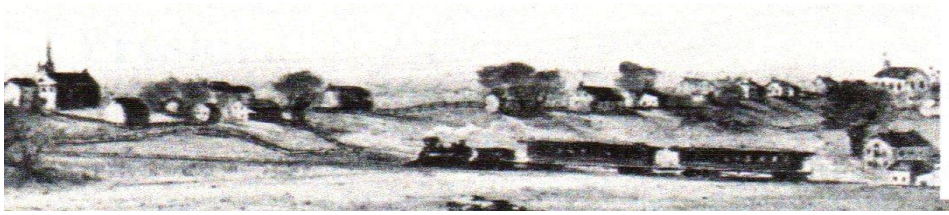


Madison Historical Society

Madison, N.J



April 2019
Newsletter 4th edition
2018-2019

The Madison Historical Society Presents

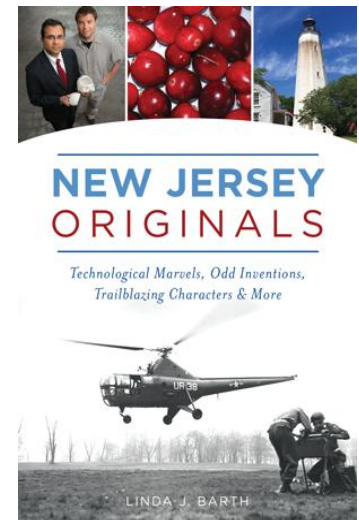
Linda Barth

Speaking on”

“New Jersey Originals: Technology Marvels, Odd Inventions, Trailblazing Characters & More”



April 16
7:00 pm
Chase Room
Madison Public
Library



Inside:

- Read more about Linda Barth, p. 2
- The new Historical Plaque Program, p. 3
- The program for the society’s annual dinner meeting, p. 4
- A personal profile of Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge, p. 5

Historical Society Officers

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Judy Seery

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Newsletter

Doug Simon

Message from President Susan Simon

I have two new programs to tell you about. The first is a new Facebook page named 'Madison NJ Historical Society'. You are able to post, make comments or ask questions on it. Be sure to visit it as well as our website at madisonnjhistoricalsociety.org.

The second new program we are very excited about is the *Madison House Plaque Program* to honor the history of the Borough by commemorating houses built during the 19th century and earlier (1730 to 1900). Several houses were similarly honored during the 1976 Bicentennial for being built before 1800. The houses that have these plaques are Sayre House (1745) and Luke Miller House (1739) both on Ridgedale, Corey House (1790) on Greenwood Avenue, Winget House (c. 1770) on Woodland and the Burnet House (c. 1750) on Rosedale. As for the new program, we are grateful to the Madison Elks for its financial assistance that will help to insure that the cost for homeowners to obtain the new plaques will be minimal. See more information on page 3.

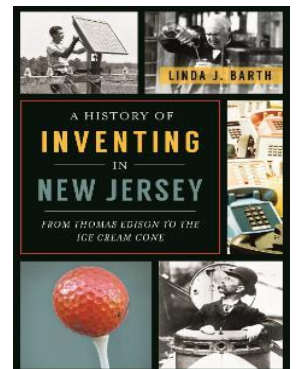
Put on your calendar the date for the annual dinner meeting. It will be held on Thursday evening May 16th in the Victorian Room of the Madison Hotel in Convent Station. The program, presented by Dr. James Carter of Drew University, should be very interesting and will deal with some very famous rock bands that appeared at Drew early in their careers in the late 1960s and early 1970s. See more on page 4.

Linda Barth



Always a popular speaker, Linda Barth makes a return visit to the Madison Historical Society on April 16. A retired fourth-grade teacher working in the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District, Linda now lives with her husband in Somerville, New Jersey where both are active in the preservation of the Delaware and Raritan Canal. They belong to the D & R Canal Watch, a group that helps to protect the historic Delaware & Raritan Canal in central New Jersey. Linda has often combined her interest in canals with her writing to produce travel articles in books including two volumes for Arcadia Publishing, *The Delaware and Raritan Canal* and *The Delaware and Raritan Canal at Work*. A prolific writer, she also wrote

Bridgetender's Boy, *A History of Inventing in New Jersey*, *Somerville Through Time*, *The Millstone Valley Through Time*, and *Hidden New Jersey*.



