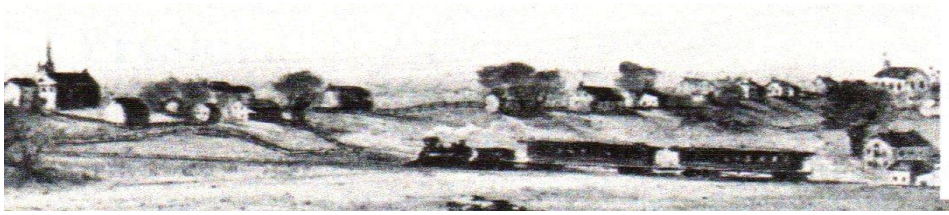


Madison Historical Society

Madison, N.J



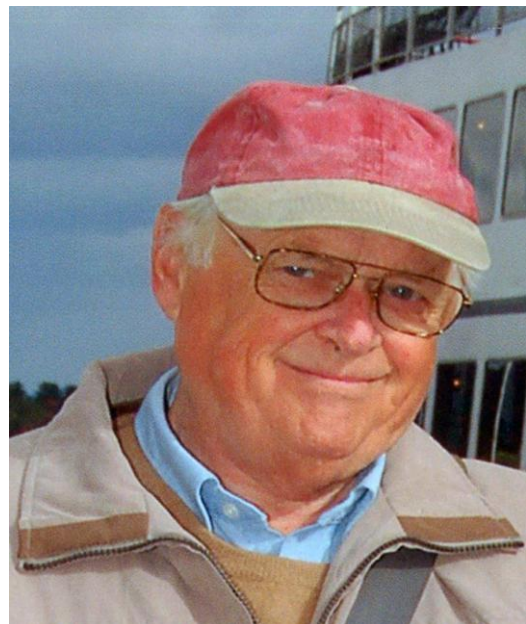
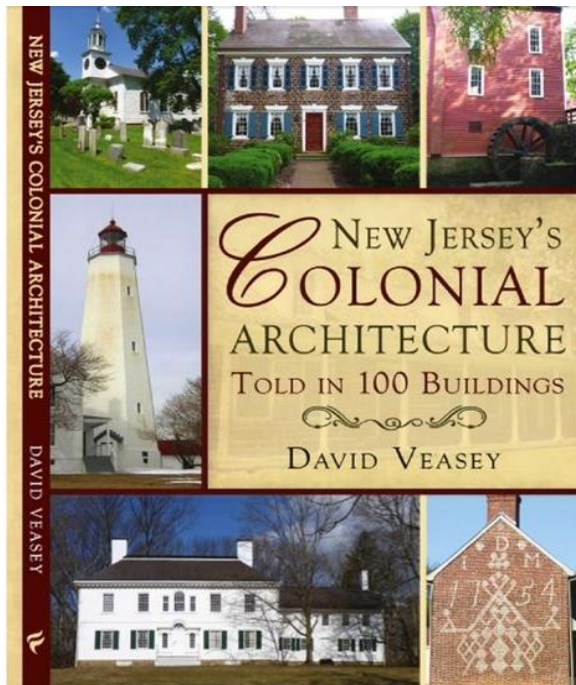
*February 2019
Newsletter 3rd edition
2018-2019*

The Madison Historical Society Presents

Mr. David Veasey

“New Jersey’s Colonial Architecture Told In 100 Buildings”

**March 19, 2019
7:00 pm**



**The Chase Room
Madison Public Library**

Historical Society Officers

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Laurie Hagerich

Anne Meyer

Judy Seery

Doug Simon

Scott Spelker

Dorothy Pietrowski

(Emeritus)

Newsletter

Doug Simon

Message from President Susan Simon

The Madison Historical Society is working on three projects that we think will showcase the rich history of Madison. The first is the updating of *The Madison Heritage Trail*, the history of Madison up to the mid-1980s. The new edition is well on its way to becoming a reality with some of the chapters being enhanced with new found information such as the location of the Revolutionary War campsite of 1777, and an additional three chapters to bring the book up to date.

