

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF *the* Madison Family Descendants 2008 Newsletter

Letter from the Society President

Dear Cousins,

Preparations for our next triennial reunion and general meeting at the soon-to-be-restored “Montpelier” estate June 19–21, 2009 are entering high gear. Susan Fogg, vice president, is heading our Reunion Committee assisted by Ann Thornton, Ed Kube and Susan Garrett, among many others. We are asking family members to “mark their calendars now” for these events. Details regarding hotel reservations will be forthcoming in the next few months.

Our summer 2008 meeting in Orange was one of our best and most productive, with magnificent hospitality courtesy of Gail Babnew, Helen Marie Taylor, Ann Thornton, Johnny Scott and John Trimmer. The adoption of our new by-laws, shepherded through several editings by Susan Fogg with significant input from Ridge Porter, Iris Eaton and James Bolton, was several years in the making and brings us in-line with the other family societies—in particular the Washington family—on which we are largely modeled.

Gail and Joel Silverman’s “Springfield Farm” was a new delight to most of us, and a fascinating equine operation and restoration project to explore. In fact, the chapel ruins were quite a discovery to several of us who had long prided ourselves on Orange County historical minutiae. Members of The Montpelier Foundation joined us for the Friday evening cookout, and the expert and authentic Gordonsville barbecue by-far passed muster with our highly exacting North Carolinian cousins who pride themselves on their standards in this regard. And John Macon’s personal generosity on this evening might also have been considered extraordinary had we not long known how that great heart had encompassed us in so many ways, great and small, for so many years.

The James Madison Museum’s new exhibits highlighting the relationship between the second-cousin Presidents Madison and Taylor were on the first stop of our Saturday agenda. This museum’s interpretation of the first half-century of our Republic in the context of these two presidencies and their roots in the culture of Orange County will continue to provide visitors with an unique historical and cultural perspective. The display of Madisonian artifacts here—furniture, clothing, painting, ceramics and jewelry—has also been augmented of late, and the museum remains a “must see” for family members, especially those who have not recently toured it.

Helen Marie’s grand and elegant Saturday luncheon on the porches of “Meadowfarm”—with its vistas and Charles Gillette designed gardens in high blossom—was as much a treat for her as for us, as she greatly loves to share this rare, dear home and its countless treasures with the family. No less a treat, especially



Frederick Madison Smith, President, The National Society of the Madison Family Descendants.

for those who had never seen it, was a rather dramatic tour of “Bloomsbury” with a gathering thunderstorm as a backdrop (we discovered the burglar alarm is fully functional here, as well). This house is not only important to the family’s history given its age, Taylor ownership and unique state of preservation, but is an important survival of plantation manor house architecture in the Virginia Piedmont and, indeed, as the earliest surviving exemplar of the “Southern Porch,” of more than casual note to American architecture generally. Helen Marie’s foresight in seeing to it that “Bloomsbury” will be maintained in perpetuity should not only be a great source of pride to her and the whole family, but a testament to her very deep, thoughtful and genuine love for us, our unique history and our traditions.

Ann, Johnny and John upheld the longstanding and well-deserved reputation of “Beaumont” as “The Oasis Along the Gordonsville Pike” for our Saturday evening cocktail hour. We were especially glad to see Johnny’s health “on the mend” as his hospitality and kindness here have long set the standard for all of us.

One is astonished to see Gordonsville continue to expand its entertainment venues, and our dinner at Pomme was more than the

equal of anything our Richmond, Williamsburg, Philadelphia or New York venues have provided down the years.

For we out-of-towners, Ridge and DeLane Porter’s efforts to see us snugly ensconced at “Sleepy Hollow” were very much appreciated. Extraordinary, as well, that so many of the family’s “personalities” could be housed in such very close quarters so harmoniously for several days, with or without the attentions of the erstwhile

The coming year is full of promise not only due to the reunion and the completion of the Montpelier restoration, but our serious research on the Madison family’s English origins (and beyond) are continuing to bear fruit.

Madison Silver Goal Reached!

By Susan Raines Garrett, Director NSMFD

Dear Cousins, Friends of the NSMFD, fans of Montpelier and all lovers of beautiful silver,

THANK YOU! WE DID IT! We have, at last, raised the \$9000 needed to purchase the 32-piece set of "Fiddle Thread" silver flatware to give to Montpelier! After the Fall 2007 newsletter and the February 2008 membership and fundraising mailing, your donations came rolling in—we raised over \$5000 in less than

nine months. The Officers and Directors of The National Society of the Madison Family Descendants thank all of you who donated so generously to this effort. The list of donors—my heroes!—is displayed in a box elsewhere on this page. The Madison Silver donors list is also on our terrific website: www.jamesmadisonfamily.com.

We will present the silver to the Montpelier Foundation during our next NSMFD reunion, to be held June 19, 20 and 21, 2009 at Montpelier. It is exciting to be able to give this gift from our Madison family to Montpelier so close to the completion of the mansion's renovation. Please join us at this reunion and help present the gift you have made possible! If you haven't been to



"Fiddle Thread" silver pattern.

Montpelier since the last reunion in 2005.... well, you won't believe your eyes when you see what has transpired in the last three to four years! Amazing!

A little history on this silverware project for those new to NSMFD: In 2001, the respected firm of James Robinson, Inc., in New York, was commissioned to recreate a 32-piece set of silver in the "Fiddle Thread" pattern for the celebration of the 250th anniversary of James Madison's birth. The original set, made in Paris by Gerard Duru, was sent to James and

Dolley Madison by James Monroe, probably between 1804–1806, while Monroe was in Paris as Minister to France. Several pieces from the original set are now owned by the Smithsonian Institution. The set created by James Robinson, Inc., has been on loan to Montpelier since 2001.

Many thanks to James Robinson, Inc., for their generous loan of the beautifully crafted silver and for their patience while we raised the funds for the purchase!

Once again, a heartfelt THANK YOU to all of you who donated funds for this lovely and important gift. Please join the family in presenting it to the Montpelier Foundation at the June 2009 NSMFD reunion. I look forward to seeing you there.

