

# THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF *the* Madison Family Descendants 2009 Newsletter

## 2009 Triennial Reunion Celebrates Completion of "Montpelier" Restoration

by Frederick Madison Smith  
NSMFD President

*[President Madison] is a small, thin old man, but of a kindly and pleasant face; his bearing is very aristocratic, and without assuming the air of importance and dignity befitting one of his station, he displays an incredible gentleness and charm, which I thought impossible to find in an American*

-Carlo Vidua, Conti di Conzano, 1825

Wine and weather - and the best of each - helped made our triennial reunion this year more than the gentle and fond return to place which it has always been, especially as it was marked by the significant reclamations and augmentations of our venues - the now restored "Montpelier" and artifact-rich James Madison Museum of Orange.

Over 250 members of the extended family took part this year - a handsome and comfortable turnout for this connection - in events of long and careful planning by your reunion committee,

chaired by Susan Fogg, which included Ed Kube, Ann Thornton and Susan Garrett with advice from our Founding President Iris Eaton. As at our last reunion, Phyllis Johnson of the Montpelier staff was our key contact on the estate and provided invaluable planning advice, coordination and a calm and practiced head at dealing with the last minute crises which such an event inevitably demands in bringing together a large group of decided "individuals."

Our planning this year was also trans-Atlantic, and the welcoming here of our English cousin John Maddison from across the pond was a vitally significant rejoining of family connections that had lagged since at least the early 19th century. In his retirement years, President Madison admonished a young student who asked him for advice on academic reading not to neglect the history, law and literature of England as it was original home and fountainhead of our political, moral and religious thought, example, and instruction - the land indeed of our forefathers - a remarkable comment

*Continued on page 8*



# The 2008 Madison Cup Awarded to Louise B. and Allan Potter

By Frederick Madison Smith

The Old Dominion's best warm, early Fall day wrought anew memories of "hound dogs baying the Virginia hills" as sights, sounds and the famed hospitality of the important sports day that is the Montpelier Hunt Races provided us again with the setting to honor those whose hard work, love and devotion to Montpelier's restoration and programs bring this amazing place evermore to life again in the "Madison manner."

The Madison Cup - awarded each year at the Montpelier Hunt Breakfast - honors those whose have made the most significant contribution to Montpelier in the previous year. But to adequately recognize the many contributions of Louise B. & Allan Potter, our 2008 recipients, we might well have given it to them every year for the past decade, so completely and affectionately devoted as they have been to the world class project of the estate's rebirth.

As members of the Property Council and the Montpelier Foundation Board, closely involved in key decisions and fundraising for over a decade, the Potters have brought their professional judgment as architects and business people of remarkable achievement to bear on matters great and small ---- masters of broad vision as well as painstaking detail and exactitude.

And, most importantly of all, they have given the best gift of their unbounded enthusiasm, energy and affection to the Trust, The Montpelier Foundation, and the many staff, administrators and consultants who make the estate's community a vibrant, newly challenging and rewarding concern each day.

I implore each of us in the family not come to Montpelier, or any of its important events where you will surely meet them, this year or any other, without seeking out and thanking this extraordinary couple who have done so much, so lovingly, and so well to refresh and reveal again the architectural, political, moral, social and philosophical legacy of James and Dolley Madison.

**Remarks by Frederick Madison Smith  
President, The National Society of the Madison Family  
Descendants  
to Allan & Louise B. Potter on Race Day, Nov. 8, 2008**



*From left, Allan and Louise B. Potter, NSMFD President Frederick Madison Smith at the Montpelier Hunt Races Breakfast on Saturday, Nov. 8.*

It should be no one's surprise that of all the lovers of this extraordinary and beautiful place, architects - "the musicians of space" - might truly love it among the best.

And love it in a way they share uniquely with President Madison who conceived of it in the same manner as he conceived of the nation - "builded as a city that is compact together."

His vision and hope for a nation embracing peace and prosperity within its gates is not something he - nor we - should have ever taken for granted. But we have, and we do.

This restored estate - the work, now, of many hands quite literally joining across two centuries, recovering a submerged and, in many cases, forgotten fabric is no distant metaphor for the work of this generation which is now passing through immediate or imminent dangers and anxieties that might seem unprecedented in the threat they pose to the line, square and compass that are his understanding and teaching of our polity.

It is now, as it was in former days, again the embodiment and expression in built form - in masonry, carpentry, carving, decoration and landscape - of his ideals of harmony, generosity, of calm

## Madison Family Gift of Silver Presented to Montpelier

At the 2009 Madison Family Reunion, NSMFD board members Susan Garrett and Ann Thornton presented Montpelier Foundation President Michael Quinn a silver set commissioned by the Madison Family as a gift to Montpelier. James Robinson, Inc., of New York was commissioned by the family to recreate a 32-piece set of silver in the "Fiddle Thread" pattern. James Monroe sent the original set, made in Paris by Gerard Duru, to James and Dolley Madison while Monroe was in Paris as Minister to France.

The Smithsonian Institution now owns several pieces from the original set.

The Madison Family wished to thank James Robinson, Inc., for the beautifully crafted silver and thank the many donors that made this gift possible. This lovely and important gift is a continuing example of the family's commitment to the legacy of Montpelier.



*Montpelier Foundation President Michael Quinn, NSMFD Directors Ann Thornton and Susan Garrett*

and considerate deliberation, as well as welcoming of eccentricity - its original English Georgian form sea-changed, but still discernible, into a neo-classical richness and tense harmony.

Much has been said of President Madison's calmness and deliberation, but it might be well to remember his father's choice praise of the fiery Patrick Henry when he and the Orange County Committee of Safety, commended Henry for his "spirited response" to a vital threat to this community in resisting the Imperial Government's attempt to disarm it in the spring of 1775.

