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# FROM THE FRONT PORCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF MOORESTOWN



## View From the Porch

This year our annual meeting will take place on April 6th. April 6, 2017 will also mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America's entry into World War I. (Interestingly, a similar thing happened in 2015, when our meeting fell on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lee's surrender at Appomattox.)

Including those already serving in the military when war was declared, over 140,000 of New Jersey's finest served during the war. The federal government also established or improved upon 38 military installations in New Jersey. Among the most prominent, Camp Dix, which was a major training facility, opened in July of 1917. The 78<sup>th</sup> "Lightning" Division, which was made up of soldiers from Southern New Jersey and Delaware was activated at Camp Dix in August of 1917. Most of those from Moorestown who fought during World War I, were part of the "Fighting 78<sup>th</sup>", more specifically its 311<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

The size of the Moorestown contingent serving in the Armed Forces was significant, given how small of a town it was at the time. We know from the memorial on the wall of Moorestown High School, that at least one hundred served from MHS graduates alone.

The 78<sup>th</sup> Division arrived in France in June of 1918, just in time to participate in the final offensive against the Germans. After training with the British forces for two months they saw their first action in

August. They fought in all of the major battles from that point on, including St. Mihiel and the Argonne Forest.

Over 3,400 men from New Jersey were killed during the war including seven from Moorestown. William Snyder became the first person from Moorestown to be killed in action in any war, others who had predeceased him, both in WWI and the American Civil War, had all died from some war-related illness.

Over the next few months we will be working on exhibit ideas, and on other projects in conjunction with the state and national Centennial commemoration, starting with our Annual Meeting program. Please check back on our website for details and updates.

This year's meeting will also mark my final Annual Meeting as President of the Historical Society. A new president will be installed at the April meeting. As I have said many times, we have such a great Board of Trustees, that it makes the job of being President pretty easy and I would like to thank once again the Board members, and all of our volunteers, for their hard work over the last four years.

I hope to see everyone at the Annual Meeting.

*Lenny Wagner, President*



### House Tours and Gift Shop Hours:

2nd & 4th 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

### Phone

856-235-0353

### Web Site

moorestownhistory.org

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verizon.net

### Facebook

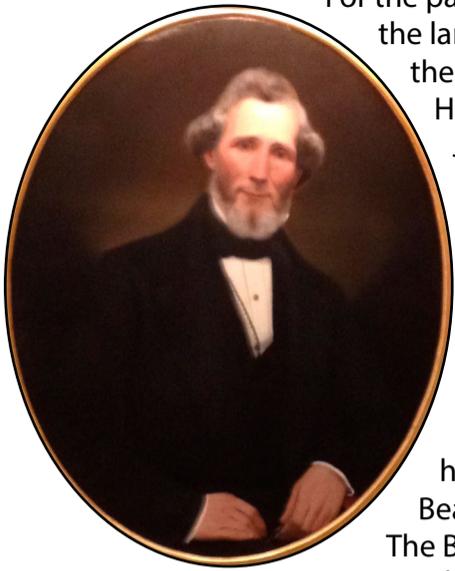
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societyofmoorestown

*Published by  
The Historical Society  
of Moorestown*

**MARCH 2017**

**ANNUAL MEETING:  
APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 at the Moorestown  
Community House**

# John Buzby Goes Home



For the past several years, visitors to the Smith-Cadbury Mansion have noticed the large framed painting of the kind-faced gentleman on the wall in the parlor. The painting came to *Moorestown* via the *Morristown* Historical Society when they realized that the subject of the painting, John Buzby, was a resident of the former, rather than the latter.

Last month, John Buzby made one final journey – back to his home at 1 W. Main St. in Moorestown. The Buzby painting is now on permanent loan from the Historical Society to Bayada Home Healthcare, the new owner of the property.

Buzby built the house at 1 W. Main St. in 1858 when he purchased the lot from his brother William who lived across Main St. The property remained in the Buzby family until 1920. Over the years, the house has been known as the Hotel Rulon, the Colonial Inn, the Vanity Beauty Shop, and Prudential and Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate offices. The Baiadas bought the house two years ago and have meticulously restored it to its former glory! John Buzby would undoubtedly be pleased.

