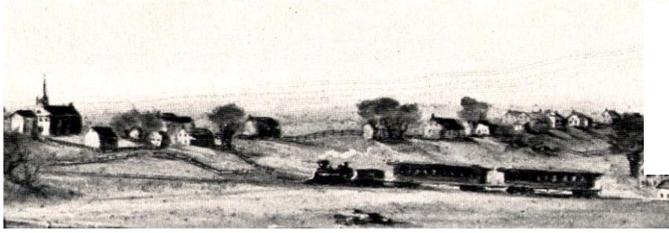


The Madison Historical Society

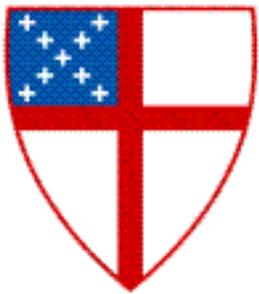


The April 2014

Newsletter

4th edition, 2013/2014

New Jersey 's 350th Anniversary Year



The Madison Historical Society Is Pleased To Present

Suzanne Bowles

Assoc. Professor History at William Paterson

“The History of Grace Episcopal Church of Madison”

April 15th, 2014 7:00 pm,

Chase Room, Madison Public Library

(Read more about Suzanne Bowles on Page 2)

Officers**President***Linda Connors***Vice President***Cathie Coultas***Corresponding Secretary***Karen Jones***Recording Secretary***Laurie Hagerich***Treasurer***David Luber***Custodian***Kate Malcolm***Historian***Helene Corlette***Trustees***Zigmund Kaminski**Jim Malcolm**Dorothy Pietrowski**Kay Leary**Daniel Seidel**Susan Simon***Newsletter***Doug Simon***Message from the President****Linda Connors**

As I write this column I find myself reflecting on the Society's 2013-2014 activities and programs. Granted we still have another program meeting on April 15 and the annual dinner meeting in May, but the Society will soon be planning programs and activities for the coming year. As this is my first year as your president, some reflection seems appropriate.

Measured by attendance our program meetings had varying success. The well-known speaker on a popular subject naturally drew a large audience. The programs that were perceived as more specialized were less popular. This is disappointing for the programs had good content that addressed Madison history more broadly than the topics seemed to indicate.

Earlier columns have discussed our other major activities, Bottle Hill Day and the Wreath Sale and Benefit.

We continue to push ahead with plans for a Madison History Museum in the train station. Because the building is listed on several historic registers the required review and approval process has been moving very slowly.

The Society is also exploring additional areas of cooperation with the Downtown Development Commission and the Hartley Dodge Foundation. At present these discussions are still in the entry stages.

Increasing the Society's membership remains a continuing challenge. If you have ideas on how to accomplish this, we would welcome them.

On a personal note, the learning curve felt pretty steep at times but I benefited from the advice of Board members, always offered gently and with grace. Thank you.

More on Suzanne Bowles

Suzanne Bowles received her B.A. in American Studies from Syracuse where she graduated magna cum laude and was selected for Phi Beta Kappa. She went on to earn an M.A. in History from Rutgers, an MTS in Church History from Drew University's Theological School and her Ph.D. in history from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. Academic honors include Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude, Honors in American Studies. Prior to teaching at William Patterson University, she taught at Upsala College. She is the author of three books, *Jonathan Edwards to Aaron Burr*, *Lutheranism and Anglicanism in Colonial New Jersey*, and *A Widening Sphere of Usefulness: Newark Academy 1773 -1993*. She also served as editor of the book *Uplifting the South: Mary Mildred Sullivan's Legacy for Appalachia* by Kathleen Curtis Wilson.

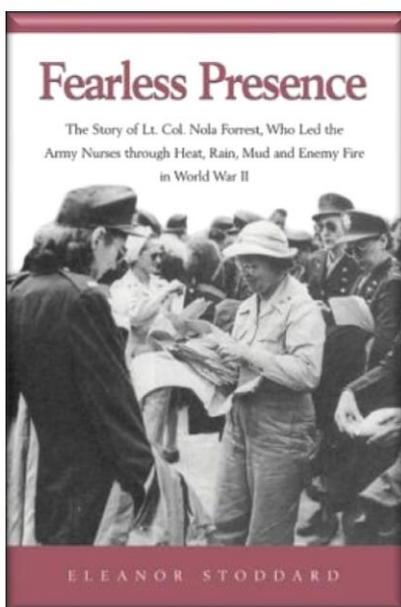


Eleanor Holden Stoddard, Friend and Supporter

The Madison Historical Society was greatly saddened by the passing of Eleanor Holden Stoddard in January of this year. Mrs. 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, furniture and other items. In 2003 she was a guest speaker for the society discussing the history of Madison as she learned it from discussions and stories passed down through the generations of her family.



