

IN THIS ISSUE:

A Fun Event! A QuiltTea at
Smith-Cadbury! (p. 3)
Learn about your Quilt (p. 3)
Local "Watering Holes" (p. 4)
Help Wanted! and Membership
News and Library Sponsors (p. 6)
Calendar of Events (p. 7)
Hello Dolly! (p. 7)
History Speaks ties into our
Inscribed Quilts Exhibit (p. 8)

FROM THE FRONT PORCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF MOORESTOWN



View From the Porch

Over the course of my two runs as president of the Historical Society of Moorestown, I have, from time to time, used this space to recognize the members of our Board of Trustees for their contributions to the work of our organization. We have been fortunate over the years to be able to add new members with various interests and skills. Like a lot of organizations such as ours, the members of the board also serve as the volunteers. As I have said before, some days the Trustees make the important decisions for the Historical Society, and sometimes we take the trash out to the curb for the Wednesday pick up.

Given that no one in our organization receives even one penny for the work that is done, we try to keep it fun and to assign responsibilities that match our members interests and skill set. *Mary Berardi*, for example, oversees all accessions for the Historical Society. She is responsible for receiving, documenting, and logging those treasured items that people have entrusted to our care. If you think it is not a time consuming and labor-intensive job, you would be wrong. Many is the day when Mary is at her desk and doing her job long after the rest of us have left for the day. In the last year Mary has processed over 75 donated items. *Nancy Chumney* can be found performing a number of functions for the Historical Society. She keeps our social media presence, works in the library, develops exhibits, and who can forget her turn as Mrs. Cadbury for the Ghost Tours. Speaking of the Ghost Tours, *Julie Maravich* and *Gary Ell* did a tremendous job in 2022 — revamping the popular annual October event into the “Living History and Ghost Tours.” A true historian, Gary’s research has been extremely valuable and even solved the mystery of the exact date and circumstances surrounding the Marquis de Lafayette’s visit to the Smith-Cadbury Mansion. Julie has

also served as the board’s liaison to other groups in town concerned with its history, such as the Friends of Percheron Park.

In April, *Cathy Hartley* will have served as our Treasurer for nine years. In that time she has managed to guide us through some volatile economic times and has kept us on solid financial ground. *Liz Rosenthal* is the board’s Recording Secretary, keeping the minutes of all of our meetings. She is also part of the group that gathers each Tuesday to work in our Library. *Jill Weiss* is in charge of membership which involves communicating with our members and driving different initiatives designed to maintain and boost our membership. Jill also created and maintains our first-class website. And where would we be without *John Watson* and his particular set of skills when it comes to restoring images and old documents, and *Lisa Knell*, who four times a year edits and produces this award-winning newsletter. *Paul Canton* takes the lead for our group on anything that has to do with the Smith-Cadbury’s building and grounds. If you have a valuable historic home, who better to entrust it to than Paul.

Linda Vizi serves as the Vice-President of the Historical Society. She spent the last year creating our current exhibit “Inscribed Quilts: A Portal to Moorestown History” which opened to rave reviews back in early November and continues to draw numerous visitors each week. Our newest Trustee is *Anne Woolley* who has taken over the job of publicity chairperson. She has jumped right in and has done a great job promoting our programs.

Stephanie Herz has been the heart and soul of the Historical Society for over 20 years. As our head librarian she runs the library operation, which is the nerve center of the Historical Society. Among numerous other tasks, Stephanie runs the Historic Plaque Program along with Julie Maravich and HSM member David Schill.

(continued on next page)



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.
P.O. Box 477
Moorestown, NJ 08057

Phone

856-235-0353

Web Site

moorestownhistory.org

E-mail

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comcast.net

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March 2023

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WE LOVE WHAT WE DO

(View From The Porch continued from page 1)

This spring we will lose the services of our Student Trustee, *Peyton Delorme* when she graduates from Moorestown High School. Peyton has done an excellent job in her role by helping with organizing materials from past exhibits and recruiting volunteers.

I am so proud to be affiliated with such a great group of people. Although everyone has their own area of responsibility none of our success would be possible if they did not always work as a team. There is a famous quote attributed to Harry Truman that I think applies to our board: "It is amazing what you can accomplish when you do not care who gets the credit."

