



The Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives, Inc.

A Quarter of a Century – Wow!

We would like everyone to know that since our offices reside in town-owned Memorial Hall we are closed to the public, but our staff remains able to provide research requests and accept donations with special handling. Please feel free to contact us via email at evartsarchives@aol.com or by phone at 203-245-5667. We hope to be open to the public again sometime in 2021. This being our 25th year we had planned some anniversary events that obviously had to be postponed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Hopefully the next year will be a better world!

Making it Count: Madison & Women's Suffrage

On the centennial year of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives looks back at Madison's involvement in the Women's Suffrage Movement.



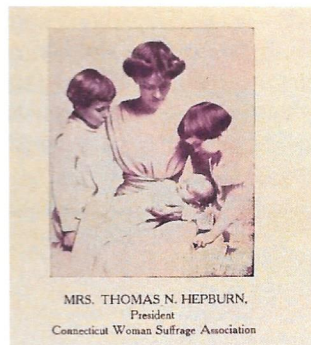
Female Lobbyists in Washington

The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is significant because it guarantees women the foundation of democracy – suffrage, or voting rights. Madison was not at the forefront of gaining women the ballot and had no presence on the national level. Yet, like other small communities throughout the country, its role ... generating enthusiasm and support for suffrage on the local and state level ... did count.

The Women's Suffrage Movement in America emerged at a time when societal norms dictated "a woman's place was in the home" and a married female had virtually no rights. After the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention recognized the need to enfranchise women to counter inequities, suffrage organizations were established to work for change. The Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association (CWSA) became the primary organization at the state level. Over several decades, CWSA leader Isabella Hooker secured for Connecticut women: wage and property rights, equal control of their children, and the right to elect and be elected to school boards. Yet, victory - full enfranchisement – seemed elusive.



*Liebig Co. Ad, Frank Leslie's
Illustrated Newspaper March 9,
1889 CLEMA Collection*

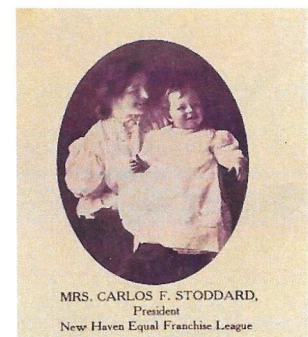


SUFFRAGE
OPEN AIR MEETINGS
Will Be Held In The Following Towns
Saturday, Sept. 19, '14
A. P. N.

SPEAKERS

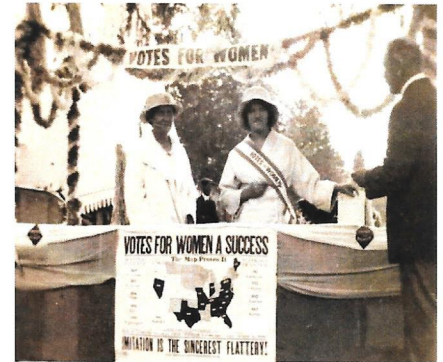
CLINTON	Rev. O. J. Range
	Miss Irene Dunn, Miss Emily Plerson
MADISON	Rev. Thos. H. Vincent
	Miss Katherine Mullen, Mrs. E. D. Parker
GUILFORD	Mrs. Geo. H. Day
	Mrs. Edw. Whitney, Mrs. Tancan B. Bennett
STONY CREEK	Miss Vera Bush,
	Mrs. Edward Parvitz
BRANFORD	Rev. C. K. Woodson
	Mrs. Helen F. Stoddard, Mrs. Thos. H. Hepburn

Special Suffrage Supplement New Haven Register



When Hartford's Mrs. Katharine "Kit" Hepburn was elected president of the CWSA in 1910, she revitalized the cause, introducing: open air meetings, car tours, and Connecticut's inaugural statewide suffrage parade. These new strategies worked. The number of CWSA affiliated chapters increased from 6 to 70 between the years 1910 to 1915. One of these new chapters was located in Madison. Formed in 1911 by Mary Wilcox, the Madison Equal Franchise League (MEFL) held monthly meetings that featured suffrage speakers, including summer resident Sandol Stoddard. Stoddard's eloquent appeals were heard statewide and at CT's General Assembly.

Not every Madison resident supported women's suffrage. In November 1913, Georgia "Georgie" Scranton established the Madison Anti-Suffrage League. In March 1914, the town's Fortnightly Club, forerunner of the Women's Club of Madison, brought the rival sides of suffrage together as cast members for a play in Memorial Hall entitled "*The Suffrage Convention*."



May 2, 1914 was Women's Independence Day. To celebrate, the CWSA organized its first statewide suffrage parade – a procession in Hartford. An estimated 1,000 marchers participated, including those with connections to Madison. While league presidents marched with their banners, garnering the spotlight was Ethel Murray, who led the parade on horseback dressed as Joan of Arc. Murray's father was the "Father of Modern Camping" William "Adirondack" H. H. Murray of the Nortontown District of Guilford and Madison.



