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FROM THE FRONT PORCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF MOORESTOWN



House Tours and

Gift Shop Hours:

Sunday 1-3 PM
Tuesdays 1-3 PM

Research Library Hours:

Tuesday 1-4 PM
Second Sunday of
each Month 1-3 PM

Address

Historical Society of
Moorestown
Smith-Cadbury Mansion
12 High St.
Moorestown, NJ 08057

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Facebook

facebook.com/historical-societyofmoorestown

*Published by
The Historical Society
of Moorestown*

View From the Porch

When September rolls around and the weather begins to cool, it means that things are starting to heat up at the Smith-Cadbury Mansion. This fall will not be any different.

We are all hard at work planning our annual autumn activities. The season will kick off with our General Membership Meeting which will be held on October 8th, at the Community House. The meeting will start at 7:30 and light refreshments will be served. Our speaker will be Patricia Chappine, Professor of History at Stockton State College and author of the newly released book *New Jersey Women in World War II*. Professor Chappine will discuss how New Jersey's women contributed to the state's social initiatives and militarized industries during the war. She also will discuss how New Jersey's women contributed in combat as nurses and pilots. Watch our website and Facebook page for more information.

This will be followed up by a special opening of the Smith-Cadbury Mansion in conjunction with Autumn in Moorestown Day, on October 10th. The house will be open from 10 – 3. Please stop in and check out some of the items in our gift shop.

Finally, what would October be without our popular Ghost Tours. Once again this year, under the leadership of Julie Maravich, we will host haunted strolls through Moorestown. This year the walks will take place on October 16th and 17th as well as on October 23rd and 24th. There will be two tours each night one at 7 PM and one at 9 PM. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the significant contributions of three people who have retired from our Board of Trustees over the summer, Ann Condon, Barbara Rabinovich, and Edmund Moore.

Ann is retiring from our board after 8 years of service. She served for four years as vice president and has been one of the unsung heroes of our organization. She was always willing to pitch in and help out with any of our projects and events, but her crowning achievement, I believe, was her exhibit "Moorestonians In Time of War." Not only was it a touching tribute to our town's veterans, but it really changed the way that we built our exhibits, shifting the emphasis from items in our collection to the stories in our shared experience as a community.

Also retiring after four years of service as Trustees are Barbara Rabinovich and Edmund Moore. Barbara and Edmund gave countless hours to the Historical Society as docent coordinators and supported all of our activities. They could always be counted upon to do whatever was necessary to make all of our events a success.

Over the next few weeks we will be putting together our exhibit for the 2015-2016 season "Before the Quakers: Moorestown's First Residents." The exhibit will be based on the Native American artifacts placed into our care by the State of New Jersey. Over 500 items were recovered during an archeological dig off of Oldershaw Avenue. Watch our website and Facebook page for more information on the exhibit and the date of its grand opening.

Lenny Wagner, President

SEPTEMBER 2015

“Before & After”

Complementing last issue's *Before and After*, here, from the photo collection of the late Jim Laessle, are two more pictures of the West Moorestown Train Stations, this time looking east.

In the top photo, developed March 8, 1962, Jim captured the start of the construction of the first of several buildings to be added along the west side of West Moorestown's "new" brick station. It shows piles of excavated dirt and stacked cinder blocks sitting ready for the project.

The Camden and Burlington County Railroad began service to Moorestown in 1867. In the picture, (across North Church Street) is seen the wooden building that had been the original west station.

The "new" brick passenger station was built in 1897 and was used later as a freight station.

Jim's second picture is from 1995. It shows the brick station, now painted, and a portion of the added building. And as we saw last time, but from the opposite direction, the original station building was by then gone.

— John Watson



The Historical Society of Moorestown

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Burlington County (New Jersey) Murders and Executions 1832 – 1906

A love of violence plagues American society. Our kids watch rough sports like football and hockey. Then they play video games that make the Wild West look like something out of a Charlotte Bronte novel. Thinking about this made me long for the idyllic days where we didn't have these vicious pasttimes. I longed for a period during our recent past when parents and children could pack up a picnic basket. Together they could go on a family outing and watch the county hang somebody. At the Moorestown Library on Mischief Night of 2014, local historian Marissa Bozarth allowed me to relive this halcyon era. She delivered a lecture on Burlington County (New Jersey) murders and executions that took place between 1832 and 1906.