Madison Silver Flatware Donors

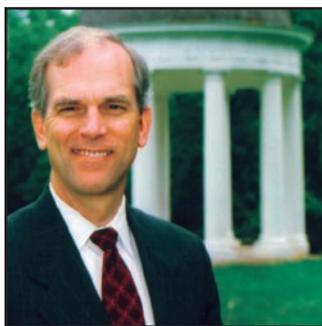
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News from Montpelier

By Michael Quinn, President, The Montpelier Foundation

As I write this, we are in a race to the finish! The national celebration of the restoration of Montpelier is just around the corner—September 17, 2008—to be exact, which is Constitution Day. Our craftsmen are devoting every moment to the final stages of restoration, hanging doors, painting trim, putting the finishing touches on windows, and cleaning up and grading the grounds. But when a home encompasses more than 12,000 square feet, these finishing details take some time!

And I am delighted to report that the home is magnificent. Already we know that it will achieve our dream of "returning" James and Dolley to their home, making tangible their presence, their personalities and their achievements. Chief among these achievements is the home itself—although Madison created it in two building campaigns, it is a unified, well-proportioned and beautifully detailed architectural statement. It powerfully reveals Madison's creativity and genius.



By the time you read this, the national celebration on Sept. 17 is likely to be past and, if our hopes are realized, you will have already learned about it through newspapers, magazines and television. The celebration is the most important event in the modern history of Montpelier, and we are striving to achieve national visibility, announcing to all

Americans that Montpelier is one of the nation's premier historic homes and that Madison was one of our most important founding fathers.

I am happy to report that attendance continues to accelerate even though work is still underway. To date, our visitation is up 20% this year, which puts Montpelier on track to welcome and educate a record number of visitors this year. Of course, we hope that restoration brings attention and numbers that will quickly eclipse this record!

Treasurer's Message

By John Macon Cornick, Treasurer

I would like to thank everyone who helped our association reach some important goals during the past 12 months. For the NSMFD to be successful, we know that we have to increase the number of family members paying dues each year. The association received 64 dues payments during the past 12 months, a large increase over the 22 dues payments received in the prior 12 months. We welcomed 11 new Lifetime Members into our association, almost doubling the six Lifetime Memberships received in the prior 12 months. The association now totals 37 lifetime paid members.

The association received \$7,595.00 in dues payments during the past 12 months. The majority of the money is used to communicate with our family members through our annual newsletter and our great website (www.jamesmadisonfamily.com). The association is also actively involved in DNA studies in the United States and England to help identify our ancestors. Other funds will be used to make the 2009 family reunion a special time that we hope you will make every effort to attend.

Another goal of our association during the past couple of years was to collect enough money to purchase the reproduction of the Madison family silver. I am thrilled to be able to report that we have reached our goal with total collections of \$11,418.00. This will enable us to purchase the silver and also have some excess monies to be used by the Montpelier Foundation for projects related to the renovation. The silver will be a treasured addition to James Madison's renovated Montpelier home. Please plan to come to the family reunion to be held in June 2009 when the association will present the silver to Montpelier.

Your dues payments will help the association achieve its purpose of cultivating ties of friendships among all Madison families, provide leadership in the assembling of historical information about the Madison family and to perpetuate for future generations the opportunity to commemorate and honor the leadership of our forebears.



Officers and Directors 2008–2011

The NSMFD 2008–2011 officers and directors gathered for a photo on the steps of Springfield Farm after the annual meeting at Montpelier in June. Pictured from left are: Front Row—Gail Babnew-Silverman, President Frederick Madison Smith, and Susan R. Garrett. Second Row—Treasurer John Macon Cornick, Mark A. Parsells, Vice President Susan Lewis Fogg. Third Row—John William Garrett, IV, J. Ridgely Porter, III, Ann Belfield Thornton, and Secretary C. Edward Kube, Jr. Top Row—John Ferratt Macon. Not pictured were: Margaret Macon Boeker, Registrar Iris Collins Eaton, and Helen Marie Taylor.

NSMFD 2009 Family Reunion

By Susan Lewis Fogg, Vice President

Save these dates! The Madison Family Tri-annual Reunion will be held June 20 and 21, 2009 at Montpelier.

The reunion committee met with Phyllis Johnson of the Montpelier Foundation on June 13, 2008 prior to the meeting. We have some exciting plans. After registration on Saturday morning there will be tours of the new visitor's center and the newly renovated Mansion. We will have the family picture and a picnic on the grounds. After lunch there will be tours of the archaeology office and lab and the Annie DuPont Formal Gardens. We also will have a speaker at the Education Center. There will be a cocktail party on the Portico at the Mansion followed by a lovely dinner in the Grand Salon.

On Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. there will be a Madison Family Association business meeting followed by lunch at the cemetery and graveside laying of the wreath.

Ed Kube has a block of rooms reserved at both the Holiday Inn Express in Orange at \$127.00 a night, and a block of rooms at the Best Western Crossroads Inn & Suites at Zion Crossroads off of I-64 in Louisa County for \$110.75 per night. The cut off date for reserving one of the 50 rooms reserved for members of NSMFD at the Holiday Inn is May 19, 2009. The cut off date for reservations at one of the twenty rooms reserved in our name at the Best Western is April 15, 2009. Be sure to tell the reservation clerk that you are a member of the NSMFD and that you want the group rate. All room costs are individual pay accounts.

Hopefully by now you have received a list of hotels and bed and breakfast's in the area. Make reservations early as they fill up quickly.

Don't forget we will be presenting the Madison Silver to the Foundation.

I hope to see many cousins for a fun and educational weekend!

If you have any questions, reunion committee members can be reached as follows: Chairperson Susan Fogg – susanfogg@verizon.net; Ed Kube – cekube@firstva.com; Ann Thornton – annbthornton@aol.com; or Iris Eaton at – ieaton@sbcglobal.net.

If you don't have internet Susan can be reached at (804) 443-6530.

