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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

Address

Historical Society of
Moorestown
Smith-Cadbury Mansion
12 High St.
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Moorestown, NJ 08057

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*Published Quarterly by
The Historical Society
of Moorestown*

September 2025

View From the Porch

We began our celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution in April with a presentation by Matt Skic, Senior Curator at Philadelphia's Museum of the American Revolution. Matt spoke about "The Day the Revolution Started" to a capacity crowd as part of our New Jersey History Speaks series at the Public Library.

All hands were on deck for the Township's 4th of July Parade (photos below and on page 4). Our float featured a re-creation of *Moore's Tavern* surrounded by British, patriots, the Marquis de Lafayette, and more. And, let's not forget our Suffragists advocating for their cause in a classic Model T. We could not have done it without our Board Members, members of the Moorestown 250 Committee, and Saving Historic Moorestown.

As fall sets in we have a great line-up of activities. On Saturday, September 27th, the Historical Society and Saving Historic Moorestown will begin the day with a Fun Run — a reverse scavenger hunt that re-imagines a day in June of 1778 during the withdrawal of British and Hessian soldiers from their occupation of Philadelphia, when they traveled down Kings Highway on their way to Monmouth. Along the way they absconded with horses, food, money, and firewood. A large contingent of Hessian troops under the command of General Lieutenant Wilhelm von Knyphausen, slept in houses and camped on fields in town.



[Photo: Kieran Barasch]

Knyphausen and his staff stayed at Smith-Cadbury mansion and reportedly killed and cooked the Smith farm's chickens. The race runners will return "stolen" items to Witness Houses along Kings Highway. Race participants will receive a backpack filled with coins, food items, and a rubber chicken. The race ends at the oval behind Moorestown Friends School, where runners can reclaim those items as souvenirs.

From 11-5 on the 27th we will host the Revolutionary Witness House Tour in Moorestown (a "Witness House" is a house that was standing during the American Revolutionary War and still exists today). This year's tour will feature some of the houses that were on the tour last year, as well as new ones, including a beautiful barn and the home of a famous clockmaker. The Moorestown Friends Meeting building on Main Street and the Mt. Laurel Meetinghouse will be open. Both are beautiful — each with a unique design.

The excitement continues in October with our historic Ghost & Living History Walking Tours (see page 7 for the details). Each and every tour sold out last year. Our board member and history enthusiast, Gary Ell continues to find new spirits who want to share their stories.

Please join us for these events. We would also like to encourage you to volunteer for the run, serve as docent in one of the Witness Houses (see page 5 for details), or perform as an actor during the ghost tour.

I look forward to sharing more on upcoming events!

Linda Vizi, President

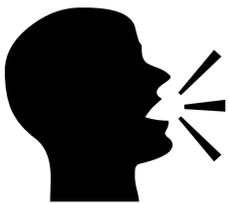
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**NEW JERSEY HISTORY
SPEAKS LECTURE SERIES**

SEPTEMBER: The HSM New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series opens its 2025/2026 season Tuesday, September 23rd at the Moorestown Library (7:00 PM) with: the Battle of Red Bank and the Red Bank Archaeology Project

Our speaker will be Jen Janofsky, Ph.D. who is the Megan Giordano Fellow in Public History and the Director of Red Bank Battlefield Park. She is the co-director of the Red Bank Battlefield Archaeology Project which made headlines around the world in 2022 with the discovery of a mass burial site of Hessian soldiers. Dr. Janofsky earned her Ph.D. from Temple University where she studied Early American History and Public History. She is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. At Red Bank Battlefield Park she is responsible for all aspects of park interpretation including public programs and tours.