Lenny Wagner, President
(Lwagner559@comcast.net)



The Historical Society participated in the "Learning Opportunities and Volunteer Encouragement Fair" held on January 18th at Moorestown High School. Over twenty organizations had tables at the fair and spoke with students about volunteer opportunities. Pictured are HSM Student Trustee Peyton Delorme (second from right) and HSM Volunteer Sarah Dowling-Ell (far left) who represented the Historical Society for the event and two prospective volunteers. (photo: Lenny Wagner)

On January 25th, Lou Borbi, of the Roebing Historical Society spoke to an overflow crowd at the Moorestown Library about his book "Roebing: Company Town, Steel, Immigrants, Moonshine and Crap Tables." His talk was part of the Historical Society's ongoing New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series. (photo: Lenny Wagner)



The Historical Society of Moorestown

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Lenny Wagner

John Watson

Jill Weiss

Anne Woolley

Student Trustee:

Peyton Delorme

Newsletter Editor

Lisa Knell

Library

Stephanie Herz





Please join us for **Tea and Quilts** on Saturday, May 6th (rain date May 13th) at the Smith-Cadbury Mansion in Moorestown. Visitors will enjoy a guided tour of acclaimed, antique inscribed quilts, plus be treated to specialty sandwiches, sweets and an assortment of teas on the wide porches. Unfortunately, due to its age (285), the house is not handicapped accessible.

The menu will include: Cranberry Walnut Chicken Salad on Croissant; Egg Salad and Dill on Artisan Whole Wheat; Cucumber, Cream Cheese and Cress Squares; Fruit Skewers; Pie Lady scones, other local delicacies and an assortment of fine teas. Leave with a special gift from the Smith-Cadbury Mansion as well!

There are two seatings, 10:30 AM and 1:00 PM at \$30.00 per person. Seating is limited. Please make individual and group reservations on the society website www.moorestownhistory.org by April 28th. For more information contact moorestownhistory@comcast.net

**JOIN US FOR
TEA & QUILTS AT
SMITH-CADBURY**

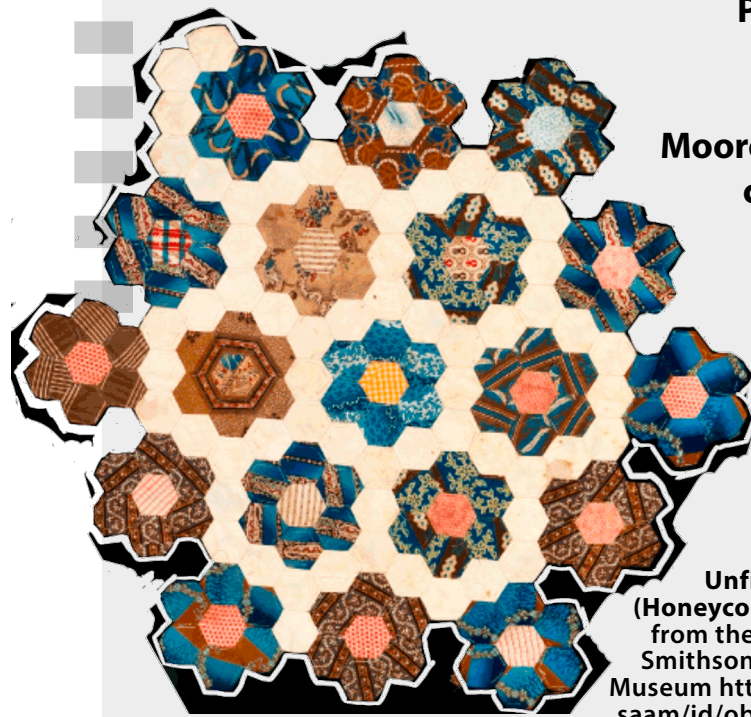
Quilt Appraisals by a Professional



A beautiful quilt, be it antique, vintage or contemporary in style, should be appraised professionally in order to establish its true value. The value is important for estate purposes, to make a donation or for resale. An antique quilt is over one hundred years old, a vintage quilt is between fifty and one hundred years and a contemporary quilt is defined as under fifty years old.

Many considerations determine the value such as condition, design, historical significance, awards and fame of the maker. **Karen Dever, a certified quilt appraiser, will be at the Smith-Cadbury Mansion, home of The Historical Society of Moorestown, 12 High Street on April 29th from 10 AM – 2:00 PM. Each appraisal will take approximately thirty minutes for a fee of \$60.00 per quilt.** A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the historical society, and within two weeks a written appraisal will be sent to the owner.

