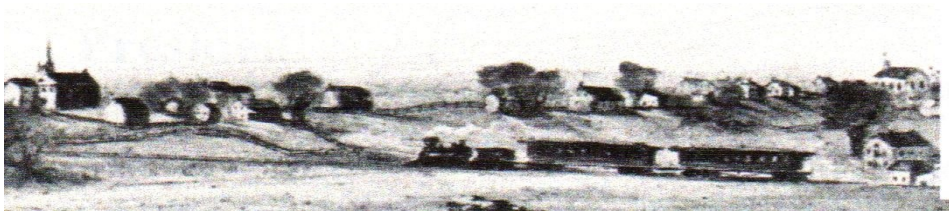


Madison Historical Society

Madison, N.J



*November 2014
Newsletter
2nd edition,*

The Madison Historical Society's Annual Holiday Wreath Sale and Benefit

December 6th, 2014

1:00-4:00 pm

**The McGraw House
82 Prospect, Madison**



Wreath Sale



Refreshments



**Tour of the Historic
House and Grounds**



\$5 Charge for Adults

For additional information 973-377-0722 ext 8.

For more on the McGraw House see page 3.

Historical Society Officers

President

Linda Connors

Vice President

Jim Malcolm

Corresponding Secretary

Karen Jones

Recording Secretary

Laurie Hagerich

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David Luber

Custodian

Kate Malcolm

Trustees

Cathie Coultas

Dorothy Pietrowski

Kay Leary

Judy Seery

Stu Shippey

Susan Simon

Newsletter

Doug Simon

Message From Former President Susan Simon

Current President Linda Connors will return to her column in the February 2015 issue.

In the last issue of the newsletter mention was made of the Society's Elementary Education Program. For the most part, the program has historically only been instituted in the Kings Road School, a wonderful program headed up by Cathie Coultas. In an effort to expand this program to include all of Madison's elementary schools, Cathie, Linda Connors and myself recently met with Mathew Mingle, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction of the Madison Public Schools, Janine Loconsolo, Supervisor of Elementary Education, Erin Brown and Samantha Mullins, curriculum writers for the second grade social studies and three second grade teachers representing the three grade schools. It was agreed at the meeting that the historical society's mission will be to help in the development of classroom activities and supply resources that will assist teachers in the development of their lesson plans dealing with Madison history. In coming years the program will be expanded to include the third, fourth and fifth grades. With the expansion of the program more volunteers are needed to develop resource material and present material to the students. We are asking for people willing to help with this project. Please call the society if you would be willing to help.

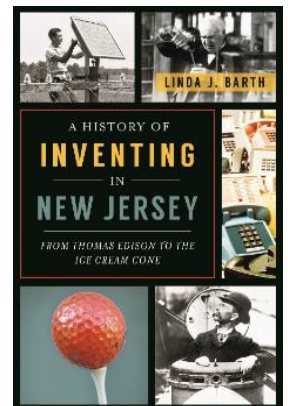
If you enjoy baking, the society is looking for you! There are several times during the year that refreshments are served at our programs. The wreath sale during the first weekend in December is our greatest need for "goodies." If you would be willing to bake cookies, cake or bread for one or two of our programs please call the society, leaving your name and phone number

A Heads Up For Spring Program: Linda Barth



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. Linda Barth lives with her husband in Somerville, New Jersey and both are active in the preservation of the Delaware and Raritan Canal.

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 others items found their origins within the state. Of course it

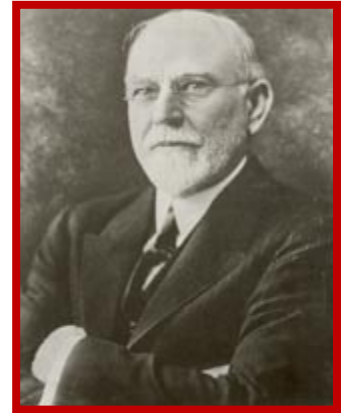


The McGraw House and the Man Who Lived There

-Doug Simon

As noted on page one of this newsletter, the annual historical society's wreath sale and benefit will be held at the McGraw House on Prospect through the graciousness of Cindy and Bob McCann, the home's current residents. The house was once the residence of one of Madison's foremost citizens, James H. McGraw, a co-founder of the publishing giant McGraw-Hill. The three and a half story Queen Anne home was constructed in 1900 and was named "Edgewood" by McGraw. At one time the now-vanished estate of fellow millionaire James Webb stood across the street.

