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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.
P.O. Box 477
Moorestown, NJ 08057

Phone

856-235-0353

Web Site

moorestownhistory.org

E-mail

moorestownhistory@comcast.net

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*Published Quarterly by
The Historical Society
of Moorestown*

FROM THE FRONT PORCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF MOORESTOWN



View From the Porch

As we look forward to spring, we also look forward to celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. Our town was at the crossroads 250 years ago. Soldiers marched down Kings Highway, British spies sought refuge from the fury of the Philadelphia Patriots, George Washington wrote of troop movement through Moorestown, and the Marquis de Lafayette stayed the night on his way to Haddonfield. Our Declaration of Independence was so beautifully and artistically scribed by Timothy Matlack, whose roots are in Moorestown. On a more personal level, local families were also torn apart as an allegiance to the "other side" made living together impossible.

We hope to unite as a town to enjoy the celebration of our nation and the freedoms we cherish. New signage in the Smith-Cadbury Mansion tells the story of Moorestown's role in the events of the late 1700s and special events are planned for all ages.

We will explore wooden toys that children made and played with, how to fold the 5-pointed star on the American flag and try baking from "receipts" (now known as recipes) from 1770 during a children's program in March. In April, children can try to write with invisible ink just like those British spies!

There are two great events this May. On the 15th, George Washington and his horse *Nelson* will visit the *Diligence* statue at Percheron Park on Main Street. Bring your friends, children, and grandchildren to meet George and have your photo taken. Then, follow him down Main Street to Van Meter Hall (formerly The Greenleaf) for a cocktail party. The Double Nickel Brewery Co. in Pennsauken has offered to brew us a beer using Washington's recipe and there will be

varieties of Madeira wine to taste – another favorite of our first President. Present day libations and appetizers will round out the evening.

On Saturday May 16th in cooperation with the Museum of the American Revolution and the First Oval Office Project, we will bring a replica of George Washington's Field tent to Locust Street Park in Moorestown. In addition, there will be special visitors such as a bread maker from Mt. Vernon who will build an oven and bake bread all day and a silhouette artist who will create your profile! A New Jersey-based band and re-enactment group called the Sea Dogs will play music of the period including sea shanties and songs of the sea. You might run into George or Martha Washington, Ben Franklin, and who knows who else!

More events are in the making, so keep checking the HSM website.

We welcome three new Trustees: Joseph Chiaccio, Sr., Farrell Lines, and Lorenzo Eagles. Each has already contributed so much to our programs and our mission (read more about them on page 7). We are thrilled to have them as we continue to engage the community.

Our collection and presence in Moorestown continue to grow as we try to keep pace with a town that has a long and interesting history. Please join us as we celebrate Moorestown and the founding of the United States of America.


Linda Vizi, President
(moorestownhistory@comcast.net)



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March 2026



**NEW JERSEY HISTORY
SPEAKS LECTURE SERIES**

MARCH, APRIL, MAY: The New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series continues its 2025/2026 season at the **Moorestown Library (7:00 PM)**.

Tuesday, March 17: "Early Taverns and the Drinks They Served"

Ever wonder what delicious concoctions were served at Moore's Tavern in colonial times? Rich Wagner, author of "Philadelphia Beer: A Heady History of Brewing in The Cradle of Liberty" will tell us. He has a diploma in brewing technology, spent seven years working in Philadelphia's craft breweries, and a decade as an officer of District Philadelphia, Master Brewers Association of the Americas. He currently spends his time researching and writing about Pennsylvania breweries and brewing techniques of antiquity.

Thursday, April 30: Annual Meeting & a special presentation on drummer Gene Krupa"

Our own Trustee Elizabeth J. Rosenthal is the author of "The Master of Drums: Gene Krupa and the Music He Gave the World" As one reviewer (Amazon) put it, she "...crafts a celebratory, honest, and exhaustively researched portrait of a twentieth-century music legend whose acolytes would include such rock-era artists as Ringo Starr, Keith Moon, John Bonham, and Apollo 440."

Tuesday, May 19: "On The Turtle's Back: Stories the Lenape Told Their Grandchildren"

The Lenape (also called "Delaware") people were pushed out of the New Jersey region in colonial times. Dr. Camilla Townsend, Board of Governors Distinguished Professor of History at Rutgers University, will discuss her book that presents "the stories that the Lenape decided to write down in the early 1900s, when their language was still fully vibrant, but they were beginning to fear for the future."

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

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.

