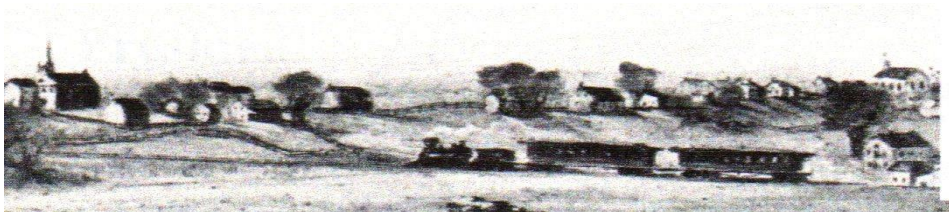


Madison Historical Society

Madison, N.J



November 2019
Newsletter
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The Madison Historical Society Plaque Project Is Underway

In early October, the Madison Historical Society launched its Historic House Plaque Project initiated through a generous grant awarded by the Madison Elks Club. Using Madison property tax records and other corroborating research, the Society identified over 250 homes that qualify for this commendation.

The Historical Society believes that commemorating homes built between 1730 and 1900 will call attention to the rich historic character of Madison, give recognition to the community's architectural origins, and encourage the appreciation and preservation of its unique heritage. The plaque neither restricts future alterations of the building nor does it carry any legal protections.



The plaque was designed by members of the Historical Society and is an oval tablet made of cast aluminum with a rich bronze finish. It displays the date of record for the home's construction, a rose insignia to honor the Rose City and the name Madison Historical Society. It is designed to be mounted by the homeowner on or near the front façade of the residence. Application letters to purchase a plaque were recently mailed to residents of homes that met the criteria. The homeowners share of the cost is \$50.00. The remainder of the cost is being picked up by the Society.



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Newsletter

Doug Simon



Message from President Susan Simon

As I am sure you noted on the first page of this newsletter, the Madison Historical Society Plaque Program is underway and I want to give a special thank you to Ginnie Laughlin, Kate Malcolm and Kathy Rogers for all the work they did to make it happen. The society wants to also thank the Madison Elks for their generous contribution to this program. The first order for 39 plaques has been made and as soon as they arrive we will have another order ready to send in. We will shortly let home owners know the plaque distribution procedures. Madison has a very long history going back well before the Revolutionary War. Over the years, our homes and businesses in many ways act as historical markers, reminding us of the many important events that comprise the borough's history. The plaque program is a step in recognizing some of those historical markers.

The Society is still looking for volunteers. As the article on page 3 of this newsletter notes, there is loads of work to be done preserving the history of the borough. The day-to-day work of the Society is formidable but interesting and we need all the help we can get. We are available in our office at the Madison Public Library every Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and usually on Thursday afternoons. Come in and actually see what we do for yourself. We would love to have you join us.

Society Booth at Bottle Hill Day Big Success

The Madison Historical Society booth at this year's Bottle Hill Day on October 5th had an unprecedented number of visitors. The booth had a new look with all new signage and a reconfiguration of tables. Pens and bookmarks were distributed free and small sets of crayons and color books on Madison history and the American Revolution were available to young children. Thanks to all society members who helped set-up and staffed the booth throughout the day: Jim and Kate Malcolm, Doug and Susan Simon, Dave Lubber, Nancy Adamczk, Virginia Laughlin, Dorothy Pietrowski, Judy Seery, Herm Huber, Linda Connors, Laurie Hagerich, Johanna Glazewski and Noreen McManus.



Laurie Hagerich, Judy Seery and Virginia Laughlin staffing the historical society's booth on Bottle Hill Day.



From the Office

With this edition of the newsletter we begin a new feature titled “From the Office” that reports on much of the day-to-day work of the Madison Historical Society.

Yes, the society has a terrific speaker series. It has a booth at Bottle Hill Day and sponsors special programs like the Plaque Program honoring borough houses built before 1900. It has a year-end dinner at which an award is made to an exceptional history student from Madison High School. These and other activities garner a good deal of publicity in our newsletter and in local media. But the core of what we do takes place in the society’s office at the library day in and day out. It involves things like receiving, cataloging, and storing hundreds of documents, photographs and artifacts that help tell the story of Madison. It involves the maintenance of hundreds of files on just about any subject relevant to Madison history. It means responding every year to numerous requests for information about Madison history from individuals, families, and organizations. We trust that this new feature will give both society members and non-members a more complete picture of what the society does. We begin with a summary of activities from the past year, September 2018 through August 2019.