Who would've thought people executed by the county could be so remarkable? On March 23, 1860 Philip Lynch met the hangman's noose for the murder of George Coulter. Mr. Lynch's behavior upon hearing the jury's verdict was, well, not good. Following the pronouncement, he told the judge, prosecutor and sheriff that he would return from the grave to haunt them. (No evidence suggests that he ever did.)

While reassuring that Mr. Lynch believed in life after death, history would recall his reputation better had he followed the example of freed slave Eliza Freeman. In 1832, she earned the ignominious distinction of being the first person executed by Burlington County. When she murdered her husband, she showed no remorse. Her last words, however, displayed a much more respectable demeanor. She warned those who attended her execution against the dangers of alcohol. (Remember that. You'll be reading about it again.) Then she prayed for her prison caretakers, all of the 3,000 – 5,000 people who attended her hanging as well as for her fellow African-Americans. Incidentally, the number of spectators fell well short of the 10,000 who watched Wesley Warner's execution on 9/6/1894.

As only first degree murderers were eligible for execution, Mr. Warner argued he committed second degree murder. Why did he murder Lizzie Peak? In essence, he claimed he didn't kill her: his drunkenness did. The prosecutor convinced the jury that he "got drunk on purpose." In an unusual occurrence for the 1890s, Warner appealed his sentence six times. That didn't help. Fortunately, this didn't drive him to drink.

Without comparison, I found Joel Clough the most intriguing person to meet the hangman's noose in Burlington County. As difficult as this will be for readers to believe, he attended Ms. Freeman's execution. Apparently, it impressed him so much that he decided to make the transition from audience member to participant. Following a tumultuous relationship with Mary Hamilton and an even harsher one with the bottle, Clough decided to permanently end his dealings with Ms. Hamilton on April 5, 1833. He returned a dagger she gave him as a gift by plunging it into her chest eight times. Following his arrest, he became the first person to ever escape from Mount Holly Prison. Clough didn't excel at getting away from things. He unsuccessfully attempted suicide at one point, too.

During his trial, Clough tried to prove "temporary insanity" at the time of the murder. He even brought in experts on mental illness; something very unusual in the 1830s. In addition, he blamed his upbringing for leading him to kill. The jury didn't agree. The county executed him on 7/26/33. For reasons that mystify me, he personally put on the hood and placed the rope around his neck.

The American spirit of innovation applied to some of these executions. Instead of having a door drop, the county used a 364 pound weight attached to a rope and cross beam on Philip Lynch. In 1907 the State of New Jersey took over the role of executing prisoners. In 1906, the county knew this would be its last time and decided to make it memorable. Deputies tied Rufus Johnson and George Small back-to-back and hanged them for the murder of Moorestown resident Florence Allinson.

A prison guard in John Galsworthy's play, *Justice*, uttered the prescient words: "If it wasn't for women and alcohol, this place would be empty." The same observation could be made for many of the executions that took place in Burlington County between 1832 and 1906. The fascination with violence stood out more, though. The number of people who attended these executions in person boggles the mind. With that noted, the voyeuristic violence in our society makes our era seem like the idyllic one.