Please set up the appointment by contacting Moorestownhistory@comcast.net and bring cash or a check made out to Karen Dever for each appraisal.



Unfinished Quilt top (Honeycomb), circa 1840s, from the collection of the Smithsonian American Art Museum <https://edan.si.edu/saam/id/object/1998.149.41>

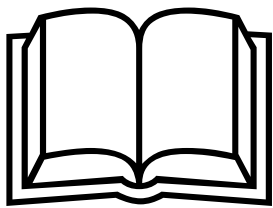
**BE SURE TO SEE OUR FASCINATING EXHIBIT
CURRENTLY ON VIEW AT SMITH-CADBURY**

*Inscribed Quilts:
A Portal to Moorestown History*



As microbreweries and winery and distillery salesrooms become a reality in town, many think this is something new. Actually, Moorestown was always home to inns and their accompanying taverns since its earliest days as a village.

But in 1915, the town enacted a regulation banning the sale of alcohol in response to the growing temperance sentiments of the time. Prohibition lasted from 1920 to 1933 but when it ended Moorestown chose to remain dry until 2012 when liquor licenses were awarded to restaurants at the Moorestown Mall.



LIBRARY NEWS

In the early 1720s, Thomas Moore, this town's namesake, first innkeeper and tavern owner moved to this quaint village. At the time the western part of Moorestown was called Rodmantown.

In 1732 he bought up a large 33-acre tract of land on the north side of Main Street from just west of the Friends' cemetery to Locust Street and bounded by what is now Second Street on the north. As the town's first major real estate agent, he sold most of the lots but he set up his home and inn near the corner of Union and Main Streets. By 1745 he had applied to the state for a liquor license which was in use until at least 1760 when Moore died. It was a small establishment by modern standards. According to James Purdy in *Moorestown Old and New*,

"...His "hotel" consisted of just four rooms, all told. Two were on the ground floor, and two were upstairs under the roof. These latter were so unambitious that a man could stand in the middle of either of them and touch the peak of the roof with his finger tips; from which it may be inferred that no very massive furniture was at the disposal of Mr. Moore's guests.

The manner of getting up stairs, too, was somewhat different from going up in a modern elevator. The stairway was open at the back, like ordinary cellar stairs, and led up to a trap door in the floor of one of the upper rooms. At the foot the stairway was unattached, but at the top it was fastened to the beam by a pair of hinges. In the day-time, when people were not supposed to have any use for their bedrooms, the stairs were swung up against the ceiling and fastened there by an iron hook, so that they were quite out of the way. As bed-time approached, the hook was displaced and the stairs made available."

In his *Retrospect of Colonial Times in Burlington County*, Dr. Asa Matlack Stackhouse talked about several other local watering holes in those early years.

The **Golden Fleece** may have been one of the earliest, located just west of the Friends' Cemetery (now Wells Fargo bank). After liquor licenses became required in 1738, we learn of **The Cable**, run by Arthur Borradail, first licensed in 1744. **The Anchor** was opened in competition by John Riley after that. Not to be outdone, Borradail put up a sign saying "The upstart Anchor doth appear, But the Ancient Cable is here." Also in 1744, a license was issued to Nehemiah Haines who owned much of the land on the north side of East Main and Chester Avenue eastward. Slightly later, a license was issued to Joshua Bispham who owned what is now known as the Hessian House and the adjacent property.

West of the First Baptist Church was the **Washington House Hotel**. The earliest license for this establishment was issued to John Matlack in 1760. The original hotel and tavern was in continuous operation under a variety of different owners until 1890 when most of the original structure was demolished to make room for a more modern hotel by Robert M. Snyder who renamed it the **West End Hotel**. The final owner while liquor was still being served was Henry Barry who fought in court against having his license revoked to no avail in 1915. The property continued as a hotel and rooming house until the late 1930s.

Just west of the Friends' Cemetery stood the **William Penn Hotel**, established around 1801 by Isaac Wilkins, who was Moorestown's first postmaster. According to local historian Charles Boyer in his book *Old Inns and Taverns in West Jersey*, "it is fair to assume that the post office was located here, probably in the barroom, as was the usual custom." This building may have been earlier occupied by the previously mentioned **Golden Fleece**. Ownership of this hotel changed hands many

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)

times before it was purchased in 1869 by Charles Coles and his brother who eventually renamed it the **Coles Hotel**. The final owner was Edward Halleran who sold it in 1926. Shortly thereafter it was demolished to make way for the Burlington County Trust Company.

