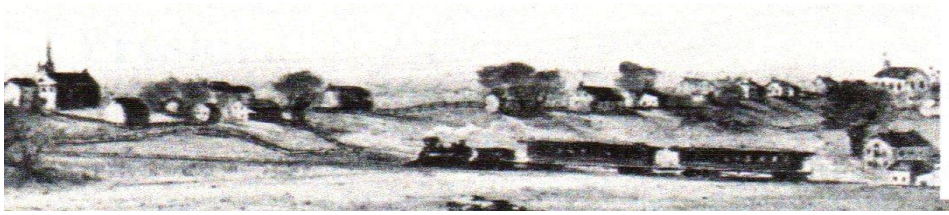


Madison Historical Society

Madison, N.J



September 2017
Newsletter
1st edition 2017-2018

The Madison Historical Society Presents

Mark Di Ionno

Award Winning Columnist for the Star Ledger



“The Last Newspaperman”

September 19, 2017

7:00 PM

Chase Room

Madison Public Library

Historical Society Officers

President

Susan Simon

Vice President

Jim Malcolm

Corresponding Secretary

Noreen McManus

Recording Secretary

Virginia Laughlin

Treasurer

David Luber

Custodian

Kate Malcolm

Trustees

Linda Connors

Cathie Coultas

Laurie Hagerich

Anne Meyer

Judy Seery

Doug Simon

Scott Spelker

Dorothy Pietrowski (Emeritus)

Historian

Kathy Rogers

Newsletter

Doug Simon

Message from President Susan Simon

The Boards of the Madison Historical Society and Madison Public Library have signed an agreement to revise and update the *Madison Heritage Trail* which was published in 1985. It is the only book containing the entire history of Madison. A committee, “The Madison Heritage Trail Revision Committee,” was established and consists of equal numbers of members of both boards to manage and oversee the project. Doctors Frank J. Esposito (the author of the original edition of the Book) and Brian Regal have been hired by the Library and Society Boards to revise and update the book. We are hoping to have it completed by 2019-2020. If you have information that you feel should be included in the book, there is a folder in the Historical Society office where you can put your information to be reviewed by the committee.

Since the staff of the Madison Historical Society is entirely volunteer we continually look for new people to join us. As our new “year” begins we are looking for someone interested in interviewing and audio recording residents of Madison about what the Borough was like when they were growing up. If you would be interested in interviewing residents or would like to be interviewed for this project, give us either a call or come in to the office.

Mark Di Ionno

Mark Di Ionno is a columnist at *The Star-Ledger*, New Jersey’s largest newspaper. He has won the New Jersey Press Association’s first-place award for column writing four of the last five years and in 2013 was a Pulitzer Prize finalist primarily for his work on Hurricane Sandy. Di Ionno got his start in newspapers as a Navy journalist and has been a reporter, editor, and columnist his entire adult life. Prior to writing for *The Star-Ledger*, he was a sports columnist at the *New York Post*. He is an adjunct professor of journalism at Rutgers–Newark, his alma mater, and has written three award-winning books on New Jersey history and culture. *The Last Newspaperman* was his first novel. In fictional form it explored the roots of tabloid journalism and the rise of celebrity media. His second novel, *Gods of Wood and Stone*, will be published next summer by Touchstone, an imprint of Simon & Schuster. The Di Ionno name is familiar in Madison. Mark’s father, Tony, taught here for more than 30 years and his children, Anthony and Michelle, graduated from Madison High, as did two of his cousin’s children, Kat and Dante, who played on the two most recent state championship football teams.



On October 17th “The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919”

On October 17, 2017 the Madison Historical Society will present a special program on “The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919,” featuring Dr. John Salaki, noted internist and specialist in infectious disease. Dr. Salaki graduated from the UMDNJ Medical School at Newark in 1971 and is currently affiliated with the Morristown Medical Center.



