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FROM THE FRONT PORCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF MOORESTOWN



House Tours and Gift Shop Hours:

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

Research Library Hours:

Tuesday 1-4 PM
Second Sunday of
each Month 1-3 PM

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*Published Quarterly by
The Historical Society
of Moorestown*

View From the Porch

In reviewing what I wrote for this newsletter last year at this time, I see that I announced two new initiatives being undertaken by the Historical Society, the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, and the West End Community Center Oral History Project. I have a lot to report on both fronts.

For starters the Historical Society has partnered with Rev NJ, which is a joint venture of the New Jersey Historic Commission and Crossroads of the American Revolution. A group, headed up by Historical Society Members and representatives from the American Legion, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Moorestown Improvement Association, the Perkins Center for the Arts, Saving Historic Moorestown, the Moorestown 4th of July Parade Committee and others has been meeting over the last few months to plan events that will celebrate and highlight the important role that New Jersey and Moorestown played in the War of Independence. Just this week we learned that we have been approved by the Museum of the American Revolution to host the First Oval Office Project (see the article in this newsletter for more details) which is a replica of George Washington's tent which served as his home and headquarters during the war. The tentative date for this event is March 28, 2026 and it will kick off the 2026 leg of our celebration.

We have other events planned for 2025 as well. For starters our lecture series will feature topics around the

revolution (see inside for more details). A second Historic Home tour is also being planned for September 27th of this year, along with the first annual Hessian Retreat Fun Run.

At the end of February we wrapped up the first phase of our West End Community Center (WECC) Oral History Project. We are in the process of submitting our final report to the New Jersey Historical Commission who provided us with the funding. We have completed scanning and indexing all of the documents created by the board of the WECC (meeting minutes, budgets and correspondence), we have conducted a number of Oral Histories of members of the West End community who remember the Center and who took advantage of the services offered there.

Our plan is to embark on a second phase which will include scanning and indexing documents from the Second Baptist and AME churches that relate to the WECC and the placement of historic markers.

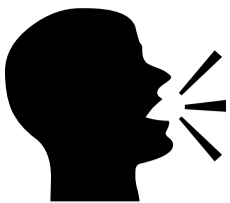
This will also be my last newsletter as the President of the Historical Society. According to our bylaws a President serves a two-year term and can serve only two such terms consecutively. This I have done now twice so I am sure that people have had more than enough of me. It has been a great four years. The job of President is made easy because we have such an excellent and engaged Board of Trustees.

The Board will meet in March to recommend a new President who will be voted on at our Annual Meeting on April 21st.

Lenny Wagner, President
(Lwagner559@comcast.net)



March 2025



**NEW JERSEY HISTORY
SPEAKS LECTURE SERIES**

The New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series, hosted by the Historical Society of Moorestown and the Moorestown Public Library continues in 2024/2025. All lectures that are part of the New Jersey History Speaks series are free and open to the general public.

If you plan to attend one or all of the events, please contact the Moorestown Public Library at (856) 234- 0333 or sign up on the library's Events page at <https://events.moorestownlibrary.org/> to register.

Those who are not registered will be admitted to the event as space allows.

MARCH & APRIL: The New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series continues its 2024/2025 season at the **Moorestown Library (7:00 PM)**.

Tuesday, March 25: "Facts and Artifacts"

Local historian David Boulden returns to provide an update on his never-ending quest to research the comings and goings of the British Army and Hessian troops in Burlington and Camden County during the American Revolution. He will discuss his compelling adventures metal detecting to research the British Army's activities in our area. This expedition and study cover both Camden and Burlington Counties. The locations are focused on, but not limited to, the evacuation route the British Army took from Philadelphia through New Jersey in June 1778.



[Photo: David Boulden website]

Monday, April 21: "The Day the Revolution Started"

The American Revolution began with the Battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775 — but when did the people of the Delaware Valley get the news about the "shot heard round the world"? Here is a hint ... when Matt Skic, curator of the Museum of the American Revolution, speaks about "The Day the Revolution Started" at the Library in April, it will be almost the 250th anniversary of that momentous day.



[Photo: Matt Skic]

If you have questions, please contact The Historical Society of Moorestown at (856) 235-0353 or email moorestownhistory@comcast.net.



