



The Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives, Inc.

Honoring our Military Heroes, Past and Present

Following the Madison Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11, 2016, CLEMA invited the Veterans and others in attendance to be the first to view the latest addition to the joint venture exhibit, *Over Here, Over There; Madison in WWI*, between CLEMA and the Madison Historical Society.

The original WWI Service Flag was first displayed December 2, 1917 and was hand made with 71 blue stars, each representing a service member in the conflict. Seven residents perished while in the Armed Forces and their stars were then covered by gold felt.



This display replicates the way the flag was presented, hanging between the pillars of the First Congregational Church of Madison. This original flag is part of CLEMA's collection and has not been viewed since the 1940's. Our Archivist Nancy Bastian penned the detailed written history of the flag which is framed on the wall beside the display.



The 12-foot-tall display case was skillfully constructed by volunteers from two local businesses, Gulick & Company, LLC and Landon Lumber Company, who donated their expertise, time and materials to make this display possible. The generous help of Peter Gulick, Harvey Treat, Travis Gulick, Drew Landon and Pam Landon is what Madison is all about.

A special thank you also to the Town of Madison for their continued support by providing a place on the third floor of Memorial Hall for this exhibit. We are proud to honor our Veteran's with this 100th year remembrance of those who served during the First World War.

*This part of the exhibit is open for viewing during Memorial Town Hall open hours.

Befitting a Princess

A granite grave marker in memory of Princess Maria Elena Pignatelli (1928-2015) will soon be installed at West Cemetery. This CLEMA project was made possible by the generosity of friends in the community.

Located against the backdrop of an almost century old colonnade, the marker has an inscription, which pays homage to the Princess's Wilcox lineage. These civic-minded individuals were responsible for numerous good works. Among them were establishing the Garden Club of Madison as well as the national renown theatrical company known as the Jitney Players. Wilcox family members were also instrumental in preserving Lee's Academy and the First Congregational Church of Madison's steeple.

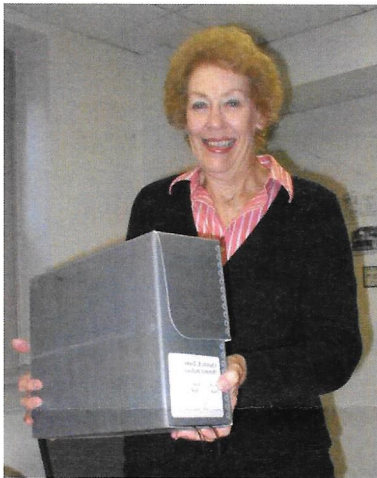
Established in 1995, the Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and making available for public use archival materials related to Madison, CT. Visit us at 8 Meetinghouse Lane, Madison, CT 06443 or on the internet at www.evartsarchives.org. CLEMA's hours are: Tuesdays 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Fridays 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. or by appointment by calling CLEMA at (203) 245-5667.

Getting by with a little help from our friends!

Walk into the Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives during open hours and you might encounter people working on a wide range of projects. In recent years, CLEMA has assisted:

- A couple working on a comprehensive history of Hammonasset Beach State Park. The first volume of their work, covering the period from the park's founding through World War II, was published in April by Arcadia Press.
- A high school student researching the role of women in politics.
- Many owners of old houses looking for background on their homes and neighborhoods.
- Two interns – a Daniel Hand student and a recent college graduate who helped launch an on-line walking tour of the Madison Green National Historic District that the Madison Historical Society presented as a gift to the Town.
- Developers and realtors who are researching investment opportunities or trying to provide historic context for ongoing projects.
- People looking to locate the graves of ancestors and genealogy researchers.
- Organizers of school reunions who use CLEMA's collections of school yearbooks and other materials to build contact lists.

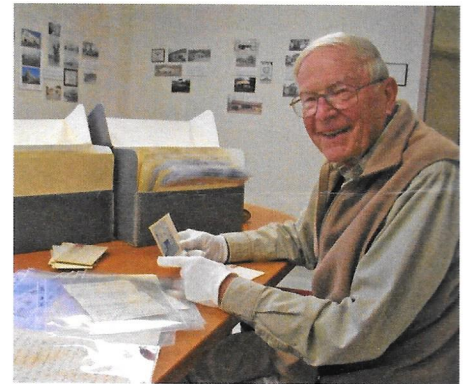
While many of these scholars and researchers sit clustered at the center worktables, around the corner you are likely to find several of CLEMA's most stalwart and industrious regular volunteers quietly performing the hard work that makes the researchers' tasks achievable. These are the people who take on the challenge of transcribing letters, performing inventories and other duties that are of general benefit to the Archives and its patrons.



