to the history of settlement and the development of our society and culture. How did the early inhabitants of Madison County travel to (and within) this region? How did they cross rivers and mountains? How did they get their goods to market? How were the early roads built and maintained?

Ms. Miller is a historian for the Virginia Department of Transportation, a Madison County resident, and a Board member of the Madison County Historical Society. She will present an overview of early travel and the development of the transportation systems in

Madison County, along with Madison's place within the transportation network of the

surrounding region. Included will be early technology (and sometimes the lack thereof), the difference between the county road system and turnpikes, social history and transportation expectations, teamsters, and a look at Madison County's legendary "turkey drives."

Ms. Miller is currently Historian for the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research (VCTIR) in Charlottesville, acting as principal investigator for the VCTIR's history program, including research into historic bridges, early roads, and other aspects of transportation history. She holds the degrees of Bachelor of Architectural History (1979) and Master of Architectural History with Certificate in Historic Preservation, both from the University of Virginia.

The meeting will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday November 20 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.

## WESTMINSTER-CANTERBURY GROUP VISITS MADISON

On September 22 a group of Westminster-Canterbury residents came to Madison for a day tour. The group was led by Susan Hull who grew up in Graves Mill but lives in the Charlottesville area. Their first stop was the Arcade and they seemed to really enjoy our exhibits, upstairs and down. We had expected about 27 but because it was a rainy day there were 11. From the museum they went to the Courthouse where Ann Miller spoke to them about the history and

renovations. Hebron Lutheran Church was the last stop and then on to lunch.

## SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Anniversary Coordinator Donna Bedwell

Donna Bedwell, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coordinator for Shenandoah National Park since July of 2009, was the guest speaker for the August meeting of the Madison County Historical Society. The subject of her talk was the decades leading up to the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and an overview of the events celebrating the Park in 2011.

In an excellent and informative presentation with projected pictures, Ms. Bedwell explained the beginnings of the Park concept, why and how it was formed and ultimately the finished product. The presentation covered the decade of the 1920's when the thought was presented for the establishment of an Eastern National Park near the Capitol which would boost the economy without destroying the scenery, the construction of the scenic drive in the 1930's and the various problems (such as segregation) and improvements in the following decades.



Walls constructed by CCC

The Park is surrounded by twelve Virginia Counties and provides magnificent overlooks, hiking trails and lodging facilities amidst its scenic beauty all of which is very familiar to Madison County residents. History buffs can visit Rapidan Camp, President and Mrs. Hoover's Summer White House, accessible from Madison County as well as the Skyline Drive, which unfortunately is not accessible from Madison County.



Hoover's Camp Rapidan

At the February 2008 meeting LtCol Riley, USMC, spoke to the society about the role of the Marine Corps in planning, building, managing and guarding President Hoover's retreat in the Shenandoah Mountains.

A lengthy and interesting discussion ensued following the presentation involving individuals with some particular insight into aspects of the Park.

## FALL TEA AT KEMPER ANOTHER SUCCESS



Sandy Stowe, Jane Volchansky, Jean Coates and Pat Lattin enjoy the fall tea

The Fall Luncheon Tea on September 28<sup>th</sup> was at full capacity, thanks to support from a number of “regulars” and some who attended for the first time. Two of our guests traveled from Northern Virginia and two more from the Norfolk area, and they all said they want to return in the Spring!

The team that hosts these semi-annual fund raising teas is grateful for continuing support from the community. Those with reservations who had to cancel at the last minute offered their payment as a contribution to the Society, and their spaces allowed those on a waiting list to attend.

The Spring Tea is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, 2012, so if you wish to join us, mark your calendars as soon as you can. We'll have a reminder in the Spring Historical Society newsletter.

We are still in need of a few more teapots, so if you have one you would be willing to donate, we can put it to good use. It can be either new or an antique. We use some of both. If you have a teapot you would be willing to contribute to the Society, please let tea coordinator Mary Haught know. She can be reached at 547-3503 or [Maryhaught@hughes.net](mailto:Maryhaught@hughes.net).

Keep in mind that the Kemper Residence is available to rent for receptions, meetings or other events. The rates are very reasonable, and rental 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 the above numbers.

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

## CIVIL WAR DOCUMENT SCANNING PROJECT

The Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission and the Library of Virginia have partnered to create an online collection of original Civil War manuscripts that still remain in private hands. The Civil War 150 Legacy Project: Document Digitization and Access focuses on manuscript materials created during the period 1859-1867 that reflect social, political, military, business and religious life in Virginia during the period of the Civil War and the early period of Reconstruction. Based on the Library of Virginia's experience and recent acquisitions, many original manuscripts concerning the Civil War are still held and maintained in private collections. These items range from single letters and diaries to substantial collections of correspondence between soldiers and family at home. These firsthand accounts, often in fragile or deteriorating condition, are carefully guarded treasures that many families are reluctant to relinquish. By scanning these items and providing online access, the Legacy Project will allow individuals to retain their original items, yet preserve and provide access to these valuable documents.

On Thursday September 22, 2011, a technician from the Library of Virginia was in Madison at the Arcade Museum to scan documents. Several people brought in items and 154 scans were made. Because there is more interest we will have the technician come back in the spring of 2012. Watch the Eagle and this newsletter for the date.

