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FROM THE FRONT PORCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF MOORESTOWN



View From the Porch

At the end of August, long-time Moorestown resident Joe DiBlasio spoke to a packed house at the Moorestown Library. Mr. DiBlasio is 95-years-old, but his memories of Moorestown remain as crisp as the incoming autumn air. He rified on days spent playing quarterback for Moorestown High School and bowling strikes in the Moorestown bowling alley. He conjured the smells of fresh bread from the Peter Pan Bakery and a fresh harvest from his family's garden. He also made a point to discuss how the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, and about a dozen other civic groups contributed to the well-being of town. In fact, he brought with him a pile of notes, and he rifled through his pages determined not to let a single civic activity slip his mind. 95 years into his life, he still took pride in the contributions these civic groups made to the community. We have many blessings in Moorestown: great schools, vibrant parks, a beautifully preserved downtown, and many more. But, listening to Mr. DiBlasio reminded me that our local civic groups remain one of our most valuable assets. Because of our civic groups, all Moorestown students begin the school year with a backpack full of supplies, Moorestown's green spaces have caretakers, and many additional good causes are supported month after month. At the historical society, we hope to continue this legacy of civic pride.

We have several events planned for the coming months which we hope will enrich the community. Our New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series returns to the Moorestown Library this October and will continue through April. Each month, a new speaker will offer insight into an aspect of New Jersey history. In October, we revisit the flu epidemic that ravaged the area 100 years ago. In November, we examine the technological and social contributions of Moorestown's Eldridge Johnson, founder of the Victor Talking Machine Company which later became RCA/Victor. All lectures

in this series are free and open to the public, and we look forward to learning about New Jersey together as a community.

October also marks the return of our seasonal ghost tours. Nothing stirs the town's spirits quite like a Friday night full moon and a stroll along the edge of Moorestown's graveyards. Your guide will resurrect haunting tales from Moorestown's history and make you wonder about what lurks in the night when the town quiets down and former residents emerge from the darkness. Need some more bone-tling activities? This October we also will be offering a three-part series on the Salem Witch Trials. Look inside the newsletter for more details on this special event.

When the season of ghosts and goblins gives way to the season of gobble, gobble, we have an event planned to help our residents down-size. You can't take all your possessions with you when you decide to move from your family home to more cozy confines. Antique appraiser, Michael Ivankovich comes to Moorestown in November to discuss how to value the things you have collected over the years and how to get the most value for your prized-possessions. For those interested, there also will be an opportunity to reserve one-on-one time with Mr. Ivankovich to have one of your own items analyzed and appraised. Consider it Moorestown's very own Antique Roadshow. More details can be found inside the newsletter.

Of course, our library and archives will continue to be available for research, tours of the Smith-Cadbury Mansion will remain available, and our exhibit Moorestown during the Great War is still on display. To stay current with our hours and our event calendar, be sure to visit our website, follow us on Facebook, or drop us an e-mail.

Get enlightened. Get Frightened.
Spend some time with us this fall!

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

moorestownhistory@comcast.net

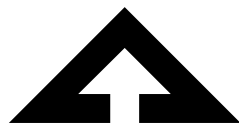
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The Historical Society
of Moorestown*

September 2018

MOORESTOWN



"ANTIQUÉ ROADSHOW"

WITH CERTIFIED APPRAISER MICHAEL IVANKOVICH

Are you preparing to down-size and wondering what possessions you ought to keep, trash, or sell? Do you have an interesting collection or an unusual family heirloom and want to know what it is worth? Auctioneer, certified appraiser, and radio host Michael Ivankovich is prepared to help you with those questions, and he comes to Moorestown on **Sunday, November 4th** for a special event.

Join us at 1 PM in the Evergreens Retirement Community Ballroom when Mr. Ivankovich delivers a free talk titled *What Are Your Treasures Worth?*

He will introduce you to the concept of "Value" and teach you how to best value your antiques, collectibles, and personal treasures. Then, for a donation of \$25 to the Historical Society of Moorestown, you will get the opportunity to have one of your personal items appraised.

