

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Annual Lantern Tour takes you back 200 years



Mark your calendars for one of Madison's most anticipated traditions—the annual Madison Historical Society Lantern Tour—on Saturday, November 7, from 5 to 9 pm!

As part of Madison's 200th anniversary celebration, this year's Lantern Tour brings 200 years of Madison history to life. Guided by lantern light, groups will journey across Madison's historic town green, meeting Madison residents from different eras of our community's history. Brought to life by our talented youth reenactors,



these fascinating characters will share stories that offer a glimpse into the people and experiences that helped shape Madison over the past two centuries.

After the tour, visitors can enjoy light refreshments at the Madison Center for History & Culture and explore our exhibit space.

Advance reservations are required. Tickets can be reserved online at madisonhistory.org or by calling the MHS office at 203-245-4567. Tours depart from Lee's Academy every 20 minutes and are limited to 20 guests per tour.

Come celebrate 200 years of Madison history in the glow of our lanterns! We look forward to welcoming you to one of our most popular events of the year.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

Allis-Bushnell House Museum Open HouseOctober 3, October 17, November 7, November 21, December 5, December 19

History Happy Hour at the Allis-Bushnell House, 6 pmOctober 23

Lantern Tour on the Madison Green.....November 7

Holiday MarketNovember 21

Annual Members Party..... December 5

Frederick Lee Lectures.....January 31, February 28, March 14

Complete your holiday shopping early at the Madison Historical Society!

We are pleased to announce the return of the Madison Historical Society's Holiday Market on Saturday, November 22! For the second year, join us at the Madison Center for History & Culture at Lee's Academy and enjoy a selection of handcrafted goods made by local artisans from across the shoreline. Visit our Facebook and Instagram pages to learn about this year's artisans.



Also, did you know that the Madison Historical Society has gift shops? At the Allis-Bushnell House and at Lee's Academy, we carry a great selection of books, notecards, local maple syrup, handmade gifts, and more! Shop in-person or online at madisonhistory.org/gift-shop.



What would you like to see us carry in the Madison Historical Society gift shop? Let us know by emailing office@madisonhistory.org.

President's Corner September 2026

Welcome to Fall 2026!

As we welcome a new season, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped make our 2026 Gala such a tremendous success—our generous sponsors, donors, friends, volunteers, and supporters. Your enthusiasm and commitment to the Madison Historical Society mean so much to us.



And there is much more to come! MHS has an exciting lineup of programs and events planned for the new season, including our annual Lantern Tour on November 7, 2026. Be sure to check our calendar of events regularly to stay up to date.

As we look toward the future, we are energized by all that lies ahead for the Madison Historical Society. We invite you to be part of that future by sharing your ideas, time, talents, and enthusiasm as we continue to grow and take MHS to the next level.

Thank you for being part of our MHS community. We look forward to an exciting fall season together!

Best Regards,

Maryanne Harmuth
MHS Board President

MHS Joins The North American Reciprocal Museum Association

As we close out another busy and exciting summer season in Madison, thank you for your continued support as members of the Madison Historical Society.

Your support is essential to helping us fulfill our mission of preserving and sharing Madison's history. It is our priority to thank our members by offering such meaningful benefits as free or discounted admission to our annual events, invitations to our complimentary Members' Holiday Party (December 5!), and a 10% discount in our gift shops.

We are also very pleased to announce a brand-new benefit for many Madison Historical Society members! The Madison Historical Society has joined the North American Reciprocal Museum Association (NARM). This means that, at the annual membership levels of \$100 and above, your MHS membership now grants you FREE admission to more than 1,500 museums and cultural institutions across North America, including more than forty destinations in Connecticut.

To take advantage of this new benefit in 2026, please visit Lee's Academy any Wednesday through Friday, from 10 am to 2 pm, to pick up your gold NARM sticker. Once you have your sticker affixed to your MHS membership card, simply present it at any participating NARM museum to enjoy free admission.

**NORTH
AMERICAN
RECIPROCAL**

We're delighted to offer this valuable benefit as another way of expressing our gratitude for your continued support.

Thank you, Finley!