Madison Family Cemetery scanned for unmarked grave sites

By ED KUBE, Director, NSMFD
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Scientific research is taking place in the Madison Family Cemetery at Montpelier. A national treasure, the 275 year old family cemetery is the resting place of President James Madison, Jr. who was originally buried in an unmarked gravesite in the cemetery on June 29, 1836. Though a giant obelisk prominently marks the burial site of President Madison and his wife Dolley, the remains of the president's father and mother—James Madison, Sr. and Nelly Conway Madison, and his grandparents—Ambrose and Frances Taylor Madison, are

There are as many as 100 total burials contained within the cemetery and possibly more outside the cemetery wall, however only 31 of those graves are marked with a gravestone. Marked gravestones were not common in this part of America in the 18th century and early 19th century because they would have had to be imported from England and would therefore have been very expensive.

In an interview, Chapman explained that he was contacted a few months ago by Frederick Madison Smith, President, The National Society of the Madison Family Descendants (NSMFD), concerning the use of ground penetrating radar (GPR) to investigate the possible locations of other

“Tom, have you ever heard of GPR surveys?” asked Frederick Smith of Thomas Chapman. After acknowledging that he had made use of the equipment before at Montpelier, Chapman recalled Smith saying, “I want one done at the cemetery.”

Chapman proceeded to contact Pete Petrone and Bill Hanna who have done other work of a similar nature at Montpelier. Both men are retired from previous jobs where they were very familiar with this field of research. Hanna worked for the U. S. Geological Survey before retiring and Patrone worked for the National Geographic Society. Both agreed to donate their time for free to perform the survey and analysis of the cemetery. The only thing they requested was to be compensated for their travel expenses and gas. The NSMFD will cover their expenses and any other costs that are incurred.

“This project came about during discussions between Helen Marie Taylor and myself on the one hand, and Thomas Chapman and myself on the other,” explained President Smith. “A limited scan had been done several years ago, but not a complete scan. Helen Marie is the prime mover on the Cemetery Memorials project and chairs that committee. Before we could address the issues of restoration of existing memorials or the placement of memorials where missing, we needed to know how many graves there were and where they were exactly. The radar scan is the first step in the process. We are still hoping to find a map of the cemetery which must have been made in the 19th or early 20th centuries identifying the unmarked graves and are asking the family to comb their family papers for such a document.”

Ridge Porter, NSMFD Director and former Society President, visited the cemetery during the two-day GPR surveying project.

“Sarah Catlett Madison Macon was the wife of Thomas Macon,” explained Porter as he looked at her gravestone and discussed his family connection and the cemetery research work with Chapman. Her prominent gravestone indicates that she was the wife of Thomas Macon and the daughter of James Madison, Sr. Sarah Macon died on Oct. 17, 1843.

“She was my fourth great grandmother. Also, on our Board, Peggy Boeker, John Macon and John Macon Cornick would be directly descended from her.”



John Imlay, left, and Bill Hanna drag a ground penetrating radar unit along a tape measure stretched from one end of the Madison Cemetery in a straight line to the other in order to determine if any unmarked graves or objects are located below ground within seven feet of the surface. President James Madison's obelisk is in the background.

still located in unmarked graves within the cemetery walls.

According to C. Thomas Chapman, James Madison's Montpelier, Research Coordinator, and author of the extensively researched Master's Degree thesis paper, **The Madison Family Cemetery at Montpelier**, Ambrose Madison, died in Aug. 1732 and was the first person buried in what was to become the Madison Family Cemetery. Located adjacent to where Mount Pleasant once stood, Ambrose's home, the cemetery is a short distance down the hill from where Montpelier was later built by his son, James Madison, Sr.

burials in the Madison Family Cemetery.

The NSMFD's Cemetery Memorials Committee under the direction of Helen Marie Taylor, Director, and Frederick Madison Smith are working with The Montpelier Foundation in the hopes of ultimately determining the locations of all of the graves in or around the cemetery and providing markers for the graves that are identified. A group marker may also be provided to identify others that are known to be buried in the cemetery, but in unknown grave locations. Taylor donated \$1,000 to underwrite the establishment of the Cemetery Memorials Fund.

As a result of this GPR surveying project, Chapman reiterated that he hopes to locate and identify where and how many additional unmarked gravesites are in and around the cemetery. He said that he would like to place a marker somewhere in or near the cemetery that identifies the names of all the persons that are known to be buried in the cemetery but not exactly in which grave.

The GPR used in this research project surveys what is underground up to seven feet deep without disturbing the soil at all. Soil disturbances, such as where there is a grave shaft, are recognizable on the radar screen and graph paper printout because the lines become chaotic.

The project team first laid out the cemetery in parallel north south straight tape measure lines every eighteen inches apart. Bill Hanah slowly walked the GPR antennae unit along the lines calling out specific arranged reference points to Pete Petrone through a Walkie Talkie which captured on the tape a record of the GPR readings.

Petrone is responsible for the technical end of making sure the signals from the survey antennae and radar equipment that is drawn along the tape measures stretched from one side of the cemetery to the other is working properly. After the recordings are completed; Hanna takes the data home with him and interprets all the anomalies, i.e. irregularities, which have been collected in the data.

“What you look for are anomalies. If the anomalies are very strong, they will go to blue, green or even red if it is extremely strong,” explained Petrone as he sat in a chair intently looking at a small screen on the bank of equipment in the back of his van.

“We are a group of independent people that work where we can on historic sites and for police departments at times,” described Petrone. “Each one of us has specific expertise. With Bill’s system, it is better for him to do the reports. He has a cadence used with a metronome so each time he hits on the mark. And his record is perfect. While I know more about the recording equipment in the truck.”

It will take about three weeks to complete the review of the two days worth of data collection and to prepare the report of the results according to Chapman. With over 275 years of burials represented in this cemetery and the likelihood that more graves are unmarked than are marked, the NSMFD, The Montpelier Foundation, historians and interested visitors to Montpelier



C. Thomas Chapman, The Montpelier Foundation Research Coordinator, left, and Ridge Porter, The National Society of the Madison Family Descendants director and past president, discuss the cemetery research being performed and his family connection Sarah C. Madison Macon who was buried in the cemetery in 1843.

anxiously wait for the next piece of our nation’s history to unfold.