Silhouettes from the HSM Collection



LEFT: Abigail Stockton who married Horace Hugh Hollingshead in 1837. **RIGHT:** [most likely] Hugh Hollingshead.

[SOURCE: Collection of HSM; donated to HSM by Marguerite Cowan.]



LEFT: William Thorne [Description of donation from HSM Files: Circular framed hollow-cut silhouette of William Thorne, dating 1800-1810. Diameter. 5". Laid paper embossed with seal of Peale Museum, Phila. Skill of cutter evidenced in detail of profile. Original frame with gilded finish and beaded inner liner.]

[SOURCE: Collection of HSM; donated to HSM by Elizabeth Lippincott.]

[Photos: HSM]

The Historical Society of Moorestown

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THE STORY OF A TRACING MACHINE AND MOSES WILLIAMS

Before we had television, cameras, or the internet, portraits and paintings depicting historical moments fascinated people. This was particularly true during and after the American Revolution — people wanted to see who led them in the creation of the new nation. In 1775, a prolific portrait artist who was born in Maryland made his way to Philadelphia: Charles Willson Peale (1741-1827) was drawn to the energy, creative thinking, and philosophies in Philadelphia (the early capital of the United States).

Peale painted portraits of the leaders, soldiers, and dignitaries who helped shape the nation: including George Washington (first painted by Peale in 1772), Martha Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette and Benjamin Franklin. In 1784 he opened the *Philadelphia Museum*, first an art gallery of “worthy personages” and then also a natural history museum of “natural curiosities”.



The Artist in his Museum. Self Portrait by Charles Willson Peale, 1822. [SOURCE: <https://www.pafa.org/museum/collection/item/artist-his-museum>]

While still living in Maryland, Peale had painted a family portrait of the plantation owner Edward Lloyd. Lloyd likely paid for the painting with cash and two enslaved people: a man called Scarborough and his wife Lucy. When Peale and his family moved to Philadelphia, the enslaved couple went with them.

In 1780, Pennsylvania passed the Act for Gradual Abolition of Slavery – the first such legislation in America. Around 1786, Scarborough and Lucy were manumitted by Peale and changed their names to John and Phyllis Williams. Their son Moses Williams (circa 1776-1830), was not freed and he continued to live amongst Peale’s 17 children. Williams was sometimes referred to as the 18th child. He was not given the same fine arts education as Peale’s children, but was taught taxidermy, animal husbandry, museum design, and how to use the new physiognotrace machine (a silhouette-making machine that traced an outline of the sitter).

Williams became a master artist of the physiognotrace machine. In one year he cut over 8,000 profiles. Williams and Peale came up with a deal to charge between 6 and 8 cents per silhouette, with Williams keeping a share of the profits. Moses Williams made enough money to buy his freedom from Peale before his 28th birthday. Eventually he bought a house on Sterling Alley in Philadelphia’s Old City neighborhood and married Peale’s cook who was not a Black woman — while he was enslaved he would not have been permitted to eat at the same table with her.

Quakers found the silhouette art form appealing, as it fit within their tenet for simplicity. It was also far less expensive than having an oil portrait commissioned. Many of the Moorestown Quakers travelled to Philadelphia to have their silhouettes cut by Moses Williams, including the Hollinshead and Stokes families. Was it a special



Silhouette of Moses Williams one of the earliest documented African American artists to achieve professional success [SOURCE: Library Company of Philadelphia]

outing across the Delaware or a short walk from the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting held just a few blocks away? Was it the fascination of the animal specimens or mastodon skeleton that drew our townsfolk to the second floor of the old State House?

The HSM has a beautiful collection of silhouettes cut by Moses Williams. Although there were other artists making them, his stood out for their fine details and have an embossed stamp on the side. To honor this artistry, please come see our collection, or visit the Philadelphia Museum of Art to see their collection of Moses Williams silhouettes. [<https://www.philamuseum.org/objects/307205>] As we continue to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution we will have Lauren Muney (<https://www.silhouettesbyhand.com/>) spend the day with us on May 16th when the replica of George Washington’s Field tent graces Locust Park in Moorestown. Lauren has travelled all over the world cutting silhouette portraits freehand. She has been to Williamsburg, Winterthur, the Peale Museum in Baltimore, and of course Mt. Vernon [<https://www.silhouettesbyhand.com/>]. Bring your family and friends to have their profiles cut for posterity!