This summer we said farewell to Finley Chapman, one of our most dedicated volunteers. Finley began volunteering with the MHS in Spring 2025 under the direction of MHS Trustee Tricia Royston. During the past year, Finley has diligently catalogued and organized the research library at Lee's Academy.



Finley particularly enjoyed finding what he calls "left-overs" in many of the books. Finds such as dried flowers and grocery-list bookmarks reveal how former Madison residents have engaged with books. Finley catalogued many of these items separately, offering a unique peek into the relationship between the books and their owners.

Our research library, featuring books spanning from 1826-2025, is available for all to use. Thanks to Finley, each book has a home and will offer future researchers the ability to easily find the resources they need.

Finley will complete his Masters in Library Science in December 2026. Thank you, Finley, for all your help, which will help MHS researchers for years to come.

The MHS Gala: A Bicentennial Success!

Thank You from the Madison Historical Society!

The Madison Historical Society sends sincere thanks to our community for supporting our *From Before to Beyond* Bicentennial Gala at the Madison Beach Hotel on August 4.

The sold-out celebration brought together residents, community leaders, local businesses, and MHS members and friends to reflect on Madison's 200th anniversary. Just as importantly, the Gala helped us consider--and look forward to--our future.



We are deeply grateful to our event sponsors—Gulick & Co., Saltwood Cabinetry, Eversource, Connecticut Water, Ascend Bank/Madison Foundation, Exposure, Madison Financial Planning, National Trust Insurance Services, Principle Wealth, and the Walz Family for their gracious support. Thank you to all the local businesses and individuals who generously donated items and experiences to our silent auction. Your generosity supports our work throughout the year.



Skinner Platt Citizenship Award. We are grateful for their extraordinary commitment to our community.



The evening was an important reminder of why the work of the Madison Historical Society matters. For more than a century, we have preserved its historic properties, cared for its collection of more than 10,000 artifacts, created exhibitions, educated students, and shared the stories that connect us.

The enthusiastic generosity of our community helps make that work possible—supporting such adult programs as the Frederick Lee Lectures, the History Happy Hours, and the History Book Group and youth programs that include elementary school field trips and teen collaboration on such annual events as our downtown walking tours and Lantern Tour. In addition,

the generosity and engagement of Madison's citizens help fund our ongoing efforts to preserve, care for, and share our collection.

Our work does not end with Madison 200. We are already thinking about *Madison 201 and beyond*. We hope to welcome more students, share new exhibits and programs, and create more opportunities for our community to gather, learn, and connect. Your support helps us keep the momentum going. Together, we can continue to preserve and share Madison's story for generations to come.

From before to beyond, we're grateful to be creating Madison's story with you.



MHS HISTORY BOOK GROUP

Books are often available at the Scranton Library. Call 203-245-7365 to inquire. To register, please call 203-245-4567 or e-mail office@madisonhistory.org. Walk-ins are always welcome!

Monthly meetings are led by John Yrchik (jyrchik@comcast.net) and are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 pm via Zoom and in person at the Madison Center for History and Culture on the lower level of Lee's Academy. You may enter in front (use left door) or via the ramp and door at the rear of the building.

For more information about the books, please visit the Learn menu at www.madisonhistory.org.

OCTOBER

A Perfect Frenzy: A Royal Governor, His Black Allies, and the Crisis that Spurred the American Revolution
by Andrew Lawler

NOVEMBER

The Blazing World: A New History of Revolutionary England, 1603-1689
by Jonathan Healey

DECEMBER

The Wide Wide Sea: Imperial Ambition, First Contact and the Fateful Final Voyage of Captain James Cook
by Hampton Sides

2027 book titles are in review.

Ask about our new historical fiction book group!





Madison Historical Society
Founded in 1917
P.O. Box 17
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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 10 AM to 2 PM.

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

The MHS newsletter is
published quarterly.

*When the weather outside is frightful,
our party is so delightful!*

**JOIN US AT THE
ANNUAL MEMBERS HOLIDAY PARTY**

**THE ALLIS-BUSHNELL HOUSE
DECEMBER 5 — 4 TO 7 PM**

RSVP - call 203-245-4567 or email office@madisonhistory.org



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