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### House Tours and Gift Shop Hours:

2nd & 4th Sunday 1-3 PM  
Tuesdays 1-3 PM

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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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Published by  
The Historical Society  
of Moorestown

# FROM THE FRONT PORCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF MOORESTOWN



## View From the Porch

The Historical Society of Moorestown is turning 50! On November 19th, 1969, the organization officially incorporated with the mission to collect and preserve materials illustrative of the customs, habits, and history of Moorestown and the surrounding area. The first item in the historical society's collection: Percy Lovell's hat.

The middle decades of the 20th century were difficult times: economic crisis, global conflict, and domestic strife. Nevertheless, Percy Lovell was known as the "happy editor." Lovell was the owner and editor of the Moorestown Chronicle, and throughout the 1940s, 50s, and 60s he wrote a column titled "Under the Old Hat of a Country Editor" that was reserved for "only good news." A Church Street resident's backyard scuffle with an albatross, a traveling scissors grinder who worked the grindstone with his feet, and medicine men hawking "cure-alls" along Main Street were just some of the characters that received attention

in Lovell's column. These human-interest stories brought humor and a bit of joy to many in the Moorestown community, and Lovell became a beloved figure in town.

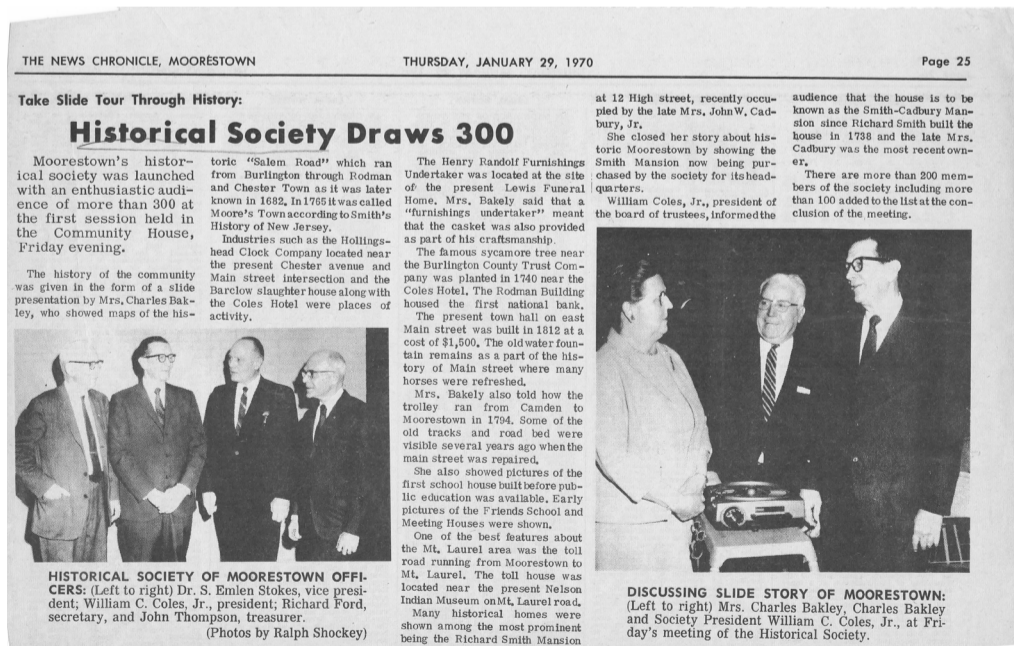
After Lovell passed away, a group of Moorestown residents hoped to find a place to display Lovell's fedora. In 1969, they formed a committee to establish a Percy B. Lovell museum. However, their ambitions soon expanded to the creation of an historical society. By the end of the year, the group had organized, incorporated, and accomplished their goal.

The hat is still on display at our Smith-Cadbury mansion headquarters, and it is the perfect symbol of the historical society's mission. Just like Lovell did for decades in his column, the historical society attempts to capture the local flavor that makes Moorestown the unique community that it has been for its more than 300 year history.