—Kevin Stephany

Museum News

Accessions

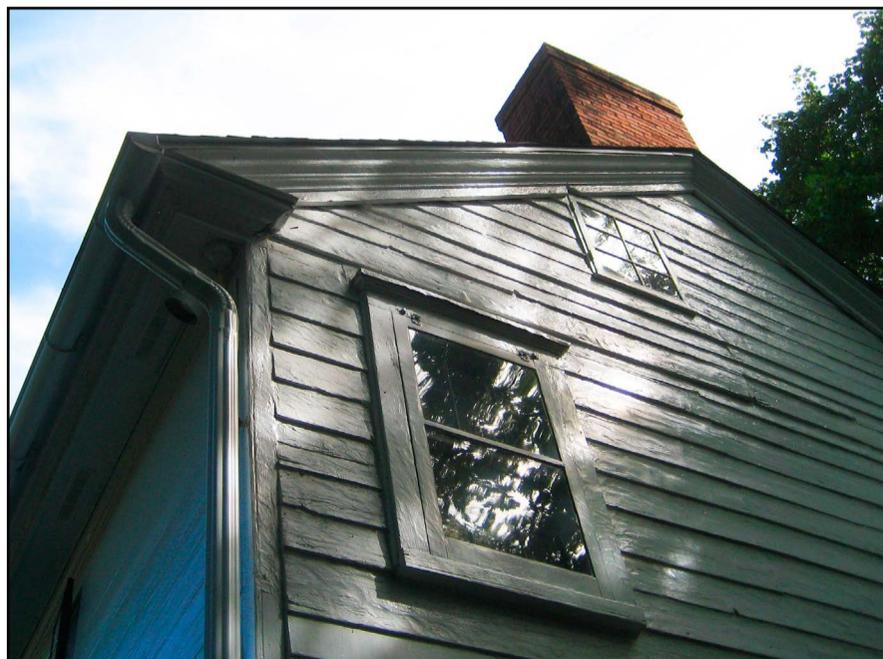
Due to the generosity and appreciation of Moorestown history, the Historical Society of Moorestown and the residents of Moorestown have been enriched by the following donations that were accessioned into our collection in 2015.

1. 1789 Ledger *donated by Ann Fox.*
2. Postcard album, slides, general pamphlets and a First Presbyterian Church pamphlet *donated by Laessle Family.*
3. Historic Moorestown Game *donated by Rudy Angelino.*
4. A church bench from St. Mary's First Episcopal *donated by Laessle Family.*
5. Black and White photograph *donated by Laessle Family.*
6. Wedding Certificate of Edward Strawbridge *donated by Libby Curran.*
7. Esther Robert's Arithmetic Book circa 1823 *donated by Libby Curran.*
8. Esther Warrington's Quaker Book circa 1774 *donated by Barbara Wright.*
9. Moorestown Postcards circa 1914 *donated by Elizabeth Ransome.*
10. Fauver Family Book: Family Traditions-Citizen Soldiers *donated by Bob Eldridge.*
11. Moorestown slides *donated by Laessle Family.*
12. William Powers, Oral History *donated by Jude Del Preore.*
13. Moorestown Locker Service Cold Storage Photograph *donated by John Coles.*
14. Moorestown Arithmetic Book, Ledger and Diary *donated by Bertha Bendel (see story and pictures on the facing page).*
15. Photograph of the members of the 4th Regiment of N.J. that reenacted Civil War life *donated by Jerri Chadwick and the 4TH N.J.*

Each of these accessions brings its own story and reflects life in Moorestown in a different era. We appreciate and thank all our donors for helping to preserve Moorestown's history for all of us and for our future generations.

— Mary Berardi

Afternoon sun on Smith-Cadbury's wood clapboard siding



From the book [Ainsworth's Arithmetic](#) by Luther Ainsworth published in 1837:

Q. How are Clapboards bought and sold?

A. By the 100 or 1000, counted, each clapboard being required to be 4 feet long, and 6 inches wide.

Q. How is the work of clapboarding estimated?

A. Clapboarding is done by the thousand, or by the day, as may be agreed upon by the parties.

BUSINESS CORNER

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS (NEW!)

Local businesses play an important role when they support the preservation of Moorestown's history. We welcome and thank our inaugural business members!

BENEFACTOR

Tait Co./Tait Roofing Inc.

