



CHRONICLER

PRESERVING OUR PAST



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Greenback Historical Society, Inc.
6725 Morganton Road
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WWW.GBHISTORICAL.WEBS.COM

WINNING ESSAY ON JAMES MADISON Nola Melton Elam History Award, 2017

James Madison is one of the most influential leaders in the history of the United States. Growing up in a time where the American Colonies were in huge disagreement with Great Britain, it was almost impossible to not be interested in the politics of the country and the way the government should or should not be run. Madison's interest in World Government and political philosophy would be a huge influence on the ideas that he would come up with for our country and eventually the way that he would run the country himself as President of the United States. He would eventually earn the title of the "Father of the Constitution" because of his ideas and the way that he had such a huge influence on the Constitution. Without the ideas and philosophies of James Madison, the United States of America would not be the powerhouse that it is today.

James Madison was born in 1751 in Port Conway, Virginia. He was the oldest of the 12 children born to Nelly Conway Madison and James Madison Sr. He was always very intelligent and eager to learn. He had a great interest in political philosophy and governments, and had a special interest in the dispute between the American Colonies and Great Britain. Madison started his education at home with his mother, and eventually went on to the College of New Jersey (now known as Princeton University) to study classical languages, mathematics, rhetoric, geography, and philosophy. He was not satisfied with these, so he went back to be the college's first graduate student to study Hebrew and political philosophy. These studies were all huge influences on his thoughts about how the government should be run and how the Constitution should be set up ("*The Life of James Madison*").

The Madison's were not a poor family by any means, especially for the time period. They were a family of planters, starting with James Madison's great-great grandfather, Isaac Madison, who migrated to America and settled in Virginia. He acquired land and became a planter, and stayed on this land with his family until he died in 1624. Madison's father, James Sr., was a very successful tobacco planter. He inherited his family's land and eventually acquired even more land (about 5,000-acre total) to eventually become the largest landowner and leader in Orange County. ("*James Madison Genealogy*"). The Madison family was very influential in county affairs, which most likely had an influence on James Madison's interest in government and political affairs.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, July 22, 12:00PM at the Greenback Community Center. Ice Cream Contest!

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Madison's political involvement started when he returned home from college and took an interest in the dispute between the American Colonies and Great Britain. He started off by becoming a member of the Orange County Committee of Safety in 1774 ("*The Life of James Madison*"). He was eventually elected to the Virginia Legislature in 1776 at the young age of 25. There is where he met Thomas Jefferson. The two became well acquainted when Jefferson was serving as Governor of Virginia, and Madison was a member of the Council of the State ("*Thomas Jefferson's Monticello*"). Jefferson and Madison lived very similar lives. They were great friends in their political and personal lives and were both huge influences on the modern American government.

Though his political career began at a young age, he grew immensely in politics and would eventually become one of the most important people at the Constitutional Convention. He served on Thomas Jefferson's council when he was Governor of Virginia, and then was a member of the Continental Congress from 1780-1783. When he moved back to Virginia after his time on the Continental Congress, he did not like the way the state governments were functioning and thought that they were focused in on the wrong things, and because of this there would be problems with the new country ("*The Life of James Madison*"). This is where he began coming up with the ideas that he would propose at the Constitutional Convention. He knew there needed to be changes made to the way the government was working or else the whole thing would fall apart.

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A VERY RARE EVENT

On August 21, Greenback will be in the path of totality of the solar eclipse. Those of you who have been around a few years were probably not overly impressed when the event was first mentioned in the media. I recall having been in the vicinity of two or three partial eclipses myself. However, there are several things about this one that make it a big deal. First, it is a total eclipse. The solar disk will be completely obscured. According to some estimates I have seen, only about one person in a thousand living in the world today has seen a total eclipse firsthand. The second factor is the coverage. This is the first time in 99 years that a total eclipse will span the entire continental United States. The average width of the path of totality is only about 72 miles and little Greenback is in it. Sorry Chattanooga, sorry Knoxville, maybe next time. The center of the path runs between Sweetwater and Athens and a couple of miles southwest of Madisonville. The last time such an eclipse was visible anywhere in Tennessee was August 1, 1869, and that was just in a small area in the extreme northeast corner of the state. If you miss this one, you will have to wait until October 17, 2153, for a total eclipse that includes Knoxville and some other parts of East Tennessee.

