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FROM THE FRONT PORCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF MOORESTOWN



View From the Porch

Most agree that it began with the frost. The icy white grass glittering under the moonlight somehow awakened humanity in a place called No Man's Land. The first few words of Silent Night drifted into the cold air. Then, a Merry Christmas soon followed. For the British soldiers hearing these sweet sounds, suspicion was their first reaction. For six months, they toiled in muddy, dank trenches suffering repeatedly from their enemy's constant shelling. Now, the Germans were singing songs of heavenly peace. British commanders told their men to ignore the truce offering. This was certainly a trap. But, a group of British soldiers ignored their leaders. They volleyed their own Christmas Carol into the night: The First Noel. Soon, a sign went up: "You no shoot, we no shoot." And, the legendary Christmas truce of 1914 began.

Many are certainly familiar with this World War I story. It is a powerful example of the deep human desire for peace and accord. In the midst of humankind's most ghastly warfare, the people burdened with the war's brutality decided to place faith in the greater good of humanity and defied orders to maintain the status quo. Indeed, it is the story's defiance that has always struck me as seminal. Generals issued memos prohibiting friendly intercourse with the enemy. Commanders forcefully tried to restrain their men and maintain a strategic position. But the rank and file chose to unshackle themselves—even if temporarily—and release a burst of raw human spirit. Perhaps this holiday season we can exercise defiance in our own lives and show comradeship with the people that we consider our enemies. Maybe it will only be a temporary truce that you offer, but even that short respite could lead to a greater understanding of someone you may regularly fail to understand.

Clearly, World War I remains on our minds here at the historical society

as we prepare to unveil our exhibit on Moorestown's role in that horrific conflict. An interesting story is emerging from the artifacts and documents that we have collected from the period. We find Moorestonians giving generously to the war effort with both their lives and fortunes. But, we also find the town in conflict as neighbors struggle over their feelings for the war and some question if everyone in town is offering an equal sacrifice. Even after the war ends, trouble continues. Death stalks the region in the form of an epidemic flu virus that ravages Philadelphia and spills over into New Jersey. Burlington County would not be exempt from the sickness that would kill thousands across the region. This period is difficult to examine, but we hope that our exhibit helps demonstrate how every generation confronts uncertain times, and the best and worst that people have to offer are on display no matter the time period. We hope that you will visit Smith-Cadbury in the coming months to see our exhibit, and keep an eye out for upcoming events that we will be hosting throughout 2018 to further our understanding of the period.

2018 promises to be a very active year for the historical society as we are planning special events that will engage young and old alike. But, in the final days of 2017, I want to extend a special thank you to all of our volunteers, docents, and trustees that make the historical society a meaningful institution in the community. I also want to pay a special debt of gratitude to all of you, our members and sponsors, who continue to support the historical society and enable us to carry out our mission. We are thankful for all of you and wish you a special season of happiness in the weeks ahead.

Mickey DiCamillo, President
mdicam@hotmail.com



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

E-mail

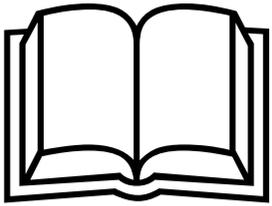
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The Historical Society
of Moorestown*

DECEMBER 2017



LIBRARY NEWS

citizens, soldiers and civilians, young and old, responded to the needs of a country at war. Visitors will be enlightened by the rich variety of items that will be on display and get a true sense of the atmosphere in this sleepy little town during those tumultuous years.

Several wonderful individuals responded to our call for memorabilia related to that time period in Moorestown's history. A variety of wartime military items have come forward from relatives of soldiers Robert Chapman Smith, Asa M. Stackhouse, _?_ Young, and John Snow. We also heard from the Moorestown Quaker Monthly Meeting about one Emma Cadbury, Jr (1875 – 1965) who was a member of *The Committee to Advance, as Way May Open, the Cause of Peace and to Oppose Militarism* during the war years. Emma was the sister of our own John W. Cadbury, Jr., the last owner of the Smith-Cadbury Mansion, before it was purchased by the Historical Society.

