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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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Published by
The Historical Society
of Moorestown

View From the Porch

Autumn is traditionally one of the busiest seasons of the year for the Historical Society of Moorestown, and this fall is no different. The season got off to a flying start with our fall membership meeting which was held on October 9th at the Community House. Our guest speaker was Moorestown's own Samuel Still. Mr. Still's topic was the history of the Still family which includes Dr. James Still (1812-1882), a renowned herbalist and homeopathic healer often called "The Black Doctor of the Pines," and William Still (1821-1902), the father of the Underground Railroad. Mr. Still's riveting presentation traced the family's escape from slavery to its prominent role in the abolitionist movement. The session was well attended by Historical Society members along with a sizeable contingent of Moorestown High School students from Mr. Andrew Forshay's U.S. History class.

Right on the heels of our membership meeting came Autumn in Moorestown Day. Despite the fact that the bad weather got the day off to a slow start, over 50 people visited our *Moorestown During the Civil War* exhibit thanks to the efforts of Bill Archer (AKA The Towne Crier) who braved the cold and rain to man his post at the corner of High and Main Streets. There is no more reliable formula for success then to send Bill out to Main Street to direct people our way.

The Historical Society also had a booth at the annual STEM Steps Out event held on the banks of Strawbridge Lake. At the booth we displayed Ann Condon's *Strawbridge Lake* exhibit, which included rare photographs taken during the lake's construction as part of President Roosevelt's WPA program.

We closed out the month of October with the 2014 version of the Ghost Tours. Once again, under the leadership of Julie Maravich, a total of eight tours were held over two weekends. This continues to be one of our most popular fund raising activities.

Last but not least, our plans to make the Smith-Cadbury Mansion available to all citizens took another step forward with the completion of the final plans for the project. Paul Canton is working to provide the board with final cost estimates — for the walkway construction from the TD Bank parking lot and also for a new handicapped-accessible rest room — so that our fund raising effort can begin in earnest. Stay tuned for more updates as the project progresses.

If you have not had a chance to visit the Smith-Cadbury Mansion in a while, you may want to stop in during Candlelight Night, on December 5th. We will be holding our annual holiday open house to thank all of our members and volunteers for their efforts throughout the year.

I hope to see you then, but if not I want to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season!

Lenny Wagner, President

STILL HISTORY

Vainly, I've thought I had the best family history of anyone I've ever met. In the course of my studies I've discovered I'm related to both Abraham Lincoln and Robert E. Lee. (We Stephanys have a long tradition of hedging our bets.) Thanks to the outstanding program hosted by the Historical Society of Moorestown this past October 9th, I had the pleasure of meeting someone with an even more profound lineage. Local resident Samuel Still regaled the group with tales of his extraordinary ancestors.

Did I mention these individuals were extraordinary? His 4X Great Grandmother Charity (Sidney) Still had 18 children. That's a pretty impressive feat during any era. It's even more phenomenal that she did this during the 19th century and survived. She also spent the early part of her life as a slave in Maryland. On two separate occasions she managed to escape. The lady lived a full life.

Samuel then detailed the life of Dr. James Still. At the age of either three or four he witnessed a doctor giving inoculations. The young James resolved to become a physician. During the course of his life he received only three months of formal education. This shortcoming would've deterred a less driven person from pursuing a career in medicine. James didn't let it prevent him from achieving his dream.

James apprenticed with another doctor and studied herbal medicine from the Lenape tribe of Native Americans. Following years of hard work, he realized his goal of becoming Dr. Still. While this feat served as a monumental achievement in itself, he went on to discover a remedy that cured skin cancer. In addition, the doctor became very successful at treating dyspepsia and scrofula. (The latter is an inflammation of the lymph nodes on the neck.)

Before readers assume that his three months of formal education the greatest schooling anyone ever received, much of Dr. Still's success emanated from his work ethic. He labored seven days a week and even delivered his prescriptions directly to patients. In his autobiography he preached the virtues of forbearance and debt avoidance. At the age of 70, Dr. Still was the third largest landowner in Medford, New Jersey. He lived most of his life debt free. These would be tremendous accomplishments for any resident of the Garden State today. It's even more extraordinary for the son of former slaves to do so in the 19th century.