Historical Society to Initiate Plaque Program

The Madison Historical Society will shortly be initiating the Madison Historical Society Plaque Program to identify and commemorate houses built during the 19th century and earlier (1730 to 1900). The purpose of the program is to call attention to the historic character of the town, to give recognition to our community's architectural origins, and to encourage the appreciation and preservation of its unique heritage. The society is very appreciative of a grant from the Madison Elks Club that is helping us to undertake the program.



Many of the houses on Maple Ave. were 19th century homes. The Malcolm house seen here was built in 1889

Homes that qualify for the program will be identified by Madison property tax records and owners of those properties will be notified by letter inviting them to participate. The cost of the plaque for the homeowner is \$50 which represents only part of the total cost. The rest will be absorbed by the historical society.

The plaque is an attractive oval tablet 14 ¼" x 9 ¼", made of cast aluminum with a rich bronze finish. Custom designed specifically for Madison by the Madison Historical Society, it displays the date of record for the home's construction, a rose insignia to honor the Rose City, and our Society name. It is designed to be mounted by the homeowner on or near the front façade of the residence. In addition, the homeowner will receive an official historic house certificate suitable for framing.

2nd Grade Presentations on Madison History Headed For Kings Road School



Cathie Coultas and Margaret Weisgerber

Once again, Cathie Coultas and Margaret Weisgerber will visit elementary second graders in the borough to share stories and artifacts about Madison history. This time the visit will take place at Kings Road School on the 31st of May. Over the years, these sessions have proven very popular for both students and teachers alike. In their talks Cathie and Margaret emphasize the period from the late 1800's through the early 1900's with slides showing buildings and scenes around the Madison area such as the old fire and police stations and the train tracks at ground level before being elevated in 1913. Also included are photos and history of Madison's unique rose and peach industries that attracted many immigrants to the area with many of the immigrant families having a major influence on the development of the community.

Dr. James Carter to Speak at Annual Dinner



Styx at Drew

Historian Dr. James Carter of Drew University will be the featured speaker at the Madison Historical Society's annual dinner to be held at the Madison Hotel on May 16, 2019. His topic will be **"What Can You Expect From a College Audience? Rock'n Roll, the Counterculture of the Sixties and Drew University."**



The sixties and seventies were a time when many of the

soon to be world famous rock groups like Jefferson Airplane, The Lovin Spoonful, The Who, Iron Butterfly, Frank Zappa's Mothers of Invention, Jethro Tull and the Flock, The Byrds, Styx and the Animals, appeared at Drew. They were touring a lot of college campuses at the time and were so early in their careers, smaller schools like Drew could afford to bring them in for concerts.

James Carter earned his Ph.D from the University of Houston and specializes in American foreign relations, the Vietnam War, the United States and East Asia, the Cold War, modernization theory, political economy, and nation building. His book *Inventing Vietnam: The United States and State Building, 1954-1968* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2008. He has also written articles on war profiteering in Vietnam and Iraq and the US advisory effort in Vietnam, and he has published reviews and essays in *The Journal of Military History*, *Peace & Change*, *Education About Asia*, *Itinerario*, *The Journal of American History*, *The American Historical Review*, and the *Asia Times*. He has also appeared on the History News Network, and the BBC.

(Photos courtesy of James Carter and Drew University)



Jefferson Airplane with lead singer Grace Slick



The Animals at Drew



Spotlight on History

Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge, a Personal Profile

Thirty-seven years ago Viola Shaw, a former president of the Madison Historical Society, wrote a short personal profile of perhaps Madison's most noted citizen, Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge.

Mrs. Dodge is most famous for funding the construction of the Hartley Dodge Memorial in memory her son, Marcellus Hartley Dodge, Jr., killed in France in 1930. It is a remarkable document that in a few short words captures the essence of Mrs. Dodge the person. For that reason we felt it appropriate to reprint it in its entirety just as Viola Shaw wrote it.

Exactly 100 years ago today Ethel Geraldine Rockefeller was born at her parents' home in New York, the youngest of six children, two of whom died at an early age. Because she was the youngest by several years, she spent much of her time with her parents and those older than herself. She later chose to drop the name Ethel and use her mother's name, Geraldine. Her mother was very strict and being a fastidious housekeeper, probably was responsible for influencing her daughter along those lines. Geraldine was especially close to her father and her father's brother, John D. Rockefeller, and seemed to have an aptitude for business matters. As a child she was brought up to know the value of money and accept the responsibility attached to it.

Geraldine traveled extensively with her parents and also with a companion. She attended Miss Spence's School in New York City, and spent her summers at the family's country home, "Rockwood Hall," in Tarrytown, New York. Her chief pleasure was riding about the Westchester countryside on one of her thoroughbred horses. She was a prize winner in many local shows.