In 1753 a license was granted to John Cox for a tavern and inn near the north east corner of East Main Street and Chester Avenue. This establishment played an important role in Moorestown's early history. In 1759 the first stage coach line was established linking Camden at Cooper's Ferry to New York City. With stops in Haddonfield, Moorestown, Mt. Holly, Freehold, Middletown and Sandy Hook, the traveler would then board a ferry bound for New York. John Cox's place was the stage coach stop in Moorestown. During the Revolutionary War, Cox's tavern and inn was a popular spot for British and Hessian soldiers passing through, judging by the claims for damages that were filed by Cox against the invaders.

Cox served on the Township Committee for a total of 31 years. He also served as the town clerk for 42 years. Before the building of the first Town Hall at 40 E. Main Street, it's said that town meetings were held at **Cox's tavern**. After Cox's death in 1802, ownership of the tavern and inn passed in quick succession through the hands of seven different proprietors ending with Samuel Heulings who in 1825 renamed it the **Upper Tavern**. William Doughten owned it from 1826 to 1840 followed by David McCoy, who operated the Moorestown to Camden Stage Line. This venerable building was torn down around 1904 and its space is now occupied by the Verizon building.

In the later part of the 19th century, the **Rosamond Inn** served the Stanwick area. Located on the north side of Main Street, just east of Stanwick Ave., this building's interesting history started as the Moorestown Boarding School for girls. It was run by Mary S. Lippincott from 1843 to 1883. After the school closed, it sat vacant until the late 1880s when it was bought by a group of businessmen who fixed it up as a summer hotel and tavern. It became a very popular spot, especially in the summer, for people from Philadelphia and Camden looking to escape the heat of the city. There were many loud and boisterous drinking parties there and by 1893, they had their license revoked after neighbors complained of multiple incidents of public intoxication nearby.

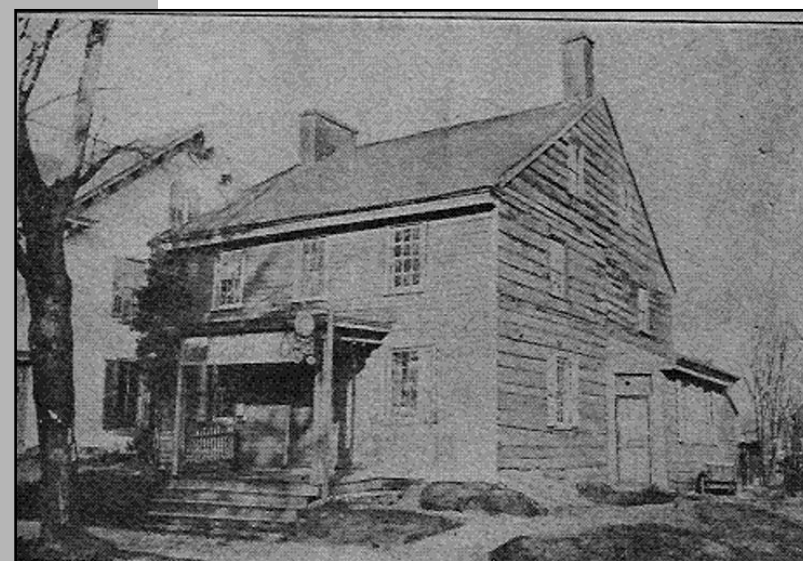
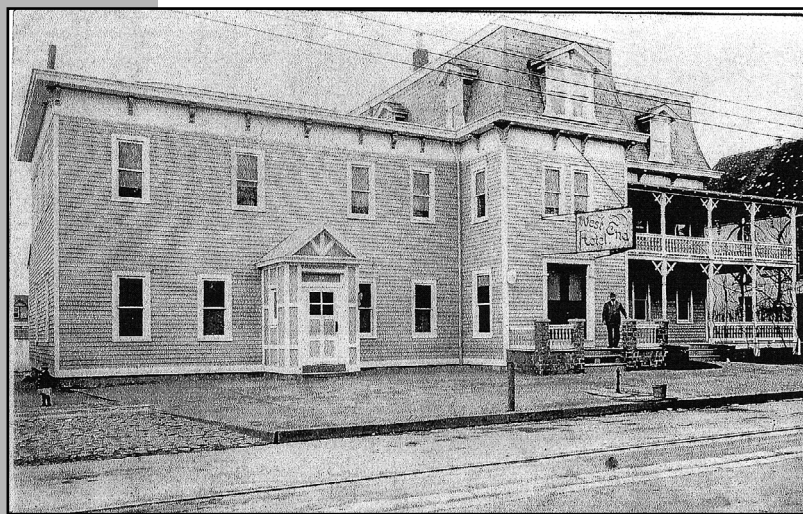
In addition to these taverns near the center of town, there were several in the area of Bridgeboro where the ferry crossed the Rancocas Creek. And on the other end of town, near the intersection of King's Highway and Route 73, was the **Buzby Tavern**. According to some tradition, the Cowperthwaite house at the corner of Kings Highway and Lenola Rd. also housed a tavern in its early days.

