

Madstones – The Ellis Madstone

By Jerry Long
c.2025



From Wikipedia.org – the free Internet encyclopedia:

In the folklore of the early United States, a madstone was a special medicinal substance that, when pressed into an animal bite, was believed to prevent rabies by drawing the "poison" out. The Encyclopedia Americana described it as "a vegetable substance or stone". Researchers publishing in 1958 reported "130 cases of healing attributed to the madstone" and "three authenticated stones in the United States today."



“The Strange History Of Madstones In Medicine” by Benito Cereno, Grunge.com, 2022:

As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) explains, rabies is a vaccine-preventable viral infection most commonly spread through the bite or scratch of an infected animal. According to the CDC, symptoms include flu-like symptoms such as fever and fatigue but eventually progress to include anxiety, confusion, strange behavior, hallucinations, and hydrophobia (fear of water). Once there's a clear display of symptoms, rabies is almost always fatal. And while in the United States today most rabies infections come from wild animals, such as bats or raccoons, before the mid-20th century, the vast majority of rabies infections came from domestic animals like dogs.

In the years before legitimate medical treatment for the rabies virus emerged, folklore and superstition provided hope for people of the United States — particularly in rural areas — in the form of "madstones," also known as bezoars.

Ozarks Public Radio reports the traditional use of madstones goes back at least as far as 13th-century Europe, and the madstone tradition was almost certainly brought to the United States by immigrants from Europe, with the oldest recorded use in America being a family in Virginia who said their stone originated in Scotland.

Despite their name, madstones aren't stones in the traditional sense. As the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette explains, madstones are actually enteroliths, which is to say, a mineral concretion formed in the stomach of an animal. These concretions begin as some piece of indigestible matter, such as hair or vegetable fibers, that end up in the stomach, forming a mass over time.

Like an oyster forming a pearl, layer after layer of calcium deposits are applied to the foreign matter, forming a (usually) round, hard object that can range anywhere in size from a

gumball to a baseball (or larger, per the Louisville Courier-Journal). And it was these round, hard objects, known as madstones, that people in the 19th century turned to as a cure for rabies.

But how did a madstone get from the guts of an animal to a rabies wound? Well, generally from hunting. While enteroliths can form in all kinds of animals, including farm animals like horses or sheep, the most-prized madstones came from deer, especially white deer, which were thought to have the most potent drawing power of any animal.

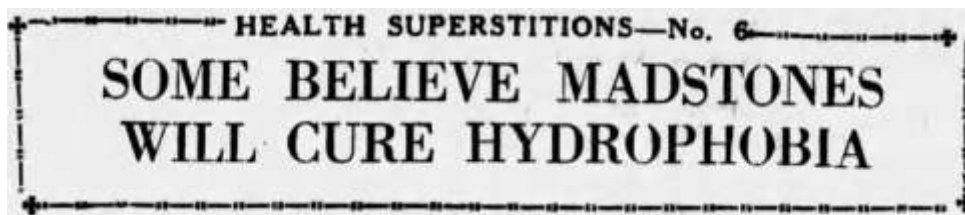
Prior to the development of vaccines by Louis Pasteur in 1885 (per the CDC), people desperately looked to various other remedies to treat ailments like rabies. For some, a madstone — if you could get a hold of one — seemed like a proper treatment. As a medicine, the "stone" would be applied to the infection site of a rabies victim, where it was thought that over time, the stone would leech the "poison" out and heal the affected person.

When the madstone was needed, it would first be boiled in milk until it got quite hot; then it would be applied to the wound site — normally a rabies-infected bite, but madstones could also be used for snake or spider bites as well — and if the stone stuck to the wound, that was proof that there was indeed infection or poison within.

The stone would be left stuck to the wound until it fell off, which could often be as long as a day or two, at which point it would be placed in hot milk again. If the stone was working properly, the milk would turn green with the "poison," after which the stone would be reapplied to the wound. This process would be repeated until the stone stopped sticking, which was a sure sign that the infection was gone.



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 28 March 1929, p.6:



The belief that madstones will cure hydrophobia is one of strangest of superstitions.

Hydrophobia has been known as a disease from the earliest times. It was apparently recognized that some dangerous material came into the body with the bite of the dog, and the obvious attempt on the part of an unknowing people was to put something on the bite that would draw out the poison. Since the development of stones in the body of man or of animals was not understandable to these ancients, a magical influence was attached to the stone.

