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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

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*Published Quarterly by
The Historical Society
of Moorestown*

SEPTEMBER 2026

FROM THE FRONT PORCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF MOORESTOWN



View From the Porch

Our celebration of America's 250th anniversary continued this summer with more great events.

On July 2nd we gave a special nod to the Matlack Family legacy with an evening at the Double Nickel Brewing Company in Pennsauken (it is located along the Pennsauken Creek on land once connected to William Matlack's original 17th-century property holdings). The evening, billed as "The Dusty Road to Independence," highlighted the story of Timothy Matlack and his ancestors and descendants with a talk about his contributions, the most famous being Matlack's inscription of the Declaration of Independence (see story on page 3). It also featured the famous Dusty Road sundaes which were legendary at Matlack's Dairy Bar (a landmark eatery that was located on Kings Highway near Lenola Road that started as a family farm stand selling homemade ice cream). Family members converged from as far away as Rio de Janeiro, North Carolina, Massachusetts, and of course, Moorestown. We sipped beer made from George Washington's own recipe and cooled off with the Dusty Road sundaes (the secret ingredient is the malted milk powder sprinkled on top!).

Not only did the Matlack family gather, but some members donated incredible artifacts to our collection. They included wonderful photographs, a beautiful family tree, two amazing crazy

quilts (see story on page 8), and albums that not only contain photographs of local homes but memories of the people that lived there. Many of the items relate to pieces we already have in our collection and shine new light on them.

We had an incredible presence at the 4th of July parade, including a float, suffragists riding in a Model T, and both Patriots and British Redcoats marching down Main Street.

At Percheron Park we hosted a reading of the Declaration of Independence (see photos below). Thirteen townsfolk stepped up to read a section of the historic document. And on August 2nd — 250 years after the actual signing of the document — we set up a large chalkboard in Percheron Park and collected over 300 "John Hancocks"!

As fall approaches, we will be preparing for our famous historic ghost tours. This year you can take a "spirited" walk down Main Street and encounter the ghosts of our most noteworthy residents. And plans are underway to add a haunted trolley tour (check our website for the latest info). Spirits will be flying and riding all over town! All the fun starts at Smith-Cadbury Mansion. I hope to see you there!

Linda Vizi, President

(moorestownhistory@comcast.net)



The Towne Crier (AKA Bill Archer), announced the reading of the Declaration of Independence. Each of the thirteen volunteers read portions of the document and, at the end, read the names of all of the signers. Mayor Quinton Law kicked off the reading and HSM President Linda Vizi read the final segment. [All Photos: HSM]

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 2026/2027. 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.

The HSM New Jersey History Speaks Lecture Series opens its 2026/2027 season Wednesday, September 9th at the Moorestown Library (7:00 PM):

SEPTEMBER 9th: Join author and historian Jeff Denman for a talk on his new book *Closing the Ring: George Washington's War in the North 1778-1781*.

SEPTEMBER 10th: Richard Marx, a retired Supervisory Special Agent with the FBI, will commemorate the 25th anniversary of 9/11. Marx led the forensic recovery effort at the Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island, where he and his team spent 11 months sifting through 1.8 million tons of World Trade Center debris following the September 11 attacks.

OCTOBER 6th: Jim Davis, founder of "Tidy Tombstones," will speak about his work with Historical Societies in Pennsylvania and New Jersey to restore historic cemeteries and to repair gravestones dating back to the 1700s. In the course of his work he has become an expert on cemeteries and how gravestones have been viewed by different cultures at different times.

NOVEMBER 17th: Author Dorothy Talavera will speak on her latest book, *Quaker Sons Go to War*. It is the story of the Allinson Brothers of Burlington County, who faced a dilemma... do they follow the peace testimony with which they were raised, or do they stand up to end enslavement of fellow human beings?



At Moorestown's annual 4th of July Parade, HSM Trustee Julie Maravich rode in the car reserved for the reigning Citizen of the Year (left) and Township Council member Sue Mammarella marched as a suffragist (right). [Photos: HSM]



Sara Franklin Homer Scholarship Awarded to Lauren Schaffer

Lauren Schaffer of Windermere Drive has been named this year's recipient of the Sara Franklin Homer Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually to a Moorestown High School graduating senior who has excelled in history in high school and who plans on continuing studying history in college. It is named in honor of Sara Franklin Homer, a longtime trustee and volunteer with the Historical Society. Sara was an active figure in the history and historic preservation community at the state, local and national level. She passed away in 2014.

Lauren will be attending the University of Pennsylvania in the fall and will major in history.



[Photo: Schaffer Family]

Congratulations Lauren!