According to family history, during World War 1, Emma Cadbury was occupied with family matters so her participation on this

Our dedicated library volunteers have been busy locating and preparing items for the upcoming exhibit on Moorestown during World War 1. They have been researching the many different ways that Moorestown

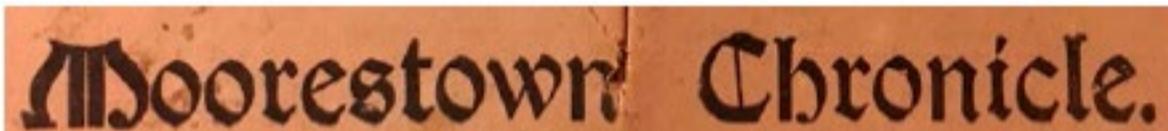
peace committee may have been her only way to work towards the better world that she believed in. After her parents died in 1923, she traveled to Poland and then to Vienna where she became the American Secretary of the Friends International Centre. She remained in Vienna until Hitler's *Anschluss* in 1938.

Emma was most well known for her work with refugees before and during World War 2, but her early experiences following the Great War certainly influenced her future path. Her description of post-war Poland is revealing: "*In Poland there was a food shortage and Friends [Quakers] were helping in the distribution of milk to the school children. They also helped in reclaiming the farmland which had become overgrown with birch trees during the war; tractors, cultivators, and a variety of implements were supplied. Many homes had been destroyed and so Friends provided saws and saw mills and horses to drag the timber so that the houses could be rebuilt.*"

Local Quakers were very active in raising funds to aid the refugees in Europe during the war and supporting organizations such as the Red Cross and the YMCA. They also organized lectures and letter-writing campaigns against the buildup of militarism in this country.

If you have any photographs or memorabilia, about the Great War in Moorestown, especially materials (letters, articles, meeting minutes, etc.) about the Quakers who opposed the war, we would love to hear from you.

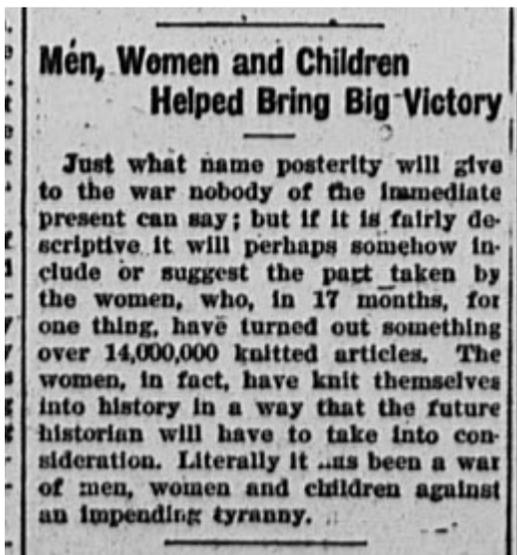
— Stephanie Herz



***** Who has the old copies of the Moorestown Chronicle and Moorestown News?

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of an archive of the issues of these newspapers between the years 1878 and 1931 is asked to please contact the librarian of the Historical Society at 856-235-0353 or moorestownhistory@comcast.net. *****

Throughout this issue are stories from local World War I-era newspapers *The New Era* and *The Weekly News* (published in Riverton and Palmyra). [This is the link to the digitized newspapers: <https://rivertonhistory.com/historical-local-newspapers/>]



Men, Women and Children Helped Bring Big Victory

Just what name posterity will give to the war nobody of the immediate present can say; but if it is fairly descriptive it will perhaps somehow include or suggest the part taken by the women, who, in 17 months, for one thing, have turned out something over 14,000,000 knitted articles. The women, in fact, have knit themselves into history in a way that the future historian will have to take into consideration. Literally it has been a war of men, women and children against an impending tyranny.

[THE NEW ERA newspaper, New Jersey, January 29, 1919]

The Historical Society of Moorestown

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New Jersey & The Great War

The Historical Society of Moorestown welcomed author Richard J. Connors, Ph.D. as our 2017 Annual Fall Meeting guest speaker

Richard J. Connors opened his remarks with perhaps the most unusual preface to a talk regarding warfare: he spoke about love. The man whose death ignited the Great War, Archduke Ferdinand, married for love. The professor then informed his audience that he “falls in love easily” when he addressed the Historical Society of Moorestown. The erudite gentleman explained that he’d fallen in love with the host town upon visiting. Those interested in history certainly loved his talk this October 5th at the Community House.

Dr. Connors holds the title of Professor Emeritus at Seton Hall University. A catalog of his notable works includes: *A Cycle of Power: The Local Political Career of Mayor Frank Hague*, *The New Jersey Constitution of 1776* and *New Jersey and the Great War*; the latter serving as the basis for his lecture. In addition to writing about military affairs, the professor possesses personal knowledge of the subject. He served as an officer in the Army Corp of Engineers with the Army of Occupation in Okinawa in 1947. From 1951 – 1952 he served in the Korean War.