— Stephanie Herz

## HSM HOSTS ANNUAL JOINT MEETING

On January 24, 2017, the Historical Society of Moorestown hosted the Annual Joint Meeting at the Community House with several other Moorestown organizations: the Moorestown Improvement Association (MIA), Save the Environment of Moorestown (STEM), the Pompeston Creek Watershed Association, and the Moorestown Garden Club. This was the first Annual Joint Meeting in which the Historical Society has participated. The other groups presented information about their latest projects and the challenges that they face. Margo Foster, Treasurer of the Friends of Percheron Park, also gave an update on the proposed park.

Lenny Wagner, the President of the Historical Society, then provided an overview of the Society's history, mission, notable artifacts, and latest exhibit. Mr. Wagner mentioned the ongoing *History Rocks!* exhibit, which displays a mind-boggling array of Native American tools, weapons, and other every-day items, many of which are thousands of years old, and all of which were discovered in recent, Moorestown archaeological digs. He stated that the mission of the Society is to preserve data, collect and preserve material things, and perpetuate the memory of those who made Moorestown what it is today. He also noted the resources of the Society, which include a nationally-recognized collection of quilts, several centuries-old grandfather clocks, 18th, 19th, and 20th century clothing, and archives that allow the Society to provide, among other things, genealogy services, as well as resources that Moorestown residents and others may peruse, including maps, books and yearbooks, photos, and family archives.

The speaker for the evening was Chet Dawson, chairman of the Moorestown Open Space Advisory Committee, whose informative, insightful talk was called, "*Strawbridge Lake*

*Park: Then, Now, and The Future.*" Mr. Dawson said that the site was originally a swamp, and got its start as a park following donations of various properties from local residents, including the Strawbridge family. Construction commenced in the 1930s with funding and workers from the New Deal's Works Progress Administration. Then came dredging, conducted in the 1950s and 60s, and from 1998 to 2001.

Pollution has been a consistent problem. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection have indicated that the water contains too much phosphorus and that fish in the lake are contaminated with the insecticide chlordane. The lake is also plagued by sedimentation and the overgrowth of invasive plants such as Japanese Knotweed, Purple Loosestrife, and spatterdock, the latter of which resemble water lilies. Poison ivy has also been ubiquitous, and the lake is in need of different species of fish that will consume the overabundance of plankton in the water.

Mr. Dawson said that the environmental engineering firm, Princeton Hydro, has assisted with monitoring water quality, analyzing the watershed, harvesting weeds, and studying the build-up of sediment. Looking toward the future, the lake will need non-invasive plantings that can help discourage sedimentation, and a restoration of the lake's shoreline. A new program, "Adopt the Lakefront," invites people to receive training in maintaining portions of the lake and has been very successful. Clean-up of weeds has yielded some dividends. Poison ivy and other overgrowth have been removed so that some trails and benches are visible and usable again.

Maintenance of the park is partly funded by a grant from Burlington County. Mr. Dawson stated that he plans on contacting Rutgers and the Burlington County Soil Conservation District for additional assistance.

— Liz Rosenthal

### The Historical Society of Moorestown

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*Lenny Wagner*

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*Michael DiCamillo*

##### 2nd Vice-President

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#### Trustee Emeritus

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## New Jersey History Speaks

### LECTURE SERIES

The preeminent of all American ideological conflicts found a fertile battle ground in the Garden State. The debate over a Hamiltonian approach to big government versus the Jeffersonian preference for more localized administration ended in favor of the latter. It resulted in

New Jersey spawning 566 municipalities: even more than California. Just what caused this northern state to adopt the political philosophy of the gentleman planter from Virginia?

Historian Michael DiCamillo set out to elucidate this phenomenon as part of the History Speaks series on January 18, 2017. The Elizabeth Tuttle Fund, the Historical Society of Moorestown and the Moorestown Library sponsored the event which the latter hosted. Professor DiCamillo has taught American History at LaSalle University. He's also on the Historical Society of Moorestown's board of trustees where he currently serves as Vice President.

Mr. DiCamillo utilized the work of former Garden State politician Alan Karcher's 1989 work *New Jersey's Municipal Madness* to illustrate this phenomena. The former Assembly Speaker explored the reasons why myriad towns and boroughs incorporated in the state. He discovered five key reasons: street fights, railroad towns, school district boroughs, dry versus wet towns, and exclusive enclaves. Mr. DiCamillo took the audience through each one.