For more information contact Mickey DiCamillo at mdicam@hotmail.com or call the Historical Society at 856-235-0353.

FROM OUR SUMMER LECTURE SERIES

The United States had a very short time to prepare itself for World War I, and one symbol of that rapid preparation was Fort Monmouth which went from a "jungle of weeds" to war readiness in a matter of months. Melissa Ziobro, Professor of Public History at Monmouth University and the last *Command Historian* at Fort Monmouth before its closure, spoke about the role that Fort Monmouth played in advancing U.S. communications and technology during World War I at our Summer Lecture Series in August.



Visitors to our WWI exhibit at Smith-Cadbury

The Historical Society of Moorestown

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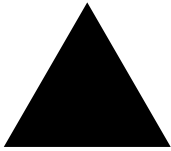
Lisa Knell

Library

Stephanie Herz



80+ YEARS IN MOORESTOWN: AN EVENING WITH JOE DIBLASIO AT THE MOORESTOWN LIBRARY



What better way to commemorate one's birthday than by reliving one's life to a rapt audience? Moorestown resident Joe DiBlasio did just that. The Moorestown Library presented an evening with him on August 29th.

Reference Librarian Maria Esche served as the event moderator. She opened her remarks by observing that "Joe has a big fan club." Mr. DiBlasio added a comical quip that, "Half of you in the audience know me. The half that knows me doesn't want to know me." Over the next two hours Mr. DiBlasio showed why everyone in the audience would be honored to know him.

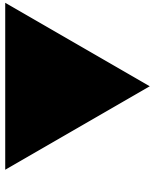
Mr. DiBlasio described the process that led to his taking up residence in Moorestown. His father came to the United States from Italy at the age of 17. He brought his family over six years later. Shortly afterwards Joe was born in Camden. The family moved to Moorestown while Joe attended third grade.

The DiBlasio family had already established roots in town. His grandparents lived in the community. His grandfather worked as a stone mason who commuted to Moorestown from Camden. In the early twentieth century this journey took 2-1/2 hours each way. Some of the Quakers in town helped his grandfather find a home to spare him the traveling.

Mr. DiBlasio shared his observations on his 80 plus years living in Moorestown. He experienced the most momentous events of the twentieth century in the community. Regarding life during the Great Depression, "I never went to bed hungry," he said. His family still struggled.

His mother baked bread three times a week. He traveled about town selling loaves for \$0.10 each. "That's the only reason I had a bicycle," he explained.

His father worked for RCA as a cabinet maker. During the Depression, he lost his job and became unable to pay his mortgage. Mr. DiBlasio described two gentlemen from the Burlington County Trust Company approaching his father at home. The men had come to foreclose. The elder Mr. DiBlasio wouldn't allow them. "I don't have the money now," he said, "but I'm going to pay you." The men left the premises. His father did eventually pay the bank the money he owed.



The speaker described life in town during the Second World War. When hostilities began in Europe, people didn't worry. The conflict took place too far away to cause concern. When the United States began supplying the Allies, then people became anxious.

Upon America's entry into the war rationing began immediately. The draft began in 1940, but the government still allowed high school students to graduate before becoming eligible. Young men could drop out of school and enlist, however. Moorestown also enforced blackouts. Regarding the latter, Mr. DiBlasio noted, "We never worried about being bombed."

The war didn't alter some aspects of life in town. Mr. DiBlasio described himself as a "big star" on both the high school baseball diamond and the gridiron during the early 1940s. He added a comical observation to his own assessment of his abilities. "Who can object to that now?"

Mr. DiBlasio discussed some of the other local events he experienced. He recalled watching as they tore up the old trolley tracks from the center of Main Street. Gravel covered the roads prior to asphalt. Once or twice a year they would oil the streets in order to keep the dust low. He even remembered the original paving of Route 38. Mr. DiBlasio described learning how to swim in the artesian wells that border what is now Strawbridge Lake. He even picked apples at the orchard where the Moorestown Mall now stands.