An overflow crowd attended our January New Jersey History Speaks Lecture to hear HSM Trustee Gary Ell speak on his research project that sheds new light on the early suffrage movement in Moorestown. Gary has identified about a dozen early Suffragists from Moorestown that may have inspired a twelve-year-old Alice Paul (the future author of the Equal Rights Amendment, born in

1885). He also identified key moments in the suffrage movement that occurred in Moorestown, such as the formation of a Moorestown branch of the Equal Suffrage League in 1897. Gary discussed Alice Paul's return to Moorestown after having been imprisoned in the UK when she addressed crowds at Town Hall and at Moorestown Friends School, helping to set the direction of the movement. The culmination of the lecture was describing how Alice voted in the 1920 presidential election (via absentee ballot) using her Moorestown Chestnut Street address after the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution was certified in August 1920. That Amendment did not specifically "give" women the right to vote (#19: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."), rather it took away sex as a barrier to voting for U.S. citizens. Individual states and local polls could still prevent anyone from voting using poll taxes, literacy tests, grandfather clauses, or other discriminatory practices.



Moorestown High School students line up at our table during the 3rd Annual L.O.V.E. Fair (Learning Opportunity and Volunteer Engagements) which connects students to volunteer opportunities with organizations such as ours. Staffing our booth was student volunteer James Zender and Student Trustees Briana Pepe and Sarah Dowling-Ell (shown at left).



A steady flow of visitors came through the Smith-Cadbury Mansion during this year's Cook's Tour. Our house was one of five that participants visited on December 4th (photos at left).

[Photos: Lenny Wagner]

"A funny thing happens when new voters come along: Politicians start caring about their views. When politicians see that roughly half their constituents are women, they start caring immensely."

<https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution/amendments/amendment-xix/interpretations/145>

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How Diligence Saved THE FRENCH PRESS



Holy cow! Do I have a story for you! Although it's nearly impossible to believe; the title is, in fact, true!

I was at a lovely Valentine's themed Questers luncheon recently. I had been asked to speak about *Saving Historic Moorestown* to this local chapter of a national service club dedicated to preserving historic material culture. The Questers have been a tremendous friend to the Historical Society in the past, conserving items in our collection like ancient samplers and indentures.

A member of this club is the former owner of 2 E. Main Street, now famously The French Press and Château de Main. She was anxious to let me know that in addition to the EIGHT imperiled historic homes currently in Moorestown, her former home had been as well!

When she decided to downsize back in the 20-teens, an offer was made by an investment

group and she had accepted the bid. Luckily for our historic village the deal fell through! Why did the deal fall through, you ask? Because the buyers also wanted to purchase the Township-owned land designated to become the home of *Diligence* — Percheron Park!

When the investment group contacted the Township to try to buy the small corner property; they were turned down as the land had already been designated as a pocket park. The Percheron Park Committee had been raising money for a *Diligence* statue since 2012.

Would you dare to venture a guess as to who the secret buyers were? The wonderful woman who told this story relayed that she found out who the secret bidders were after the deal fell through, and what their plan was! I'll give you a hint... a bank! The prospective buyer was a bank whose name rhymes with disgrace. That bank did in fact find a place along Main Street to build.

The shocking realization here is that we did not even know anything about this plan! Not an inkling! We could have lost this amazing Victorian building that we know as an iconic destination in the very heart of our town! They planned to tear it down! They DO NOT CARE about our history! Most developers do not care about our history, or the beauty, or the scale of our historic Main Street buildings.

This home has been standing on Main

Street for 221 years, yet it can be demolished in favor of a box sitting on a slab of cement that can fail and be sold at whim with barely a care. Perhaps they would have asked the Historical Society for a historic photograph to enlarge and affix to the wall as a consolation prize. How pathetic that we continue to allow this to happen in our town.

This story provides a stark realization that any of our architectural treasures can be demolished no matter how beautiful or important or special they are. They are all at risk. The time has come to more carefully manage development, and to encourage adaptive reuse of our historic treasures. As a board member exclaimed yesterday upon hearing this story, "Historic Buildings are an Endangered Species in Moorestown!" She nailed it.

Next time you are strolling past our beloved *Diligence* with a delicious cup of coffee, tip your hat or give him a nod of thanks for saving our now iconic French Press and Château de Main!