Montpelier today can have no shortage of people whose "spirited response" to its vast and complicated needs is its very life's blood and many, if not most of them, are under this awning now.

When Ann Thornton and Ridge Porter first conceived of The Madison Cup Award, the ostensible reason for it was to recognize the individual or group who had contributed the most to Montpelier in a given year. But it is not possible to award it, especially

in this place, without conveying some notice of affinity between the recipients and President Madison's character itself.

"Purity, modesty, decorum - a moderation, temperance, and virtue in everything - were the characteristics of Mr. Madison's life and manners," one of his contemporaries observed, adding that "it is grateful to look upon such elevation and beauty of personal character."

Choice builders and architects them-



*Past NSMFD President J. Ridgely Porter III, one of the originators of the Madison Cup Award, and present President Frederick Madison Smith at the Hunt Breakfast ceremony.*

selves of many authentic and careful designs in life as well as work, dedicated restorers and benefactors of this ancient and deeply rooted place, tireless and loving promoters of its enduring survival and message - as thus they are - on this day the family is more than grateful to recognize an equal elevation and beauty in the lives and service of Louise and Allan Potter.



*From left, Margaret Macon Boeker, Board Member, The National Society of the Madison Family Descendants (NSMFD), cup recipients Allan and Louise B. Potter, and NSMFD officers and board members The Hon. Helen Marie Taylor, Frederick Madison Smith, Gail Babnew and J. Ridgely Porter III.*

## Madison Descendants Participate in PBS Dolley Madison Film

*By William Garrett, NSMFD Director*

The American Experience series on PBS is wrapping up production on a new film about Dolley Madison. This 90-minute documentary features Tony Award nominee Eve Best as Dolley and Tony Winner Jefferson Mays as James Madison. It will air March 1, 2010.

Locations in Virginia for the filming included the Governor's Mansion in Richmond, a colonial back lot that was built for the HBO series "John Adams" in Hanover County and the Madison home, Montpelier.

In an exciting and historical twist, the producers cast Madison descendants as extras in the film.

Eleanor (Elle) Madison Macon Porter joined the production in Richmond to shoot scenes in the Governor's Mansion. The first scene was a New Year's party set at the 'White House'.

"It was very fun to be involved in a movie, having my nose powdered by the makeup artist, being adjusted around by the director," said Porter. After that scene was finished, we were taken back to the holding area where I learned they had decided to use me as an extra in an additional scene, so my costume was changed,

my hat changed and hair adjusted for the new hat.

"The next scene was in a different room in the Governor's Mansion and was meant to be one of Dolly's parties where she brought together different sides of the political spectrum for interaction at the White House. After that scene wrapped, I power walked back to the costume

room where the saint also known as the costume designer released me from the bonds of the corset and I could breathe once again!"

Joy Phillips, coordinator for TPT National Productions, helped guide the Madison extras on their first film experience. "Having the Madison descendants in the film was such a pleasure and it adds an extra layer to the story," Phillips said. "They were all so friendly and fun and it was great to hear them sharing their family history with all of the other actors. Everyone really enjoyed having them on set."

Susan Fogg, Vice President of the NSMFS, was also an extra in the film during the shoot on the back lot in Hanover County. She was joined on the set by



*NSMFD Vice President Susan Fogg (right) on location with actress Eve Best as Dolley Madison. Photo © Kent Eames for WGBH.*

her grandchildren Madison Harris, 11; Alana Harris, 6; and Seanna Harris, 3.

The children were in a scene where Dolley visits an orphanage she championed as First Lady.

"What fun it was!" said Fogg. "The crew was delighted to have Madison descendants in the produc-

tion. We were interviewed by American Experience and The Richmond Times Dispatch. What a wonderful and exciting time was had by all!"

Elle Porter also felt the producers enjoyed having Madison descendants in the film. "The actors playing James and Dolley Madison were both very kind to me and were genuinely excited to meet a Madison descendant," she said. "They told me how honored they felt to be portraying James and Dolley Madison. Everyone made me feel very comfortable and welcome. The entire day was a wonderful experience and I feel very honored to have had the opportunity to participate."

## Book Review

*Richard Taylor: Soldier Prince of Dixie* by T. Michael Parrish

(Published by The University of North Carolina Press, 1992)

Reviewed by Frederick Madison Smith

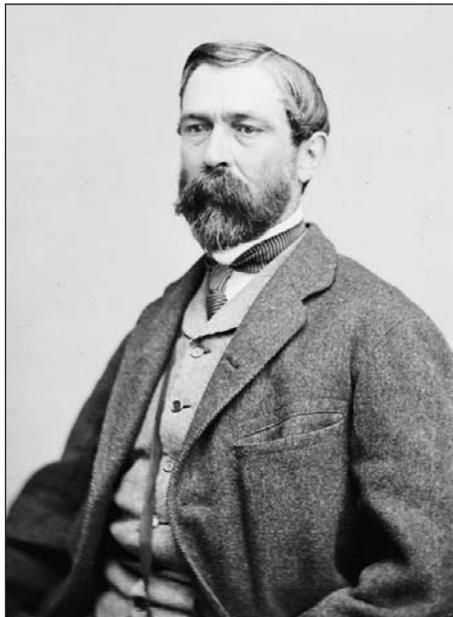
*He had a marvelous memory and a rare faculty of intellectual digestion and assimilation. The variety, extent, and exactness of his information on all kinds of subjects were matter of wonder to all.*

- Charles E. Fenner,  
*Library of Southern Liberators*

Presidential son, precocious intellectual, self-taught military prodigy, physically attractive, charming and erudite; astonishingly wellread and a natural-born writer, wit and *bon vivant* - Richard Taylor (1826-79) seldom passed through any gathering or encounter unadmired from his youth forward.

