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FROM THE FRONT PORCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF MOORESTOWN



View From the Porch

When writing in this space for our September newsletter I wrote that the Historical Society was preparing for what I predicted would be a very exciting fall season. For once a prediction of mine has turned out to be correct. Our 2022-2023 season has, in fact, gotten off to a flying start.

On October 8th, the long awaited Percheron Park opened with a beautiful dedication ceremony followed by a reception at Smith-Cadbury. The park celebrates the contributions of Moorestown's Edward Harris II and his introduction of the Percheron horse breed to the United States. As many know, Harris was born in the Smith-Cadbury Mansion, now the headquarters of the Historical Society. Ann Langerhans, Corresponding Secretary of the Friends of Percheron Park, writing in a letter to the Historical Society summed up the event best saying: "Our hope to turn what was once a former eyesore into a public green space is now satisfied; the park is a meaningful tribute to our town's agrarian heritage, marks the importance of the Percheron horse in the development of New Jersey and America, and honors one of Moorestown's most outstanding past citizens, Edward Harris II."

Next on our calendar was the annual Fall Membership meeting which was held on October 12th at the Moorestown Library. Our featured speaker was Historical Society Vice-President Linda Vizi, who discussed our latest exhibit, of which she is curator, *Inscribed Quilts: A Portal to Moorestown History*. The library meeting room was filled to capacity to hear Linda discuss the exhibit, her research, and some of her favorite stories that her research uncovered about the signers of five quilts. The feedback was so positive, that for the first time, the Library asked for her to do a second talk, which she did on November 22nd.

A few days after Linda's first talk at the library, we kicked off the 2022 edition of the annual Ghost Tour. Under the leadership of Julie Maravich and Gary Ell, this year's version had an added twist. People on the tour actually encountered "ghosts", some of whom were famous Moorestown Historical figures such as famed suffragette Alice Paul. Check out the article about the event in this newsletter.

On November 4th, an overflow crowd attending the opening of our new exhibit that is based on our collection of inscribed quilts *Inscribed Quilts: A Portal to Moorestown History*. The exhibit — which will run through June — has been covered by local radio stations, The Moorestown Sun and The Philadelphia Inquirer.

On November 10th this season's second talk in our popular *New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series*, was presented by author Bruce Mowday. Mowday spoke about his latest book *Lafayette at Brandywine*. In his book, Mowday argues that the Marquis de Lafayette's actions during the Battle of Brandywine, most notably the wound he sustained fighting for America, was a turning point in the American Revolution as it elevated his standing both here and in his native France. November 25th marked the 245th anniversary of Lafayette's stay in Moorestown, at the Smith-Cadbury Mansion, a stay necessitated by the fact that he was still recovering from the wound he received at Brandywine.

It has been a busy few months at the Historical Society and there is plenty more to come.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our members a Happy Holiday Season.

Lenny Wagner, President
(Lwagner559@comcast.net)



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

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WE LOVE WHAT WE DO



An interested young visitor (and future quilter?) examines a quilt in our new exhibit during Candlelight Night in Moorestown (photo: Linda Vizi)

**The Historical Society
of Moorestown**

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The shining centerpiece of Percheron Park is the bronze sculpture of "Diligence." The equine sculpture commemorates and celebrates Moorestown's agricultural heritage. Visit the park, sit a spell and admire all the details, and then look for the stamped concrete hoof prints... Learn more about the sculptor Joshua Koffman at his website www.joshuakoffmansculpture.com (photo: Joshua Koffman)

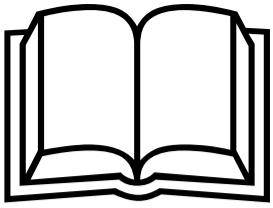


Percheron Park Dedication

An overflow crowd jammed into Percheron Park, at the corner of High and Main Streets in Moorestown on October 8, 2022, to dedicate the park that recognizes the many contributions of Edward Harris II (born at Smith-Cadbury in 1799 and a resident there for almost 50 years), most notably his introduction of the Percheron Horse breed to the United States. Harris was traveling in France when he witnessed the horse in action and knew that having such an animal would make his farm more efficient, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Pictured at left in front of *Diligence* are the members of the Friends of Percheron Park who worked tirelessly over an extended period of time to make the park a reality. Left to right: *Friends of Percheron Park* members Ann Langerhans, Julie Maravich, Margo Foster, Jolee Greenberg, Kathy Logue, sculptor Joshua Koffman (known for his expressive and dramatic large-scale bronze sculptures) and his daughter Ruby, and *Friends of Percheron Park* member Gina Zegel.