— Julie Maravich

NOTE: In February, the Township Planning Board voted "YES" to adopt the Historic Preservation (HP) Element update to the Township's Master Plan, the first step towards creating real protections for our valued historic structures.

"Diligence" statue at Main and High Streets, Moorestown [Source: HSM Photo]

Quilt Detective Work

When quilt historians William and Charlene Bongiorno Stephens visited the Smith-Cadbury Mansion to see the quilt exhibit, *19th Century Inscribed Quilts: A Portal to History*, one quilt in particular, "The Burlington County Album Quilt," piqued their curiosity. The names inscribed on the quilt were extensively researched by Lorraine Amos in 2015. Lorraine was able to identify each of the signers and find interesting information about them. She determined that it was a wedding quilt for Sarah Ann Clime who married Lemuel Collins.

But Bill Stephens felt the quilt told a bigger story, so he began a deep dive into the lives of the Clime and Dudley families.

First, he grouped the blocks by date. One group of blocks was signed in 1847-1848 and a second group was signed around 1850. The 1848 blocks were signed by individuals in the Mount Laurel/Evesham area and the 1850 blocks were signed by individuals in the Medford area. So, Bill set off to explain this dichotomy by looking at the quilt through the eyes of its creator, Abigail Matlack Clime.

Abigail's older daughter Martha was married at the Evesham Meeting in 1847 to Hudson Dudley. The quilt has a group of blocks that are dated 1847 and inscribed with the names Samuel and Abigail Clime, Martha Clime, Hudson Dudley, Sarah Dudley, and Enoch Dudley. So, were these blocks intended to



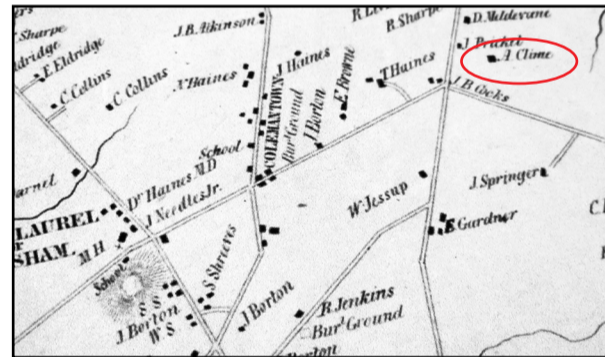
be incorporated into a quilt for Martha? And if so, what happened to that quilt?

According to probate records, we know that Samuel Clime died in March 1848. No will was recorded and his estate was in great debt, owing money to creditors and farmhands who had helped with the previous harvest. Abigail did not have

enough funds to satisfy the debts so she was forced to deal with the death of her husband and the sale of the farm. She was unable to sell the property for several years. Eventually, in 1850, she sold everything including the contents of the house to repay his debts. This included three handmade bed quilts!

Abigail and her daughter Sarah moved to Medford to live with her son, Samuel. The Quakers did not look kindly on unpaid debts and since there are no further meeting records regarding Abigail's family, she may have been disowned from the Meeting.

Because of a lack of official records and instead relying on family records, which are somewhat confusing, it is thought that Sarah — at age 14 — was married to Lemuel Collins on May 30th, 1851 and had a daughter, Anna Collins, born on January 8, 1852. Since there would not have been a lot of time to prepare for that wedding it is thought that Abigail incorporated Martha's wedding quilt blocks into Sarah's quilt. The quilt may have been finished after the wedding since



Sarah signs her name, Sarah Collins (rather than with her maiden name "Clime"). Whereas her sister, Martha, signs her block with her maiden name, Martha Clime.

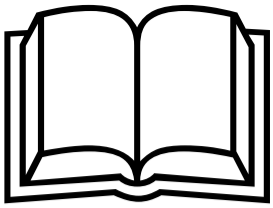
Sarah and Lemuel lived in Medford, across from the original Methodist Church building and are buried in the Methodist graveyard.

Abigail "re-purposed" the quilt blocks and opened a portal into the life, times, and struggles of the Matlack-Clime family. Bill and Charlene Stephens presented this research at the American Quilt Study Group's Annual meeting in September, 2024. Our beautiful quilt travelled to Tarrytown, NY for all the gathered quilt historians to see!

