



The Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives, Inc.

History Saved!

Another piece of Madison's history was saved this Summer when 288 original 5"x7" glass plate negatives, which are known to be that of photographer Horace Hunter (1852-1933), were acquired by a collector in Watertown, CT. Sadly about 20 of the glass negatives were sold during an online auction before we became aware of the items, fortunately for us the seller is a history buff and he offered CLEMA the remaining collection.



The old railroad station at the head of Wall Street as viewed looking west from Horace Hunter's front yard at 14 Railroad Avenue.

This acquisition includes some never-before-seen images of local sports teams, scouts, soldiers, school interiors, locomotives, early biplane pilot Jack Tweed, and countless Madison beach images. Many antique post cards of Madison in the early 1900s were his photographic images.



Although this slide is broken it is a never-before-seen image of Madison Hose Co. #1 Firemen on the Green in 1914. (A second image exists that was taken minutes before is in the Hose Co. Historical Collection.)



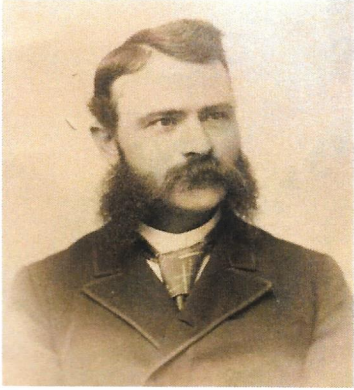
Two unknown women sitting atop a piling on West Wharf pose for a photo in their best beach attire.



The center of Madison with automobiles parked in front of "Monroe's Pharmacy" which is now occupied as the "Walker Loden" gift shop.

Archivist Nancy Bastian conducted an inventory of the glass plates with three full boxes of exclusively Madison images, and one box of "unknown" or "maybe Madison". Preservationists from our surrounding towns have been invited to review the unknowns to see if they happen to be images from their towns. Several Westbrook, Clinton and Branford plates have been identified and donated to their respective historical organizations.

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.



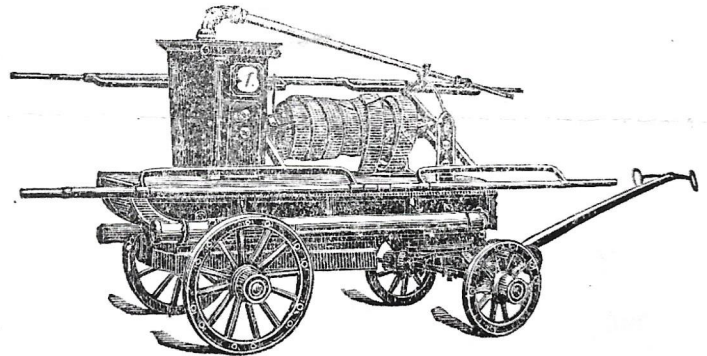
Photographer Extraordinaire

Horace B. Hunter was born in Madison in 1852. His home residence was at 14 Railroad Avenue. He was in business as an undertaker and furniture dealer for 50 years. He ran his business at the north end of Wall Street in the building that was the Wilcox stationary store and more recently a hair salon.

Horace became an accomplished photographer taking hundreds of images in Madison and along the shoreline, which is what he is most well known for. His obituary in April 1933 states "in almost every home in Madison are pictures taken by him, or postcards made from his photographs"

Hand Pumper

CLEMA Board President, and former Madison Hose Co. Fire Chief, Robert Gerard assisted in providing information to a committee of the Guilford Volunteer Fire Department Washington Engine Co. 1 to research their antique hand pumper. Many news articles were found in the CLEMA Shore Line Times and New Haven Palladium microfilms about this particular piece of equipment, proving valuable in tracing its early history.



A visit to the New Haven's Whitney Library supplemented more facts on the early days of the pumper's fire service. It was originally used by volunteer firemen in the city of New Haven from 1840 until selling it to Guilford circa 1852-1854. Several news stories document the use of the old "Washington Engine" hand pumper at many fires in Guilford until 1901 when it was retired. A dramatic story of the old pumper being pressed into service again for a major fire in 1908 and other interesting historic details will be released soon by Washington Engine Company to generate interest for a fundraiser to facilitate restoration of the old pumper.

