

# HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Saturday, November 3 "FIELD TRIP"

Tour of Madison's historic David Field House pre-restoration. Includes info about the history of the house, its architecture, and the Field family. For more details see page 2.

**Refreshments Included**  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
**1-4 pm / 623 Green Hill Road**

### Fridays November 9 — June 13

**HISTORY BITES**  
Eight informal lecture and discussions over a bag lunch. For more details see page 3.

**BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH**  
**MHS will provide beverages**  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
**12-1 pm / Lee Academy on the Green**

### Sundays October — May

**LECTURES AT THE LEE**  
Explore the history of Madison and Connecticut in three Sunday afternoon lectures. For more details see page 3.  
**FREE 4 pm / Lee Academy on the Green**

**Friday, December 8**  
**MEMBERS' HOLIDAY PARTY**  
Cocktails and holiday music  
**4-7 pm / Allis-Bushnell House**

## ALLIS-BUSHNELL HOUSE ANNEX

### A COLLECTION OF TOOLS FOR DAILY WORK

The Allis-Bushnell House Annex was given a thorough reorganization and cleaning during the summer by MHS Volunteers Paul and Janice Bunnell with the assistance of Amanda Hurlburt, MHS' summer intern.

The articles in the Annex have been donated to MHS for several decades by local residents who saw the items, many from their own families, as part of Madison's history.

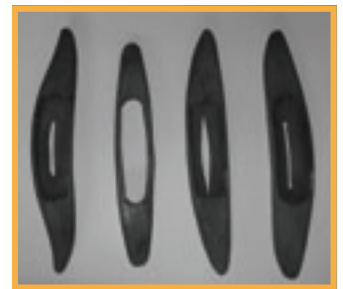
A tour of the refurbished Annex presents a concise view of the tools and devices that earlier Madison women and men used in their labors at home, in the fields, in their shops and at sea.

Taking the long view the tour begins with the ancient stone tools used by prehistoric Indians to hunt for and prepare food, and to make other tools and clothing.

The shipbuilders, shoemakers, blacksmiths, house joiners, harness makers all



Shoemaker's Bench



Weaving Shuttles

had their special tools — anvils, augurs, benches, and bellows. And of course, the schoolmaster had a special slant top desk. Children worked too, and needed a child-sized yoke for carrying buckets of water.

There are an abundant number of tools for women's work — articles for making and preparing food, making cloth and clothes, healing the sick and tending to babies.

Besides the implements needed for farming bringing food to the table also required special equipment to hunt

and fish. Even the horses and oxen had their own special shoes for working in the muddy salt marshes.

The tools that soldiers carried to war are also on view — bayonets, rifles, spurs, shot pouches, and bullet molds— during the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War and the Civil War.

A re-opening celebration is being planned for the Annex when the Allis-Bushnell House re-opens in May 2008.

## CHLOE BUSHNELL RETURNS HOME



At MHS' Annual Members' Picnic in July an unexpected guest made a brief appearance. Chloe Bushnell (1784-1873), the longest inhabitant of the Allis-Bushnell House, returned to meet those who had preserved her house and to explain how it was to live in the Allis-Bushnell house and Madison from the end of the

18th century to the middle of the 19th century.

The substance of Chloe's reminiscences and recollections will provide the basis for a Theme Tour of Chloe Bushnell's house to be offered to tour groups in 2008 when the house re-opens to visitors in June.

## FIELD TRIPS

### A BREAKBACK HOUSE?



Once listed by the CT Trust for Historic Preservation as one of Connecticut's most endangered houses, the ca. 1720 David Field house at 623 Green Hill Road in Madison has now been saved from demolition by a Madison friend of historic preservation.

MHS will conduct tours of the house twice — before

and after the renovation. The first will take place on Saturday, November 3 from 1-4 pm and the last during the summer of 2008.

The David Field House is a lean-to-house built around 1720. A descendant of the builder was Cyrus West Field who laid the Atlantic Cable.

In Connecticut central chimney houses with a two-story front and long roofline sloping down to one story in the rear were called salt-boxes, reflecting the look of the familiar container. New Englanders called the style a

“breakback” and in Massachusetts it was known as a lean-to.

Whatever its regional name, the layout was that of an enlarged four-room house plan — two rooms below and two above — and included a sizable kitchen. The design was not for a poor man but a sign of moderate prosperity.

The Field House was documented and listed on the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) after 1933 and was featured in *Where We Lived: Discovering the Places We Once Called Home* published in 2006.

#### WATCH YOUR MAIL

*For MHS' First  
Annual Appeal  
in November*

## JANE R. KUHL AWARD RECIPIENT

On July 20th Peter Gulick became the first recipient of the Annual Jane R. Kuhl Award for Historic Preservation. The award is given in the memory of Jane R. Kuhl for her commitment and contribution to historic preservation in Madison.

Throughout his career Peter Gulick, partner in Gulick

& Spradlin, has demonstrated his own commitment to preserving the architectural diversity of the Madison community through his work on the ca. 1790 Abigail Meigs house, the ca. 1733 Phineas Meigs House, the ca. 1690 Jonathan Murray House and the ca. 1914 “Red Top” House.



*Bob Green, MHS President (left), Sara Caraszi, daughter of Jane Kuhl (middle), Peter Gulick (right)*

## MHS RECEIVES CONNECTICUT HUMANITIES COUNCIL GRANT

MHS is the proud recipient of a grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council. The Council which was established as a statewide non-profit educational institution in 1974, supports the interpretive work of museums and historical societies throughout the state by providing funding.

This grant will enable the

Society to sharpen its focus on sharing its historical resources and communicating the story of Madison's history to a 21st century audience.