— Linda Vizi

Top, left: quilt square signed "Martha Clime Evesham NJ"; Top, right: portion of the 1849 Otley & Whitford Map of Burlington County map that shows where the widowed Abigail Clime lived ("A. Clime" circled); Bottom, left: the "Clime" quilt. [Photos: Bill Stephens]





LIBRARY NEWS

Tuesday afternoons are a whirl of activity in the Historical Society library. There is no end of data entry, filing and processing new acquisitions, assisting with online and in-person research requests, researching for new projects and giving tours of our wonderful Smith-Cadbury Mansion house museum. We are in the process of digitizing all the house histories done for the plaque program which will make our research on a variety of subjects so much easier. And we're undertaking an inventory of the HSM collection, a process which hasn't been done in quite a while.

— Stephanie Herz

The Interesting History of Moorestown Homes: The Ivins Conover House

We've been hearing a lot lately about the important historic homes in Moorestown.

The Witness House Tour last fall showed us some of the 18th century homes in town that were standing at the time of the American Revolution. But those were not the only ones. Some of these historic treasures are off the beaten path and could be missed if you drove by and didn't know they were there.

One of these treasures is the Ivins-Conover house and barn on Cox Road. This Quaker farmhouse was built in 3 stages. The first, central part which dates from 1755, was built by Samuel and William Ivins. It is one room deep and three bays on the first floor and two bays on the second. Around 1830 the house was extended two bays on the west side. This addition created a linear house, five bays wide and one deep. In 1850 the roofs were replaced, the result was that both parts of the house occur under a common pitch roof. The third addition was made to the house in approximately 1900, to the east side. This addition was a two story frame construction with a flat roof the cornice of which is level with the cornice line of the old house.

This structure is so important that it is listed individually on both the State and National Historic Registers of Historic Places. It represents a distinct regional style, of



which it is one of a few surviving examples in the area. Features of this style are the two over three bay configuration with different sized windows. This expresses the importance placed on the interiors rather than the exterior "facade" which was typical of South Jersey "Georgian". The 1830 addition is constructed basically in the 18th century style. This was due to the tendency of South Jersey to be stylistically conservative, in that small architectural changes took place over long periods of time. The 1900 addition did not destroy any architectural detailing of the 1775 section and its style does not dominate the older portions. The farmhouse reflects the way in which dwellings of this type were expanded to fit the needs of the farmer. This house has survived intact with much of the

original glass, flooring, hardware and wainscotting. The setting of the house is better than average, in that the property has been preserved and remains farmland.



[House Photo: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:IVINS-CONOVER_HOUSE,_BURLINGTON_COUNTY,_NJ.jpg]

Barn Photo: Nan Pillsbury

Information from the National Register Of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form]

(continued on page 5)

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)

Using my metal detector, I have, so far, recovered ten War of 1812 military uniform buttons in the fields of Moorestown, specifically from along Westfield Road and up to Rancocas Creek.

Along with the buttons, I also found countless musket balls and many coins from this time frame in the same areas.

I was able to identify and attribute each button within the pages of Alphaeus H. Albert's *"Record of American Uniform and Historical Buttons"* reference book. Unfortunately, I have been unsuccessful in locating concrete written documentation of War of 1812 encampments specifically in Moorestown in the 1812-1815 time frame.

To give a brief summary, the War of 1812 (which occurred from 1812-1815), was a by-product of the broader conflict between Great Britain and France over who would dominate Europe and beyond. Britain began to encroach upon American maritime rights and cut into American trade in their effort to control the world's oceans. Because of this, the United States declared war on Great Britain on June 18, 1812. With only 16 warships, the United States paled in comparison to the strength of 500 British warships. From the 1790s all the way through the end of the War of 1812 in 1815, Great Britain stopped American merchant ships to search for British Navy deserters, as well as to impress, or forcibly recruit, American sailors into the British Navy.