The portion on "street fights" intrigued me the most. With the advent of the automobile road maintenance became a major political issue. Residents of a community elected "road superintendents" to represent their interests at the municipal level. They argued to secure the most funding for their streets. When these officials couldn't acquire the municipal money they wanted, they'd return to their constituents with an interesting proposition. They'd encourage the "street" to form its own town. Of course, these road superintendents would play prominent roles in the new polis; even serving as their mayors.

I found this outcome rather interesting. A road superintendent would fail in his duties to his constituency. The populace would proceed to elect them to govern the new town; a much more complex challenge than fundraising. In essence, these officials would receive a promotion from the same people they disappointed. As historian Richard Hofstadter observed, "Politics has a logic of its own."

I also enjoyed Mr. DiCamillo's discussion of the conflicts leading to dry and wet towns. He described how the "camp meeting movement" inspired people to exit the cities in favor of country life. These new communities would serve as places of worship where residents could avoid the excesses of modern life. A number of these municipalities such as Ocean Grove, Bradley Beach, Belmar, and Avon-by-the-Sea developed along the coast. More locally, the town of Delanco began as part of this phenomenon.

The disparity between pro and anti-prohibition forces masked more nefarious motives, as well. One of the rationales for the "camp meeting movement" germinated from a desire to control rowdy youths and immigrants. Latent and, at times, overt racism even led to the development of some municipalities.

# New Jersey's Multiple Municipal Madness

While the pursuit of a moral life free of vice caused many communities to form, the rejection of these principles inspired others. Centre Township prohibited playing golf on Sundays. It also rigorously enforced prohibition. Some individuals rejected these mores to such a degree they decided to form their own town. Thus, Tavistock incorporated in 1921.

In a fitting move, Mr. DiCamillo made his discussion of local history hyperlocal. Founded in 1688, Chester Township experienced numerous splits before the name disappeared from South Jersey in 1945. Cinnaminson left in 1860. Delran broke off from the latter in 1885. Riverside separated from Delran in the same year. Riverton left Cinnaminson in 1893 then Palmyra did the same a year later. In 1922 Moorestown parted from Chester Township. The remaining community changed its name to Maple Shade in 1945. Interestingly, with the exceptions of Moorestown and Riverside (which incorporated over street fights) all the others were "railroad towns."

Mr. DiCamillo focused his talk on the political aspects of the subject; which he delivered exceptionally well. Throughout the lecture he presented balanced analyses of the Hamiltonian and Jeffersonian visions. With respect to the latter he explained as one positive: the smaller the community, the easier for citizens to become part of government. While correct, not everyone has an interest in being an active member of the political process. In addition many individuals who live in the same area share the same political views. I'd encourage another historian to follow-up on this lecture with a discussion of the social implications of so many municipalities.

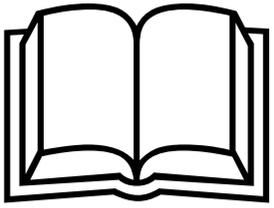
Mr. DiCamillo presented a solid case that the Jeffersonian vision of government entrenched itself in the Garden State. While no new municipalities have incorporated in New Jersey since 1957, to his knowledge, only Princeton Township and Princeton Boro chose to consolidate over the last two decades.

The monument on Mr. Jefferson's grave describes him as the author of the Declaration of American Independence, author of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom and Father of the University of Virginia. Had the third President lived long enough, he just may have added: "instrumental inspiration for the municipal system of government in New Jersey" to his legacy.

— Kevin Stephany



The New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series, hosted by the Historical Society of Moorestown, continues in 2017 with speakers who will shed light on a variety of topics related to New Jersey. Each event is free and open to all who are interested.



## LIBRARY NEWS

# Elmwood & Oakwood

On February 14, 1880, David and Rachel H. Roberts celebrated a big wedding anniversary with their family and friends. The party took place at Jonathan Williams' home, *Elmwood*, which was located on what is now Lenola Road in what is now the parking lot of the Moorestown Mall, near the entrance with the stoplight.