— Linda Vizi

The Moorestown Blueprint

How the Bayada Building and Perkins Center Fueled Alice Paul's Fight for Women's Suffrage

In the spring of 1894, a legal earthquake rattled the doorsteps of Chester Avenue and Main Street in Moorestown, New Jersey. A state Supreme Court ruling had just declared that women—who had been voting in school elections since 1887—were doing so unconstitutionally.

While the ruling was intended to silence women, it instead ignited a "Monster Petition" drive that would transform Moorestown into a powerhouse of the suffrage movement and provide a young Alice Paul with her first master class in political resistance.

The Legal Crisis: The Theft of the School Vote

Before 1894, New Jersey was an anomaly. It was one of the few places where women in rural districts could cast ballots for school trustees. However, conservative opponents challenged this right, and the court agreed, stripping women of their only legal voice.

In response, the New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association launched a massive statewide petition to amend the State Constitution. The goal was simple but radical: restore the school vote and expand it to full suffrage. This wasn't just about politics; for the Quaker families of Moorestown, it was about the fundamental right to have a say in their children's education and the moral direction of their community.

The Architects of Moorestown Resistance

The petition wasn't just a list of names; it was a map of Moorestown's intellectual elite. The effort was organized by women who lived in the town's most prominent homes, blending high society with gritty political activism.

Sarah Collins Rogers Sullivan

At the heart of the local effort was Sarah Collins Rogers Sullivan. As the Recording Secretary (and later Corresponding



Alice Paul circa 1918; she was an American suffragist, feminist, and women's rights activist [Photo: Library of Congress; <https://loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3a38295/>]

Secretary) of what would become the Moorestown Equal Suffrage League, she was the administrative engine of the movement. Born into the prominent Rogers and Lippincott families, her activism was rooted in her Quaker faith.

The Legacy of the Rogers-Sullivan Family

Though Sarah would tragically die in a horse-racing accident in 1911, never seeing the 19th Amendment passed, her work lived on through her daughter, Alice Sullivan Perkins. Mabel Sullivan D'Olier, the sister of Alice Sullivan Perkins later turned her family home into what we now know as the Perkins Center for the Arts, a gift to the community that mirrored her mother's dedication to Moorestown's enrichment.

The Buzby Influence

Supporting the movement from the financial and social sidelines were men like John Buzby. A Quaker banker and the town's first librarian, Buzby represented the "Progressive Men" of Moorestown. His home on Main Street (now the Bayada headquarters) served as a symbol of the stable, educated, and wealthy environment that allowed suffrage activism to flourish. By fostering the Moorestown Literary Society, Buzby helped create the very forum where women debated the merits of the 1894 petition.

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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)

1897: From the Ashes of Defeat

The 1894 petition drive culminated in a statewide referendum in 1897. Despite the “Monster Petition” and the tireless work of the Moorestown women, the referendum was defeated.

However, this was no ordinary failure. In Moorestown, the energy from the petition drive was immediately funneled into the formal creation of the Moorestown Equal Suffrage League in 1897.

A Young Witness: Alice Paul

In the audience of these early League meetings was a young girl from “Paulsdale” named Alice Paul. Only 12 years old in 1897, she sat by her mother, Tacie Paul, and watched Sarah Collins Rogers and other local leaders navigate the sting of defeat.

She learned three vital lessons that she would later use to win the national fight:

- 1. The Power of the Press:** How to use papers like the *Camden Daily Telegram* to publicize a cause.
- 2. Organization:** That a movement is only as strong as its “Corresponding Secretary” and its local chapters.
- 3. Militancy:** That petitions and “ladylike” requests were often ignored by the men in Trenton, necessitating the more aggressive tactics she would later adopt in Washington D.C.

Conclusion: The Moorestown Torch

The 1894 petition was the “Big Bang” of Moorestown’s suffrage history. It united the Rogers, the Sullivans, and the Buzbys in a common cause. While Sarah Collins Rogers did not live to see the 1920 victory, the “Monster” she helped create in 1894 was the very beast that eventually broke the gates of inequality.

Today, as residents walk past the Perkins Center for the Arts or the Bayada building on Main Street, they are walking through the echoes of a movement that proved Moorestown was never just a quiet suburb—it was a cradle of revolution.

—Gary Ell

Primary Sources

Camden Daily Telegram. “Suffrage Petition.” May 1894. Newspapers.com. <https://www.newspapers.com/article/camden-daily-telegram-suffrage-petition/161413718/>.

Harper, Ida Husted, ed. *The History of Woman Suffrage*. Vol. 6, 1900–1920. New York: National American Woman Suffrage Association, 1922. (See Chapter 29: New Jersey).