Gen. Zachary Taylor gave the Harvard and Yale educated "Dick" Taylor a fairly indulgent rein to study and read as his obviously quick intellect and energy directed, and T. Michael Parrish's judiciously researched biography takes one along an exciting journey of Dick's career from his childhood days leading a schoolroom "breakout" with his Indian classmates at Fort Crawford, to private tutors and boarding schools, to the Ivy Leagues, and venturing out on his own to join his father (without the latter's permission or approval) at Matamoros in the Mexican War, his highly successful marriage and business ventures in Louisiana, high living and bookish culture in New Orleans and on his sugar plantation "Fashion." On through his involvement in Old Whig politics and attempts to prevent the catastrophe of the Civil War, an extraordinary and startling military career as a Confederate General, his immediate and no less startling readmission into national counsels and the salons of Washington after the war's end, his subsequent Grand Tour of Europe and cultivation by the Old World's noble and royal society - no one, at least not for long, could be Dick Taylor's enemy or begrudge him the acclaim, respect or indulgence they apparently believed he quite naturally deserved.

It is equally arguable that Dick Taylor probably believed he naturally deserved it as well, and he hints self-deprecatingly at this by attributing it to the servants by whom he was raised - the elder Taylor slaves



*Richard Taylor (1826-1879), only son of President Zachary Taylor, ca. 1870 by Matthew Brady. (Library of Congress photograph)*

- who painted his forbears in Virginia and Maryland with the brush of magnificence, and inculcated in him, as much as in themselves by association, high-spirited beliefs in the propriety of their shared grandeur and virtue.

Whatever the source of this extraordinary self-regard mated to a natural charm, it was authentic enough to win Dick Taylor quick assimilation during a trip abroad after the war into the high-living circle of the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, who, as he records, "I fear has fallen quite in love with me."

As Parrish records, Dick Taylor moved freely and confidently in such circles - the veritable "toast of the town."

It might be said that Parrish gives us Dick Taylor "warts and all" and the frequent irritability, even petulance, that he could display in dealing with military subordinates, his financial extravagancies, and the experienced limits of his Old Whig political beliefs are laid out in precise and documented detail. But even those "warts" can be redeemed, as that irritability and petulance often resulted in timely and successful results on the battlefield, and however limited or popularly discredited those Old Whig beliefs might have been in 1860, their calming application in the spirit of Dick Taylor's enumerated heroes "Washington, Adams, Hamilton, Jay, Marshall, Madison and Story" during the Secession Crisis might have averted the bloodshed and destruction which followed.

As for his financial extravagance, the victims of this, apart from himself, were largely Dick Taylor's wealthy in-laws, the Bringiers, who continuously underwrote his ventures and seldom were repaid in cash for it. But the Bringiers apparently were not very anxious on this score, partly due to the size of their wealth, but, as Parrish speculates, they - like so many others - thought Dick Taylor's talent, charm, intellect, learning, courage, effortless *noblesse oblige* and character naturally required a princely income to fit this fascinating persona.

Parrish also gives one a rich sampling of the audience which viewed and applauded Dick Taylor's progress, as he in turn would comment on most of them in his memoir *Destruction and Reconstruction* - the national and local politicians with whom he dealt for decades, the often eccentric Confederate generals and colorful troops with whom he fought, the West Point trained generals on the Union side whom he frustrated and eluded as often as thrashed, as well as Henry and Clover Adams, Frederick Brown Olmstead (describing the daily details of life at "Fashion") and the heirs of the House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha already noted.

Olmstead's visit to "Fashion" for three days in 1853 was recorded through the observant eye of the master landscape artist who duly and admiringly observed the physical order of the plantation operations, home and landscape while wondering at the extraordinary goodwill and productivity which seemed to exemplify the Taylors' working relationship to their slaves, founded, to his amazement, on a system of profit-sharing that was novel to the plantation society. The slaves, Olmstead claimed, "evidently regarded (Dick Taylor) with affection, respect, and pride," and a lengthy and intimate conversation with the Taylor's house servant William during a buggy ride to New Orleans confirms Olmstead of the genuineness of this admiration. But eventually William revealed in the course of their talk deep-rooted longings for a self-determination which the system denied him and his fellows, even when operated with such amazing skill and genuine paternalistic benevolence.

Still, Olmstead's narrative overall rather confirmed that no one - not even the slaves or servants who might have been thought to have had copious reasons to resent their station or lot in life - seemed immune to Dick Taylor's "magnetic personality."

*Continued on page 9*

# A Madison Oak in New York City

By William Garrett, Director, NSMFD

As I strolled through Madison Square Park in New York City, just a few blocks from my office, I made a wonderful discovery. It wasn't that the line at The Shake Shack was short that day (NYC's best burgers and shakes from Union Square Cafe owner Danny Meyer is famous for it's long lines), but a plaque at the base of a towering oak tree. The plaque read "This tree from the Virginia estate of President James Madison, presented to the City Of New York by the Fifth Avenue Association, to commemorate the first centennial of the opening of Madison Avenue."

"Escorted by a guard in Colonial costumes, an oak tree from Montpelier, the Virginia estate of President James Madison, was planted at 12:30pm yesterday as a feature of the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary," The New York Times reported October 7, 1936. The Times reported that the tree was an 18-foot pin oak, the main speaker at the ceremony was then Parks Commissioner Robert Moses and a crowd of over 300 attended the planting.

"It comes as no surprise to me that the duPonts would spread their love of trees by contributing specimens to worthy individuals, organizations or historic sites," says Sandra Mudrinich, horticulturist at The Montpelier Foundation. "Marion duPont Scott was quite aware of the Madison legacy at Montpelier and would certainly acknowledge that connection by donating a won-

derful pin oak to Madison Square Park!"

"The Montpelier mansion grounds contain an impressive arboretum including exceptional duPont specimen trees that compliment the few remaining Madison specimens. There is only one pin oak on the property and it is located within our paddock area at the steeplechase course. Pin oaks, along with many other oaks (black, red, white, chestnut), obviously do well here!"

