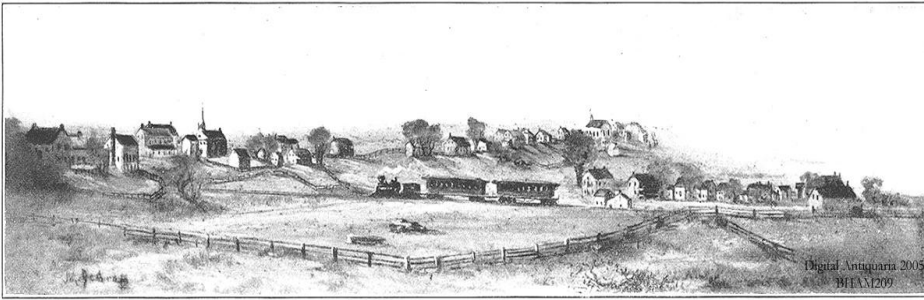


The Madison Historical Society



The September
2012 Newsletter

The War of 1812 in Two Parts

2012 marks the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, America's second war with England. To mark this event, the Madison Historical Society presents two Fall programs on the war. The first features the ever popular Bill Chemerka and the second David Hanna, a resident of Madison and author of the book *Knights of the Sea*.



September 18, 2012
"The War of 1812"
Bill Chemerka

Madison Library
Chase Room
7:00 pm Refreshments
7:15 pm Program



October 23, 2012
"Sea Battles Off the Coast of
Maine"
David Hanna

Madison Library
Chase Room
7:00 pm Refreshments
7:15 pm Program



Read more about these two wonderful speakers and their presentations on page 3.

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Newsletter

Doug Simon

Message from the President Susan Simon

Welcome to a new season. We have some great programs for you. One of your favorite speakers is back and ready to open the season: Bill Chemerka. He will start off with a program on the War of 1812, a little known war with England that began 200 years ago. David Hanna, a Madison resident and author, will give our second program on the Naval Battles of the War of 1812.

In recent months the Society has been in discussions with New Jersey Transit to lease two rooms in the historical Madison Train Station to establish a modest museum. This effort is consistent with our mission to educate the citizens of Madison and other interested parties about the history of the borough. We live in an area with a long, rich history where soldiers encamped nearby during the Revolutionary War and officers lived with locals. It is a community where in the late 1800s and early 1900s, enormously wealthy families lived on glorious estates. Many of those families became generous benefactors to Madison providing parks and buildings that we enjoy to this day. We would likely display documents and artifacts that tell the history of Madison through rotating themes such as: "The Great Families of Madison", "Noteworthy Events in the History of Madison", "Historical Personalities in the History of Madison", "Significant Eras in Madison's History", etc. A permanent display would be devoted to the telling of the story of the railroad's role in the development of the Borough.

Society Membership Growing But Room For More

Membership in the Madison Historical Society is growing. As of May 31, 2012 there were 116 memberships representing 156 people. This is a modest increase over the 2011 membership of 106. Additional members are always welcome and we encourage current members to ask their friends and family if they might be interested in joining. Annual membership categories are as follows:

Corporate	\$250
Benefactor	\$100
Sustaining	\$ 75
Family	\$ 40
Individual	\$ 25
Student (Under 21)	\$ 5

One final note. If you are a member and have not paid your dues, please do so as soon as possible.

More On the Society's Fall Programs



Bill Chemerka

Bill Chemerka was a former and enormously popular history teacher at Madison High School and a long-time friend of the Madison Historical Society. His lead-off presentation on "The War of 1812" on September 18th helps to mark the 200th anniversary of the conflict. As noted by Society Vice President and Program Chairperson Cathie Coultas, the causes of the War of 1812 were numerous and various. "The American public resented the trade restrictions imposed on the young republic by Britain and its impressments of American merchant sailors during the Napoleonic Wars, as well as British support of Native American tribes opposing American western expansion. There was also a desire to invade and annex Canada on

the part of a number of western American 'war hawks' led by Speaker of the House Henry Clay." Madison Historical Society President Susan Simon notes that, "While the War of 1812 is perhaps a somewhat lesser known conflict in American history, certainly when compared to the American Revolution and the Civil War, it nevertheless was marked by a number of remarkable naval victories by America's infant navy, a calamitous American invasion of Canada and the burning of the Capitol and White House by British troops. It also saw the penning of the 'The Star-Spangled Banner' by Francis Scott Key and Andrew Jackson's decisive victory over British invaders at the Battle of New Orleans, a battle fought weeks after the December 24, 1814 signing of the Treaty of Ghent that ended the war."