(Photo: Christine Harkinson, Moorestown Sun)



LIBRARY NEWS

The trustees of the Historical Society have been deeply involved in researching the signers of the inscribed quilts in our new exhibit, *Inscribed Quilts: A Portal to History*. So many interesting stories have been discovered including that of the Hunt sisters.

Eliza (1818-1898) and Mary Hussey Hunt (1821-1883) were the daughters of Caleb and Rhoda Matthews Hunt. They were born in Redstone, Pennsylvania, a small town on the Monongahela River. Their father Caleb traveled there from Moorestown with his parents, Joshua and Esther Roberts Hunt, and his five young siblings.

"In September 1790, Esther and Joshua and their five children, 'with two wagons, seven horses, one cow, and provisions', began a three-week journey to Fayette County in southwestern Pennsylvania. Their destination was a small, but growing, community located on the east bank of the Monongahela River in close proximity to Fort Burd. In those days it was called Redstone Old Fort, or simply Redstone. Later, the name was changed to Brownsville.

In early October, the tiny caravan reached the new home where the Hunt family would live in a log cabin during the winter season. On July 27, 1791 Joshua purchased a property, consisting of a dwelling and 195 acres (0.79 km²) of land, from John and Sarah Cadwallader. Located on the south bank of Redstone Creek, Hunt's farm was about two miles (3 km) east of the creek's confluence with the Monongahela River and slightly to the west of Colvin Run. Their homestead, which they named "Hunt Pleasant", consisted of a log dwelling nestled amidst walnut trees and steep hills."

Unfortunately in 1792, Joshua passed away at the age of 39 and Esther was left to raise the family herself. She was very involved in the local Quaker community and helped to establish Quaker meetings in Ohio.

Caleb and his brother Elisha became merchants in Redstone and were the principal entrepreneurs behind the Monongahela and Ohio Steam Boat Company that built the historic steamboat *Enterprise*. They were joined in the endeavor by Joseph White of Mt. Holly who happened to wander into their store one day in 1811.



The Hunt Sisters' (Eliza and Mary) Quilt Blocks on one of our Inscribed Quilts (photo: HSM)

Inscribed Quilts: A Portal to Moorestown History Mary & Eliza Hunt

They organized a company to construct steamboats to carry passengers and freight between Pittsburgh and New Orleans. They involved Daniel French who invented a steam engine that was used on the ferry between Camden and Philadelphia. After several smaller voyages, command of the *Enterprise* was given to Burlington, NJ native Henry Shreve who navigated the ship from Pittsburgh to New Orleans to Louisville and back in 1815. It was the first time a northbound steamboat was able to make that far of a journey. The voyage of more than 2,200 miles upstream on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers proved the ability of steamboats to navigate the western rivers.

After Caleb died, Elisha returned to Moorestown in 1835 with his wife and his brother's children (including Eliza and Mary H.) and lived at their new home and 82-acre farm on Camden Avenue. Another of the children was Alfred Hunt who went on to become the first and only president of the Bethlehem Iron Company (later Bethlehem Steel).

Mary Hunt never married and lived at the Camden Ave. home with her parents and then her brother Mordecai.

Eliza Hunt married James Mendenhall Walker in Moorestown in November of 1843. They moved to Talbott Farm in the Quaker enclave of Waterford, Virginia in Loudon County. Waterford attracted many Quakers from the Delaware Valley from the early 1700s onward and it became a haven for free blacks through the 1700s and early 1800s. The Civil War wreaked havoc on the town since most of the inhabitants were pacifists and Union-supporting Quakers.