The house was built, according to George DeCou in *Moorestown and Her Neighbors*, in 1736 by John Roberts who was the son of John and Sarah Roberts, two of the earliest settlers in the area. DeCou goes on to describe the house and its construction:

"The letters, "J. R." and the figures "17-6" may be seen on the end next to the road, the figure 3 having been obliterated when the present window was placed in the wall. This old home known as "Elmwood" remained in the Roberts family until about 1860, when it was sold to Jonathan G. Williams, whose wife, Susan Roberts Williams, was a direct descendant of John and Sarah Roberts. The house is built of blue end bricks, which according to family tradition were brought from England. I do not question the truth of this or any other particular tradition but I am convinced that comparatively few bricks were imported from England as the brick making industry was established in West Jersey at a very early date. The West Jersey Assembly passed an Act in 1683, regulating the size and quality of bricks manufactured within its jurisdiction, which indicates that the industry had already been established. Bricks were required to be "no less than 2¾" in thickness, 4½" in breadth and 9½" in length." Two inspectors were appointed to see that the bricks were of the proper size and properly baked."

David and Rachel Roberts resided at their home, *Oakwood*, directly across the road from *Elmwood*. This was another beautiful old farm house that has since been removed to make room for commerce. The area surrounding both *Elmwood* and *Oakwood* was all farmland, including The Moorestown Mall, Eastgate, and the various strip malls on the west side of Lenola Rd. and the north side of Rte. 38.



Anniversary celebration at *Elmwood*.

(continued on page 5)

## BUSINESS CORNER

### BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

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

#### BENEFACTOR

Powers Kirn, LLC

#### EVENT SPONSOR

Whitesell Construction  
Fletcher Brothers  
Roofing and Siding  
BAYADA Home Health Care

#### LIBRARY SPONSOR

Armstrong Pediatric  
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#### BUSINESS PARTNER

Kathryn B. Supko,  
Berkshire Hathaway  
Distinctive Woodwork  
Kazmierski Orthodontics  
Esposito Family Dental  
Leonberg Nursery  
Tait Co./Tait Roofing Inc.  
Moorestown Construction

#### FRIENDS

Diane Walker,  
Colorstone Gardens  
Remember Me  
Stationery and Gifts  
Moorestown Hardware

Your generous support helps to sustain the Society's commitment to preserving Moorestown's heritage for generations to come.

*Again, thank you!*

**New Business memberships are always welcome; for details, visit us at <http://moorestownhistory.org/membership/become-a-business-partner/>**



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

All of us here at the Historical Society say thank you to our loyal membership for another successful year of supporting our dual mission to preserve and share our local history. On that note, arriving with the daffodils this Spring will be your membership renewal form for 2017-2018. As an all-volunteer non-profit organization, we depend on your membership dues and donations!

We would like to acknowledge our 2016-2017 Library Sponsors who now have a library shelf with their name on it!

- John & Barbara Watson • Gina Zegel •

The Pathway will be a great way to commemorate a special occasion or person and serve as a memento for future generations. A form about the details of your brick's engraving will be sent to you soon. Thanks to all!

And our History Partners for 2016-2017 who will have an engraved brick in our *Pathway to History*

- Jeanne Marie Alper-Mielich • Elizabeth Anton
- Eileen & Bill Archer • Michelle & George Arnold
- Mary & Lou Berardi • Marlise & Bob Bickel
- Karen & Randolph Binter • Lynne & Bob Brill
- Jennifer & Curtis Brinkman • Lavonne T. Camp
- Lyn & John Cech • Susan & John Colman • Ann Condon
- Mr & Mrs Brian Deam • Margo Foster
- Dr & Mrs Stephen Garza • Ruth & Reid Hagan
- Marlene Haresign • Sally & Robert Hartman
- Stephanie & Steve Herz • David Homer • Midge & John Ingersoll
- Stacey & Andrew Jordan • Linda &

- Robert Kastner • Barbara & Frank Keith • Katherine & Dean Kinsey • Janet Knowles • Mr & Mrs Robert Langerhans • Samuel Lippincott • Toni & Gerald Lord • Constance Madara • Julie & Nick Maravich
- Edith & Milton McFalls • Janet Moore • Mary E Moore • Carolyn & Mark Nachmias • Rhonda & Allen Nicholson • C DeWitt Peterson • Nancy Powers • William M E Powers, Jr • Marie Quigley • Mr & Mrs Frank Radey, Jr • Ann & Mike Ramage • Elizabeth Rosenthal • Samuel Schlindwein • William Shelley
- Lee & Roy Shubert • Janis & Chris Sparacio • Linda & Louis Vizi • Elizabeth Volckening • Jill & Richard Weiss • John Wilmot • Thomas Wittman •

