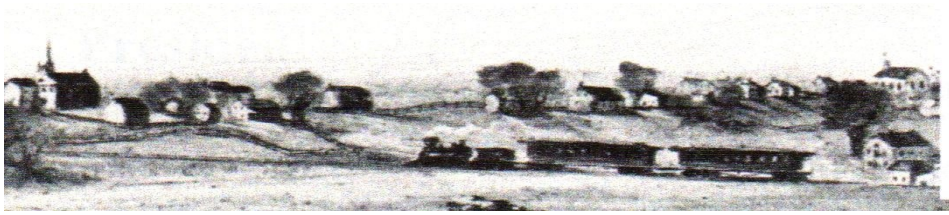


Madison Historical Society

Madison, N.J



*February 2015
Newsletter
3rd edition,*



**The Madison Historical Society
Presents**

Linda Barth

**Author of
*A History of Inventing in New Jersey***

“INVENTING IN NEW JERSEY”

7:00 PM March 24, 2015

Chase Room, Madison Public Library

Open to the Public

Refreshments

Read more about Linda Barth on page 3.

Historical Society Officers

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Linda Connors

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Newsletter

Doug Simon

Message From The President Linda Connors

Two new initiatives are generating a great deal of excitement among the Board of the Madison Historical Society. As previously reported, the Madison Public Schools are incorporating local history into the elementary curriculum. A key component is the Society's contribution: the provision of resources and the development of classroom activities. The Society can do this, but *only* if you are willing to help by doing research on Madison history or working with teachers as they develop lesson plans and classroom activities. Contact the office today to discuss this opportunity.

A goal of the Society has been the establishment of a local history museum, and for several years we have been seeking permission to use a space in the Madison train station. In November we learned that permission would not be granted. Since then an exciting new possibility has emerged. The Borough of Madison wants to renovate the currently unoccupied ground and first floors of the east wing of the Hartley Dodge Memorial. We have been asked to partner with the borough in seeking grant funding. After touring the space, we envision a museum of Madison history and offices on the first floor with some storage space on the ground floor. The first step of many will be an application to the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust for a planning grant. Creating a museum will require the cooperation of several organizations and much work, but the end result will be a museum all of Madison will be proud of.

An Appeal for Ellis Island Records and Memorabilia

The name Ellis Island conjures up images of nervous immigrants and their frightened children in almost everyone's mind. For some people in Madison whose ancestors came through Ellis Island, these images may be very personal.

The immigrants left Ellis Island with items that documented the journey from their homeland. These artifacts include passports, the infamous tag, landing card, medical inspection card, steamship tickets, information from immigrant aid societies, and even letters from family members already in America whom they would be meeting.



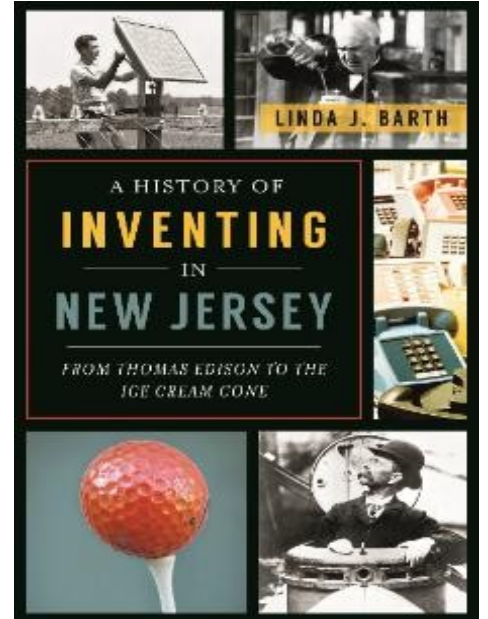
The Madison Historical Society believes that their experience is important to the historical fabric of our town. We are asking that you share your ancestor's story and any of their documents that still exist. We will scan them, add their image to our collection for use by family genealogists and scholars, and return the originals to you. Call us at 973-377-0722 ext. 8 or email historicalsociety@rosenet.org to set up an appointment.