We will be celebrating our fifty year anniversary throughout 2019. Keep an eye

on our newsletter, website, and mailings to learn more about the events we are planning to celebrate our organization's milestone.

**Mickey DiCamillo,**  
President  
mdicam@  
hotmail.com



"William Coles, Jr., president of the board of trustees, informed the audience that the house is to be known as the Smith-Cadbury Mansion since Richard Smith built the house in 1738 and the late Mrs. Cadbury was the most recent owner." [The News Chronicle; January 29, 1970]

March 2019

# "Be it known that I, Eldridge R. Johnson ... have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Talking Machines ..." \*

Eldridge Reeves Johnson — regarded by some as the man who created the modern recording industry — was born on February 6, 1867 in Wilmington, Delaware and he died at the age of 78 on November 14, 1945 in Moorestown, New Jersey.

His mother had died when he was two years old and he lived with his mother's sister and his uncle until he was ten when he returned to his father and his stepmother and attended Delaware Academy where he was a poor student.

Johnson began his amazing and unexpected journey as an apprentice machinist in a Philadelphia repair shop and then in a Camden, New Jersey bookbinding machine company.

At the age of 27 in 1894, Johnson bought the company and the Eldridge R. Johnson Manufacturing Company was born. Two years later, good fortune walked in his front door. A customer named Henry Whitaker brought a manually driven, hand-cranked Emile Berliner Gramophone, (for which the recording industry Grammy Awards are named; they were originally known as the Gramophone Awards). Johnson was asked to design a spring-driven motor for it.

Upon seeing and working with the Berliner gramophone, Johnson later wrote: "the little instrument was badly designed. It sounded much like a partially educated parrot with a sore throat and a cold in

the head. But the little wheezy instrument caught my attention and held it fast and hard. I became interested in it as I had never been interested before in anything. It was exactly what I was looking for."<sup>1</sup>

Within a year Johnson began producing motors for Berliner (see page 7 for more about Emile Berliner). Trial and error design and production events took place and then after two years and a \$50,000 investment, in 1900, Johnson entered the gramophone record market and was incorporated as the Consolidated Talking Machine Company, Inc., selling records and a variety of gramophone models under the Consolidated Talking Machine label.

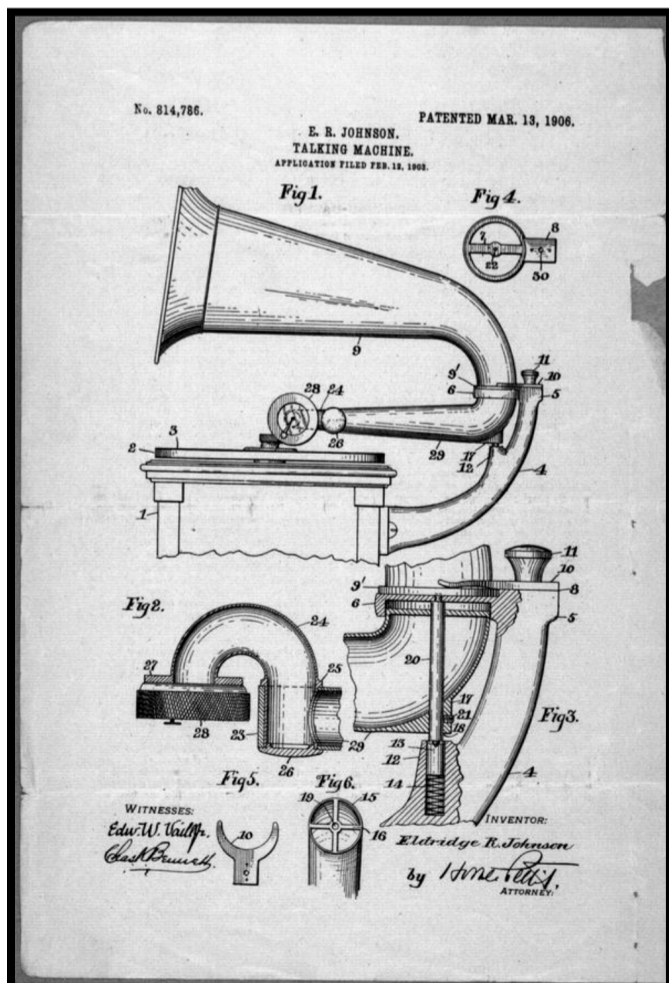
Johnson developed "a spring motor that, once cranked, would spin the turntable at a uniform speed long enough to play an entire record thus freeing the user from the need to hand-crank the turntable."<sup>2</sup> This advance placed gramophones in millions of American homes.