Eliza Hunt was buried in the Fairfax Friends Cemetery in 1898.

— Stephanie Herz

Sources:

Genealogical and memorial history of the state of New Jersey by Francis Bazley Lee, 1910

History of Burlington and Mercer Counties, New Jersey by Evan Morrison Woodward, 1883

"Friendly Networks" <https://ds-pages.swarthmore.edu/friendly-networks/people/w6gj3q0h>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/87435794/eliza-walker>

Lloyd, James T. (1856), Lloyd's steamboat directory, and disasters on the western waters..., Philadelphia: Jasper Harding, p. 46., Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=106057798>



LIVING HISTORY & GHOST TOURS

During October 2022, the Historical Society of Moorestown staged three weekends (six nights!) of Living History & Ghost Tours that expanded the Moorestown Ghost Tours that we have been conducting for many years. A community

outreach and enrichment program encouraged a slew of volunteers and high school students (along with Historical Society members) to participate in various capacities. The historical-themed tours provided the students with in-depth character development and knowledge of New Jersey history – from the 1600s to the 20th century. The students not only learned about history and individual contributions from historical figures but they dressed in period attire and acted out these roles on the tours.

The tours focused on parts of the history of Moorestown from its Lenni Lenape inhabitants to the arrival of Benjamin Moore from England, in company with John & Sarah Roberts and persecuted Quaker, Thomas Stokes, in the ship "Kent," in 1677.

Tour-goers met Thomas Moore, an early resident and the Township's first tavern owner; his 33-acre property eventually became the center of Moorestown. During the theatrical skit, Thomas Moore (played by Brendan Sterling) argued with his brother Benjamin Moore (played by Mark Hines) over who was the namesake of the town.

Tour-goers were then confronted by Quaker abolitionist John Woolman (played by Stephen Gross). Woolman, having "just" returned from a 1754 exploration of the slave holding colonies in the deep south, gave a fiery delivery: *"I refuse to be served in silver cups. Slaves from the southern colonies are being forced to dig precious minerals and gems for the rich. Dear Friends, Join me and advocate for true equality for all human-beings. In this year of 1754, we must abolish human bondage. Slavery is a sin and is inconsistent with Christianity. I have been traveling throughout the colonies and spreading the message. We must love and protect all living things and search for the truth and light which is in all of us."*

Up next was an appearance by Elizabeth Roberts (played by Cheryl Craft), who explained that her family harbored fugitive slaves and were conductors of the Underground Railroad (in reference to the Elisha Barcklow House at 274 W. Main Street).

Left: A Suffragette (MHS student Naia Gomes) Right: Mrs. Cadbury (Nancy Chumney) and Hope Hunt (Julie Maravich)

(All photos on these pages: HSM)



Above: The Honorable Samuel Stokes (Gary Ell)

Right: Benjamin Moore (Mark Hines) and a Suffragette (Elizabeth Hines)



Left: Anne Cowperthwaite (MHS student Sarah Dowling-Ell)

BUSINESS CORNER

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

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

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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! We'll feature your company's name on our website and in our award winning quarterly newsletter. For details, visit us at <http://moorestownhistory.org/membership/become-a-business-partner/>

The Historical Society is a registered 501(c)(3)

(continued from page 4)

The Marquis de Lafayette (played by Luke Steene) also "returned." When the British occupied Philadelphia in 1777, Lafayette was on reconnaissance in South Jersey leading up to the Battle of Gloucester. On November 25, 1777, Lafayette and General George Weedon were on their way to Haddonfield. Too fatigued to travel further to meet up with General Nathaniel Greene, they stayed in Moorestown.

Tour-goers learned that nearly one year later – during their retreat from Philadelphia in 1778 – British and Hessian soldiers briefly made camp in Moorestown, making life miserable for some of its residents. Hessian General von Knyphausen and his officers forced their way into Smith-Cadbury and stayed for a few days.

