

Published by the Journal of Antiques and Collectibles

Madison-Bouckville Dealers Build their Own Future

By Mike Jaquays

hen their very livelihood was put into question, the local dealers on and around the Route 20 strip from Madison to Bouckville in New York State banded together and not only kept their businesses alive, but made their futures brighter than ever before.

Today, they are well-known worldwide as consistently offering some of the top antique events in the country. But it all started with a dark -- although thankfully short-lived -- scare in 2010 where they found one of their main sources of revenue might be in jeopardy. This famed antiques and collectibles sales haven owed much of their business to the attraction of the annual Madison-Bouckville Outdoor Antique Show, but in November of that year it was announced that show was closing down after some 40 years. The land would be sold for agricultural crop use, they heard.

The Madison-Bouckville antique dealer community quickly banded together to return phoenix-like in a grass roots, collective effort christened Madison-Bouckville Promotions. That organization made up of the like-minded local resident dealers was then and now dedicated to hearing the input of all the dealers, planning their own events that would attract shoppers to their community, spreading the word to promote those events, and maximizing business for the good of all.

It was John Mancino, owner of the Gallery Antiques at Pinebrick and the Outfront Showfield, who took to the streets when the news first broke of the loss of the annual show. He visited with his fellow antique store, showfield, hotel, and restaurant owners to discuss their own thoughts of revitalizing their future. Soon, Mancino was the first president of the brand-new Madison-Bouckville Promotions.

"We have an antique legacy and we had to keep that alive," Mancino said.

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MADISON-BOUCKVILLE ANTIQUE WEEK SHOW FIELDS

Butternut Hill Antique Show

6893 State Route 20, Bouckville, NY www.butternuthill.net 315-893-7497

Cherry Valley Auction Barn

7008 State Route 20, Madison, NY www.cherryvalleyauctionbarnny.com 315-893-7501

Cider House Showfield

6769 State Route 20, Bouckville, NY www.ciderhouseantiques.com 315-825-8477

The Depot Antique Gallery

6768 State Route 20, Bouckville, NY www.depotantiquegallery.com 315-893-7676

East Expo Antiques

State Route 20, Bouckville, NY www.eastexpoantiquefield.weebly.com 315-363-5262

Gallery Antiques at Pinebrick

6790 State Route 20, Bouckville, NY www.thegallerycoop.com 315-893-7752

Indian Opening Acres

6811 Indian Opening Road, Bouckville, NY www.indianopeningacres.com 315-416-7817 or 315-416-7818

Mohawk Arms, Inc.

6819 State Route 20, Bouckville, NY www.militaryrelics.com 315-893-7888

Out Front Antique Show Field at Pinebrick

6790 State Route 20, Bouckville, NY www.thegallerycoop.com 315-427-5094

Quaker Acres West Antique & Collectible Show

6941 State Route 20, Bouckville, NY www.quakeracreswest.com 315-723-8736

Red Barn Farm

State Route 20, Bouckville, NY 315-982-7273

Station House Antiques

6791 State Route 20, Bouckville, NY 315-363-0024

The Trading Post

6799 State Route 20, Indian Opening Road Bouckville, NY 724-977-8900 or 724-528-2336

Wellington Woods

6969 State Route 20, Bouckville, NY www.facebook.com/woods6969 315-794-0406

Whistle Post Antiques

6845 State Route 20, Bouckville, NY www.whistlepostantiques.com 315-893-7604



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Subscriptions & Circulation: *Sue French* info@journalofantiques.com

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Mailings: P.O. Box 950, Sturbridge, MA 01566

The History of Madison By James Ford

The Town of Madison was settled in the early 1790s, shortly after the conclusion of the American Revolution.

Our first citizens came from New England, seeking fertile lands for farming. They certainly found such land here and began to raise grain crops, cattle,

and other animals for sale in the Albany market.

Communities were initially established at the Indian Opening, just to the north of

Madison Lake, which had been used as a farming and fishing area for generations by the Oneida Indian Nation, and at Madison Center, located on the first highway from Sangerfield to the growing settlement of Hamilton.