Eleanor Stoddard's ancestors included the Brittin, Holden, and Webb families who came to Madison in the 1800s. Brothers Abraham and William Brittin came to Bottle Hill in 1800; Abraham was appointed the town's first postmaster, and was a partner with his brother William in a law practice and a general store. Edward Holden was one of a small group of wealthy investors that in the late 19th century purchased controlling interest in what at the time was called *The Madison Weekly Eagle*. James Augustus Webb was a benefactor who helped organize the YMCA, provided land for the Madison Golf Club and supported many other activities in the town. Ms. Stoddard's grandfather, William O. Stoddard served as President Abraham Lincoln's third secretary on his personal staff. Later in life, after his years serving the president in the White House, Stoddard became a resident of Madison, continuing his writing focusing on his experiences serving Lincoln.



Residing for many years in Chevy Chase Maryland, Eleanor Stoddard had a stellar career specializing in research, writing and editing. During World War II she served with the Office of Price Administration (OPA) in Washington, D.C., and Juneau, Alaska, and the Army's Office of the Quartermaster General. After the war, she worked for TIME Magazine, and Standard Oil Company of New Jersey. In 1955 she began a 30 year career with the National Science Foundation as an editor. After her retirement in 1983, she produced an oral history interview project focused on the women who had served in or with the military during World War II. The tapes and transcripts of her interviews are archived at California State University at Long Beach. She also wrote the 2005 book *Fearless Presence: The Story of Lt. Col. Nola Forrest, II*, a fascinating account of a career Army nurse, decorated for her acts of heroism.

Eleanor Holden Stoddard was a remarkable woman dedicated to preserving the history of her childhood home.



The High School Scrapbook Project

- Doug Simon

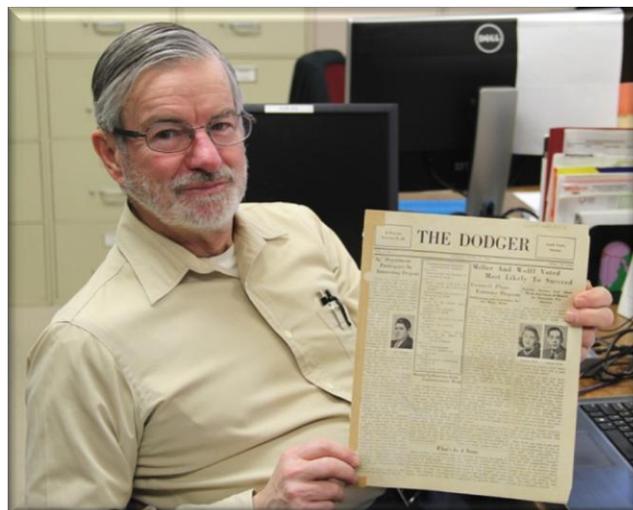
For hours and hours Jim Malcolm carefully goes through pages and pages of the Madison High School's official scrapbooks that were maintained by long-time high school librarian, Alice Perlaw and given to the Madison Historical Society. They contain a potpourri of documents stretching back to the late 1930s, including early copies of *The Dodger*, the high school newspaper, copies of the *PTA News*, news clippings concerning other Madison schools, newsletters known as the *Junior High Lights*, minutes of meetings, special events

programs, and reports of one sort or another.

The collection provides a window into

Madison's history as viewed through the

borough's public schools. But stretching back more than 70 years, the scrapbooks are in very fragile condition and Malcolm has taken on the task of preserving them through photography, primarily because the Society does not have a scanner big enough to handle many of the items. Further, photography probably requires less handling.



Jim Malcolm holding up Volume 1 No. 1 of *The Dodger* published June 13, 1941

Each scrapbook is like a time capsule revealing interesting and sometimes humorous stories about a different time. Here are just a few examples:

- **June 1939** – Regulations for the Senior Prom at Madison High School are announced.

“Smoking will be permitted in the locker room, but not aimless loitering.”

“There shall be no ‘cutting in.’”

“The Committee of Chaperons will prohibit all improper dancing. Their judgment will not be questioned.”

- **November 1941** – As reported in the *Madison Eagle*, “The Future Farmers of America at Madison High School were hosts to delegates from six neighboring high schools at the annual high school agricultural convention last Thursday. The convention devoted its discussion to the consideration of a high school agricultural program which would coordinate with the national defense program.”