According to the NY Times article, the ceremony was also attended by O.A. Moeller, the then President of the Orange Chamber of Commerce. In a speech given at the Manhattan Club luncheon after the planting Mr. Moeller said "James Madison was the Father of the Constitution of the United States and the fact that you people are living today in political and religious freedom is due to him". Seemly seeing the future, Mr. Moeller strongly urged that Montpelier be made a national shrine like Mont Vernon and Monticello.

President Madison's presence is felt strongly here in New York City. With Madison Avenue stretching from 23<sup>rd</sup> Street at Madison Square Park north for 115 blocks to the Madison Ave Bridge at 138<sup>th</sup> Street. The Madison Avenue Bridge was opened July 18, 1910, and spans the Harlem River and connects the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx.

Madison Square Park is a 6.8-acre public park opened May 10, 1847. In 1839, a farmhouse located at what is now Fifth



Avenue and 23rd Street was turned into a roadhouse under the direction of William "Corporal" Thompson (1807-1872), who renamed it later "Madison Cottage," after the former president. This house was the last stop for people traveling northward out of the city, or the first stop for those arriving from the north.

After walking the beautiful grounds and the landmark forest at Montpelier many times, it's nice to know a little part of our history is planted firmly here in New York City.

Article researched by Sarah Palmer Garrett, 15 year old daughter of NSMFD Director William Garrett

## A New Challenge Grant for the Madison Cabinet

By Margaret Macon Boeker, Director, NSMFD

A longtime Madison Cabinet member has issued the \$100,000 *Madison Cabinet Challenge*. All new or increased gifts made in 2009 at the Madison Cabinet level (\$5,000+) will be matched dollar for dollar. Gifts from Madison Cabinet members are the backbones of Montpelier's annual fund drive, which provide essential support towards the ongoing operations of the estate.

Each spring the Madison Cabinet enjoys a special weekend at Montpelier. This year's Cabinet weekend will be held on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup> and will feature Richard Brookhiser, Senior Editor of the *National Review* and noted historian and biographer. His biography on Alexander Hamilton has been well received. We look forward to his telling us about the new biography he is writing about Madison.

Please consider joining this top group of supporters for a weekend of wonderful events.

## NSMFD Officers and Directors 2009



Front Row – Vice President Susan Lewis Fogg, Margaret Macon Boeker, Susan R. Garrett, Registrar Iris Collins Eaton, The Hon. Helen Marie Taylor, Secretary C. Edward Kube, Second Row – John William Garrett IV, Mark A. Parsells, J. Ridgely Porter III, Anne Belfield Thornton, and President Frederick Madison Smith  
Not pictured were: Gail Babnew-Silverman, incoming Treasurer A. Preston Moore Jr. and outgoing Treasurer John Macon Cornick.

# VMI Memories

By Macon Sloan and John Macon

Virginia Military Institute has been, since its inception in 1838, the state's premiere school for our future military leaders. Over the years members of our family have attended this splendid academic and military facility with its long tradition and served their country proudly. Some distinguished themselves and became household names such as Generals James Edwin Slaughter, George Smith Patton, III, George Catlett Marshall, and Lemuel Cornick Shepherd. However, this article focuses mainly on two young cadets, both descendants of James and Nelly Madison who sadly lost their lives fighting for their country and never lived long enough to enjoy the full spectrum of what their country had to offer.

While these cousins were several generations apart, each fought bravely for what he believed. Lieutenant Edgar Macon, CSA, was killed in 1862 by a shell in the battle of First Manassas and is buried in the Madison family cemetery at Montpelier. There is no marker or monument to his memory there, but there is a memorial in his memory at VMI.

Lt. Colonel Horatio Cornick Woodhouse was killed in action by a sniper's bullet on Okinawa on May 30, 1945, and is now interred at the "Punchbowl" on Pearl Harbor. He was then the youngest Lt. Colonel in the USMC. Both officers were much loved by their family and greatly missed. Both left behind young widows who never remarried and relatives that were devastated by their loss.

During our last reunion, Horatio Cornick "Monk" Woodhouse's twin sisters Mary Conway Woodhouse Wornom and Barbara Woodhouse Drewry attended as did his many nieces and nephews. 1945 doesn't seem that long ago to some of us.

Born in Orange County in 1828, Lieutenant Edgar Macon was the grandson of Thomas Macon and his wife Sarah Catlett Madison. His parents were Conway Catlett Macon and his wife, Agnes Mayo (of "Powatan Estate"). On August 18, 1845, he was appointed a cadet at VMI and spent some time at the school. Afterwards, he

became a merchant in his native county of Orange continuing as such until the outbreak of the war. When he was killed, Lieutenant Macon was the only son of a widowed mother, and left his wife, Jane Haywood, and infant son, born three days before his death and never seen by him. He was among the "first casualties" of the war.

As an aside, Edgar's cousin, George Kennon Macon, a young cadet, was wounded at New Market during the War Between the States. He was in the class of 1866 at VMI. At New Market, he was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> corps A company.

George's brother, Miles Cary Macon, Jr., was in the class of 1856 at VMI. He was a Captain in the Richmond "Fayette" artillery. He was killed at Appomattox Court House on April 8, 1865. We have been told that he was the "last causality" of Appomattox which is both sad and ironic. Both boys and Edgar were descendants of William Hartwell Macon of "Fairfield" (husband of Lucy Scott of "Clifton" in Orange and father of Thomas Macon who built "Somerset House" in Orange County).