Last but certainly not least, we extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

- Ann Courtney • Cathi & Todd Johnson •

A reminder that our website is a great resource for our membership and our town. What you'll find there:

- 📖 Information on our current exhibit: *History Rocks! Interpreting the Archaeological Discoveries in Moorestown*
- 📖 Our upcoming events calendar
- 📖 A look at our past Speaker Series talks
- 📖 A beautiful color edition of this newsletter & a lot more

Go to [moorestownhistory.org](http://moorestownhistory.org) and take a look! Looking forward to sharing history with you,

*Jill Weiss, Membership Chair*  
[moorestownhistory@verizon.net](mailto:moorestownhistory@verizon.net)

**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: [moorestownhistory@verizon.net](mailto:moorestownhistory@verizon.net)

**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](mailto:jill@thewio.com)



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### BASIC MEMBERSHIP:

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

### DONOR LEVELS:

- Stories From the Past Sponsor (\$50)
- History Partner (\$100)
- Library Sponsor (\$250)
- Patron (\$500)     Benefactor (\$1000)

**RENEWAL**   
**NEW**

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# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

## MARCH 2017

ONGOING EXHIBIT: *History Rocks! Interpreting the Archaeological Discoveries in Moorestown*

- 7 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 12 Smith-Cadbury tours & research Library, 1-3
- 14 Smith-Cadbury library & tours, 1-4
- 15 **NJ History Speaker Series Lecture**, 7:00 at the Moorestown Public Library, *Land Deeds and the Illumination of State, Local, and Family History* with Joseph Grabas
- 21 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 26 Smith-Cadbury tours, 1-3

## APRIL 2017

ONGOING EXHIBIT: *History Rocks! Interpreting the Archaeological Discoveries in Moorestown*

- 4 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 6 **Annual Meeting**, 7:30 at the *Moorestown Community House*
- 9 Smith-Cadbury tours & research Library, 1-3
- 11 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 18 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 23 Smith-Cadbury tours, 1-3
- 25 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4

## MAY 2017

ONGOING EXHIBIT: *History Rocks! Interpreting the Archaeological Discoveries in Moorestown*

- 2 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 9 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 14 *Closed for Mother's Day*
- 16 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 23 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 28 Smith-Cadbury tours, 1-3
- 30 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4

## ACCESSIONS

We appreciate all our donors and the items that they contribute to our Collection. Each item brings its own story and reflects life in Moorestown at different times and during different historical circumstances. Each piece enriches our understanding and broadens our knowledge base of life in Moorestown. It is an awesome experience to research, learn and carefully hold these special pieces of Moorestown history. Every time we accession a new piece to the collection, we appreciate the fact we are holding a piece of history that represents a significant time and place and that meant a great deal to those associated with it. Recent items include:

- Matthew McCrink Esquire Burlington County Oral History Project; donated by J. Del Preore, Burlington County Trial Administration
- Capt. Charles Hall Company E 4th Regiment Civil War Diary (typed binder version); donated by The Palmyra Historical Society
- Moorestown High School Class of 1936 Photo (Helen McChesney Bricker); donated by granddaughter, Kate Alexander
- Three Bower Candy Company Tins produced in Philadelphia, Pa.; donated by Dave Homer
- William H. Kenderdine Drawing of The Old Grist Mill (perished in fire 1910); donated by James R. Kenderdine
- Moorestown High School 1999 Alumni Directory; donated by Ann Condon
- Signers of Burlington County Album Quilts (c.1850s) research preserved on CD; donated by Lorraine Amos
- Samuel C. DeCou Quaker Wedding Shirt (c.1835); donated by Richard T. DeCou
- Laessle Family memorabilia (some dating to 1890) family postcards, wedding announcement, diplomas, news articles, etc.; donated by daughter, Linda Kemple
- Dorothy Gray (Church Street) Family memorabilia including 1928 yearbook, Photographs, Palmer Writing Certificates, Educational documents; donated by daughter, Virginia B. Manbeck
- Neville Jackson Silhouettes History, & Dictionary Book, Samuel Allen Flexible Flyer Sled Book, Moorestown 300th Anniversary mini glass reproduction, etc.; donated by Ann Condon