EVENT SPONSOR

B.T. Edgar & Son Realtors

LIBRARY SPONSOR

Roger Wilco Wine & Spirits—
Andrea & Elliot Arking
Armstrong Pediatric
Dental, LLC

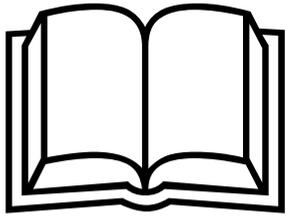
BUSINESS PARTNER

McChesney Funeral Home
Frank Batastini Orthodontics
Hanamirian, Garibian
& Kranjac, P.C.
Richard DePasquale—
Moorestown Tailors
BAYADA Home Health Care
Parkeon
Leonberg Nursery

Your generous support helps to sustain the Society's commitment to preserving Moorestown's heritage for generations to come.
Again, thank you!

Additional business memberships are always welcome.

Please call The Historical Society at 856-235-0353 for membership details.



Library News

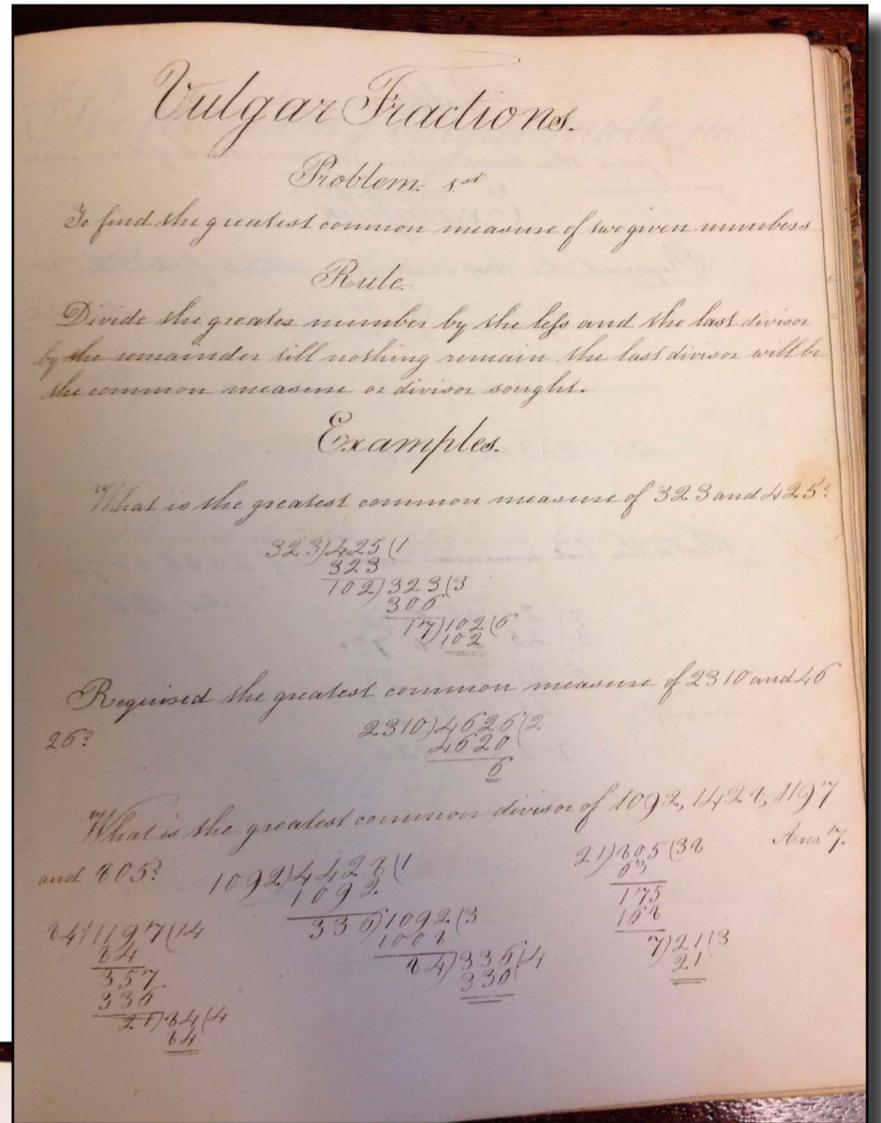
A View Into the Daily Life of Moorestown Quaker Farmers

The library received several new acquisitions over the summer. One of the most interest would have to be the three 19th century Moore family books donated by Bertha Bendel. Her home, directly east of the old Town Hall, was once owned by William and Martha Warrington Moore. William was the great grandson of Benjamin Moore, who is believed to have been the brother of Thomas Moore, the namesake of our town.

