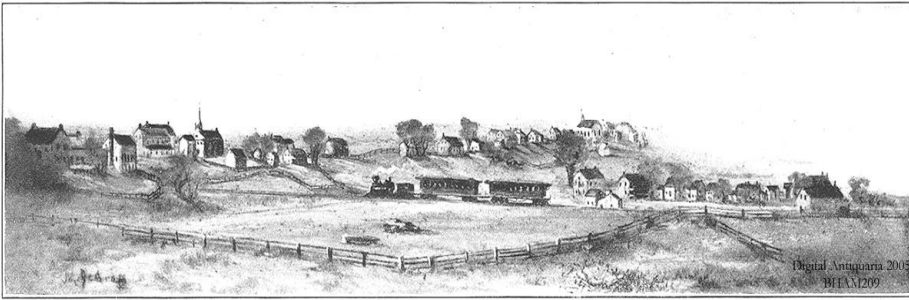


The Madison Historical Society



The April 2012
Newsletter

April 24, 2012

“Baseball in New Jersey, 1855-1870”

Mr. John Zinn

Chase Room - Madison Public Library -7:00 PM Refreshments -7:15 PM Program

Legend has it that baseball was invented in 1839 in Cooperstown, New York by Civil War hero Abner Doubleday. But legend is false and baseball actually evolved from older bat and ball games, such as the British “rounders” and American “town ball.” The direct ancestor of the game we know as baseball developed in the New York City area during the 1840s and 50s, and New Jersey baseball played an important developmental role in the early days of our “national pastime.”



Princeton's Baseball Team, mid to late 1800's

Zinn's talk will focus on the game's beginnings in New Jersey. He will describe some of its prominent players and some important differences between this early game – then called base ball – and its modern descendant. In those early days, fielders did not wear gloves and pitchers were required to pitch underhand.

John Zinn currently serves as Chairman of the Board of the New Jersey Historical Society and was active in the founding of New Jersey's third vintage base ball team, the Newark Eureka. He is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) and is co-author with his son, of *The Major League Pennant Races of 1916*.

Note: If you need transportation to either of these programs, please call 973-377-0722, Ext. 8 or 973-377-2292. Wheelchairs are also available.



Mr. John Zinn



Officers

President

Susan Simon

Vice President

Cathie Coultas

Corresponding Secretary

Karen Jones

Recording Secretary

Linda Connors

Treasurer

Joanne Binting

Custodian

Kate Malcolm

Historian

David Luber

Trustees

Christine Fillimon

Zigmund Kaminski

Jim Malcolm

Dorothy Pietrowski

Melda Pike

Daniel Seidel

Newsletter

Doug Simon

Message from the President Susan Simon

The Historical Society's Custodian Kate Malcolm has picked out twenty more pictures from our collection to be hung in The Hartley Dodge Memorial Building. The next time you are in the building be sure and take a look.

Speaking of pictures, we are planning on making some of the Society's photographs available for sale in the near future. These will be 8 x 10 high grade scans suitable for framing. Stay tuned for more information.

Our new computer should be installed at our office by the time you read this. Our old computer served us well for ten years but is quite slow now and not long for this world.

The Society will be very busy the next two months with John Zinn speaking April 24th on "Baseball in New Jersey, 1855-1870", the Cub Scout outreach program on May 11th and the Annual Dinner on May 17th. Nicolas Platt, will be the guest speaker at the dinner. Some of you may recall that in December at the tour of Nic's home he was a virtual "pied piper", with people following him around the house listening to his wonderful stories. You will not want to miss his presentation.

It is time to present the new slate of officers that will be voted on at the Annual Dinner: Vice President, Cathie Coultas; Treasurer, Dave Luber; Historian, Helene Corlett; Trustees, Dorothy Pietrowski and Kay Leary. If anyone would like to nominate someone for the above offices call me, Susan Simon at 973-822-2377 or the office at 973-377-3203 Ext. 8 and leave a message.

Nicolas Platt to Address Annual Dinner

Nicolas Platt, first cousin twice removed of Marcellus and Geraldine Dodge and President of the Hartley Dodge Foundation, will be the guest speaker at the Historical Society's Annual Dinner.

Madison Historical Society
Annual Dinner
May 17, 2011 6:30 PM
Madison Hotel





Spotlight on History: The First Cy Young Winner

By Doug Simon

It may be a stretch to claim him as one of Madison's own. It is not a stretch to claim that he is the greatest baseball player born in the Borough. His name is Don Newcombe and he was born to Roland and Sadie Newcombe on June 14, 1926 in Madison.