James H. McGraw was born on December 17, 1860 in Harmony, New York. He worked as a teacher in upstate New York augmenting his income by selling subscriptions and advertising for a trade periodical, *American Journal of Railway Appliance*, a periodical that he eventually purchased part ownership in 1885 for the sum of \$2500, then his life savings. Three years later he bought the journal outright. After making a quick success of this and several other trade journals, in 1889 he formed The McGraw Publishing Company as a holding company for his magazines. The firm soon expanded into book publishing and in 1909 McGraw's book division was merged with the book-publishing arm of John A. Hill's Hill Publishing Company. Oddly enough, both companies remained competitors in periodicals publishing. In 1929, McGraw-Hill bought a struggling business-themed monthly called *The Magazine of Business* and re-launched it as a weekly; publishing its first issue (called *The Business Week*) six weeks before the stock market crashed that began the Great Depression.



John H. McGraw



McGraw House or "Edgewood"

McGraw was very highly respected, particularly for his meteoric rise in the publishing business. Among other things he was the foremost publisher of technical and business magazines in the world. Emblematic of the esteem in which he was held in was a rather remarkable testimonial dinner held in his honor in 1926 by some of the nation's most powerful engineering personages. The event held at the Astor Hotel in New York City celebrated McGraw's forty-four years of service and his 66th birthday.

The committee that sponsored the event included among others Thomas Edison, Herbert Hoover, Gen. Guy E. Tripp chairman of the board of Westinghouse Electric, and Gerald Swope president of General Electric.

James H. McGraw played a significant role in the history of Madison. In 1903 he was one of the founders and largest stockholder of the Madison Academy. In 1904 he served as Chairman of the Madison Republican Committee and was sent as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Chicago at which Theodore Roosevelt was nominated for President of the United States. And in 1908 he was one of the founders of the Madison YMCA. Mr. McGraw was married to Mildred F. Whittlesey of Corfu, New York. Together they had five children, four sons and one daughter.

Sources Consulted: Madison Historical Resources Survey, Survey Number 1417-59, Revised 1996; James H. McGraw, NNDB Tracking the Entire World, <http://www.nndb.com/people/436/000178899/>; "James H. McGraw in the Greatest Engineering Publisher in the World," *The Madison Eagle*, March 2, 1917, p. 1; and "James H. McGraw Honored by the Engineering-Industry," *Madison Eagle* December 24, 1926;



Spotlight on History

'Twas the night before Christmas...'

By Kate Malcolm

December 24, 2014, marks an important date for the town of Madison. On this date in 1889, Madison residents voted to separate from Chatham Township and become an independent Borough.

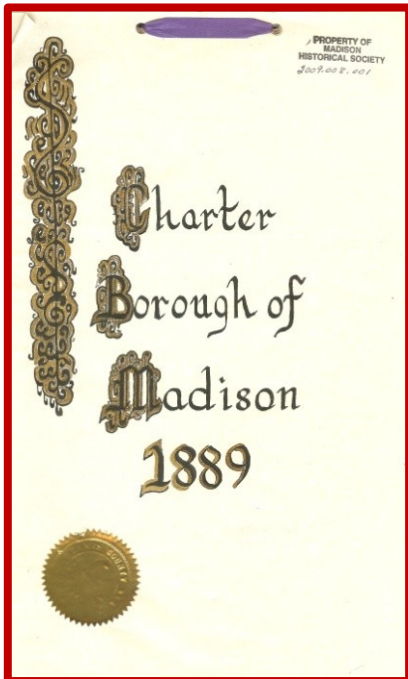
The year 1889 marked 86 years since the Turnpike came through town, 55 years since the village of Bottle Hill changed its name to Madison, 50 years since the train came, and 12 years since the Village Improvement Society was formed. Why secede, why now? What were the events that led up to the separation?

Chatham Township ran under a Town Committee form of government. The 1887 *Robinson's*

Atlas of Morris County shows that Chatham Township was made up of 9 Districts: Chatham, Columbia (to become Florham Park), East Madison, Green Village, and Hanover, Madison, Union Hill, Mount Vernon and Solon (Great Swamp). Each district was represented on the Town Committee. The representative would bring the concerns of their district to the committee where they were discussed and voted upon by all committee members. The entire Township would fund improvements in all of the districts.



Waverly Place, Madison Hotel and Original Train Station (Late 19th Century)



Starting in the late 1800's, the local newspapers published many Editorials and comments from concerned property owners. One concern was that of a secure and sufficient water supply. Residents were often reading about serious fires, both in their own town and surrounding towns, and were concerned for the safety of their families and businesses. Another concern regarding sanitation grew since the current water supply relied mostly upon spring-fed ponds and streams which were often contaminated by cesspools and water closets. Many residents noted that surrounding towns were growing and prospering, this growth often being attributed to the comfort and safety of their water systems. Madison also wanted to prosper; growth and prosperity being a good thing.