Samuel could've stopped his presentation there and still delivered an outstanding tale. Instead he impressed his audience even further. Another of Charity's sons, William Still, became known as "The Father of the Underground Railroad." Among his myriad accomplishments he laid out the organization's overall network. Samuel said, "Harriet Tubman didn't make a move without telling him." William debriefed, if you will, escaped slaves who passed through Philadelphia. He compiled their stories into the seminal chronicle on the subject. He published it in 1872 as *The Underground Railroad*. For those interested, the book is still available today.

Samuel went still further in his lecture. He related the story of a slave who stopped by William's office after purchasing his own freedom. William wrote down the man's story of how his mother escaped from slavery in Maryland. Before she left she told him to meet her in the New Jersey Pine Barrens when he became free. At this point William recognized the gentleman as his long-lost brother Peter.

Peter made the other two Still brothers seem like under achievers by comparison. For forty years of his life he endured slavery. After purchasing his own freedom for \$500, his former owner made him a proposition. He would sell Peter the wife and children he left behind in Alabama for the extravagant sum of \$5,000. In 2014 dollars this would equate to roughly \$143,000. It took Peter several years, but he managed to raise the necessary funds and liberated his family.

Samuel certainly has a rich family heritage of which to be proud. While I enjoyed hearing his story the number of younger people who attended this meeting impressed me even more. In fact, Samuel brought along his son to help carry on the tradition of sharing the Still story. At the conclusion of his lecture, Samuel told the students in the audience that he wasn't simply speaking about his genealogy; his talk described our history. The more all of us get to know about one another the more we can understand our similarities and common bonds.

I studied history in high school, college and grad school. Following that I did a wealth of genealogical research for my family. In all that time, I could never come up with a solid answer when people asked me what purpose history really served. After listening to Samuel Still's comments to the next generation of historians, I finally have one.

— Kevin Stephany

The Historical Society of Moorestown

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Historical Society Assists with High School Veterans Memorial



The Historical Society of Moorestown has been working with a committee made up of members of the William Snyder American Legion Post along with teachers and administrators from Moorestown High School on a project to update the Veterans Memorial located in the main lobby of the school. The memorial bears the names of Moorestown High School graduates who have served in the military, with a special marking for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country.

The goal of the project was to add any names to the existing wall that may have been omitted for the years that would have encompassed World War I through the Vietnam War and to add those names from the more recent conflicts. There have been no names added to the Memorial acknowledging those who have served in the Gulf and Afghanistan, and all agreed there was not sufficient space available on the existing memorial to do justice to those graduates.

The solution was to establish a virtual memorial in the form of a video monitor housed in a special display case which would scroll through the names of all the veterans, including in some cases photographs and brief bios.

In addition to assisting with the research for the project the HSM took charge of setting up the display in which the monitor will reside. The display and monitor were unveiled for the first time as part of the school's annual Veteran's Day commemoration. Trustee John Watson did some miraculous work in restoring some of the photographs used in the display. A debt of gratitude goes out to Dave Schill and Peter Kingston, who assisted in augmenting the display content by lending some of their treasured items. Also, special thanks to Danya George for lending her assistance and design flair on this project.

— Lenny Wagner

J. Fletcher Street's Granddaughter Visits Smith-Cadbury

You may recall the Historical Society of Moorestown's exhibit from 2012 called *Treasure in the Barn: The Lost Harris Bird Collection*. The exhibit commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the discovery of the lost bird collection of Edward Harris in the barn of Henry Makin, located behind the family home on Second Street. Acting on a tip from Makin's son in 1937, famed Philadelphia Ornithologist J. Fletcher Street came to the Makin barn and recovered the collection which ultimately ended up at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. The birds had been collected by Moorestown's Edward Harris throughout his life, including some from his expeditions with John James Audubon. The discovery of the birds was the subject of a Life magazine article in November of 1939.