At the Pie Lady Café (9 E Main St.) they learned that women had voted in Revolutionary America, over a hundred years before the United States Constitution guaranteed that right to women nationally. They were introduced to a myriad of characters including Anne Cowperthwaite (played by MHS student Sarah Dowling-Ell), who grew up just south of Moorestown, as a member of a prominent Quaker family. She voted along with her father, grandfather, and uncle in 1807. The Cowperthwaite family lived in a brick house, built in 1742, that still stands on the Kings Highway and Lenola Road in Moorestown. And Miriam Venable (played by student Emma Oeltjen) who voted along with her mother, brother, uncles, and grandfather in 1807. She was one of 38 women listed as having voted to choose new representatives and public officials for Burlington County.

These two women are considered the Founding "Feminists" as a new kind of women's "rights talk" emerged in the 1790s and, along with it, a new generation of women activists, intellectuals, educators, and politicians. These women — and men — pushed gender boundaries and advocated for equal rights for women in Europe. The tour met Edna Woolman Chase (played by Student Trustee, Peyton Delorme), who was born in 1877 and was the Editor-in-Chief of Vogue magazine for 40 years. She grew up on a farm near here and was raised by her Quaker grandparents. She is credited with inventing the fashion runway "cat-walk" and would serve as America's "high priestess of fashion" for most of the first half of the 20th century. She was also the grand-niece of John Woolman.

The tour culminated with Alice Stokes Paul (played by Sally Maser Webster) and a contingent of Suffragettes demanding equality and the right to vote. Said Paul: "There will never be a new world order until women are a part of it." She continued, "I have been arrested, imprisoned and force-fed for your rights to vote. Do not squander it! We demand equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex. Pass the Equal Rights Amendment. I have unfinished business!"

The tour finished up at the old Town Hall where they met John Bradshaw, Chief of Police (played by Mark Hines) and toured the three iron barred cells with original wooden benches or cots. "It is very creepy, cramped, dark and damp with many carvings with names and dates and even a life size drawing of a pin-up girl," Bradshaw explained.

— Gary Ell



Above: Suffragettes (Nancy Chumney, Stephanie Herz, Moorestown Mayor Nicole Gillespie) and women's rights activist Alice Paul (Sally Maser Webster)



Left: The Town Crier (Bill Archer) and the Marquis de Lafayette (MHS student Luke Steene)



Above: Former Smith-Cadbury "resident" Edward Harris II (sculpted by Julie Maravich) keeps watch...



Above: Edna Woolman Chase (Peyton Delorme), The Honorable Samuel Stokes (Gary Ell), and the Widow Leeds (Cheryl Craft)



WE ARE SO THANKFUL for the generous support of our volunteers, performers and supporters, including Moorestown High School, The Pie Lady Cafe, members of the Moorestown Theater Company, Moorestown Music Collective, and The John Woolman Memorial Association.

HELP WANTED:

Tired of cleaning your own house?

Come de-clutter ours!



Activities/Events: Help plan, organize and execute events.

Docent Training: Become a Museum and special exhibit guide.

Exhibits: Help create interesting displays of historical artifacts.

Fund Raising: Help plan and hold income-generating events.

Oral History: Conduct oral histories.

Photography: Attend events and take digital photos for our archives and publicity.

Speaker Series: Help select speakers, coordinates meetings.

Publicity/News/Web: Help get Society information to the members and public.

If you'd like to help us (and have fun doing it!) contact us at 856-235-0353 Tuesdays 1-4, or at other times, leave a message. Email us (a better option) at moorestownhistory@comcast.net

Hope to see you soon!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Hello Members!

Edward Harris II, A Footnote in Time — first published by the Historical Society in 1979 and updated in 2022, just in time for the opening of Percheron Park — will be sent out to our \$50 donation level membership. The new edition was printed through the generosity of the Breakfast Rotary Club of Moorestown. The booklet is also available in our gift shop along with numerous publications by our NJ History Speaks Series authors. Come visit and take a look!

Marianne & Thomas Scattaregia and Lois Janney & Bill Rose, who are friends and fans of Bill Archer, have recently donated in honor of Bill's 80th birthday and acknowledged Bill's tireless and enthusiastic dedication to the Historical Society. In recognition of his contributions, we have established *The Town Crier Fund*. Donations are accepted by check and thru PayPal on our website (<https://moorestownhistory.org/the-town-crier-fund/>). Happy Birthday Bill!