An excerpt from *A Memorial at VMI* by Charles Walker partly outlines Edgar's life at war. "From the first an earnest and ardent secessionist, as soon as the Virginia Convention passed the ordinance, though on a sick bed from a long and serious illness, he immediately rose and

went to work to assist in raising and organizing the Thomas Artillery, of which he was elected a Lieutenant. The company was first sent to Winchester. Thence went with Johnston's army on his forced march to Manassas, going on foot, ninety miles in twenty-four hours under a scorching sun, and with scarcely any food. Reaching Manassas on the morning of 21<sup>st</sup> of July, 1861, the battery went at once into battle, then at its fiercest, and, nobly did its part until the field was won. Lieutenant Macon after having borne the heat and burden of the day fell a victim to a random shot fired after the battle was over, and the enemy was retiring. He had just mounted his horse when preparatory to retiring from the field



when he was struck by a shell and immediately killed."

Fifty-two years later, in 1913, Horatio Cornick Woodhouse, Jr. was born in Norfolk, Virginia to Horatio Cornick Woodhouse and his wife Virginia "Jenny" Macon. He grew up in that city in the family home on Princess Ann Road. His family nicknamed him "Monk" which stuck throughout his short life. He graduated from VMI in 1936 and joined The United States Marine Corps which had been founded by his great, great, great uncle President James Madison, Jr. (His VMI yearbook page shows the breath of his interests from being on the "Hop" committee to track and football). He married a lovely young operatic singer by the name of Julia Soper from Houston Texas, three months before leaving for Okinawa. As a young Marine he served in China, at Pearl Harbor, and on Guadalcanal, Guam, and Okinawa. He was assigned to his Cousin General Lemuel Cornick Shepherd's staff.

"Monk" was the Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Battalion, the first ashore at the battle for Okinawa and killed in action by a sniper's bullet on May 30, 1945. In his book *Killing Grounds on Okinawa – the Battle for Sugar Loaf Hill* author James Hallas has many pages devoted to Monk. On page 62, it states that, on the spur of the moment, Monk nicknamed one of the objective hills as "Sugar Loaf" because it looked like a certain southern desert. Medal of Honor recipient, Major General James L. Day, who was a 19 year-old Marine Corps Corporal during the battle for Sugar Loaf and Naha, the capital of Okinawa, praised Monk as "the greatest commander and Marine that I ever knew." A bronze plaque, given by Monk's devoted VMI classmates, which is located in VMI's Memorial Garden, honors the memory of Lt. Col. Woodhouse. He was awarded the Silver Star Medal and the Purple Heart.



Lt. Colonel Horatio Cornick Woodhouse

# The Center for the Constitution Reaches Educators in All Fifty States

**Executive Director Sean T. O'Brien files this report:**

The Center for the Constitution at James Madison's Montpelier will host seminars for more than 800 teachers, judges, journalists, politicians and police officers in 2009! In addition to the weekend seminars the Center has hosted for several years, seminars were offered back-to-back all summer for teachers from across the United States. In fact, people from all 50 states and the District of Columbia have now attended programs at the Center--another milestone for 2009.

The Center has also created several new programs this year, among these are an "Introduction to Constitutional Theory, History, and Interpretation" program for teachers. This new seminar helps fill out the Center's program offerings for teachers and complements the graduate level seminars already hosted at Montpelier. This seminar will be adapted in 2010 as a tuition-based program for anyone who wants to attend seminars at Montpelier.

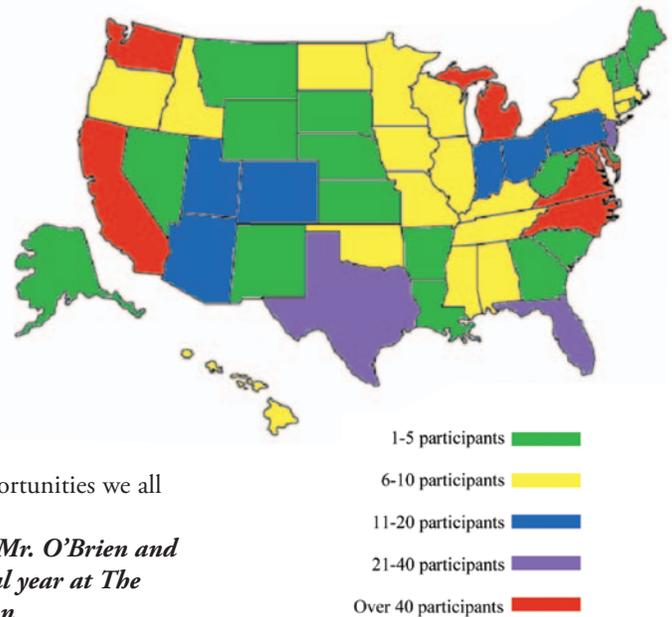
In December of this year the Center will host our inaugural program for police officers, giving law enforcement officials a new way to think about the Constitution. Officers will learn how the Constitution is not a restraint on their ability to do their job, but in fact is the source of their

power as "we the people" ask them to help protect our rights and maintain civil society. This new program has been approved by the Commonwealth of Virginia as a continuing education program for police officers in Virginia.

The Center appreciates the support from all of our donors and is particularly thankful for the support of greater Madison family. Without the genius of James Madison, we would not enjoy the liberties and opportunities we all treasure as Americans.

***The NSMFD salutes Mr. O'Brien and staff on another wonderful year at The Center for the Constitution.***

STATES SERVED BY THE CENTER FOR THE CONSTITUTION



## Estate of Johnny Scott Donates Papers to Montpelier

By Ann Thornton, NSMFD Director

Historical papers found at Beaumont, the home of the late Johnny Scott, have been donated to The Montpelier Foundation by Mr. Scott's estate. Johnny was an enthusiastic member of the NSMFD and a gracious host to the board members and their families during our annual meetings in Orange County.

Included in the original hand written notes found at Beaumont were writings from W.W. Scott, Johnny's grandfather. W.W. Scott was an Orange County historian for the years surrounding the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was an authority on the families and events of the piedmont area and was the author of the History of Orange County. William Wallace Scott was descended from the Madisons through his mother, Claudia Marshall Willis, whose two great, great uncles Ambrose Madison and William Madison were brothers of the president.