Dr. John Salaki

The influenza or flu pandemic of 1918 to 1919, the deadliest in modern history, infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide—about one-third of the planet's population at the time—and killed an estimated 20 million to 50 million victims. New Jersey was not immune from the disease. In a matter of months thousands of Garden State citizens died.

Historical Society Continues Community Outreach

Madison’s Rose History and Historical Tour



Cathie Coultas

On May 20th of this year, Historical Society trustee Cathie Coultas, the granddaughter of the largest rose growing family in Madison, gave a lecture sponsored by The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts on “A Love Affair with Roses: How Madison became the Rose City.”

In addition to her lecture on the Rose City, in June of this year, Cathie Coultas also led an historical tour of Madison for residents of Juniper Village.

Brownies Historical Tour

On the same day as Cathie Coultas’s talk at the Museum of Early Trades, May 20th, Noreen McManus, Society Corresponding Secretary, along with Kathy Rogers, Society Historian, led an historic walk through the Borough with Madison Brownies Troop 96273 from Kings Road School’s Second Grade. About fifteen brownies accompanied by scout leaders and a few parents covered two miles along Ridgedale Avenue and through Summerhill Park pointing out various historic houses and buildings. The Brownies who took part later received an “Historical Homes” merit badge.



Noreen McManus



Kathy Rogers

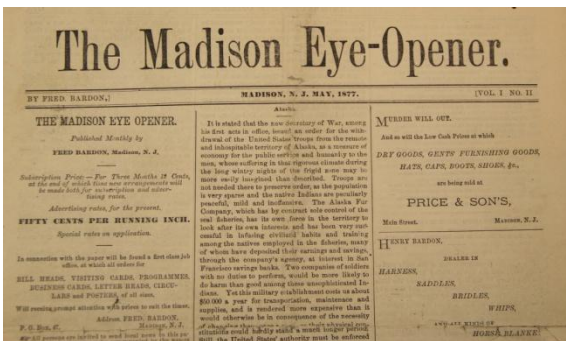


Spotlight on History

The Birth and Early History of the Madison Eagle

- Doug Simon

Newspapers in Madison have a long history, the longest of course being that of *The Madison Eagle*, founded one hundred twenty seven years ago. This is the story of the early years of the *Eagle's* existence and a few other papers who entered the news business in the Borough of Madison.



The first attempt to publish a Madison newspaper was in 1858. But that publishing experiment only lasted six weeks. It was not until after the Civil War that Madison began to develop an active press. In 1877 *The Madison Eye Opener* was founded largely through the efforts of one Fred B. Bardon. As noted in an *Eagle* bicentennial article, Bardon's bedroom served as the office, composing room and press room. It was a pretty primitive arrangement. Using a visiting card press,

Bardon could only produce one line at a time by striking the machine a sharp blow. In addition to local stories, *The Eye Opener* covered national stories.¹ A front page lead story in May 1877 noted that the new Secretary of War, among his first acts, issued an order for the withdrawal of United States troops from the, "...remote inhospitable territory of Alaska..." In the same issue it was reported that "A bold attempt was made one night last week to enter the store of Maclemore Ryan Grocers."² After three issues Bardon took on a partner, E.F. McCarthy, changed the name of the paper to *The Madison Journal*, a weekly publication, and moved the paper's offices to McCarthy's stationary store on Central Avenue.³



19th Century Visiting Card
Printing Press

In 1882 the paper was renamed *The Madison Weekly Eagle*. The co-owner, Fred Bardon, was a busy man serving as the *Eagle's* editor, postmaster, Grace Church organist, member of the Board of Education, bank cashier and vice president of the Building and Loan Association. In producing the paper, Bardon worked with a number of associates over the years including the aforementioned E.F. McCarthy as well as J.H. Abbey, George C. Smith and John W. Clift. But Bardon was clearly the force behind the paper.⁴

The *Eagle* featured local, national and human interest stories from around the country. The front page headline for the lead story on December 8, 1893 read, “Raised From the Dead, Long and Terrible Illness From Blood Poisoning” and told the story of Mary E. O’Fallon, a very “intelligent lady from Piqua, Ohio”...who was poisoned while assisting physicians at an autopsy. The horrible illness lasted for five years. Mary was reduced to 78 pounds but after five years, the affliction subsided.⁵