[Photo: Jen Janofsky]

“The search for someone’s identity, lost to history, touches something deep in the human experience. As a public historian, I want to complicate people’s understanding of ‘the enemy.’ I want the public to have a deeper connection to the battlefield. I want them to experience historical empathy. I want them to see these remains as human beings.” – Jen Janofsky

[SOURCE: <https://chss.rowan.edu/departments/history/red-bank-battlefield/>]



Sara Franklin Homer Scholarship Awarded to Gwendalynn Laub

Gwendalynn Laub is this year’s recipient of the Sara Franklin Homer Memorial Scholarship, awarded each year to the Moorestown High School graduating senior who has demonstrated a passion for history and who plans to study related subjects in college.



[Photo: Laub Family]

The scholarship is awarded by the Historical Society each year in memory of our long-time volunteer and Trustee.

Gwendalynn will attend Lafayette College in Easton, PA in the fall and plans to major in Economics and Government with an emphasis on pre-law studies.

Congratulations Gwendalynn!

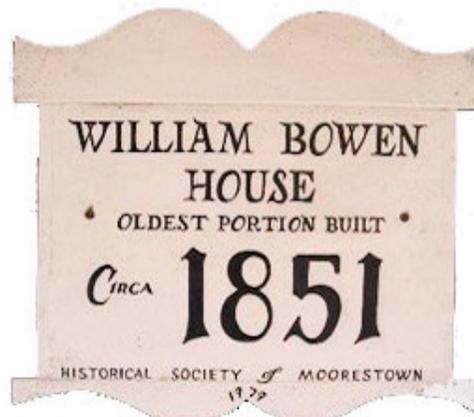
The New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series, hosted by the Historical Society of Moorestown and the Moorestown Public Library continues in 2025/2026. All lectures that are part of the New Jersey History Speaks series are free and open to the general public.

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.

Calling All Artists!

Are there any members who would like to volunteer their talent for lettering for the Historical Society’s plaque program? There are usually between 10 and 20 plaques per year and they look like the one shown, at right. If you’re interested, please contact us at moorestownhistory@comcast.net or drop by during our open hours.



The Historical Society of Moorestown

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Our FRANKLIN Tree

Weather permitting this fall, we will add a *Franklinia alatamaha* tree to the grounds of Smith-Cadbury.

In 1765 noted botanist, John Bartram and his son William traveled through the colony of Georgia and were taken aback by beautiful shrubbery along the Altamaha River. They collected seeds and cultivated them in their gardens, now known as *Bartram's Garden*, in Philadelphia. The tree was named for Bartram's good friend, Benjamin Franklin. The tree no longer grows in the wild. All *Franklinia* trees that we plant today are descended from the seeds collected and tended by the Bartrams.

Throughout the summer our plant has been carefully tended to by Gary Ell. Most recently he shared a photo of its first bloom. We hope to have it planted for the Witness House tour. Please stop by to encourage it!