The following story is third hand as it was told to Mr. Scott by "a local antiquarian of high esteem" who in turn had been told it by a niece of the President:

"When Uncle James died I went to Montpelier at once. After his remains had been placed in the coffin I noticed that no rest had been provided for his head, and his position was unnatural looking. I was almost a member of the family during his life time and remembered a handsome cushion that had been given him by Gen. Washington which he prized very highly. It was a Turkish cushion, very handsome, covered with red damask – what we call "Turkey red," and was kept on a sofa in the parlor. I got this and with my own hands lifted up his head, and placed the cushion under it. It was buried with him.

"There was a great concourse of people of all degrees at the burial, who were slow in dispersing after the ceremonies were over. I went back to the house and without ceremony walked in, expecting to extend such consolation as I could to my uncle's widow. To my great surprise I found her, not in the depths of woe but busy at his secretary, opening drawers, reading papers, etc."

These papers are wonderful historical records and we thank Johnny and his family for sharing them with us.



*From left, John Maddison of Lincoln, England, the Hon. Helen Marie Taylor and Robert Monroe Clarke after the unveiling of the William Dunlap portrait of President Madison at The James Madison Museum in Orange on Father's Day, June 21. The Dunlap portrait is one of only five painted from life of President Madison and has been in private collections for many decades. Its unveiling at the James Madison Museum is the first time it has ever been on public display, courtesy of Mrs. Taylor, its present owner.*

## 2009 Triennial Reunion Celebrates Completion of "Montpelier" Restoration

*Continued from page 1*

from a man who had spent most of his adult life in opposition to the British government.

John has been more than invaluable to us by sharing his own research into the English lines of the family and giving us access to his connections "at home" - his reasoned, bright, generous and very precise academic mind has helped us to understand the wider Maddison (two "d"s and proud of it!) legacy through a different light and experience: but still the same result here, that "good heart and good head" which President Madison's contemporaries discerned in him so well.

This is all a reminder, too, that the family's experience and influence in and beyond England exceeds what we have taken formal note of for some time from our American perspective, and our research now is tending to dramatically confirm that the scope and reach of that legacy is equally consequential to President Madison's contribution and, perhaps, arguably greater.

In inviting and encouraging John to be with us this year, we had hoped that he would carry with him back to England some sense of the best of the Old Dominion which the 19th century author John Pendleton Kennedy described as "the mellow, bland, and sunny luxuriance of her old-time society - its good fellowship, its hearty and constitutional companiableness, the thrifless gayety of the people . . . and that overflowing hospitality which knew no ebb."

Yet our anxiety, after several days of indefatigable feasting, was that he would return to tell your English cousins - when asked "what are those Maddisons over there like?" - only that "well, they talk a lot, they eat a lot, and they drink a lot!"

But we will let John speak for himself about the experience, as you will read from his article written for Britain's *Family History Monthly* which he has allowed us to reprint in this newsletter.

This significant reunion was a good time to take stock, as well, of the achievements of our former Presidents - Iris Eaton, Jack Ewing, Ridge Porter, Ann Thornton and John Macon by formally recognizing their contributions to the family in so many ways at our Reunion Dinner - a very small token from us to these amazing and talented cousins. And what better place or time make formal our presentation of the family's gift of the Madison replica silver table-

ware to Montpelier Foundation President Michael Quinn, who joined us this year for dinner with his wife Carolyn, and gamely endured, as they have for so many years, our high-spirited, often eccentric, and some might say slightly anarchic, sense of humor.

The Quinns have assembled a remarkable and talented staff during their tenure at Montpelier, and many of them, in addition to Phyllis Johnson, pitched in this year to make the reunion what has been referred to by many as "our absolute best," in particular John Jeanes, Thomas Chapman, Matt Reeves, Rick Payne, Kimberly Skelly, Sandy Mudrinich, Lynne Hastings and Amy Larrabee Cotz.

Helen Marie Taylor's double kindness on our Reunion Sunday by making public the William Dunlap portrait of President Madison and feting us yet again with a very grand and beautiful tea reception in our honor can only be valued as it is - a exemplar of those same Madisonian values of generosity and concern for the education and uplift of the wider public, as well as a familial solidarity so unique to the Taylor connection. Indeed, for decades Jaquelin P. Taylor, later his son Jaquelin E. Taylor and Helen Marie kept the legacy of President Madison alive, not only among the family, but to the visiting public via the James Madison Museum whose astonishing collection of significant Madisoniana seems to grow and refresh with each visit.

Growth and refreshment can also be said to categorize the work of the Society this past year as we have added dozens of new members, many from the Beale connection, and added to our knowledge of the family's wider history in significant ways, both home and abroad.

It must be remembered that the very careful and very professional work done by Iris Eaton and Ruth Lewis in vetting genealogy submissions for so many years, and their insistence on very strict documentation in this, gives an authenticity and integrity to our membership and identity that some genealogical societies might well envy. This involves many hours of research and verification on their part and, of course, makes them often the first recipients of the ire of disappointed hopes or injured pretense, and the diplomacy and patience with which they have carried out this vital and often unpleasant duty is truly extraordinary.

Seeing the restored mansion house at

"Montpelier" and its grand, picturesque and quite enfolding summer landscape very much more as President Madison's generation knew it, one can understand some of the affinity that Count Conzano apparently felt when he visited it in 1825. Not by chance or whim did our ancestors fill Orange County and the Piedmont with Palladian and Italianate homes, churches and public buildings - their everyday surroundings deliberately evoked the full beakers of Keats' warm south, and they strove to match it with the architectural and landscape symbols evocative of the Roman Republic, the successor Italian republics and estates of the Renaissance, and the ancient republican virtues of moderation, intimate order, form and self-control.

