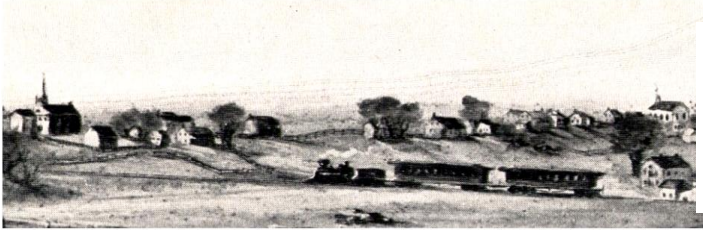


The Madison Historical Society



*The February 2012
Newsletter*



March 20, 2012

“THE RAILROAD: KEY TO MADISON”

With

Carminé Toto

And Informational Support From Members of the Madison Historical Society

**Refreshments at 7:00 PM – Program at 7:15 PM
Chase Room, Madison Public Library**

And put this on your calendars:

April 24, 2012

“Baseball in New Jersey, 1855-1870”

with

Mr. John Zinn

Chase Room Madison Public Library

7:00 PM Refreshments 7:15 PM Program



Note: If you need transportation to either of these programs, please call 973-377-0722, Ext. 8 or 973-377-2292. Wheelchairs are also available.

Officers

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Newsletter

Doug Simon

Message from the President Susan Simon

The Madison Historical Society recently received two beautiful pieces of furniture from Eleanor Stoddard. The linen press was thought to have been built by Caleb Burroughs in about 1835. Caleb established *E.P. Burroughs Furniture and Undertaking Establishment* in Bottle Hill in 1820 and today it stands as the oldest continuous business operating in Madison. The second piece of furniture is a rocking chair owned by Anna Maria Brittin Baker and is thought to have been made between 1840 and 1850. Both pieces came from the James A. Webb home (Wyndehurst) on Woodland Road. Margaretta, the wife of James Webb was the daughter of Anna Maria Brittin Baker.

The Society would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make this year's wreath sale and house tour such a success. A special thank you to Nicolas Platt for allowing us to use his house and acting as such a gracious host.

It is a sad note that a member of our society, Sandra Fulda passed away in January. She was a strong supporter of the society and had been our publicity chairman until two years ago. Sandra was on the Madison Bicentennial Committee to designate all the 18th century houses and sites in Madison that merited a bronze marker. She and Barbara Parker spent two years researching the homes. In 1983, she worked tirelessly on the 50 Year Celebration of the Morristown Historical Park on behalf of the Madison Historical Society. We will greatly miss Sandra's tireless support, vast historical knowledge and enormous generosity.

Congratulations to Kay Leary for being appointed the Madison Historian. She is a member of the Society and we feel she will be a great asset to the community in her new role.

Society Contributes to Photography Exhibit



The Madison Historical Society has contributed 40 photographs from its archives for display at The Hartley Dodge Memorial Building. Photographs hung in Borough Hall have come from the Historical Society, the Madison Public Library, and the private collection of Nicolas Platt, who has headed up the project. The Madison Fire Department is undertaking a similar project with historic photographs of the department.





Spotlight on History: Madison's Architect

By Doug Simon

Many architects have contributed to the character of Madison, but one who stands out is H. King Conklin whose buildings designed not long after the turn of the 19th century are familiar to many present citizens of the borough. Born in 1875 in Newark, Conklin graduated with honors from MIT in 1902 and moved to Madison in 1904. His firm was Conklin and Convery headquartered in Newark with a branch office in the Burnet building in Madison. In addition to some of the signature public buildings in Madison, Conklin designed private homes, particularly in the areas of Hillcrest, Academy Road and Green Village Road. Students of architecture have characterized Conklin as one of the first prominent architects of the modern era, embodying the transition from the late-19th century carpenter-builders to a thoroughly modern kind of architectural practice. Not only was he a pioneer in external design, but some of his homes incorporated unique arrangements for vacuum cleaning, garbage and ash disposal. Conklin died in 1918 in the great influenza pandemic.

Some of the more recognizable buildings designed by Conklin include the following:

Beautiful Homes



On the left, a home on Green Hill road designed by Conklin for his brother Edward. On the right a house designed for Col. Pomeroy at the corner of Potwin and Pomeroy avenues. Potwin was later changed to Edgewood.



Madison YMCA

Conklin designed the original Madison Y.M.C.A building on Main Street in 1908. Today it is an office building.



Central Avenue School

In 1909 Conklin designed Central Avenue School that in its early years housed both elementary and high school students.

Bowne Gymnasium, Drew University

Bowne was originally Drew University's gymnasium. Later it became a lecture hall and eventually a theater. The building was designed by Conklin in 1910. In 1998 it was completely renovated and named the F.M Kirby Shakespeare Theater. The picture to the right is Bowne before its renovation in the late 1990s.



Wreath Sale and House Tour Enormous Success

On December 3, the Historical Society held the most successful wreath sale and house tour since the event began in 2006. Close to \$5000 was earned to help support the activities of the society. An enormous thank you to Nicolas Platt who graciously allowed us to hold the sale and tour at his house at Hartley Farms. Not only did he let us use his house, but he helped to conduct tours while sharing many stories about its rich history.