Magic Stones

Sometimes other stones than those developed in the human body were used for these magical purposes, including, for instance, stones associated with great natural monuments such as the Giant's Causeway or volcanoes.

Hydrophobia is caused by infection transmitted through the bite of animals. This infection attacks particularly the nervous system of the body, and one of the chief symptoms is difficulty in swallowing.

The ancients mistook the fear of swallowing for the fear of the water itself and so called the disease hydrophobia or the fear of water. The modern name of the disease is rabies.

The famous scientist Pasteur discovered a method of developing resistance in the body against hydrophobia to which the name Pasteur treatment has been given. Since the development of the Pasteur treatment in 1882, hydrophobia has been brought under control.

Only One Treatment

Rabies is spread principally by the homeless stray dog. When a person is bitten by a rabid animal, he should have the Pasteur treatment. The disease is controlled in any community by strict ordinance and destruction of stray dogs.

The person who depends on a madstone when bitten by a rabid animal is likely to terminate his existence with hydrophobia.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 13 August 1914, p.2:



DUE TO MANY CASES OF HYDROPHOBIA IN STATE.

THERE IS A FINE PROVIDED

For Those Who Fail to Observe the Orders Issued by the Health Board.

Everyone is constituted a dog killer under a recent order of the state board of health, received by Sheriff Milton on Wednesday, and not only is he or any citizen made such an officer, but a request is enjoined that anyone seeing a dog at large that is not securely muzzled, shall kill the dog. The state board of health makes a request that owners of the dogs, or dogs of which they think anything, confine them to their own premises, and that if they wish them to run at large, they be securely muzzled.

The state board of health is taking the steps indicated as a preventive measure, inasmuch as hydrophobia recently has become prevalent in many communities. and the health and lives of citizens should not be jeopardized by dogs. Mention is made in the board's request that failure to observe the directions to kill all unmuzzled dogs is punishable by a fine before a magistrate.

Furthermore, the board takes occasion to call the attention of the public to the fact that what are known as madstones, not only are useless, but that their use gives an affected person an imagined security, while at the same time the disease is gaining headway. Immediate and heroic treatment is necessary in case of being bitten by a mad dog or other animal. It recites that the use of so called madstones is prohibited by law.



The Ellis Madstone

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 25 November 2019, pp.1A & 2A:

Cherishing the family (mad)stone

Whitesville Historical
Society to display
colonial-period piece
of fossilized coral

By Renee Beasley Jones, Messenger-Inquirer

Longtime friends Pat Gibson and Charlotte Whittaker were talking a couple of months ago when the conversation took an odd twist to the subject of madstones.

Gibson asked Whittaker if she was familiar with the term.

To his surprise, she knew more than he ever dreamed. As it turned out, her ancestors on the Ellis side of the family brought a madstone from England to America in the 1600s, she told him.

The Ellis family madstone -- a piece of fossilized coral once thought to possess healing powers -- had been passed down in her family for centuries. It eventually made its way to her dad, the Rev. Stewart Hines, who donated it to the Owensboro Museum of Science and History in 1983 for safekeeping.

Whittaker, of Ohio County, is the 13th generation with ties to the Ellis family madstone.

"I about cried the first time I held it," she said. "To think how old it is and how my ancestors believed in it."

According to Gibson's research, the fossil traveled by ship from England to America with David Ellis, who is listed in the 1624 muster rolls on the ship Mary Margaret. Then, family history shows the madstone later made its way to Kentucky.

"You wonder how many times it has been used," said Gibson, also of Ohio County. "And how many lives were saved."

In colonial times, madstones were a home remedy used to treat bites from snakes and mad dogs. Madstones were soaked in warm cow's milk and placed on a bite or other wounds to draw out poison. When the madstone fell off, it was believed to have done its job.

They were so valuable they were passed down in families -- usually father to first son -- like jewelry, land and other highly prized assets.

During Gibson's research, he learned of the Ellis family madstone in the Rev. Joseph P. Ellis' will from the 1800s.

The will reads: "My Grandfather Stephen Ellis gave to my father, William Ellis, about the year 1820 a madstone which has been in the family almost a century. I desire this to be kept as a family relic and memorial."

The will asked that proceeds from the stone be divided among the pastor's heirs. Some people charged \$5 per hour for the stone's use, Gibson said.

"One man was offered \$1,000, a cow and calf for his stone but refused the sale," he wrote in a research paper about the Ellis family madstone.

