

## 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 awarded plaques to eighteen of those homes. The newest is:

**117 Ridgewood Avenue**  
David S. Dowd House c. 1852, owned by Sylvia Morrison

### FIELD HOUSE SAVED

The endangered ca. 1720 David Field House at 623 Green Hill Road will not be demolished, saved by a friend of historic preservation from Madison. Plans to restore the house are being drafted.

The Field house was once owned by David Dudley Field — clergyman, historian and father of David Dudley Field II, lawyer and champion of law reform who once represented the robber baron Jay Gould; Stephen Johnson, Supreme Court Justice; Cyrus Field who laid the Atlantic cable; and Henry Martyn Field.

### SPECIAL THANKS

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

To the Society  
Lisa Kronauer

Those businesses who made matching grants to members' contributions:

Arthur J. Gallagher Foundation  
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SBC

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



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

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

Madison Historical Society  
Founded 1917  
853 Boston Post Road  
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(203) 245-4567

The newsletter is published quarterly in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall.

# HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

## PORTRAITS OF A VILLAGE: EXHIBIT OPENS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, July 20  
**MHS MEMBERS' PICNIC**  
Annual picnic for members includes preview of special tour: Chloe Bushnell's House (see p. 3).  
5 pm - 7 pm /Allis-Bushnell House

Saturdays,  
June 2 - August 25  
**PORTRAITS OF A VILLAGE: 19th Century Paintings from the Madison Historical Society Collection.**  
See description on this page  
11 am - 4pm /  
Lee Academy  
**FREE ADMISSION**

Wednesdays – Saturdays,  
June 6 – August 31  
**ART OF THE HOME: Quilts and Samplers**  
Antique quilts and samplers made in and around Madison will be on display for the first time.  
1 pm – 4 pm /  
Allis-Bushnell House  
**FREE ADMISSION**

Saturday, August 25  
**MHS ANNUAL ANTIQUES FAIR**  
9 am–4 pm  
Madison Town Green  
\$5.00 Admission

*Portraits of a Village: 19th Century Paintings from the MHS Collection* is the first exhibition to be mounted at the Lee Academy after its renovation as an exhibit space. The exhibit opened on June 9 following a members' preview the evening before.

This unique departure for MHS is a spectacular presentation of the extraordinary paintings of people, buildings and landscapes from the Society's holdings. Taken together the works present a stunning portrait of Madison in the 19th and early 20th-centuries.

The paintings and drawings on exhibit were made during the time Madison was home to farmers, shipbuilders and millers who lived beside a growing number of summer residents. The subjects and creators of these works carry many names still familiar to Madison residents today – Bushnell, Scranton, Munger, Lee, and Wilcox are just a few.

Madison was also a home to artists. The exhibit celebrates them as well, the men — and women — who created these paintings and drawings.



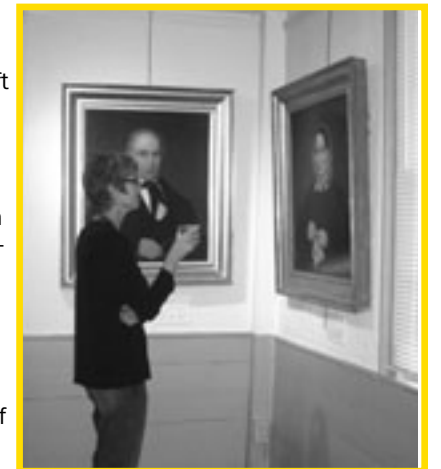
Many are by members of the Munger family. Gilbert Munger, who left Madison when he was fourteen to study engraving in Washington, eventually achieved an international reputation for his landscape paintings which brought him honors and awards from several European countries.

The exhibit also includes some works of the daughters of George Munger, who studied with their father — the album *Wildflowers of America* by Clarissa and miniatures on ivory by Caroline.