Projects

Day to day work continued on 26 projects. Four were ongoing projects such as keeping up an obituary file as well as the accession records which now total some 8,870 cataloged items including documents, photographs and artifacts. Five projects were finished during the year including the processing of photos and documents given to the society by George Behre and Carol Baumgartner. Seventeen projects were either current, new or considered big projects. These included the processing of gifts from the Florence Gruver Duffy estate, the Ken and Frances Haynes collection, the Triggs estate, the Stoddard estate, and a gift from the American Red Cross’s Madison branch. Also included under these categories were gifts from Prospect Street House, the *Madison Eagle*, Susan Gordon, Alice Glock’s gift from Bellwood Stables, as well as donations from Marcia Gordon, and the Burrough’s Barn sale. Materials were also processed from the Thursday Morning Club. Sometimes special projects develop in response to specific requests. For instance, during this past year, the society received a request from a high school student in Texas who wanted information on a Vietnam veteran from Madison. It turned out there was a history class assignment to create short videos on a Vietnam veterans. This particular student was assigned Madison, New Jersey. The office sent photos and copies of documents that might prove useful. The resulting video was very well done and moving as were those created by the student’s classmates. The videos can be viewed at our website. The society



Left to Right: Kate Malcolm, (at the computer) Ginnie Laughlin, Susan Simon, Dorothy Pietrowski

has also entered into a cooperative arrangement with Steamtown in Pennsylvania providing for the sharing of railroading photos, specifically the downloading (with permission) those dealing with Madison and adding them to our digital photo collection. A new Madison Historical Society website and Facebook page were created during the year.

Research and Visitors

One hundred one requests for information and assistance were handled by the society. The vast majority came from people and organizations in New Jersey, but requests also came in from Vermont, Kentucky, Texas, North Carolina and California. The subjects of these requests break out as follows:

Maps/Property/ Streets/Developments	
Buildings, Schools/ Houses/Train	41
People	30
Events	9
Businesses	8
Photos/Postcards	7
Organizations	3
Art and Collectibles	2

The Madison Historical Society is always looking for volunteers to help out with the kinds of tasks noted in this article. If you are interested, drop by the office at the Madison Public Library or contact us at 973-377-0722 ext 8 or email historicalsociety@rosenet.org.

Regional Events of Interest

“Business of Yesteryear” with Kevin Doherty. Sunday, November 10, 2:00 pm. Chatham Township Historical Society, Chatham Township Municipal Building, 58 Myersville Road, Chatham, N.J. All welcome.

Tour of the Crane-Phillips House” Sunday, November 10, 2019, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Cranford Historical Society. Open to the Public. The Crane-Phillips House is located at 124 North Union Avenue, Cranford. It is a museum administered by the Cranford Historical Society. Its purpose is to give visitors some idea of what life was like for a modest family in the Victorian era. The Phillips were an industrious family. Henry J. Phillips, a Civil War veteran of the 7th New York Militia, was one of the first inventors of the modern kitchen range hood. His brother, Dr. Charles H. Phillips, was the inventor of Phillips Milk of Magnesia.



Holiday Boutique, Thursday November 14, 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Carter House, 90 Butler Parkway Summit, N.J. From 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM will feature the “Carter House by Candlelight” Sale items include clothing, candles, home goods, jewelry, toys, arts & crafts and baby items plus award-winning jams, chocolates, and baked goods.



Spotlight on History

Transistors, and Nobels, and Madison, Oh My! Madison's Most Controversial Former Resident

by Herman Huber

"He had the quickest mind I've ever known."

Dr. Philip Anderson, 1977 Nobel Laureate in Physics

Perhaps no resident of Madison has ever risen to such heights nor fallen to such depths as Dr. William B. Shockley. Living at 45 Maple Ave. and then 22 Academy Rd. in the 1940s and 1950s, Shockley, his wife, Jean, and their 3 children, called Madison their home. He spent the most productive 1½ decades of his life here.

Born in London on February 13, 1910 and coming to Palo Alto in 1913, at an early age he terrorized his hapless parents with profound and inconsolable temper tantrums. His father wrote in his diary, "When he is good, he is very good indeed; and when he is bad he is horrid."¹ Homeschooled until the age of eight, he essentially missed middle school. However, by high school he began to calm down, and at Cal Tech in Pasadena was seen as genial and relentlessly competitive with "savage asperity." Entertaining friends with parlor tricks and magic, he displayed "infectious energy and a boundless enthusiasm for physics."² He earned his Ph.D. in 1936 at MIT, though he could be eccentric and signed his name "W=S" for the rest of his life. He married Jean Bailey in 1933.

In 1936 he joined Bell Labs, first in Manhattan and then in Murray Hill, NJ, and like virtually all new hires, agreed to sell the rights to his future patents for \$1. On leave to work for the military during WWII, he made major contributions to antisubmarine warfare by discovering why a low percentage of bombs dropped from Allied planes did not damage German submarines on the surface. Consequently, the Allied kill rate of enemy submarines increased 5 fold.³ He also authored an important paper on expected casualties of an invasion of Japan, which helped determine the use of the atom bomb.