To today's eye, the fossil doesn't look magical or mystical.

The now gray-and-white agatized coral is an inch or two in length.

Gibson's research indicates it is a piece of Devonian tabulate coral fossil, named after a county in southwestern England. Those fossils are an extinct form of coral known for their tubular chambers.

Gibson, who has been involved in genealogy research since the 1980s, learned about the Ellis family madstone while he was conducting research a couple of months ago for the Whitesville Historical Society's historic church tour. The Rev. Joseph P. Ellis founded Whitesville Baptist Church.

At the time, Gibson had no idea Whittaker was one of the pastor's ancestors.

The madstone is on loan to the Whitesville Historical Society from the Owensboro Museum of Science and History's collection.

"We have plans to display it in our Founders' Room," said Judith Ralph, director of the Whitesville Historical Society.

Because Ellis preached in Whitesville and founded a church there, it seems appropriate to display the madstone in that town, Ralph said.

The public may view the relic between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Dec. 9-13. The madstone also will be on display during public events on Dec. 7 and Dec. 14.

During nights and weekends, the museum is open by appointment. For more information or to make an appointment, call 270-233-8035.



Left: Pat Gibson, left, and Charlotte Whittaker hold a colonial-period madstone that Whittaker's ancestors brought from England to America in the 1600s. The madstone, a piece of fossilized coral, was once thought to possess healing powers. Right: According to Pat Gibson's research, the fossil traveled by ship from England to America with David Ellis, who is listed in the 1624 muster rolls on the ship Mary Margaret.

Then, family history shows the madstone later made its way to Kentucky. The madstone is on loan to the Whitesville Historical Society from the Owensboro Museum of Science and History's collection.



Notes on the Ellis Family by Jerry Long

Rev. Joseph Perkins Ellis, a prominent Baptist minister, was the son of William Ellis & Rebecca Ellis. He was born 18 October 1811 in Shelby County, KY. He is listed in the 1850, 1860, 1870 & 1880 federal censuses of Daviess County, KY. In the book, An Illustrated Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY. (Leo McDonough & Co. 1876,) page 24 it is recorded that Joseph P. Ellis, of the Boston Precinct; residence 18 miles east of Owensboro; post office at Whitesville; farmer & minister; born Shelby County, KY; came to Daviess County in 1829.

Joseph P. Ellis married Jane S. Taylor in Ohio County, KY on 15 September 1835. She was the daughter of John Peyton Taylor & Mary Davis, who resided at Taylorfield in Ohio County, KY. Jane was born 3 August 1811 in Fairfax County, VA and died 12 November 1889 in Daviess County, KY.

Joseph Perkins Ellis died at home on 8 May 1892 in Daviess County, KY. He and his wife, Jane, were buried in the Ellis family cemetery in view of their house. His home was in Daviess County but the Ellis Cemetery was in Ohio County just across the county line.

On 21 December 1889 Joseph P. Ellis wrote a final will. It was recorded on 16 May 1892 in Daviess County, KY Will Book D (pages 384-385). His will named children – William P. Ellis, Luther C. Ellis, Rebecca A. Haynes (wife of John R. Haynes), Margaret E. Phillips (wife of Charles W. Phillips), and Nannie J. Brown; also named were grandchildren – Clarence T. Haynes, Mabel H. Haynes, Flora E. Haynes and William K. Haynes, who were children of his deceased daughter, Adah P. Haynes.

Joseph P. Ellis in his will wrote: “My grandfather Stephen Ellis gave to my father William Ellis about the year 1820 a madstone which has been in the family almost a century I desire to be kept as a family relic and memorial to be kept and used as heretofore. The proceeds arising from the use of said stone to be equally divided among my heirs. A reasonable recompense being allowed the member of the family who may have it in possession for the trouble in the use of application of said stone.”

In 1982 Rev. **Stewart Ralph Hines** (1915-1993) donated the Ellis madstone to the Owensboro Museum of Science and History. Rev. Hines was the son of **James Ellis Hines** (1892-1958) & Flora Catherine Ralph; grandson of John Thomas Hines & **Ida Jane Ellis** (1858-1948); great-grandson of **William Peyton Ellis** (1836-1914) & Sarah Ann Bannon; great-great-grandson of Rev. **Joseph Perkins Ellis** (1811-1892) & Jane S. Taylor.