Enamel suffrage pins owned by Mary Wilcox, CLEMA Collection

World War I paused suffrage efforts locally as MEFL members immersed themselves in the Red Cross and other home front work. Their patriotic efforts and that of other females across the country helped gain support for the cause. When President Wilson began backing the suffrage movement, Madison residents knew... Victory was in sight.

"... a government loses its full power and wisdom when it fails to make use of the feminine half of its people." Mary Wilcox, 9/19/1914 "Suffrage Day," *New Haven Evening Register*



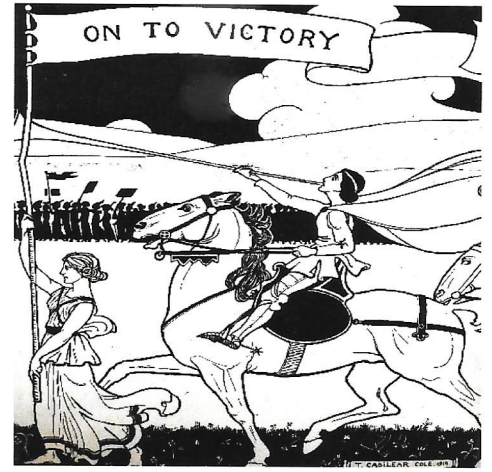
A Driving Force

The Suffrage Movement harnessed the new car technology to conduct public outreach and attract publicity. Early on, women who could manage a crank start found that driving brought freedom. Madison's Emma Redfield delivered milk – some 18,000 quarts in 1903 – from a horse-drawn wagon to help her family's Copse Road dairy survive – but changed her mode of transportation to a Ford. Emma proudly stated in her memoir that she was, "the first female in Madison to own and drive a motorcar. And if they looked twice at me driving a milk wagon, now they just plain stared!"

After the US Congress approved, and 36 states ratified the 19th Amendment, “Votes for Women” became reality in August 1920. On September 14, 1920, Connecticut added its name to the roll.

Women in Madison cast their first ballot for municipal officials on October 4, 1920. The polling site was Memorial Hall. Wooden ballot boxes were used. On November 2, 1920, Madison women voted for US President for the first time. Warren G. Harding won.

Madison writer Nina Putnam chronicled her first time voting in her book *“Laughing Through”*... *“My baby and I were now living in the Madison house (30 Meetinghouse Lane).... My legal residence was still in New York at that time, and early in the morning I left the Madison house, all dressed to kill. I had taken care to look as businesslike and competent as possible, because I wanted to make the right sort of impression on the occasion of my first appearance at the polls.”*



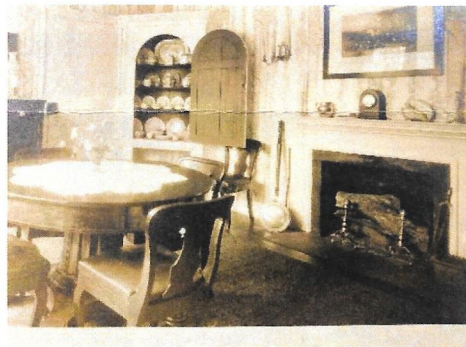
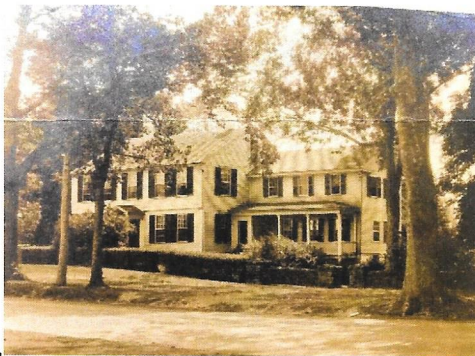
“On to Victory” by T. Casilear Cole 1914, *Woman’s Journal & Suffrage News* May 2, 1914 CLEMA Collection

Cyrus Evarts marked the occasion in his diary, succinctly yet, powerfully: *“Tuesday November 2, 1920. National and State Election. Mary and I both voted.”* Mary was not alone in casting her ballot that day in Madison. Of the 521 ballots cast, 187 were by women. In Connecticut, of the approximate 365,000 who voted 150,000 were women.

By keeping the suffrage issue ever-present in people’s minds and tirelessly trying to sway public opinion, the work of suffrage leagues across the nation like Madison’s did make a difference. Their work did count.

Remembering the General’s Residence

The home at 908 Boston Post Road known as the “General’s Residence” so named after its famous inhabitant Brigadier General William Harts of the first World War. A wedding dress shop also utilized the name and it has been known as that among the townspeople since. Built in 1805 the very storied but dilapidated home was reduced to splinters and dust on August 25, 2020 to make way for development. We have chosen to remember this structure through photos from our collection showing its former glory instead of the demolition.