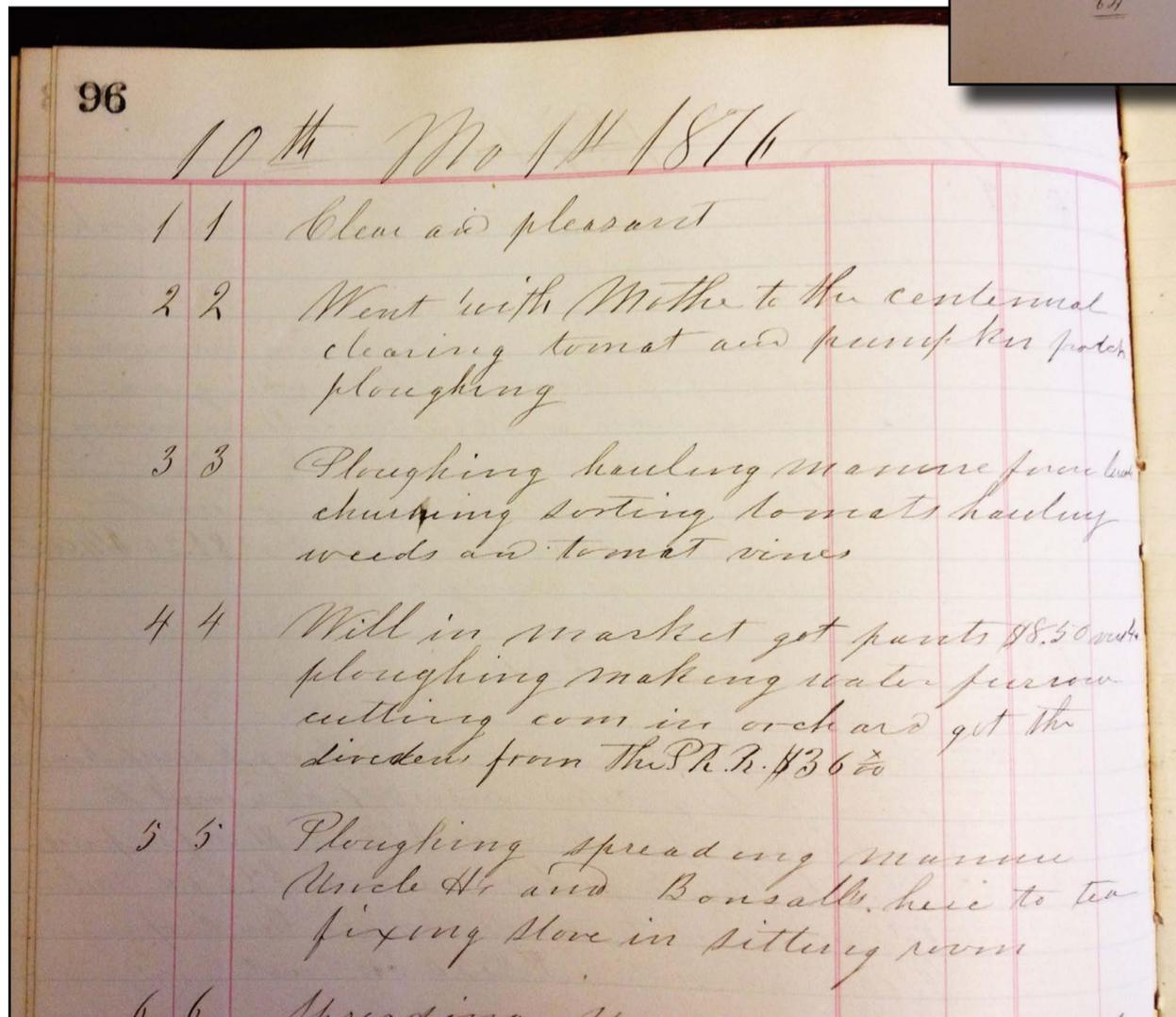
Mrs. Bendel's parents, Harvey H. and Bertha Brown were the caretakers for the Moore Family around the years surrounding 1920 when the three never-married Moore siblings, Henry W. (1839-1920), Hannah E. (1842-1923) and William S. (1845-1919), lived there in their old age. The Browns received the house after the Moores passed away and their daughter Bertha has lived there most of her life.