The April edition of this newsletter will officially announce and explain the new Plaque Program recognizing houses in the borough built in the 19th century or earlier. The plaque has been designed and will have the construction date of the home that is being honored. A letter will be sent out to let owners know that their house can be so honored with a plaque. This program is going to be made possible with seed money from the Madison Elk's Lodge.

The third item is the Museum for the history of Madison. We continue to actively work on this project to make it a reality.

We are convinced that the successful completion of these three programs will make Madison's history more available for all our residents.

More on David Veasey



David Veasey is the author of the book *New Jersey's Colonial Architecture Told In 100 Buildings*. Mr. Veasey was raised in Chatham and has spent most of his life in the Garden State and now lives in Morris Plains. He has a long-time interest in the state's architecture, including its lighthouses and life-saving stations which he wrote a book about, *Guarding New Jersey's Shore: Lighthouses and Life-Saving Stations*. He also wrote *New Jersey Then and Now*. Mr. Veasey holds a BA from Drew University and a Master's Degree from New York University.



Spotlight on History

Lt. Samuel S. Coursen, Madison's Medal of Honor Recipient

By Herman Huber, Ph.D.

On October 12, 1950, The Madison Eagle's major news of the week concerned the County Republican Committee's plan to keep its office open year-round, Springfield Township's request for Madison's cooperation in securing the construction of a bypass on Route 24, and Madison's approval of a plan to accept sewage from Florham Park.¹ An "About Town" column on page four noted that Mrs. W. Melville Coursen drove Miss Nance Coursen back to Smith College in Massachusetts.²

On that same day, 6,835 miles away in Kaesong, North Korea, in the early months of the Korean Conflict, a 24-year old Army 1st Lt., of the 5th Cavalry Regiment, C Company, led a platoon of men in the vital battle for Hill 174. In the fog, one of his men entered a concealed enemy emplacement, was shot and trapped. The 1st Lt. immediately jumped into the emplacement, viciously fought the enemy in hand-to-hand combat, and killed seven of them. The trapped soldier was saved, but tragically 1st Lt. Samuel S. Coursen died in the violent struggle. For his exceptional bravery, "...gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty," he became the only Madison resident ever to receive the Medal of Honor.³

There have been at least 40 million men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States.⁴ Since the Civil War, only 3522 have received the Medal of Honor. In the Korean War, 145 were awarded, 103 posthumously.⁵ Usually awarded by the President in the name of Congress, it is the nation's highest military award and the only one worn around the neck.



1st Lt. Samuel S. Coursen



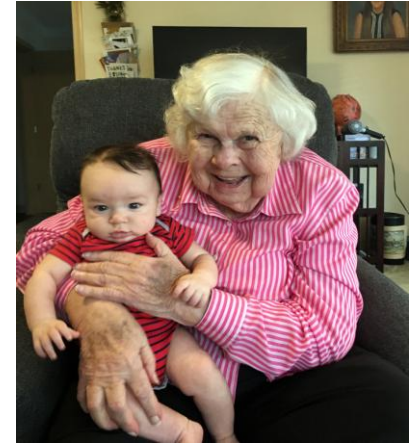
The Medal of Honor

Lt. Coursen received many awards and citations during his brief military career, including the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, Republic of Korea War Service Medal, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.⁶ But in a ceremony at the Pentagon, General Omar Bradley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, handed Lt. Samuel Coursen's greatest award, the Medal of Honor to his 14-month old son Sam Coursen, Jr.⁷ Needless to say, Sam Coursen, Jr., in a recent phone conversation with me, did not recall the day's events at the Pentagon in 1951.⁸ Yet he spoke poignantly about the legacy his father left him. The courage, selfless dedication to others, the striving to achieve and accomplish, all filtered down to young Sam and to his own children. He strove to excel and become a leader in business. Attending the 50th reunion of his father's U.S. Military Academy West Point class of 1949, was one of his greatest experiences. Although he did not serve in the military, he developed a profound respect for this country and its Armed Forces. On the wall of his home in Austin, Texas, resides his father's Medal of Honor and a certificate and citation letter signed by President Harry Truman. At a recent Thanksgiving celebration, his son read to the family, the chapter in "Always with Us"⁹ that detailed Lt. Coursen's history and deeds. Sam now has a grandson, Samuel Coursen, III.