Loma Corcoran

Loma Corcoran, has been transcribing letters to and from the Wilcox family during the Civil War period. Loma finds it fascinating that the letter writers knew that their mail might be searched by wartime censors, so they left the envelopes unsealed. The tension in the air during this difficult period of the nation's history comes across in their correspondence. Loma commented that she knows "more about the Wilcox family than my own."

Bill Morrissey has also had extensive experience with the Wilcox collection. He remembers coming across one letter that mentions an obscure politician who, the writer said, would only amount to small potatoes. That politician was Abraham Lincoln! Bill has recently turned his attention to organizing four boxes of materials donated to CLEMA



Bill Morrissey

by the Women's Club of Madison, a chore that will pay dividends down the road as interest in the role of women in society continues to grow.



Nancy Farnan

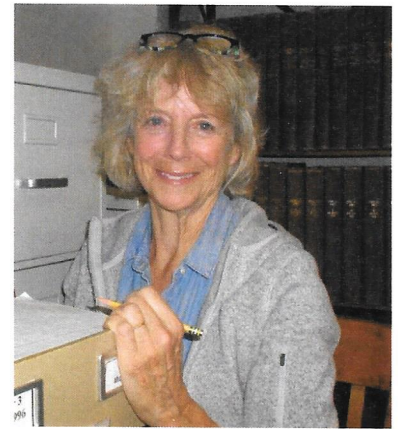
Nancy Farnan is CLEMA's longest tenured volunteer. Putting her expert research and interviewing skills to work, she has compiled numerous histories. Among them are a biography of "The Bunch," a history of Saint Andrews Episcopal Church and a write up on the development of downtown Madison. Nancy has devoted countless hours gathering and inventorying materials for the collection as well as assisting visitors.



Charlotte Neely assist in the vault.

Charlotte Neely is another longtime volunteer who has devoted years indexing newspapers and has become an expert in transcribing correspondence and legal documents such as deeds. Of special note: She transcribed the Charlotte and Wilbur Dowd letters that were the basis of recordings by high school volunteers that were a popular feature of the WWI exhibit.

A recent addition to the Friday morning team is Wendy Brockman. She focuses on indexing CLEMA's collection of 19th and 20th century newspapers on microfilm, a recent major addition to the collection.



Wendy Brockman works on cataloging.

Terry Duffy has focused her attention on compiling historical records concerning the local scout troops. As part of the *Over Here, Over There* exhibit, she outfitted a display case in Memorial Hall highlighting Troop 1's instrumental role in the WWI Home Front effort.

Let's Talk about it . . .

As part of the ongoing World War One Exhibit *Over Here, Over There* in conjunction with the Madison Historical Society, CLEMA presented two unique speakers over the last year.

On Thursday, October 27, 2016 at the Scranton Memorial Library, Robert C. Gerard, President of the Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives presented images and discussed in detail the very interesting life of Madison resident, adventurer, and Lafayette Escadrille Pilot Paul Pavelka.

The detailed story outlined Pavelka leaving small town Madison in 1907 and traveling the world working on farms, merchant ships, and logging camps. Pavelka joined the Navy, then the French Foreign Legion, fighting in many deadly ground battles. Ultimately Pavelka ended up as a pilot in the Lafayette Escadrille where he became famous due to his skill and tenacity. The story ends tragically as he was killed in 1917. His exploits can be found in numerous publications about the Escadrille.

On April 27, 2017 at Memorial Hall, Mr. Charles Fischer presented *Stalemate in the Trenches*, an in-depth view of the long-term effects of the Socio/Economic factors of WWI that ultimately led up to WWII. Mr. Fischer provided a lively discussion and excellent commentary on the subject, keeping the audience engaged throughout the lecture.