So we see, as Dr. Stackhouse succinctly put it in his 1906 *Retrospect*:

"The use of spiritous liquors in the early days of the Colony was well nigh universal. They were looked upon as a necessity and while the evil effects of over indulgence was as patent then as now, the moral sense of the community was not aroused to condemn it."

— Stephanie Herz

TOP-TO-BOTTOM: West End Hotel, Coles Hotel, Cox's Tavern, Rosamond Inn



THE UPSTART ANCHOR DO TH APPEAR,
BUT THE ANCIENT CABLE IS HERE

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!

As we approach the end of another membership year, I'd like to acknowledge several members who, over the past several years, have donated at the **Library Sponsor** level (see list, at right). As a token of our gratitude, we have affixed to one of our library shelves a small plaque engraved with your name.

We welcome our new members:

• Eileen Wiklin • Kyle Mason •

And a super-sized thank you to our incredibly generous members who, over the past several years, have donated \$500 and above:

• William Powers, Jr. • Katherine & Dean Kinsey • John Roberts • Linda & William Burris • Sarah Powers Kirn • Margo Foster • Louise Marshall Kelly • Debbie & Thomas Whitesell •

We are enormously grateful to all our members for supporting our work year after year!

Look for the annual membership renewal letter in your mailbox the last week of April.

Jill Weiss, Membership Chair
moorestownhistory@comcast.net



LIBRARY SPONSORS: William Shelly • Audrey Shinn • Julie & Nick Maravich • Barbara & John Watson • Gina Zegel • Beverly Kolb • Lee Shubert • Jeanne Marie Alper • George Arnold • Linda Vizi • Debbie & Vincent DeLisi • Kim & Kyler Foster • Maureen & Brian Deam • Michelle Juliana • Farrell Lines •



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 2023/2024

BASIC MEMBERSHIP:

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

DONOR LEVELS:

Town Crier Fund (\$50)
 History Tour! (\$100)
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 Patron (\$500) Benefactor (\$1000)

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Mail to: P.O. Box 477 Moorestown, NJ 08057

Or renew online at: moorestownhistory.org/membership

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2023

ONGOING 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 & 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 & research library, 1-3
- 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

APRIL 2023

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

- 4 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 9 *Smith-Cadbury* **closed** for Easter
- 11 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 12 **HSM Annual Meeting at Moorestown Library**, Martha Claire Catlin will speak about her book "The Quaker Scout" and the Woodlawn (Virginia) settlements of antislavery Quakers (many were from Moorestown), 7:00 PM at the Moorestown Library
- 18 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 23 *Smith-Cadbury* tours, 1-3
- 25 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 29 *Smith-Cadbury* **Quilt Appraisals**, 10-2

MAY 2023

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

- 2 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 6 *Smith-Cadbury* **QUILTEA**, at 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM. Reservations only. Rain date 5/13.
- 9 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 14 *Smith-Cadbury* **closed** for Mother's Day
- 16 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 23 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4
- 28 *Smith-Cadbury* **closed** for Memorial Day
- 30 *Smith-Cadbury* library & tours, 1-4

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



Hello Dolly!

In a display case filled with toys and children's books, one particular doll stood out to a recent visitor.