Still sharp at age 93, Evangeline (Evie) Coursen Pouncey, Lt. Samuel Coursen's widow, spoke to me via phone from her home in Auburn, Alabama.¹⁰ Living at Fort Benning, Georgia at the time of her husband's death, she recalled with immense sadness hearing the horrific news. A bride of only one year, and with a son only 6 months old, she described him as her hot "Big, tall, beautiful man, the apple of my eye. I loved him dearly; everyone liked him. He got to see his son only till he was 2 months old." And with a sense of irony, she remarked that, "He may have been down on the list at West Point, yet he got the Medal of Honor." Living alongside other West Point families, "all in the same boat" at Fort Benning, helped to comfort her. Samuel's parents were also extremely supportive and during summers in Madison, often invited young Sam to spend time with them.

On that day in Washington in 1951 when her husband's Medal of Honor was awarded, she recalled with a laugh that her 14-month old son cried during the entire trip on an Army plane. Mary Ann Coursen Doty, Samuel's niece, told me that young Sam was fascinated by the flashbulbs used by the photographers and insisted on holding one in his mouth.¹¹ Just as General Omar Bradley was about to present him with his father's Medal of Honor, his mother quickly pulled it out of his mouth, which made an audible popping sound. No word on General Bradley's reaction.

Five years later, Evie married Dr. Wyatt Pouncey, who died in 1970. They had two daughters from that marriage. Yet two-thirds of a century after the tragedy in Korea, time has not healed her wounds. She always found it very difficult to visit Samuel's grave at West Point and never wanted to know the details of his death. She could not bear the image of her husband's battered body and wanted to remember him as he was. Her second husband, Dr. Pouncey, told her that were he to die, he wanted her to marry someone like Samuel.



Evangeline "Evie" Coursen Pouncey, Lt. Coursen's widow today

Mary Ann Coursen Doty, the daughter of Samuel's brother Melville ("Buck"), spoke with me from her home in Queensbury, New York. Eight years old at the time of her uncle's death, she recalled her family being informed late at night and the profound grief they experienced. Her 11-year-old brother worshipped Samuel and insisted he wanted to go to Korea and get the enemy. Such was Samuel's impact on others that everyone looked to him as a mentor. While Samuel's parents suffered, it was his mother who was especially traumatized. Her guilt over having encouraged him to join the military tormented her for many years to come.

Born in Madison, lived at 113 Loantaka Way, schooled at Madison Academy and Newark Academy, excelled at football and boxing, was class president, trained at West Point Military Academy, Fort Riley and Fort Benning, and buried at the U.S. Military Academy Cemetery, Lt. Samuel Coursen's deeds and life are memorialized around the nation.



Plaque at Loantaka Way and Glenwild Rd, remembering Lt. Samuel S. Coursen

From the N.J. Korean War Memorial in Atlantic City, to Coursen Memorial Field at Newark Academy, to a plaque at Madison's James Park, to the Baltusrol Coursen Memorial Golf Tournament Trophy¹², to Fort Benning's Coursen Rifle Range, to a plaque at West Point's Cullum Hall, to Coursen Way in Madison, to a plaque at the corner of Loantaka Way and Glenwild Rd., to the Lt. Samuel S. Coursen Ferry boat to Governor's Island, this son of Madison stands as a role model for the ages.

In case you're wondering whatever happened to the soldier who was saved by Lt. Coursen in the nightmare of that hidden enemy enclave on October 12, 1950, so is the family. They never learned his fate and never learned his identity.

¹ *Madison Eagle*, October 12, 1950, p. 1

² *Madison Eagle*, October 12, 1950, p 4.

³ Richard E. Ecker, *Korean Battle Chronology: Unite by unit United States casualty figures and Medal of Honor*, Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland and Co., 2005, p. 42.

