

Madison Historical Society



September 2014
Newsletter
1st edition, 2014/2015

Celebrating New Jersey's 350th Anniversary Year

The Madison Historical Society is pleased to present two marvelous programs this fall.

In September:



Bernice "Bee" Haydu
Speaking on her experiences as
a member of the Women
Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS)

September 16 7:00 PM
Chase Room
Madison Public Library

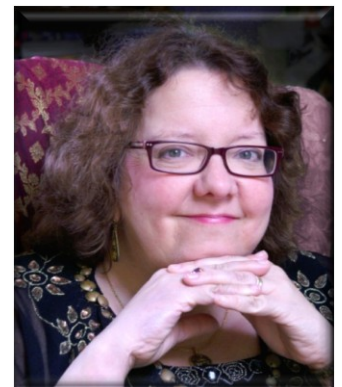


And in October:



Anne Matlack
**The Music of Grace Episcopal
Church**

October 21 7:00 PM
Chase Room
Madison Public Library



For more on our Fall speakers, see pg. 3.

Historical Society Officers

President

Linda Connors

Vice President

Jim Malcolm

Corresponding Secretary

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David Luber

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Kate Malcolm

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Susan Simon

Newsletter

Doug Simon

Message From President Linda Connors

Welcome to another program year of the Madison Historical Society. Your Board has been working diligently lining up interesting speakers for our regular programs and Jim Malcolm, vice president and program chair, is considering some additional types of programs for the spring. Please enter the dates of the fall programs on your calendars now and note that Bottle Hill Day will be September 27. We look forward to greeting you at each of these events.

For me the most exciting item in this newsletter carries the headline: Society Elementary Education Program to Expand. For some time, a number of our volunteers have been conducting a class session with second grade children, but this program has relied on personal relationships between volunteer and classroom teacher. The school district is re-writing the curriculum to include units on Madison history in grades 2 through 5. Instructional modules developed by the Society will offer teachers the specific information relevant to the curriculum. For example: In third grade one of the social studies emphases is Life across New Jersey, and Madison could be used as a case study of what is happening across the state. This information is not in a textbook; we need to provide it. This is a wonderful opportunity to give our school children knowledge of the place where they live, to learn where it mirrors developments across the state and instances where Madison history is distinctive. Knowledge of the impact of the railroad, why Madison calls itself The Rose City, the role of various immigrant groups, this is knowledge that should not be lost. Our children deserve to know the history of their town and to feel connected to it

A Special Summer Program Celebrates Villa Lorraine and the Family Who Lived There



on the property. During the August meeting, many photographs of the estate and the Stemmler family were displayed and the audience was regaled with stories of family life passed down through the years. In the afternoon, the entire group was invited to visit Summerhill Park where the estate formerly stood.

On August 23, a gathering was held in the Chase Room of the Madison Public Library to recall the history of Villa Lorraine, an estate that once stood on what is now Summerhill Park in Madison. The Villa itself was built in 1875 and during the late 19th and early 20th centuries was the home of one of the borough's prominent rose growers, Theodore Stemmler, and his family. Mr. Stemmler maintained over 36,000 square feet of greenhouses



Bernice “Bee” Haydu

Early in 1944 Bernice “Bee” Falk Haydu was accepted into the Women Airforce Service Pilots training class. The program commonly known by its acronym, WASP, was a para-military aviation organization. It had been formed in August of 1943 with the merger of two other organizations, the Women's Flying Training Detachment (WFTD) and the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS). These were the pioneering organizations of civilian female pilots, employed to fly military aircraft under the direction of the United States Army Air Forces during World War II. Ms. Haydu’s storied career included ferrying Aeronca and Cessna aircraft around the country, having her own Cessna dealership and forming a flight school. In 1975 she was elected President of the Order of Fifinella, the WASP organization. In 2000 Bernice “Bee” Haydu’s was inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame at Teterboro Airport and her uniform is currently on display at the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum in Washington, D.C. In 2012 she was inducted into the Women in Aviation International Pioneer Hall of Fame and in 2014 was given the Federal Aviation Administration Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. She is the author of the book *Letters Home 1944-1945*.



Anne Matlack



Dr. Anne Matlack serves as organist/choirmaster at Grace Episcopal Church in Madison where she directs a full program of children and adult choirs and a concert series, Grace Community Music. She also conducts the acclaimed Harmonium Choral Society. Dr. Matlack has served the Eastern Division of the American Choral Directors Association as Repertoire and Standards Chair for Community Choirs. She is active as an adjudicator and clinician. She has taught at Kean University, Lafayette College, and conducted the Yale University Freshman Chorus. Her conducting teachers have included Fenno Heath, Elmer Thomas and Earl Rivers, and workshops with Robert Shaw and Eric Ericson. Dr. Matlack studied organ with Charles Krigbaum, Michael

Schneider, and David Mulbury. She has sung in the Robert Shaw Festival Chorus at Carnegie Hall, with the Yale Alumni Chorus at the Kremlin in Moscow. She is a past recipient of the Arts Council of the Morris Area’s Outstanding Professional in the Arts award. She served on the board of the Madison Arts and Culture Alliance, for whom she developed the Holiday Arts Festival. Dr. Matlack holds a B.A. in Music from Yale University, and a M.M. and D.M.A. in Choral Conducting from the University of Cincinnati College – Conservatory of Music.