Why is this project of importance? As Thomas Chapman quoted in his thesis paper, “...A cemetery is a community of the dead, created, maintained, and pre-

served by the community of the living.” The National Society of the Madison Family Descendants is that connection between the living community of today and those that have gone on before us that now reside in the Madison Family Cemetery.

Cemetery Maps Sought

By Frederick Madison Smith, President

As it was common practice for Southern families to map unmarked burials in their cemeteries, we are hoping some member of the extended family may have in his collection of family papers a map which might have been made of the Montpelier Cemetery in the 19th or 20th centuries.

The Cemetery Study Committee is trying to collect documentary evidence to complement the work of the Montpelier historians and archaeologists in identifying the unmarked graves in this cemetery.

Anyone with information in this line, please contact our President, Frederick Madison Smith, by e-mail to fsmith@kslaw.com or by telephone, 404-572-4714.

Contact Information

To provide information on family births or deaths please contact Ed Kube, secretary, PO Box 841, Mineral, VA, 23117; cekube@firstva.com.



Ed and Bernice Kube, have been NSMFD newsletter editors from 2005 through 2008. William Garrett is co-editing the 2008 NSMFD newsletter and will assume the responsibility as editor after the completion of the 2008 newsletter. Next year’s newsletter contact information is: William Garrett; 4708 Vernon Blvd; Long Island City, NY 11101; wg4@nyc.rr.com; 646-884-2000. Newsletter published annually by NSMFD.

Importing Denmark's Health and England's too...

A Tale of Three Fathers: Founders' DNA in North Country & Viking Origins

By Frederick Madison Smith, President

During the late 8th century, an unnamed English monk—one of the compilers of the annual historic almanac of the Saxon kingdoms known as *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*—made an ominous entry for the year A.D. 787 that foreshadowed centuries of almost continuous strife and bloodshed in his island: “This year King Bertric took Edburga the daughter of Offa to wife. And in his days came first three ships of the Northmen from the land of robbers. The reve then rode thereto, and would drive them to the king’s town; for he knew not what they were; and there was he slain. These were the first ships of the Danish men that sought the land of the English nation.”

The “Danish men” have come to be known to us as “the Vikings” and their abrupt dispatch of the Reve (or Sheriff) Beaduheard of Dorchester near the city of Portland may well be the first recorded blow in a contest for the control of England which would only end nearly three hundred years later with the defeat of the Norwegian King Harald Hardrada at the Battle of Stamford Bridge (25 September 1066) by the Saxon King Harold, scarcely a month before Harold’s own defeat by the Norman Duke William the Conqueror at Hastings.

Through the intervening centuries of warfare, the Saxon kingdoms achieved at best an uneasy peace with these Viking invaders, the most successful entente attained by the West Saxon King Alfred the Great (ca. 849-899 AD) whose treaty with the Danish King Guthrum in 886 AD established the Danelaw—a safe-haven for Viking law, customs and settlement—in the northern and eastern parts of England.

In recent years, The National Society of the Madison Family Descendants, wishing to better substantiate the family’s English roots, undertook to test the Y-DNA of the President’s family using samples donated by male descendants of his brother, William Madison of “Woodbury Forest.” Y-DNA is the unique set of genetic markers passed down from fathers to sons.

The samples were tested by FamilyTreeDNA services in Texas and released to the company’s database for comparison to all other Y-DNA samples in that database and to other publicly available



The Sea Stallion from Glendaloug, a reconstruction of the Viking Age warship Skuldelev 2. (Photo: Werner Karrasch / The Viking Ship Museum, Denmark)

DNA databases as well.

The most commonly matched surnames from the Madison family’s Y-DNA test are those of Madson, Matteson and, most frequently, the Danish surname Madsen.

Among all these matches to the Madison Y-DNA, two complete (100%) matches are among the most intriguing: one of which matches a family documented as living in the port city of Sunderland, County Durham, in the early 18th century and the second which matches a family of Madsens who immigrated to the U.S. directly from Denmark in the mid-nineteenth century.

Madison family genealogist and descendant Iris Collins Eaton had long speculated that the family originated in County Durham and were perhaps descended from one of the branches of the Maddisons of *Unthank Hall*, Stanhope, Weardale, about 50 miles up the River Wear from Sunderland. The Y-DNA match confirmed the family’s origins in the Wear Valley, although no solid documentary link to the Maddisons of *Unthank Hall* has yet been established. Additional speculation among the family has also run to the Maddison family of *Hole House*, Lanchester, County Durham, 20 miles to the southwest of Sunderland.

As the surname Madison or Maddison

is among the most common in Durham and Northumberland counties, narrowing down which Maddison/Madison family the President’s family descended from is especially difficult, and it is entirely possible that they are not related to either of these English gentry families. The etymology of the name is usually rendered as a rather fearsome matronymic: “son of Madde”—Madde being an Anglicization of the Low German Maud which is itself a shortened version of Old German Mahthildis—literally, “mighty in battle.”

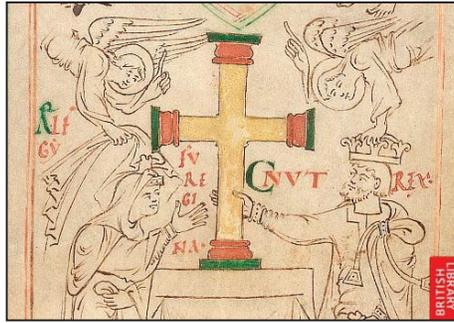
As of spring 2008, neither the Y-DNA of the *Hole House* or *Unthank Hall* Maddisons has been positively tested against that of the President’s family. At the same time, the Y-DNA of the President’s family has been tested against no fewer than 126,593 samples from other families of any surname in these open databases. The Y-DNA of the President’s family belongs to a haplogroup common to people of Northern European and Nordic descent.

The earliest known Madison ancestor of the President is his great-great-grandfather John Maddison of New Kent County, Virginia (ca. 1620-1683), whose son, John Maddison Jr. (ca. 1650-1725) is described in contemporary documents as a ship builder or “ships carpenter,” and it is often speculated that the father was in this business as well. Most interestingly in this context, not

only was Sunderland famous for centuries as a shipbuilding center, but this trade is arguably among the most famous constructive vocations attributed to the Norsemen.