Among other women painters is Myra Dowd Monroe who studied at the Yale School of Fine Arts and who later created a portrait of Roger Sherman Munger who left Madison in the 1860's to make a fortune in Minnesota.

There is more than one story in these portraits. Cornelius Bushnell was an investor in the development of the Civil War ironclad battleship the *Monitor*; Chloe Hand Wilcox entertained the Marquis de Lafayette during his visit in 1824; and the Reverend Gardner Shepard Brown, was divorced in 1840 after a brief two-year marriage.

The exhibit's many charming drawings and paintings of houses and places from a long-gone Madison round out the exhibit and are as good as a trip back in time.



*Barbara Gulick studies portrait of Betsy Scranton while Thomas Scranton looks on.*

It is especially fitting that the c. 1821 Lee Academy houses this exhibit since its establishment by Capt. Frederick Lee as a school to prepare students for entry into Yale coincided with the flowering of the study of art in Madison.

The exhibit team worked for many months to prepare the exhibit and to convert the Lee Academy to an exhibition space. They are: Margaret Ellen Fein, ABD in Art History and formerly adjunct professor at Southern Connecticut and Central Connecticut State Universities and presently Research Assistant for the Connecticut River Museum and Lynn Friedman, MHS Executive Director along with MHS Board members Peter Clement, Beverly Montgomery, Jody Perkins, and Mary Rourke.

MHS Celebrates 90 Years of Preserving Madison's History  
1917—2007

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## NEW LOOK FOR AN OLD FAIR



MHS' 36th Annual Antiques Fair will open on August 25th with a new look. The oldest continuous running fair in Madison has added some new features and new dealers for the enticement of

the antique-hunting public.

Once again in August more than 100 dealers will offer a wide range of antiques and collectibles — from 18th and 19th century furniture to vintage clothing. Also featured will be quilts and rugs, paintings and prints, wicker, silver, estate jewelry and tools.

For the younger, budget conscious collector new dealers will be offering 1950's collectibles, toys and other items.

Lewis Scranton of Lewis Scranton Antiques in Killingworth, has been a regular supporter of the Madison Antiques Show since its beginning when it was held opposite the Allis-Bushnell House, moved to the General's Residence before

settling on the Madison Town Green. Lew returns every year with his early Americana because he believes MHS' show is the best of the antique shows that take place on the Town Green.

Also returning is a popular feature — the Performance Café by Culinary Concepts will once again be serving breakfast and lunch. A gelato stand, a new feature, will offer dessert.

The proceeds from the Fair benefit the upkeep and restoration of the Society's three properties: the Allis-Bushnell House, the Lee Academy and the Smallpox Cemetery.

### SAVE THE DATE

August 25<sup>th</sup>

Madison Historical Society's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Antiques Fair

Madison Town Green  
9am-4pm

## CURRENT EXHIBIT AT ALLIS-BUSHNELL HOUSE

### *Art of the Home: Quilts and Samplers*

Although quilts and samplers were made to serve a purpose they can also be exquisite artistic creations as revealed in MHS' summer exhibit at the Allis-Bushnell House.

"Art of the Home" begins with the work of girls as young as nine, who practiced their hand-stitching using silk and cotton thread to make cross stitches, chain stitches, and feather stitches to produce alphabet samplers, family tree samplers and darning samplers. Teaching hand stitching did not always take place at home. In Madison schools with teachers like Harriet Dowd and Roxanna Conkling were common.

The samplers on display date from as early as 1793. Most are from the MHS' collection with additional pieces on loan from Lewis Scranton Antiques and the Antique Sampler.

Among the many quilts in the exhibit there is one made from fabric snatched from a burning building in 1801, a temperance quilt made in the late 1800's, and a crib quilt backed with cloth featuring world flags (probably from WW I. The earliest quilt, a Calamanco quilt, was made in 1790. Dyed a rich dark blue the whole cloth quilt is stitched with a feather and floral design.