Madison went to the committee in Chatham for help. Although the township could legally provide an individual district with a utility, the entire township would pay the tax to cover the expense. The tax would be voted upon yearly by the entire township, thus relying on the "caprices of the voters." Neither of their finding was considered "just" by Madison residents.

Many issues were debated in the pages of the local papers through 1886, 1887, and 1888. There were serious concerns about the misuse of township funds, lack of road improvements, and the setting up of fire districts. A Water Committee was formed. On October 9, 1889 a public meeting was called. Fagan's Hall was "filled with citizens...the representative men present...were all classes from day laborer, artisan, merchant, professional man to the man in comfortable circumstances, the broker, banker and retired philanthropist." The Water Committee's findings were reported and alternatives discussed. It was resolved to incorporate into a separate "Borough" as set forth under the 1878 Act for the Formation of Borough Government. "A Petition in writing pursuant to the provisions of this act" (signers in "aggregate" owned "over 1/10th of the taxable real-estate within the limits" of the proposed Borough---map published in the *Eagle*) was presented to the Tax Assessor Edward P. Miller and approved December 7, 1889. There were 58 signers including many influential names of the day: Webb, Albright, Theabaud, Tunis, Baker, Troxell, Brittin, Peck, Burroughs, Bruen, Aikman and Cook.

On December 10, Judge Francis Child ordered "that a Special Election of the Electors of the Town of Chatham, County of Morris, resident within the limits of the proposed Borough...be held at the store building of Fred Neis, on Main Street, in the Village of Madison...on Tuesday, the 24th Day of December, 1889...6 a.m. to 7 p.m. ..."

On December 11, Frank E. Day posted 5 copies of the order for election, one each in the bar room of the Madison House (Hotel), the Post Office on Main Street, the store of T.S. Paulmier & Bro. on Main Street, Bar Room of the Dunn's Hotel near the railroad depot, and on the Guide Post situated on the corner of Main St. and Greenwich Ave. [sic] The results of the election were filed December 27: 457 votes cast, 4 rejected, 308 for, 145 against.

It took the newly formed Madison Borough less than two years to install a Water Plant.

Information taken from:

The Madison Weekly Eagle newspaper, microfilm, Madison Public Library; Fred Bardon Ledgers, Madison Public Library; *Charter of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Madison*, Madison Historical Society; the *Madison Heritage Trail*, Frank Esposito, Madison Bicentennial Heritage Committee, 1985; and *Robinson's Atlas of Morris County*, 1887.



Another view of Waverly Place (1880's)

Events of Interests

December 7, Christmas Exhibit and Concert. Macculloch Hall Historic Museum, 45 Macculloch Ave., Morristown.



Christmas Exhibit— Another Stocking To Fill: Antique Christmas Toys and Decorations – December 7th, 2014 through January 29th, 2015; closes for the week of December 24th, reopens January 4th, 2015.

1-4:30 pm: Enjoy traditional decorations and view holiday-themed Thomas Nast works while touring the period rooms. The Drawing Room Christmas Tree will be decked with handcrafted period-styled ornaments. Children will be able to decorate a stocking and write and mail a letter to Santa. The exhibit “Another Stocking to Fill: Antique Christmas Toys and Decorations” will premiere with curator tours. Christmas Gift Shop will be open. **Regular tour admission**

4:30 pm: *Harmonium Outreach Chorus* performs Christmas and global music for all ages including some audience sing-alongs. From familiar carols to wassails and rounds, African and Yiddish – something for everyone! **\$8 adults, \$4 kids (6-12 yrs) Concert-only tickets. \$5 ticket (\$4 kids) Visitors who purchased an afternoon museum ticket, members or students.**

Sunday, December 1, 2013 - January 17, 2014, Morris County Historical Society, Christmas at Acorn Hall. This year will feature special shopping nights at the Oak Leaf Gallery Gift Shop - find that unique and perfect gift. Make an appointment and stop in for a Victorian shopping experience! Call (973)267-3465 to set your date

January 4th, 2014, Morris Country Historical Society, Downton Abbey Experience with the Cosy Cupboard. A great opportunity to experience Downton Abbey in America - an American cultural tour of Acorn Hall, followed by an authentic five-course English Afternoon Tea at the Abbey in Madison. Tickets are \$45 per person. Contact the Cosy Cupboard Tea Room to make reservations - (973) 998-6676



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 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.

Office Phone: 973-377-0722 x8

Contact: President Linda Connors 973-377-8662

Web: www.madisonhistoricalsociety.org

Email: historicalsociety@rosenet.org