- **April 1941** – In a student published newsletter titled *Junior High Lights* there was a piece known as “The Inquiring Reporter.” The question asked the students was: Should boys and girls in junior high school be given homework? The following are some of the answers:

Joseph: “Yes, I think so. If we did not have homework all we learned would be wasted.”

Charlotte: “I think we should not have homework because a lot of people won’t do it – or we usually ask our parents and they tell us the answer and all we know is to put it down on paper.”

Duff: “If the pupils didn’t have homework they wouldn’t get as much vacation and school hours would be longer.”

John: “Homework is homework any way you look at it and who likes homework? Nobody of course!”

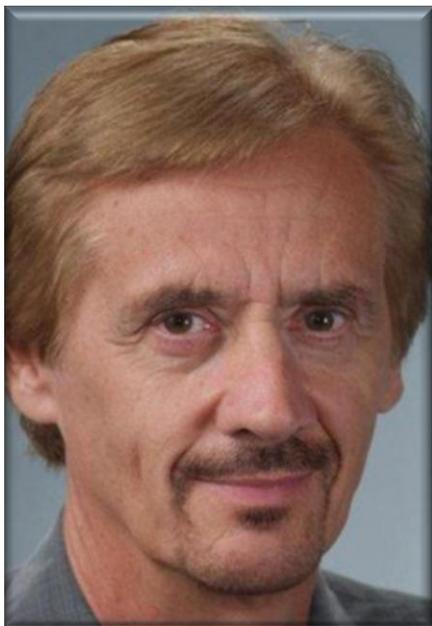
- **June 1941** – The first issue of the current high school newspaper was published on June 10, 1941. The name, *The Dodger*, was chosen in a contest. Previously it was called *L’Agenda*. The judges didn’t especially like the name *The Dodger*, but it did get the most votes so the judges decided to let it stand until a better name could be found. Over seventy years have passed and it is now 2014. The paper is still called *The Dodger*.



Today there is an online version of the MHS newspaper, *Dodger Online*.

- **January 1942** – In PTA News: The emergency war program which has been put in use in the Madison Public Schools was described in detail by Robert C.B. Parker, supervising principal at the meeting of the Board of Education last week. Mr. Parker stated the following; “Our first duty in the situation has been to thoroughly prepare our students for any emergency that might occur. We are instructed to provide drills that would take children to the safest place in each building in case of air alarm. Boys and girls and citizens may become unduly concerned over military reverses. We must expect some and take them calmly. Idle rumors and unofficial reports should be disregarded, discouraged, and reprimanded.”
- **March 1949** – Second graders at the Green Avenue School in Madison shipped to Europe bundles of clothing for use by school children in war torn countries.

Annual Dinner on May 15th to Feature Bill Chemerka



The Madison Historical Society's Annual Dinner will be held on May 15 at the Madison Hotel and will feature the ever popular Bill Chemerka speaking on "**350 Years of New Jersey History in 45 Minutes.**" Bill Chemerka was a former and enormously popular history teacher at Madison High School and a long-time friend of the Madison Historical Society. Bill has a thriving acting career on stage, TV, and film with appearances in productions from *The Happening*, the *Naked Gun* series, *Smell of Fear*, *Gods and Generals*, *the Last of the Mohicans*, *Glory*, and *The Sopranos*. He was the writer for the History Channel's *The Battle of Bunker Hill* and contributing writer for the channel's *First Invasion: The War of 1812*. He is also one of the country's leading authorities on the Alamo having founded The Alamo Society in 1986. He is the publisher of the *Alamo Journal* and author of the highly regarded *Alamo Almanac*.

Events of Historical Interest

Revolutionary Weekend at the Henry Doremus Dutch Stone House, 490 Main Road (US 202) Towaco 07082. Saturday, April 12 10:00 am and Sunday, April 13 1:00-4:00 pm. The Doremus Stone house, circa 1760, housed General George Washington and Alexander Hamilton from June 25-27, 1780. The open house will feature spinning, lace making and weaving demonstrations, live period music with fiddler and accompanist, continuous tours of site and Dutch architecture, 18th century antiques on display as well as a document display of George Washington letters and expense account



Reenactment of First Rhode Island Regiment

African American Patriots, May 3, 2013, 2:00-4:30 pm, Morristown National Historical Park, Jockey Hollow.

Did you know that 5,000 African Americans served in the Continental Army? Join a Park Ranger at the Wick House to learn about the roles these patriots played while fighting for our independence. Free. For more information contact Jockey Hollow Visitor Center, 973-543-4030.

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

\$10.00 each

- Black Church History
- 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

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

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

Office Phone: 973-377-0722 x8

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