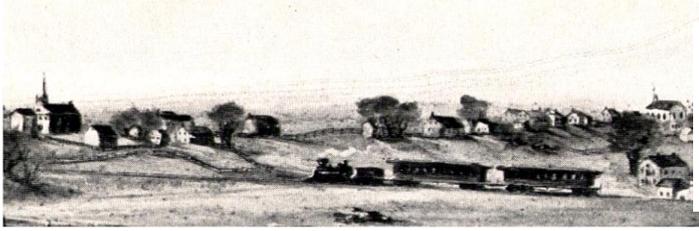


The Madison Historical Society



The April 2013

Newsletter

4th edition, 2012/2013

“Madison, Methodism, and Global Outreach”



Dr. Vivian Bull



Dr. Christopher Anderson

Vivian Bull, President of Drew University, and Christopher Anderson, Director of the Methodist Library and Coordinator of Special Collections at Drew, will present this marvelous program on Madison's long-time relationship with Methodism. Chris Anderson's presentation will be dedicated to the history of the Madison Methodist Church as well as the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, both with unique proximity to the Theological School and the Methodist Archives housed at Drew University. Vivian Bull will then carry the history of the Methodist Church into the present and future with a discussion of its remarkable global outreach.

April 16 at 7:15 PM
Chase Room, Madison Public Library
For more on our speakers, see page 3.

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Newsletter

Doug Simon

Message from the President Susan Simon

This continues to be a very exciting year for the Madison Historical Society. We recently had an overflow crowd at the Chase Room of the Madison Library to hear Mr. Jon Gertner speak about his book, *The Idea Factory: Bell Labs and the Great Age of American Innovation*. In a couple of weeks we will have another exciting event. Chris Anderson, Director of the Methodist Library at Drew University, will team up with Drew's current president, Vivian Bull, to discuss Madison's historic relationship with the Methodist Church as well as Methodism's unprecedented global outreach.

In recent weeks a number of people have shown an interest in the classic photograph, "Lady on a Bicycle", taken very early in the 20th century on Waverly Place. For this reason we have added that picture to the five historic photographs we already have available for sale at Society events. The picture has also been added to the collection in the halls of the Hartley Dodge Memorial, a project that still continues. Sixteen more pictures will be added to the collection in the next several weeks.

One of the prime objectives of the Society is obviously to preserve the history of Madison. Two projects written about in this issue of the newsletter certainly contribute to the fulfillment of this objective. First, the Society is partnering with the Madison Parks Committee in repairing the Fountain in Cole Park and second, we are leading the effort to renovate the building on the Luke Miller forge site on Ridgedale Ave.

Society Partners With Parks Committee for Fountain

Howard Cole and his wife came to Madison in 1914 and bought a large tract of land which covered all of what is Brooklake Country Club today. The property also included what is now Cole Park. Mrs. Cole was not well and upon her death and in her memory, Howard built the fountain and gave it to the town of Madison in 1917.

In 1995 the Parks Committee raised \$25,000 to repair the fountain which was in very bad condition. The work on the fountain was done by Portuguese stone mason, Jack Pontus, and the duplicate tiles were done by local artist Nancy Jefferies. The fountain was re-dedicated in July of 1996 and the program was designed to be as close to the original one with Mayor Don Capen speaking, a band played made up of Madison residents directed by High School band leader, John Bunnell and refreshments were served. The Department of Public Works helped by putting the new bowl on top. The day was very warm and the fountain had cool water spilling over the top into the base to the delight of many children. Howard Cole's grandson, Howard Cole and some of this family came for the re-dedication. Now the fountain is again in need of repair and the Madison Advisory Committee on Parks is partnering with the Historical Society to raise the needed \$9000 to complete the work.



-Cathie Coultas

More on our April 16th Speakers

Vivian Bull

Vivian Bull became Drew University's president for the interim term on July 1, 2012. Her appointment marks a return to Drew where she taught for more than 30 years as a member of the economics department and served 8 years as associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Bull also directed the university's Semester on the European Community in Brussels four times and served on a total of 21 Drew-led archaeological expeditions in the Middle East. In 1992 she left Drew for Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon to become that school's 18th president, serving in that capacity for 13 years. In addition to her duties as President of Drew, Dr. Bull is currently working with the Board of Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. She also serves on the board of directors of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Dr. Bull received her doctorate from NYU her BA from Albion College. She did graduate work at the London School of Economics on a Fulbright and has studied in Norway, Great Britain and the Netherlands. Dr. Bull resides in Madison and is married to Drew University professor of Church History, Emeritus, Robert Bull.



Christopher Anderson



Christopher Anderson is Director of the Methodist Library and Coordinator of Special Collections at Drew University. He is an adjunct instructor at Drew and serves as Librarian for the General Commission on Archives and History for the United Methodist Church. He holds a Ph.D. from Drew, an M.L.I.S. from Syracuse University, an M.Div from Asbury Theological Seminary, and a B.S. from Houghton College. He is founding editor of the *International Journal of Religion and Sport* and is book review editor for the journal *Methodist Theological Library Association* and a member of the Greater New Jersey Commission on Archives and History. Prior to coming to Drew he taught courses in history and religion at Barclay College,

Fairleigh Dickinson University, Asbury Theological Seminary, and Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He and his family reside in Madison, New Jersey.

Renovation of Luke Miller Forge

The Madison Historical Society has raised \$6000 through three Wreath Sales and House Tours to fund the renovation of the small brick building at 105 Ridgedale Ave. known as the Luke Miller Forge. The 1960s apartment interior will be removed under the supervision of Carmine Toto, local builder and historian, and in its place will be a brick floor and white board walls. This has been designed after the forge at Williamsburg, Virginia. The building itself is not a forge having no fire place, chimney or large door. However, after three archaeological studies, 1300 blacksmith-related artifacts were found and also an old foundation which is thought to be from the original forge. After renovations are complete next summer, the building will be used to house blacksmith-related exhibits and programs open to the public.



