Summer 2017

Madison Historical Society

Historical Happenings

UPCOMING EVENTS

MADISON GREEN NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT TOUR
Launch and Presentation
Sunday, August 6
Memorial Town Hall
4 pm

ANTIQUES FAIR
Saturday, August 26
Madison Green
9 am to 4 pm

EVENING IN WHITE
Sunday, September 10
Surprise location:
Look for announcements
6 to 9 pm

CENTENNIAL GALA
Thursday, October 19
Madison Beach Hotel
6 to 11 pm

Madison WWI Exhibit Honored with Award of Merit

The Madison Historical Society is proud to announce that its commemorative exhibition ***Over Here, Over There: Madison in WWI*** received an award of merit from the Connecticut League of History Organizations. The CLHO Award of Merit is a prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of Connecticut history. The panel was particularly impressed with the collaborative spirit of the exhibit, bringing together several town organizations to remember the sacrifices of those at home and those on the front during the American engagement in the war.

The MHS partnered with the Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives and collaborated with Scranton Library, which offered a book and film series. We also partnered with Hand High School students and local Boy Scouts.

Central to the exhibition are the stories of the Madison people who served in the military and on the home front, as well as in the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations. The exhibition explores political issues, the rise of the media, censorship and propaganda, and the role of women.

The exhibit has a rich collection of uniforms and memorabilia of the era, a children's corner which is both educational and fun, and two multimedia presentations. One features readings from servicemen's letters and the diary of a young Madison girl; the other features original music recordings from the era.

Two new elements this summer include the addition of a trench experience, an exhibit in the entrance foyer of Lee's Academy.

The trench project was the brainchild of Ryan Tomicic, a Daniel Hand rising senior who proposed the idea as an Eagle Scout service project. Ryan demonstrated true leadership and great organization throughout each phase of the project. He personally planned all the work, recruited volunteers to help with the installation, and raised the funds needed to see the project through to completion. The MHS is honored that he chose us as the recipient of his time and talents.

Another new element of the exhibit is a gun cabinet that displays a variety of WWI-era weapons.

Thirteen awards were bestowed at the CLHO annual conference in June, honoring people, projects, exhibits, books, and organizations. As stated by the CLHO, "The purpose of the Awards of Merit is to recognize the care, thought and effort invested in these contributions and to inspire and encourage others by acknow-ledging exceptional contributions to state and local history."

The exhibition, on view at Lee's Academy and in the Memorial Town Hall, is open Saturdays through November from 11- 4. It is free and open to the public. For more information on the exhibit or to view the digital archive of related images, visit our website at: www.madisonhistory.org.

ANTIQUES FAIR

The forty-sixth annual Antiques Fair on the green will be held on Saturday, August 26, from 9 am to 4 pm. This annual event attracts antiques enthusiasts from across the state and the region. With its reputation for quality antiques and diversity of exhibitors, the show is one of the highlights of the summer outdoor fair season.

Launched in 1972, the fair has become the largest and longest operating show on the Shoreline. Exhibitors from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and as far away as Pennsylvania offer fine antiques, mid-century modern furnishings, vintage objects, re-purposed goods, and collectibles of all shapes and sizes.

The fair is one of the Society's highest grossing fundraising efforts. Its proceeds support the maintenance of our historic buildings and the ongoing care of our collection of more than 6,000 artifacts. Proceeds also support our ongoing effort to create a digital archive of artifacts central to Madison's rich cultural history.

We hope you will once again come out to support the MHS at the fair. Tickets are $7 at the gate or $6 with a discount coupon that can be found on our website at www.madisonhistory.org. Admission is $5 to MHS members.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Please make note of two important centennial fundraising events aimed at helping the MHS reach its campaign goal of $100,000 in its centennial year. On Sunday, September 10, Eileen Banisch and Noreen Kokoruda will host an "Evening in White" at a surprise location. This picnic-style event keeps guests on the edge of their seats, as the most important detail—the location—is kept secret until a few hours before the event.

The premise is simple: the table settings, chairs, tablecloths, and decorations are white, and the guests wear white attire. Guests arrive with their own picnic dinners at six o'clock at a location disclosed on the morning of September 9. Until then, the location remains a secret. Live music and dancing will follow the picnic dinner.

The culmination of the centennial celebration will be a benefit gala to be held on Thursday, October 19, at the Madison Beach Hotel. An event of this historical significance happens just once a century. In 2017 the MHS honors four individuals for the important roles they've played in preserving and protecting the character of Madison. They are Jack and Laurie Heflin, Joe Oslander, and Don Rankin.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting the centennial page on our website or by calling the office at (203) 245-4567. Seating is limited, so reserve your spot today.

HOMES TOUR RECAP

Nearly four hundred visitors toured the six unique properties on view in the Fifth Annual Tour of Remarkable Homes on Sunday, June 25. These homes, which included an historic farmhouse, an all-American beach cottage, a shingle-style home, a Middle Beach retreat, a luxury condo, and a contemporary with unparalleled views, offered visitors a rare opportunity to tour special private properties that characterize the diverse architectural history of Madison structures.

This event would not be possible without the dedicated volunteers who give their time and energy to make the tour a success. If you'd like to support our mission of preserving and protecting artifacts, information, and buildings that illustrate Madison's rich cultural history, please consider adding your "remarkable home" to the roster for next year's event.