If you're in a nostalgic mood as we end 2022 and begin 2023, note that our newsletters going back to 2014 are available online at our website. They are color versions of our print edition and if you have never read a color version, I recommend it!

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Marianne & Thomas Scattaregia • Francis C Collins • Nancy Paolin • Emily Dragun • Andrew Junglaus & Evan Maines • and welcome back Karen Dever!

Wishing y'all a happy new year!

Jill Weiss, Membership Chair moorestownhistory@comcast.net



THE HSM WELCOMES OUR NEW TRUSTEE IN CHARGE OF PUBLICITY: ANNE WOOLLEY

Anne is the former president of the Van Harlingen Historical Society of Montgomery Township, NJ and served there as a Trustee for many years. She also handled communications for the Rockingham Association (the official friends group of Rockingham State Historic Site – George Washington's last Revolutionary War headquarters). She is a dual Irish citizen, and a member of both Daughters of the American Revolution and First Families of Warren County, Ohio (where many Dutch and Quakers emigrated in the early 1800s). Anne loves history and genealogy!



HELP WANTED:

Would you like to volunteer in a historic house museum surrounded by beautiful objects?

We need someone to manage the HSM Smith-Cadbury Gift Shop (and our Online Store!)

(See above for contact information)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2022/2023

BASIC MEMBERSHIP:

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

DONOR LEVELS:

- Edward Harris, A Footnote in Time (\$50)
 Pathway to History (\$100)
 Library Sponsor (\$250)
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Or renew online at: moorestownhistory.org/membership

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2022

20 Closed for holiday break until January 3, 2023

JANUARY 2023

EXHIBIT: *Inscribed Quilts: A Portal to Moorestown History*

- 3 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 5 Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" Speech, 7:00 PM at the Moorestown Library
- 8 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, gift shop, & research library, 1-3
- 10 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 17 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 22 *Smith-Cadbury* tours & gift shop, 1-3
- 24 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 25 **NJ History Speaks Lecture Series**, Louis Borbi will speak about his book and the history of Roebing, 7:00 PM at the Moorestown Library
- 31 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4

FEBRUARY 2023

EXHIBIT: *Inscribed Quilts: A Portal to Moorestown History*

- 6 Burlington County African-American Stories, 7:00 PM at the Moorestown Library
- 7 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 12 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, gift shop, & research library, 1-3
- 14 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 21 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 26 *Smith-Cadbury* tours and gift shop, 1-3



For sale in the Smith-Cadbury Gift Shop: **Percheron Park Mugs (\$20)**

MARCH 2023

EXHIBIT: *Inscribed Quilts: A Portal to Moorestown History*

- 2 Amazing Women from Burlington County, 7:00 PM at the Moorestown Library
- 7 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 8 **NJ History Speaks Lecture Series**, Geoff Gamble will speak on the "Ten Crucial Days of the American Revolution", 7:00 PM at the Moorestown Library
- 12 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, gift shop, & research library, 1-3
- 14 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 21 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4
- 26 *Smith-Cadbury* tours and gift shop, 1-3
- 28 *Smith-Cadbury* library, gift shop & tours, 1-4



ACQUISITIONS

When we receive donations, we appreciate the personal value and memories that each piece represents to the donating person or family. How fortunate we are that residents take the time to bring these pieces into our archive. Many donations are mailed from one-time residents that moved to another part of the country and other donations are found by a younger generation who want to find "a good home" for their pieces of Moorestown history. These items are valuable contributions to our collection and serve as important sources of information for researchers. Valuing the past is an important part of our continuing education. Meeting and speaking with each donor is a pleasure and leaves us more informed and thinking "this is so interesting..."

Additions to our Collection:

- 👤 **Nancy Froelicher** for her extensive donation of documents, photographs, articles, artifacts, memorabilia, family recipes, ephemera related to Moorestown Public Schools and Moorestown history.
- 👤 **Dennis Weaver** for copies of his amazing detailed photographic history books: "Moorestown – Out in the Country and Back to the Country" and "Maple Shade, We Celebrate 100 Years".