In Greenback, the eclipse will first begin at 1:04:36PM (EDT). It will reach totality at 2:33:15.5 and leave totality at 2:35:34.4PM. The event will be completely over at 3:58:56PM. Totality will last for 2 minutes and 19.4 seconds. Make sure your watch is set correctly so you don't miss it. The moon's shadow will be traveling at around 1447 miles per hour as it zips through Greenback.

It is very important to remember that directly viewing the sun without proper protection can result in severe eye damage. The only time that you can view without protection is during the brief period of totality. Ordinary sun glasses will not protect your eyes. Something like a welders mask such as those used for arc welding is required. Also, special solar viewing glasses are available from Amazon.com and many other online vendors for around \$2.50 and up. These will probably show up in retail stores in the area as the date draws near. The source for the details given above is the web page *EclipseWise.com* created by Dr. Fred Espenak; a retired astrophysicist from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. Good viewing!

-Paul Bailey

ICE CREAM CONTEST IS NIGH

It will soon be time for our annual Ice Cream Contest. It is scheduled for Saturday, July, 22nd. We will have a Quarterly Meeting at Noon, downstairs at the Community Center, and we will set up for the contest at 1 PM, outside at the Pavilion. The contest starts at 2 PM, people vote for their favorite flavor, and at around 3:30 PM we count the

ballots, and declare the top three spots! First Place wins \$100, Second Place wins \$50 and Third Place wins \$25. We provide the supplies for the tasters, cups, spoons, napkins, etc...

People can contact Colleen Ragain at 865-740-5429 if they want to bring a gallon of homemade ice cream to the contest or they can get information and an entry agreement online at www.gbhistorical.com. I will try to have copies at the Greenback Historical Museum, Mayor's Office, and Library. All entrants must complete a Contest Agreement Form and submit it by July 14...so get busy!

-Paul Bailey and Colleen Ragain

MUSEUM MUSINGS

This year the Greenback Heritage Museum will host its 7th Annual Quilt Show from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM on September 7, 8, and 9. Quilts may be dropped off at the museum on August 31 and September 1 and 2 between 10:00AM and 2:00 PM. After the show, quilts can be picked up from 4:00 to 5:00 PM on September 9 and on September 14 from 10AM until 2PM.

As in past shows, each quilt will be given a number and assigned a piggy bank with the corresponding number. Visitors can put a penny in the appropriate pig to vote for their favorite quilt. Vote as many times as you like. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 quilts. Go to the museum website at www.gbmuseum.webs.com for more information and to download entry forms. Also, you may call Barbara Davis at 865-660-0123. We are looking forward to seeing your prized quilt or wall hanging. As in past years, a Craft Fair will be held across the street in the Greenback Depot on September 8 and 9 concurrent with the Quilt Show. Daycare for husbands will be available at an Old Tractor Show on Saturday, September 9, in the empty lot by the Drugstore Diner.

-Sandra Tipton and Paul Bailey

APRIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Quarterly Meeting on April 15 included several reports on ongoing activities. Brenda Blair discussed the status of the WWII Ration Card Applications at the museum. Shirley Hall reported on articles about the museum and historical society by Linda Albert that appeared in the Daily Times. Shirley also discussed the exhibit by the society at the recent presentation of David Black's *Tanasi 1796* at the Clayton Center. Colleen reminded everyone that the Ice Cream Contest is scheduled for July 22.

The program, presented by Joe Emert of the East Tennessee Historical Society, described the work going into the Sam Houston Memorial which opened in Maryville last year.

-Paul Bailey

Huddleston, Betty Lane, 97, March 25, 2017.

Moles, Edna June, 73, April 5, 2017.

Jacobs, Carolyn Marie Brewster, 76, April 7, 2017.

Hembree, Steven L., 62, April 9, 2017.

Boone, David, Jr., 72, April 18, 2017.

Woods, Cora Lee, 88, April 28, 2017.

Griffin, Dorothy French, 89, April 30, 2017.

Willocks, Eva Irene Tipton, 94, June 9, 2017.

Roberts, William R. "Bill", 68, June 9, 2017.

Sowers, Robert "Bob", 75, June 21, 2017.