C. Wyatt Evans, Guest Speaker at Annual Dinner



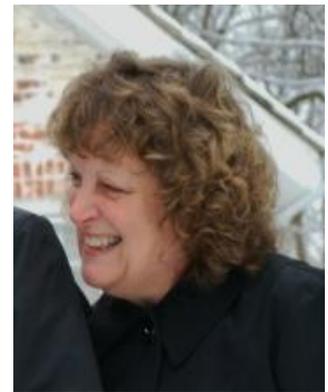
C. Wyatt Evans, Associate Professor of History at Drew University will be the guest speaker at the Madison Historical Society's annual dinner to be held on May 16th at 6:30 pm at the Madison Hotel. Dr. Evan's topic will be "Teaching History to the Digital Natives: Transforming Higher Education in the 21st Century." Wyatt Evans served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Zaire, as a Civil Affairs officer in the U.S. Army, and as a project manager for a Fortune 500 construction and engineering firm before returning to academia to pursue his doctorate. He earned his Ph.D. in Drew's Modern History & Literature program and now teaches in the successor History & Culture program, and in the undergraduate college. His courses include the Civil War, Modern American Legal History, Conspiracy Theories in American History, and American Intellectual History. His

first book, *The Legend of John Wilkes Booth* won the Organization of American Historians' Avery O. Craven Prize in 2005 and Drew's Bela Kornitzer Prize in 2007. Dr. Evans is currently working on a study of Civil War northern domestic security, but is finding his attention increasingly focused on adapting historical study and higher education generally to the challenges and opportunities of digital learning in the global era.

Every member of the Historical Society will receive an invitation to purchase tickets to the dinner.

Society Begins Oral History Project

The Madison Historical Society has initiated an oral history project under the direction of Chris Fillimon, a society trustee. The project seeks to interview life-long residents of Madison in order to collect historical information about individuals, families, important events, and everyday life. Thus far, three Madison residents have been interviewed. If you are a life-long resident of Madison and would like to consider participating in the project, please contact the office of the Madison Historical Society on either Tuesday or Thursday at 973-377-0722 ext. 8



Project Director Chris Fillimon



Spotlight on History

Madison and the Post-WW II Housing Crisis

-Doug Simon

During the Depression housing construction slowed to a crawl and came to a virtual standstill during WW II. With hundreds of thousands of veterans returning to civilian life after the war, the nation was faced with an enormous housing crisis. Nearly 3,000,000 married veterans were in need of housing facilities and most experts felt that it was impossible for the private housing industry to meet the challenge.¹ Congress was convinced that the federal government had to play a role and subsequently passed the Veterans' Emergency Housing Act in May of 1946. The act designated factories that had been used during the war for military purposes to shift to housing construction, allocated critical construction resources and provided loans through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.



Housing unit near Lucy D. Anthony School



Temporary Veterans housing near Lucy D. Anthony School

The private housing developers were not pleased and felt threatened by the government interference. But the government was undeterred and pressed forward. Getting an ambitious program underway was an enormous challenge and one of the primary tools used to solve the problem was prefabrication. The government set the goal of having a quarter of a million prefabricated houses erected in 1946 and 600,000 in 1947.²

The Borough of Madison was not immune from the crisis and had its own veterans temporary housing development. Initially thirty-nine houses were constructed in various parts of the borough in 1946 under what was known as "veterans priority."³ But because most of these homes were beyond the reach of many veterans, there was still a great need for more affordable housing.³

(Continued on next page)

Initially, the borough was to receive barracks from Camp Shanks, an Army installation in the community of Orangetown, New York.⁴ But ultimately twenty prefab homes were constructed by Northern Homes, Inc. of Cranford and located on land opposite the Lucy D. Anthony school that is bordered by East St., Howard and Myrtle Ave. Each unit cost \$5200 with the exception of refrigerators, the cost borne by the State with Madison providing the utilities. Monthly rents were between \$35 and \$45 with the borough receiving 24% of this rent. Each unit was comprised of a living room, kitchen, two bedrooms and a bath.⁵ The housing units were put on public sale in March 1955, and the property on which the units were placed became the playground for Lucy D. Anthony School.

¹ Congress, House, Committee of the Whole, *Director of Housing Stabilization*, 70th Cong. 1nd Session. Report No. 1580, '946.

² "Post-war Housing Crisis: A National Tragedy," The Lustron Home.

<http://www.lustronpreservation.org/meet-the-lustrons/lustron-history/post-war-housing-crisis>

³ Eagle, October 3, 1946.

⁴ Eagle, October 31, 1946

⁵ Eagle, January 23, 1947

An Invitation to Join

The Madison Historical Society is always seeking new members. Membership includes the Society's newsletter published four times a year, notification of and admittance to all Society programs, and an invitation to purchase tickets for the society's annual dinner. If you or any of your family or friends are not members, consider filling out and returning the membership application form (below) with the appropriate check made out to:

The Madison Historical Society
P.O. Box 148, Madison, 07940

www.madisonhistoricalsociety.com
Membership Form
Please circle membership category

CORPORATE.....\$250
BENEFACTOR.....\$100
SUSTAINING.....\$75
FAMILY\$40
INDIVIDUAL.....\$25
STUDENT (Under 21).....\$5

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

_____ I would prefer to receive the newsletter by
email.

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		\$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:

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
	(2 for	\$15.00)
Madison Historical Society Note Pad with Pen		\$ 2.50
2008, 2009, 2012 Madison Photos on Calendar		\$ 1.00
<i>Madison Historical Society DVD's</i>		\$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

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

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