Street's granddaughter, Berrell Mallery, who lives in New York City, is in the process of writing a biography on the life of her grandfather. Robert McCracken Peck, Senior Fellow at the Academy of Natural Sciences, who had visited the exhibit after speaking at our membership meeting in 2012, suggested to Ms. Mallery that a visit to the Historical Society of Moorestown was essential.

Ms. Mallery, along with her friend Virginia Crawford of Philadelphia, who is assisting on the project, visited on October 24th. After a tour of Smith-Cadbury, which included a review of much of the material from the 2012 exhibit, the two were shown all of the places in Moorestown which played a role in the story, including the Makin home on Second Street, where Street made his discovery.

After her visit and having the opportunity to walk the same ground that her grandfather had in 1937, Ms. Mallery commented that "this story is going to figure much more prominently in my book than I originally planned."

— Lenny Wagner



Virginia Crawford (L) and Berrell Mallery (R) pictured with the chest of drawers which was traded by Edward Harris III along with his father's bird collection to Henry Makin in exchange for some plumbing work.

Hollin(g)shead Family (Toronto Branch) Visits Smith-Cadbury

When we were doing research for the Historical Society's documentary film *Our Sacred Honor: Moorestonians in Time of War* we discovered the names of Quakers who were disowned for fighting during the American Revolution. Prominently mentioned was the Hollin(g)shead name. Never did it occur to us, that not only did the Hollin(g)sheads break with the Friends' pacifist position, but it turns out that they could not even agree on which side to fight. That was, until a day in 2009 when Steve and Karen Hollingshead, from Toronto, walked into the Smith-Cadbury Mansion asking to see our Hollingshead clock.

Steve Hollingshead is a direct descendant of Moorestonian Anthony Hollingshead, who along with his son George fought in the American Revolution on the side of the British. The two were members of a loyalist militia who fought bravely in a number of battles during the war. Once the outcome was decided, that wing of the Hollin(g)shead family thought it best to head north to Canada. They filed a claim with the British Crown to be compensated for the property they left behind in Moorestown.

Since their initial visit to the Moorestown and the Smith-Cadbury Mansion, Steve and his wife Karen, who since have become HSM members, have traveled the world tracing the family roots. In September they decided it was time to let Steve's parents in on the fun. So they planned a special trip for Larry and Bev Hollingshead to celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary. "Since Steve and my first visit to Moorestown" Karen wrote, "we've told Steve's parents many great stories about the Hollin(g)shead history there, but when they were able to see it for themselves it made a tangible impression on them. When you are able to make history personal for someone, that's when it really comes alive." We agree...come back again soon!



— Lenny Wagner

"We had such a wonderful time in Moorestown in September" Karen wrote, "who'd have thought that it would already have been our third visit there in five years! We've definitely been bitten by the Moorestown bug."

Library News

Look for "FROM THE ARCHIVES" Posts

Good news from the library! Thanks to the removal of the "antiques" and the installation of a new set of computers by our resident experts Cathy Hartley and John Watson, operations are moving along at a much-improved pace. In addition, the library welcomed two news volunteers this fall, Rudy Angelino and Mickey DeCamillo, both of whom bring a great appreciation of history and well-matched talents to the many tasks at hand.

Our Facebook page following is growing steadily. To keep up with the latest goings on with the Historical Society, please "like" us if you haven't already at facebook.com/historicalsocietyofmoorestown and encourage friends and family to do so as well. And watch for Mickey DeCamillo's "From the Archives" post every Tuesday.

— Stephanie Herz

Bring
Back
the
Past

The Historical Society is always seeking Moorestown artifacts, especially from the Pre-Revolutionary War era to the Civil War era for its collection. If you would like to donate, loan or sell objects or archival items from Moorestown's early history please contact the Society at 856-235-0353 or moorestownhistory@verizon.net.

Acquisitions

Family Bible Records 19th Century Family Life

The Historical Society has a very nice collection of bibles which are important for the genealogical records they hold — in addition to the proof of Christian practice.