FLAGPOLE

A new flagpole was recently installed in front of Lee's Academy by board trustees Bruce Wilson. The twenty-five-foot tapering fiberglass pole was donated by Wilson, who serves as the society's properties chairperson. Replacing the metal pole was no small task. It required town approval, removal of the deteriorated base and pole by public works employees, preparation of the hole, and the pouring of a new cement base before the new pole could be installed. A new five-by-seven nylon flag now graces the pole and waves proudly over Lee's Academy.

Interested in dating your historic home using the latest scientific technology? Dr. Daniel Miles from the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, in the United Kingdom is crossing the pond in November and is available to take samples of your historic home. Visit Dr. Miles's website to learn more about the dendrochronology process and some of Dr. Miles's past projects. http://www.oxford-dendrolab.com/

MHS LAUNCHES WEB-BASED TOUR OF HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Madison Historical Society is pleased to announce the August launch of its web-based tour of the Madison Green National Historic District, a digital storytelling project that serves as the Society's gift to the Town of Madison in celebration of its Centennial. The tour is an exploration of the historic places and people of Madison's iconic green district —specifically thirty-three distinctive and diverse vital resources that lie mostly along the Boston Post Road, Meetinghouse Lane, and Britton Lane. These iconic structures and monuments include private residences, churches, and civic structures that reflect much of Madison's cultural and architectural history.

The story of this district shows how and why this area became—and is still—the heart of the community, and it also offers clues to local, regional and national history during the course of nearly 400 years. In its centennial year, the MHS hopes that these stories will spark lively conversations about our community's past and present places and people.

The Tour was created by students from Daniel Hand High School and was funded by grants from Guilford Savings Bank and from the State Historic Preservation Office of the Department of Economic and Community Development, with funds from the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut.

A reception to celebrate the commitment and dedication of the students will take place on Sunday afternoon, August 6, at 4 pm at Memorial Town Hall. For more information, please visit www.madisonhistory.org/historic-district-tour/.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN FULL SWING

As part of our yearlong centennial celebration, the Madison Historical Society took over the town during the week of July Fourth. Large-format vintage images and postcards, each one depicting the changing face of Madison's downtown through the decades, were installed in the storefronts along the north and south side of the Boston Post Road. Each image provided a detailed explanation of the building that once stood on that spot. This project was a collaboration with the Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives, spearheaded by volunteer Nancy Farnan in partnership with MHS Secretary and Centennial Chair, Nancy Smith. This dynamic duo researched the images, created the captions, visited every shop to pitch the idea, and delivered the final product.

The downtown vintage images project was met with overwhelming support. Virtually every store along the street agreed to participate. The reaction from town residents was equally supportive. People were seen walking up and down the sidewalks, reading the descriptions and photographing the images on display. The vintage photos, scheduled to be on view for a single week, have been left in place until the end of the summer by popular demand. This project was made possible by a generous grant from the Seashore Construction Company headed by President Kenneth L. Evarts, a longtime Madison resident. Mr. Evarts is the nephew of Charlotte Evarts, who was named the first town historian in 1988.

The Society was also honored as the Grand Marshal of the Exchange Club's Fourth of July Parade. This was a particular honor as the parade is among the largest and best-attended in the state. Board trustees and staff dressed in historic and reproduction costumes to represent the centennial theme of "100 Years on the Water." Future MHS members Lily McFadden, Hadley Reiss, and Sadie Bartholomew proudly carried the parade banner.

Finally, the Society's centennial was also celebrated by Madison Cultural Arts in their annual Concert on the Green, which featured a review of one hundred years of musical history. We are grateful for the support of a community committed to keeping history alive.

MHS MONTHLY HISTORY BOOK GROUP

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Books are often available at the Scranton Library: call 203-245-7365 to inquire.

To register, please call 203-245-4567 or e-mail contact@madisonhistory.org. Walk-ins are always welcome!

Meetings occur every third Tuesday at 7:00 PM at the Allis-Bushnell House and are led by Lyle Cubberly, Ph.D. (1lachawk@att.net)

For more information about the books, please go to the Adult Education page at www.madisonhistorical.org

August 22
The French-Canadian Heritage in New England
Gerald Brault

September 19
40 Miles a Day on Beans and Hay: An Enlisted Soldier Fighting the Indian Wars
Don Rickey Jr.

October 17
When America First Met China: An Exotic History of Tea, Drugs and Money in the Age of Sail
Eric Jay Dolin

November 21
Fur, Fortune and Empire: The Epic History of the Fur Trade in America
Eric Jay Dolin

December 19
The Hero of the Empire: The Boer War, a Daring Escape and the Making of Winston Churchill
Candice Millard

the MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1 years

46th ANNUAL ANTIQUES FAIR

Benefiting the Madison Historical Society

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2017

From 9 AM to 4 PM

On the Green in Madison, Connecticut

QUALITY EXHIBITORS

Great Food • Rain or Shine

ADMISSION: $7 (UNDER 13 FREE)

$1 off with this ad for one admission

I-95 Exit 61 (Rte. 79) • South to Boston Post Road • Rte. 1 to Village Green
Contact us at events@madisonhistory.org or 203-245-4567

the MADISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1 years

Madison Historical Society
Founded in 1917
P.O. Box 17
Madison, CT 06443
203-245-4567
www.madisonhistory.org

MHS offices are open in the c. 1821 Lee's Academy at 14 Meetinghouse Lane on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday from 9 AM to 1 PM.

For a tour of the MHS c. 1785 National Historic Register property, the Allis-Bushnell House, call 203-245-4567.

The MHS newsletter is published quarterly.

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contact@madisonhistory.org

Send us your email address:

www.madisonhistory.org

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