In 1901, Johnson formed the Victor Talking Machine Corporation in Camden, New Jersey, offering a line of gramophones, and introduced one of the most famous and successful advertising campaigns ever, "The image of Nipper, the white terrier, poised in front of the horn of a gramophone, head cocked, listening intently to 'His Master's Voice'."<sup>3</sup> In 1906, the Victor Talking Machine Corporation "added a new word to the lexicon when a new, smaller model of the gramophone with a built-in speaker horn was introduced as the "Victrola" — the first brand name to become synonymous with its product."<sup>4</sup>

In 1929, RCA acquired Victor Talking Machine. Johnson lived in Breidenhart ("broad hearth or hospitality"), the castle-like mansion built in 1894 for *Flexible Flyer* inventor Samuel Allen at 255 East Main Street from 1918 until his death in 1945.

— Mary Berardi

\* An excerpt from his Patent No. 814,786.



1 Gelatt, Roland. *The Fabulous Phonograph 1877-1977*. Macmillan, 1977.

2 Schatzkin, Paul. *Defying Gravity: The Parallel Universe of T. Townsend Brown*. Retrieved from [http://ttbrown.com/defying\\_gravity/30\\_caroline.html](http://ttbrown.com/defying_gravity/30_caroline.html)

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

Victor Talking Machine Company & Johnson, E. R. (1906) *Talking - Machine: specification of Letter Patent No. 814,786*, patented. United States Patent Office, Washington, D. C. [Image] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/berl0166/>

The Historical Society  
of Moorestown

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# Eldridge R. Johnson Returns to Moorestown

*"Just for the Record:  
The Life of Eldridge  
Reeves Johnson"  
was the subject of  
a NJ History Speaks  
lecture at the  
Moorestown Library  
in November 2018*



**It felt like we were Off Broadway** in a smaller boutique venue. The moment I heard Christopher Andrew Maier gracing the piano keys with Edith Piaf's "Hymn L'Amour" introducing the main attraction — Eldridge Reeves Johnson — I thought, "This is going to be really good. I'm glad I came tonight."

Eldridge Reeves Johnson's interesting life took him on a journey that brought him to Moorestown from 1918 to 1945 (see page 2 story). His accomplishments were dramatized as Maier portrayed Johnson, taking us through his early life and the discouragement at age of fifteen, when told by his Academy Director that he was too dumb to go to college; he should "Go and learn a trade."

Maier used his wit, humor, and intelligence as well as artful visuals and props (including museum quality musical instruments and early sound recording devices) to entertain and inform us. We traveled back to the late 1890s and then through Johnson's life, sharing the history of Johnson's inventions and learning of his personality and character.

Maier portrayed Johnson as a kind-hearted and modest man, citing examples of Johnson naming his yacht after his mother Caroline who died when he was young. And Eldridge never had a picture of himself on any of his many record labels.

Maier was a multimedia one-man show. He created and performed the music, slide-show, and monologue, and also demonstrated expertise in a myriad of related topics. These included being able to fine-tune a gramophone governor with an eyeglass screwdriver and displaying an antique splint wood horn basket he found on eBay for \$147. I enjoyed his YouTube musical pieces, including his original "Nipper's Yap Rap" that catalogues the virtues of the world-famous Victor mascot.