Below is a brief description of one of the Bibles. It reflects not only the genealogical record of the Roberts family but also the health of the Roberts children. This is a very valid report of family life in the 19th century.

The Asa & Rebecca Roberts Bible. Accession # 2008-15-11. This Bible was published in 1875 by J. B. Lippincott & Co. in Philadelphia. It is massive, measuring 8¾" x 11¼" x 3¼". The front cover bears the names of *Asa & Rebecca Roberts* embossed in gold and is detached from the spine. There is foxing and the edges of some pages are brittle and damaged.

Only one marriage is recorded on the "Marriages" page. It is that of *Asa & Rebecca C. Roberts*. Mr. Roberts was a well-known "dealer in horses and mules." Two additional marriages were made note of by the newspaper clippings pinned to the "Marriages" page.

Eight children with the family name of *Roberts* are listed on the "Births" pages. The dates range from 1883 to 1897.

The "Deaths" page, in addition to the usual passing of some elderly persons, carries notice of the passing of younger persons. That included a woman, age 23; a man, age

25 years; and a female infant, age 8½ months. Supplementing the handwritten entries are two newspaper articles reporting the death and funeral of *Mrs. Martha Lippincott*.

Reported on the stationery of *Asa Roberts* is a record, on both sides of the paper, of the health of the children of the Roberts family. They encountered mumps, chicken pox, red measles, German measles, pneumonia, whooping cough and diphtheria. One child was operated on for appendicitis. Some had vaccinations, one of which "did not take." Regarding mumps, some of the family had them on both sides of the face, whereas Albert had mumps on only one side.

On an additional small piece of paper are written some numbers. Staff at the Historical Society decided that they were the temperatures of the children from February 23 until March 2, year unknown, apparently when an unidentified contagion ran through the family. The verso of the paper bears the letterhead of *Dr. Joseph Stokes*, a famous Moorestown physician.

Not only are these Bibles important for the bits of genealogy between the two testaments, but the evident usage as a religious guide.

Illustrations in this Bible present "The Last Supper," "Elijah in the Wilderness," and Moses being put into a basket to hide him from his enemies. The most prominent family names in this book are *Roberts, Jones* and *Lippincott*.

— Ann Condon

LESSON 81 DRILL 130

H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H H

Handing

The capital H should be made

Forty capital K's to the min
Take care of the motion and
capital K will be helpful. A
describing an oval and return
the first part with a loop, as s
About twelve of the words sh

K K K

Killing

P P P

P P P

One of our donors, Nancy Froelicher, has given many items of interest to the Historical Society. Recently, we took in a crocheted child's purse and a child's ceramic dinner plate, both from the 1930s. There were also teaching aids for helping children read that old time story about Dick and Jane. There was a book of poems and two color photos, one of a US mail box, now no longer manufactured or used, and a glorious scene of maple trees changing color to a brilliant yellow. These trees, living along the King's Highway, are long gone and have not been replaced.

Of particular interest to this writer are the two books that assist in the teaching of cursive writing, now unfortunately, and shockingly, not being routinely taught in some school systems. One book is *The Palmer Method of Business Writing*, 1901, and the other is *Handwriting Aid for Primary Teachers*, c.1955. Although it was indeed many years ago, I can myself remember being taught to sit up straight, keeping my feet flat on the floor, my left arm on the desk with that hand holding the paper in place, and then, pencil in the right hand, start gliding between the lines. We repeatedly practiced certain forms such as big Os and little os, these activities being named "drills." The result for the diligent student was a neat but plain figure. The Palmer Method is not as elegant as the handwriting of my grandparents and particularly one of my aunts. That went out of style long ago. Now, the Palmer method is leaving us. That makes this gift truly historic and a very suitable item to add to the collection of the Historical Society. *Thank you, Nancy.*

— Ann Condon

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Hello Members! As a token of our appreciation, the Historical Society recently delivered James C. Purdy's Moorestown Old & New to the front doorstep of our Contributor level donors. We hope you enjoy reading this wonderful "Local Sketch" of Moorestown's early days! If you're reading this newsletter and haven't yet renewed your membership, it's never too late! The date next to your name on the front of the newsletter indicates your renewal status: if the date is 04/15 you're good; if it is 04/14 we would greatly appreciate your continued support!