On April 19, 1907, Geraldine Rockefeller and Marcellus Hartley Dodge were married in a beautiful but quiet ceremony, due to the recent death of the groom's father. Emma Dodge, mother of Marcellus Hartley Dodge, died when he was three days old and he was brought up by his grandmother, Mrs. Marcellus Hartley. Emma's sister, Helen Jenkins, and her husband, who lived in Morristown, became his second family, and he spent his time between New York and Morristown. Naturally, it followed that the couple would frequently visit relatives and friends in this area. Geraldine's older sister, Mrs. David H. McAlpin, lived in Morris Plains.

Known at that time as Marcy and Gerry, the married couple lived for a time in a house next to the Rockefeller's home in New York City. Their only child, a son, was born July 29, 1908, at the Rockefeller country home in Tarrytown. At one time, Mrs. Dodge said, "I fell in love with Madison when it was a very quiet little town with beautiful trees and very comfortable homes. It was a natural sequence when we married to choose this location"

Their first home was a rented house on Madison Avenue, Convent. Then they moved to a small farmhouse on Spring Valley Road. Later, Hartley Farms was inherited by Marcellus Hartley Dodge and became one of his most prized possessions.

In July of 1916, the Dodges acquired the 240 acre estate now known as "Giralda", the name from St. Jerome, Patron of Orphans. The house on the estate had been built by D. Willis James in 1893. Over the years, the Dodges acquired adjacent properties increasing the estate to 550 acres. Here Mrs. Dodge studied and researched art and artists and amassed an extensive art collection. She also had one of the largest collections of bronzes owned by a single individual. We are all aware of her deep interest in animals, particularly dogs. She was an expert judge at dog shows both here and abroad and Chairman of the Morris & Essex Kennel Club which sponsored the world's largest one day outdoor dog show at Giralda Farms. She was also the author of two books, "The English Cocker Spaniel in America", and "The German Shepherd Dog in America."



*From the Kenneth Haynes Collection,
Madison Historical Society*

In her younger days, Mrs. Dodge journeyed to her home in New York City every Tuesday, returning to Giralda on Thursday. While there, she spent some time in her downtown office, saw her doctor, visited the bank, conferred with her art dealer, did some shopping, attended the opera and regularly stopped at the Lexington Avenue movies. When she returned to Giralda on Thursday, she liked to have Mr. Dodge and all of her house staff in their places to greet her.

According to those employees most closely associated with the Dodge Family, it was not true that Mr. and Mrs. Dodge lived in their separate homes, as has been commonly believed. When the family was in Madison they were together at Giralda. When Mrs. Dodge was traveling to dog shows, Mr. Dodge would stay at Hartley Farms where he maintained his own staff. He preferred the smaller house and used it to entertain his friends. Their son also entertained his school friends at Hartley Farms. Mrs. Dodge did not enjoy entertaining, especially after the death of their son.

Always interested in music, Mrs. Dodge was an accomplished organist and played the piano as well. She often attended St. Peter's Church in Morristown and sat where she could watch the organist. It was said that when she attended church, she knew the hymns and prayers and never needed to use a hymnal or prayer book. She also could speak several languages.

Mrs. Dodge adhered to a strict routine in managing every detail of the large estate. Each day she met with her cook and butler, her secretaries, her art curator and her manager. She toured the estate daily in a pony cart or sleigh, and later in her car, paying particular attention to anything that needed repairing. She was especially fond of the variety of beautiful and unusual trees planted around the estate and had three men working five days a week caring for them.

Mrs. Dodge remained an Episcopalian throughout her life, but often, attended Catholic Churches in the area. Her friendship with Father John Laffey began when he purchased a dog from her. She became annoyed when he failed to let her know how the dog was progressing and wrote to tell him so. Father Laffey's reply prompted further correspondence and occasional visits to Giralda. This friendship deepened when, by chance Father Laffey was visiting Mrs. Dodge at the time she received the shattering news that their only son, Marcellus Hartley Dodge, Jr., had been killed in an automobile accident in France on August 20, 1930. Father Laffey's help and comforting words at that time were deeply appreciated by Mrs. Dodge and increased the bond between them. Neither parent ever fully recovered from that blow.