- Moorestown High School "Nutshell" Yearbook Class of 1959; donated by Lisa Smegal
- Henry Moore Ledgers, Greeting Cards, Paper Diary, 1752 Land Transfer document etc.; donated Bertha Bendel
- 1906 Margaretta Mickle 1906 Moorestown Calling Card; donated by Paul Schumacher
- 1819 Humphrey Family Land Transfer Document, Chester, N.J.; donated by Robert Fayles
- 1933 Black & White Photograph of Moorestown Community House; donated by Shaula Wright
- Froelicher Family Possessions dating from 1920s-1940s. Includes Cookbooks, World War II Civil Defense bands, Burlington County Trust Company deposit bags, 1960s Indian Springs photograph etc.; donated by Nancy Froelicher.
- Moorestown Junior Women's Club Scrapbook (250 pgs.) President of MJWC 1960-1 Sara Warkoczewski; donated by Carol Barry
- Book entitled Life Prints author Moorestown resident, Mary Grimley Mason; donated by Nancy Chumney
- 1939 Our Community Cookbook (590 pages); donated by Carolyn Kresson
- Kenderdine Watercolor of Old Central Inn near New Egypt, N.J.; donated by Shaula Wright
- 1961 Strawbridge Nature Area Trail Guide; donated by Ross Sweeney Jr.

Each of these pieces have presided in homes, meant something special and personal to those families and friends that have donated them. We thank our donors for entrusting them to our safekeeping at the Smith-Cadbury Mansion Museum Collection for all to know they are here to be shared and revel in the stories they bring. Come and share in the treasures.

— Mary Berardi



**Historical Society of  
Moorestown**

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



**MARCH 2017**

**New Jersey  
History  
Speaks**

**LECTURE  
SERIES**

**Land Deeds and the  
Illumination of  
State, Local, and  
Family History**

**OUR SPEAKER:**

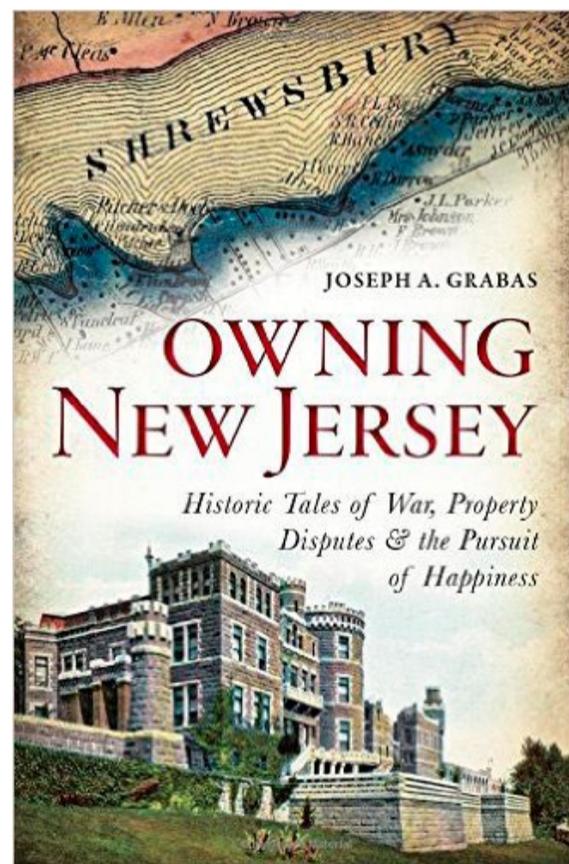
Joseph Grabas, author of  
*Owning New Jersey: Historic  
Tales of War, Property Disputes,  
& the Pursuit of Happiness*

*Mr. Grabas will:*

Discuss how people of different  
backgrounds fought to claim their  
piece of the Garden State.

Share the bizarre and mysterious  
stories that emerge from New  
Jersey's property records.

Finally, he will discuss how property  
records can reveal a great deal  
about family history and are an  
excellent source for genealogists.



**Moorestown LIBRARY  
Meeting Room A  
MARCH 15<sup>th</sup> at 7PM**

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