The professor commenced his talk by describing the European conception of warfare at the advent of the Great War. Until the beginning of the nineteenth century, “royal affairs” between rival kingdoms comprised armed conflicts. The Napoleonic Era spawned a transition to “quick and dirty affairs” between nation states. This led planners to anticipate a brief First World War. This miscalculation gave rise to “total warfare.” Conscription allowed for an “army of millions” to take the field against an opponent of equal size. In the end, the conflict led to 30 million soldier and civilian casualties.

Many technological innovations occurred during the 99 years following Napoleon’s defeat until the first shots of the Great War. Tanks, aircraft, flamethrowers, barbed wire, heavy artillery, poison gas and machine guns entered the battlefield for the first time. Many historians cite these developments as reason for the massive loss of life during the war. Dr. Connors added an incisive corollary to that analysis: these weapons “gave a lot of emphasis to the defense.” This would explain why the British suffered nearly 60,000 casualties on the *first day* of the Battle of the Somme.

Dr. Connors enlightened the audience regarding the role the Garden State played in the war. He used the old real estate aphorism “location, location, location” to explain its significance. New Jersey housed several munitions plants; an industry which experienced a boom (no pun intended) once the war commenced. The state’s refineries also provided a source of fuel for the Allies. Cities, such as Camden, became centers of ship building.

To local history buffs’ delight, Dr. Connors also discussed the 78th and 29th Infantry Divisions. Both units included soldiers from New Jersey. Camp Dix served as the training ground of the former and Camp McClellan for the latter. The professor noted the interesting fact that although located in Alabama, a former Garden State governor and Union general provided that base’s name.

When contemplating wartime casualties, one traditionally thinks of injuries sustained in combat. Dr. Connors reported that flu and pneumonia proved more deadly than the battlefield. According to a study conducted in the early 1930s: Americans suffered 52,000 casualties in battle. The twin scourges of Flu and pneumonia combined for 63,000.

America’s declaration of war on April 2, 1917 led to an eruption of patriotism “overnight.” That seemed odd, as when asked why the US entered the conflict the professor replied, “Damned if I know.” He went on to hypothesize that the nation did so for the following reasons: 1) while initially ‘neutral’, American financiers such as JP Morgan bankrolled the Allies from 1914 – 1917. These economic ties ensured entering the conflict against the Central Powers. 2) Unrestricted German submarine warfare negatively impacted American business interests. 3) The Zimmerman Note, in which Germany offered to assist Mexico in retaking the American Southwest, became widely reported. Dr. Connors added that both the British and German propaganda machines operated stateside during the war. The British possessed more skill in this field due the shared language.

Josef Stalin observed, “The death of one man is a tragedy, the deaths of millions is a statistic.” Many historians neglect the human cost of the tragedies they explicate. Dr. Connors avoided this error. He humanized the Great War’s cost by quoting a poem written by New Jersey native, Joyce Kilmer: himself a casualty of the conflict.

A discussion that began with the subject of love concluded with its antithesis. At the cessation of hostilities “a demand for peace turned to a demand for revenge.” It became the catalyst for an “age of bigger government.” As Dr. Connors wrote in *New Jersey and the Great War*: “Subtly and sadly, then, the Great War trained us for World War II.”

— Kevin Stephany

New Jersey Makes

As we commemorate New Jersey's contribution to World War I on the centennial anniversary, The Historical Society of Moorestown was fortunate to welcome author, Richard J. Connors, Ph.D. as our 2017 Annual Fall Meeting guest speaker. He spoke about his latest book *New Jersey and The Great War: 1914-1919*.

Dr. Connors' meticulous research delves deeply into a variety of aspects of New Jersey's link to the Great War. He expertly describes what was happening from Camden to Burlington County to Trenton and then to Washington DC, and continues on to offer a broad international perspective.