Stephen Girard, who founded Girard College in Philadelphia, was a local merchant and businessman, and one of the wealthiest men in America at the time of the war. He was the leading financier of the War of 1812 for the United States, and he donated many of

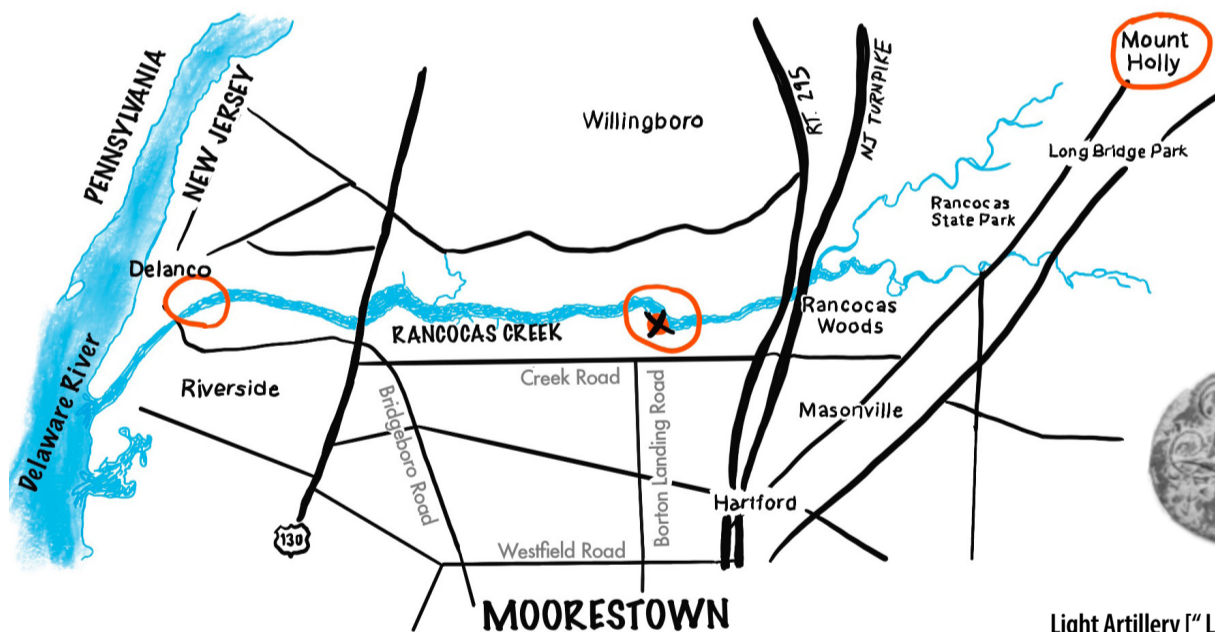


LOST HISTORY FOUND: WAR OF 1812 ENCAMPMENTS IN MOORESTOWN

his merchant vessels to aid in the war effort against Great Britain. Upon researching more about Stephen Girard, I discovered that three of his ships, "moored stem to stern across the creek armed with men and cannon", were hidden — in an effort to avoid British naval forces in the Delaware River — along the banks of Rancocas Creek at Delanco and Mt. Holly. Based on the number and proximity of these military buttons that I found in Moorestown along Westfield Road and close to Rancocas Creek, I believe these ships were also hidden at Borton Landing in Moorestown. From a geographical standpoint, Borton Landing is midway between Delanco and Mt. Holly for any ship traveling up Rancocas Creek. To further avoid possible British forces in the Rancocas, it would not be far-fetched to assume that these troops disembarked at Borton Landing, walked down Borton Landing Road, and camped out in the fields for a period of time before returning to their ships.

Moorestown is known for its rich Revolutionary War history, but little is known about the War of 1812 in this town. For me, what I have found in the ground helps to tell this unknown story.

— Kevin Kramarski



The Map shows the approximate mid-point between Delanco and Mt. Holly: the "X" at the end of Borton Landing Road



Various War of 1812 military uniform buttons that Kevin found: Light Artillery ["LA"] 1st and 2nd Regiments (5 buttons), Regiment of Artillerists ["RA"] (2 buttons), Artillery 1st Regiment (1 button), 1st Regiment of Rifleman (1 button), Navy (1 button) [Photo: Kevin Kramarski; map and button sketch: Lisa Knell]

(continued from page 4)

The wagon house is appended to the end of the barn, in a linear configuration. The barn is of the English type with a large mill sawn swing beam structure. The overall height is forty-four feet and it measures 53' x 69' feet. There is also a frontal addition under a shed roof which was built in the 19th century. The surrounding landscaping includes lovely gardens and walkways.