New Jersey Woman Suffrage Association. *Minutes and Proceedings of the Annual Convention*. Trenton, NJ: 1894–1897. New Jersey State Library Digital Collections.

AT RIGHT: 1894 *Camden Daily Telegram*

Newspaper story: “THE BODY HAS DONE NOTHING”; “Not One of the Bright Promises of the Commission Have Been Realized, and it Might Just as Well Not Have Existed.”

An excerpt from the newspaper story:

The petition had no sooner been read than Allan McDermott, with his face wreathed in smiles, stepped into the center aisle of the Senate chamber, and said:—

“Mr. Chairman, inasmuch as the President of the United States has issued a proclamation in which he forbids any interference with the ‘male.’ I move that the petition be received and laid on the table.”

Then his smile broke into a hearty laugh, in which every one of the Commissioners participated.

[SOURCE: Camden Daily Telegram. “Suffrage Petition.” May 1894. Newspapers.com. <https://www.newspapers.com/article/camden-daily-telegram-suffrage-petition/161413718/>]



Bayada Home Health Care building on Main Street, Moorestown; former home of John Buzby [Photo: HSM]

Time Line of the Perkins Gift:

- The Origins:** The house, known as *Evergreen Lawn*, was built in 1910 as a wedding gift for Alice Sullivan and Dudley Perkins. In a rare double wedding in 1909, Alice’s sister, Mabel Sullivan, also married Francis (Frank) D’Olier.
- A Shared Household:** Following the death of Dudley Perkins in 1918 (during the flu epidemic), Mabel and her husband moved into *Evergreen Lawn* to live with Alice.



Perkins Center for the Arts on Kings Highway in Moorestown (called *Evergreen Lawn* by the Perkins family) [Photo: HSM]

REFUSED WOMEN SUFFRAGE RIGHTS

Constitutional Commission Decides Against Them.

THE BODY HAS DONE NOTHING.

Not One of the Bright Promises of the Commission Have Been Realized, and it Might Just as Well Not Have Existed.

Trenton, July 11.—The State Constitutional Commission yesterday showed that it is not in favor of woman suffrage in New Jersey. A petition numerously signed was presented asking that section 1 of article 2 be amended by striking out the word “male” or inserting female, so that the section would read: “Every female citizen of the United States, of the age of 21 years, shall be entitled to vote,” etc.

The petition had no sooner been read than Allan McDermott, with his face wreathed in smiles, stepped into the center aisle of the Senate chamber, and said:—

“Mr. Chairman, inasmuch as the President of the United States has issued a proclamation in which he forbids any interference with the ‘male,’ I move that the petition be received and laid on the table.”

Then his smile broke into a hearty laugh, in which every one of the Commissioners participated.

This is the beginning of a decided movement that is to be made in this State, not only by the woman suffragists, but by women who are favorable to women voting, particularly in school matters.

The petition was signed by men as well as women, and it is to be immediately followed up by other petitions, which are to be circulated in every school district and township in the State, so that when the

- The Bequest:** Mabel Sullivan D’Olier eventually purchased the home from the family estate. Upon her death in 1966, she bequeathed the property to the Township of Moorestown.
- The Stipulation:** Mabel’s gift came with a specific vision: she stipulated that the property be used “in perpetuity as a park or other suitable township purpose” and that the surrounding land be maintained as open space for the community.

Key Connection to the Movement

Because Mabel and Alice were both daughters of Sarah Collins Rogers—the suffragist mentioned in the 1894 petition—the gift of this house represents more than just local philanthropy. It stands as a physical legacy of a family that believed deeply in civic duty and the enrichment of Moorestown society.

The building became the Perkins Center for the Arts in 1977, ensuring that the home of these early women’s rights advocates would remain a hub of education and culture.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Hello Members!

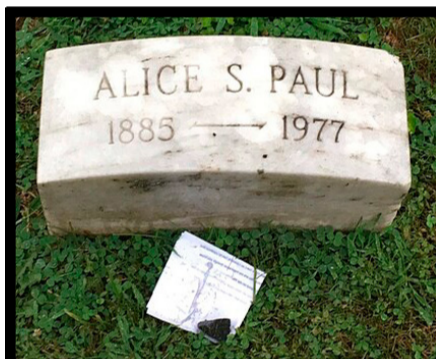
First up, thank you Amanda Bergh, Richard Borton, Shelley Lippincott and Carolyn Nachmias for your recent donations! We're lucky to have friends like you!