Linda Barth



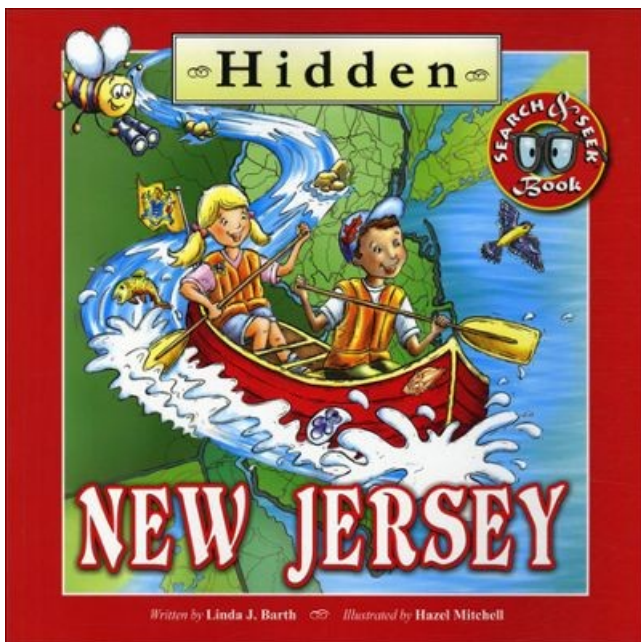
On March 24, 2015, author Linda Barth will be featured at the first Spring General Meeting of the Madison Historical Society. In her book, *Inventing in New Jersey*, Ms. Barth traces the remarkable history of invention in the state. Such varied items as Band-Aids, movies, color television, Bubble Wrap, bar codes, Play Dough, the submarine, M&Ms, the vacuum cleaner, and thousands of other items found their origins within the state. Of course it did not hurt to have Thomas Edison and his laboratory around. But as prolific as Edison was with his nearly two thousand patents, the story of invention in New Jersey goes far beyond his facilities in Menlo Park.

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. Avid travelers, she and her husband Bob have boated on the Erie Canal as well as canals in England, Wales, Scotland, France, and the Netherlands.



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*. She also wrote a children's book, *Bridgetender's Boy*, about the son of the canal worker who moved the bridge out of the way so boats could pass through.

Other books Linda has authored include *The Millstone Valley Through Time*, *The Distinctive Book of Redneck Baby Names* and a children's book, *Hidden New Jersey*.





Spotlight on History

March is Women's History Month

- Doug Simon

Founded in 1980, the National Women's History Project seeks to celebrate the historical role of women in American history and one of its centerpieces is Women's History Month. Women's history was virtually an unknown topic in the public school curriculums across America as recently as the 1970's. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women decided to do something about this situation and initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration during the week of March 8th, 1978. In fact, it was a week that coincided with International Women's Day.

Word of the success of the Sonoma County efforts spread quickly and one of its principle organizers, Molly Murphy MacGregor, was invited to participate in The Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College in 1979. Out of that relationship there grew a national movement to establish a "National Women's History Week."

In February 1980 President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th 1980 as National Women's History Week. In the same year, Representative Barbara Mikulski, who at the time was in the House of Representatives, and Senator Orrin Hatch co-sponsored a Congressional Resolution for National Women's History Week 1981. This co-sponsorship demonstrated the wide-ranging political support for recognizing, honoring, and celebrating the achievements of American women.

Across the nation, state departments of education were encouraged to celebrate National Women's History Week with major efforts in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Oregon and Alaska among others. By 1986, 14 states had already declared March as Women's History Month. This momentum and state-by-state action was used as the rationale to lobby Congress to declare the entire month of March 1987 as National Women's History Month. That same year, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity. A special Presidential Proclamation is issued every year which honors the extraordinary achievements of American women.

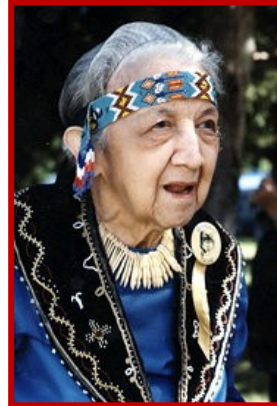
In an essay by Myra Pollack Sadker, the purpose and importance of both the Women's History Project and the month long celebration are summarized as follows:

"History helps us learn who we are, but when we don't know our own history, our power and dreams are immediately diminished. Multicultural American women are overlooked in most mainstream approaches to U.S. history, so the National Women's History Project champions their accomplishments and leads the drive to write women back into history. Recognizing the achievements of women in all facets of life – science, community, government, literature, art, sports, medicine – has a huge impact on the development of self-respect and new opportunities for girls and young women."

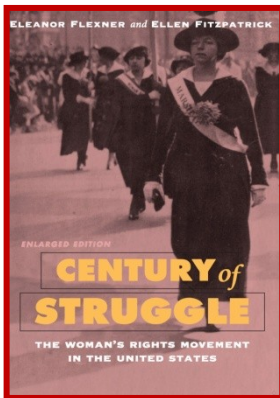
The women honored for this year's Women's History Month are:



Delilah L. Beasley (1867-1934) Historian and Newspaper Columnist
Delilah was the first African American woman to be regularly published in a major metropolitan newspaper and the first author to present the history of African Americans in early California.