Generations of the Ivins family lived in the farmhouse from 1775 to 1831. Members of the Ivins family were among those men (ages 18-43) listed in Chester Township (former name of Moorestown) which were to make

themselves available for service in the New Jersey Military, in 1793. They were also among those men who desired to be exempted from military service for reasons of religious doctrine (they were conservative Quakers).

The Conovers lived in the house from 1853 to 1926. Isaac Conover was a charter member of the nearby Bridgeboro Church, founded in 1881. His son, the Reverend Richard Conover (an ordained Methodist minister), was the religious confidant to John D. Rockefeller, Sr. during the years 1929 to 1933.

— Stephanie Herz

ACQUISITIONS

Recent Donations to our Collection:

🏰 **Ed Gabriel** A unique Living History donation of two pieces of wood/bark from the "Old Buttonwood Tree" near Friends Cemetery which was present when British troops passed during the American Revolutionary War; the tree was taken down in the 1980s. The bark is inscribed with the words "Moorestown Buttonwood Tree-Front of Old Burlington County Trust Bank, Main St. Moorestown, N.J."

🏰 **Linda Kemple** An array of historical artifacts, including: Colestown Cemetery Deeds dated 1882, 1929; World War II War ration book; invitation to the Ceremony

of Construction for the Delaware River Bridge (became the Benjamin Franklin Bridge in 1955).

🏰 **Roy Hall** A significant trove of his Harris Family items including photographs, framed silhouette, documents, postcard, wedding announcement, newspaper articles. One of the pieces relates to a Harris ancestor born in England in 1754.

🏰 **Mary Lou Nissim Sabat** A range of artifacts including: a brown wedding dress belonging to Mary Tiver Riley (born 1863 and married at the Riley Farm in 1882). The Riley Farm was located on the SW corner of Marne Highway – diagonal now to Costco! An "Old Hartford School" 1897 B&W photo of the twenty students sitting with their three teachers with script listing their school academic averages!

🏰 **Jack Hall** "Ten Shares" document of The Stanwick Carpet Company dated 1890 and "Five Shares" document of Tacony Palmyra Ferry Company dated 1922.

🏰 **Dave Homer** A beautiful B&W sketch of the Moorestown Chester Avenue Station by the artist Carol Mastran.

🏰 **Carole Ewing** A unique treasure: 4"x8" paper dated 1909 with the autograph of David Bispham (1857-1921) renowned opera singer who resided in Moorestown in 1867.

🏰 **Bill Kingston** A beautiful framed 2005 Nipper poster with 30 color photos of the Nipper statues from the 2005 public art project and fundraiser.

🏰 **David Sullivan** Contemporary political campaign buttons.

🏰 **Joe & Nancy Jones** 1897 gilded leather 535-page-book: "Biographical Review - Containing Life Sketches of Leading Citizens of Burlington and Camden Counties."

🏰 **Carol Newman** A yellow/black Moorestown, NJ 1964 Tercentenary Day Pin denoting an important town milestone.

🏰 **Lori Poinsett** A World War II Hardcover Book and a Scrapbook depicting 25 Moorestown Fire Department photographs including hand pumper "Benny"; drivers and passengers Warren Bubeck, John Devenney and Jack Carney; newspaper articles referencing Helen and John Walters, Jim Cline and Dave Walters, Carroll Old; a copy of the 1919 American Legion Application.

🏰 Special thanks to **Nancy Froleicher** for donating so many valuable artifacts to the Historical Society of Moorestown throughout the years. Nancy's professional dedication and contributions to Moorestown are so significant and appreciated. Nancy recently donated a letter from Mary Roberts dated 1953.

🏰 **What's next?** Thanks to all of you, we are so very rich in history!

— Mary Berardi

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Hello Members!