But this is now very much a public place - a nationally-owned museum - no longer so private and self-enclosed, and we are only the guests here of The Montpelier Foundation by whose continued generosity this estate is made available for our use every three years. At any time, the mission of the Foundation to make known and understood these values and contributions of the family, in particular of President and Dolley Madison, would be an heroic task in a culture often philosophically and politically hostile and alien to those same values, but it is more than doubly so in the economic turbulence through which the country now passes.

No less than any other museum properties at this time, "Montpelier" and The James Madison Museum greatly depend on the continued generosity of those who love and understand the legacy of President and Dolley Madison, and we encourage all the family to give what they can, however small or seemingly so, of money, time or simple effort to keep alive a heritage most uniquely ours and now only so recently reclaimed in substantial measure from over a century and a half of indifference, neglect or, often, contempt.

This legacy, grounded, ultimately, as President Madison said of his Republic "in a sense of justice derived from the people themselves," surely must and will endure without us as a family, but our own sense of identity and duty - our *amour propre* - gives us no choice but to "carry on," in any way available to us, the work he began - or, perhaps, himself carried forward - over 200 years ago.

## Book Review

*Continued from page 4*

There was personal tragedy enough, most of it endemic to the war, and the deaths of his sons in 1863 from scarlet fever at the ages of three and five, coupled with the harshness of the exposure she passed through during the war, eventually overcame his wife Myrthe ("Mimi") and hastened her own early death at the age of 41 in 1874. The stoicism with which Dick Taylor faced these losses, as well as the financial and property losses he incurred during the war and a near life-long battle with the debilitations of rheumatoid arthri-

tis, is transcended by the undiminished energy and enthusiasm with which he pursued his Old Whig political goals after the war - after all, it was the duty and role to which he believed he had been born and which most people little begrudged or doubted.

Not only a masterful, copiously

researched and thoroughly enjoyable biography of one of our family connection's most fascinating lives and intellects, Parrish's biography is the fit prelude to any reading (or re-reading) of *Destruction and Reconstruction* and that closer encounter with Dick Taylor which his own work compels.

---

## 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 online application form is at [www.jamesmadisonfamily.com](http://www.jamesmadisonfamily.com) (click "Membership") and has been updated to including date and place of marriage, birth, death, town, county and state etc. This specific information is needed to confirm lineage. If a family member is already been accepted to the NSMFD, you may only complete the short form and include copies (no originals please) of birth certificates, marriage dates as well as names and birth dates of their children where applicable.

We appreciate that so many members have sent family stories and pictures that are rare treasures! 2009's triennial reunion at Montpelier was the most attended and successful to date. We hope current members will encourage other family members

to participate. We look forward to your involvement in the NSMFD!

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](mailto:ieaton@sbcglobal.net)  
Phone: 713-840-7675

### 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  
Paul G. Gaines  
Lee Belfield Heath  
Mary Eleanor Fitzhugh Hitselberger  
Letty Gregg Lynn  
John F. Macon, II  
Zachary Taylor Munroe  
Gail Alderman Nimitz  
Angine Neely Ogburn  
Mark A. Parsells  
Eleanor Madison Macon Porter  
J. Ridgely Porter, III  
Johnny Scott  
Gail Babnew-Silverman  
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

### 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  
A. Preston Moore, Jr., Treasurer - Charlottesville, VA  
\*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*

### Contact Information

To provide information on family births or deaths please contact  
Ed Kube, Secretary, PO Box 841, Mineral, VA, 23117; [cekube@firstva.com](mailto:cekube@firstva.com).



William Garrett, Editor, 4708 Vernon Blvd; Long Island City, NY 11101;  
[wg4@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wg4@nyc.rr.com).

Newsletter published annually by NSMFD.

# Maddisons Reach Across the Pond, and the Generations, Successfully

by Frederick Madison Smith

As part of the NSMFD's ongoing Y-DNA research project to help in clarifying the family's English descent and verify lines that cannot be proved by documentation alone, we were able to track down a descendant of the Maddisons of Hole House, Derwentside, County Durham, and convince him to test against two descendants of William Madison, brother of the President.

Not only did the Y-DNA of these two separate lines match, but rather closely so considering the generations that have passed since the immigration of the Virginia branch in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when President Madison's great-great grandfather

John Maddison began patenting land in the colony.

A living John Maddison, a retired educator and active genealogist of the Maddison families now living in his hometown of Lincoln, not only provided us with a DNA sample, but access to his very serious collection of family histories and genealogies, as well as his wider contacts in England who are now helping us in our genealogy efforts.

We continue to undertake some very serious, costly and time-consuming research in England to make the precise documentary link between these branches

of the family, and it appears that we are making progress in this effort. We hope, by this time next year at the least, to have significant findings completed to help us sort out these connections with greater accuracy than the second-hand or hearsay evidence we have relied on for so many years.

Many months of a persistent charm offensive on our part convinced John to join us at the reunion this year - his first visit to Virginia but by no means his last he has now declared - and his brief article regarding his experiences sent to *Family History Monthly* magazine in the United Kingdom was chosen as a prize winning submission for publication. With John's permission, we reprint it at left.



## Maddisons/Madisons, Where Art Thou?

By John Maddison

It was through a chance meeting on the Internet that I came across Frederick Madison Smith and through his kindness that I have recently had the privilege and pleasure of travelling to Virginia US, in order to attend the 2009 Triennial Reunion of the National Society of Madison Family Descendants, (NSMFD) of which Fred is the current President.

Understandably, I was somewhat diffident about embarking upon an eight thousand miles round trip to a foreign country where I would know absolutely no one, in order to attend a two day function of an organisation about which I knew precious little. But I need not have been concerned. The members were kindness itself. They treated me like an honoured guest and nothing was too much trouble for my host. They referred to me as "***Our cousin from Great Britain***" and humorously, I introduced myself to all as "***John Maddison, with two Ds and proud of it.***" Even the weather gods smiled upon us and the heat of the Virginian sun was outdone only by the genuine warmth of the welcome.