— Linda Vizi

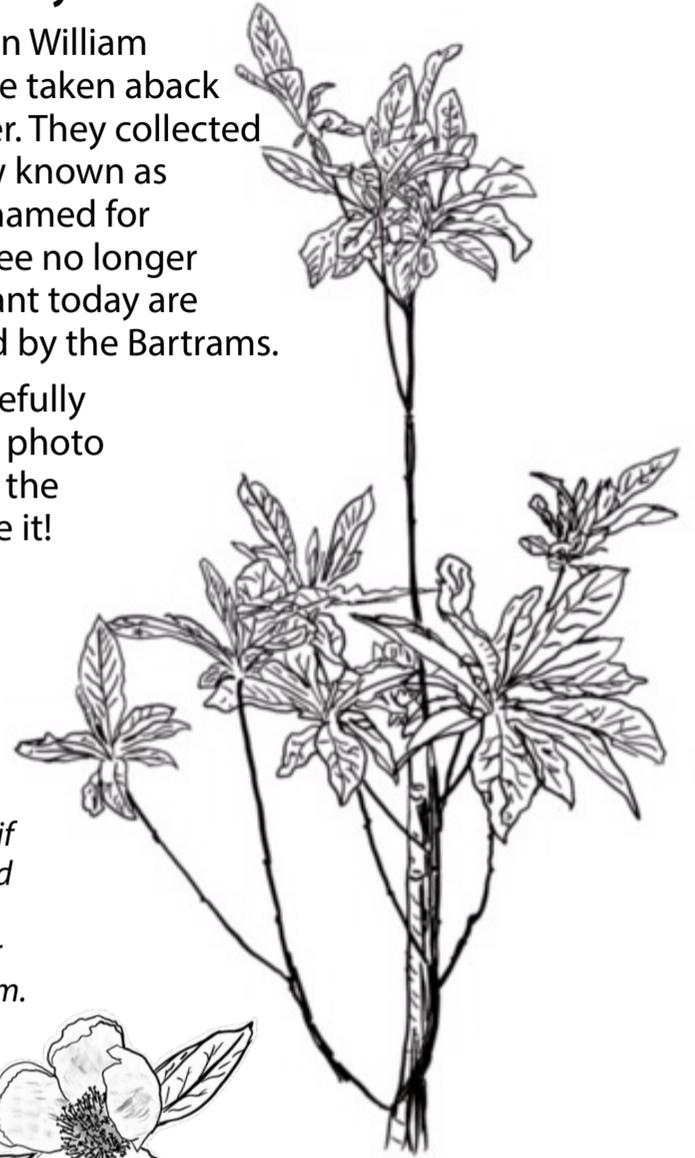
"No tree is more emblematic of Philadelphia than the iconic Franklin tree, *Franklinia alatamaha*."

SOURCE: <https://www.swarthmorearchives.com/articles/content/2021-10-29/franklin-tree>

"I think this particular plant [the Franklin tree] is just a mind-boggling specimen, in addition to being an important plant, a plant that's extinct in the wild. But just to see something like this that just is so sprawling that has these branches that keep layering in... and also the flowers! I mean, how can you talk about the Franklin tree without talking about these late summer, early fall flowers? They, in some cases, linger until the leaves are turning their bright red fall color. There's really nothing quite like it. Imagine if the Bartrams hadn't seen this plant growing in the wild, imagine if they hadn't collected seed from it, to think that something like this could have been lost is quite devastating really. ... The collection of the Franklin tree by the Bartrams has outlived both the father and the son. It's outlived Thomas Meehan, the nurseryman who sent it to the Arboretum. ... This continuing living story of a relationship between people who observed and collected the plant and the plant as it has continued to grow." —Jonathan Damery

SOURCE: Interview with Jonathan Damery, Editor of *Arnoldia*, the quarterly magazine of the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University; <https://arboretum.harvard.edu/plant-bios/franklin-tree/>

[Photo: HSM; Sketches: Lisa Knell]



Smith-Cadbury: Visits from "Relations"

Direct descendant of Elizabeth Murrell

In June, Danna and Jeff Eldridge traveled from Chesterfield, VA to Smith-Cadbury.

Danna is a direct descendant of Elizabeth Murrell. Elizabeth, a relative of the house's original owner, Richard Smith, is famous in Moorestown folklore for being present at the Smith-Cadbury house when it was visited by the Marquis de Lafayette in 1777 and later briefly commandeered by Hessian troops that were part of the British forces retreating from Philadelphia in 1778.



[Photos: HSM]

Direct descendants of Edward Harris, II

Also in June, Smith-Cadbury was visited by direct descendants of Edward Harris, II: Andrea and Claudia Crane.

Besides visiting the birthplace of Edward Harris they also went to Percheron Park, The Greenleaf (where Harris moved to in 1843), and the Harris family grave site at the Trinity Church.

Pictured are (at left) Claudia Crane and her husband Paul Drosch, (at right) Andrea Crane Langford and her husband Thomas.