The guest concluded his reminiscence by discussing the various service clubs started in Moorestown following the war. He belonged to the Lions Club that incorporated in 1948. He even brought a visual aid from the era to show the audience: a wreath the organization crafted in 1952. It was the first Christmas ornament ever displayed in town.

Mr. DiBlasio served in the Marine Corps for three years, worked for the family business (Perla Block) and married in 1950. He turned 95 this August 12th. One suspects that after this evening, he's going to have an even bigger fan club.

— Kevin Stephany



TURING DOUBLES INTO TRIPLES

New Jersey History Speaks Series

On May 9, 2018, the Historical Society of Moorestown and the Moorestown Library co-hosted a presentation by Dr. Jonathan Mercantini, who chairs the History Department at Kean University. The subject was, "The Rise and Fall of the Negro Leagues."

Dr. Mercantini discussed the sad truth of America's Pastime during the Jim Crow Era, which was that African-American players were prohibited from taking the field with white players. But segregation wasn't limited to the South; it was a national phenomenon.

Because black players couldn't join teams or compete with white players, Negro Leagues were established. During the Leagues' heyday, 1898-1946, some of the most remarkable players in history populated the Leagues. However, since the Negro Leagues tended to lack money and organization, and records were poorly kept, if at all, they would disband and re-establish themselves time and again. It didn't help that stadiums and concessions were owned by whites, which meant that raising money for the Leagues became all the more difficult.

In northern cities, due to the Great Migration of African-Americans from South to North, eventually some African-Americans were well-off enough to patronize the Negro Leagues. As an example, Dr. Mercantini cited Effa Manley and her husband, Abe, who owned the Newark Eagles in the 1930s and 40s. Their team had its share of glory. In 1946, the Newark Eagles won the World Series against another Negro Leagues team, the Kansas City Monarchs, at Ruppert Stadium. Other Negro Leagues teams in New Jersey included the New York Black Yankees, who played at Hinchcliffe Stadium in Paterson.

Dr. Mercantini said that the Kansas City Monarchs was the first team in all of baseball, not just in the Negro Leagues, to play at night, under lights. This practice made games more accessible to African-American spectators, who often worked

longer days than whites. He described some of the exciting traditions of Negro Leagues baseball, such as double-headers, which involved four separate teams playing in one day, rather than the same two teams playing twice in one day, which is the type of double-header that most people are familiar with today. Then there was "barnstorming," or touring exhibition games, based on a circus model. Also, Negro Leagues teams tended to feature a "more improvisational" style of play. "Jackie Robinson," said Dr. Mercantini, "epitomized that more improvisational, more aggressive, style of baseball," which involved, among other things, stealing bases and turning doubles into triples.

When, in 1947, Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers, a National League team, becoming the first African-American to play in Major League baseball, he was subjected to terrible heckling by Philadelphia fans. But he showed them. That year, he stole 29 bases; the second-highest number was 14!

Larry Doby, a player for the Newark Eagles, became the second black player to integrate the Major Leagues, shortly after Jackie Robinson went to the Dodgers, when Doby was recruited by the Cleveland Indians, an American League team.

It is not surprising that, as Dr. Mercantini remarked, the integration of the Major Leagues led to the demise of the Negro Leagues. But the distinctive lore of the Negro Leagues survives.

The Historical Society of Moorestown and the Moorestown Library would like to thank the professor for a very enlightening evening! This event was made possible in part by the Elizabeth Tuttle Foundation.



— Liz Rosenthal

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

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Whitesell Construction

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BAYADA Home Health Care

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FRIENDS

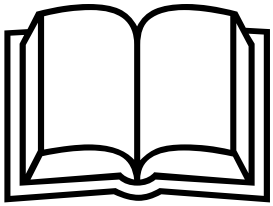
Diane Walker,
Colorstone Gardens

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/>



LIBRARY NEWS

GOODBYE TO THE HISTORIC BEECH TREE

Anyone who passed the enormous beech tree on the southwest corner of W.