⁴ https://www.va.gov/ioa/pulicadstions/factsheets/fs_americas_wars.pdf

⁵ <http://www.cmoahs.org/medal-statistics.php>

⁶ <https://www.abne.gov/node/457260#.XBKxyxxNKgWp>

⁷ "Officer Wins Top Medal," *New York Times*, June 16, 1951.

⁸ Phone conversation, Sam Coursen, Jr., November 28, 2018.

⁹ Madison War Memorial Book Committee, *Always With Us*, Madison, NJ: 1998, pp. 243-253.

¹⁰ Phone conversation, Evangeline Coursen Pouncey, December 3, 2018.

¹¹ Phone conversation, Mary Ann Coursen Doty, December 8, 2018.

¹² Rick Wolfe, "A Tournament and a War Hero," in *Baltusrol News*, May 2014, pp. 7-8

¹³ Wikipedia, November 1, 2018. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Coursen

Did You Know?

- Did you know that the Indian trails were the first roads used by the early inhabitants and that in 1779, on the trail, named by the Indians Loantaka, meaning "very nice", the American troops travelled to the Loantaka Valley, where they made their encampment remains of which may still be found?
- Did you know that in 1793 or 1794, a large colony of French refugees settled in Bottle Hill, where some of their compatriots had established homes after the war of the American Revolution, in which they had fought?
- Did you know that Park Avenue was called Convent Road or the "back road" and Ridgedale Avenue was Columbia Road?
- Did you know that about 1812 the Bottle Hill Tavern was built by Matthias Burnet on and positioned where the Chase Manhattan Bank now stands at the corner of Main and Waverly Place?
- Did you know that in 1819 Matthias Burnet and Baxter Sayre sold the building to Col. Stephen Hunting, who was host to the Marquis de Lafayette on his visit to Bottle Hill, July 15th, 1825, during his last journey through America?
- Did you know that at that time, the Bottle Hill Tavern was the post-house for the stages that ran from Elizabethport to Morristown?

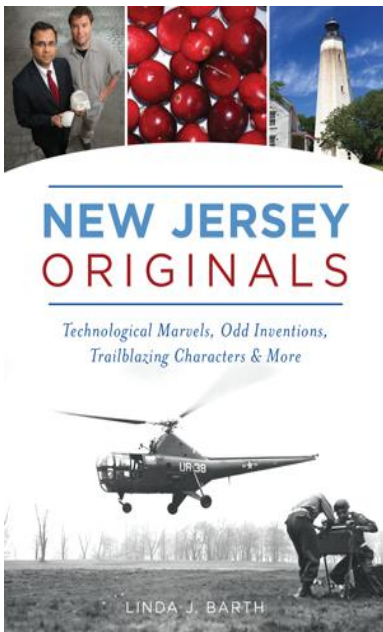


Bottle Hill Tavern

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- Did you know that on the Morris Turnpike (Main Street today), completed in 1804, toll-gates were established at regular intervals, one of which was at the present Rosedale Avenue and that to escape the tolls several of the side roads were improved, among them being the aptly named “Shunpike,” which runs from Hickory Tree to Summit?
- Did you know that the first Catholic church in northern New Jersey known as “the mother church”, was built in Madison?
- Did you know that the Morris and Essex R.R. Co. laid its first track in Madison in 1837, and the second track thirty years later?
- Did you know that Drew Seminary was established in Madison in 1867?

Coming in April



On April 16, Linda Barth will speak on “New Jersey Originals: Technology Marvels, Odd Inventions, Trailblazing Characters & More” which is also the title of her new book. Always a popular speaker, this will be a return visit to the Madison Historical Society for Linda. She has long been active in the D&R Canal Watch, a group that helps to protect the historic Delaware & Raritan Canal and has been active for years in the New Jersey Historical Society. Linda is the author of several books including *A History of Inventing in New Jersey, Delaware and Raritan Canal at Work, Somerville Through Time, The Millstone Valley Through Time*, and *Hidden New Jersey*.



Linda Barth

Dr. James Carter To Speak At Annual Dinner



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.”



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

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| * 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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