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, 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

Training in Madison

Madison has been bisected by the railroad since 1852. Many types of trains have run on the line since being constructed by the New Haven & New London Railroad, which was the predecessor of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad. Amtrak has been operating the line since the early 1970s.

A lot has changed in transportation since steam engines ruled the rails. Amtrak currently operates the Northeast Regional and Acela service between Washington, DC, New York, and Boston. The area of rail line in Madison, known as the Northeast Corridor, added overhead catenary lines between 1996 and the year 2000, since then electric locomotives have been in use. Diesel engines are operated by the CT DOT Shore Line East commuter line and the Providence and Worcester night time freight service.

The “Acela” high speed train set has operated through Madison since the year 2000 and are now due for replacement. The latest innovation is the “Acela Avelia Liberty”. Built by Alstom, 28 train sets will replace the existing 20 outdated Acelas. The new trains are 695’ long having 11 car units with 386 seats (25% more than existing Acelas) and are expected to be in service in 2021. These two images contrast the romantic steam era and the latest technology. Another reminder that what’s new today will be history tomorrow!



In the vintage postcard image, we see a Baldwin 4-6-2 Steam Locomotive passing eastbound over the Hammonasset River bridge circa 1908-1910. on August 28th 2020 CLEMA Board President photographed The Avelia Liberty test run passing eastbound along Railroad Avenue.



A Little Something from some of our Board Members

From Carol Blackwood

Madison has been my home town almost my entire life. As a child I spent summers here on Neck Road, beginning in 1936, from May until it got so cold we couldn't stand it in our unheated house and went to Hamden. Many years later I married and convinced my husband we needed to live in Madison permanently, so we bought a house in 1960 and I'm still here, having raised my family in this town.

Around 1998 I saw an ad looking for volunteers to help out at the newly formed Archives. I had known Charlotte Evarts from Church and had seen many of her presentations and knew all about her collection of historical documents so I was very interested. I started working at the archives inputting the Shoreline times data into the computer. Warner Lord gave me a key so I could go in when no one else was there and work on the computer. I did that for a couple of years until I had to have some surgery. I was recuperating at the Madison House when Warner called me at the rehab center and asked me to be on the CLEMA Board. I was delighted to accept. I have been on the Board ever since then and loving every minute of it.

Submitted by David Longobucco

In late 1959, I came to the shoreline to take advantage of a promotion with an international manufacturer of cosmetic products located in Clinton. We purchased a lot and had a home built for us. It was to be our home for the next 60 years, and more. Madison was a quaint New England town of 4,200 residents then. The town had much undeveloped land, and some of the best beaches along the shoreline. The opening of I-95 in 1958 made the town more accessible, and Madison grew rapidly. We are happy to still be enjoying all that Madison has to offer.

In 2001 Marcia Stone asked if I would be interested in a seat on the CLEMA board of directors. With my background as a historian, I agreed to be considered, and was voted in at the next annual meeting. CLEMA's operations expanded gradually under outstanding leadership, and is an asset to the community. I have chaired the By Laws committee and served on the Investment committee, both roles I have enjoyed. CLEMA has ambitious plans for the future, so we can all look forward for more good things to come from them.

And a Little More . . .

Over 10 years ago I joined the Charlotte Evarts Memorial Archives (CLEMA) Board of Directors. It is a privilege to be involved with these dedicated folks. My grandparents immigrated to Madison in 1914. In 1929, the start of the depression years, my grandfather opened a little upholstery shop downtown next to the Evarts Electrical store. Some of my remembrances include meeting Mr. Darling, the railroad station master, and watching a bag of mail being dropped off from the train. During the 1950's there were only two little league teams, Pirates and Giants. The competition was fierce. It seemed that big hurricanes came every year. During the mid-fifties they came back to back, Hurricane Carol and Hurricane Edna only two weeks apart in 1954. Years ago, my son and I gathered artifacts from the old ship yard at East Wharf. We identified, mounted and donated the items to CLEMA. Several years ago, I served on a committee to publish a book. Since I never worked on a book publication and being recently retired, I took the opportunity to work with several board members under the able leadership of Bob Gerard. The research and interview process was exciting and Postcards of Yesteryear was published in 2012. It is interesting to work on a project that helps document and preserve pieces of Madison history for future generations. Currently, I'm researching the Air Observers in Madison during WWII and have interviewed residents who were "spotters" during that period. – Ray Hencir

Living in the community, Madison's stories become part of you. The special people and landmarks give the town its unforgettable character. My family has always been passionate about history and shared their enthusiasm. They inspire me as did Charlotte Evarts and so many others whom I have been lucky enough to meet! Each one, in their own way, has brought life to what could have been just dusty pages of the past. Since joining CLEMA as a Board member and then as an archivist, I have had the honor of sharing and preserving Madison's remarkable stories. – Nancy Bastian

Henry Griggs writes:

From childhood until the age of 16, I was one of the dreaded Summer People, each year spending the entire, glorious, tranquil season at my great-grandmother's cottage. We moved to Madison year-round in 1970, when I was entering 11 grade, and I graduated from Daniel Hand in 1972. It was during those years that I started to appreciate the rich variety of Madison's heritage. Many of my friends and classmates lived in homes built in the 1800's, with a few from the 1700's.