## NEW MEMBERS

Here are new members who joined the Society since our last newsletter:

Stephen Cook, Noblesville, IN  
Kath Doerr, Hood, VA  
Jean McClary Stephenson,  
Newport News, VA

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

## MANIKIN NEED

We would like to have several manikins so that we can display some of the beautiful old dresses we have been given. A dress maker's manikin will work just fine. We have a source for heads to put on them if necessary. Please call Beppy at 540-718-5328 or leave a message at the Arcade 948-5488

## THE MADISON FREE PRESS



Free Press at Madison Courthouse

Earlier in the year, the Madison County Historical Society received an inquiry from the Central Rappahannock Heritage Center in Fredericksburg. A photo in their collections, identified as taken in Madison County, showed a small frame building with a sign over the door reading "Free Press" and several people at the doorway or in front of the building, including a man with a bicycle, identified as "L.M. Turner" (believed to be Leonard Turner). Could we tell them anything about the building or Mr. Turner, they asked.

After some research, we discovered that, amazingly, the little building still stands near Pratts, although slightly changed and moved slightly from its original location. Some digging in various records also revealed something about the Madison Free Press, a late 19<sup>th</sup> century Madison County newspaper that was only published for a few years:

Lester Cappon's Virginia Newspapers 1821-1935 lists the Madison Free Press in operation from 1893 to 1894 (the end date is uncertain), and notes that the paper was established as the Madison and Greene Free Press. Cappon states that the newspaper was dated at Pratts, and gives the editor as "Belum Miller." Other sources note that the Madison Free Press was in operation from 1893 to ca. 1896/1897. There was an ad for this paper in the 1896 Madison County Directory (which the Historical Society reprinted some years ago), listing "Bellum Miller," attorney at law, as the paper's "Editor and Proprietor" and the "publication office" at Pratts. In the address section of the 1896 Directory, Bellum Miller is listed as an "Editor & Lawyer" with a Pratts address. Also in the 1896 Directory, L. M. Turner is listed as a "painter" with a Pratts address. Both Claude Yowell's (p. 154) and Margaret Davis's (p. 301) published histories of Madison County contain references to this newspaper, as well.

Mr. Jimmy Hale told us that the Free Press was first printed in 1891. He has an original issue and he had a copy made for the Historical Society. He also told us that his parents George and Alease Hale later lived in this building for three years while their home was being built. At some point, 231 was widened and George Hale and his brother put the building on sleds and moved it back from the road with horses.

Additional information on the Free Press, its history, publisher, and/or L. M. Turner would be most welcome for the Historical Society's files.



Newspaper building today

Remember the Society when doing your holiday shopping. Here are some suggestions for items available at the Arcade Museum or on line at:

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

**MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRICE LIST**

ITEM	Full Price		
	Price	Tax	Total
<b>ORNAMENTS</b>			
Society Ornament – any year	\$11.00	\$0.55	\$11.55
Jamestown Medallion Key Chain	\$11.00	\$0.55	\$11.55
<b>BOOKS</b>			
<i>Adopted Son</i> By Greg Glassner	\$12.00	\$0.60	\$12.60
<i>Madison County, A Revised History</i> By Margaret Davis	\$15.00	\$0.75	\$15.75
<i>Madison County Land Grants 1722-1865</i> By Dewey Lillard	\$25.00	\$1.25	\$26.25
<i>Shenandoah National Park and its Neighbors</i>	\$21.99	\$1.10	\$23.09
<i>President and Mrs. Hoover's Rapidan Camp</i>	\$1.00	\$0.05	\$1.05
<i>Ask for Nothing</i> By Maxine Weaver Crane	\$18.00	\$0.90	\$18.90
<i>A Sky-Line Drive</i> by Reed Engle	\$16.95	\$0.85	\$17.80
<i>Everything Was Wonderful</i> by Reed Engle	\$16.95	\$0.85	\$17.80
<i>Light of the Mtn. Moon</i> by Reed Engle	\$16.95	\$0.85	\$17.80
<i>In the Shadow of Ragged Mountain</i> By Audrey Horning	\$16.95	\$0.85	\$17.80
<i>The Dean Mtn. Story</i> by Gloria Dean	\$5.50	\$0.28	\$5.78
<i>Lewis Mountain Man</i> by John Stoneberger	\$8.00	\$0.40	\$8.40
<i>Shenandoah Secrets</i> by C & J Reeder	\$13.95	\$0.70	\$14.65
<i>Shenandoah National Park Undying Past</i> By Darwin Lambert	\$19.95	\$1.00	\$20.95
<i>Walking Tour of Madison County</i>	\$2.00	\$0.10	\$2.10
<i>Madison County Almanac 1907</i>	\$4.50	\$0.23	\$4.73
<i>Madison County Directory 1896</i>	\$4.50	\$0.23	\$4.73
<i>Bicentennial Plate</i>	\$10.00	\$0.50	\$10.50
<i>1776 Map Culpeper, Madison, Rappahannock</i>	\$10.00	\$0.50	\$10.50
<i>Note Cards (Arcade) - per package</i>	\$1.00	\$0.05	\$1.05
<i>Note Cards – Photos by Martha Cornwell</i>	\$1.25	\$0.06	\$1.31
<i>Legacy of the Land note cards, series 1</i>	\$15.00	\$0.75	\$15.75
<i>Legacy of the Land note cards, series 2</i>	\$15.00	\$0.75	\$15.75
<i>Sheet Music – Madison Song</i>	\$1.25	\$0.06	\$1.31
<i>Madison County Calendar - any year</i>	\$2.00	\$0.10	\$2.10
<i>Indian Tribes Puzzle</i>	\$16.00	\$0.80	\$16.80
<i>Twelve Generation Family Charts</i>	\$4.00	\$0.20	\$4.20

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.madisonvahistoricalsociety.org](http://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](mailto:madisonhistory@verizon.net).

Madison County Historical Society

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Madison, Virginia 22727

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