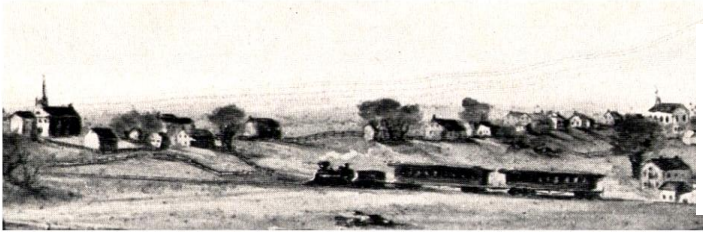


The Madison Historical Society



*The November 2011
Newsletter*

Annual Wreath Sale to be Held On December 3rd at the House At Hartley Farms



The Madison Historical Society's Annual Christmas Wreath Sale will be held at the Hartley Farms House at 637 Spring Valley Road in Harding Township on December 3rd between 1-4 PM. Wreaths on sale are made through the efforts of members of the Historical Society, the Madison Garden Club, and Madison High School art students.

The House at Hartley Farms was the home of Marcellus Hartley Dodge and Geraldine Dodge. See page 4 for a short history. A tour of the house will be available during the wreath sale for \$10 per person. In addition, tickets for the society's doll house raffle will also be on sale. (See page 3)



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Newsletter

Doug Simon

Message from the President Susan Simon

The Society got off to a terrific start this fall with two sensational programs as part of our effort to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War – Richard Swartz speaking on “Lincoln and the Larger Meaning of the Civil War” and Bill Chemerka on “The Fighting 33rd: The Rebellious New Jersey Civil War Regiment.”

As we head into the holiday season the Society is engaged in one project and preparing for another. We are currently conducting a lottery that will conclude with the drawing on December 6. The prize is a gorgeous restored 1950’s doll house. See page 3 of this newsletter for information on ticket purchases and how you can see the doll house first hand.

Our second big project is our annual wreath sale to be held on December 3rd. This year we are thrilled that Nicholas Platt and his family have opened up their historic home in order to host the sale. The home is on Hartley Farms in nearby Harding and played a unique and important role in American history for over a century. As described in this newsletter, tours of this remarkable home will be available and a short piece describing its history can be found on pages 4 and 5.

We have two areas of need for volunteers: hospitality and someone with computer skills to input data into the Past Perfect software program. We will train that person. If you are interested please call me or the society’s office.

Answers to the Vanderpoel Mansion



A number of our readers responded to the item in the September issue of the Newsletter asking about the adjacent photograph and the word “Vanderpoel?” written on the back. Sandra Fulda, Joe Falco, Lyn Foster and Eugene Fox all responded with valuable information. As indicated in the last newsletter the Vanderpoel family has roots in the area that go back to the American Revolution. Indeed, one David Vanderpoel had settled in the area by 1750. The mansion itself stood just south of the old Route 24 on the east side of the Passaic River. In 1968 it was razed to

make way for the I-24 interchange across JFK Parkway from the Short Hills Mall. For additional information see John Cunningham’s *Images of America*, p. 104 and *Chatham at the Crossing of the Fishawack*, p. 127. Thanks to those of you who took the time to respond to our query.

Doll House Raffle



The Madison Historical Society is raffling off a restored 1950s doll house. Only 250 tickets at \$10.00 each will be sold during November and up until the drawing on December 6th at 3:00 pm at the Society's office at the Madison Public Library. Tickets can be purchased at the Rose City Jewelers, Tons of Toys, and the Somerset Hills Bank, all in Madison. They can also be purchased at the Society's office any Tuesday between 10 am and 4 pm and at the Society's Wreath Sale on December 3rd at the *Hartley Farms House*.



Welcome to New Members

The Madison Historical Society would like to welcome new members Christine Altieri, Nolan Asch, Helene and Jim Corlett, Virginia Laughlin and Benjamin and Edit Ostrom.



Spotlight on History: Hartley Farms

By Doug Simon

As noted on page one of this newsletter, the Madison Historical Society's annual wreath sale will be held at the house on Hartley Farms in Harding Township. The story of Hartley Farms is almost epic in scope spanning over a century of American history. It certainly deserves far more attention than this brief article can provide. Nevertheless, it is worth at least highlighting some of the events that have marked the history of this remarkable place.

ORIGINS

In 1904 property on Spring Valley Road in Harding Township was purchased by Helen Hartley Jenkins and her nephew, Marcellus Hartley Dodge. Soon it became known as Hartley House Farm and hosted a summer camp for disadvantaged children founded by Dodge. The camp was associated with Hartley House Settlement House in Manhattan that had been founded by Marcellus Hartley Dodge's grandfather in 1897 and still operates to this day.



Marcellus "Marcy" Hartley Dodge and Ethel Geraldine Rockefeller

Marcellus Hartley Dodge, "Marcy" to family and friends, married Ethel Geraldine Rockefeller in 1907, making them the wealthiest couple in the United States. Geraldine was the niece of Standard Oil founder John D. Rockefeller. Marcy Dodge was the son of Norman Dodge linked to the Phelps-Dodge fortune and was also heir to the Hartley fortune. It was Marcy's great grandfather, Marcellus, who founded Scheyler, Hartley and Graham military and sporting goods company and Union Metallic Cartridge Company that eventually became the Remington Arms Company. For a brief period the couple lived together at Hartley Farms and set to expand the property by purchasing additional land surrounding the farm. They had a son, Hartley, who tragically died in an automobile accident in August of 1930. Geraldine did not

share her husband's strong attachment to Hartley House Farm and eventually established her own residence at Giralda in Madison, commonly referred to as the Dodge Mansion.