Gladys Tantaquidgeon (1899-2005) Mohegan Medicine Woman, Anthropologist, and Tribal Elder. Gladys was the co-founder of the Tantaquidgeon Museum, the oldest American Indian owned museum in the U.S.



Eleanor Flexner (1908 – 1995) Historian and Independent Scholar.
Eleanor's groundbreaking 1959 book *Century of Struggle: The Women's Right Movement in the United States* marked her as a pioneer in the field of women's studies.



Lynn Sherr (1943-Present) Broadcast Journalist and Author. As a correspondent for the ABC news magazine 20/20, Lynn received many honors, including the George Foster Peabody Award in 1994 for "The Hunger Inside," about anorexia.



Judy Yung (1946-Present) Oral Historian, Author, and Professor. Judy is a second-generation Chinese American best known for her groundbreaking work in documenting the immigration history and the life stories of Chinese American women.



Darlene Clark Hine (1947-) Historian and Educator As an historian and professor at Michigan State University, Darlene sought to expand the discipline of history itself by focusing on black women who, as she put it, "... remained at the very bottom of the ladder in the United States."



Holly Near (1949-Present). Singer, Songwriter, Social Activist. Holly has inspired generations with music that chronicles progressive activism of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.



Vicki L. Ruiz (1955 –) Educator and Pioneer in Latina History
The first in her family to receive any advanced degree, Vicki L. Ruiz earned a Ph.D in History at Stanford in June 1982. Over the course of three decades, Ruiz has been a major force in shaping the field of Chicana history.

Women's History Month Celebrated at the Madison Public Library

Famous New Jersey Women

Presentation by the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Chase Room,
Monday, March 2 • 7:30 p.m.

Aviator Bessie Coleman, at Chautauqua

With Daisy Century of American Historical Theatre

In 1921 Bessie Coleman became the first African American woman to earn a pilot's license. Never one to let other people define her limitations, she traveled to France to learn to fly when American flight schools refused her because of her race. In later years she shared her experiences with children, encouraging them with the words, "you too can fly." *Funded by the NJ Council for the Humanities Horizon Speakers Bureau.* Chase Room

Sunday, March 8 • 2 p.m.



Bessie Coleman

Top Secret Rosies

Documentary Film, 57 min.

In 1942, a secret U.S. military program was launched to recruit women to the war effort; one clandestine search targeted female mathematicians who would become human 'computers' for the U.S. Army. These women created ballistics tables that proved crucial to Allied success. Six of the women in this were among the first team of programmers for ENIAC. Chase Room

Wednesday, March 11 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The Holiday Wreath Sale Great Success

The historical society held its annual wreath sale and benefit on December 6th at the McGraw House on Prospect Avenue. The event was once again a great success bringing in over \$2500 to the society. Just as important, citizens of Madison, both society members and nonmembers had a great time visiting the historic home of John H. McGraw, the co-founder of the publishing giant McGraw-Hill. The society is grateful



to the current residents, Cindy and Bob McCann for allowing us to use their house for the event. One of the nice

aspects of the sale was the attendance of a number of the relatives of John McGraw as

well as a large contingent of the Connelly family that grew up in the house after the McGraw family's departure.



Several members of the Connelly family visit the wreath sale.

MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY – ITEMS FOR SALE

Books:

<u>CIVIL WAR JOURNAL OF PRIVATE HEYWARD EMMELL</u> , edited by Jim Malcolm	\$55.00
<u>GERALDINE Rockefeller Dodge</u> by Barbara J. Minick	Hardcover \$20.00 Paper \$10.00
<u>HIDDEN NEW JERSEY</u> by Linda J. Barth, Illustrations by Hazel Mitchell	Hardcover \$17.95 Paper \$ 8.95
<u>BOTTLE HILL AND MADISON</u> by William Parkhurst Tuttle	\$30.00
<u>FROM HERE TO HEAVEN</u> by Thomas Sapio	SALE ITEM! \$12.00
<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>MANSIONS OF MORRIS COUNTY</u> by John W. Rae	\$20.00
<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:

Postcards of Historic Madison	\$1.00 each or Set of 4 \$3.75
Rose City Tote Bag	\$10.00
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
	(2 for \$15.00)
2008, 2009, 2012 Madison Photos on Calendar by Joe Mezzacca, Jr.	\$ 1.00

Madison Historical Society DVD's \$10.00 each

The War Years, On the Home Front 1940-1955	Black Church History	
History of Roses in Madison	Luke Miller, Forging History	
Vietnam Oral History Project (with booklet)	Transportation	
Italian History in Madison, Black Church History		
Historic Photos of Madison, 7 different views		\$30.00 each

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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