Hartley House



Nicolas Platt

Recent Acquisitions

Over the past year, the Madison Historical Society has added hundreds of items of historical interests in 46 separate donations. All must be numbered, cataloged on computer and stored, a daunting task to say the least. The following is a list of those acquisitions:

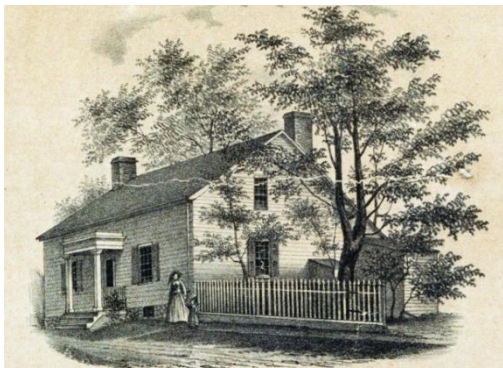
- Postcard: Home of James A. Webb, Woodland Road.
- Postcard Greetings from New Jersey, the Garden State.
- Postcard Waverly Place, Looking West.
- Grace Church Folder
- Photo: Homestead, Col. William Brittin, 1800
- Book: *In Search of a New Home, My Journey Through Life* by Joachim J. “Joe” Adamczyk
- Newspaper: *Madison Eagle*, July 1, 1976. Bicentennial Edition.
- Newspaper: *Madison Eagle*, August 26, 1976
- Booklet: *Morris County Traction Company*
- Photograph taken March 1962 of Ambulance Corp. Building under construction
- 47 slides and accompanying index cards about Heyl Roses Greenhouses and 1 slide of Rose City sign.
- Print of George Washington copied from picture by Gilbert Stuart, Boston Athaneum
- Booklet: College of Saint Elizabeth: A Guide to the Campus Environs
- Poster size blow-up of Don Newcombe on cover of Sport Magazine
- 14 photographs of Madison, early 1900s and several newspaper articles covering Madison
- Video DVD, Madison High School Program 20 April 2011 – *A Very Disagreeable War*
- 2 DVDS – Videos of Historical Society program: The Transportation Revolution 16 March 2011
- DVD Luke Miller Dig, Service Learning Day 2 June 2010
- DVD 1928 Presbyterian Church Parish House Cornerstone Laying
- CD Copy of pictures taken at the Luke Miller House Field Trust, 2 June 2010
- *Alembic 2011*, Yearbook of Madison High School Class of 2011
- 1 copy of *Bottle Hill and Madison* by William Parkhurst Tuttle
- 2 framed posters – The Preservation Society of Madison
- Pencil sketch (print) of Waverly Place circa 1950 by Joe Orzag
- Book: *A Guide to New Jersey’s Revolutionary War Trail* by Mark Di Ionno
- VHS Tape: President George Bush, Madison, NJ. November 2, 1992
- Book: *The Civil War Journal of Private Heyward Emmell*, edited by Jim Malcolm
- Magazine, November 1898: Carpentry and Building. Includes photo plate and article: Colonial Residence of Mr. B.W. Burnett at Madison, NJ; architect C. Powell Karr of New York City
- Copies of deeds for the Brant family
- Booklet “Stories of Old Chatham” by Harold Strong
- Medal – 50th anniversary of Madison Fire Dept. 1881-1931
- Blueprints Art Metal, Jamestown, NY – Equipment for Madison Public Library.
- Blueprint Partial Site Map Proposed Site Improvement for Bayley Ellard High School
- 2 pictures of Edna “Smidgie” Lewis McPhail taken at the Settlement House, January 27, 1950
- Paper material re Madison subjects in memory of Annabel Coultas
- 572 photographs from the files of the *Madison Eagle* Newspaper
- 10 photos: Whittlesey, Felt, Harned and Swenson families
- 2 bottles from Noe Farm and 1 sketch of Miller House
- Group prints – Sayre House and H. Dodge Memorial
- 22 pictures of construction of the new Public Safety Bldg. on Prospect and 3 photos of McKinney Barn
- Monthly certificate of merit for Frank Hamilton, Madison Public School
- Letters from John Stoddard to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Stoddard, November 1943-December 1944
- 2 pieces of furniture: 1 linen Press and 1 Rocking Chair, Stoddard Family



Madison Put To Poetry, 1859

In 1859, Mrs. Vashti Foote of Elizabethtown wrote a poem describing the town of Madison. Mrs. Foote was the former Vashti Thompson of Madison and one of the 13 little girls who greeted Lafayette on the occasion of his visit here in 1825. She was also the aunt of William L. Tuttle and J. H. Tuttle, both of whom made their mark in Madison. The poem confirms the long-asserted story that the name of the borough was changed to Madison from Bottle Hill in a wave of temperance reform. Further, Mrs. Foote's composition is a complete catalogue of the major community enterprises as they then existed as well as a good indication of feelings at the time. What follows is the poem in its entirety.