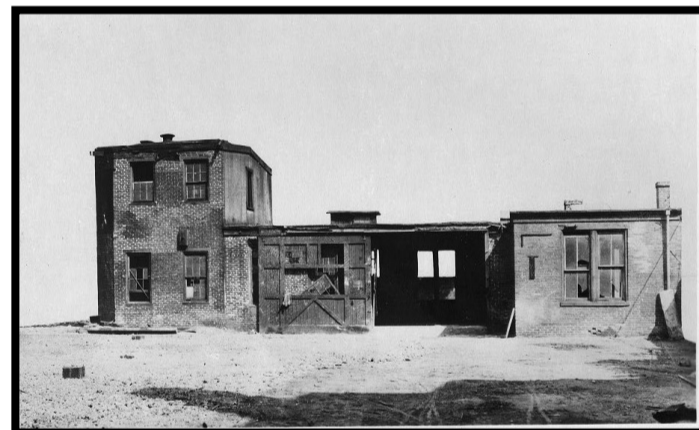
This was historical storytelling at its very best — bringing Johnson right back to Moorestown. While we may have felt like we were Off Broadway because of the high-caliber show, we were actually in another wonderful place, a block from Main Street in our beautiful library.

— Mary Berardi

"The talking machine business is not a great concern built by rich men's capital on poor men's brains. Johnson made it, with the help of his loyal friends, out of nothing."

[How A Man With An Idea Made Millions In Twelve Years, New York Times Magazine, August 28, 1910, p9; <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1910/08/28/105088735.pdf>]

Bain News Service, P. Eldridge R. Johnson. . . [No Date Recorded on Caption Card] [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2014717485/>



Verso: "Machine shop of Eldridge R. Johnson in Camden. In this structure the first models of the Victor Talking machine were built." *Eldridge Johnson's machine shop, abandoned. , 1871.*

Camden. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/berlp0194/>



Verso: "Machine Shop of Eldridge R. Johnson in Camden, New Jersey where the first models of Victor Talking Machines were built. Please credit: RCA." (1898) *Birthplace of the Victor. , 1898.* [Photograph]

Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/berlp0195/>

# America's Sherlock Holmes

*"Ellis H. Parker: Sherlock Holmes of America" was the subject of a NJ History Speaks lecture at the Moorestown Library in January 2019*

## **Museum Curator of Burlington County Marisa Bozarth clued local history buffs**

in to the life of a real Sherlock Holmes. Ms. Bozarth discussed some of the famous and infamous cases of Ellis H. Parker; Burlington County's first Chief of Detectives. The lecture occurred at the Moorestown Library

on January 16, 2019. The Historical Society of Moorestown presented it as part of its New Jersey History Speaks series.

Ellis Parker's early years gave little indication he'd pursue a career in law enforcement. A proficient fiddler, he'd planned on working as a musician. His pursuit of that endeavor provided an unusual segue to a lifetime of crime fighting.

Needing transportation to a gig, he borrowed his father's horse and carriage. Following the show, someone absconded with it. It also contained his fiddle. Wanting to retrieve the source of his livelihood, and to avoid his father's anger, Parker searched for the missing items himself. Upon finding them, he informed the police.

Horse thievery was a common crime in late nineteenth century America. The novice Parker's ability to solve such a case impressed the officers. They offered him a job.

Thus, in 1891, Parker began work for the Ocean and Burlington Counties Detecting and Pursuing Association. When the organization divided in 1894, he became the first Chief of Detectives in Burlington County. Parker held the post for over forty years. While in that role he solved 288 out of the 300 crimes he investigated.

In a bizarre ironic twist, the legendary crime fighter's career ended when he became a criminal himself. Chief Parker spent the final days of his life in federal prison. What happened?

Ms. Bozarth described Parker's technique. He possessed a profound understanding of how to talk to people. He applied a pragmatic approach to his questioning technique. The lone witness to the 1906 murder of Moorestown resident Florence Allinson was a little

girl. During the interrogation he gave her pieces of candy every time she answered a question.

At times Parker would "weave lies" to get information. He used this tactic when he interrogated George Small and Rufus Johnson during the Allinson investigation. During his questioning he told them that each had accused the other of committing the crime. Both men reacted to this by blaming the other one. The information obtained during the interviews provided Parker with enough evidence to convict both men.

