

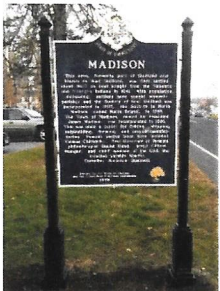
# *The Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives, Inc.*

## *25 Years Young!*

The year 2020 will mark the 25th anniversary of the Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives. We certainly have come a long way since our inception in 1995!

Our collection has grown to include tens of thousands of Madison related documents, postcards, photographs, letters, diaries, and three vintage newspapers on microfilm covering the eras from the 1860s through the mid-1990s. We have extensive genealogical references, as well as books, many written by Madison residents.

CLEMA has participated in publishing two books: *Madison in the 20th Century* and *Postcards of Yesteryear*. Information, photographs and research help was provided for several authors producing the following books: *The Green People* by Warner Lord, *A Century of Volunteers the history of Madison Hose Co.* by Fire Chief Robert C. Gerard, *The History of North Madison* by Merritt Cleaver and the Acadia book *Hammonasset Beach State Park* by Brian Noe and Shelby Docker, and many small contributions to other books.



Giving back to our community is also part of what we do. Helping to connect our friends with skilled hands to reconstruct the damaged Bicentennial plaque along Boston Post Road; building a permanent display case for the World War One Service Flag; restoring the watering house at West Cemetery are just a few examples. For several years now we have been hosting coffee and refreshments for the participants of the Veterans Day ceremonies on November 11th.



We are eternally grateful to our volunteers who have made this organization flourish, not to mention the support of the residents of the Town of Madison and beyond who have donated items and contributed funds. We have been fortunate to be the recipients of several grants from the Madison Foundation and the Irwin C. Bauer Fund to supplement large capital projects and keep us up to date with technology.

What is truly amazing is that just when we think we have every piece of Madison history, something new is donated by a family. A collection of diaries, a postcard, slide, photo or playbill is brought to us or found at an antique shop or on eBay. In all reality, you never know what Madison history will be discovered from week to week.

*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, on the internet at [www.evartsarchives.org](http://www.evartsarchives.org), or on Facebook. 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*

## The Past, Present and Future of Farming in Madison

CLEMA Board President Robert Gerard was invited to be one of the presenters of a discussion of agricultural history and practices in Madison. The free program was part of the “Protect and Preserve” series sponsored by the Scranton Memorial Library and the Madison Historical Society. The lecture took place Sunday, September 15 at the First Congregational Church’s Hubley Hall with refreshments provided by Scranton Library Friends.

Gerard’s power point portion of the presentation “A Brief History of Farming in Madison” highlighted early farming practices, illustrated with maps and photography including aerial views of long-gone farms. While agriculture has waned dramatically in Madison, several legacy farm families still continue with corn, vegetable and flower sales as well as harvesting hay for feed and mulch.

One of the current family-run farms detailed is a historical landmark located on the grounds of the c. 1720 David Field House Co-presenter Stephanie Lesnik, the owner/operator of Madison’s “*Field House Farm*” organizes a range of educational programs and events. The farm includes a large produce garden, chickens, heritage turkeys, Shetland and Hampshire sheep, Alpine goats, pigs, a llama, and a donkey.



An extensive collection of photos, farm ledgers, news articles and auction sales books from Run Acres Farms was used in preparing this presentation. The farm was a modern facility built in 1948 located at the intersection of Horse Pond Road and what is now Yankee Peddler Path, it was operated by Frank W. Cooper and managed by James Ironsides. Run Acres raised, bought and sold pure bred Aberdeen-Angus Cattle with values ranging from \$5,000 to \$16,000 – in the 1950s! Auctions held at the Horse Pond Road site hosted breeders and farmers from across the country who stayed at the Hotel Taft in New haven and were provided transportation to Madison on Auction Day. One of the more famous cattle buyers was Bing Crosby’s Brother Everett Crosby. The Run Acres sales barn could hold 400-500 people and at the height of operation boasted 225 head of cattle and 350 acres of land. When Interstate 95 was built it bisected the land mostly in half and in 1955 the farm and animals were sold off. The original office is now a private home and one of the barns was converted into Condominiums on Yankee Peddler Path.

## Island Avenue School Closed as a Public School

The volunteers of our organization assisted in providing vintage news articles, photos and information about Island Avenue School. Some of the items included photographs taken by Charlotte Evarts herself of the school under construction. The information and photos paint a portrait of the decades of students and teachers of Island Avenue School. The initial request for this information was from the PTO Yearbook committee as a final tribute to the school. Several Photos were also provided to the Shore Line Times and presented in a news article by reporter Ellen Creane published in the May 28, 2019 edition of that newspaper. We were happy to be of assistance in providing remembrances of the school from our collection.

PROGRAM		BOARD OF EDUCATION	
<p>NATIONAL ANTHEM . . . . . The Audience</p> <p>PRAYERS . . . . . The Audience</p> <p>INVOCATION . . . . . Reverend Thomas Hayes</p> <p>MASTER OF CEREMONIES . . . . . Robert H. Brown, Jr.</p> <p>LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE . . . . . Robert T. Cairns, Chairman <i>Master of the Ceremony</i></p> <p>MUSIC . . . . . Hand High School Band <i>Kim-Robb T. [unclear]</i></p> <p>SPEAKER . . . . . Dr. Fins E. Engleman <i>Commissioner of Education</i></p>	<p>Robert G. Meyer, Chairman</p> <p>Charlotte L. Tverts, Secretary</p> <p>Mrs. Trayer Jacacci</p> <p>Miss Francisco Cairns</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S. Aubrey McGinn</p> <p>Robert H. Brown, Jr., Superintendent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MADISON SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE</p> <p>Robert T. Cairns, Chairman</p> <p>George O. Gelinas, Secretary</p> <p>Roman G. Meyer</p> <p style="text-align: right;">J. Ansel Brooks</p>		
<p>TRANSFER OF BUILDING KEYS</p> <p>Henry Smith, Smith Construction Company</p> <p>Robert T. Cairns, Chairman Madison School Building Committee</p> <p>Howard F. Kelley, First Selectman, Madison</p> <p>Roman G. Meyer, Chairman Madison Board of Education</p>	<p>BOARD OF SELECTMEN</p> <p>Howard F. Kelley, First Selectman</p> <p>Joseph Schmidt</p> <p>Charles C. Blatchley</p>		
<p>MUSIC . . . . . Hand High School Band</p> <p>BENEDICTION . . . . . Rev. Franklin Borer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Inspection of the Building</p>	<p><i>Architects</i></p> <p>Westcott and Moses, New Haven, Connecticut</p> <p>Herbert P. White, Project Manager</p> <p>P. Arden Hill — Field Engineer</p> <p><i>Builder</i></p> <p>Smith Construction Company, Derby, Connecticut</p>		