We are thrilled to report we had 24 new members join us in 2025. 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 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:

- Grace Mansilla • David Orr • Deborah Rebuck •

Jill Weiss, Membership Chairperson
moorestownhistory@comcast.net



Alice Paul is buried at the Westfield Friends Burial Ground in Cinnaminson, New Jersey. Notes are frequently left there thanking her for her work in advancing women's rights and the campaign for passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution — the world's longest surviving written charter of government.

Its first three words – “We The People” – affirm that the government of the United States exists to serve its citizens. [Source: <https://www.senate.gov/about/origins-foundations/senate-and-constitution/constitution.htm>] [Photo: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alice_Paul-Gravesite.jpg]

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2026/2027

[M26]

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RENEWAL

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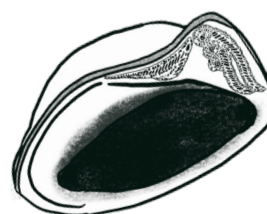


WE LOVE WHAT WE DO



On President's Day, HSM was at the Community House of Moorestown to celebrate George Washington's 294th Birthday with a “mini museum.” There were also re-enactors and people in colonial costumes. The event was sponsored by Mannerly Traditions, a non-profit that teaches manners and etiquette to children and adults.

Did you know that as a young man, George Washington wrote out a copy of the 110 Rules of Civility in his school book? Rule No. 1 was: *Every Action done in Company, ought to be with Some Sign of Respect, to those that are Present.* [Source: <https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/rules-of-civility>]



HEADS UP!

Items from the Society's hat collection are on exhibit at Smith-Cadbury

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Gift shop open during all open hours or visit our website at moorestownhistory.org/shop/ for a selection of our most popular items.

MARCH 2026

EXHIBITS: *Heads Up – Hats from the HSM Textile Collection and Moses Williams: Cutter of Profiles & Quaker Silhouettes*

- 3 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 8 Smith-Cadbury 2nd Sunday tours & research library, 1-3
- 10 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 17 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 17 NJ History Speaks Lecture: Early Taverns and the Drinks They Served at Moorestown Library, 7 PM
- 22 Smith-Cadbury 4th Sunday Historic Children's Crafts and tours & research library, 1-4
- 24 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 31 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4

APRIL 2026

EXHIBITS: *Heads Up – Hats from the HSM Textile Collection and Moses Williams: Cutter of Profiles & Quaker Silhouettes*

- 7 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 12 Smith-Cadbury 2nd Sunday tours & research library, 1-3
- 14 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 18 Daffodil Day Smith-Cadbury open with Plein Air artists, 10-4
- 21 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 26 Smith-Cadbury 4th Sunday tours & research library, 1-3
- 28 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 30 Annual Meeting with special presentation on drummer Gene Krupa by author and HSM Trustee Elizabeth J Rosenthal, Moorestown Library, 7:00 PM

MAY 2026

EXHIBITS: *Heads Up – Hats from the HSM Textile Collection and Moses Williams: Cutter of Profiles & Quaker Silhouettes*

- 5 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 8 Smith-Cadbury 2nd Sunday closed for Mother's Day
- 12 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 15 George Washington and Horse Meet & Greet at Percheron Park, 3-5
- 15 Cocktail Reception and fundraiser with George Washington at Van Meter Hall, 6-8
- 16 George Washington's Field Tent at Locust Street Park
- 19 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 19 NJ History Speaks Lecture: "Stories the Lenape Told Their Grandchildren" at Moorestown Library, 7 PM
- 24 Smith-Cadbury closed for Memorial Day
- 26 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4

HSM TRUSTEE NEWS

We would like to thank two long-serving Trustees who have dedicated decades of service to the Historical Society of Moorestown.

As we reported in our last newsletter, **John Watson** has resigned; John has been our digital master, transforming old photos so that we could learn from and enjoy them. His efforts helped us illustrate Moorestown's history. A significant work is his beautiful restoration of a very small photograph of Edward Harris: the enlarged restoration proudly hangs in the entry way of the Smith-Cadbury Mansion. He also did impeccable research about the Jessup family.

Mary Berardi is also stepping down. Mary worked tirelessly to record acquisitions and keep track of their every (often moving!) location. Because of her efforts we have a solid inventory to work with as we continue to build our collection. She often had to outsmart the weather which loved to leave leaks in her office, but she always kept our new items safe and sound.

Thank you for all the hours you volunteered with dedication, professionalism, and enthusiasm.

We are pleased to introduce three new Trustees who have already added so much to our mission and programming.