Parker possessed strong powers of observation. They aided him in solving the 1911 Firebug Case. A series of barn fires plagued Burlington County. Authorities suspected arson as the motive. Parker determined that the perpetrator's true goal wasn't burning, but robbery.

At the scene of one crime he observed that a fence rail had been removed. He also noticed hoof prints leading in opposite directions from where the barn stood. From these inspections he deduced that the criminal brought an old horse to the barn, stole a more robust animal then burned the barn (and his original animal) to cover up the crime.

The Chief's attention to detail helped solve the David Paul murder case of 1920. Upon its discovery the body was wet. Parker noticed that the water in a nearby creek looked "different." A lab's analysis revealed that it contained tannic acid; a by-product from a tannery upstream. That chemical worked as a preservative. From this revelation, Parker determined that the killer committed the crime days before investigators originally believed. From this new information, they apprehended the perpetrator.

Ms. Bozarth portrayed Parker as a bit of a psychiatrist. He also knew how to read emotions. While investigating the murder of seven year-old Moorestonian Matilda Russo he applied this ability brilliantly. The suspect's wife informed him that the man (Lewis Lively) left on a trip. She didn't know when he'd return. The woman had also recently cleaned the bedroom floor. All the other rooms in the house appeared "lived in." From her conduct Parker deduced she knew her husband committed the crime.

Parker received news that Lewis had moved to Canada. The Chief devised a ruse to lure him back to the US. He had Mrs. Lively imprisoned. Almost a century before the term "fake news" entered the American lexicon; Parker planted a false story in newspapers throughout the East Coast. It reported that she had been arrested for the killing. The trick worked. Believing no one suspected him of the murder, Lewis returned to New Jersey. He was arrested and convicted of the crime.

So with such extraordinary success as a law enforcement officer, just how did Parker become a criminal? As one can tell from the cases mentioned, the Chief wasn't



## **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!

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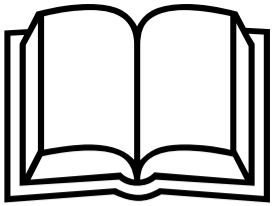
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Your generous support helps to sustain the Society's commitment to preserving Moorestown's heritage for generations to come.

*Again, thank you!*

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



## LIBRARY NEWS

The historical society is always looking for ways to increase its knowledge about Moorestown's past. We welcome all items pertaining to Moorestown's history. Space is limited, so we can't accept duplicates, but a quick email, call or

visit can determine what is acceptable. **Right now we are especially interested in the history of the three homes near the northwest corner of Zelley Ave. and East Main Street. Any photos, documents, or memories would be much appreciated.**

The *Lutheran Crossings at Moorestown* organization has submitted plans to demolish 265, 269 and 273 East Main St. (see photo, below) to make room for an expansion of their facilities. 265 E. Main was in the Laessle Family for many decades. The site is shown on local maps as far back as 1860, labelled "C. Leslie." Christian Laessle who immigrated to the US from Baden, Germany is shown on the 1870 US Census, with his occupation listed as a Cooper. The 1876 J.D. Scott Map of Moorestown reflects this information. Next to his residence is the "cooper shop."