Don Newcombe was one of the greatest pitchers of the late 1940s through the mid 1950s. He was an integral member of the famous Brooklyn Dodgers teams with Jackie Robinson, Duke Snider, Pee Wee Reese, Roy Campanella, Don Drysdale, Carl Erskine, Sandy Koufax, Gil Hodges, Don Zimmer and Carl Furillo. And he was the first CY Young winner ever.

At a very early age, the Newcombe's moved to Elizabeth, N.J. where Don 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.



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 also a pioneer, being the second black player signed. Don Newcombe was the third to sign with the Dodger organization and started out with the minor league team in Nashua, New Hampshire. Newcombe was an immediate success. In his first year, 1946, he won 14 games and lost 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 being awarded the National League Rookie of the Year.



Don Newcombe, 2008

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. That same year he was named the National League's Most Valuable Player.

Even with all his success, there was a dark side to Don Newcombe's life. For years he battled alcoholism. He overcame the affliction in 1967 and since then has devoted himself to helping numerous other people in their battles with substance abuse. In the late 1970's he rejoined the Dodger organization as the team's Director of Community Affairs. In March 2009 he was named special adviser to the chairman of the team.

Sources: (1) A.S. Doc Young, "Don Newcombe: Baseball Great Wins Fight Against Alcoholism", *Ebony*, April 1976. (2) http://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Don_Newcombe (3) The Don Newcombe web site: www.cmgww.com/sports/newcombe/biography/index.html (4) Don Newcombe, Wikipedia.

Regional Events of Historical Interest

April 13 (Friday) and April 15 (Sunday). “Over Here and Over There: Morris County’s Role in World War II – Preserving Freedoms Won in the American Revolution,” Morris County Historical Society, 68 Morris Avenue, Morristown 07960.



April 15 (Sunday) 12:00 Noon. Historic Skills Sunday: Hands-On Classes “Learn to Cook the Old Fashioned Way” Carolina Capehart leads a hands-on class that introduces you to historic food preparation by creating a “Simple Mid-Day Meal” program. Sign up early, as class size is limited to 8 people. \$55/person; MHS members are \$45. **Or “Marbleize a Silk Scarf”** Nancy Leary shares the secrets of marbleizing, traditionally used in making inside covers on books, but today used to make exquisite scarves. \$30 per person includes all supplies, including the silk scarf. Call 973-744-1796 to register or send a note to the Montclair Historical Society, mail@montclairhistorical.org for more information.



April 17 (Tuesday) 7:00 pm “The Civil War from the Viewpoint of a Union Army Chaplain,” Father David Moreno, a Civil War Re-enactor. Florham Park Public Library. Sponsored by the Historical Society of Florham Park.

April 29 (Sunday) 3:00 pm Book Signing for “Florham: The Lives of an American Estate” by Carol Bere, Samuel Convisor and Walter Cummins. Lenfell Hall, Hennessy Hall College at Florham, Fairleigh Dickinson University.

July 29 (Sunday) 1:00 – 4:00 pm “Old-Fashioned Fun Day at Acorn Hall, with special kids’ tours of Acorn Hall, lawn games. Victorian dress-up, tea and cookies, and more. Regular admission prices apply; free to members.

Current Exhibits, New Jersey Historical Society, 52 Park Place, Newark, NJ 07103:

What’s going on? Newark and the Legacy of the Sixties. Examines the social forces that led to the outbreak of urban rebellion in 1967 and the lasting impact on the people, landscape, institutions and economy of the region.

Ebb and Flow: New Jersey and Its Rivers. The exhibit explores how activities, both historical and contemporary, along the Delaware, the Raritan, the Maurice and the Passaic, symbolize the importance of fresh waters, and serve as a template for understanding rivers’ importance in shaping the human experience.



MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY – ITEMS FOR SALE

Books:

<u>CIVIL WAR JOURNAL OF PRIVATE HEYWARD EMMELL</u> , edited by Jim Malcolm	\$55.00
<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.	\$15.00
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, 07940.

Office located in the Local History Center of the Madison Library,
39 Keep St., Madison, N.J. 07940

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

Office Phone: 973-377-0722 x 8

Contacts: President Susan Simon: 973-822-2377

Collection Custodian: Kate Malcolm: 973-377-3203

Web: www.madisonhistoricalsociety.org

Email: historicalsociety@rosenet.org