Brooks, Kay Hair, 78, June 22, 2017.

Kiser, John B., 74, June 25, 2017.

WINNING ESSAY (Continued from page 1)

Prior to the meeting of the Constitutional Convention, Madison wrote the Virginia Plan which would become the framework for the entire Constitution (*"The Life of James Madison"*). This is what earned him the nickname, "Father of the Constitution". The Constitutional Convention met all through the summer during 1787 and argued many ideas of how the country should be run. Madison is the one who initially proposed the idea of a strong central government to help unify the country (*"James Madison's Contribution to the Constitution"*). The thing that America needed was one single government that controlled everything. There needed to be one single money system and one single body that controlled all laws. This was where Great Britain had fallen, and so Madison knew from his studies of world governments that this would be the only way that America would thrive.

Though the Constitution was now finished, it had to be ratified by at least 9 out of the 13 states. Madison had a huge part in this process. He wrote many essays that were released as "The Federalist" about the Constitution and what it was about and what it could accomplish. He wrote these essays in hopes of getting the people to see what would be accomplished and to vote to ratify it. The ratification of the Constitution was the most difficult part of the entire process. It was ratified in 1788 and went into effect the following year (*"James Madison"*).

After Madison became so well known for his work with the Constitutional Convention, he was very popular in the political world. He became the fourth president of the United States in 1809. He did many important things during his presidency. One of the most important of these being his decision to declare war on Great Britain in 1812, even though the United States were not quite ready for war. There was no funding and many of the states refused to fight. He ran for re-election during the war and won, even though many people blamed him for America's

problems because he had declared war when the country was not quite ready. After the war was over and the Treaty of Ghent had been signed, Madison was finally praised for the victory (*"James Madison"*).

Outside of his presidency and political life, Madison was also a father and husband. He married Dolley Payne Todd, a former Quaker who had been shunned from her community for marrying outside of her religion. When she met Madison, she was a recent widow who had lost her previous husband and a young son in the yellow fever epidemic. The two were married in 1794 (*"The Life of James Madison"*). Dolley was a very popular first lady as she was a great hostess and had a beaming personality (*"First Lady Biography: Dolley Madison"*). Together, Madison and Dolley raised her living son from her first marriage, John Payne Todd. (*"The life of James Madison"*). Though John was not his biological son, Madison helped his wife raise him as if he were his own.

Dolley Madison set the standard on what a First Lady should be like. She was a wonderful hostess and had a uniqueness about herself, from the way she talked to people and handled situations to the way that she dressed herself. Her outgoing personality allowed her to get involved in different things like fundraisers and charity work. She was well known for being a founder of a Washington D.C. home for orphaned girls, and did lifelong work with a local Catholic school. She was a sort of celebrity in America. Known as "Lady Madison", she was on covers of magazines and even had ships named after her. The thing she was most known for, however, was refusing to leave the White House during the burning of Washington by British troops until she was assured that the portrait of George Washington was going to be removed from the building and left untouched (*"First Lady Biography: Dolley Madison"*). James Madison picked a wonderful and greatly influential woman to have as his first lady who not only helped him in his political matters, but also did work of her own to better the country.

After Madison's presidency, he focused much of his time on farming since he had inherited his father's land. Along with running his plantation, he and Thomas Jefferson worked to open the University of Virginia in 1825. After Jefferson died, Madison took over the leadership role of the school. After returning home, Madison did not participate much in public life. He briefly returned in 1829 to serve on the state's Constitutional Convention and was active in the American Colonization Society that aimed to return freed slaves to Africa, which he was a co-founder of along with Robert Finley, Andrew Jackson, and James Monroe (*"James Madison Bio"*).

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James Madison died at his Montpelier estate at the age of 85. After his death, his "Advice to My Country" was released. He had asked that it stay private until after he had passed.

He was not only one of the most important people to attend the Constitutional Convention, but he was also one of the greatest presidents that America has ever seen. He left a great mark on the United States of America. Had it not been for his ideas on the way that governments should be run and wars should be fought, America would not be the powerhouse that it is today.