Morgan Hollinshead Clock Finds its Way Back to “Moore’s Town”

According to her daughter, Miranda, Cynthia Crawford Lichtenstein was deeply attached to her Morgan Hollinshead grandfather clock. Upon her passing, her children wanted to find the perfect home for it. Miranda reached out to the Historical Society. Because we already have one in our collection and space considerations at Smith-Cadbury, we contacted Moorestown Monthly Meeting and they agreed to bring the clock home.

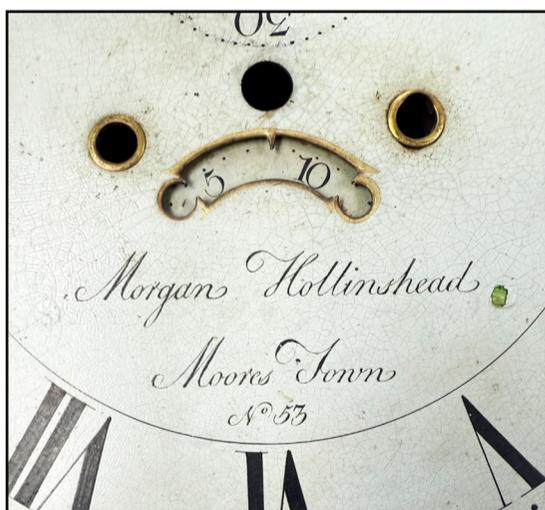
The clock was lovingly disassembled and wrapped for transport by John D. Metcalfe, an Antiquarian Horologist (Horology is the study of the measurement of time). Ad Driscoll and Ted Berndt (son of Board member Anne Matlack), drove up to Greenwich Village and carefully transported the clock down to Moorestown. The clock is undergoing major repairs and adjustments but will soon keep time just steps from where it was crafted.

Morgan Hollinshead, a Moorestown clockmaker, operated his clock shop from 1775 to 1832 on Main Street, just in front of the Friends Meeting house.

Hollinshead numbered his clocks as he made them. This one is number 53.

Miranda told Barbara Kreider, Clerk, Moorestown Monthly Meeting that her mother would be thrilled that her clock is with the Society of Friends, as she, her son, and extended family all went to Quaker Schools.

—Linda Vizi



[Photos: HSM]

Top: Morgan Hollinshead clock being disassembled by John D. Metcalfe. Above, left: Details on the clock’s face: Morgan Hollinshead / Moore’s Town / No. 53. Above, right: Pieces from the disassembled clockworks.



[Photos: Kieran Barasch]



Redcoats! Suffragettes! Hessian soldiers! Townspeople! The Marquis de Lafayette! All sorts of historical “characters” marched with the Historical Society at the 4th of July parade on Moorestown’s Main Street

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)

WE NEED HELP with the Fun Run & Witness House Tour on Sept. 27th

Here's what you can do:

FOR THE FUN RUN:

Race Registration begins at 7:30 AM, Race starts at 9 AM

Help set up the signage

Help with Registration

Man the drop sites for "veggies, coins, etc." that will be given back to the Witness Homes along Kings Highway, Main Street, and High Street during the run

Act as a Guide along the route to cheer and make sure runners are moving in the right direction!

FOR THE TOUR:

We need docents at the houses

Volunteer for two-hour shifts at the houses between 11 AM and 5 PM on September 25th

You can work shifts at multiple houses

Please contact us at: moorestownhistory@comcast.net

HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR
SATURDAY SEPT 27
11AM-5PM
Witness Houses*

Dr. Samuel Haines House c.1756
Hessian & Hip Houses c.1736 and c.1720
Smith-Cadbury c.1738

Presented by
Historical Society of Moorestown & Saving Historic Moorestown

TICKET INFO:
moorestown250.com
Tickets also available at Moorestown Hardware

*A Witness House refers to a home that existed during the Revolutionary War!

Fun Run Tickets are available at : moorestown250.com

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Hello Members!

We're so grateful for your continued support of our work here at Smith-Cadbury Mansion. Your membership makes it possible for us to keep this historic treasure, and the stories it holds, alive for our community.

