

# Historical Society of Moorestown

Smith - Cadbury Mansion c. 1738

April 2026

Dear Members & Friends,

Thanks to your support, this past year was full of noteworthy programs and memorable achievements. Along the way, we said goodbye to two beloved long-time Trustees, John Watson and Mary Berardi, who retired this past year. Beyond all they contributed, John and Mary are truly wonderful people who made working here a genuine pleasure. We are delighted to welcome three new Trustees: Joe Chiaccio, Farrell Lines, and Lorenzo Eagles. Together, we remain a dedicated and enthusiastic team, bringing a wide range of skills to our mission!

Each month, we presented captivating lectures on New Jersey's rich history, exploring subjects like early taverns, Harriet Tubman, Red Bank, Moorestown's shadowed past, Revolutionary War tales, Moses Williams, the state's early history from 1600 to 1800, notable New Jersey inventions, and legendary drummer Gene Krupa, whose biography was penned by our Trustee Elizabeth Rosenthal. Our commitment to historic preservation continued through our partnership with Saving Historic Moorestown. Together we hosted the 2nd Revolutionary Witness Historic House Tour with 300 guests and the Hessian Retreat Fun Run, where over 100 participants — some in their finest feathers — trotted down Kings Highway to "return" provisions purloined by Hessian troops nearly 250 years ago. Our Living History and Ghost Tours drew hundreds of visitors from 9 states and 35 towns, made possible by dozens of dedicated volunteers for whom we are deeply grateful. And the British returned for a night of Beatles songs — our "Britain's Best" ticket to ride was a fab success!

We exhibited a stunning collection celebrating Moses Williams: Cutter of Profiles and Quaker Silhouettes and a unique assortment of hats from our archives, including the hat of Percy B. Lovell, best known for his column "Under the Old Hat of the Country Editor." It was Lovell's old hat that inspired a volunteer committee in 1969 to dream up a museum in his name — the forerunner of our Society today. Behind the scenes, we researched and issued 11 house plaques, processed items in 25 new accessions, and began AI-assisted transcription of historical documents, including 19th-century Thomas Truxtun and Jenny Higbee letters. We have a beautiful new kitchenette, new landscape lighting, and a new scanner to support our transcription work. We published four gorgeous newsletter issues and shared stories and historical profiles on Facebook and Instagram, including richly researched "deep dives" by Trustee Gary Ell. And we planted a *Franklinia* tree on the grounds! Your membership makes all of this possible.

What's next? As the nation marks its 250th birthday, step back in time with us in Moorestown! On May 15th, meet George Washington and his horse at Percheron Park, then toast the occasion at a cocktail party in Van Meter Hall—featuring Washington's favorite porter beer, Madeira wine, and period-inspired foods. Join us for a day of living history, hands-on experiences, and Revolutionary fun on May 16th when George Washington's field tent — a full-scale replica of the First Oval Office — comes to Moorestown. We'll host a public reading of the Declaration of Independence in July and the Hessian Retreat Fun Run returns in September. We're also re-publishing a pamphlet of colonial cookery, *1770 Receipts of Polly Burling Smith*, included with a \$100 membership donation.

At the Society, we embrace our responsibility as stewards of Smith-Cadbury and all it holds in trust for the public. We're grateful to everyone who supported us this past year, and we hope you'll continue your membership so our community can see itself in history, appreciate its relevance, and understand that the stories of this place belong to all of us. You might also consider adding a gift membership for a friend!

Sincerely, 

Jill Weiss, Membership Chairperson