*There is a village in Morris
County,
Its name is Bottle Hill Sir.
But the temperance men the bottle broke
And the brandy they did spill
Sir.*



Deacon Ephraim Sayre House, 1857, two years before Vashti Thompson wrote her poem.

*Some leatherheads did meet
Sir;
They changed the name to
Madison
And took the hill off neat, Sir,
With needless words I'll not
detain you
For 'tis merely my design, Sir,
To make known to you it's
present state
In eighteen-thirty-nine, Sir
Now Mr. Keep has a large store
And has many things to sell, Sir.
From broadcloth down to sugar
plums
And more than I can tell, Sir.
Likewise he has for many girls
Both hats and stocks they make
Sir,
And further up on that same
Street
Old Sim sells cakes and beer, Sir.*

*And there is Mr. Albright's store.
And that one kept by Sayre, Sir.
And whether they are rogues or
not
I do not know nor care, Sir
Likewise there is a painter shop.
It belongs to Mr. Roll Sir;
And close at hand a tavern
stands,
Where tipplers often call, Sir.
And there is Mr. Samson's still
Where he makes rum to sell, Sir,
Which I humbly pray you to
avoid
As you would the gates of hell
Sir.
There is a harness maker here.
Folks call him Mr. Ross, Sir;
And there is Mr. Sayre's shoe
shop.
And Pollard is the boss, Sir.
And there is Force's wagon shop.
And Mathias Burnet's too, Sir.
And there is Miller's blacksmith
shop
And the painter Bassett's too
Sir;
And close at hand works Mr.
Reed.
And horses he does shoe, Sir.*

*And there is Mr. Genung's
blacksmith shop,
Where he makes wheels for
mills, Sir;
And if one is sick, there's Dr.
Green,
Who either cures or kills, Sir;
And there is the Academy
And Mr. Sherrill's school, Sir,
Where they'd make a lawyer
without doubt
Of any common fool, Sir.
Likewise we have two churches
here.
Although we are not very good
Sir.
The largest one is built of brick.
The other one of wood, Sir.
The people here are mostly white,
And some are Negroes too, Sir.
But the greatest men among us
all
Are Irishmen by birth, Sir.
Now I care not what anyone
says
It is a thriving place, Sir;
And if a man tells me I lie,
I'll surely bruise his face, Sir.*

This poem was presented to the Madison Historical Society in 1952 by its then long-time president, Mrs. Anderson Case.

MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY – ITEMS FOR SALE

Books:

<u>CIVIL WAR JOURNAL OF PRIVATE HEYWARD EMMELL</u> , edited by Jim Malcolm	\$55.00
<u>BOTTLE HILL AND MADISON</u> by William Parkhurst Tuttle	\$30.00
<u>FROM HERE TO HEAVEN</u> by Thomas Sapio	\$14.50
<u>GROWING UP IN THE ROSE CITY</u> by William F. Redmond, II	\$10.00
<u>IMAGES OF AMERICA – MADISON</u> by John T. Cunningham	\$20.00
<u>IMAGES OF AMERICA – CHATHAM TOWNSHIP</u> by John T. Cunningham	\$20.00
<u>MEMORIES ENTWINED WITH ROSES</u> by Ruth Churchill	\$15.00
<u>ST. VINCENT MARTYR PARISH, 200 YEARS OF FAITH</u> by Michael P. Riccards	\$25.00
<u>THE UNCERTAIN REVOLUTION</u> by John T. Cunningham	\$26.95
<u>CROSSROADS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: A GUIDE TO NEW JERSEY'S AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR SITES</u>	\$ 5.00
<u>NEW JERSEY GOES TO WAR: BIOGRAPHIES OF 150 NEW JERSEYANS CAUGHT UP IN THE STRUGGLE OF THE CIVIL WAR</u> edited by Joseph G. Bilby	\$20.00
<u>LINCOLN'S WHITE HOUSE SECRETARY: THE ADVENTUROUS LIFE OF WILLIAM O. STODDARD</u> edited by Harold Holzer	\$39.95

Maps:

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

Miscellaneous:

2012 Madison Calendar by Joseph Mezzacca, Jr.	\$15.00
Postcards of Historic Madison	\$1.00 each or Set of 4 \$3.75
Rose City Tote Bag	\$12.00
Hartley Dodge Memorial Anniversary Note Cards (Pack of 4)	\$ 3.00
Christmas Ornament: Historic Sayre House	\$10.00
Christmas Ornament: Luke Miller House	\$10.00
Madison Historical Society Note Pad with Pen	\$ 2.50
2008, 2009 Madison Photos on Calendar	\$ 1.00

Madison Historical Society DVD's \$10.00 each

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

The Madison Historical Society

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 148, Madison, 07940.

Office located in the Local History Center of the Madison Library,
39 Keep St., Madison, N.J. 07940

Office Hours: Tuesday, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm, First Wednesday
evening of the month, by appointment only.

Office Phone: 973-377-0722 x 8

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Collection Custodian: Kate Malcolm: 973-377-3203

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