If you haven't renewed yet, use the form on this page or PayPal on our website. Not sure if you need to renew? Check the date next to your name on the label of this newsletter. If it says 04/26, you're all set. If it says 04/25, there's still time to keep your membership current!

Our Trustees are a wonderful team of dedicated volunteers, each bringing their own talents to the table. Together we care for this historic house-museum, safeguard its artifacts and documents, and share what we've learned with the public.

We do this through exhibits, programs, like the upcoming *Revolutionary Witness House Tour*, and this newsletter. You can also visit moorestownhistory.org to see what we've been up to and there you'll also find a beautiful color edition of this newsletter.

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Maura Kennedy • Susan Buffalino • Cathleen Renner • Dorothy Guzzo •

A special thanks to Jack Cresson for his recent extra generous donation and thank you to Michael Kaminski, Mick Weeks, and Richard Gray for their donations to the *West End Community Center* oral history project.

Get ready for a fun Fall with us!

Jill Weiss, Membership Chairperson
moorestownhistory@comcast.net

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WE LOVE WHAT WE DO

We are adding a new item to the gift shop.

This linen tea towel features the 1918 cover of the Stokes Seed Catalog which was based in Moorestown. We hope to add new designs throughout the year. Towels are \$15.00.



MEMBERSHIP FORM 2025/2026 [S25]

BASIC MEMBERSHIP:

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

RENEWAL
NEW

DONOR LEVELS:

- Town Crier Fund (\$50)
- Swede Run Scenes (\$100)
- Library Sponsor (\$250)
- Patron (\$500) Benefactor (\$1000)

Visit our website,
moorestownhistory.org
for member benefits!

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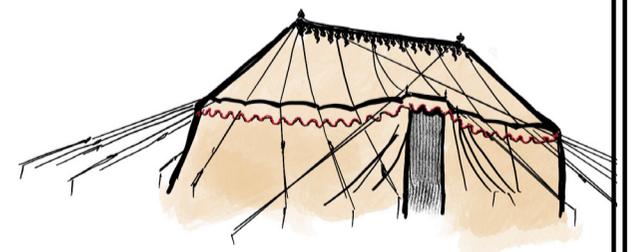
ADDRESS:

E-MAIL:

Make check payable to: Historical Society of Moorestown

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

Or renew online at: moorestownhistory.org/membership



COMING MAY 16th 2026

Moorestown has been 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. Stay tuned for details.

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)

SEPTEMBER 2025

- 2 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 9 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 14 Smith-Cadbury 2nd Sunday tours & research library, 1-3
- 16 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 23 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 23 NJ History Speaks Lecture at Moorestown Library, 7 PM: Jen Janofsky speaks about *The Battle of Red Bank and the Red Bank Archaeology Project*
- 27 1 Mile Fun Run on Main Street, Moorestown
Check-in starts at 7:00 AM, Race starts at 9:00 AM
- 27 Moorestown Witness House Tour various locations
11:00 AM–5:00 PM
- 28 Smith-Cadbury 4th Sunday tours, 1-3
- 30 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4

OCTOBER 2025

- 5 Annual Meeting & NJ History Speaks Lecture at Moorestown Meeting House, Main St., in conjunction with World Quaker Day; Linda Vizi on *Moses Williams: Cutter of Profiles and Quaker Silhouettes*. Refreshments at 11 AM; talk starts at 11:15.
- 7 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 10/11 Ghost & History Tours Smith-Cadbury, 7:30 & 8:30 PM
- 11 Autumn in Moorestown Smith-Cadbury open, 10-3
- 12 Smith-Cadbury 2nd Sunday tours & research library, 1-3
- 14 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 17/18 Ghost & History Tours Smith-Cadbury, 7:30 & 8:30 PM
- 21 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 24/25 Ghost & History Tours Smith-Cadbury, 7:30 & 8:30 PM
- 26 Smith-Cadbury 4th Sunday tours, 1-3
- 28 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 31 See our website for details