He explained that she is a beautiful example of a bisque doll made by the Johannes Kestner company in Germany, between 1880-1890. Our doll retains her authentic beauty. She has a bisque head on a composition body. She is unjointed with straight wrists and a closed mouth — all specific to the Johannes Kestner design.

He said that she has "sleep eyes" — when you lay her down her eyes close. If the wig were removed you could see the hole in the back of her head and it would be possible to see the rocker mechanism with lead weights that opens and closes her eyes.

The details and fine lines of her face indicate that she was an early doll out of the mold. Dolls that were manufactured with the same mold at a later time would not have such delicate features. Her mohair wig is original because it matches the eye brows. She also is wearing her original shoes. On the sole of the shoe is a leather mark of a keystone.

If you stop into the Smith-Cadbury Mansion, come say, "Hello Dolly!"

— Linda Vizi



Our Johannes Kestner doll (top) and a detail of the "keystone" mark on the bottom of her leather shoe (photos: Linda Vizi)

Our current exhibit "Inscribed Quilts" uses signatures on quilts as a starting point to tell the stories of local people who signed the quilts.

Marion Smith, a subterranean adventurer, who died this past December at the age of 80, explored 8,291 separate caves in his lifetime. Interestingly, he also worked with Historians on a project to document thousands of signatures left behind by Civil War soldiers in central Kentucky's Mammoth Cave. He was "particularly taken with researching the men themselves, and he ultimately wrote about 80 miniature biographies." [The New York Times Obituaries, Sunday, December 18, 2022]

Smith and his colleagues searched the walls and ceilings of the cave for signatures, then searched in archives for information about the men who etched their names in the rock more than 150 years ago. "These names are little stories you squeeze out of the wall," Smith said. "Each one is a puzzle, and I enjoy solving puzzles." [Read the full National Parks Conservation Association story "Hidden Names, Hidden Stories" at <https://www.npca.org/articles/2772-hidden-names-hidden-stories>]

THE STORIES BEHIND THE NAMES

— Lisa Knell

Historical Society of Moorestown

Smith-Cadbury Mansion
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MARCH 2023

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/](https://www.moorestownlibrary.org/events/)


**NEW JERSEY HISTORY
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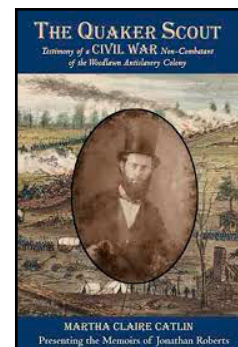
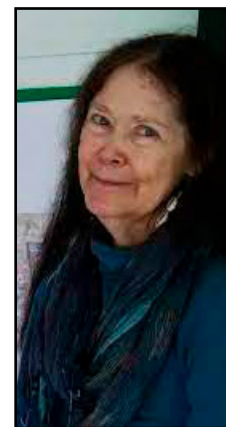
On April 12th, Martha Claire Catlin, Historian for the Alexandria, Virginia, Quaker Meeting at Woodlawn will make a presentation as part of the Historical Society's New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series

In 2010, Catlin retired from a career in historic preservation at the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Building on 30 years of research, her current emphasis is on the Woodlawn settlements of antislavery Quakers, many of whom were from Moorestown. Their story is now featured in the Historical Society of Moorestown exhibit "Inscribed Quilts: A Portal to Moorestown History".

Her most recent book "The Quaker Scout: Testimony of a Civil War non-combatant of the Woodlawn Anti-Slavery Colony", is the story of Jonathan Roberts who was a member of the Woodlawn Colony.

The Quakers of Woodlawn, well-educated progressive agriculturalists from northern states, were successful in establishing a colony of free-labor farms, uneasily surrounded by George Washington's Mount Vernon heirs and others of the slaveholding planter elite. Among the new freeholders of the colony were African Americans descended from Mount Vernon's enslaved population, manumitted by Washington at his death a half-century earlier. The Friends converted thousands of acres of plantation lands into productive free-labor farms, hoping their example would become a transformative influence throughout the South. Yet, with increasing sectionalism in the years leading up to war, even the faithful could see that the possibility of ending slavery by peaceful means – however strategically devised, and diligently practiced – was diminishing. It was this realization that sent Roberts on his amazing adventure.

This presentation is the perfect companion piece to the Historical Society's current exhibit.



Martha Claire Catlin
(top) and the cover
of her book "The
Quaker Scout"