



## *News from the Bedford Historical Society*

For Members & Friends

Spring 2004

### **Mark Your Calendar**

Set aside **Saturday, May 1, 2004** for Bedford Historical Society's spring trip. Plans are underway to visit James Madison's Montpelier located near Orange, Virginia.

- begin with a leisurely spring bus ride through the beautiful Virginia countryside
- anticipate a delicious lunch at the Boar's Head Inn in Charlottesville
- arrive at Montpelier for a guided tour of our 4th president's home
- prepare yourself for a taste sensation as you enjoy a sampling of fine wines at the Barboursville Vinyards
- arrive home early in the evening following a memorable outing

Ray Garland, trip organizer, will be mailing more specific information shortly. Address any questions to Ray or make early reservations at 586-5802.



The Montpelier Foundation has an-

nounced plans to launch a complete restoration of the Montpelier mansion, the home of James Madison - the Father of the Constitution, author of the Bill of Rights, fourth President, and chief architect of the American Republic.

With restoration, the mansion will be returned in size, structure, form, and furnishings to the home that James and Dolley Madison knew in the 1820s.

The restoration project, expected to take about four years, will remove alterations made to the Montpelier mansion after President Madison's death in 1836. Restoration will include removal of wings added onto the mansion by the duPont family in the early 1900s, reducing the mansion from its current 55 rooms to the 22-room Madison home of the 1820s. Portions of the home will be open to visitors at all times during restoration, providing visitors with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness the restoration of the lifelong home of an early American President and patriot.

### **The 2004 Annual Meeting**

A leap year luncheon preceded the Annual Meeting of the Bedford Historical Society on Sunday, February 29, 2004 at the Bedford City Council Chambers.

Directors were elected at the brief annual meeting. Officers include Ann Vest, President; Ray Garland, Vice President; Recording Secretary, Roni Sutton; Corresponding Secretary, Linda Kochendarfer, and Co-treasurers Betty Gereau and Clara Lambeth. Glenn Ayers presented an entertaining program entitled *The History of Bedford County in Song and Story* to celebrate the county's 250th anniversary.

### Meeting House Doubles as Wedding Chapel

As spring arrives, local area brides contemplating a simple yet intimate event may consider the historic Meeting House on West Main Street. According to Mary Markham, who handles scheduling for the facility, five weddings were held last year with two already planned over the next several months. Fees are \$50 for the rehearsal, \$100 for the ceremony and \$60 for clean-up. Anyone interested in reserving the Meeting House should contact Mary at 586-8587.

### A Special Note of Thanks

Moving an organization into the information age is no small matter but that is exactly what Bob and Jan Dixon have done. Their tireless efforts have provided the Bedford Historical Society with computerized membership lists, thank you letters, and labels. As they pass on their duties to Richard and Linda Kochendarfer, members and friends of the society offer them heartfelt thanks for their many hours of service.

- *As birthdays and graduations near, consider a membership to the Bedford Historical Society as a thoughtful and considerate gift with preservation efforts, activities, and publications that last the entire year. See membership information below.*
- *Make your reservations for the spring trip to historic Montpelier. Look forward to a great gathering, good food, and lots of fun.*
- *During spring cleaning remember to save those unique and interesting treasures tucked away in closets, basements, and attics for the fall Curiosity Shop Sale. Address questions to Jeanette Richardson at 586-3349.*
- *Your last membership payment was made on the date indicated on the top of your mailing label. Renewal membership dues are payable in January. New members paid after July are considered to be paid for the next year.*

**The Bedford Historical Society**  
Charles & Louise Wharton House  
315 Bridge Street, P.O. Box 602  
Bedford, Virginia 24523  
Web site: <http://www.bedfordhistory.org>  
E-mail: [webmaster@bedfordhistory.org](mailto:webmaster@bedfordhistory.org)

#### Membership Dues

Patron	\$100	Sponsor	\$50
Friend	\$25	Husband	
Individual	\$15	& Wife	\$20