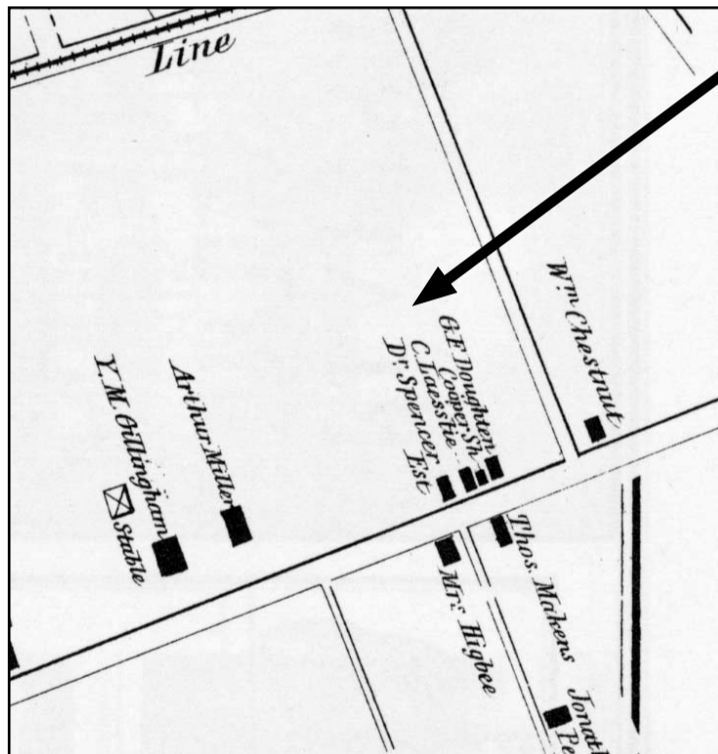
Christian's son Charles Laessle was a printer by trade. He was listed in local directories at the 265 E. Main address in 1870 and from 1893 onwards. According to family history, the Laessles lived in the house until the 1940s. Charles Laessle was the owner and editor of the Moorestown Republican newspaper which thrived for several decades around the turn of the century. He was also the township clerk for many years from around 1907 through 1928, as well as being on the board of Fire Directors in the early 1900s. His son, Charles Jr., grew up in the house at 265 E. Main, and became a well-known builder/contractor of commercial and residential buildings in Moorestown and throughout the Delaware Valley area. Charles Jr.'s son James was also a builder as well as a local historian and railroad enthusiast. Jim Laessle's oral history can be found at: [Moorestownhistory.org/library/read-a-memory/](http://Moorestownhistory.org/library/read-a-memory/)

In 1891 Charles, Jr. and his mother Elizabeth had a new house built at 265 E. Main St. It was one of the first residential design projects of noted Philadelphia architect Horace Trumbauer who went on to design such famous buildings as the *Philadelphia Art Museum*, the *Philadelphia Stock Exchange*, *The Union League of Philadelphia*, *The Racquet Club of Philadelphia*, the original *Ritz-Carlton Hotel*, the *Free Library of Philadelphia*, the *Keswick Theatre*, and many others, as well as several residential dwellings in Moorestown.

The two lots to the east of 265 E. Main (269 and 273) were owned by Samuel Allen and then Eldridge Johnson who were residents of *Breidenhart*, the castle-like mansion on the current grounds of *Lutheran Crossings*. The long time resident and eventual owner of 269 E. Main was the Johnson's gardener, Patrick Regan. Earlier, this house was owned by George Doughten, the proprietor of *Doughten's Store* on the corner of Main St. and Chester Ave. The long time resident and eventual owner of 273 E. Main was Franklin Adams Thomas, the Johnson's chauffeur.

All three dwellings are listed as contributing properties in Moorestown's Historic District which is honored to be on both the National and State Registers of Historic Places. Anyone interested in finding out more about Moorestown's Historic District can find a copy of the registration form online at: <https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/0baff0e4-4477-4ac7-ab8f-cb35343d52d7>

— Stephanie Herz



The three houses on East Main Street (shown on an 1876 J.D. Scott map and in a recent photo). The property is also the site of the *Breidenhart* mansion (former home to both Samuel Allen and Eldridge Johnson); it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. (Photo: John Watson)



# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

When the membership renewal letters go out on an upcoming warm April day, we hope our members will continue to support our mission to preserve the historical artifacts in our care as well as our efforts to provide opportunities for the community to learn about the past. All of us here at the Historical Society thank you in advance!

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

- Nicole Marques • Gretchen Rector • Jan & Andrew Viola •

And we thank Louise & Peter Kelly for their recent generosity!

A reminder that our website is a great resource for our membership and our town.

What you'll find there:

- Read a Memory by Jim Laessle, conducted on August 4, 2008 (see page 8)
- our upcoming events calendar
- reviews of our NJ History Speaks lectures held at the Moorestown Library
- new acquisitions
- a beautiful color edition of this newsletter & a lot more

Visit us at [moorestownhistory.org](http://moorestownhistory.org) and take a look!

