

Historical Society of Moorestown

Smith - Cadbury Mansion c. 1738

April 2025

Hello Members & Friends!

This past year...

The Board of Trustees was delighted to welcome our new president, Linda Vizi. Most recently, Linda expertly curated our enormously popular exhibits on Signature Quilts and architect Malcolm Wells. Luckily for us, Lenny Wagner stepped into the role of Vice President. We also welcomed Kevin Kramarski and Billie Danielle Thomas to our Board and 39 new families to our membership. Together, we remain a dedicated and enthusiastic team, bringing a wide range of skills to our mission!

This past year was filled with incredible programs and achievements. We hosted engaging NJ history lectures on Moorestown suffragists, local ball player Walter French, mysterious true crime stories, 18th & 19th-century brick patterns, and the history and legacy of the West End Community Center. Our commitment to historic preservation and activism continued through our partnership with Saving Historic Moorestown. The first-ever Moorestown Revolutionary Witness House Tour was a resounding success, drawing over 500 visitors! We also honored 10 buildings with Blue Ribbons for their historic preservation efforts. Our Living History and Ghost Tours were incredibly popular once again with six sold-out nights. Our first time on the Cooks Tour brought many new visitors to a beautifully decorated Smith-Cadbury. We showcased vintage purses from our textile collection, curated by graduating senior and Student Trustee Briana Pepe, and a new permanent exhibit of Revolutionary-era artifacts discovered in Moorestown by our new Trustee Kevin Kramarski, is now on display.

Behind the scenes we worked diligently to preserve and showcase local history. We scanned historical documents from the West End Community Center (thanks to David Sullivan!). We researched and issued 14 house plaques, processed multiple items in 17 new accessions, and we made important improvements to our space—our side porch was repaired, our front sign received a fresh coat of paint, and new storage was built for our art collection (thanks to Gerry Petrillo!).

What's Next?

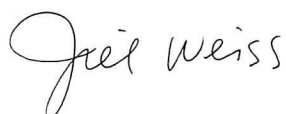
As part of our continuing partnership with Saving Historic Moorestown and RevolutionNJ, we'll prepare for another Revolutionary Witness House Tour, a 1-Mile Hessian Retreat Fun Run, and other town-wide celebrations leading up to the nation's Semiquincentennial. We are thrilled to announce that we have been approved by the Museum of the American Revolution to host the First Oval Office Project—a full-scale replica of George Washington's field tent, which served as both his home and headquarters during the Revolutionary War.

This year, we'll also explore a newly donated collection of original documents related to the fascinating Hollingshead and Higbee families, who built the Hugh Hollingshead House (1770)—a Blue Ribbon recipient on Main Street. In 1897, Lydia Higbee was a founding member of the Moorestown Equal Suffrage League which served as a vital training ground for future suffrage leaders like Alice Paul. Additionally, we will assist in scanning and indexing historical documents from the Second Baptist and AME churches, which are a vital part of the history of the West End Community Center, and determine the placement of new historical markers in town.

We're also excited to update our kitchen with new appliances and cabinetry, made possible by a generous \$5,000 donation from the estate of past Vice-President and Trustee Ann Condon.

We at the Society embrace our responsibility as stewards of Smith-Cadbury and all that it holds in trust for the public. We're grateful to everyone who contributed to our efforts this past year and we hope you'll continue to support us!

Sincerely,



Jill Weiss, Membership Chairperson