

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday
October 22**
(Rain Date: October 29)
**2nd ANNUAL PUMPKIN
BLAZE & GHOST WALK**
4 pm - 7:00
Madison Town Green

Bauer Farm Festival
Saturday, October 15



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HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

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Up-Coming Events - FAMILY FUN! **2nd ANNUAL PUMPKIN BLAZE** **OCTOBER 22** (Rain Date October 29)

After only one year, the MHS's Pumpkin Blaze and Ghost walk has become one of Madison's most anticipated events. On Sat. Oct. 22 (Rain Date Oct. 29) 4pm-7:00, the Madison Town Green will once again be filled with glowing Jack-o-Lanterns, historic ghosts and fun-loving families.

The fun begins at 4:00 with the arrival of creatively carved pumpkins for the Jack-O-Lantern Contest. Categories include: Children between 5 and 10 (painted or carved); Young Adults, ages 11-18 (carved); Adults over 18 (carved) and Family or Group (carved). Old-fashioned games and crafts will occupy our younger visitors while they wait for the magical hour when the pumpkins are set ablaze. Visitors are encouraged to picnic and enjoy a lovely autumn afternoon of music and laughter.

Meanwhile, ghosts of former Madison residents will entertain groups with their stories of violence, passion, war and murder. Tickets for the tour are \$5 per person, \$3 children under 12 or \$15 per family. The last tour will begin at 5:30.

Judges will announce the winners of the Jack-O-Lantern Contest at 6:15, after which, the pumpkins and luminaries will be lighted, creating a magical Halloween spectacle.



A leaning "Tower of Jack-Oh's", a Family entry defies gravity. - Photo by Betsy Piner

- 3:30**
Tickets go on sale for Ghost Walk
- 3:30-5:30**
Pumpkin Contest entries delivered
- 4:00-6:30**
Continuous Ghost Walk Tours
- 4:00-6:00**
Old Fashioned Games and Family Crafts
- 6:15**
Contest Winners Announced
- 6:30**
Lighting of Pumpkins and Luminaries
- 7:00**
Pumpkin Pick-Up

IRENE VISITS THE MHS ANTIQUES FAIR

It was a bitter-sweet morning on Saturday, August 27th as the MHS prepared to open the Antiques Fair for the 40th year. The Society and Cord Productions had planned a spectacular show with many new vendors and informative "Booth Chats." Unfortunately, Hurricane Irene drove away about half of the antiques vendors and two-thirds of our usual crowds.

We are grateful to our

valiant sponsors, William Pitt/Sotheby's International Realty and Vision Asset Management, LLC, who waited to greet visitors as the wind grew stronger and the rain started moving in. We also thank Jack and Helen Davis, who "bought" tickets for 200 non-existent patrons by donating the price of their tickets. With the help of these generous businesses and friends, the day was not a total loss.



THE RESTORATION BEGINS

After three years of raising funds for the cause, the nearly 200-year-old Lee's Academy will finally get its much needed face-lift. The restoration project, beginning this fall, will be led by William Plunkett, LLC. In 2009, Mr. Plunkett and Bill Palka of Liberty Cedar of West Kingston, Rhode Island generously donated time, services and materials for a new roof and restoration of the Academy's cupola. In the next few months, the old lead-painted clapboards will be replaced then painted and 25

energy-efficient early 19th century reproduction windows will be installed.

The Society is grateful to Joshua D. Wiese Professional Painting for donating materials and services for the painting of the building.

The project is scheduled to be finished by next year's commemoration of the War of 1812 when Captain Frederick Lee, the driving force behind the building of Lee's Academy, will be honored by the Madison Historical Society as a hero of the War of 1812.

Bill Plunkett's team of Dino Lusa and Ken Christensen remove the rotting clapboards from Lee's Academy - Photo by Bill Johnson

RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Rourke joined the Historical Society in 1992, began working for the Society in 1995 and has been on the MHS Board since 2000. In that time she has served primarily as Assistant Curator recording the data base of the Society's collection. She also served for a number of years as Assistant Treasurer, devoting many hours to paying bills for the organization. In addition to these duties, Mary acted as a docent for the school programs, helped run Member Events and was present to assist at every event.

Mary has moved to the Chicago area to be closer to her children. Her cheerful face, positive attitude and willingness to help out whenever needed will be sadly missed by her friends at the Madison Historical Society.

Paulette C. Kaufmann joined the MHS Board in 2007. At that time, she developed our newsletter, *Historical Happenings* and took over the position of Exhibits Chairman. Her first exhibit was *A Road Runs Through It: How the Turnpike Transformed Madison* opening in June, 2008.

Two years later, in 2010, Paulette produced *Lee's Academy: Madison's First High School*. Her most recent accomplishment is the present exhibit, *Madison's Civil War Years: At Home and At Arms*.

In addition to her work on exhibits, Paulette has served the Society as Vice President and Chairman of Publications and Publicity. Although retiring from the Board, Paulette has promised to stay involved with the Society helping with historical research and the Plaque Program.

DONATIONS ARE STILL NEEDED TO HELP PRESERVE LEE'S ACADEMY

THE COAST GUARD: A MISSION IN MADISON

On Wednesday, July 6, Lee's Academy received a visit from the United States Coast Guard. Captain Stephen Pope, arrived in Madison with a museum curator, Jennifer Gaudio and photographer, Jetta Disco to prove or disprove the commonly held belief that the bell atop Lee's Academy is from a US Revenue cutter from around the period of the War of 1812. Captain Pope and First Petty Officer Disco were hoisted to the top of the cupola by crane (provided by Bill Plunkett) to inspect the bell for any tell tale markings.

