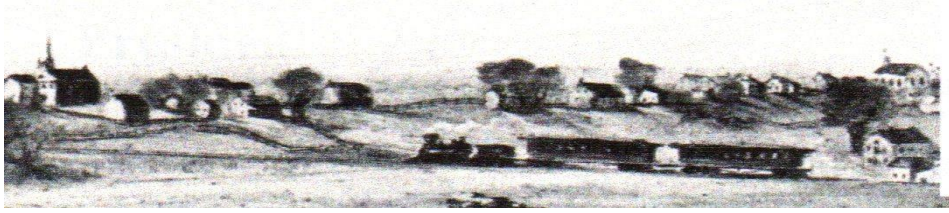


Madison Historical Society

Madison, N.J



November 2021
Newsletter
2nd edition 2021-2022

Madison Historical Society
Joint Meeting with the North Jersey Civil War Round Table
**“Black Suffrage and the Fifteenth Amendment: A
Short Historical Perspective”**

November 17, 2021

7:00 PM



Voter Registration, Macon, Ga.

Art and Picture Collection, The New York Public Library.
k <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e1-3fa4-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

This program will focus on the 15th Amendment from an historical/legal perspective led by two distinguished lawyers, John C. (“Jay”) Maloney, Jr. and Tom Hildner. More information on the speakers, the Fifteenth Amendment, and the North Jersey Civil War Round Table can be found on page 3 and 4 of this newsletter.

If you are interested in participating in this Zoom presentation, please contact the Madison Historical Society at historicalsociety@rosenet.org. We will need your email address to send you an appropriate link to join the Zoom presentation.

Historical Society Officers

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Message From President Virginia Laughlin

As we move squarely into Autumn, I hope that you have been enjoying our Fall line up of events. On October 2nd, the Society participated in Madison's annual Bottle Hill Day. We enjoyed seeing old friends and making new ones. Our poster displays of 'Famous People of Madison' and 'Then and Now' brought a lot of attention to our booth. And congratulations to the winners of the three jars of Bottle Hill Honey donated to us by Blair Conley of Madison. The drawing was a big hit.

I also hope that you participated and enjoyed our Fall lecture programs, "The Negro Baseball Leagues" by Dr. Raymond Doswell and "Grant's Tomb, The Epic Death of Ulysses S. Grant and the Making of an American Pantheon" by Louis Picone. Although very different in subject, both presentations were full of interesting and fascinating details. And please do not forget that we are hosting a third virtual program this fall in conjunction with the New Jersey Civil War Round Table, "The 15th Amendment" on November 17th at 7PM.

Our volunteers continue the day-to-day work of the Society, clipping and filing news articles, cataloging donations and archiving collections. We welcome the addition of new volunteers as we have some big projects planned for the coming year... the history museum, the 100th Anniversary of the Society and a Madison history oral project. Please contact us if you are interested!

A Reminder of New Benefit for Members



Members of the Madison Historical Society receive a new benefit that took effect this past September. A 10% price reduction on all society items for sale is in effect for society members. Items for sale with their full prices are noted on page 7 of this newsletter.

Speakers for the Joint Session on 15th Amendment



John C. ("Jay") Maloney, Jr. is a partner in the law firm of Zuber Lawler LLC where he is General Counsel and is a trial lawyer and complex commercial litigator. His practice focuses on commercial disputes, pharmaceutical litigation, class actions and international arbitrations. Prior to joining Zuber Lawler, Mr. Maloney was a partner for many years at Day Pitney LLP.

A graduate of Fordham College, Mr. Maloney earned his M.A. in American History at Columbia University, and his J.D. from the New York University School of Law where he was Business Editor of the *Law Review*. Prior to private practice, Mr. Maloney served as law clerk to the Honorable John J. Gibbons, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.



Tom Hildner is a Senior Counsel to the law firm of Mandelbaum Salsburg in Roseland, New Jersey. Prior to joining the Mandelbaum firm, he was a partner for 36 years at Podvey, Meanor, Catenacci, Hildner, Coccoziello and Chattman, P.C. in Newark. Tom's practice areas as a trial lawyer have included complex commercial litigation, family law, personal injury and personal and commercial liability and property insurance among others. He has more than 50 years of litigation experience in state and federal courts in New Jersey, New York and other states.

Tom is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Virginia School of Law. He began his practice of law in New Jersey after serving as a Captain in the Military Police Corps, U.S. Army. This will be his seventh legal presentation to the North Jersey Civil War Round Table.