- 👤 **Peter Fritz** for Samuel Robbins Automobile Travel Record Book, 1917-23 from the Armstrong family.
- 👤 **Bolton Family** for a Moorestown High School commemorative pin and Moorestown Soap Box Derby "I Raced" commemorative pin.
- 👤 **William Battaglia** for a trove of historical documents and maps that included a great deal of information about Moorestown's history.
- 👤 **Judith Young** for a 1906 calendar and American Legion documents from 1941.
- 👤 **Charles Perrone** for a "Moore & Haines" vintage milk bottle cardboard cap.
- 👤 **Sharon Miller** for a men's gold 1925 Moorestown High School Class Ring.
- 👤 **Fong and Young Families** for Covid-19 memorabilia marking a part of our modern history.
- 👤 **Susan Branson** for a trove of significant historical documents and letters dated c.1944, Moorestown High School Class 1944 photographs, Moorestown High School Student Guide Handbook 1941-3, 1969 MHS 25th Reunion Booklet, vintage commercial calendar, and more.
- 👤 **Margaret Dawson** for an extensive collection of vintage clothing including long gowns, dresses, shawls, bonnets, and more.

We are honored to be entrusted with these treasures donated to our collection.

— Mary Berardi

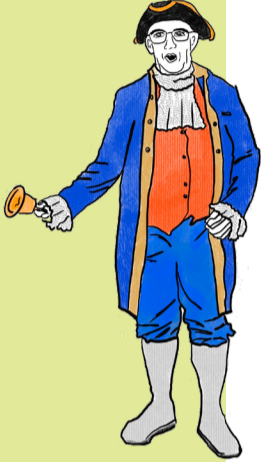
Inscribed Quilts: A Portal to Moorestown History



HSM Vice President and quilter Linda Vizi revealed some of the fascinating stories behind the signatures in the current exhibit: *Inscribed Quilts: A Portal to Moorestown History* at our Fall General Meeting, held in October at the Moorestown Library. Her talk was so popular that it was repeated in November. (photo: HSM)

Historical Society of Moorestown

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



DECEMBER 2022

Discover the STORIES behind the SIGNATURES



Our "Inscribed Quilts: A Portal to Moorestown History" exhibit paints a vivid picture of life in Moorestown during the mid-1850s and is currently on display at the Smith-Cadbury Mansion.

(Right) A young visitor inspects quilt signatures (Candelight Night in Moorestown photo: Linda Vizi)



The New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series, hosted by the Historical Society of Moorestown and the Moorestown Public Library continues in 2023.

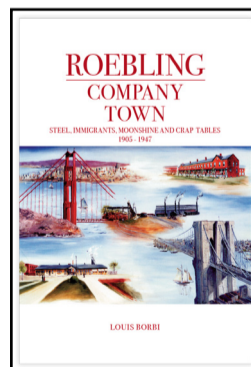
All lectures that are part of the New Jersey History Speaks series are free and open to the general public — either in person or virtually.

Check the HSM website (moorestownhistory.org) for updates.

If you plan to attend an event, contact the Moorestown Public Library at (856) 234-0333 or register online on the library's events page: <https://www.moorestownlibrary.org/events/>

NEW JERSEY HISTORY SPEAKS LECTURE SERIES

Do you know the story of the unique community of Roebing, New Jersey? It was built by John A. Roebing and Sons Company (who built the iconic Brooklyn Bridge) for their workers at the steel plant they located along the Delaware River, some eleven miles south of Trenton. At our next *New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series* event on **January 25th**



at 7PM, Louis Borbi, one of the founding members of the Roebing Historical Society, will speak about his book "*Roebing: Company Town, Steel, Immigrants, Moonshine and Crap Tables, 1905-1947*".

"Roebing was a great place to grow up. Roebing took care of its people, while they were busy taking care of the world."



Artist, Author, and Historian Louis Borbi (photo: <http://www.roebingcompanytown.com/>)

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