

## **Bottle Hill – 1710-1834**

### **1710**

The initial settlement of the area now known as Madison occurred in around 1710 by people from the Elizabethtown and Newark areas. The majority of the settlers purchased their land from the West Jersey Proprietors, holders of large grants from the British Crown. Some settlers bought land from the Indians. The general area was known for many years as South Hanover.

### **1730**

It is thought that Andrew Miller built his home on land he bought from David Burnet. The house is called the Luke Miller house with the Miller Forge on the same property. The original house is located at 105 Ridgedale Avenue.

### **1745**

About this time Daniel Sayre built the house which still stands on Ridgedale Avenue.

### **1747**

The Presbyterian Meeting House was built on the hill above Kings Road at the site of the present cemetery on Main Street. It was called the Presbyterian Church of South Hanover until 1817. The land was given to the church by David Burnet. The homestead stands today on Rosedale Avenue. The Reverend Azariah Horton, a Yale College graduate was the first regular minister from 1751 until his October 1776, when he retired.



### **1763**

The Presbyterian congregation purchased land for a parsonage near the site of the present Presbyterian Church on Green Avenue.

### **1776**

The little cluster of homes along Ridgedale Avenue and Kings Road was known as Bottle Hill. A tavern had been built near what is now James Park, at Park and Ridgedale Avenues. During the Revolutionary War, the Continental Army established their quarters in the area called the Loantaka encampment of 1777. Of the soldiers encamped at Loantaka most were militia. A number of the officers were garrisoned in the homes of Bottle Hill residents. Colonel Matthias Ogden probably stayed with the Millers and General “Mad” Anthony Wayne with the Sayres. It is thought that General George Washington visited and used the Miller’s Forge during that time. Both houses and the forge remain on Ridgedale Avenue.

### **1798**

Bottle Hill had its first regularly scheduled stage coach stop between Morristown and Paulus Hook (Jersey City).

## **1804**

The Morris Turnpike, which was thirty-four feet wide, opened through Bottle Hill from Elizabeth to Morristown with a toll gate at Rosedale Avenue. The Wachovia bank presently occupies the site of the toll house. The Turnpike is the present Route 124.

## **1805**

The first recorded Mass in the area was celebrated at the home of Mr. Lavielle Duberceau. It was the first time Catholicism was practiced in the area.

## **1806**

During the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the area north of Madison Avenue was within Hanover Township and to the south, Morris Township. When Chatham Township was created, the areas now known as Madison, Florham Park, Chatham, and Chatham Township became Chatham Township.

## **1809**

The Madison Academy was built on the corner of Park Avenue and Ridgedale Avenue by a stock company organized by a number of leading citizens. It was an elaborate and costly building for those times, and children of the community were educated there for seventy-two years. The land had been donated for the purpose of a school by James Burnet. The school was later moved to Green Avenue.

## **1819**

Colonel Stephen D. Hunting of the Morris County Militia purchased the original site of the Bottle Hill Tavern. A tavern and an inn or tavern was erected on the site and known through the years as the “Waverly House”, the “Madison House”, the “Bottle Hill Tavern”, and the “Widow Brown.”



## **1825**

A new Presbyterian Church building on Main Street was dedicated. The new building housed the First Presbyterian Church of the Township of Chatham. In 1846, it became known as the Presbyterian Church of Madison. In 1927, the building was sold to the present owners, the Masonic Lodge.

In July, when the Marquis de Lafayette returned to the United States, he was warmly welcomed in Bottle Hill with a recitation of a poem written by J.T. Derthick, the principal of the public school, by thirteen young girls representing the thirteen colonies. Lafayette was traveling the Morris Turnpike and stopped at the hotel of Col. Stephen D. Hunting. He was met by Rev. Dr. John G. Bergen, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, who escorted him into the Madison House where the girls recited the poem and where he enjoyed some refreshments before resuming his journey.

The first parish building to be used as a Catholic Church and rectory was built on Ridgedale Avenue. The first floor of the building was the church and on the second floor was a residence for the priest. The land had been purchased by influential local Catholics originally from France, Vincent de Boisubin and sons, Lavielle Duberceau, and Hyacinth and Henrietta DuRest Blanchet

### **1830s**

Caleb Burroughs established a cabinet making and undertaking business at a site on Main Street where Burroughs, Kohr & Dangler is operating.

During this time the first large manufacturing facility in Madison produced umbrellas, straw bonnets and clothing. Henry Keep's Bonnet and Umbrella Factory located on the corner of Prospect Street and Kings Road employed approximately 100 women and several men.

### **1832**



William Gibbons, a millionaire from Georgia, bought land west of Bottle Hill after his wife fell in love with the scenery in the area. They called it "The Forest". By 1851, Gibbons had accumulated about 1,000 acres. The mansion is now the administration building for Drew University.

### **1834**

At the instigation of public spirited and temperance minded citizens, the community changed its name from Bottle Hill to Madison, after President James Madison.