The 15th Amendment to the Constitution



President Grant sitting at the center with several men clustered around, signing the 15th. From left, sitting and standing, are E. Stanton, H. Greeley, S. Colfax, A. Lincoln, R. Smalls, U.S. Grant, Chs. Sumner, W.F. Seward, Lt. Gov. Revels, Fred. Douglass, B.J. F. Butler, and W.T. Sherman." Vignettes along sides and bottom show African Americans in military service, at school, on the farm, and voting. *Print from Library of Congress*

It was 1810 when the 12th amendment to the Constitution was ratified. Beginning sixty years later, three additional amendments were passed over a short five-year period. Collectively they are known as the Civil War Amendments designed to ensure equality for emancipated slaves. The 13th Amendment ratified in 1865 formerly abolished slavery. The 14th Amendment ratified in 1868 granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, including former slaves, and guaranteed "equal protection of the laws." The 15th Amendment ratified in 1870 protects the voting rights of all citizens regardless of race or the color of their skin. This obviously included former slaves. It is this latter amendment, the 15th, that is the subject of the joint meeting of the Madison Historical Society and the North Jersey Civil War Roundtable on November 15th.

The "Jacksonian Period" in the 1820s and 1830s saw massive changes to American democracy. All the

states of the time moved towards universal white male suffrage with the exception of South Carolina. However, restrictions on voting for black Americans and immigrants became more prevalent. By 1855, only five states—Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont – had black male suffrage.

Following the Civil War, Reconstruction Republicans made efforts to secure the civil rights of newly freed African-Americans. At the same time, former Confederate states imposed what were known as “Black Codes” that deprived black Americans of basic liberties,

Eventually, the amendment went before the House and Senate, each seeking the required two thirds vote required to send it to the state legislatures for ratification. California, Nevada and Oregon rejected the amendment because it would be applied to enfranchise Chinese residents. Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware refused to ratify as well due to opposition to expanding the black vote. New York ratified, but the approval was rescinded after opposition Democrats won a majority. Many suffragists denounced the amendment as a new barrier to women’s rights. Regardless, the 15th amendment was ratified when Iowa cast its vote in favor with a three-quarter majority of the states.

This article relied heavily on information provided from the National Constitution Centers, Constitution Daily Blog. <http://constitutioncenter.org/blog/on-this-day-the-15th-amendment-is-ratified>

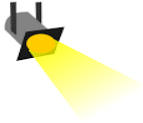
The North Jersey Civil War Round Table

The North Jersey Civil War Round Table was founded 22 years ago. Among the founders were publisher, Norman Tomlinson, Jr., and Bill Chermerka, a well know history teacher at Madison High School. It is the largest history round table in New Jersey.

The roundtable is well known for the high caliber of its speakers and enthusiastic membership participation. Some of the round table’s speakers have included two Pulitzer Prize winners, James M. McPherson and Eric Foner, Civil War icon Ed Bearss, New Jersey historian John T. Cunningham, Rutgers Professor Louis Masur, and pre-eminent Lincoln scholar, Michael Burlingame. In its activities, the round table stresses the military, sociological, and economic aspects of the Civil War and its lasting legacy. Its members include noted historians, teachers and scholars, members of the judiciary, professionals and others who are interested in the Civil War.



Spotlight on History



Don Newcombe Revisited

- Doug Simon and Dave Luber

Nine years ago, this newsletter ran a one page profile of the great Madison born major league pitcher, Don Newcombe. Using a variety of sources with additional research by David Luber, makes it possible to flesh out the story of this remarkable athlete.



Above garage apartment on Morris Place where Don Newcombe spent his early years.

Don Newcombe was born on June 14, 1926 in the white house at the top of Morris Place, Madison and soon after moved to an apartment over the garage on the property now owned by Charles Courtney on the same street. Newcombe's father was a chauffeur for Mr. Sidell Tilghman who lived in what is known as Tilghman House across Madison Avenue now on the Drew campus. Don Newcombe went on to become one of the greatest pitchers of the late 1940s through the mid-1950s, an integral member of the famous Brooklyn Dodgers teams with Jackie Robinson, Duke Snider, Pee Wee Reese, Roy Campanella, Don Drysdale, Carle Erskine, Sandy Koufax, Gil Hodges, Don Zimmer and Carl Furillo.

When Don was young, the Newcombes moved to Elizabeth, N.J. where he was raised. He played high school baseball in Elizabeth but dropped out after his junior year to pitch for the Newark Eagles of the old Negro National League, where he was a big winner. The Eagles were formed in 1936 when the Newark Dodgers established in 1933, merged with the Brooklyn Eagles, established in 1935. The Eagles eventually sent seven players on to the Baseball Hall of Fame and one of the great mysteries of Major League Baseball was why Don Newcombe was never admitted. As we will soon note, his career statistics and awards were spectacular. But his time in the majors was a relatively short ten years. Perhaps that factored in.