A seminal moment that freed Shockley's "...ambition, and in many respects all modern technology, from its moorings" occurred in 1937 when his boss at Bell Labs, Mervin Kelly, told him that he wanted "all of the relays that make contacts in the telephone exchange out of the telephone exchange and replace them with something electronic so they'd have less trouble."⁴ He was on his way to revolutionizing the world.

The first mention of Shockley in the Madison Eagle was on November 7th 1946, with a picture of him proudly accepting the nation's highest civilian award, the Medal for Merit, from the Secretary of Defense for his work on radar bombardment and analysis of broad military problems. His next mention was



From left to right: John Bardeen, William Shockley, and William Brattain at Bell Labs

¹ Gertner, Jon. *The Idea Factory: Bell Labs and the Great Age of American Innovation*. New York: Penguin Press, 2013, p. 53.

² Gertner, Jon. p. 54.

³ Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/biography/William-Shockley>, accessed October 23, 2019.

⁴ Gertner, Jon, p. 52.

somewhat less rewarding, when on April 17, 1947, it noted he was given a suspended sentence for failing to display his 1947 license plate and fined \$10.



Home in Madison on Maple Avenue where Shockley and his family lived from 1941 to 1947

The Shockleys moved to Madison in 1941, (daughter Alison was born in 1934, son Billy in 1942, and Richard, 1947) but serious marital problems had been brewing for some time and the family had a marked lack of physical affection. Shockley worked fiendishly, travelled a great deal, but tried to carve out time for his family. The children reported that their father at times became enraged, emotionally tormented them, with periodic corporal punishment. No match for him, Jean retreated, unable to protect them.⁵

In a sealed and unmailed letter to Jean, discovered in his locked safe after his death, he described how in 1943 he attempted suicide by playing Russian Roulette with a loaded revolver. In cold descriptive terms, he explained that he had a one in six chance of being killed.

Despite his great emotional turmoil, his work at Bell Labs resulted in one of the greatest inventions of the 20th century. He led the team, including William Brattain and John Bardeen, that created the

transistor (eliminating forever the need for vacuum tubes and opening up a world of speed and miniaturization, that reaches into every corner of life today). Serious dissension soon followed, as Shockley's role in the actual development was suspect by some and his name was not on the early patents. But Bell Labs insisted that the three scientists share in the discovery. Bardeen and Brattain soon became disenchanted with Shockley, relations being quite strained from then on. In 1956, the three men shared the Nobel Prize for physics. Each winner received \$12,083.

His decline began around the time Jean developed uterine cancer in 1953, treatment of which he took charge. She recovered, but during that recovery period he announced he was leaving. They divorced in 1955. He met Emily Lanning, a highly regarded nurse, marrying her in November 1955. For the rest of his life, she nurtured him, obeyed him, and devoted herself to him. He said 1956 was the best year of his life. However, his relationships with the children were poor with limited contact. Jean went on to become an advocate for world peace, the United Nations, and other progressive causes, the Madison Eagle following her efforts. She died in 1977.

After resigning from Bell Labs in 1955, his descent appeared to accelerate. He accomplished little of significance, became exceedingly paranoid, tape recorded all contacts and calls, alienated most friends, kept and cataloged all receipts, bills, tickets, every imaginable record of his life. He started a company in California to make good on his transistor creation, but his employees mutinied because of his ceaseless distrust, quixotic decisions, criticisms, and insistence on their taking polygraphs. He was left with little.

But the worst was yet to come. In about 1963, he proposed the "Dysgenics" theory, and believed that "...the long-term health of the human race was imperiled by the reproductive tendencies [reproducing faster] of the least intelligent members."⁶ Utterly obsessed with genetics and race for the rest of his life, he advocated early on that only superior people should have authority, and that a society with democratic decision-making was a liability. Specifically, he believed that African Americans had lower intelligence, genetically driven, evolving more slowly, and largely irremediable. Voluntary sterilization of those less fit was one option. He insisted that cowardly researchers refused to illuminate these issues.

Needless to say, virtually universal condemnation followed, and he became a pariah. In a bid for the US Senate in California in 1982, he received only 1% of the vote. Perhaps in a final attempt to uplift human evolution, he donated his sperm to a Nobel Laureate sperm bank. Towards the end, there were very few friends or visitors, though his wife Emily loyally stayed by his side. William Shockley died in 1989 of prostate cancer. He declined requests to have his children informed of his impending death. They read it in the Washington Post.

⁵ Shurkin, Joel. *Broken Genius: The Rise and Fall of William Shockley, Creator of the Electronic Age*. New York: Macmillan, 2006.

⁶ Shurkin, Joel. p. 309.

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

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

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Local History Center of the Madison Library

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