Scenes From the Annual Dinner 2014

The Annual Society General Meeting and Dinner was held on May 15th 2014 at The Madison Hotel. Madison High School student Andrea Vacchiano was presented with the Excellence in History Award, Steven Fulda presented the society with a Bottle Hill 18th Century Houses Bicentennial Medallion in memory of his late wife, Sandra, who served as the Historic Sites Chairwoman of Madison Bicentennial Committee in 1975-1977. The guest speaker for the night was the ever popular Bill Chemerka, former Madison High School history teacher, who spoke on “350 Years of New Jersey History in 45 Minutes”. Following his presentation, Carmine Toto and Jerry Mantone presented Chemerka with a beautifully framed reproduction of Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson.

(Photos by Dave Luber)



Andrea Vacchiano with Mark DeBiasee



Society President Linda Connors with Steven Fulda



Bill Chemerka



Laurie Hagerich, Carmen and Marie Toto, and Bob Coultas

Society Receives Bequest From Estate of Eleanor Stoddard



The Madison Historical Society was notified this past summer that it has received a generous bequest from the estate of Eleanor Stoddard. Ms. Stoddard was a long-time friend and strong supporter of the society. Over many years she donated more than 350 items to the society and to the Madison Public Library including numerous photographs, documents, and furniture. Eleanor Stoddard passed away in January of this year. A full article on her remarkable life and career appears in the April 2014 society newsletter that may be accessed on the society's web site: www.madisonhistoricalsociety.org



Spotlight on History: Madison in World War I

-Doug Simon

It was one hundred years ago in 1914 that the world was plunged into one of the deadliest wars in history. The descent into World War I began on 28 June 1914 with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, by a Yugoslav nationalist named Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo. This set off a diplomatic crisis when Austria-Hungary delivered an ultimatum to the Kingdom of Serbia, and international alliances formed over the previous decades were invoked. Within weeks, the major powers were at war and the conflict soon spread around the world. One month after the assassination, on 28 July, the Austro-Hungarians fired the first shots in preparation for the invasion of Serbia. As Russia mobilized, Germany invaded neutral Belgium and Luxembourg before moving towards France, leading Britain to declare war on Germany. Before it was over, the war took 16 million military and civilian lives and 37 million wounded.



The United States did not enter the war until April 6, 1917, ultimately sending 4 million troops to Europe and sustaining 110,000 deaths including 43,000 due to the influenza pandemic. With the American commitment to the conflict, William H. Thompson, Chairman of the Morris County Military Board of Control issued the following:

In accordance with an Act of Congress passed May 18, 1917, and in pursuance of the President's Proclamation, and the Proclamation of the Governor of New Jersey, all male persons of Morris County, who shall have attained their twenty-first year and who shall not have attained their thirty-first year on June 5, 1917, are hereby notified and directed to present themselves at their accustomed voting places for registration on Tuesday, June 5, 1917, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m.



Elford Jarman Rathbun, Jr. First Madisonian to enlist for WW I.

In all, 324 Madisonians served as soldiers in the war and 14 gave their lives. Most of those who served were drafted. But it was a time when to be drafted was considered an honor. The first Madisonian to enlist was Elford Jarman Rathbun, Jr. of Prospect Street. Many of the soldiers served in battles like Chateau Thierry, Belleau Woods, Meuse-Argonne and the Marne. One of the most famous Madisonians to serve was Amabel Scharff Roberts who was the first citizen of Madison and the first American Army nurse to give her life for her country on French soil. (For a full story on Amabel Scharff Roberts see the February 2013 Madison Historical Newsletter www.madisonhistoricalsociety.org)

While significant numbers of men and women headed for Europe, at home the citizens of Madison rallied to the war effort making significant contributions to the war effort. Margeret Buttenheim Powell led an effort which resulted in the granting of a charter to establish a chapter of the American National Red Cross that raised thousands of dollars. One hundred and eleven Madison men enrolled in a home guard known as the Home Defense League, a rifle club and military company, to defend the power plant and water supply, if need be. As in other communities across the country, Madisonians voluntarily contributed to the war effort by growing their own vegetables, conserved sugar as well as gasoline and coal. The Force Iron Works on Park Ave. began manufacturing parts for submarine chasers.



Boy Scouts in the borough became, as one newspaper article put it, “squirrels” by collecting peach stones; apricot, prune, native cherry, plum and olive pits; date seeds; butternut hickory nuts, walnuts and brazil nut shells, all used to make carbon for gas masks.



On November 11, 1923 Madison’s WW I monument was dedicated in James Park. On the front of the pedestal are the names of those who died in the war. On the other three sides are the names of those Madisonians who served in the military during the war. In 1996 a private venture was undertaken to refurbish the memorial and in May of 1997 it was rededicated.

¹ *Madison Eagle*, May 25, 1917, p. 1.

² *Madison Historical Newsletter*, January 1997.

³ Numerous articles on life in Madison during WW I appeared in the *Madison Eagle*. For this article, the following issues were consulted: March 9, 1917, March 25, 1917, June 29, 1917, and September 21, 1917.

Society Elementary Education Program to Expand

For a number of years the Madison Historical Society has had a program to introduce Madison history into the borough’s 2nd grade classes. Kate Malcolm, Cathie Coultas, Margaret Weisgerber and Melda Pike have headed up the effort that places emphasis on local community life. Recent meetings with Madison school officials have resulted in an initiative to expand the program into the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades as well. Members of the society will prepare information learning modules for teachers to incorporate into their classes. The 2nd grade classes will continue to emphasize community. Third grade will concentrate on the history of New Jersey and fourth grade emphasis will be at the national level including U.S. regions, exploration, colonization and the Declaration of Independence. The 5th grades will emphasize U.S. Government and Global community.



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>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

Black Church History		\$10.00
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		
Transportation		
Historic Photos of Madison, 7 different views		\$30.00 each

The Madison Historical Society

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