THE HOUSE

The original house first occupied by Geraldine and Marcellus was called Two Shoes and stood behind the stone wall that runs for a quarter of a mile along Spring Valley Road. Two Shoes was destroyed by fire in the 1940s. The current house originally stood close to Spring Valley Road but was moved in 1910 to its present location. Two bays were added to the side resulting in a 5-bay center hall Federal Revival style house. A polo field was made on the property for their son, Hartley, and trails and bridle paths lace the 22 acres known as Remington Forest.



THE WORLD WARS

During the late 19th Century and early 20th Century, the Gilded Age, Hartley Farms maintained a relatively low profile in contrast to the multiple grand estates erected between Madison and Morristown carrying names like Vanderbilt, Twombly, Rockefeller, Colgate, Mellon, Ballentine, and Frelinghuysen. But that “low profile” was deceiving for the house became a focal point of considerable power and influence, particularly during World Wars I and II.

During the First World War top secret talks were frequently held at Hartley Farms focusing on the supply of Remington arms to American, British and French forces as well as all the ammunition to Belgium. As in the case of the WW I, the farm hosted secret meetings with the War Department during the Second World War. The likes of Herbert Hoover, OSS Director “Wild Bill” Donovan, the Rockefellers David, Laurance, John and Nelson, and Dwight David Eisenhower met at Hartley Farms. Eisenhower and his wife Mamie were particularly frequent visitors after the war when Dwight served as president of Columbia University.

THE MORRIS-ESSEX DOG SHOW

During the interwar years, 1927 to be exact, Mrs. Dodge, already a world famous dog breeder, founded the Morris- Essex Dog Show, the largest single day event in the world attracting as many as 50,000 spectators. Not inclined to use Giralda, the site of this enormous endeavor became Hartley Farms for the next thirty years.



The Morris-Essex Dog Show at Hartley Farms

FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION

Hartley Dodge was a committed environmentalist. He was a trustee of the North American Wildlife Foundation, donated 51 acres in Chatham and Harding Township to the Morris County Park Commission to be held in perpetuity as a natural forest, dubbed the Helen Hartley Jenkins Woods. He helped purchase the land that became Key Deer National Wildlife Refuge in Florida and close to home led the fight to save the Great Swamp from becoming a third regional airport.

The Current resident of Hartley Farms, Nicolas Platt continues the environmental tradition of his ancestors, the Hartleys. Among other things the Farms have gained entrance into the National Register of Historic Places, making it the third largest historical district in private hands in New Jersey.

In 1987 the family turned to the environmental land planning company Andropogon Associates, Ltd. of Philadelphia, to develop a plan to preserve the character of the property. According to Nicolas Platt, the award winning plan places the Remington Forest and Polo Fields in a conservation trust protecting them from development in perpetuity.

Sources:

1. Larry Bataille, “Historic Hartley Farms”, *Country Roads Magazine* at <http://www.hartleyfarms.com>
2. “The Hartley Surname Hall of Fame; Marcellus Hartley–Hartley Farms at <http://www.hartleyfamily.org.uk/Marcellus.htm>
3. Jim Northrop, “Inspired by the Great Swamp, Marcellus Hartley Dodge Became the Quiet Leader Who Saved It,” at <http://acrosstthewatershed.blogspot.com/2009/09/inspired-by-great-swamp-marcellus.html>

Newsletter Offered on EMAIL

As a means to save the Historical Society the high cost of postage, members can opt to have the quarterly newsletter sent to them as a PDF attachment via email. Not only will you be helping the Society to save money, you will be receiving a full color version of the newsletter and easy access to websites mentioned. If you would like to exercise this option, please email the Society at historicalsociety@rosenet.org. Please specify the subject as “newsletter” and send your message from the email address you want the newsletter sent to. Include your name in the body of the email.

REGIONAL EVENTS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

Saturday, November 5, Fourth Annual Armistice Ball, Dance Workshop 2 to 4 p.m., Ball 7 to 10 p.m. At the Clifton Recreation Center. Our popular fundraiser is back! Join us for the Fourth Annual Armistice Ball, co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Vintage Dance & Social Club. Easy access to the site from Manhattan and other areas via mass transit. Tickets are \$30 per person (no discounts). Come and shake a leg! For more information, visit the Armistice Ball <http://www.acornhall.org/ball%20home.htm>

November 6, 2011 to July 1, 2012, “Gone For A Soldier”: Jerseymen in the Civil War. Macculloch Hall Historical Museum in partnership with the New Jersey Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee (NJCWSC) presents a major exhibit, “*Gone for a Soldier: Jerseymen in the Civil War*,” which will be on view at the museum from November 6, 2011 to July 1, 2012. This exhibit commemorates the participation and heroism of Jerseymen in a major turning point in U.S. history. Macculloch Hall Historical Museum, 45 Macculloch Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960.

Monday, November 14, Eleanor Roosevelt Reenactment: A New Woman. 7:30 pm in the Montville Township Senior House, 356 Main, Montville. Sponsored by the Montville Township Historic Society. In the Montville Township Senior House, 356 Main, Montville. No admission charge.

Sunday, December 4 at 3 pm Victorian Christmas Ornament Making at Evergreens. Montclair Historical Society. Craftsperson extraordinaire, Judyann Affronti, has been decorating the tables at the Victorian Society for nearly the reign of the Queen herself. On Sunday, December 4th, she will be teaching a hands-on seminar on Victorian Cornucopia ornaments while discussing the history of Christmas decorations through the ages and the international popularity explosion of the Christmas tree in Victorian Times. Advance registration is required by December 3rd and it costs \$12.50 per person.

Friday, December 10 at 7 pm and 8 pm, Candelight Tours and Caroling at the Israel Crane House. Montclair Historical Society. The holiday decorations sparkle during this unique holiday tour. Everyone will be in the Christmas spirit with the songs of the Verona High School Jazz Choir.



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.

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