The Reunion itself which was attended by over 200 members and their families, took place over a June weekend at Montpelier, Virginia, one time home

of fourth US President, James Madison and his wife, Dolley, included a guided tour of the tastefully restored mansion house, a film and various talks on Madison family history, archaeology, a tour of the gardens, and a wreath-laying ceremony at which an all-green wreath to the memory of James and his wife was supplemented by white carnations in memory of past members. Lunches, a dinner and champagne receptions, completed the entertainment.

To sum up, yes, it was a long and expensive way to go solely for a two day function, but well worth every mile and every penny. I would urge all Maddison or Madison descendants who find themselves in the area, to make a special point of visiting Montpelier, which is South of Washington DC and close to the delightful, sleepy little town of Orange, or, better still, become a member the Society and be there with me at the next reunion in 2012. In the meantime, and subject to the response, I hope to compile a comprehensive database of interested family members, with a view to forming a British branch of the Society, in the hope that one day, the Society's officers will find it appropriate to amend its title to International. For further details, with no obligation, please contact me by email ([johnmaddison@nasuwt.net](mailto:johnmaddison@nasuwt.net)).

## NSMFD Treasurer John Macon Cornick

After many terms as our Treasurer, John Macon Cornick decided to resign this summer following a diagnosis of ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) which will require his almost constant attention, as well as that of his wife



Gina, and his daughters Mary Catherine and Macon. A man of uncompromising exactitude, diligence and benevolence in his professional and personal life, John has shepherded us through some thin financial days and generally managed our affairs in that department with a skill nothing short of astonishing for an association such as ours. Moreover, he, Gina and the girls have been an always bright and hopeful presence to each of us personally, and models of the best of life exemplified by the extended family.

The NSMFD board would like to thank John for his help, service and guidance. Please remember John and his family in your thoughts and prayers always as they face this very challenging illness; Gina has established a weblog for us to keep in touch with their progress: <http://thecornicks.posterous.com>, password wakedr.

## Where There's A Will...

The persistent will to persevere in the enormous and complicated project of returning Madison's home to its original configuration was based on the conviction that Montpelier is an invaluable asset to the nation and as such deserved a major commitment of energy and resources. The preservation of the site where Madison researched and pondered all options for creating a stable system of government for this new country, drew support not only in current dollars but in the start of an endowment, funds that are never spent but with wise investment, grow and produce income for The Montpelier Foundation's wide array of activities and programs.

To provide a learning center where Madison's unique ideas as embodied in the US Constitution can be taught and discussed, The Montpelier Foundation is making plans to expand The Center for the Constitution. In addition to adding new programs, expansion plans include the construction of new campus for The Center. Like the mansion restoration,

this effort is a multi-year project, and like the mansion, it will require an endowment for its future stability.

Estate gifts, those that arrive after one's lifetime, fund the endowment and are the pillars that hold up Montpelier's future. The easiest way to make an estate gift is through a bequest in your will. You might consider, however, a gift of an insurance policy or real estate.

Won't you name The Montpelier Foundation as a beneficiary of your estate? In recognition of your generosity, you will be invited to become a member of The Madison Pillars Society, those special people whose gifts ensure Montpelier's stability for future generations? Even though your gift will arrive after your lifetime, The Montpelier Foundation would like to honor you now.

Where there's a will, there truly is a way to keep Montpelier a beautiful and vibrant national treasure.

Margaret Macon Boeker, Director,  
NSMFD

*(Cut Out Box)*

### CONFIDENTIAL REPLY FORM

\_\_\_\_\_ I have included The Montpelier Foundation in my will.  
Please enroll me in The Pillars Society

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like more information on how to include The  
Montpelier Foundation in my estate plans and the benefits of  
Pillars Society membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Clip and mail to:** Kimberly Skelly, Director of Development,  
P.O. Box 911, Orange, VA 22960

## The New Dolley Madison Society

*By Margaret Macon Boeker, Director,  
NSMFD*

With her hospitality and diplomacy, Dolley Madison created a standard of national etiquette that helped define the emerging American democracy. Deemed by a contemporary as "one of America's most valuable assets," Dolley realized the ways in which social interaction could aid a political agenda. She served as the premier hostess in Washington society not only while James Madison was President, but also during the eight years he was Secretary of State. Dolley Madison understood the power of building relationships to ease political rivalry and established protocols that are still in effect today, ultimately inspiring the term, "First Lady."

The Montpelier Foundation is honoring Dolley Madison and the supporters who seek to preserve the lives and legacies of James and Dolley Madison by forming this Society. Members of the Dolley Madison Society share a close relationship with Montpelier and are invited to special events, lectures and tours throughout the year. Their financial support helps ensure that future generations understand, embrace and rediscover the values that define our nation.

There are three levels of membership in the Society, each with its own attractive benefits. Membership can start at the \$500 dollar level and go to \$4,999. Madison Cabinet membership starts with annual gifts of \$5,000.

Why not join in honoring Dolley Madison and take the opportunity to enjoy Montpelier throughout the year at the same time? For more information, please contact Karen Costello at 540-672-2728, ext 108.

### In Memoriam

Wanda B. Klimczak

Mary Stewart Butler Lewis

Augusta Maupin Porter Molnar

John Miller Nichols

Johnny Scott

Sallie Macon Porter Williams

The National Society of the Madison Family Descendants Website  
[www.jamesmadisonfamily.com](http://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: A. Preston Moore, Jr., Treasurer, 15 Canterbury Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903

First-Class Mail  
US Postage  
PAID  
Waynesboro, VA  
Permit No. 115

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