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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

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Historical Society of
Moorestown
Smith-Cadbury Mansion
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Published by
*The Historical Society
of Moorestown*

View From the Porch

The members of the Board of Trustees have been busy since the publication of our last newsletter. In April we held our Annual Membership Meeting, which was followed up by our second annual Cinco de Mayo fund-raising event. On June 6th, in conjunction with Moorestown Day, the Smith-Cadbury Mansion became the scene of a Civil War Encampment.

Our annual meeting was held on April 9th and was well attended. After we conducted the business portion of our meeting, everyone was treated to a very interesting program. Our speaker was Jean Soderlund, Ph. D., Professor of History at Lehigh University. Dr. Soderlund is the author of the book *Lenape Country: Delaware Valley Society Before William Penn*. She has also written extensively on the relations between the Lenape and the Quakers. It was a perfect preview of our exhibit for our 2015-2016 season *Before the Quakers: Moorestown's First Residents* which will be based on the Native American artifacts discovered during a recent dig off of Oldershaw Avenue, by Ilene Grossman-Bailey, Ph. D. and her team. The exhibit will feature the over 500 items that were taken from the site and placed into the care of the Historical Society of Moorestown by the State of New Jersey. Check out our Facebook page and website throughout the summer for updates on the new exhibit.

The second big event of the spring was our Cinco de Mayo fund-raiser, which was held on May 9th at the home of Stacey and A.J. Jordan on Central Ave. Many thanks to the Jordans for the use of their fabulous home and to our event committee members: Julie Maravich, Lynn Brill, Mary Berardi, Jill Weiss, and Cathy Hartley. We raised over \$5,000 which will go to help finance the Pathway to History, our project to make the Smith-Cadbury Mansion accessible to all of our residents.

Finally, on June 6th, in conjunction with Moorestown Day, we hosted a group of Civil War reenactors, who set up an encampment on the grounds of the Smith-Cadbury Mansion. The group portrays the 4th New Jersey Regiment, which was the group in which most of the men from Moorestown served. The event helped draw over one hundred visitors to Smith-Cadbury.

As part of their visit to Moorestown, the 4th Regiment visited two cemeteries where members of the actual 4th Regiment are buried and placed wreathes on the graves of Samuel Ellis and Clayton Hollingshead.

As usual we will suspend our normal Tuesday and Sunday hours for the months of July and August but there will still be plenty of work going on during those months, as we prepare for what we hope will be another great season. Have a great summer.

Lenny Wagner, President

JUNE 2015



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MOORESTOWN PRESENTED ITS THIRD ANNUAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP TO A GRADUATING SENIOR

at Moorestown High School. The award, presented during the senior recognition night, is given to a student who excelled in the study of history and who plans to continue those studies in college.

This year for the first time the scholarship was given in memory of **Sarah Franklin Homer** a long time trustee and volunteer who passed away last year.

This year's recipient was **Adam Panish**. Adam will be attending Rutgers in the fall, studying history and political science.

HSM President Contributes to SABR Biography Project



The Society of American Baseball Research Biography Project is an ongoing effort to collect peer reviewed biographies of every person who has ever played or managed in the major leagues. Historical Society President Lenny Wagner's contribution on the life story of Moorestown's Walter French (pictured at right) has recently been accepted and posted.

Walter French was born in Moorestown in 1899 and was a direct descendant of Thomas French, one of the town's earliest settlers. He played for the Philadelphia Athletics from 1923-1929. The 1929 Athletics team is considered by most experts to be one of the greatest teams of all time. French also played professional football in the early days of the National Football League.

You can read the biography on the SABR website, www.SABR.org. Just click on the "Biography Project" link and search the alphabetical listing.

**Members of the
4th New Jersey
Volunteer
Infantry
Regiment
"camped-out"
at Smith-
Cadbury
Mansion during
Moorestown
Day. Here they
pose in front
of the old
Town Hall on
Main Street
(more pictures
on page 5).**



The Historical Society of Moorestown

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Lenape Libertarianism

PEACE. TOLERANCE. AUTONOMY. IF ASKED WHO ESTABLISHED THESE CONCEPTS ON THE NORTH American continent, I'm sure many would respond the Founding Fathers. Those more familiar with the history of the Delaware Valley would say the Quakers. While great guesses, historical 'myth buster' Dr. Jean R. Soderlund of Lehigh University asserts that the Lenape Indians established these 'American' values prior to the other groups' respective arrivals. She elucidated her ideas at the Annual Meeting of the Historical Society of Moorestown on April 9th.

The parallels between Lenape society and modern day libertarian thought amazed me. The Lenape opposed the concept of a central government. They lived in small autonomous villages. A 'sachem' led each town. These villages would ally only for purposes of war and diplomacy. I interpret this act as forming a *de-facto* central government for the purpose of foreign affairs.

Freedom served as the core value of their society. They permitted their children to 'run free', in Dr. Soderlund's words. Women had a much higher status in society than their European counterparts. They even had the authority to divorce if they so choose. These socially liberal ideas didn't exist among newcomers to the region.