A big thank you to recent donations from *Kathy & Dick Borton, Amanda Brown, Carolyn Nachmias, Janet Alteveer, Michael Kaminski, and Moorestown Friends Meeting*. We truly appreciate your generosity! We are thrilled to report that we had 31 new members join us in 2024! If you have a friend or neighbor who might be interested in supporting the Historical Society feel free to share this newsletter with them, or better yet, gift them a year's membership! A reminder that a colorful PDF of this newsletter is available at our website at <https://moorestownhistory.org/newsletter/>; go take a look! Membership renewal letters go out in late April and we hope you'll continue to support our mission here at Smith-Cadbury. We are enormously grateful to all of you!

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Diane Doherty • McCullough CPA MAI, LLC • Samanta Padalino & Paolo Volpin • Joseph Johnson • Denise Mahoney & Michael Infanger •

Jill Weiss, Membership Chairperson
moorestownhistory@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2025/2026

[M25]

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit our Gift Shop during all Smith-Cadbury open hours or moorestownhistory.org (for a selection of our most popular items)

MARCH 2025

ONGOING EXHIBITS: Alice Paul | Vintage Purses from the HSM Textile Collection

- 4 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 8 New Life for Old Homes Pot Luck at Smith-Cadbury 7 PM
- 9 Smith-Cadbury 2nd Sunday tours & research library, 1-3
- 11 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 18 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 23 Smith-Cadbury 4th Sunday tours & research library, 1-3
- 25 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 25 NJ History Speaks Lecture Facts and Artifacts with David Boulden, Moorestown Library, 7:00 PM

APRIL 2025

ONGOING EXHIBITS: Alice Paul | Vintage Purses from the HSM Textile Collection

- 1 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 8 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 13 Smith-Cadbury 2nd Sunday tours & research library, 1-3
- 15 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 21 Annual Meeting The Day the Revolution Started with Matt Skic, Moorestown Library, 7:00 PM
- 22 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 27 Smith-Cadbury 4th Sunday tours & research library, 1-3
- 29 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4

MAY 2025

ONGOING EXHIBITS: Alice Paul | Vintage Purses from the HSM Textile Collection

- 6 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 9 Smith-Cadbury 2nd Sunday; closed for Mother's Day
- 13 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 20 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 25 Smith-Cadbury 2nd Sunday; closed for Memorial Day
- 27 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4

▶ **ONGOING EXHIBIT:** Vintage purses from our Textile Collection along with select stories of their owners



The Legacy of Ann Condon



In a previous edition of this newsletter we announced the sad news of the passing of our long time Historical Society Trustee, volunteer,

and friend Ann Condon. For years she was an indispensable member of the team at the Historical Society, which included a four-year stint as our vice-president.

Among her many roles with the Historical Society, Ann headed up our acquisitions department. "When the previous acquisitions chair resigned, Ann bravely stepped in to her position and took it over like a boss!" recalls Historical Society Librarian Stephanie Herz. There was a new and complicated database program that she had to learn along with all the many details involved with the accessions process. She performed a difficult job with great care, dedication and ability and brought a high level of organization to her department.

The experiences of Ann and her family as long-time Moorestown residents gave her special insight and she called on those experiences often in her work at the Historical Society. This was on full display in the exhibits she created which included some of our most popular efforts. In 2007, she created an exhibit which changed the way we did our story telling. "*Moorestonians in Time of War*", which Ann curated in 2007, for the first time shifted the focus of our exhibits away from the items in our collection to the stories of the people and local heroes

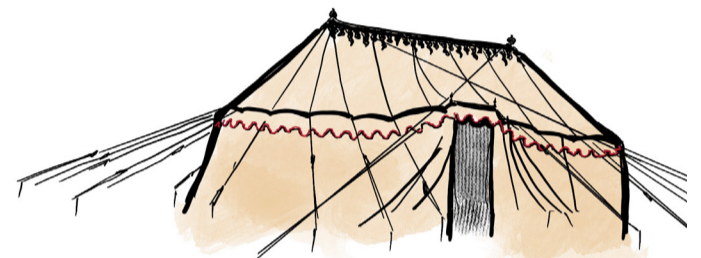
behind those items. Her powerful exhibit was simple and direct and highlighted the many men and women from Moorestown who fought and, in many cases, died in our nation's wars. It was one of our most popular exhibits to that point in time and it became the template for every exhibit we have presented ever since.