Detecting History

One of our Board Members, Brian Phillips, is an avid metal detectorist and submits this story of investigating the Colonel Jonathan S. Wilcox home on Boston Post Road. This home, according to records at the Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives, was built in 1830. Wilcox was a Colonel in the local militia and had run a tannery business on his property. He was the brother of Madison's first postmaster, Curtis Wilcox, who lived next door to him. The post office had been originally located on Curtis Wilcox's property.

On a beautiful fall morning, with the courteous permission of the current homeowner, I went to their home with the objective of metal detecting to find some historical artifacts. Metal detecting is a hobby much like fishing and requires patience and persistence.

In the middle of the yard, my metal detector emitted a crisp, clear, high tone signal, and I knew I had something interesting even before the item was retrieved. The object was a copper, button shaped item that had a beautiful, aged, green tone. The pattern on the object was Victorian-like, and appeared consistent with the 1800s. A clasp on the side led me to believe it might be the lid to a small case. The object remains unidentified.

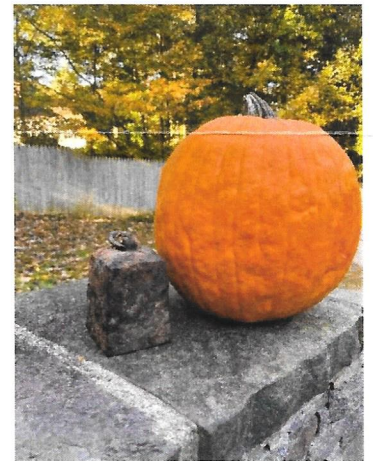




Continuing my search of the side yard and just a few feet away, I heard another great tone. This time the discovery was a 1905 Indian Head Penny. With this hobby you begin to theorize how the items you found came to be at a particular location. Was someone from the Wilcox family working in the yard when the penny fell out of a pocket? Finding an old, worn coin that has a history and an interesting story can be more fun than buying a mint coin that has more numismatic value.

Returning to the side yard the detector and got another signal. This time it was a sewing thimble, however it was different from other thimbles that I had found in the past and by far the smallest. This thimble was so small that it did not appear that it would fit on any adult finger. It appeared that the thimble would have been appropriate for a child's finger. I imagine that unlike today, in the 1800s, sewing was a regular part of everyone's life, including children.

Next up, the east side of the house. Searching among the ivy a loud signal indicated something very large. Brushing some of the ivy aside exposed an iron ring a few inches in diameter. Upon further investigation, the ring was attached to a larger metal square shaped object that was partially buried under the ground. The object felt very heavy for its size, maybe 20 to 25 pounds. Looking closer, I saw that the base of the iron object had a small opening which revealed that the inside of the iron object was made of lead. I had theories about what this object was used for, but was not certain. After posting photographs on the Facebook pages *Colonial Coins and United States Artifacts*, *Metal Detecting United States Only*, and *Yankee Territory Coinshooters*. Feedback provided two possible identifications of the object. The first was that it was a horse tether which would have been portable to tie off and secure your horse. The second possibility was a scale weight that could have been used in trade or for weighing goods.



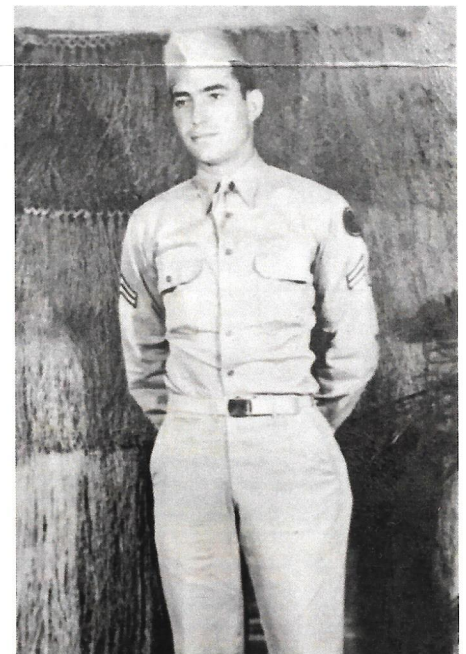
In a one-day adventure I learned about two integral people in the history of Madison, the Wilcox brothers. I learned what they did for both the town and their country, as well as finding some of their tools and everyday items while imaging the possible ways they used them. A great part of this hobby is meeting new, interesting and friendly people that occupy these historic homes today. It is a fascinating feeling to connect to people from Madison's past by finding items that were lost by them over 100 years ago.