*-Shelby Kirkpatrick, Greenback High School,
4 April, 2017*

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GRADUATION, GREENBACK HIGH SCHOOL, MAY, 2017

A Beautiful evening on May 12, 54 smiling seniors marched into the auditorium at Greenback High School to the music of the Greenback Band. After the Pledge to Allegiance led by students Shelby Kirkpatrick and the invocation by Hunter Willis, Principal Mike Casteel welcomed the audience and gave an address to the seniors.

This year there were Co-Salutatorians, Daniel Summers and Tavin Kilpatrick. Valedictorian was Skylar Little, daughter of Beth and Matt Little. In addition to being a scholar, Skylar was All District, and All Regional in Basketball and All District in Soccer. Daniel Summers, Class President, is the son of Misty and the late Danny Summers, and won numerous Academic Letters. Tavin Kilpatrick is the son of Brent and Regina Kilpatrick. He played both basketball and football at Greenback. In football, he was All District, All Regional, and All State. All three plan to continue their education. Skylar plans to attend Clemson University where she will major in marketing. Both Summers and Kilpatrick plan to attend

Tennessee Tech University and both will major in Engineering. Summers received a full academic scholarship from Tech and Kilpatrick received a full athletic scholarship to play football at Tech. After the three addresses, both inspiring and light hearted, music was provided by obvious class favorite, Johnathen Clayton.

Several awards and scholarships were awarded but two which would be of most interest to our readers, were the Nola Melton Elam Historical Award given for an essay on James Madison, Fourth President and "Father of the U.S. Constitution" given to Shelby Kirkpatrick. Fort Loudon Electrical Co. Scholarship, "Powering Everyday Life", on her essay was awarded to Skylar Little. Little also won second place in the Nola Melton Elam Historical Award on her essay on James Madison.

Following the awards, was the Flower Ceremony, a favorite of mine and the audience. I do not know whose idea this was or how long Greenback has been doing this. As the seniors bring their baskets of flowers and give flowers to their parents, their teachers, sponsors, coaches, etc., it is a great celebration and a wonderful way to express their appreciation to those who aided them along the way. Diplomas awarded, tassels turned and caps tossed into the air, this new class is on its way. You have made us proud and we know you will continue!

-Carolyn Melton Peck

HAPPY SURVIVORS

Eighty Survivors from Greenback High School from the Class of 1941 to 1965 met again on April 22, 2017 at the Greenback Community Center. Ronald Hudson spoke to the group giving an hilarious account of many of the tales of early Greenback related to him by Fred Fipps when Hudson was a child. The Greenback Drug Store served as the "Men's Civic Club" every morning at coffee time. It was here that many of the old "Greenback Legends" were told. Hudson's father "Shag" once told me that they had to leave by 10:00AM or pay rent.

Happy Survivors started years ago with the Class of 1929 and has met continuously since that time. John Allan Kerr, Ella Mae Fipps, John Cochran, and Esther Montgomery were on the original committee. Goddard has been the Chairman since "Ella Mae told him he had to." Jimmie Lynn Bluford Delozier has served as Secretary Treasurer for the past several years. This year they gave up their jobs, but not their

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membership. The main job of the Chairman for the past few years has been to be Master of Ceremonies at the Happy Survivors annual reunion. Delmar Davis made a very capable Master of Ceremonies this year. If history is any indicator this means he is now the Chairman of the committee, even though he may not realize it. The Secretary Treasurer has been responsible for notification of the meetings and has assumed the role of Treasurer since the death of Ralph Hall. Since Goddard's, Delozier's resignations, Darlene Cochran Kerley assumed the Secretary-Treasurer position. Ms. Kerley asked for Volunteers to help with the membership of the Committee and one person from each class to keep up the list of members, both living and deceased. As one can see, the group is fairly loosely organized. Each year another class is added and the Class of 1966 will be added in 2018.

Carolyn Melton Peck also resigned from the Committee this year. When she first became a member of the Committee, she was asked by Goddard "if she could help them a little." Responding a little hesitantly. She said "well, I guess I can." "I didn't realize that I was a Committee Member until the next spring when a meeting was called", said Peck "I think it was at Ella Mae's house." Peck said that she is a member of the Greenback Historical Society and said that copies of the Newsletter have been left in the lobby. She said that as Editor of the GHS Newsletter, she has included Greenback Legends in the newsletter in many issues. Many of those came from Fred Fipps, Roy M. Brooks, Ralph Hall and Bob Anderson. She is running out of contributors and asked that anyone with "tales" such as these, contact her at Pcaramel@yahoo.com or 865-816-0947. She also said that if anyone wished copies of the quarterly newsletter, they could join the Historical Society. Membership dues are \$10.00 for an individual and \$15.00 for couples.