New members are always welcome! If you have a friend or neighbor who might be interested in supporting the Historical Society by joining us, they can become a member via PayPal through our website or send us an email with their snail mail details and we'll send them membership information through the mail.

Looking forward to sharing history with you soon,  
*Jill Weiss, Membership Chair* [moorestownhistory@comcast.net](mailto:moorestownhistory@comcast.net)

MANY THANKS to these craftspeople & business owners who help us to maintain Smith-Cadbury




Carpenter **Fred Cozens** built an exterior shutter to match the original and repaired the damaged ceiling in the Accessions Department office.

**Cherry Hill Painting, Inc.** owner **Doug Andersen** painted the Accessions Department office ceiling.

**Mike Fletcher** of **Fletcher Brothers Roofing and Siding** will repair the chimney flashing and seal chimney bricks in the attic.

**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



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### BASIC MEMBERSHIP:

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# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

## MARCH 2019

**ONGOING EXHIBIT:** *Moorestown and the Great War*

- 5 *Smith-Cadbury library, gift shop & tours, 1-4*
- 10 *Smith-Cadbury tours, gift shop, research library, 1-3*
- 12 *Smith-Cadbury library, gift shop & tours, 1-4*
- 13 **NJ History Speaks Lecture: American Women and Royal Marriages: New Jersey's Real-Life "Lady Coras."** *Moorestown Library at 7:00 PM*
- 19 *Smith-Cadbury library, gift shop & tours, 1-4*
- 24 *Smith-Cadbury tours & gift shop, 1-3*
- 26 *Smith-Cadbury library, gift shop & tours, 1-4*

## APRIL 2019

**ONGOING EXHIBIT:** *Moorestown and the Great War*

- 2 *Smith-Cadbury library & tours, 1-4*
- 9 *Smith-Cadbury library & tours, 1-4*
- 10 **HSM Annual Spring Meeting & NJ History Speaks Series [Gordon Bond on The Wreck of the Broker: The Story of NJ's Deadliest Train Wreck]** *Moorestown Public Library, 7:00 PM*
- 14 *Smith-Cadbury tours & research library, 1-3*
- 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*

## MAY 2019

**ONGOING EXHIBIT:** *Moorestown and the Great War*

- 7 *Smith-Cadbury library & tours, 1-4*
- 12 *Smith-Cadbury Closed for Mother's Day*
- 14 *Smith-Cadbury library & tours, 1-4*
- 21 *Smith-Cadbury library & tours, 1-4*
- 26 *Smith-Cadbury tours, 1-3*
- 28 *Smith-Cadbury library & tours, 1-4*

(continued from page 4)

averse to using dubious methods to gain convictions. They crossed into illegal during his investigation of the Lindbergh kidnapping.

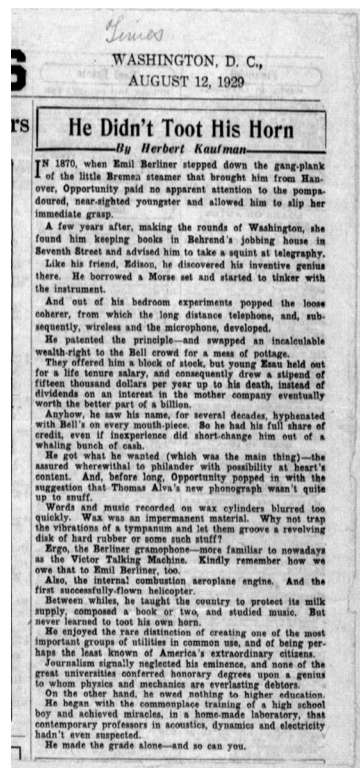
Ms. Bozarth's discussion of Parker's involvement in this case could've made for a lecture of its own. In essence, Parker became convinced that Bruno Hauptmann didn't murder the Lindbergh baby. He believed that a man named Paul Wendel committed the crime. To extract a confession Parker "deputized" three thugs to abduct and torture Wendel until he admitted it.