Some interesting notes from his book:

- Trenton's railroad bridge across the Delaware River has a sign, **Trenton Makes - The World Takes**. In 1914, this message didn't stop in Trenton — it also included New Jersey as a whole. We were not only a *garden state*, but also a factory state: sewing machines, silk/thread goods, copper refinement, elevators, chemicals, refinement, linoleum. etc. We were a railroad state producing and transporting goods and services such as power that produced water, gas, and electricity.
- New Jersey was not without its challenges and need for reform. Child labor helped drive much of production in factories. In 1914, the numbers of students attending high school was low due to the fact that many families, including immigrant families, needed to send their children out to work so the inclusion of "their wages were pooled for collective support."
- The Allies needed goods such as guns, munitions, horses, mules, wheat to feed the troops, automobile tires, trucks, coal, oil and gasoline to fuel vehicles. In 1914, Standard Oil Bayonne earnings was \$370,000. In 1915, earnings were \$6,500,000.
- Camden's shipbuilders employed 4,500 workers that delivered tankers and railroad car barges. Camden's *New York Shipbuilding Corporation* built and launched the battleship *USS Oklahoma* that eventually became a Pearl Harbor casualty.
- Our railroad delivery system became known to some as the "Arsenal to the Allies".
- The Medal of Honor was first awarded for service in the Civil War "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty." One hundred and nineteen Medals of Honor were awarded during the Great War. Eight were credited to New Jersey.
- The last believed surviving American Flying Ace Fighter Pilot was Captain James Pearson who settled in New Jersey after he returned from the Great War. He died in 1993 — 75 years after The Great War ended!
- Thanks to Dr. Connor's copious body of work that enlightens and educates, we are now truly prepared to commemorate New Jersey and The Great War.

— Mary Berardi

Suffrage was warmly indorsed by Dr. Kendall and he expressed the opinion that the extension of the right of franchise to women would have a substantial effect toward counteracting the effects of radical thought and propaganda throughout the country.

[THE NEW ERA newspaper, Riverton and Palmyra, New Jersey, November 28, 1919]

appropriation. The size of this amount, however, offers a serious obstacle in so far as New Jersey is concerned, Dr. Kendall said.

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When the legislature convenes it will be called upon to consider the most stupendous demands for money ever made by a law-making body in the history of New Jersey. Every institution, naval, charitable and correc-

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

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Roofing and Siding

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BUSINESS PARTNER

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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
Parkeon

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/>

WANT CONSCRIPTS TO DO FARM WORK

TRENTON, Dec. 11.—Governor Edge has renewed his suggestion to Secretary of War Baker that New Jersey drafted men be used for farm work, pending their call to Camp Dix, at Wrightstown.

In his letter to Baker yesterday Edge says the government may pursue the same policy of calling men in the second draft. In this event he thinks it would be entirely practicable and certainly greatly relieve a situation which he regards as serious, if a certain proportion of the second draft, those if possible with farm experience, should be supplied to the farmers.

The Governor said he realizes that the absence of supplies and the non-completion of the Dix cantonment had much to do with the delaying of the call for many men, but he still believes that the urgency of supplying farm help justifies some arrangement being made whereby a certain proportion of these men can be used on the farms during the next planting season.

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[THE WEEKLY NEWS newspaper, New Jersey, December 7, 1917]

WOMEN ENTERING NEW INDUSTRIES

PENNSGROVE, Sept. 4—Woman's debut into new fields of industry presented the most striking Labor Day issue in South Jersey yesterday. The proposed introduction of female labor in certain departments of the powder mills at Carneys Point, as recently announced by the du Ponts, will mark the most extreme limit to which women have gone in breaking into new branches of employment, heretofore barred to their sex, during the last few months in South Jersey.

This region takes the credit for having first successfully employed women in certain departments of railroad work—a movement that is now spreading to all parts of the country, in view of the shortage of male labor. Flag women, girl clerks and ticket sellers and their sisters employed in other branches, including farming, are sticking to their jobs and making good, according to the reports of the experiments with female labor tried on the West Jersey and Seashore Railroads.

The munition plant and fuse works at Paulsboro was worked during the last year largely by female labor. Announcement by a Bridgeton glass manufacturing firm that it will employ girls for certain branches of its work is taken to indicate that female labor will ultimately be introduced into certain branches of the glass industry.

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[THE WEEKLY NEWS newspaper, New Jersey, September 17, 1917]

Once Had Good Roads.

At one time Burlington County roads were so good that the United States government authorities wanted to make them a national model, and by way of reward to the county the first rural delivery route would be started between Riverton and Moorestown. Members of the Burlington County Historical Society, who had bumped to the meeting in automobiles over horrible highways, heard Heulings Lippincott of Moorestown vouch for the truth of this statement.

Lippincott said he himself had been road commissioner at the time and had the government correspondence to substantiate what he said. Some enthusiastic persons in the audience at once wanted to boom the historian of the occasion for a member of the new small board of county freeholders, whose job after their election will be to endeavor to untangle the highway problems they will inherit from the present board, which the court has suggested the grand jury should indict for its negligence of important roads.