In October of 1945, Jackie Robinson was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers, breaking baseball's barrier against black players. A little known black player, John Wright was the second signed. Newcombe was the third and started out with the minor league team in Nashua, New Hampshire and proved an immediate success winning 14 games and losing only 4. After two and a half years in the minors he was brought up to the majors to the Brooklyn Dodgers and proceeded to win 17 games and was named the National League Rookie of the Year. From 1949 to 1956, excluding his military service in 1952 and 1953, he was one of baseball's best pitchers. His greatest year was 1956 when he won an astounding 27 games and became baseball's first Cy Young Award winner as the best pitcher in baseball. Indeed, Don Newcombe became the first pitcher to win the Rookie of the Year, Most Valuable Player, and Cy Young Awards during his career. He was the first black pitcher to start a World Series game and the first to win twenty games in one season. He was also one of the first four black players to be named to an All-Star team.



Unlike most pitchers, he was an excellent hitter who compiled a career batting average of .271 with 15 home runs and used frequently as a pinch hitter. During his ten-year major league career, Newcombe won 155 games and lost 96. He had 1,188 strikeouts and a 3.54 Earned Run Average.

Even with all his success, there was a dark side to Don Newcomb's life. For years he battled alcoholism and this may have also contributed to his not being selected for the Hall of Fame. Regardless, he overcame the affliction in 1967 and devoted himself to helping numerous other people battle substance abuse. In the late 1970s he rejoined the Dodger organization and served as the team's Director of Community Affairs. In 2009 he accepted a position as special advisor to the chairman of the team.

Don Newcombe never forgot his origins. While most of his early life was spent in Elizabeth, New Jersey, he returned to Madison a number of times. On September 11, 1945, Newcombe traveled to Madison with the Newark Eagles for a game with the Manager Gil Lusardi's semi pro team, the Madison Colonels, played at Dodge Field. (The Eagles won.) On December 5, 1945, Jackie Robinson came to Madison High School to address a crowd of roughly five hundred at Madison High School. In his address he predicted that Madison-born pitcher Don Newcombe, "...should be in the majors soon." Robinson was right on target when Dodger owner Branch Rickey signed Newcombe in 1947. In December of 1949 Newcombe followed in Robinson's footsteps appearing at Madison High School. In his address he urged the audience to practice good sportsmanship and to keep in top physical condition if they had any desire to become a major leaguer.

In May of 1987, Newcombe returned to Madison in order to give an address at Drew University's Athletic Awards Banquet. As part of the event, a reception was held at the home of Charles and Bonnie Courtney on Morris Place. As Courtney swung into the driveway, Newcombe immediately recognized the apartment above the garage where he and his family resided when he was little. In fact, he remembered that he had taken a fall down the stairs leading up to the apartment and that led to a small scar on his head that he still carried. Following a long illness, Don Newcombe passed away on February 19, 2019.

Sources consulted:

- A.S. Doc Young, "Don Newcombe: Baseball Great Wins Fight Against Alcoholism," *Ebony*, April 1976.
- Baseball-Reference. baseball-reference.com/players/n/newcodo01.shtml
- "Don Newcombe In Madison", *Madison Eagle*, December 8, 1949
- "Don Newcombe", *Wikipedia*
- "Four Colonel Errors Give Newark Eagles 6-4 Win Tuesday," *The Madison Eagle*, September 13, 1945.
- Interview with Charles Courtney, October 10, 2021
- "Newcombe comes home!," *Madison Eagle*, May 13, 1987

Bottle Hill Day Returns

The citizens of Madison and surrounding communities welcomed back Bottle Hill Day after a one-year hiatus due to the covid pandemic. The Madison Historical Society had its booth set up in its customary location in front of the Chase Bank and welcomed many visitors. Thanks to all the society members who helped with the set-up and closing of the booth and those that staffed the tent during the day.

Thanks to the hard work of Herm Huber, this year saw the addition of two new posters focused on the "Then and Now" project which compares photos of the borough, some more than a century old, with current photos shot from the same location.

The full slide show can be seen at the society's web site www.madisonjhsociety.org.



Staffing the Society booth from left to right: Doug Simon, Rebecca Fields, Society President Virginia Laughlin, and Howard Craig.

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 Phone: 973-377-0722 x8

Office Hours: Due to covid, appointments are required when the office is
open on Thursdays. Masks are required.

Contact: President Virginia Laughlin, 973-593-4875

Web: www.madisonnjhistoricalsociety.org

Email: historicalsociety@rosenet.org