In 1894 Bardon sold his interest in the paper to a local group of gentlemen consisting of a who’s who list of Madison history of the time: James A. Webb, donor of Webb Memorial Chapel at the Presbyterian Church complex, Edward P. Holden, William F. Redmond, former mayor, Nathaniel Niles former Assembly Speaker, and James H. McGraw, a New York publisher. Editor for the paper was William P. Tuttle.⁶

Up to this time, the *Eagle* had maintained an independent orientation but the syndicate steered it in a new direction and it became a Republican paper. As a countermove, a new paper, *The Madison Democrat*, was founded in 1896 with R.L. Remnitz serving as editor and Charles B. Gee as business manager. It was the first newspaper in the Eastern part of the country to advocate the election of William Jennings Bryan over William McKinley. *The Madison Democrat* lasted all of eighteen months and was eventually sold to *The Madison Eagle* in September of 1897.⁷

In January of 1903, the *Eagle* was purchased by E.C. Markham who owned the paper until 1910 when he sold it to J.E. Clarey, Sr. After his passing, the *Eagle* passed to his son J.E. Clarey, Jr.⁸ Since then it has passed through several ownerships. Regardless, it has served the Borough well for many decades.

¹ Ken Haynes, “Hatching an Eagle,” *Madison Eagle*, August 26, 1976, p. 6. See also: Christopher Moore, “Few Owners, many issues, mark 108-year history,” *Madison Eagle*, December 27, 1970, p. 1.

² *Madison Eye Opener*, May 1877, p. 1.

³ Haynes

⁴ *Ibid.* Also see: Moore and Sue Pelosi, “The History of the Madison Eagle,” Brief history in Madison Historical Society archives.

⁵ *The Madison Eagle*, December 8, 1893, p. 1.

⁶ Haynes, p. 6; Moore, p. 1; Pelosi

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 6

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 6

Erin Salko Wins Historical Society Essay Contest

Madison High School student Erin Salko won the Madison Historical Society's annual historical essay contest for 2017. The award carries with it a five hundred dollar scholarship toward college expenses. The general topic for the contest this year was World War I and Erin's essay was titled, "World War One and the Environment." It dramatically traced how trench warfare during the war altered various elements of the environment – the landscape, the composition of the soil, and the redirection of rivers. She notes that some thirty percent of 1.45 billion artillery shells fired did not explode with many yet to be recovered. Toxic metals and gases also did immense damage to the environment. Congratulations to Erin.



Essay winner Erin Salko flanked by her father on the right and Mark DeBiasse, Supervisor of Humanities for the Madison Public Schools on the left.

NEWSLETTER RECEIVES AWARD

The Madison Historical Society's Newsletter was awarded a state-wide Third Place Kevin M. Hale Annual Publications Award from The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey. The issue's lead article was an essay on America's entry into World War I as well as how the Borough of Madison dealt with the conflict.



Doug Simon, newsletter editor, accepting the Kevin M. Hale Publications Award on behalf of the Madison Historical Society

AN APPEAL FOR INFORMATION ON WW I VETERANS



The Madison Historical Society is doing intensive research into Borough members who served in WW I. If you or other family members are descendents of a WW I veteran who at the time of their service lived in Madison, please contact the Society's office located in the Local History Center of the Madison Library on Tuesdays from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm or give the office a call at 973-377-0722 x8.

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
GROWING UP IN THE ROSE CITY by William F. Redmond, II	\$10.00
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

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 148, Madison, 07940. Office located in the
Local History Center of the Madison Public Library

Office Hours: Tuesday, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm and by appointment.

Office Phone: 973-377-0722 x8

Contact: President Susan Simon, 973-822-2377

Web: www.madisonhistoricalsociety.org

Email: historicalsociety@rosenet.org