Lorenzo Eagles and his family have been Moorestown residents since 2003. Over the past 27 years he has taught history

classes from 6th grade world history to 11th grade US History. He developed a Moorestown History Club at the High School — the club encourages a liaison between the High School and the Historical Society. Lorenzo has also taken an active role in the planning of events for Moorestown's 250th celebration.

Farrell Lines moved to Moorestown 10 years ago when he came East to pursue his psychiatry residency at Jefferson Hospital. He became fascinated with the long history of his home after requesting a plaque for his house. Now, he is assisting the Historical Society by painting plaques for new homeowners embarking on their own search for the history of their homes.

Joseph R. Chiaccio, Sr. and his family live in on Main Street in a home filled with history. He has done extensive research and shared documentation with the Historical Society. Beyond his love for Moorestown history, Joe shared his skills with Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum where he took on many roles: tour guide, Digital Marketing Manager, and Archivist. He redesigned their website in 2015 to showcase their collection of historically significant racing sports cars. He augmented the visitor experience with electronic ticketing, guided audio app, curated exhibits, and conducted extensive research for the museum.

We are thrilled to welcome them to the HSM Board and look forward to working with them.

HISTORY ROCKED & ROLLED

The Brits and Yanks came together to celebrate music and history on a cold January evening and raise money for the Moorestown250 Committee. There were special "guests" in attendance, but the Beatles tribute band *Britain's Best NJ* were the main attraction and their energetic and enthusiastic performance of Beatles songs thrilled the crowd.

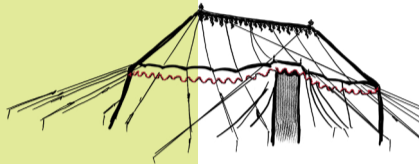


[Photos: HSM]

Historical Society of Moorestown

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HSM is hosting a replica of
George Washington's Field Tent
on MAY 16th 2026 at LOCUST
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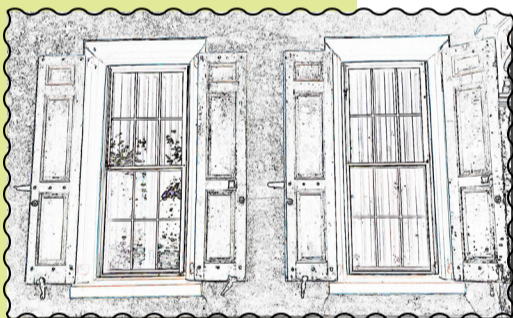
MARCH 2026

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• Time Travelers Member •



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"Moorestown Township is pleased to announce the acquisition of 730 Marne Highway—also known as the Truxtun House... Dating back to approximately 1770, the property is among the oldest surviving historic homes in Moorestown. Virtua, which purchased the property in 2008, agreed to sell it to the Township to support Moorestown's preservation of this historically significant property."

[SOURCE: Moorestown Township website
<https://www.moorestown.nj.us/m/newsflash/home/detail/1058>]

Historic Truxtun House

From 1812-1816, Commodore Thomas Truxtun lived at what is now 730 Marne Highway in Moorestown. In 1785, then Captain Truxtun transported Benjamin Franklin from Europe back to the United States on his ship the *London Packet*: "Captain Tom Truxtun was in London, probably at the Pennsylvania Coffee House in Birch Lane, when he learned that the great Doctor Franklin wanted to engage ship to carry him home." **Franklin kept a journal on the voyage.**

... Franklin made only sporadic entries in his own journal, but his literary output exceeded that of all the others on board. Intending originally to bring his autobiography up to date during this voyage, he launched forth instead on some "Maritime Observations" that had been shifting about in his mind for some time. He discussed some of his ideas with Captain Truxtun, and the Captain's future was the richer for it. Franklin pointed out that sailors could sometimes profit from the advice of landmen since it was certain that the first vessel ever built was the invention of a landsman. The echo of his words rang down through the years. "It was a Landsman who first invented a Ship," wrote Captain Truxtun twenty years later. Franklin talked over an idea he had for a collapsible sea anchor, to keep a vessel's head up into the wind when lying to; and when the Captain arrived in Philadelphia, he had one built for his ship. Franklin went on to list in some detail the things that a passenger about to embark on a long voyage should consider. The choice of captains was important, he said, "as you must for so long a time be confined to his company, and under his direction." A sociable, good-natured captain would make for a happy voyage but if he were only "skilful, careful, watchful, and active in the conduct of his ship," then excuse the rest, for these were the essentials...

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[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/FERTOC/13*.html] [Photo of Truxtun house front porch windows: HSM]