NOVEMBER 2025

- 4 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 5 NJ History Speaks Lecture at Moorestown Library, 7 PM: Lenny Wagner & Linda Vizi on *How the American Revolution Touched Moorestown*
- 9 Smith-Cadbury 2nd Sunday tours & research library, 1-3
- 11 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 18 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 22 Candlelight Night in Moorestown
Smith-Cadbury open, 4-8 PM
- 23 Smith-Cadbury 4th Sunday tours, 1-3
- 25 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4

Presented by the Historical Society of Moorestown and Moorestown 250:

MOORESTOWN'S GHOST & LIVING HISTORY WALKING TOURS

TOUR DATES:

Fridays & Saturdays in October
10–11th
17–18th
24–25th
7:30 & 8:30 PM

As twilight descends over Kings Highway, the veil between worlds thins. Join us for an unforgettable journey through Moorestown's spectral past—where colonial spirits whisper from old brick walls, Revolutionary soldiers march by moonlight, and voices from centuries past call out from beneath the autumn leaves.

Our acclaimed Ghosts & Living History Walking Tours return this October with new stories and a powerful message from the past: *History isn't finished with us yet.*

What You'll Encounter on the Tour:

The Haunted Kings Highway A path once trampled by redcoats, rebels, and Quaker exiles—now rumored to echo with ghostly footsteps. Meet the Night Watchman who still guards the town... whether it needs him or not.

Revolutionary Spirits Hear tales of Hessian soldiers on retreat from Philadelphia in 1778 ... their ghostly march still startles midnight strollers.

The Railroad Specter At the old crossing near Chester Avenue, the spirit of a long-forgotten brakeman still signals trains that no longer come. Is he trying to warn us... or summon something darker?

Suffragists from the Beyond Catherine B. Lippincott and her sisters of The Movement are said to haunt the town square, fighting for human rights even in the afterlife. Listen closely—you may hear their rallying cries in the wind.

The Spirits of Smith-Cadbury Mansion Where it all begins—and where it might end. Tales of lost lovers, phantom music, and footsteps in empty rooms.

TICKET INFO

Advance ticket sales online, coming soon. See our website for details.

- \$20 for adults
- \$15 for HSM members
- \$10 for students
- children age 6 and under free

Tickets also at the door, cash ONLY; if space is available.

Tours last approximately 75–90 minutes.

Tours begin at:
Smith-Cadbury Mansion
12 High Street
Moorestown, NJ

**Historical Society of
Moorestown**

Smith-Cadbury Mansion
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Clip & Save

SEPTEMBER 2025

HEADS UP!



A framed photo of Moorestown Chronicle Editor Percy Lovell along with his well-worn hat.

Yes — Moorestown had its own newspaper! The Moorestown Chronicle was published in Moorestown, NJ from roughly 1879 until 1946.

[Photo: HSM]

A new exhibit is getting ready to open at Smith-Cadbury that features pieces from our hat collection!

Student interns Brianna Pepe and Tarah Sailam have designed and researched the exhibit and unboxed a unique assortment of hats from the HSM textile collection.

The centerpiece of the exhibit is the hat worn by Percy Lovell, who was the Editor of the *Moorestown Chronicle* newspaper for decades. Lovell walked the streets of Moorestown wearing his signature hat to get the news for the paper. After his passing, the town realized there was a need for a home for wonderful artifacts such as Percy's hat. And that was the beginning of the Historical Society of Moorestown.

There are Stetson hats, a Quaker bonnet, and "fashionable" hats with beads and feathers on display—each telling a part of the story of fashion in Moorestown throughout the years.

So 'head' over to the Smith-Cadbury Mansion where they can be seen in the 2nd floor bedroom display case.

JOIN US!

We've got all sorts of fun & interesting events scheduled this fall.

Check the Calendar on page 7 and visit our website for the latest info.