



# Americans for Madison.org

November 2008—Hadley Nagel, Editor/ Publisher -- To join us or for more information, visit our website at <http://www.americansformadison.org> -- ©Americans For Madison, 2008

## MEMORABLE DAYS IN THE LIFE OF JAMES MADISON: August 24<sup>th</sup>

(First of a periodic series)

Prince George's County, MD—Reviewing the memorable days of a person's life can be a fun way to understand someone. In the case of James Madison, things get very interesting quite quickly when dealing with just the basics. For instance, we know that September 15, 1794 was the day he married Dolley Payne Todd and that he never had to memorize the birth dates of any children. Similarly, we also know that some people are upset with the day that he died—June 28, 1836. Given the experience of Jefferson and Adams in 1826, ten years later some still believed President's ought to die on July 4<sup>th</sup>. In fact, some really wished he had turned to opium to linger on for just six more days so that he would have died on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence even though his document's big day was September 17, 1787—now our Constitution Day.

**The Day James Madison Faced Eviction and Arrest**

One of Madison's most memorable days, however, is undoubtedly the day that he was chased out of his house and almost arrested. Dealing simultaneously with eviction and arrest would make anyone's day memorable. Of course, unlike so often the case today, he was not being chased out by a marshal enforcing a subprime mortgage or facing capture by a mere policeman which the FBI tells us happened successfully 14,209,365 times last year in the U.S. His house was the White House and the day was August 24, 1814 when he was almost captured by some soldiers from Wellington's Invincibles during the Battle of Bladensburg Bridge while Dolley was busy moving Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington out of the White House to safety from 4,000 invading enemy in the midst of the War of 1812. Originally built to cross the Anacostia River to connect Bladensburg with neighboring Colmar Manor, almost 200 years later a bridge still connects the two communities. Of course, Gilbert Stuart's portrait is now safely re-hung in the White House's East Room.

## AFM HOLDS 1<sup>ST</sup> SYMPOSIUM MARKING MADISON'S BI-CENTENNIAL: Hadley Nagel Delivers Opening Remarks

(The following is a transcript of those remarks)

Hello! It is such a pleasure to see you all before me in order to celebrate and honor the legacy of an important and special man, James Madison. Madison is perhaps the most under appreciated yet indispensable of our Founding Fathers. His leadership and character as a Congressman, Secretary of State and President shaped our country for the better, and his participation and guiding force as the crafter of the Bill of Rights and our Constitution made our nation the envy of the entire world. Americans for Madison is thrilled to be partnering with the Historical Society for this special evening. Thank you for coming and most especially thank you panelists, Professors Ellis and Wilentz, and moderator Benno Schmidt, for joining us tonight. Americans for Madison works to uphold and spread remembrance of James Madison.

**A pundit once said, "James Madison gave the American people a government that any idiot could run" but let's take our thoughts away from the current political situation and turn our minds back 200 years as 2008 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of James Madison's election as our fourth president.**

Tonight, I ask you all for two things. The first: let our panel discussion enlighten you and transport you back to a time when James Madison was a public servant in a new government, and when he defended our nation against the British during the War of 1812. When, later tonight,

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**Washington, D.C.**—Key legislation involving the legacy of James Madison has been left pending by the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress as legislators departed town for campaigning on October 3rd despite a Public concern for legislative attention to numerous open matters including the economy. Given the need for Congress to act sooner rather than later, interest is now focused on whether the 110<sup>th</sup> will reconvene on November 17<sup>th</sup> or otherwise hold a post-election, "lame duck" session prior to January 3, 2009. As the opening salvo in the forthcoming bi-centennial salute to the Madison Presidency of 1809-1817, HR

## ...HR 3640 NOW PENDING BEFORE 110<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS

3640 was introduced to construct a national monument for the key founder of the Nation.

Led by the enthusiastic co-sponsorship of **Representative Brian Baird (D, WA-3)** and **Representative Baron Hill (D, IN-9<sup>th</sup>)**, the legislative process that seeks adoption of HR 3640 and the creation of a James Madison Memorial Commission remains unresolved in committee referral before the House Natural Resources and its Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands.

*How to Email a **Take Action** request to your Legislator*

To alert your Washington, D.C. representatives of your interest in action on HR3640 visit our website—

<http://www.rallycongress.com/americansformadison>

—designed exclusively to transmit emails to Washington, D.C. legislators regarding HR 3640.

## AFM's 1<sup>st</sup> Public Bi-Centennial Event: Oct. 2

**New York, NY**—**Benno C. Schmidt, Jr.** joined legendary U.S. historians and AFM Advisory Board Members **Joseph J. Ellis** and **Sean Wilentz** and AFM Founder **Hadley Nagel** and NYHS CEO **Louise Mirrer** on the podium, for Americans for Madison's first public Bi-Centennial event in celebration of the 1809-1817 Madison Presidency, on Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the New York Historical Society.

Filling the NYHS's main auditorium to capacity, other noted members of the Americans for Madison Advisory Board in the audience for the event included: **James G. Basker**, President of the Gilder Lehrman Institute; **Ralph Ketcham**,



the legendary biographer of James Madison; and **Michael C. Quinn**, the President of the Montpelier Foundation, managers of Madison's 2,650 acre family estate in Orange, Virginia.



**Hadley Nagel, AFM Founder**



**The televised event included remarks from Louise Mirrer and Hadley Nagel (left) and featured Schmidt, Ellis and Wilentz—shown above—as well as the original 1833 portrait of Madison by Asher B. Durand.**

millions of Americans turn on their TVs to watch the debate between two Vice Presidential candidates, those of you who came to the New York Historical Society can reflect that it was James Madison, in 1808, who was the first president to run for office with a vice president on his ticket.

The second: You may not know this, but there is not one federal monument to James Madison. I ask you to help rectify this. There is currently a bill in the House of Representatives, H.R. 3640, that asks

for a federally funded monument to James Madison. Believe it or not, there are no other strings attached to this bill. If you go to the Americans for Madison website--[www.americansformadison.org](http://www.americansformadison.org)--and click on the link that connects you with your own representative, you can urge him or her to vote to pass this bill and honor President Madison's legacy.

I would like to take a moment to mention that Professors Wilentz and Ellis serve on the advisory board of Americans for Madison and I would like to acknowledge three very important guests in our audience who also serve in that capacity: Professor James G. Basker, President of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History; Professor Ralph Ketcham, whose seminal biography of James Madison is a work for the ages, and Michael Quinn, President of the Montpelier Foundation. I was just at James Madison's beloved Virginia home to celebrate its restoration and reopening and it is an unparalleled accomplishment in preservation. Congratulations, Mike. And, now, our panel!