Sally Whipple will guide the work of the MHS Board as it develops its interpretive plan. Ms. Whipple is a history museum consultant and the Director of the Lebanon His-

torical Society. She has worked in museums and historic houses as a guide, educator, planning consultant, and director for 20 years. She is also the President of the Connecticut League of History Organizations.

## FREE PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Lee Academy on the Madison Green will once again become a learning center when MHS launches its new series of free talks and discussions beginning in Fall 2007 and extending through Spring 2008. For more information call (203)245-4567.

### LECTURES AT THE LEE

On three Sunday afternoons at 4:00 pm the history of Madison and Connecticut will be brought to life in the following talks:

**November 11:** *Capt. Frederick Lee: Mariner, War Hero, Benefactor*, Edward W. Sloan, retired professor of History, Trinity College, and Mystic Seaport Historian with Bruce Clark Adams, owner of Capt. Frederick Lee House.

**January 20:** *Small Pox Cemetery: Hidden MHS Property*, Joel Helander, Guilford Historian

**March 16:** *A Tour of Connecticut Barns*, Todd Levine, Architectural Historian

### HISTORY BITES

Take a lunch break on the second Friday of each month, bring a bagged lunch and enjoy a short presentation and group discussion.

**November 9:** *The History of Thanksgiving in East Guilford/Madison 1639-1880*, Lynn Friedman, MHS Director

**December 14:** *Deck the Halls: Antique Christmas Ornaments*, Jody Perkins, collector

**January 11:** *Don't Be Fooled! Collecting Antique*



*Jewelry*, Rose Schroeder, Paul Lirot Jewelry

**February 8:** *In the Good Old Summertime: Madison's Resort Years*, MHS Exhibit Team

**March 14:** *Good, Better, Best*, Lew Scranton of Lewis Scranton Antiques

**April 11:** *Discovering Connecticut History on the Road*, Doe Boyle, author

**May 9:** *Digging up Madison's Founders*

**June 13:** *Spring in the Herb Garden*

### Madison Historical Society

#### 2007 Board of Directors

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 Peter W. Clement  
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 Gail Tomanelli

Lynn Friedman, *Executive Director*

## 2007 ANNUAL ANTIQUES FAIR

Once again MHS' Annual Antiques Fair was a success. Over 1600 people attended the 2007 MHS Antiques Fair on the Green where they shopped for antiques displayed by 97 dealers from Connecticut, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York City, Long Island and upstate New York.

About half of the shoppers came from Madison and Guilford. Nearly 20% of the shoppers were weekend visitors from the South, Midwest, the West Coast and as far away as Hawaii.

The success of the Fair was due to the tremendous efforts of the following people: Don and Diane Allen, Gail Tomanelli, Fred Raudat, Paul

Bunnell, Seymour Page, Bob Redfern, Casey Brown, Nancy Weber, Ruth Raleigh, Bob Cairns, Fred & Pauline Murphy, Judith Wiley, Corky and Fran Corcoran, Carl Raudat, Sam Franz, Dick McKillip, Lynn Friedman as well as all the parkers and gate attendants.

### THANK YOU TO MHS' RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

**Louise Edmiston** has lived in Madison for 22 years. During that time she served on the MHS Board of Directors for 10 years. She also ran the Country Store booth at the MHS Annual Antiques Fair for many years and was head of the Allis-Bushnell House Holiday Decorating Committee.

**Bob Redfern** is retiring from the Board after 12 years as Manager of Properties. A native of Larchmont and former stockbroker with deep family roots in Madison, Bob retired here in 1990. Under his guidance the Allis-Bushnell House underwent major structural reinforcement from the basement to the attic. Bob also oversaw the conservation of the Smallpox Cemetery and the Lee Academy.

### MHS' NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

**Pam Gallagher** is the Development Director for the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. Before coming to the Trust she was Development Director at the Silvermine Guild Arts Center in New Canaan. While living in New Canaan she was an active volunteer at the New Canaan Historical Society as a docent in the education program and as a member of the board of Trustees.

## MORE MHS NEWS

### NEW PLAQUES FOR OLD HOUSES

According to the update of the Historical Resource Inventory of Madison completed in 2006, there are over 400 antique structures located in Madison. Since its revival in mid-2006 the MHS Historical Plaque program has now awarded plaques to nineteen of those homes. The newest is:

**534 Boston Post Road, Jonathan Trumbull Lee House, ca. 1828** owned by Fran Donnelly

### MOST ENDANGERED HOUSE

In 2006 the ca. 1730 Shelley House at 248 Boston Post Road was listed as one of the 10 most endangered houses in Connecticut by the CT Trust for Preservation.

The house, built by William or Shubael Shelley, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989 for the significance of its colonial architecture of the periods 1650-1699 and 1750-1799.

The Shelley house is one of the two houses that represent Madison on the National Register. It is now for sale by Gould Realty of Madison. Contact Alison Gould at 203-245-0456 for more info.

### SPECIAL THANKS

We are grateful to those who have generously supported MHS with gifts or services throughout the year:

#### To the Society

Grove Foundation

#### To the Antiques Fair

La Cuisine Market & Catering  
Dale Schweitzer, Tiger Pride

*Special thanks to all those who continue to make donations to the Madison Historical Society in the name of Jane R. Kuhl.*



*The Allis-Bushnell House ca. 1785 is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*

Open Wednesdays to Saturdays 1:00 pm. to 4:00 pm from June to August.

#### **Madison Historical Society**

Founded 1917  
853 Boston Post Road  
P.O. Box 17  
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MHS Celebrates 90 Years of Preserving Madison's History  
1917—2007

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