See also the following articles by Jerry Long on the website, West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy (<https://wckyhhistory-genealogy.org/>): “Ellis Cemetery” (in Ohio County, KY section) and “Biographical Sketch of the Ellis Family” (in Families section).



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 14 December 1881, p.3:

It may be of interest to some of our readers during the mad-dog excitement now existing to know that Rev. Joseph C. [sic] Ellis, of Whitesville, Ky., has a madstone in his possession. Many persons place great faith in the efficacy of madstones, but of course there is a diversity of opinion in regard to the matter.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 16 December 1881, p.3:

___ Rev. Joseph C. [sic] Ellis, who at Whitesville in this county, has a madstone.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 8 June 1883, p.4:

___ There has been a great deal of excitement in the city this week about mad dogs and cats. Marshal Griffith killed a mad dog Tuesday, on Locust street, that had bitten dogs belonging to Mr. C. G. Nantz and Mr. John Weir. Those dogs were killed also. It is reported that Mr. Tom Sanders and two children of Mr. John Wooten were bitten by mad cats, and two other children in Mr. Wooten's neighborhood in the upper part of the city, also. Mr. Sanders went at once to Mr. Joe Ellis', in the upper end of the county, who has a mad-stone, intending to apply it to his wound. Yesterday, a house cat at Mr. W. N. Sweeney's became wild and jumped on the cook, who knocked it off. It then attacked Mrs. James Sweeney, but she was not hurt by it. It was finally put to death.



Messenger & Examiner, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 13 June 1883, p.3:

Mad Cats and Madstones.

There seems to be a peculiar epidemic among the cats, and it is confined to no particular locality. Felines that have spent years of docility in households, are suddenly and apparently without cause seized with frenzy and become very vicious, attacking, without provocation, the nearest person. Several persons have been bitten by cats during the past week. Mr. John Wooten, whose little girl was bitten Wednesday, took her to the farm of Mr. Joe Ellis, in the upper portion of the county, and secured the use of his madstone. On the first application, it is said, the stone adhered at once to the wound, and in a few moments the suction became so powerful that to have removed it would have torn the skin from the flesh. At first the child felt a sensation in her foot as if it were "going to sleep," she said, and then her nerves all over her body and in the tips of her fingers began to tingle. Finally, the influence of the stone became so great that she almost went into convulsions and her father had to hold her hands to keep her from tearing her flesh. Then the stone, having filled its pores with the poison from the wound, dropped off, and it was soaked in boiling milk until cleansed. It was again applied and adhered in the same manner to the wound, but for a shorter time. On the third application it would not act, which was taken as proof that the poison had all been absorbed.

A son of Mr. Ed. Murphey, living near the Richland farm, in the lower end of the county, who was also bitten by a cat, went to Mr. Ellis' place and used the Saturday. In this instance the operated on the wound stone four or five times.

Mr. Ellis makes no charge for the use of his madstone, but accepts whatever fee is offered him. The physicians have no confidence in the virtue of madstones, but they do not discourage the use of them.

The recent experience of Mr. Hillary Kelley is probably fresh in the minds of our readers.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 17 June 1885, p.3:

Bitten by a Mad Dog.

HAYNESVILLE Ky., June 12, 1885.

Editor Herald:

A young man by the name of Tabeling, living on the Bowling Green road about twelve miles above this place, was attacked and bitten by a mad dog last Sunday night about eleven o'clock. He went to a doctor and had the wound burned, and then went to Breckenridge to a mad stone and the stone did not take effect and yesterday he passed through here going to Rev Joe Ellis' mad stone and that did not do any good. Mr. Tabeling thinks it is because the place has been burned and he seems to be somewhat excited over the matter. He says the dog bit several hogs and some dogs before he was killed.

J. H. BLACK.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 27 January 1887, p.4:

Bitten by a Mad-Dog.

George Pitt, who lives in the Curdsville precinct, passed through the city yesterday with his two sons, eight and ten years old, who had been bitten early in the morning by a mad-dog, which was afterward killed. They were en route to Whitesville to secure the use of a mad stone owned by Rev. J. P. Ellis, an uncle of Capt. W. T. Ellis. This stone has been in the Ellis family for over one hundred years. It was brought from Wales by Capt. Ellis' great-grandfather. It has often been used with marked effect by people bitten by rabid dogs and by snakes. Sometimes it refuses to adhere to wounds. The inference is that in such instances no poison has been communicated to the system. Again, it will stick tight until filled with a greenish substance and then drops off, and will not adhere again until it has been thoroughly soaked in warm milk. There is a popular opinion that mad stones are humbugs, but we notice that whenever anyone is bitten by a rabid dog there is no hesitancy about trying the nearest one.