With the construction of the Third Great Western Turnpike, later known as the Cherry Valley Turnpike and today as Rte. 20, the Village of Madison (incorporated in 1816) and the hamlet of Bouckville were settled to take advantage of the new trade route. The completion of the Chenango Canal in 1836 led to the growth of our other township community, Solsville, and to the further growth of Bouckville. Mercantile establishments were opened to serve the needs of the surrounding agricultural community.

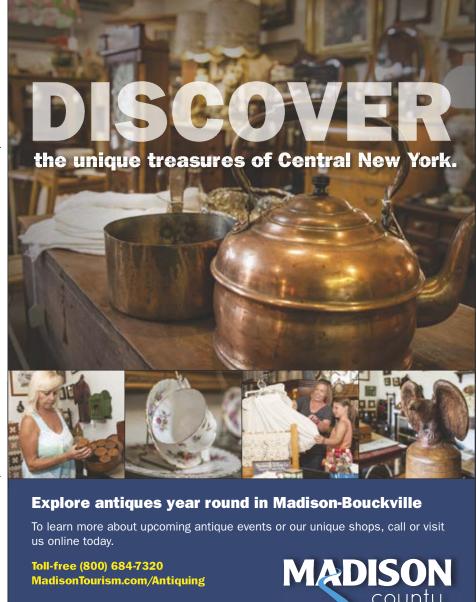
What began as subsistence farming and grain production was soon supplemented by the growing of hops. James D. Coolidge grew the first hops in Madison County and started a boom that would last until the mid-20th century.

Fortunes were made or lost on the hop market. However, many of the fine, old homes in the township are a testimony to the good years of the hops industry.

The arrival in Bouckville of Samuel R. Mott in 1868 led to the beginnings of a nationally-known brand. Mr. Mott formed a partnership with two other producers of cider and vinegar and two years later controlled the firm. With his son, John C. Mott, the firm grew and new buildings were constructed. J.C. Mott had his cider mill in New York City and Samuel Mott built his new complex on the site of what is now Jim Dutcher's Show Field.

Mott's produced vinegar, cider, and apple champagne and sold to markets as far away as England and Argentina. A disastrous fire in 1931 ended production in Bouckville in favor of other Mott's facilities in the Albany and Rochester areas. What began in Bouckville continues to be a trusted name today.

The Town of Madison also produced fine baseball teams and individual players. Madison had a quality "nine," but the Bouckville Summits became the most famous semi-pro team in Central New York from the 1860s to the 1930s. Seven Summits players signed major league contracts at some level, with two – Lewis "Snake" Wiltse and his brother, George "Hooks" Wiltse, reaching the majors with the Pittsburgh Pirates and the New York Giants respectively.



Save the Date: Alphiday Open House AROUND TOWN Bouckville

The local antique shops along Rte. 20 and the surrounding area welcome you to Madison-Bouckville Antique Week. We offer year-round shopping featuring antiques, vintage and collectibles. While in town be sure to visit us!!