The Historical Society would like to welcome its newest members and to extend an extra special thank you to our members who gave at the Contributor level and above.

New Members:

Karen & Steve Hollingshead • Laura & Brian Cooper •

Contributor Level & Above:

Mrs. Gina T. Zegel • Lynne Taus Sergi • David Homer (in memory of Sara Homer) • Steven Zalkind • Tacie Fox •

New members are always welcome! If you have a friend or neighbor who might be interested in joining the Historical Society, please have them use the membership form below or email me at jill@thewio.com.

Till next time,

Jill Weiss, Membership Chairperson



New members are always welcome. If you have a friend or neighbor who might be interested in joining the Historical Society, please encourage them to contact Jill Weiss via email (jill@thewio.com).

We are always in need of volunteers... Thank you!

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.

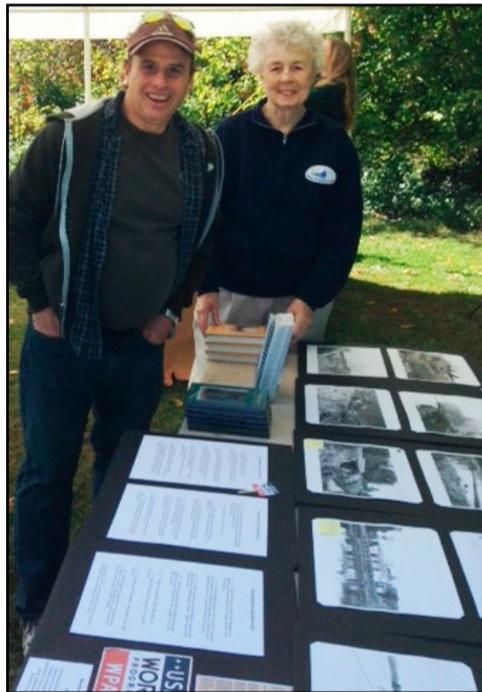
Programs: Helps select programs and speakers, coordinates meetings.

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

Historical Society Steps Out with STEM

The Historical Society of Moorestown helped celebrate STEM (Save The Environment of Moorestown) at their annual STEM Steps Out Festival on October 5th. The event, which is held on the banks of Strawbridge Lake, always brings out a great crowd. This year our booth appropriately featured Ann Condon's excellent exhibit on the lake's creation as part of the President Franklin Roosevelt's WPA program.



Ann Condon and Fan (left); Our booth was a popular spot (right)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

DATE:

TELEPHONE #:

EMAIL:

NEW

RENEWAL

Make check payable to:

Historical Society of Moorestown

Mail to: Jill Weiss,
Membership Chair
440 E. Main St.
Moorestown, NJ 08057

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

BASIC MEMBERSHIP:

Student \$10 ____
Individual/Family \$35 ____

DONOR LEVELS:

Contributor \$100-499 ____
Patron \$500-999 ____
Benefactor \$1,000+ ____



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2014

Ongoing exhibit:

Moorestown During the Civil War

- 5 Historical Society
Holiday Party 5:30 - 8:00 pm
- 7 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, 1-3
- 9 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 14 *Smith-Cadbury* tours
& research library, 1-3
- 16 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 17 *Smith-Cadbury* closed for
the holidays until January 4th

JANUARY 2015

Ongoing exhibit:

Moorestown During the Civil War

- 4 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, 1-3
- 6 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 11 *Smith-Cadbury* tours
& research library, 1-3
- 13 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 18 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, 1-3
- 20 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 25 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, 1-3
- 27 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4

FEBRUARY 2015

Ongoing exhibit:

Moorestown During the Civil War

- 1 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, 1-3
- 3 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 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

"Guess the Location" Contest

Starting this issue, the newsletter will present a historic photo of a location in Moorestown for you to identify. Each photo will have at least one element currently recognizable. The first person to answer correctly by emailing the answer to moorestownhistory@verizon.net will win a bag of Historical Society swag and bragging rights!