The books include a handwritten advanced arithmetic workbook dated 1829 possibly belonging to Martha Warrington, a very detailed ledger book of the Moore family finances and accounting covering the years between 1841 and 1881, and the diary of Henry W. Moore covering the years between 1873 and 1881. These items give us an amazing view into the daily life of this family of Quaker farmers.

— Stephanie Herz



A page from an 1829 arithmetic workbook



Entries from 1876:

"Clear and pleasant"

"Went with Mother to the centennial..."

"Will in market got pants \$8.50 ..."

"... cutting corn in orchard ..."

"Ploughing spreading manure"

"Uncle H and Bonsall's here to tea"

"fixing stove in sitting room"

The first few days of October 1876 from the diary of Henry W. Moore

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome Back! Even though my children are not in school this Fall, September still feels like the beginning of something new. Here at the Historical Society that new thing is our upcoming new website! Keep an eye on our Facebook page for a post announcing its debut!

A big thank you to the 153 families that have renewed their membership so far! Also thank you to the local businesses that have newly signed up to support us! We could not operate the Historical Society or Smith-Cadbury Mansion without your continued generous contributions. If you have not yet renewed, or have friends who would like to join us, please use the form below!

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members and special thanks to our renewing members who gave at our new donor levels:

New Members:

- Curtis & Jennifer Brinkman •

New Donor Levels:

- Mark Hines & Elizabeth Endres
- Lyn & John Cech
- Julie & Nick Maravich
- Larry Van Meter
- Mr. & Mrs. John W. Kolb •

Until next time,

Jill Weiss, Membership Chair

jill@thewio.com



We had Smith-Cadbury's sidewalk fixed — it's now smooth and beautiful

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW
RENEWAL

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

DATE:

PHONE #:

EMAIL:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

BASIC MEMBERSHIP:

- Student (\$10) Individual/Family (\$35)

DONOR LEVELS:

- Stories From the Past Sponsor (\$50)
 History Partner (\$100)
 CHOOSE ONE: Purdy Book or Our Sacred Honor DVD
 Library Sponsor (\$250) Patron (\$500) Benefactor (\$1000)

Make check payable to: Historical Society of Moorestown

Mail to: P.O. Box 477 Moorestown, NJ 08057

Are you good at fundraising? If so, we need your help!

We are seeking individuals with energy and ideas to help us in our fundraising efforts.

Interested?

Contact Jill Weiss via email: jill@thewio.com

Jobs — big and small — that we need help with:

Activities/Events: Helps plan, organize and hold Society events.

Docents: Museum and special exhibit guides.

Exhibits: Helps create interesting displays.

Fund Raising: Helps plan and hold income-generating events.

Museum: Helps with maintaining collection.

Oral History: Collects oral histories and oversees written work.

Photography: Attends events and take digital photos for our archives and publicity.

Programs: Helps select programs and speakers, coordinates meetings.

Publicity/News/Web: Helps get Society information to the members and public.