Bill Chemerka now has a thriving acting career on stage, TV, and film with appearances in productions from *The Happening*, the *Naked Gun* series, *Gods and Generals*, *The Last of the Mohicans*, *Glory*, and *The Sopranos*. He was a contributing writer to the History Channel's *First Invasion: The War of 1812*. **Remember his presentation will be September 18, 2012 at the Madison Library Chase Room, 7:00 pm.**

David Hanna

A resident of Madison, David Hanna was raised on the coast of Maine. He teaches History at University Neighborhood High School on New York's Lower East Side. In 2001, he received the *New York Times* Teachers Make a Difference Award. His first book is *Knights of the Sea*, about a naval battle during the War of 1812 that occurred in the waters of his home state. America's military efforts on land were not particularly successful, especially in the Canadian region in 1812 and 1813 and in Washington D.C. in 1814. Where the United States did have some success was on the sea. In a series of naval battles, often between individual ships, America's infant navy won a number of memorable battles against the mighty Royal Navy. One of those battles is the subject of David Hanna's first book. On September 5, 1813 the USS brig



Enterprise defeated HMS Boxer in a short battle in the waters off of Pemaquid Point, Maine, a battle that cost the lives of both ship commanders. In his talk, Hanna will describe the battle and its participants. He will also explore the code of behavior that drove ship commanders of the era to engage in the kind of violent and fatal encounters that took place that September nearly 200 years ago.

Remember his presentation will be October 23, 2012 at the Madison Library Chase Room, 7:00 pm.



Bottle Hill's Role in the War of 1812 and a Letter Home

By Doug Simon

To be honest, Bottle Hill's role in the War of 1812 was modest.¹ The borough was not heavily impacted by the conflict. Nevertheless, Bottle Hill and surrounding communities did their share. At the outset of the war, the militia of Morris County consisted of four regiments of infantry and one squadron of cavalry. These units comprised a brigade commanded by Brigadier-General John Darcy. Within that structure, Captain Luke Carter commanded a company of riflemen from Bottle Hill. Another local leader, Captain William Jackson Brittin, was charged with the Company of Fusiliers from Chatham.²

All the men drafted to serve in Morris and Sussex counties were required to assemble in Bottle Hill for mustering and the place they did that was the old Albright tavern. At the time every able-bodied man between 18 and 25 was enrolled and obliged to train three times a day.³

In 1814 the two local units were deployed to Harsimus, near Paulus Hook (Jersey City), where they were to be stationed, charged with coastal defense. In the notice of their leaving, it is noted, "The greatest cheerfulness and animation prevailed among them, and they appeared to entertain a just sense of the nature of the duties required of them and of the honor of performing those duties with resolution and firmness."⁴

In the February 2003 newsletter of the New Jersey Postal History Society, Mr. Arne Englund tells the story of a letter sent on the 4th of October, 1814 from one John C. Price to "Mr. Phinehas Price in Bottle Hill/To be left at Mr. Brittins/Store."⁵ John C. Price was a member of the New Jersey Militia, serving as a private in Captain Brittin's company of fusiliers of Chatham sent to Sandy Hook during the War of 1812. The letter, which appears on the following page, is now in the possession of David Harris who collects documents and other material related to the war. It is an interesting document in that it opens a window into how a "common" soldier lived and reacted to the war.

As Mr. Englund notes in his article, the letter was carried outside the mails. However, the address was the Bottle Hill post office and at that time Abraham Brittin was the postmaster. The full text of the letter is presented on the following page.



A hat worn by an American militiaman during the War of 1812. It belonged to a soldier of a local company known as the Morris Rangers and was presented to the Morristown National Historical Park in 1933 by the Washington Association of New Jersey.

¹ Remember that Madison had been Bottle Hill until 1834.

² History of Morris County, New Jersey with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Prominent Citizens and Pioneers, 1739-1882. New York: W.W. Munsell & Company., 1882, Chapter 6.

³ Arne Englund, "1812 Soldier's Letter to Bottle Hill (Madison), N.J." Journal of New Jersey Postal History Society, Vol. 31, No. 1, February, 2003, p. 28..