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[THE NEW ERA newspaper, Riverton and Palmyra, New Jersey, July 18, 1919]

The W. C. T. U. will hold an oyster supper in the Moorestown Public School Building December 13, at five o'clock. Admission 75 cents. Following the supper David Lawrence, Washington representative of the Public Ledger, will lecture under the auspices of The Ramblers. Adv. 3

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[THE NEW ERA newspaper, November 28, 1919]

*W.C.T.U = Woman's Christian Temperance Union

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please join us for our Annual Holiday and Volunteer Appreciation Party on December 8th! Come and enjoy Smith-Cadbury Mansion decorated for the holidays, delicious sweet and savory treats, sparkling libations and the warm company of friends. The Historical Society truly appreciates your support and would love to thank you in person!

Welcome to our newest members:

- David Bicking • Susan Masiko •

A reminder that our website is a great resource for our membership. You'll find information on our current exhibit, upcoming events, narratives and photos from past events, membership forms, and a beautiful color edition of this newsletter. Take a look! Visit: moorestownhistory.org

Happy holidays,

Jill Weiss, Membership Chair

moorestownhistory@comcast.net

A house-to-house canvass will be made in Riverton on Tuesday, the 14th, which will be enrollment day for woman suffrage. Petitions, which will be signed by 250,000, will be presented to the Legislature at Trenton asking for suffrage for women. Mrs. Ward D. Kerlin, of Moorestown, the leader of Burlington county, will be in Riverton and assist with the canvass. Luncheon will be served to the workers.

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[THE NEW ERA newspaper, Riverton and Palmyra, New Jersey, 1919]

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.



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.

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In Memoriam

The Board of the Historical Society mourns the passing of our long-time Trustee and Trustee Emeritus Dr. Nan Pillsbury who passed away in Kansas on March 11, 2017 at the age of 87. In 2011, Dr. Pillsbury was recognized for 37 years of service to the Society, starting at the post of publicity chairman. She successfully prepared the nominations to get ten sites added to the National Register of Historic Places—including Smith-Cadbury and four additional sites in Moorestown.

During the National Bicentennial in 1976 she was the chair of the committee that researched and produced plaques for houses that were 100 years or older—a project that we continue with today. These are just a few of the many contributions she made to the Society and to Moorestown and her work lives on in Smith-Cadbury and the historic houses in town. Thanks Nan!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

BASIC MEMBERSHIP:

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

DONOR LEVELS:

- Stories From the Past Sponsor (\$50)
 History Partner (\$100)
 Library Sponsor (\$250)
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RENEWAL

NEW

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Make check payable to: Historical Society of Moorestown

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Or renew online at: moorestownhistory.org/membership



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2017

- 5 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 8 **Holiday & Volunteer Appreciation Party**, *Smith-Cadbury* 5:30-8:00 pm
- 10 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, gift shop & research library, 1-3
- 12 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 19 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 20 *Smith-Cadbury* closed for holiday break until January 2, 2018

JANUARY 2018

- 2 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 9 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 14 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, gift shop & research library, 1-3
- 16 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 17 **NJ History Speak Series: Riding the Rails in Moorestown** with Hank Cutler. *Moorestown Public Library*, 7:00 pm
- 23 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 28 *Smith-Cadbury* tours & gift shop, 1-3
- 30 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4

FEBRUARY 2018

- 6 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 11 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, gift shop & research library, 1-3
- 13 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 20 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 21 **NJ History Speak Series: Underwater Locomotive** with Dan Lieb. *Moorestown Public Library*, 7:00 pm
- 25 *Smith-Cadbury* tours & gift shop, 1-3
- 27 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4

Alexander C. Wood lived at Harmony Hall on the "Moorestown-Riverton Road". In our September issue one of the views of the school photos was described as "Riverton Road below A. C. Wood's". His obituary was published in *The New Era* newspaper in 1919.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1919

Alexander C. Wood

Alexander C Wood was stricken with pneumonia on Saturday December 28. From the first the attack was of the most violent character, and in spite of the utmost efforts of his physicians he succumbed on the night of Saturday, January 4. The funeral services, held at his late residence Tuesday afternoon, were largely attended. Interment was made in the Friends' burying ground, Westfield.