The Danish Madsen match is highly interesting insofar as the most recent common ancestor between that family and the President's is estimated as being the early 11th century, roughly during the reigns of the Danish King Sweyn and his son King Canute the Great, the latter of whom ruled England, Norway, Denmark & Sweden as parts of a Pan-Scandinavian empire from ca. 1016 to 1035 AD. This correlation might indicate that the President's ancestors left Denmark as part of the invasion armies of Sweyn or Canute between 1002 and 1015 AD before settling among the Wear, Tees, Tyne and Derwent valleys of the present County Durham. The most immediate cause for these invasions is usually attributed to Sweyn's desire to revenge the St. Brice's Day Massacre of Dec. 2, 1002, in which the English King Ethelred II ("The Unready") sought to exterminate the Danes then living in the island.

So heavy was Viking settlement in this area of the Danelaw, that the Tees Valley is still known today as "The Vale of the Vikings" where town, parish, stream and



Contemporary portrait in illuminated manuscript ca. 1031 of King Canute and Queen Emma from the *Liber Vitae* of Newminster and Hyde. (By Permission of The British Library)

field names abound in ancient Norse word usages: streams are called "becks," waterfalls "forces" and place names commonly end in "-by" as in Ormesby, Raby, Stainsby and Thornaby.

Of additional interest to Virginia's history, the ancient seat of the Washington family—*Washington Old Hall*—is only five miles to the west of Sunderland. As much of Virginia's significant immigration in the 17th century was from the West Country, it is perhaps unusual that the families which produced the "Father of His Country" and "The Father of the Constitution" originated in such a narrow area of the North.

It is even more intriguing that the immediate English ancestors of President Madison—who was justly famous for his learning and his accumulation of one of Virginia's most significant 18th and early 19th century libraries at "Montpelier"—came from an area anciently renowned for its connections to early medieval and monastic scholarship. Sunderland in particular is rich in these associations, most prominently as the seat of the famous twin-foundation abbey monasteries of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow where Bede the Venerable (ca. 672–735 AD)—considered the "Father of English History"—was born and produced the earliest known authoritative history of England—the *Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum* (*The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*). Nearby on the Northumbrian coast, the equally famous monasteries of Whitby and Lindisfarne were centers of an early medieval golden age of scholarship and illuminated manuscript production.

Indeed, remains of the original Monkwearmouth Abbey—now incorporated into the present Church of St. Peter's at Wearmouth—remain one of the most well known landmarks of the Sunderland landscape. Prominent centers of learning for Anglo-Saxon England, the Monkwearmouth and Jarrow monasteries, which at their founding were reputed to be the only such centers of Christian learning north of Rome, were plundered by Viking raiders in 794 AD and finally destroyed in 860 AD.

Montpelier's Pillars

By Margaret Macon Boeker, Director, NSMFD

It is truly amazing to see the tremendous changes that have occurred at Montpelier over such a short time. When the idea of restoring the mansion to James' and Dolley's design was first broached, the scope of the planning and execution that would be required seemed daunting. The Montpelier Foundation was new and had never conducted a capital campaign. It wasn't even acquainted with enough supporters to back such a feat. But the belief that Montpelier should be a center for appreciating our unique system of government and learning about the pivotal role that James Madison played in drafting our Constitution and Bill of Rights was overwhelming. The Foundation believed that Americans would value such a place. From then on, there was no stopping this fast-moving train.

With the additional establishment of the quickly-growing Center for the Constitution, the extensive archeological investigations and the varied education programs, Montpelier is moving ahead on many fronts. All of this requires a stable financial structure. This is where the Pillars Society plays such a critical role.

The Pillars Society is made up of those special supporters who have provided for Montpelier in their estate plans. Whether by a simple bequest, an annuity that will bring you income for your lifetime, the donation of an insurance policy you no longer need, or any of a large selection of other types of gifts, your support will shore up Montpelier throughout the years.

Help us help create a solid future for Montpelier by becoming a Pillar. If you have already made a gift and we are not aware of it, please let us know so that we can honor you. For information on becoming a Pillar, please call Kimberly Skelly at 540-672-2728, ext 114, or email her at Kskelly@montpelier.org. Lovers of our unique country will thank you.

BOOKSHELF

- 1) "[Dominion of Memories Jefferson, Madison & the Decline of Virginia](#)"; by Susan Dunn: Published by Basic Books, A member of the Perseus Books Group, New York.
- 2) "[The Tour to the Northern Lakes of James Madison & Thomas Jefferson, May – June 1791](#)"; edited by J. Robert Maguire: Privately Published in New York and available through the Monticello gift shop

These books were recommended by John Macon as worthwhile reading and additions to your Madison and Madison era collections. Ed Kube, editor.

Letter from the Society President

Continued from page 1

ghost which once attracted the notice of Mrs. Allison's family and guests. We were very much *in villeggiatura* here—all quiet ease, warmth and charm—and not the least pleased to have to give it all up on Sunday.

The coming year is full of promise not only due to the reunion and the completion of the Montpelier restoration, but our serious research on the Madison family's English origins (and beyond) are continuing to bear fruit. Our ongoing DNA project with FamilyTree Laboratories has taken us to places both familiar and exotic, and a report of these findings as they now stand is included as an article in this newsletter. Additionally, we have just received word that an English contact of ours has agreed to have his Y-DNA tested. We are hoping this could give us a more exact clue to the immediate family of the Immigrant John Maddison in the months ahead.