Fischer is a Madison resident is a Navy Veteran and a popular guest lecturer on a variety of subjects. He retired from the Madison School System where he had taught English, Social Studies and History for 36 years. Some of his other credentials are: Navy Veteran, AB; Bates College, M.A; University of Connecticut, 6th year, Wesleyan University with Honors; Coe Fellowship, Yale.

Both events were well attended. Thank you to all of our friends who were able to join us!



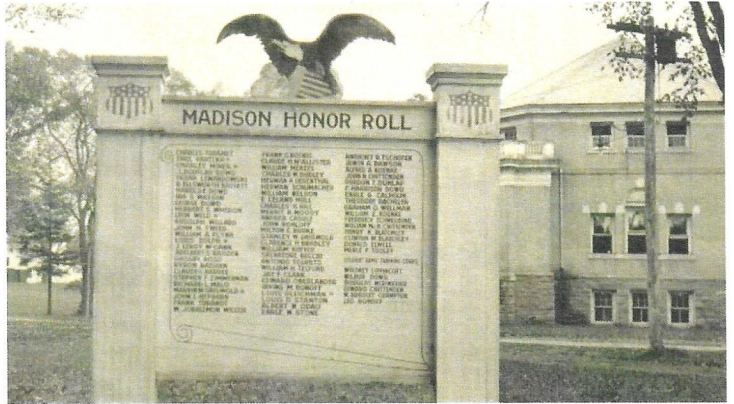
Charles Fischer presenting to the audience

WWI Veterans Tributes in Madison

Honor Roll & Marble Plaques

Beginning in July 1918, the names of residents in the military were publicly displayed on a large wooden sign situated on the eastern side of the Green. Commissioned by the town and built by the George C. Field Company for \$86.14, the Madison Honor Roll was estimated to stand more than eight feet tall. It contained a list of 74 names hand painted by H. R. Gladwin, who was paid \$65.21 for his artistry.

The Honor Roll remained on the Green until at least October, 1921. To make the temporary tribute a permanent one, the town voted to carve the names onto stone tablets, which were placed on either side of the entry doors of Memorial Hall. This was a fitting place as the building had been constructed as the town's Civil War Memorial.



Madison's WWI Honor Roll as it appeared on the eastern side of the Green in 1921.

Commemorative Boulder & Veterans Memorial Garden

After the Honor Roll was dismantled, residents yearned for a tribute that would mark the solemn site. In response, in January 1924 a commemorative boulder was placed there. A bronze plaque affixed to the southern face of the 5'6"-tall stone salutes locals, "who answered their country's call and gave their services for the great cause of liberty."



The Fortnightly Club

The Fortnightly Club, established under founder Mrs. Frank C. Dowd in 1900, with a focus on bettering the community, was largely responsible for the establishment of the WWI Commemorative Boulder and raised funds for the plaque. The town crew provided the necessary logistics to transport the rock from Academy Field to the Green. The Club landscaped the site, establishing a Veterans Memorial Garden. In 1960, the Club was renamed the Women's Club of Madison, a civic organization that exists today. The Garden Club of Madison began maintaining the Memorial Garden in 1928 and along with the Town, they continue to do so today.

Taking it to the Street

This year marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Madison Historical Society, and CLEMA assisted MHS staff and volunteers in making Main Street a venue to impart history in a way that appeals to modern eyes. Along with Archivist Nancy Bastian, longtime volunteer Nancy Farnan was instrumental in helping MHS prepare enlargements of historic storefronts along Main Street. The photos were prominently on display in nearly a dozen locations this summer. The costs of preparing the enlargements were graciously covered by Sandra and Kenneth Evarts, only the latest example of the generosity and public spirit of the Evarts family in keeping history alive in our town.



CLEMA also constructed a float for Madison's Fourth of July Parade in honor of the century of service by the Madison Historical Society. Many hands pitched in on the design and construction of the float, including CLEMA President Bob Gerard, Nancy Bastian, Nancy Farnan, and George Noewatne. The banner was printed with the assistance of Madison Resident Dan Litwin of Young's Printing / FASTSIGNS in Middletown. The cost of the banner was donated by CLEMA Board Members Bob Gerard, Pamela Evarts Landon & Carol Blackwood.