In American jurisprudence's first application of the "Lindbergh Law", a jury convicted Parker of kidnapping. The first Chief of Detectives in Burlington County's history spent the remainder of his life in prison; quite an ignominious end for the Sherlock Holmes of America.

Aristotle once noted: "There is no great genius without a touch of madness." That observation would aptly apply to Chief Parker. Although a movement to pardon him has existed for some time, his conduct during the Lindbergh investigation raises some serious questions about his methods. Several of Parker's cases resulted in suspects receiving the death penalty. One has to hope his behavior during the Lindbergh case an aberration.

— Kevin Stephany

"Why not trap the vibrations of a tympanum and let them groove a revolving disk of hard rubber or some such stuff?"



Berliner, E. & Kaufman, H. (1929) *He Didn't Toot His Horn*. Washington Times, Washington, D.C. [Image] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/berl0931/>

Berliner, E. (undated) *Emile Berliner in laboratory working on disc, looking up from desk*. Rice, Montreal. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/berlp0017/>

This story about Emile Berliner, "*He Didn't Toot His Horn*," by Herbert Kaufman appeared in the Washington Times on August 12, 1929 (Berliner died on August 3, 1929 at the age of 78). Here is an excerpt:

"In 1870, when Emil Berliner stepped down the gang-plank of the little Bremen steamer that brought him from Hanover, Opportunity paid no apparent attention to the pompadoured, near-sighted youngster and allowed him to slip her immediate grasp. ...

Words and music recorded on wax cylinders blurred too quickly. Wax was an impermanent material. Why not trap the vibrations of a tympanum and let them groove a revolving disk of hard rubber or some such stuff?

Ergo, the Berliner gramophone—more familiar to nowadays as the Victor Talking Machine. Kindly remember how we owe that to Emil Berliner, too.

Also, the internal combustion aeroplane engine. And the first successfully-flown helicopter."

In addition to his technical inventions, Mr. Berliner was also active in the fields of health and hygiene: "In 1900 he became concerned over the high death rate among babies, which he attributed to the dangers of raw milk. He was instrumental in establishing the milk standards that have since been adopted throughout this country, ..."



[Berliner, E. (1929) *Emile Berliner*. Washington Post, Washington, D.C., August 4. [Image] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/berl1027/>].

## Historical Society of Moorestown

Smith-Cadbury Mansion  
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Moorestown, NJ 08057

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

MARCH 2019

Jim Laessle's grandparents lived in this house at 265 East Main Street with the beautiful rooflines. The front of the Craftsman-style house has a hipped-roof with a hipped-roof dormer; a steeply pitched gable roof tops the rear section of the house. The house—a contributing structure to the Moorestown Historic District—is in danger of being demolished (see the story on page 5).

### **The HSM has an oral history given by Jim Laessle in 2008 about growing up in Moorestown. In this excerpt Mr. Laessle was asked about the Eldridge R. Johnson family:**

Jim Laessle: They lived at what today is the Lutheran Home which was called the castle of the Lutheran Home, that big stone building. That was built by the Allen family first. Allen was S. L. Allen that made backyard farm equipment. In Moorestown then, you had to realize a lot of the homes, particularly on Central Avenue, had big back yards where they raised all kinds of produce in the summertime. And the equipment that Allen made were hand pushed plows and cultivators and stuff like that, and then in the wintertime S. L. Allen made Flexible Flyer Sleds.

... 'Cept for farm equipment the sleds were pretty seasonal. But anyhow it was a very successful business for awhile and they built their home then and really I don't know why the Allen's moved out and Johnson had moved in, and I think he didn't have the parking lot because the chauffeur lived next to my grandfather on Main Street and the house is still there. Another one of the staff lived on Main Street too, also. For all the big financial difference in status, my grandparents that lived on Main Street and the Johnsons were very friendly. How friendly were they? Well Johnson had a huge yacht called the *Caroline* and my grandparents were often guests on it.