For more information about our shops and town visit www.madison-bouckville.com

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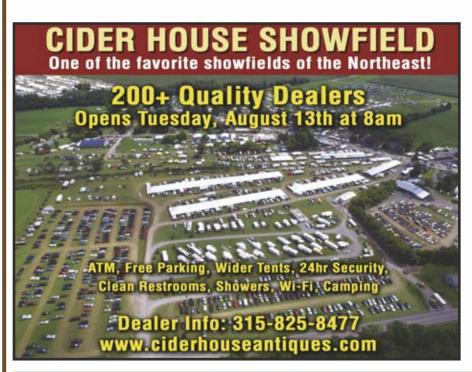
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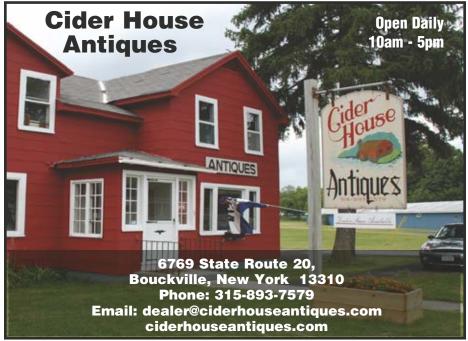
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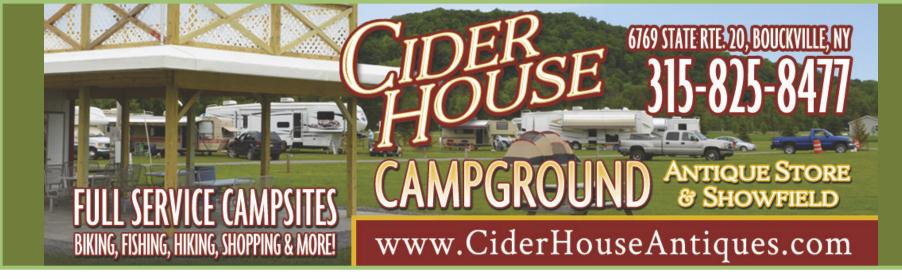
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They not only have their own annual August show just like in the past, now grown to a full week with their local dealers welcoming in fellow sellers from across the country, but also a June Show that kicks off the summer selling season. There are other special events, like their Spring Shop Hop in April and a Holiday Open House in November, that offer not only seasonal shopping specials but a festive atmosphere as well.

Madison-Bouckville Antique Week has now become not only their biggest event of the year, but the biggest antiques and collectibles show in all of New York State. It returns this year from Aug. 12-18, bringing out more than 2,000 dealers from across the state and beyond throughout their 14 showfields.

"It's almost like family coming back to visit," Williams said of hosting the dealers and welcoming their customers at his own showfield during that annual reunion.

Admission is free to the event, and the Cider House Showfield and Campground offers free parking and restroom facilities for shoppers. Antiques and collectibles shoppers will also find food vendors and restaurants all along the Route 20 corridor, as well as a variety of overnight accommodations.

For full information on any upcoming Madison-Bouckville antique events, visit: madison-bouckville.com

Today, that cooperative group has more than 65 members. One of the showfield owners in for the most shock that fall of 2010 was Jim Dutcher, the treasurer of Madison-Bouckville Promotions. He had only just purchased the Cider House Showfield and Campground when he was told about the main show's end. That hit like a ton of bricks, he admitted. "I felt the same panic as everyone else at first, but then we

realized it wouldn't go away -- everybody was going to have to work together to keep it going," he recalled.

They were joined in governing the not-for-profit Madison-Bouckville Promotions by vice-president Craig Williams from the Butternut Hill Antique Showfield and Campground and secretary Steve Antinore of Quaker Acres West.





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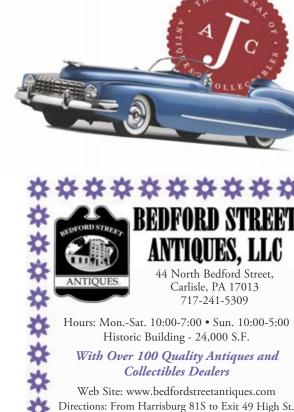




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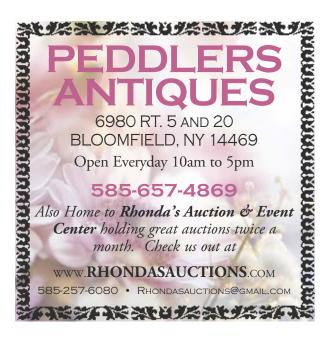
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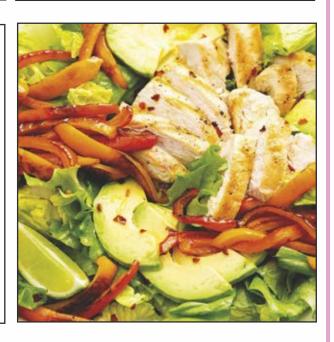
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