Main and High Street, couldn't help but admire the towering, stalwart guardian of the John C. Hopkins House behind it. Planted sometime between 1880 and around 1900, the tree quietly witnessed many decades of Moorestown history, from horse drawn carriages to trolleys, to trains and busses and automobiles; houses knocked down, businesses built up, buildings transformed, and the endless parade of foot traffic from men and women in plain, black Quaker garb to everyone in today's more casual styles.

The house was built in 1879 by the wealthy merchant, John Clement Hopkins who was born into one of the founding families of Haddonfield. He moved to Moorestown in 1868 after he purchased the grist mill on Mill St. from John Buzby and for his employees, all of the houses on Mill Street between Main St. and Second St. The house stayed in the Hopkins family until it was rented in 1957 and then sold in 1967 to Harvey Brown who operated a funeral home there.

The property remained in the Brown family until late 1975 when it was put on the market. There was a request for a variance to demolish the historic home and tree so that the potential buyers, who operated McChesney's Hardware Store at 41 E. Main St. (now Starbucks' location), could build

a bigger, better hardware store.

When word got out about this possible plan, horrified residents sprang into action. Local tree expert Kent Deasy was asked about the age of the tree. Without performing any invasive testing, he opined that it was somewhere between 100 and 300 years old. Rumors started circulating that the magnificent tree was 300 years old. More than 100 people attended the December planning board meeting to register their concern about the loss of the property and the tree. A petition to save the tree was presented at the January 1976 planning board meeting that contained more than 1,000 signatures calling for the preservation of the tree.

At the same meeting, Edmond Palmer, husband of the granddaughter of John C. Hopkins presented an old family photograph of the house taken in 1880. The photo clearly shows what appears to be a pine tree in front of the house and Hopkins standing on the spot where the beech tree is now. Thus, the tree could not have been more than 100 years old in 1976.

In any case, the planning board wisely decided to turn down the application for demolition and the hardware store owners found another site at Third and Mill Streets that better suited their needs. According to an article in the Philadelphia Inquirer (April 18, 1976), the chairman of the planning board, William R McKown cautioned, "Just because we turn down the application under site plan review does not mean it will preserve the building or the tree." And Moorestown still has no historic preservation



ordinance in place to help protect and preserve its unique historic character.

Relatives of the Brown family finally sold the property in 1980. Since that time, the property was occupied by several real estate agencies. But the majestic beech tree had clearly seen better days. About two-thirds of the tree had succumbed to disease and falling limbs became a liability. The current owners have removed it to protect passing pedestrians and vehicles. We'll miss its majestic beauty, welcome shade and reminder of our history.

— Stephanie Herz



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Hello Members!

Thank you for making the generous decision to continue supporting us in our work here at Smith-Cadbury Mansion! The Trustees are a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers each of whom contribute in their unique capacity. Together we make sure the Mansion is taken care of and its historical artifacts and documents preserved and organized for the benefit of the community. Through our exhibits and programs we share what we've learned from what remains of the past. We hope you were able to visit us here at the house or attend one of the many lectures we hosted this past year! In addition to this attractive and informative newsletter, our website at moorestownhistory.org is also where you can see what we've been up to. And you'll find a beautiful color edition of this newsletter too. Take a look!

A big shout out to our members who recently donated at awesomeness level:

- Craig Alper • Margo Foster • Louise Marshall • Kelly & Peter Kelly • Sarah Powers Kirn • Beverly & John Kolb • Julie & Nick Maravich • Ms. Mary E. Moore • William M. E. Powers, Jr. • Lee & Roy Shubert •

And a warm welcome to our newest members:

- Renee Jones • Danielle Marchetti • Catherine Hipple • Jonathan Mercantini • Nancy & Dan Zehler •

If you have a friend or neighbor who might be interested in supporting the Historical Society by joining us, they can become a member through our website (PayPal) or send us an e-mail with their address and we'll send membership information to them via the USPS.

Looking forward to sharing history with you soon,

Jill Weiss, Membership Chair
moorestownhistory@comcast.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.