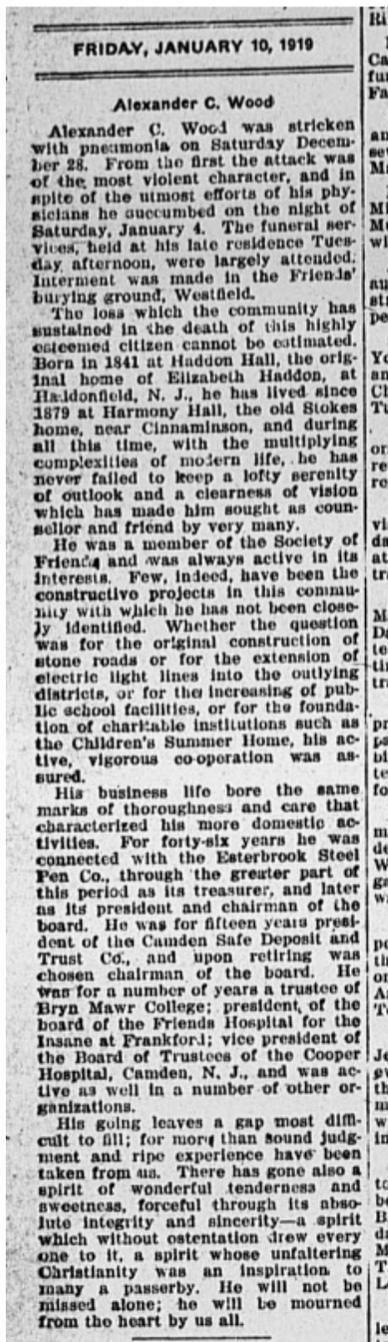
The loss which the community has sustained in the death of this highly esteemed citizen cannot be estimated. Born in 1841 at Haddon Hall, the original home of Elizabeth Haddon, at Haddonfield, N. J., he has lived since 1879 at Harmony Hall, the old Stokes home, near Cinnaminson, and during all this time, with the multiplying complexities of modern life, he has never failed to keep a lofty serenity of outlook and a clearness of vision which has made him sought as counsellor and friend by very many.

He was a member of the Society of Friends and was always active in its interests. Few, indeed, have been the constructive projects in this community with which he has not been closely identified. Whether the question was for the original construction of stone roads or for the extension of electric light lines into the outlying districts, or for the increasing of public school facilities, or for the foundation of charitable institutions such as the Children's Summer Home, his active vigorous co-operation was assured.

His business life bore the same marks of thoroughness and care that characterized his more domestic activities. For forty-six years he was connected with the Esterbrook Steel Pen Co., through the greater part of this period as its treasurer, and the later as its president and chairman of the board. He was for fifteen years president of the Camden Safe Deposit and Trust Co., and upon retiring was chosen chairman of the board. He was for a number of years a trustee of Bryn Mawr College; president of the board of the Friends Hospital for the Insane at Frankford; vice president of the Board of Trustees of the Cooper Hospital, Camden, N. J., and was active as well in a number of other organizations.

His going leaves a gap most difficult to fill; for more than sound judgement and ripe experience have been taken from us. There has gone also a spirit of wonderful tenderness and sweetness, forceful through its absolute integrity and sincerity—a spirit which without ostentation drew every one to it, a spirit whose unfaltering Christianity was an inspiration to many a passerby. He will not be missed alone; he will be mourned from the heart by us all.

[THE NEW ERA newspaper, Riverton and Palmyra, New Jersey, January 10, 1919]



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**Historical Society of
Moorestown**

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DECEMBER 2017



New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series Resumes in 2018!

The *New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series*, hosted by the Historical Society of Moorestown, continues in 2018 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.

January 17th @ 7pm | Moorestown Public Library

Riding the Rails in Moorestown: A Discussion of Railroads in Moorestown and the Surrounding Area

Some of the nation's first railroads were built right here in South Jersey including tracks that ran through Moorestown. Railroad historian Hank Cutler shares his findings on the history of railroads in Moorestown and reveals the stories behind current and former landmarks that influenced how Moorestown developed around the rails.

February 21st @ 7pm | Moorestown Public Library

Beyond Shipwrecks: Exploring a Sunken Locomotive off the New Jersey Coast

New Jersey's Underwater explorer Dan Lieb returns to Moorestown to discuss a mysterious find resting under the rough Atlantic water: a sunken locomotive. How did a train end up buried under the Atlantic? How long has it been there? What sort of treasures have been found onboard? Lieb explores these questions and more as he takes us underwater once again to learn about the things buried along the Jersey Coast.

— Mickey DiCamillo