⁴ Ibid..

⁵ Englund, p. 28

THE LETTER FROM JOHN PRICE TO MR. PHINEHAS PRICE OF BOTTLE HILL

Blockhouse Sandy Hook October 4th 1814

Kind Father and Mother

I take this opportunity to write to you to inform you that I am so hearty as I have Been But I got Better I have Done my Duty as yet But I hope that you are all well I Received a letter By Mr. John B Miller Dated 30th Ocber (sic) 1814 and I should be very Glad to see you once more and I trust To providence for It I Don't know when we shall be Dismissed But I hope it will be soon & if we are not I want father To Come and See me I want to See him and Be with him But the Lords will must be Done and I want you to send me an under Jacket and Some Indian hemp root for Bitters My under jacket is good all But the Back is Gone and send Me another and then I can Do for Clothes my wollen trousers Is good yet I wear them steady I know you feel very uneasy About me Don't if you can help it I do the Best I Can for myself and Situation I have Got mony yet I Buy things when I stand in need of them I have nothing strange to rite to you only one man Died last night here with sickness And we don't know hose turn it will be next and so no more at present only Give my love to all Relation and Enquiring friends. I Bid you all

I Don't know
But we shall
Come to paules
hook as soon
the weather
Clears of

Farewell
This from your affectionate
Son John C Price
Phinehas and Bekah Price
Don't Send them till you know some
thing about it

Blockhouse Sandy Hook October 4th 1814
Kind father and Mother
Take this opportunity to write to you to inform you that I am not so hearty as I have Been But I got Better I have Done my Duty as yet But I hope that you are all well I Received a letter By Mr John B Miller Dated 30th Ocber (sic) 1814 and I should be very Glad to see you once more and I trust To providence for It I Don't know when we shall be Dismissed But I hope it will be soon & if we are not I want father To Come and See me I want to See him and Be with him But the Lords will must be Done and I want you to send me An under jacket and Some Indian hemp root for Bitters My under jacket is good all But the Back is Gone and send Me another and then I can Do for Clothes my wollen trousers Is good yet I wear them steady I know you feel very uneasy About me Don't if you can help it I do the Best I Can for myself and Situation I have Got mony yet I Buy things when I stand in need of them I have nothing strange to rite to you only one man Died last night here with sickness And we don't know hose turn it will be next Relation and Enquiring friends I Bid you all
I Don't know
But we shall
Come to paules
hook as soon
the weather
Clears of
Farewell
This from your affectionate
Son John C Price
Phinehas and Bekah Price
Don't Send them till you know some
thing about it

Historic Photographs of Madison For Sale

Beginning on Bottle Hill Day on October 6th, the Madison Historical Society will begin selling high grade photographs of historic Madison. Photos will be in 8x10 format with an option to special order larger sizes if desired. Photos will all be in sepia and will come matted with backing and in a glassine envelope. Six prints will initially be available at \$30 each. All photos will be scanned and printed on acid free archival paper by Park Lane Studios of Chatham. Purchases can be made at Bottle Hill Day on October 6th and at all Society programs beginning with the October 23 program. Purchase information will also be on the Society's website. Photos available are as follows:



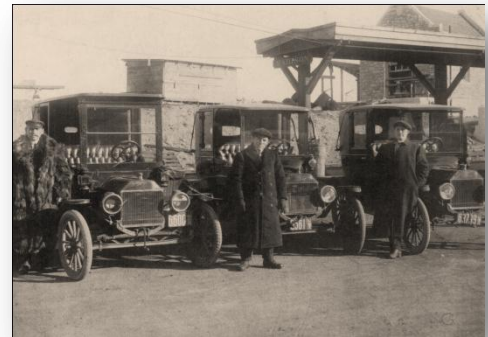
Bottle Hill Tavern 1922



Spires of Madison



**Bellingham's American House,
Waverly Place, 1907**



Taxis Waiting for the Train



Southwest Corner, Waverly Place 1880



**Early Borough Office and Jail and formerly the
Presbyterian Sessions House**

Regional Events of Interest

Ebb and Flow: New Jersey and Its Rivers. Current exhibit at The New Jersey Historical Society, 52 Park Place - Newark, NJ 07102. The exhibit explores how activities, both historical and contemporary, along the Delaware, the Raritan, the Maurice and the Passaic, symbolize the importance of fresh waterways, and serve as a template for understanding rivers' importance in shaping the human experience. Hands-on activities allow visitors to "dredge" for oysters, create a Dutch-style tile, listen to excerpts from canal and oyster boat songs, and solve puzzles about the state's industries. Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Orphans to Apprentice. New exhibit at the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts, Madison, N.J. Begins September 11, 2012. During the eighteenth century and through the mid-nineteenth century children considered orphans (any child whose father was deceased) or whose living circumstances were deemed unfit by the state might be taken from their homes and bound out or indentured by the local Orphan's Court. Learn about the world of child indentureships in the new exhibit. The exhibit was made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations in this exhibit do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. For more information call 973-377-2982 x10 or visit the website at www.metc.org. Regular Admission.



Early in the industrial revolution many young boys were sent into American coal mines, some as indentured servants.

The Pathway of History Museum Tour. October 20 and 21. Boonton Historical Society & Museum, 210 Main Street, Boonton, N.J. Tours run from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Saturday and Noon – 4:00 pm Sunday. Admission is free. For tour and location information visit www.Boonton.org.



“Princeton: America’s Campus”, A Lecture by W. Barksdale Maynard, Architectural Historian and winner of the 2009 Richard P. McCormick Prize. September 30, 2012, 2:00 pm- 4:00 pm at Drumthwacket, the former estate of the prominent Princeton University benefactor, Moses Taylor Pyne, and now the official residence of the governor. Admission is free. Founded in 1746, Princeton is the fourth-oldest university and one of the most beautiful places in the country. Although widely admired as a bastion of intellectual cultivation for world leaders, the stories of Princeton’s Gothic buildings and the men behind their design are largely unknown. Register at: <http://www.polclients.com/drumthwacket/housetour.cfm>

Society in Need of Office Manager and Equipment

The Madison Historical Society is in need of a volunteer office manager. Responsibilities include:

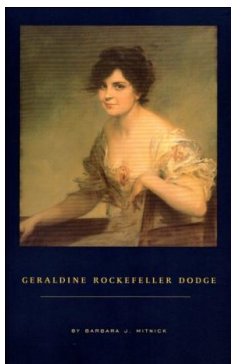
- Ordering office supplies
- Ordering items sold by the Historical Society
- Taking orders for sale items submitted through e-mail or by phone
- Keeping an inventory of Society sale items
- Being in charge of the sale table at Society events
- Informing the library reference staff when the Society will not be in the office on a Tuesday or Thursday

The Society's office is located in the Madison Public Library and is open Tuesday 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. The manager's position would not necessarily require on site presence during all these hours. If you are interested in volunteering in this capacity, please contact Susan Simon at 973-822-2377.

The Society is also in need of a five drawer legal size filing cabinets with locks in exchange for four drawer cabinets. If you have one and are willing to either donate it or make an exchange, again contact Susan Simon at 973-822-2377.

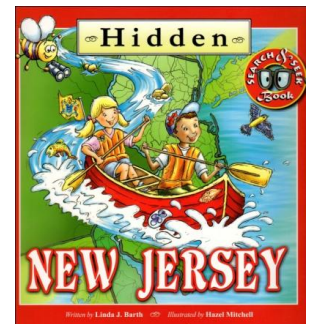


Two New Books Added to Society's Books for Sale



Two books have been added to the Historical Society's list of books for sale. The first is Barbara J. Mitnick's *Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge* published by the Geraldine Dodge Foundation. The book traces the life of perhaps the most famous citizen of Madison and one of the borough's most generous benefactors. The narrative is accompanied by numerous photographs of Geraldine, her family, the places she lived and the events that marked her life. Price: \$10 paperback and \$20 hardback. The second new book for sale by the Society is a childrens' history of New Jersey, *Hidden New Jersey* written by Linda J. Barth and Illustrated by Hazel Mitchell. It is a Search and Seek Book published by Mackinac Island Press.

The book is organized by geographical regions of the state and through narrative and colorful illustrations highlights the historical features of each area. Price: Hardback \$17.95 and \$8.95 paperback. Both books can be purchased at the offices of the Historical Society in the Madison Public Library on Tuesdays. They will also be available at the Society's table on Bottle Hill Day as well as at all the evening programs sponsored by the Society.



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		\$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.	\$ 5.00
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, N.J. 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 and by appointment.

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