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



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MOORESTOWN AWARDED ITS SIXTH ANNUAL COLLEGE

SCHOLARSHIP TO GRADUATING Moorestown High School Senior Lawrence Stevens



The award goes to a student who has excelled in the study of history and who plans to continue those studies in college. For the 4th time the scholarship was given in memory of **Sara Franklin Homer** a long-time trustee and historian, who dedicated her life to the preservation of history and historic places, in Moorestown, and at the regional and state level as well.

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

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 Visit our website,
moorestownhistory.org
 for member benefits!

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Or renew online at: moorestownhistory.org/membership

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2018

ONGOING EXHIBIT: *Moorestown and the Great War*

- 9 *Smith-Cadbury* reopens after summer break; tours, gift shop & library, 1-3
- 11 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 18 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 23 *Smith-Cadbury* tours & gift shop, 1-3
- 25 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4

OCTOBER GHOST TOURS

TICKETS AT THE DOOR

12 High Street, Smith-Cadbury Mansion, Moorestown, NJ

Tours leave at 7:30; RAIN or SHINE

OCTOBER 2018

ONGOING EXHIBIT: *Moorestown and the Great War*

- 2 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 8 **General Meeting/NJ History Speaks Lecture** Moorestown Library at 7:00 PM
- 9 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 10 **Salem Witch Trials Series - Part 1: The Usual Suspects** *Smith-Cadbury* Garden, 7:30 PM
- 12 **GHOST TOUR** starts at *Smith-Cadbury*, 7:30 PM
- 13 **GHOST TOUR** starts at *Smith-Cadbury*, 7:30 PM
- 14 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, gift shop & library, 1-3
- 16 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 17 **Salem Witch Trials Series - Part 2: Strangely Accused** *Smith-Cadbury* Garden, 7:30 PM
- 19 **GHOST TOUR** starts at *Smith-Cadbury*, 7:30 PM
- 20 **GHOST TOUR** starts at *Smith-Cadbury*, 7:30 PM
- 23 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 24 **Salem Witch Trials Series - Part 3: A Conspiracy of Witches** *Smith-Cadbury* Garden, 7:30 PM
- 26 **GHOST TOUR** starts at *Smith-Cadbury*, 7:30 PM
- 27 **GHOST TOUR** starts at *Smith-Cadbury*, 7:30 PM
- 28 *Smith-Cadbury* tours & gift shop, 1-3

NOVEMBER 2018

ONGOING EXHIBIT: *Moorestown and the Great War*

- 2 *Smith-Cadbury* house & gift shop open for **Candlelight Night**, 6-9 PM
- 4 **Moorestown Antique Roadshow** with **Michael Ivankovich, *What Are Your Treasures Worth?*** Appraisals at 12 Noon; talk at 1 PM at the *Evergreens Retirement Community Ballroom*
- 6 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 11 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, gift shop & library, 1-3
- 13 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 14 **NJ History Speaks Lecture *Just for the Record: The Life of Eldridge Reeves Johnson***, Moorestown Library at 7:00 PM
- 20 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 25 *Smith-Cadbury* **Closed for holiday weekend. Happy Thanksgiving!**
- 27 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4

ACQUISITIONS

COLLECTION TREASURES

We appreciate all of our donors and the objects that they contribute to our Collection. Each piece brings a story and reflects life in Moorestown at different times and during different historical circumstances. It is an awesome experience to research, learn and carefully hold these special pieces of Moorestown History. Recent additions to our Collection:

- **Fayles Family** donated a letter dated 1839 signed by Elisha Roberts.
- **Elizabeth Hawks** donated a child's doll dated 1744 with porcelain face that belonged to Hannah Core Foster who married Mark Reeve in 1764.
- **Dr. B. Mallery** donated a 1933 edition book entitled *Brief Bird Biographies* by J. Fletcher Street who in 1937 recovered the chest of drawers and bird collection traded by Edward Harris III in 1851 that now resides in the Smith-Cadbury Mansion.
- **Virginia Pearson** donated the Henry T. Makin Bible, family photographs and newspaper articles.
- **Anne Rossell** donated the Stanwick Railroad Station wooden wall telephone used at the station; donated in memory of Walter Rossell who worked at the railroad.
- **Prudence Wood Sullivan** donated a book belonging to her father, Reverend G. Horace Wood, Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Moorestown. The book has a record of marriages that took place in Moorestown from 1953-1956.