Since 2015, it has been my honor and pleasure to serve as Madison's Municipal Historian. Previous town historians like Warner Lord and Fran Donnelly bequeathed the town with wonderful written histories and with the establishment of the Archives.

It seems a year doesn't go by without another historic structure coming down in the name of progress. If the public were properly educated about the stories behind these structures, and the resources available to preserve them, we could likely keep far more of the fabric of our built environment. As town historian, my hope is to continue to document our history and preserve what we can.

To paraphrase an environmentalist I once knew, preservationists may be hard to live with, but we make good ancestors.

From Robert Gerard:

My first experience at the Archives was in 2007 while researching materials for the Madison Hose Co. History book. I met with Warner Lord who shared interesting photos and a notebook previously compiled by TM Jacobs which contained news stories from the CLEMA Shore Line Times collection. This helped me greatly in writing the book and led me on a path to becoming a member of the CLEMA board in 2008. I have been serving as Board President since January 2015. Over the years I have presented several lectures, worked on exhibits, books and community projects all as a volunteer. Over the last 25 years CLEMA has become a treasure of information about Madison, and we look forward to its continued growth!

From Pamela Evarts Landon:

On a cold night in January 1994, Madison's first Town Historian and my great aunt, Charlotte Evarts passed away quietly in her sleep. Only 77 years young, my family and the Town lost its greatest champion and rescuer of Madison's history. Within weeks, my family was approached by Bob McDonald to petition to the Town to start a local history room with Aunt Charlotte's massive collection. It was then that I joined that group of highly dedicated people that made her vision a reality. In January 1995, the Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives was formally named and I joined the board of directors as a family representative. I have been an active member ever since, and had held the seat of president for many years. I've loved growing up in Madison and raising my family here. As a grown up to be able to watch Aunt Charlotte's passion and CLEMA grow over the past 25 years has been inspiring. I have had the privilege to meet so many exciting people as awesome volunteers, donors and board members came and went. Their enthusiasms and support were and are all amazing. To this, I can only give a huge thank you to the Town, its people and all the volunteers who have made CLEMA "the little Archive that could". Aunt Charlotte would be so proud and honored! Happy 25th Anniversary CLEMA!

I was very pleased to be asked to serve on the board for CLEMA. Nearly thirty years ago, I had come into possession of some diaries that belonged to Marion Augusta Dowd Driffill. She and her sister, Julia Dowd Parker, had been among the first women in the nation to work as professional secretaries and stenographers. The diaries documented their very long lives in New York City and in Madison from about the 1860s to 1930s, but only a few survived. While there were some passages that were easily made out, most passages in the diaries were written in shorthand. Charlotte Evarts was one of the first people I consulted in trying to find out about transcribing these diaries. They weren't written in the more modern Gregg shorthand, but in an earlier version known as Pitman. Charlotte set about helping me trying to determine which type was in the diaries. We determined that they were an earlier form of Pitman. Neither of us had much luck, translating the diaries, but there were some interesting snippets here and there, including one detailing a motorcade with President Franklin Roosevelt passing through town on his way to the Coast Guard Academy in New London. I found Charlotte to be an encyclopedia of everything Madison, and she was modest and self-effacing about the importance of the work she had done helping to compile Madison's past. Unfortunately, she passed away shortly after and I never had the chance to work with her beyond that, but she did inspire me to keep digging and pursuing local history as a hobby. For that I am forever grateful, and I look forward to helping continue her legacy on the Board of CLEMA. - Fred Raudat

Submitted by Donna Evarts:

Growing up in Madison with my Great Aunt Charlotte, her photo taking just seemed like an obsession, covering the dining room table most the time. It wasn't until I was older that I could appreciate her "recording" the history of Madison. My mother and sisters were part of the CLEMA board while my Aunt Janice actively volunteered. Once my four children had grown, I had the time to start volunteering. My first exhibit involved reading diaries from long past family members about the trolley coming to Madison. I was hooked! Almost 10 years ago I became a board member and continue to work on exhibits. My favorite is the one now hanging in the lower level conference room, Madison Then & Now. So often driving down the road I would think, what used to be there? This project helped me remember and appreciate Aunt Charlotte's preserving Madison's history.