We continue to benefit from the kindness of The Montpelier Foundation, not only in allowing us to use the estate as a reunion venue, but in the donation of the time and work of its staff archaeologist Dr. Matthew Reeves to assist in a complete and advanced radar scan of our cemetery at "Montpelier" this August. Dr. Reeves will be aiding the research efforts of Dr. William F. Hanna, Claude E. (Pete) Petrone, Dale Brown and John Imlay who formerly performed a limited scan of the cemetery some years ago in conjunction with Montpelier resident historian C. Thomas Chapman's ongoing research of this site. Dr. Hanna and his team are donating their work for this effort, and we want to express our great thanks for their generosity to us as well as their interest in the family's history. This research will give us a more complete map of the unmarked graves in the cemetery and, coupled with ongoing documentary research, will help us identify as many of these graves as possible. We continue to ask all our members to burrow into their family papers for any documents that might shed light on the cemetery burials. As with the unexpected discovery of the Montpelier architectural elevations in 1999 which allowed the accurate restoration of the mansion house to proceed, we continue to hope a map of the Madison cemetery has survived in some collection.

Our researches on the cemetery have already provided the occasion for us to reconnect this year with family lines we

had fallen out of contact with. In particular, our Lee connections and The Society of the Lees of Virginia who are in the process of documenting all their ancestral graves in Virginia and needed to record the descendants of Hancock Lee I of "Ditchley" who married into the Madison and Taylor families and are buried at "Montpelier" and "Meadowfarm." In fact, not only are many members of the Lee Society descended from these "Ditchley" connections eligible for our membership, but descendants of Charles Carter Lee (Robert E. Lee's brother) and his wife Lucy Penn Taylor Lee are equally so. We continue to encourage these lines to join us and enjoy us.

Another significant milestone of this year was our successful Silver Fund Drive, spearheaded by Susan Garrett, which will allow us to present the replicated Madison family table silver made by James Robinson Inc. as a gift to The Montpelier Foundation. A very generous donation by James Madison Macon IV and Trudy Carter Macon took us over the goal post here—testimony to the ongoing spirit, dedication and exemplary kindness of these two very lovely cousins.

We have also elected a new slate of board officers for the next three years and it bears repeating that the board pay their own way for all meetings and events undertaken on the family business. For myself, following in the footsteps of Iris Eaton, Jack Ewing, Ridge Porter, Ann Thornton and John Macon is more than a little intimidating, and one is only too glad to have them close-at-hand for advice and encouragement as our numbers and projects gently and steadily grow.

Splendid hospitality, genuine affection, shared historical and cultural interests, familial bonds cultivated across many generations and centuries—these things continue to define the Society for most of us. But our larger purposes—seldom glimpsed in the rush and joy of our foregatherings and volunteer work—must not be too hard to seek. Summarizing President Madison's career and character over 150 years ago, Charles Jared Ingersoll observed that "his patience was never exhausted; nor his forbearance deprived of dignity by complaint, retort, or self-defense, but in the quite serenity of rectitude, he waited on events with uninterrupted confidence."

As we navigate through a season of heightened political, economic and cultural anxiety in the remaining months of 2008, we are especially privileged to have always

before our eyes the example of the President and the family in his generation as exemplars of calm, quiet, mature, unimpassioned and deliberate consideration which was their—and must be, by extension, our—enduring and continuing gift to his "Extended Republic."

Sincerely,
Frederick Madison Smith, President

The Madison Cabinet— You're Invited!

By Peggy Boeker, Director, NSMFD

The stunning Diplomatic Reception Rooms in the Department of State were the scene for this year's Madison Cabinet gala dinner. Each year, the Montpelier Foundation hosts this group of supporters for a weekend of special activities. The State Department was chosen this year to honor James Madison's service as Secretary of State under Thomas Jefferson.

A pre-dinner cocktail reception was held in the John Quincy Adams room where guests had the opportunity to examine American 18th and 19th century portraits, paintings, vases, silver and furniture including the Treaty of Paris desk on which was signed the surrender of Britain in the Revolutionary War. The dinner was held in the sumptuous white and gold Benjamin Franklin room. An after-dinner tour of the Madison room, the Secretary of State's private dining room, was the icing on the cake.

At the annual meeting of the Cabinet the next morning, Michael Quinn provided an update on the restoration of the mansion, the newest archeological discoveries and the progress of the Capital Campaign. This was followed by a private tour of Lincoln Cottage on the grounds of the Civil War Old Soldiers' Home, the National Trust's newest site. Lincoln spent summer weeks there to get out of Washington's oppressive heat.

The Madison Cabinet is made up of those who support Montpelier annually at a minimum of \$5000. This income is critical to maintaining Montpelier's financial operating stability while earmarked funds are directed to specific projects.

The next Madison Cabinet event will be a black tie gala dinner at Montpelier on September 17th to celebrate the inauguration of the mansion. Won't you join us? An invitation to future events is waiting for you.



"Photograph Courtesy of Octagon House Museum, San Francisco, CA".

Frances Madison Rose Portrait

By John Macon, Past NSMFD President

Frances Madison Rose was the youngest sister of President James Madison. Her portrait (shown here) is now in the Octagon House in San Francisco, which is a museum house of the decorative arts of the Colonial and Federal periods. It was donated by Frances' direct descendant Mrs. Charles Walter Scribner (Emily Frances Rose).

While the portrait is unsigned, it appears to have been painted by Charles Peale Polk in 1799. It resembles the style of other paintings which he did for some of the Madison's in 1799. The letter she is reading is signed "Your affectionate friend," J. Boyington, 1799.

She was born Frances Taylor Madison at Montpelier Oct. 9, 1774 and baptized Oct. 30 by Rev. Mr. Wingate. Godfathers were Thomas Bell and Richard Taylor. Godmothers were Miss Frances Wingate

and Elizabeth Taylor. She was called "Fanny" by the family.

Fanny married Dr. Robert Henry Rose. The Rose family had been closely connected to Governor Spotswood, and Robert's grandfather, The Rev. Robert Rose, the Rector of St. Anne's parish in Albemarle County, was one of Alexander Spotswood's Executors.

Fanny and Robert resided in Orange County at Litchfield Plantation (originally part of Montpelier Plantation) which had been given to Fanny by her father James Madison, Sr. Litchfield Plantation was sold in 1818 to William Cole.

The Roses immigrated to Tennessee about 1822 or 1823 with their ten children: Ambrose, Hugh, James Madison, Robert, Erasmus, Henry, Sam, Nelly, Frances, and Mary. Of her children, James Madison Rose was killed at the Alamo, and another son, Erasmus, became a doctor in Memphis Tennessee.