The Lenape supported free trade. Corn, beans and squash served as their major agricultural products. They would exchange these items with Europeans in return for cloth.

While establishing a reputation for welcoming others into their society, they resorted to force when necessary. Dr. Soderlund used the Swanendael Massacre of 1631 as an example. The tragedy germinated from a communication gap between the Lenape and the Dutch. The latter asked the former to turn over a sachem. He'd defaced a sign defining the area as Dutch territory. The Lenape killed the chief and provided his head. The Dutch had a much more benign punishment in mind, but the language barrier complicated their request. The sachem's family executed 32 members of the Dutch settlement as retribution.

Dr. Soderlund asserted that the Lenape resorted to violence to encourage the settlers to go elsewhere. They recognized European encroachment in the region. This act sent a message. In 1687 the Lenape wouldn't allow cartographer Thomas Holme access to their lands to complete his map, either.

The Walking Purchase of 1737 concluded the professor's lecture. An unscrupulous negotiator inveigled a large tract of land in Eastern Pennsylvania from the Lenape. Their distrust of government and the settlers turned out well-founded.

Dr. Soderlund delivered a well-researched presentation on Lenape life. I'm still amazed by their libertarian value system. The professor discredited various myths surrounding Native American life. Unfortunately no historian can include the narrative of them getting cheated out of their land among them.

Dr. Jean R. Soderlund, author of Lenape Country: Delaware Valley Society Before William Penn, at our Annual Meeting

—Kevin Stephany



CONGRATULATIONS TO MEMBER KYLER FOSTER

for being the first to identify the location of the 1895 picture in the March 2015 issue of "Guess the Location."

It was taken from the last curve on Moorestown-Riverton Road on the way out of Moorestown. The line between Moorestown and Cinnaminson (both once part of old Chester Township) lies ahead.

The house at the left, with its distinctive two chimneys is 1040 Riverton Road. At the bottom of the hill is a stream, a branch of the Pompeston Creek that passes under the roadway after exiting Lippincott's pond (not visible in the picture). Water from the pond once powered Lippincott's nearby sawmill.



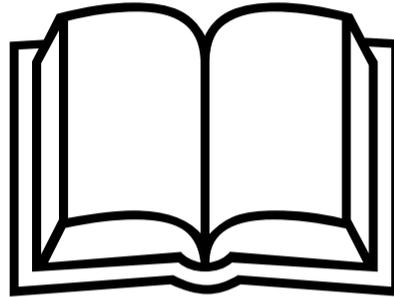
Library News

A Quaker Wedding Certificate & Chester Brick School Book

Thank you to all the volunteers that keep the HSM library a reliable and important resource for those seeking information about Moorestown's history. We'd especially like to recognize Bill Archer, John Watson, Mickey DiCamillo, and Jill Weiss for their contributions.

The library staff is especially excited about 2 new additions to our archives. Thank you to member Libby Curran for her donation of the Quaker wedding certificate of her great grandfather Edward Strawbridge (an early head of the Strawbridge & Clothier department store) and his wife Esther Williams Strawbridge, dated February 12, 1891. Also donated by Mrs. Curran, an arithmetic book belonging to Esther Roberts when she attended to the Chester Brick School in 1823. The Chester Brick School was located near the current intersection of King's Highway and Route 73 but is no longer standing. It was the first school that we know of in Chester Township (which included Moorestown) and was erected by the Society of Friends in 1785.

— Stephanie Herz



Museum News

Moorestown Third Graders Introduced to Local History at Smith-Cadbury

Each spring, the Moorestown third grade public school curriculum focuses on Moorestown history. Historical Society docents provided guided tours to each of the third grade classes from each of the three elementary schools, nearly 300 children in all! Without the help of our talented and dedicated team of volunteer docents, these tours would not be possible.

Major appreciation to Cathy Ruff for organizing and leading the tours, Lynne Brill, Barbara Rabinovich, Edmund Moore, Mary Berardi, Julie Maravich, Lisa Hammell, and Mickey DiCamillo. Thanks also to our Town Crier team, Bill and Eileen Archer. Thank you for keeping history alive!

MANY THANKS

to Ann Condon for her dedication to preserving history and her years of service to the Society as a Board Member, especially with Acquisitions. As a Moorestown native her insights and knowledge were always valuable and helpful.



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
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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.

4th New Jersey Camps Out at Smith-Cadbury

On Moorestown Day, June 6th, the front lawn of the Smith-Cadbury Mansion was a sight to behold: the 4th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry Regiment "camped-out" with us on High Street.

A large number of Moorestown residents were part of the 4th Regiment during the Civil War.

The Regiment works to educate the public about the history of the Civil War era (for more information visit www.4thnj.com) and showed the medical care soldiers received, the games they played during downtime, and other facets of camp life during the Civil War.