Should it be from a US Revenue Cutter of that period, the bell would have been made by Paul Revere's forge which had the US contract to cast bells for the cutter service. It would also be the only surviving bell from a War of 1812, during which Frederick Lee earned his reputation as a hero of that war. With photos and measurements in hand, Curator Jennifer Gaudio is now researching the origins of the bell. We anxiously wait to hear what she discovers.



Bill Plunkett with photographer Jetta Disco and Captain Stephen Pope - Photo by Lynn Friedman



MADISON LOSES A HISTORIC TREASURE BUT GAINS HISTORIC INFORMATION

Located at 546 Summer Hill Road, The Jonathan Bishop House was reportedly built in 1730. Over the many years since the house was built, it has been known by several names, including, "The Searing Place" and more recently, "The Bauermeister House". Unfortunately,

this prized relic will no longer stand in Madison, but will be dismantled and moved to a new location in Guilford.

Known for its unusual plan, the house was first researched by the Connecticut Society of Colonial Dames of America around 1920. It was later studied by the

Federal Writers' Project WPA in a census of Old Buildings in Connecticut in the 1930's. In 1972, the house was included in an inventory of Historic American Buildings Survey.

Because there is no possible way to prevent the removal of this house from Madison,

the Madison Historical Society has developed a plan to preserve information gained from the dismantling process. Tod Bryant, architectural historian and professional photographer, has been hired to survey and document the house for a formal Historic American Buildings Survey. This information will be shared with the public via a blog created by the MHS for the purpose.

Anyone wishing to donate to the fund to study the house for the HABS study may do so by sending donations the MHS. Michael Johnson of Summer Hill Nursery has started the fund with a very generous donation, but more is needed to completely fund the project.

You can learn more about the Historic American Buildings Survey at: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/.

The Jonathan Bishop House, 2011. Photo by Tod Bryant

2011 SUMMER INTERNS



The MHS was fortunate to have two incredible college students working with us

as interns this summer. **Max Calfo** is a junior at Quinnipiac University majoring in history.

This summer Max had two assignments in PastPerfect; accessioning books donated by the estate of Frances Donnelly and a collection of photos and documents from the Wilcox family. Per Max they included "stacks of paper, primarily deeds from the Dowd & Wilcox families, from the 1780's to the 1830's. ... most interesting so far ... a land deed from 1788 reading "Colony of Connecticut" instead of "State of Connecticut" and "two newspapers documenting the McKinley assassination in 1901".

Jennifer Downes, graduated this May from Westover School in Middlebury, CT.



This fall she started her freshman year at Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasoto, Florida majoring in Graphic & Interactive Communication. During the summer of 2010 Jennifer attended Ringling as a Pre-College Perspective Summer with an emphasis on photography. This summer she spent hours photographing artifacts from our collection. These photos will be added to our object database. This work will augment an upcoming exhibit providing information about exhibited objects. Jennifer's work will continue ultimately to become a part of the MHS website for public use. Jennifer also served as a Saturday docent for our exhibit at Lee's Academy.

SPECIAL THANKS

Preservation Study:
Michael Johnson
Peter and Lynn Friedman

Antiques Fair:
Jack and Helen Davis
William Pitt/Southeby's
Vision Asset Management
Chamber of Commerce

Advertisers:
AuPair in America
Boyle Appraisal Group
Bradley & Wall
Duo Dickinson Architect
East Guilford Financial Services
Genie Maids
Gulick & Spradlin,
Renovation Contractors
Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale
Madison Service Center
Mason, DiMarco & Shaw, PC
Royal Printing Services
Wall Street Gallery
Vision Asset Management, LLC
William Pitt/Sotheby's

Collections:
Estate of Frances Donnelly

Tim Wilcox
Camille Denvir

Lee's Academy Restoration:
William Plunkett, LLC
Joshua D. Wiese;
Professional Painting
Jack and Laurie Heflin
Duo Dickinson
Mary Ann Donnelly
Beverly Montgomery
Susan Clark
John Brady & Roberta Isleib

Allis-Bushnell House:
John and Diana Herzog
Raymond G. Hanley Jr.,
Commander of Madison
VFW Post 2096,
licensed Electrician
First Congregational Church
Youth;
Meghan O'Sullivan,
Tom O'Sullivan,
Julia Keene, Bridget Bunda,
Kate Adams, Ben Pietryzk,
and Ryan Kollar.

Exhibits:
William and Paulette Kaufmann

SATURDAY OCT 22
RAIN DATE OCT 29
4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

4-5:00 Jack-O-Lantern Contest Entries
No charge / carved or children's painted pumpkin

4:00 on Ghost Walk - Passion, War and Murder
\$5 / adult
\$3 / child under 12
\$15 / family

4-6:15 Family Crafts & Old-Fashioned Games

6:30 Pumpkin Blaze

for more information go to www.madisoncthistorical.org



the second annual
PUMPKIN BLAZE
& GHOST WALK
on the green in madison

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

MHS offices are open in
the ca. 1821 Lee's Academy
at 14 Meeting House Lane
on Wednesday,
Thursday & Friday
from 9 am to 1 pm.

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

The MHS newsletter is
published quarterly in winter,
spring, summer and fall.

The Connecticut League
of History Organizations



The Madison Historical Society is a member of the Connecticut
League of History Organizations.

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HAPPENINGS
FALL 2011

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