Piecework quilts made from thrifty recycling of clothing grew into an art form where patterns named Drunkard's Path and Shoo Fly were created, copied and stitched into bed and baby quilts.

The quilt with the most interesting history is the West Indian Calico Quilt made in 1862 by Elizabeth Northrup Prudden after she was ninety years old. The calico had been purchased in the West Indies at \$1.00 a yard from the pro-

ceeds of the sale of a coop of chickens. First dresses were made from the calico and when they wore out the fabric was turned into the patchwork quilt on display today.



Detail from pieced coverlet, c. 1854, Essex, CT (MHS)

*Art of the Home: Quilts and Samplers* is open 1 pm—4 pm, Wednesdays through Saturdays until August 31 at the Allis-Bushnell House. Admission is free.

## HISTORICAL MOMENTS

### MHS 2007 THEME TOUR: CHLOE BUSHNELL'S HOUSE

In 1785 when Chloe Scranton was about a year old a new house was built opposite her family's house on Boston Street. Nearly thirty years later and already a widow for eighteen years, Chloe moved there as the bride of Nathan Bushnell in 1824.

By the time that Chloe died in 1873, she had lived in the house, now known as the Allis-Bushnell House, about 50 years, making her its longest inhabitant. During that time she was mother and stepmother to nine children.

Visitors to the Allis-Bushnell House this summer will hear Chloe's story as an example of how women's

lives changed in the nineteenth century. Nearly ninety years old when she died, Chloe's life had spanned the emergence of the United States of America, its possible dissolution in the Civil War and the passage of an act to give the vote to Black Americans. Her family had taken up the abolitionists' cause when they joined the anti-slavery movement early on.

Chloe also saw the rise of the women's suffrage movement which she had supported along with causes which raised money for the poor in other countries.

Assisting in the planning and research for the 2007 Theme Tour has been

Amanda Hurlburt, MHS' summer intern. Amanda has been studying English and writing at Marist College where she is a senior. She has contributed to an article about a Robert Fulton exhibit at the Albany Institute of History and Art which will be published in the *Hudson River Valley Review*

The 2007 Theme Tour is available to groups and to individuals by appointment. Call (203) 245-4567 to arrange a tour from Wednesdays to Saturdays, 1-4 pm until the end of August.



The Jane R. Kuhl Award for Historic Preservation is intended to recognize those individuals, corporations, or organizations who, by deed or example, exemplify Jane's leadership, vision, and dedication in preserving Madi-

## JANE R. KUHL AWARD

son's heritage. This award is given in memory of Jane R. Kuhl in recognition of her outstanding commitment and contribution to historic preservation in Madison, CT.

Jane was a past President of the MHS and a member of the Local Madison Historic District Study Committee. Through Jane's initiative the MHS received a grant from the CT Trust for Historic Preservation to update the Madison Historic Resource Inventory.

Her Interest in preserva-

tion began at home. She restored the 18th century Alpha Dowd house on Race Hill Road in which she had once lived with her parents and to which she later returned to live until her death. Jane's decision to renovate rather than to tear down the house became the subject of a documentary which appeared on the House and Garden channel.

The presentation of first Jane R. Kuhl Award will be made at the Members' Picnic on July 20.

## MEET MHS' NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**The following two Madison Historical Society members have recently been elected to the Board of Directors:**

**Sue Frankenbach** has been involved in museum collections management for over twenty years. She began her career at the Boston Museum

of Fine Arts, served as the museum registrar at the Yale University Art Gallery for fifteen years and then at the Slater Memorial Museum in Norwich for six years. Sue recently returned to Yale University to join the Office of Development as a special events planner.

**Gail Tomanelli**, an independent contractor working for foreign exchange companies, is working on MHS' Antiques Fair committee.

## DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR 2007 MEMBERSHIP

Madison Historical Society

2007 Board of Directors

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Peter Clement  
Louise Edmiston  
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