Society Lifetime Members

Carole S. Alderman
 Peter Belfield
 Prudence Richardson Beidler
 Margaret Macon Boeker
 Andrea Lynn Bruce-Smith
 Robert G. Bruce
 Joseph Gregg Casagrande
 Rebecca L. Casagrande
 Albert Byrd Taliaferro Conway
 George Byrd Taliaferro Conway
 Timothy Roy Reid Conway
 Betsy Wornom Craft
 Adrienne Iris Eaton
 Iris Collins Eaton
 James Madison Ewing
 Susan Lewis Fogg
 Lee Belfield Heath
 Mary Eleanor Fitzhugh Hitselberger
 Letty Gregg Lynn
 John F. Macon, II
 Zachary Taylor Munroe
 Gail Alderman Nimitz
 Angine Neely Ogburn
 Eleanor Porter
 J. Ridgely Porter
 Johnny Scott
 Frederick Madison Smith
 Ms. Joseph T. Stubbs, Jr.
 The Honorable Helen Marie Taylor
 Howell L.T.D. Taylor
 Rev. LaVerne Pike Thomas
 Ann Belfield Thornton
 William Francis Thornton
 Frank Vaden, III
 Kevin Dale West
 Samuel J. Wornom, III
 Raleigh Elroy Worsham

Registrar Contact Information

By Iris Collins Eaton, Registrar

The National Society of the Madison Family Descendants organization is open to all persons who can show proof acceptable to the Registrar that they are descended from any lateral or collateral American ancestor of President James Madison, paternal or maternal, who was living in this country (Colony) after 1607.

In the past, we have received a number of applications without adequate proof of lineage. We can help you locate this information if you will tell us where you have come to a stopping point in your search. We may already have information that you are searching for or can help you in your search.

Our web site www.jamesmadisonfamily.com has the long application form. If you have a member of your family that has already completed their application, you only need fill in the form up to your proven line. Encourage your family members who have not yet joined to participate. We encourage your involvement in the NSMFD!

Some members have sent family stories and pictures that are real treasures. Our largest family line is made up of the descendants of the President's brother William Madison. We are eager to have other lines

developed further. Send copies of your proofs and the NSMFD application to:

Iris Collins Eaton
 Registrar, The National Society of the
 Madison Family Descendants
 3807 Olympia Drive
 Houston, TX 77019-3031
 Email: ieaton@sbcglobal.net
 Phone: 713-840-7675

The Society's Current Officers and Directors:

Officers:

Frederick Madison Smith, President - Marietta, GA
 Susan Lewis Fogg, Vice President - Tappahannock, VA
 C. Edward Kube, Jr., Secretary - Mineral, VA
 John Macon Cornick, Treasurer - Raleigh, NC
 *Iris Collins Eaton, Registrar - Houston, TX

Directors:

Margaret Macon Boeker - Del Mar, CA
 John William Garrett, IV - Long Island City, NY
 Susan Garrett - Chapel Hill, NC
 *John Ferratt Macon - Palm Springs, CA
 Mark A. Parsells - Wilmington, DE
 *J. Ridgely Porter, III - Montpelier Station, VA
 Gail Babnew-Silverman - Gordonsville, VA
 The Honorable Helen Marie Taylor - Orange, VA
 *Ann Belfield Thornton - New York, NY

** Past NSMFD Presidents*

2008 NSMFD Annual Meeting

By John Macon, Past President

The 2008 annual meeting of The National Society of the Madison Family Descendants was held on Friday, June 13th in the library of the Constitution Center at Montpelier with President John Macon presiding. The Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting were read by Frederick Smith, Secretary, and the Treasurer's report was given by John Macon Cornick. The slate of officers and directors for 2008 – 2011 provided by the Nominating Committee and voted on by the membership was unanimously approved.

John F. Macon, the 2005 – 2008 President, provided the following summarized remarks: Overall, the 2007/2008 calendar year was excellent. The NSMFD had sustained growth in membership and significant financial improvement. There are 105 current dues paying members including 39 lifetime members. Twenty-seven membership certificates were sent to new members during the year.

There is over \$11,000 in our bank account, plus we raised over \$9,000 in donations (see Treasurer's Report) and purchased the Madison silver flatware at a price contracted for several years ago. The flatware is now worth \$20,000 according to James Robinson Inc., the New York silversmith. The flatware will be our gift to Montpelier and presented at the 2009 Reunion. We also contributed \$1,832 towards the Madison exhibit budget for Montpelier's Sept. 17 Celebration.

In November, at the Montpelier Hunt Races, William Garret and I had the pleasure of presenting The Madison Cup to Robert H. Smith for his significant contributions to the Constitutional

Center and Madison's legacy. Susan Fogg represented the Society and presented a wreath at James Madison's March birthday celebration held at the Madison Cemetery.

We continue to operate without a paid staff enjoying the volunteer efforts of our members, especially our board members and officers who have given their time and expertise.

In addition to the duties and hard work of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Registrar, a number of people served as committee heads and oversaw/completed projects during the year with various members serving on the committees and helping with the projects. Some of the highlights were: Ed and Bernice Kube put together our handsome 2007 Newsletter. Ed will be assisted by William Garrett this year in preparing the 2008 Newsletter. Susan Garrett orchestrated and led our successful Madison Silver Flatware Campaign plus took over the job of maintaining our master mailing list.

Mark Parsells oversaw our fine web site which was handled for us by a friend of Mark's, pro bono. Susan Fogg worked diligently on compiling our By-Laws and has taken on the crucial responsibility for the coming year as Chairman for the 2009 Reunion Committee. Peggy Boeker served as Chairman of the Nominating Committee which provided our new slate of officers. Ridge Porter provided us strong legal advice and guidance throughout the year.

Ann Thornton was most effective in working with the silversmith in New York on the Madison flatware. Gail Babnew-Silverman and Helen Marie Taylor ensured that our annual meeting weekend would be memorable, in that we were fed and entertained in the grand Southern tradition at their respective homes.