Mrs. Dodge was reputed to be a very strict employer, but fair in dealings with her staff. She was understanding, sympathetic and supportive of those who were devoted to her and had served her faithfully over many years. Many of her good deeds to individuals and organizations were accomplished with no publicity – in fact, many anonymously. Mrs. Dodge did not give indiscriminately, but always made a careful investigation. Then, if she found it was for a worthy cause, she would support whole-heartedly. Mary Jane Ellis, who lived at Giralda as a Secretary-Companion to Mrs. Dodge, tells the story of the time when her car broke down and she did not have money to buy a new one. Mrs. Dodge offered to lend her the money but it was to be paid back. After some time when the loan had been repaid in full, Mrs. Dodge then returned the money to Miss Ellis.

Miss Ellis wrote a tribute to Mrs. Dodge in the September, 1973 issue of a dog fancier's magazine. I quote excerpts from this tribute. "Mrs. Dodge was a remarkable lady who gracious considerate ways and great sense of humor inevitably come to mind when remembering her. She was a hard worker; she rose early and was a firm believer in doing a job 'now' and doing it 'well'. She would not tolerate mediocre work of any kind, yet as a patient teacher. Always a keen businesswoman, she conducted her many interests with a firm hand.

Mrs. Dodge preferred to live quietly and simply, and seldom entertained in a lavish way. Our family will remember her as one of those rare persons, a kind, amazingly thoughtful and true friend."

- Viola Shaw
April 3, 1982

MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY – ITEMS FOR SALE

Books:

BOTTLE HILL AND MADISON by William Parkhurst Tuttle	\$30.00
CARING FOR YOUR HISTORIC HOUSE by Heritage Preservation & NPS	\$15.00
CIVIL WAR JOURNAL OF PRIVATE HEYWARD EMMELL by Jim Malcolm	\$20.00
COLLEGE OF SAINT ELIZABETH by Sister Mary Ellen Gleason, et al.	\$20.00
CROSSROADS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: A Guide to New Jersey's American Revolutionary War Sites	\$ 5.00
DREW UNIVERSITY by John T Cunningham & Regina Deverio	\$20.00
GOLDEN AGE OF DOG SHOWS, Morris & Essex Kennel Club	\$40.00
HIDDEN NEW JERSEY by Linda Barth -	Soft= \$ 8.95 / Hard = \$17.95
HISTORY OF INVENTING IN NEW JERSEY by Linda Barth	\$20.00
IMAGES OF AMERICA –	\$20.00
CHATHAM & CHATHAM TOWNSHIP by John T. Cunningham	
CRAFTSMAN FARM by Heather V. Stivison	
FLORHAM PARK by John T. Cunningham	
MADISON by John T. Cunningham	
MANSIONS OF MORRIS COUNTY by John Rae	
MORRISTOWN by Joan M. Williams	
SUMMIT by Patricia E. Meola	
LINCOLN'S WHITE HOUSE SECRETARY edited by Harold Holzer	\$39.95
MADISON, THE ROSE CITY: A NEW SPRINGTIME ed. Woody Kerkeslager	\$20.00
MEMORIES ENTWINED WITH ROSES by Ruth Churchill	\$15.00
POSTCARD HISTORY SERIES: Morristown by Bonnie Lynn-Nadzeika	\$20.00
NEW JERSEY GOES TO WAR: Biographies of 150 New Jerseyans Caught Up in the Civil War edited by Joseph G. Bilby	\$20.00
ST. VINCENT MARTYR PARISH, 200 YEARS OF HISTORY by Michael P. Riccards	\$25.00
THE UNCERTAIN REVOLUTION by John T. Cunningham	\$27.00

Maps:

1910 ATLAS OF MORRIS COUNTY by A.H. Mueller	Members \$115 each
MADISON PLATES 3, 4, 5: Approximate size 22" x 31"	Non Members \$125 each

Miscellaneous:

Christmas Ornament: Historic Sayre House or Luke Miller House	2 for \$15.00	\$10.00
Note Cards: Hartley Dodge Memorial (Pack of 4)		\$ 3.00
Photo Prints: Historic Madison, 7 different views		\$30.00
Postcards: Historic Madison	\$1.00 each or Set of 4 for \$ 3.75	
Tote Bag: Rose City		\$10.00

Madison Historical Society DVD's

\$10.00 each

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|------------------------------|---|
| * Black Church History | * Transportation |
| * Italian History in Madison | * Vietnam Oral History Project (with booklet) |
| * History of Roses | * The War Years, On the Home Front 1940-1955 |

USED BOOKS: VARIOUS TITLES, ALSO FOR SALE AT DISCOUNTED PRICES.

The Madison Historical Society

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 148, Madison, 07940. Office located in the
Local History Center of the Madison Library

Office Hours: Tuesday, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm and by appointment.

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