Today's photo:



**Historical Society of
Moorestown**

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

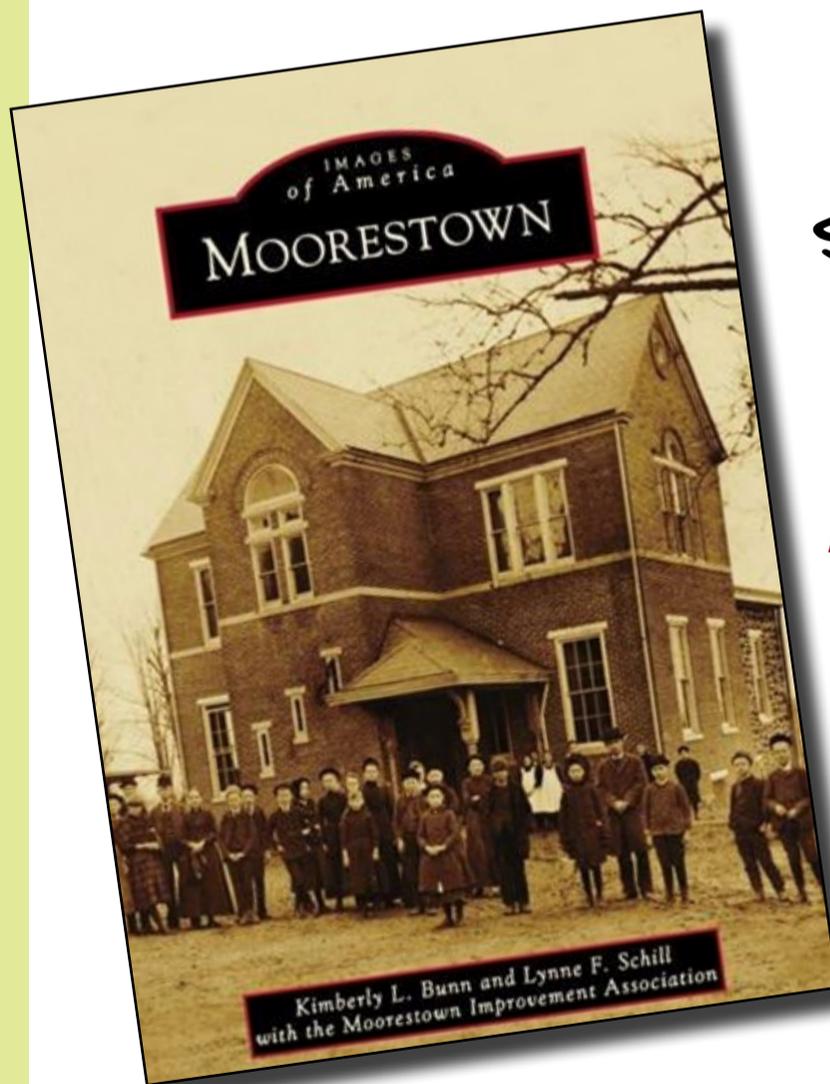
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U.S. Postage Paid
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Permit NO. 183



DECEMBER 2014

**Historical
Society
Holiday
Party**

Stop by the Smith-
Cadbury Mansion on
Candlelight Night,
December 5th from
5:30 to 8:00 for the
Society's annual
Holiday Party



**Meet the
AUTHORS at
Smith-Cadbury
BOOK SIGNING**

Kimberly L. Bunn and Lynne F. Schill will be signing copies of their book *Images of America: Moorestown* at the Smith-Cadbury Mansion on **Saturday, December 13, 2014** beginning at 1 p.m. The event is scheduled for two hours but the authors will stay past that time if necessary.

The two authors recently completed the project in conjunction with the Moorestown Improvement Association. Many of the images in the book are from the collection of the Historical Society of Moorestown.