Call for you to attend the 2009 Family Reunion

By Ann Thornton, Director, NSMFD

It's never too early to think about a family reunion—especially a Madison Family Reunion—and when it's going to be held at Montpelier, the Virginia home of your favorite ancestor, James Madison, fourth president of the United States of America!

There are some particularly good reasons to save the dates of June 20 and 21, 2009: The renovation of the Mansion is complete. You can finally see exactly where James slept and dined and read and thought. You can enjoy all the organized events which will be planned for you and your family, young and old.

There will be picnics and barbecues and banquets. You can renew acquaintances with cousins you haven't seen since the last reunion in 2005 and you can meet new relatives. You can research your family line at the Genealogy Center. You can hear Montpelier's Director, Michael Quinn talk about the many furnishings which have come home to Montpelier and the how the quest for more is progressing. Above all you can enjoy the mansion as family members, strolling through the rooms at your leisure and enjoying the view from the front porch, still the same after almost 200 years.

Early next year the reunion committee will be sending you more detailed information with a reservation form to return. All you have to do is mark your calendars for the third weekend in June, 2009, reserve your rooms at one of the accommodations of your choice which are listed on the Madison Family web site and prepare to be proud to be a participant at the Madison Family Reunion.



The National Society of the Madison Family Descendants take a tour of the progress of Montpelier's restoration during the 2005 Reunion.

New Buildings and New staff for The Center for the Constitution

By William Garrett, Director, NSMFD

The Center for the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier celebrated its fifth year in 2007 with the opening of new classrooms and a dining facility, William and Peyton Lewis Hall. This facility provides the Center with a state-of-the-art academic facility to complement the Gupton Library and existing residential facilities. Nearly 700 people from dozens of states attended programs at the Center in 2007, including teachers, business leaders, school administrators, and students.

In early 2008, the Center for the Constitution celebrated the completion of an endowment challenge from the National Endowment for the Humanities that provides the Center with a secure base of funding, though development efforts will continue to secure new funding for the Center. The challenge includ-

ed receipt of a gift from the William R. Keenan Charitable Trust to endow scholarships for teachers from North Carolina to attend programs at the Center. In addition to several community and family foundations, Robert H. Smith continued to be a generous benefactor to the Center.

In January of 2008 the Center announced the hiring of a new executive director, Sean T. O'Brien, Ph.D. who comes to Montpelier with several years experience running educational programs in civic engagement for youth and adults in Virginia. Mr. O'Brien's goals include expanding the number of programs held at the Center to continue to spread knowledge and understanding of James Madison's legacy. The Center is planning programs in 2008 and 2009 for various audiences, including elected officials, members of the media and police officers.

The National Society of the Madison Family Descendants welcomes the new staff



The Constitutional Village at Montpelier includes four restored farmhouses constructed in the early 20th century. Shown is the Library in the forefront with one of the houses pictured in the rear. All houses are within a short walking distance of William & Peyton Lewis Hall, where all lectures, discussions and meals take place during the Center's programs.

members. We salute the work and mission of The Center for the Constitution.

Special thanks to Sean T. O'Brien for contributing to this article.

2007 Madison Family Cup Presentation

By John Macon, Past President

On Saturday morning, Nov. 3, 2007, The National Society of the Madison Family Descendants awarded the Madison Family Cup to Robert H. Smith for his extraordinary contributions to James Madison's legacy and the preservation and development of Montpelier. It was the seventh consecutive year that this award has been made.

Our family is justifiably proud of James Madison, as one of our nation's Founding Fathers, and his amazing legacy and substantial role in the creation of our Constitution, our Bill of Rights, our religious freedom and the concept of the separation of Church and state. It is this legacy which inspires us to make this award.

In 2007 we honored an individual whose contribution has, and continues to be, the development of Montpelier's Center for the Constitution. It is hoped that this center will become the nation's leading resource for high quality constitutional education and it



From left, Michael Quinn, Executive Director of The Montpelier Foundation, John Macon, 2007 NSMFD President, Clarice Smith, Robert H. Smith, and William Garrett, NSMFD Board Member.

will encourage scholars to have a thorough understanding of our Constitution as a living, future oriented document.

It was a pleasure to make the 2007 presentation to Robert H. Smith. Bob Smith has been the driving force behind Montpelier's Center for the Constitution. It would not be where it is today without his generosity and support.

Bob has a strong interest in our Founding Fathers and their common vision for the country which they helped create. He supports the legacies of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison through his wisdom and philanthropy to Mount Vernon, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation at Monticello, and Montpelier.

Over the years, Bob has also given generously to the Mayo Foundation, the University of Maryland, his alma mater, where the Robert H. Smith School of Business bears his name and the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center honors his wife. He has served as President and trustee of the National Gallery of Art, and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The Madison Family Cup has been given every year since its inception to the following recipients:

- 2001 - The DAR, Virginia Chapter
- 2002 - Peyton Lewis
- 2003 - The garden Club of Virginia
- 2004 - The Estate of Paul Mellon
- 2005 - The Montpelier Cookbook Committee
- 2006 - William Lewis
- 2007 - Robert H. Smith

In Memoriam

Mary Stewart Butler Lewis
Feb. 15, 1917 – Jan. 14, 2008

The National Society of the
Madison Family Descendants Website

www.jamesmadisonfamily.com

20__ MADISON FAMILY DESCENDANTS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUES FORM

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Spouse _____

Children age 18 & Under _____

Phone numbers: home () _____ work () _____ cell () _____

E-mail Address _____

() Please indicate Yes or No granting permission for the Society to print your address, phone number and email address in a directory provided to active members.

Please check interests you would be willing to contribute time:

() Newsletter () Reunions () Membership () Genealogy () IT/Website/Internet () Research

Type of Membership: Single () \$25.00/year, Family () \$35.00 per household/year, Lifetime () \$500.00/once

Annual Membership is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 each year.

Make Check Payable to: The National Society of the Madison Family Descendants

Mail to: John Cornick, Treasurer, 2532 Wake Drive, Raleigh, NC 27608

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Susan R. Garrett, Director
The National Society of the Madison Family
Descendants
111 Bristol Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27516