Sergeant John E. "Johnnie" Hurlburt

This remembrance is presented by CLEMA Board Member Fred Raudat

A beautiful sunny, August Saturday was the setting for the long-awaited funeral of Sergeant John E. Hurlburt. The wait had been long, indeed: 77 years to be precise. Hurlburt was killed in action on July 7, 1944, during a massive Japanese attack against the 105th Division on the island of Saipan. He was just 26 years old. His remains were not known to have been recovered at the time, and his name had been listed on the wall of the missing in Honolulu. But in 2020, his MIA status was changed when his remains were positively identified by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

Since March 1948, Hurlburt had lain in a grave in a temporary military cemetery for the 27th Infantry. The grave was identified only as X-20. Often the remains of WW2 casualties were buried in a temporary cemetery before the planning and creation of permanent war memorials. Even though there were identification tags with his remains, the military was not convinced



that the remains were his. He was later reburied in 1950 at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial. In 2018, over 100 years after his birth, John Hurlburt was disinterred from the military cemetery in Manila, and sent for further forensic study through the Accounting Agency. A combination of DNA as well as circumstantial evidence led to the positive identification in 2020.

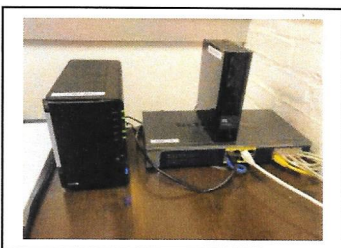
John was born on June 21, 1918 on Opening Hill Road in North Madison to Harry Hurlburt and Clara Widmann. About 1917, Harry married Clara. The marriage was short-lived as Clara died in 1923, leaving Harry with three small children. The two other children born of that marriage were Ruth Hurlburt Connelly and Doris Hurlburt Griffith. After Clara's Death, Harry Hurlburt married Bernice Zeigler Nolan, who came from Oklahoma via Texas. She had children of her own, and together the couple had two more children. Leroy Harry and Gerald Hurlburt. For many years Leroy owned the Post House restaurant in Madison before relocating to New Hampshire.

The memorial was held at the Clancy-Palumbo Funeral Home in East Haven where the Hurlburt family had lived for a few generations. A motorcycle escort of the Connecticut Patriot Guard Riders awaited the cortege after a military chaplain and honor guard joined the family and guests in prayer inside the funeral home. Pictures of "Johnnie" and his mother and father and the farm in North Madison were displayed next to the casket. A police escort would accompany the procession through East Haven, past the firehouse where firemen and local community leaders had gathered to salute the fallen man. Other people stood in respect at various spots along the route to Beavertdale Memorial Park in Hamden where Hurlburt was laid to rest for the third time. The procession entered the highway and exited on Route 34, and eventually headed north on Ella Grasso Boulevard, down Whalley Avenue, and finally, up Fitch Street toward the cemetery. There Others stood along the entrance to the cemetery and inside. They had no connection to this man other than a desire to pay respects.

I chose to go that Saturday, not only because I had known Hurlburt's nephews and gone to high school with one of them, but because I had a great uncle who had been lost in Italy later that same year in October of 1944. I had also grown up with four other great uncles who had served in WW II. I felt a debt of gratitude must be paid. I had fond memories of those men and even though I never knew Hurlburt, he was a North Madison boy like I had been. Someone from his old hometown should be there.

Two present times seemed to collide that morning as I drove away from cemetery. As I paused at the light at Winchester and Munson, the old Winchester building loomed in front of me, I imagined young Hurlburt heading to work for Winchester and the noisy din of factory work in a building that now houses offices for technology, lofts, and other businesses – a place I pass on my way to work several times a week. I thought I heard for moment the fevered pitch of those putting forth their all for the war effort.

The gap between present and past seemed to narrow on that Saturday. Although, I didn't know Hurlburt, I felt I did know him as well as any man. He was indeed my brother. The gun salute of the military and the strains of the assembled family and mourners as a singer sang "God Bless America" just a few moments before verified that "Johnnie" had indeed come home again.



Appreciating the Bauer Family

A generous grant from the Erwin C. Bauer Charitable Trust provided funding for our 2020 computer hardware modernization project. Over the winter months of we replaced our 10-year-old computer system with six new computer stations with monitors and associated hard wired networking and backup systems. We are always grateful to the Bauer Trust for their continued support of our organization.