HSM President Lenny Wagner presented the Regiment with a framed copy of a Company E Reunion picture



Wreaths were placed on the graves of Moorestown Civil War veterans Clayton Hollingshead (photo above) and Samuel Ellis



Kerri Costa, Bob Eldridge, and Kathy D'Imperio present HSM President Lenny Wagner with a copy of the book they wrote —

"Citizen Soldiers, Fauver Family Tradition" — about their great-grandfather Robert Reed Fauver who was the company cook of Company E of the 4th New Jersey Regiment and settled in Moorestown after the Civil War

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A very big THANK YOU to our renewing members!! Your steady support of the work we do is noteworthy! Because of your generosity we can continue to offer to the community: museum tours, hands-on educational programs for children, guest speaker presentations, local history exhibits, research assistance using our library and archives, our new History Book Club, and our informative newsletter! Your membership dues also help keep our headquarters, Smith-Cadbury Mansion, operational. This membership drive, we offered new donation levels and it was exciting to see how many of you are interested in our *Stories From the Past* level no doubt due to our packet of Historical Society pamphlet publications perk!

If you haven't yet renewed please do so using the form below. Information about donor levels and their benefits can be found at our website: moorestown.com/history. If you've always wanted your name engraved on a brass plaque on a shelf in our library, now is the time to renew at the Library Sponsor level. Also new this year for members is enrollment in *Time Travelers*, a reciprocal membership program that provides you with free or discounted admission to 250 historic sites across the country! Included with this newsletter is your Historical Society/Time Travelers membership card. For a list of participating historic sites visit timetravelers.mohistory.org. Happy Time Traveling!

A warm welcome and special thanks goes out to our new members and those who renewed at our new Donor Levels:

New Members:

• *Rebeca Gillispie* •

New Donor Levels:

• *Linda & William Burris* • *Mary E. Moore* • *William P. Shelley* • *Audrey Shinn* • *Mr. & Mrs. Jon Ingersoll* • *Maureen & Brian Deam* • *Karen & Randolph Binter* • *Sharon & Adam Watson* • *Sandra Waxman* • *Gina Zegel* • *Stella & Jack Wilmot* • *LaVonne T. Camp* • *Mr. & Mrs. Frank Radey* • *Barbara & John Watson* • *Linda & Louis Vizi* • *William Kingston* • *Ann Condon* • *Marquerite & John Celani* • *Mr. & Mrs. Baird Foster* • *Lynne & Bob Brill* • *Nancy Powers* • *Dr. & Mrs. S. Garza* • *Susan & John Coleman* • *Carolyn & Mark Nachmias* • *Mary & Lou Berardi* • *Patricia Doherty* • *Thomas Wittmann* • *Jean Wilmot* • *Ruth & Reid Hagan* • *Rhonda & Allen Nicholson* • *Pamela & William Cossaboon* • *David Homer* • *Janis & Chris Sparacio* • *Cathy & David Hartley* • *Cheryl & Lenny Wagner* • *Liz Volckening* • *Mrs. Joan Meader* • *Maureen Fries* • *Milt & Edith McFalls* • *Ann & Mike Ramage* • *Albert Salmon* • *Gerald Lord* • *Edmund Moore & Barbara Rabinovich* • *Lawrence Lally* • *Alfred Driscoll* • *Bob & Marlise Bickel* • *Mr. & Mrs. Kyler Foster* • *Marie Quigley* • *Kevin Stephany* • *Louise Marshall Kelly* • *Peter Kelly* •

Jill Weiss, Membership Chair

jill@thewio.com

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



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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 2015

Last chance to see the current exhibit *Moorestown During the Civil War*.

Open Sundays 1 to 3 pm and Tuesdays 1 to 4 pm



JULY/AUGUST 2015

Smith-Cadbury CLOSED for the summer

SEPTEMBER 2015

8 *Smith-Cadbury* re-opens
Open Sundays 1 to 3 pm and Tuesdays 1 to 4 pm



“Before & After”

This time instead of “Guess the Location,” we have a pair of “Before and After” photos from the collection of the late Jim Laessle.

From Jim’s description of the earlier picture:

“This shot looks west towards Church Street with West Moorestown’s ‘New’ Station to the right of the original. The original station on the left later became the Piping Products Yard.”



For the after picture, Jim went back for a similar picture in 1995, by which time the original station was gone.

**Historical Society of
Moorestown**

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

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JUNE 2015

**COMING
THIS FALL**

A NEW EXHIBIT Before the Quakers: Moorestown's First Residents

Our exhibit for the 2015-2016 season, *Before the Quakers: Moorestown's First Residents* will focus on life in what is now Moorestown, before the arrival of the Europeans. The focal point of the exhibit will be the over 500 items that were taken during 2012's archaeological

dig, off of Oldershaw Avenue, know as Madeira I and II. In the Spring of 2014, the State of New Jersey placed the items discovered during the dig into the care of the Historical Society of Moorestown.

Required by state law, the archaeological survey yielded hundreds of artifacts from small bands of Native Americans that occupied the area over a period of time dating back about 5,000 years.

The exhibit is scheduled to open in the fall of 2015.

Mary Berardi and Mickey DiCamillo sort through items from the Madeira I and II archaeological digs