If you can help out, call the Society at 856-235-0353 or email Jill Weiss jill@thewio.com



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2015

- 8 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 13 *Smith-Cadbury* tours & research library, 1-3
- 15 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 20 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, 1-3
- 22 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 27 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, 1-3
- 29 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4

OCTOBER 2015

- 4 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, 1-3
- 6 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 8 Historical Society **General Meeting** at the Community House, 7:30 PM
- 10 *Smith-Cadbury* house & gift shop open for **Autumn in Moorestown**, 10 AM to 3 PM
- 11 *Smith-Cadbury* tours & research library, 1-3
- 13 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 16 **Ghost Tours**, 7 PM and 9 PM
- 17 **Ghost Tours**, 7 PM and 9 PM
- 18 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, 1-3
- 20 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 23 **Ghost Tours**, 7 PM and 9 PM
- 24 **Ghost Tours**, 7 PM and 9 PM
- 25 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, 1-3
- 27 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4

NOVEMBER 2015

- 1 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, 1-3
- 3 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 6 *Smith-Cadbury* house & gift shop open for **Candlelight Night**, 6 - 9 PM
- 8 *Smith-Cadbury* tours & research library, 1-3
- 10 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 15 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, 1-3
- 17 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 22 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, 1-3
- 24 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4

"The kitchen garden of Philadelphia and New York"

I write this on the 1st day of fall, sorry to see the end of another summer — already missing our wonderful Jersey tomatoes and peaches (both were particularly sweet and delicious this year). I came across the following description of New Jersey in a book called *Memoir of Rev.*

James M. Challiss by John R. Murphy, published in Philadelphia in 1870. — Lisa Knell, from the "garden of North America"



THE Marlton and Moorestown Baptist churches are both located in Burlington County, N. J., within twelve miles of Philadelphia, and about six miles apart.

The intervening and surrounding country is remarkably adapted for agricultural purposes, possessing that variety of soil so well suited to furnish the different vegetables and fruits demanded by the markets of large neighboring cities. New Jersey has often been called "The kitchen garden of Philadelphia and New York." The appellation, though evidently designed as a reproach, is after all no meager compliment. Those cities are greatly dependent upon this state, for the luxuries, comforts, and necessities of life, and no mean soil or unskilful culture could satisfy the voracious demands of their teeming thousands. While there is no state in the Union whose lands are valued so high per acre, or offer greater variety of production to the agriculturist or pay him better for his labor, yet there is probably no state in reference to which general opinion is more at fault on these points. Unfortunately for the agricultural reputation of the state, the early general route of travel, which ran across the state between the two great cities of the Union, and also the routes from these to the justly celebrated Jersey watering places, passed through some of the poorest and least improved sections of the state. Many persons have thus formed an unfavorable opinion of the entire state, and have not corrected the false impressions of this limited view, by a more extended acquaintance with its agricultural resources, and by a knowledge of the fact that the proximity of the state to great markets is rapidly converting even its seeming worthless sections into fruitful fields, yielding the choicest productions, and amply repaying the labor of their culture. An enthusiastic Jerseyman has claimed his state as, "The garden of North America." To those who know of the abundance, variety, and quality of vegetables, fruits, and flowers there produced, the claim is not a mere figure of speech.

[An excerpt from CHAPTER X. THE DOUBLE PASTORATE. April, 1845,—April, 1852.]

**Historical Society of
Moorestown**

Smith-Cadbury Mansion
12 High Street, Box 477
Moorestown, NJ 08057

**Non-Profit
Organization**
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Permit NO. 183



SEPTEMBER 2015

Ghosts and Mysteries of Main Street Moorestown

*Our Gift Shop
will be open*

Our guided walking tour departs Smith-Cadbury Mansion. Highlights include: The Episcopal Cemetery, visiting important Moorestonians at their eternal resting place, Pointing out haunted homes and telling murderous tales, visiting our town's founders at Friends Greenlawn Cemetery, and touring the old town jail before returning to the Museum.

Friday & Saturday October **16th, 17th, 23th, 24th**
at **7 PM** and **9 PM**. **Please arrive 15 minutes early.**

AT THE DOOR, 12 High Street, Moorestown.
\$15 for adults; \$12 for Historical Society members,
students and senior citizens; \$6 for children
age 6 & under. *Cash or checks only.*

*Meet at
Smith-Cadbury
for the start of
the tour. . .*

*DATES
TICKETS*