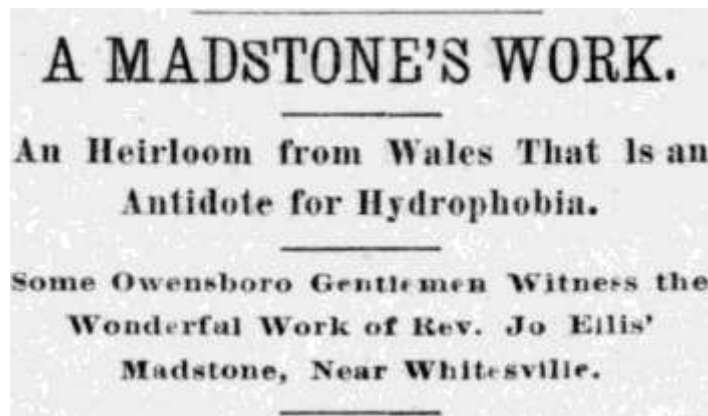
Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 17 February 1888, p.4:

Bitten by a Mad Dog.

A little son of Mr. T. N. Clayton, of West Louisville, was bitten by a mad dog. Late Wednesday afternoon the dog was discovered on the road by a party of men, who undertook to kill it. It ran to Mr. Clayton's, and going into the house, attacked the child, biting it very severely. Mr. Clayton passed through the city yesterday on his way to Rev. Jo. Ellis, near Whitesville, to apply a madstone to the bite.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 28 April 1889, p.5:



Rev. Joseph Ellis, a resident of Daviess county on the Leitchfield road, two or three miles east of Whitesville, has in his possession a mad stone which has been in his family direct for more than one hundred years. The stone was brought from Wales by the emigrant ancestor of the Ellis family. On returning from a trip to Fordsville Saturday Messrs. Field, Dean, Monarch and Triplett called at the place of Mr. Ellis to see the stone as a curiosity. They found Mr. Lambert, a citizen of Hancock, formerly of Daviess, there with a grandson who had within a day or so been bitten by a mad dog. The stone was applied to the wound and it was evident that it gave relief to the boy, certainly drawing the poison from the wound. The pores of the stone seemed to fill by suction from the wounded place, drawing from it all the poison and upon the second application refusing to stick. Mr. Dean said he didn't know anything about mad stones and generally wasn't much on faith, but if ever he should be bit by a mad dog he would make a home run for the Ellis mad stone.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 13 July 1889, p.4:

___ Mr. Lawrence McAtee, of West Louisville, was bitten by a dog Thursday. The animal was not mad, bat Mr. McAtee feared serious consequences, owing to the hot weather, and yesterday he passed through the city on his way to Whitesville, to apply the madstone owned by Rev. J. P. Ellis to the bite.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 22 January 1890, p.4

Bitten by a Mad Dog.

A daughter of Mr. Duke Glenn, of West Louisville, was bitten Monday evening by a dog that was suspected of having hydrophobia. That night the dog died with unmistakable evidences of the disease, and yesterday the child was taken to Whitesville to the Ellis madstone for treatment.

The Ellis stone is celebrated throughout the country. It has been known and in use for fifty years, as many as ten or twelve cases resorting to it every year. An attack of hydrophobia has never been known to follow its use.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 25 January 1890, p.4:

It Failed to Stick.

Mr. Duke Glenn has returned from Whitesville, where he went to take his daughter to the Ellis madstone. He reports that the stone failed to "stick," and the conclusion is that the virus failed to be communicated to the wound. The child was bitten Tuesday by a dog which died that night with hydrophobia.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 29 May 1892, p.1:

Was the Dog Mad?

Mrs. W. L. Monarch was bitten yesterday by a little dog belonging to Mrs. C. D. Jackson, and her friends are very much alarmed for fear the dog was mad. It was in a buggy with Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Monarch and they noticed that it was acting strangely. They threw it out and it had a fit, after which it was killed.

Mrs. Monarch left in a very short time afterward for Whitesville to apply the Ellis mad stone to the bite.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 11 December 1903, p.2:

MADSTONE PROVES EFFICIOUS.

Hancock Parties Bitten By Mad Animals, But Find Relief.