We thank the donors for entrusting these items as part of the Smith-Cadbury Mansion Museum Collection.

— Mary Berardi

MOORESTOWN'S SPECIAL 3-PART SERIES: THE SALEM WITCH TRIALS

The Salem Witch Trials are one of the most iconic events in United States history. However, the events surrounding the trials and the motivations of the participants remain habitually misunderstood. **Join us this October under a darkened, autumn sky, in a garden lit by lantern light, for a three-part mini series on the trials.**

We will unravel the events of 1692, analyze archival documents from the period, and reveal the continued relevance of the trials more than 300 years after the final accused witch hanged on Gallows Hill. Moorestown

Historical Society president Mickey DiCamillo hosts this three-evening event that includes audience participation in a 1692 witch trial.

Part 1: The Salem Witch Trials – The Usual Suspects
Wednesday, October 10th @ 7:30 PM
in the Smith-Cadbury Garden

Part 2: The Salem Witch Trials – Strangely Accused
Wednesday, October 17th @ 7:30 PM
in the Smith-Cadbury Garden

Part 3: The Salem Witch Trials – A Conspiracy of Witches
Wednesday, October 24th @ 7:30 PM
in the Smith-Cadbury Garden



Reserve your seat for all three nights for \$15.00.

Contact Mickey DiCamillo at mdicam@hotmail.com for ticket information.

Only 30 seats available, so register today!

Historical Society of Moorestown

Smith-Cadbury Mansion
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• Historical Society of Moorestown Membership Year
April 30, 2018—May 1, 2019 / Time Travelers Member •

SEPTEMBER 2018



All lectures are free and
open to the public

For ticket information, please
e-mail Mickey DiCamillo at
mdicam@hotmail.com.

NEW JERSEY HISTORY SPEAKS SERIES

Monday, October 8th @ 7:00 PM | The Moorestown Library

In Flew Enza: The 1918 Flu Epidemic in Philadelphia & New Jersey

Exactly 100 years ago, one of the most devastating flu epidemics in U.S. history arrived on the heels of one of the deadliest wars. **Mickey DiCamillo**, president of the Historical Society of Moorestown and research librarian at Jefferson University, will explain where scientists believe the disease originated (likely not in Spain as popularly believed), how this epidemic spiraled out of control, and how health officials and citizens responded to the disease's horrors. From Philadelphia to Camden . . . Haddonfield to Newark . . . no community escaped the influenza epidemic of 1918.

Wednesday, November 14th @ 7:00 PM | The Moorestown Library

Just for the Record: The Life of Eldridge Reeves Johnson

Longtime Moorestown resident and benefactor, Eldridge Reeves Johnson founded the *Victor Talking Machine Company* in Camden, New Jersey in 1901. With Johnson's leadership, the *Victor Talking Machine Company* became the leading American record company and phonograph manufacturer for much of the 20th century and employed thousands of people across all of South Jersey. At home in Moorestown, Johnson donated funds to build the *Moorestown Community House* and lived comfortably for twenty-five years in *Breidenhart Castle* (today *Lutheran Crossings*) where he passed away in 1945. Join us when **Christopher Andrew Maier** brings Eldridge Johnson back to life and back to Moorestown in this multimedia, one-man show. Using music, slides, blueprints, and an original workshop location study, Maier will walk through Johnson's life and times -- a life and an era that made Moorestown much of what it is today. Also on display will be a Victor Talking Machine and an Edison Phonograph; a demonstration of each will reveal what made Johnson's machine different from Edison's.

Join us at
our General
Meeting

Monday,
October 8th
7:30 PM

All Events are sponsored by the Elizabeth Tuttle Foundation