In 2009, she created a photo exhibit on the construction of Strawbridge Lake, "*Strawbridge Lake Park 1939-1941*", which again focused on those who did the back-breaking work as part of the Works Progress Administration, a New Deal program put forth by President Franklin Roosevelt. As with "*Moorestonians in Time of War*", the exhibit presented in black and white photos, served as a stark reminder of what life was like in Moorestown during the Great Depression. Two years later her exhibit "*Dusk til Dawn: Farm Life in Moorestown*" did the same with the story of Moorestown's history as a farming community.

Ann Condon was born in Moorestown on March 10, 1936, and was a lifelong resident. After attending Moorestown High School she received a bachelor's degree from Douglass College in New Brunswick (now part of Rutgers University). Recruited in college by the CIA, Ann served two years in Peru followed by two years in Germany. Ann left the CIA for a job in the Burlington County Probation Department, from which she retired.

Stephanie Herz, who worked closely with Ann over the years summed her up this way: "She was very smart, wise, savvy, and had a wry sense of humor and a no-nonsense approach to life, which made her an interesting and fun person to work with."

— Lenny Wagner



THE FIRST OVAL OFFICE PROJECT

Moorestown is one of the South Jersey communities, selected by the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, to host a replica of George Washington's Field Tent as part of the town's celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

The tentative date of the event is March 28, 2026. It is made possible by a generous donation from an anonymous donor.

In 2013, the Museum of the American Revolution partnered with the Historic Trades Department at The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Williamsburg, Virginia, to reproduce Washington's War Tent. Watch our website for more details about what the Museum calls The First Oval Office Project.

For more information, visit: <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/learn-and-explore/first-oval-office-project>

"Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all"

— President George Washington in his 1796 Farewell Address at the end of his term

[Source: <https://www.aoc.gov/explore-capitol-campus/art/washingtons-farewell-address-1796>]

Historical Society of Moorestown

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12 High Street, Box 477
Moorestown, NJ 08057

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Permit NO. 183



SKETCH OF A WAR
OF 1812 UNIFORM
BUTTON FOUND IN
MOORESTOWN;
SEE STORY ON PAGE 5.



Clip & Save

MARCH 2025

From 1812-1816, Commodore Thomas Truxtun lived at what is now 730 Marne Highway in Moorestown (his "Woodlawn"):

"From piazza and parlor of 'Woodlawn' Commodore Truxtun restlessly surveyed the passing parade. Incredulously, he watched the War of 1812 develop. Until nearly the day of war's declaration, the enemy had not been settled upon. He could see no enemy in Europe but Napoleon; and yet war was declared against Great Britain. He was convinced that this war was but an electioneering scheme to insure the re-election of President Madison. Whatever the cause or justification of the war, he could not expect to be asked to help fight it."

[Source: *Truxtun of the Constellation* by Eugene S. Ferguson published by The Johns Hopkins Press Baltimore, Md. 1956. https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Gazetteer/People/Thomas_Truxtun/FERTO/46*.html]

See our latest video entitled **Preserving the Legacy and Historic Home of Commodore Thomas Truxtun** at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmpDAUNKdio&t=15s>

NATIONAL AIR MAIL WEEK

1938

declared May 15-21, 1938, *National Air Mail Week* to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the US Postal Systems Air Mail Service.

It also marked the issue of a new Air Mail Stamp costing 6 cents. The Postmaster asked that everyone send an air mail letter that week and towns were encouraged to create their own envelopes.

Moorestown's stationery featured a drawing of Moorestown Friends School. Robert M. Hunt, a local pilot, flew the letters from the Moorestown Airport, located on Westfield Road, to Camden. Robert's great-great-grandfather, Joshua Hunt, was the first teacher at the Friends school.

As America rose from the depths of the Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt

The Hunts lived at 501 Camden Avenue, an 82-acre farm named *The Beeches*.

The regional Camden Central Airport in Pennsauken was nearby the Airport Circle – the first traffic circle of its kind – located at the intersection of Routes 38, 30, and 130. When planes touched down with letters at Camden Central, the mail was then transported to the main Post Office in Philadelphia (located at 9th and Market Streets) by an *autogiro*, the earliest helicopter. This marked the first type of autogiro transport in the United States.

— Linda Vizi

Look at the postmark on the letters:
May 19th, 1938, at 2:30 PM



[Photos: Robert Mordecai Hunt]