Haynesville, Ky., Dec. 10. – Two weeks ago there was a strange dog passed through this neighborhood, biting and trying to bite everything it came in contact with. It bit a cow belonging to H. P. Robinson; also a fine dog belonging to Will Black. The cow and dog both died.

Last Monday morning a strange cat came to the house of J. D. Knott, the postmaster. He picked the cat up to pet it, and it bit him through the finger. Mr. Knott drove the cat away. It went to the home of Lafe Knott, and while his little girl was feeding the feline, the cat grabbed the little girl and bit her through the finger also. Yesterday Mr. Lafe Knott took the little girl to Mr. John R. Haynes, who has madstone, and applied the stone five times, but it only took three times to effect a cure. The same day Mr. J. D. Knott applied the madstone and it gave relief. Both will recover from the effects of the bites.

[Note by Jerry Long – John R. Haynes (1832-1925) was married to Rebecca Ann Ellis (1841-1917), a daughter of Rev. Joseph Perkins Ellis (1811-1892).]



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 15 November 1908, p.1:

BITTEN BY MAD CAT

Madisonville Girl Is Brought to Madstone in Daviess County.

Mr. Burton of Madisonville passed through the city Saturday with his 14-year-old daughter, Miss Artie Burton, for Whitesville, where they went to the home of C. W. Phillips to have a madstone applied to a wound on the girl made by the bite of cat supposed to be mad. The child was bitten ten days ago. The madstone adhered twice.

[Note by Jerry Long – Charles Willis Phillips (1836-1918) was married to Margaret E. Ellis (1843-1920), a daughter of Rev. Joseph Perkins Ellis (1811-1892).]



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 5 January 1969, p.3C:

Despite Season Many See Snakes – Late Report Notes

By Joe Ford

“Mad Stones” continue to attract interest. In case you missed earlier columns pertaining to these magical stones, they supposedly remove poison or germs from the bite of a spider, snake, or rabid dog. Mrs. Nannie Belle Camp called last week to tell me of placing a “mad stone” on her son, J. W. Camp, around 1924. The lad had been playing in the yard when a stray dog which he befriended, bit him viciously on the arm. The stone was obtained from a member of the Ellis family and applied to the bite. It stuck for 11 days. Mrs. Camp went on to add that the rabies vaccine was also administered to the boy. Whether the painful series of shots or the stone did the job is in doubt but the young man survived. He is now a successful designer in Detroit, Mich.



McLean County News, Calhoun, KY, Thursday, 9 September 1982, p.7:

Outdoor Notes

By Joe Ford

Director of the Owensboro Area Museum

The Owensboro Area Museum will be displaying a "genu-wine" madstone by the time you read this. The stone that was used to cure snake bite, mad dog attacks etc. was brought to the colonies some time in the early 1600's. It remained in the possession of the Ellis family and in 1883 Rev. J.P. Ellis of Whitesville in Daviess County was keeper of the stone. It passed on through the family of J.O. Ellis brought the rare item to the museum.

I don't believe in the power of "madstones", but for centuries people used them. The limitless power of faith or of the mind occasionally caused cures when the stone was applied that medical science can't fully explain today. We will treasure this item for years to come. I hope many of you will stop by to see a madstone, and perhaps be a little thankful for modern medical science.

[Note by Jerry Long – Mr. Ford was mistaken when he said J. O. Ellis donated the Ellis madstone to the Owensboro Museum of Science and History. It was donated by Rev. Stewart Ralph Hines (1915-1993), who was a great-great-grandson of Rev. Joseph Perkins Ellis (1811-1892). See "Cherishing the family (mad)stone", Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Monday, 25 November 2019, pp.1A & 2A.]



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 2 January 1983, p.9E:

Owensboro Area Museum events provide interesting episodes

By Joe Ford

... One of the most unique items donated to the museum last year was a "Mad Stone." This rock is literally a piece of petrified coral, but to people of a few generations ago it was thought to possess magical powers. Anyone bitten by a rabid dog, or venomous snake, simply applied the "mad stone" to the wound and it, supposedly, neutralized the venom or destroyed the rabies germs. The stone given to the museum was in the family of J.O. Ellis and had been passed down from generation to generation from sometime in the late 1600s. The object itself may not have the power to cure anything, but because the victim believed in it, apparently, it did occasionally do some good. The power of "faith" is a little understood phenomenon.

The past year was a good one for the museum. With support from all of you, 1983 will be even better....