Greenback is home or former hometown to many who love to visit, have a meal catered by Eastern Star, and they just might receive a door prize before they go. If they stopped by the Greenback Heritage Museum from 10 to 2:00PM and if they picked up a Walking Tour Guide while there, it is a great way to finish a warm spring day.

See you next year on the fourth Saturday in April. Mark your calendars if you attended Greenback School from Classes of 1929-1966. You'll be glad you did!!!

-Carolyn Melton Peck

CAROLYN'S CORNER

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY! "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness....."

I hope you enjoyed the essay on James Madison published in this issue. While traveling the country persuading states to ratify the Constitution, he received some resistance from the more western states, including North Carolina. Tennessee, a part of North Carolina at the time, was filled with staunch, independent Scotch-Irish. Madison promised them and others, that if they ratified the Constitution, he would see that a Bill of Rights followed. Thus, we have the Ten Amendments.

We lost one of our first members in June, Kay Hair Brooks. A native of Greenback and wife of Roy M. Brooks, who was one of our first Board members, and mother of Jimmy "Fuzz" Brooks, owner of the Greenback Corner, she was well-known in the community and will be missed. Roy M. and Kay were the first ones who suggested that we place quilts on the Appalachian Quilt Trail. At one time, we discussed placing one on Morganton Rd. on the Red Barn on the old Hair property and another on the barn on the Mardis Property.

In June, the Daily Times featured a long article remembering Pat Summitt written by Lauren Moore, "Reflections of Pat from Holly Warlick". When I saw it, I kept it, remembering how many people from Greenback loved and honored Pat. It is somewhat amazing that this long after her death, we are still talking about her many accomplishments. She touched so many lives not only on the basketball court but in many ways. I always marvel that all of her players graduated!!!

She stood for all the values we were taught as children and many of us remember that "icy stare" our mothers used with us. It reminds us of the terrible toll Alzheimer's took on Pat at only the age of 64, and how many others and their families suffer with this hateful disease. Moreover, it motivates us to strive to make a difference in our own lives. What a wonderful legacy she leaves us!

CHRISTMAS IN JULY, will be held at the Greenback Community Center, July 15, 10 to 3:00PM. Donations of items for the Shoeboxes to be sent to children overseas will be accepted. This is to raise awareness of Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes, sponsored by Rev. Franklin Graham.

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CAROLYN'S CORNER (*Continued from Page 5*)

A variety of vendors selling their business products for personal use, to stock up for Christmas, or to use as donations will be there. Local trucks will be selling snacks, food, and drinks. Bring your family.

Approved donations for both boys and girls include personal hygiene items, such as soap, brush, deodorant, fingernail clippers, school supplies, small toys or activities, toothbrush, and paste etc. Any approved donations count toward tickets for vendor prizes which will be drawn at the event. For more information, contact Alex Russell 918-200-4020.

Greenback High Students just keep winning awards!!!! Five of our football players won scholarships and even after graduation, our boys kept winning awards. For the first time, our baseball team participated in the State Baseball Tournament in late May. Even though they only won one game, it was a great beginning! The team is looking forward to next year.

**BE SURE TO GET YOUR OCTOBER ISSUE.
GREAT NEWS IS COMING!!!**

-Carolyn Melton Peck

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 15, *Christmas in July, Greenback Community Center, 10AM-3:00PM.*

July 22, *Greenback Historical Society Quarterly Meeting and Ice Cream Contest. Noon, downstairs at the Greenback Community Center.*

Aug 20, *Historical Society of Loudon County Meeting. 3:00PM, Greenback Community Center. Hosted by Greenback Historical Society. Program by Paul Bailey. Greenback History and Scrapbooks.*

Aug 21, *2:33:15PM, Total Solar Eclipse in Greenback.*

Oct 15, *Historical Society of Loudon County Meeting. 3:00PM, Trinity Methodist Church, Lenoir City.*

Oct 21, *Greenback Historical Society Quarterly Meeting. 2:00PM, Greenback Community Center.*