The Historical Society of Moorestown

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Two Forms of the Declaration Document

“Two weeks after its printing, publication, and dissemination, its authors began to recast the document as a manuscript, a process that would divorce the text from its context in print culture. Originally an edition—a typographic plural—it was transmogrified into an artifact—a calligraphic singular. By reverting to a more primitive way of formalizing the written word, a copy was created that appears to predate that from which it was drawn. Calligraphic form has portrayed the content of the Declaration so convincingly that it has taken on a life of its own. Unlike the typography of the initial document intended for public reading, the life of the calligraphy has been defined in primarily visual, rather than verbal, terms.”¹

There are actually two different versions of our Declaration of Independence. One version was quickly set in type and multiple copies were printed by John Dunlap on July 4, 1776. These documents, known as the Dunlap Broadside, were sent out to each of the colonies — “carrying its message from Philadelphia to multiple destinations in near simultaneity”².

The ‘signatures’ on this version (only three: John Hancock, President of Congress; Charles Thompson, Secretary of Congress, and John Dunlap, printer to Congress; see image, below) “appear typographically, not as autographs. The primacy of typography and printing is indicated by the prominence of Dunlap’s name, centered below Hancock’s. The printer’s integral role

in generating the final text caused him to take responsibility even before the members of Congress.”³

“The Declaration was quickly disseminated in printed form. By July 18, twenty-four newspapers, from Annapolis to Salem, had used the Dunlap imprints as typescripts and republished the text. Yet on the following day, Congress ordered it newly inscribed, and in so doing, the context—the form by which the Declaration had become both tangible and public—was altered.”⁴

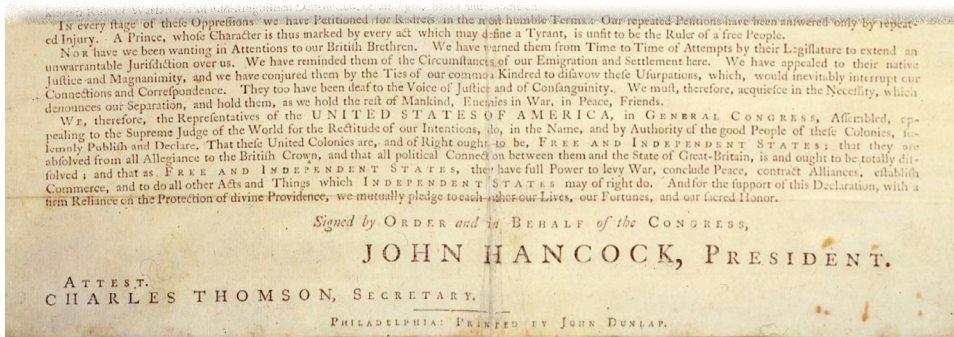
“The order of events reveals the chirographic [i.e., “handwritten”] Declaration to be more of an artist’s conception of the typography that preceded it than a document in its own right. Although the scribe, who is thought to have been Timothy Matlack, used ink and quill rather than paint and brush, he just as surely composed a picture. As a hand-crafted image of the manufactured Dunlap printing, it is an interpretation of the declaration process...”⁵

“Consider the extent to which collectivity is embodied in the two forms of the Declaration document: the circulated, printed text and the subsequent uncirculated, handwritten text. Each represents the written word through a different alphabetical system: typography and calligraphy...”⁶

—Lisa Knell

[All footnotes, pages ¹153, ²153, ³160, ⁴160, ⁵161, ⁶163: Starr, Thomas, “Separated at Birth: Text and Context of the Declaration of Independence,” American Antiquarian Society, 2002. Download the full PDF of the article here: <https://www.americanantiquarian.org/node/12512>]

1) Circulated, Printed Text



Above, bottom portion of the typeset and printed version of the Declaration: It is not known how many copies of what came to be called “the Dunlap broadside” were printed on the night of the fourth. Twenty-five copies are known to exist. [TEXT Source: Library of Congress. IMAGE Source: Dunlap, John, Printer, Thomas Jefferson, and United States Creator Second Continental Congress. Dunlap Broadside Declaration of Independence. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: John Dunlap, -07-04, 1776. Image: <https://www.loc.gov/item/2021667578/>]

2) Uncirculated, Handwritten Text



Above: top portion of the handwritten (i.e., “engrossed,” meaning copying an official document in a large, formal, and legible hand) version of the Declaration: On July 19, 1776, Congress resolved that the Declaration passed on the 4th be “fairly engrossed on parchment with the title and stile [sic]: ‘The unanimous declaration of the thirteen United States of America’...and that the same, when engrossed, be signed by every member of Congress.” The engrossing was most likely done by Timothy Matlack, an assistant to Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Congress. Although it bears the date “July 4, 1776,” the engrossed Declaration was signed on August 2, 1776, by members of the Continental Congress who were present that day and later, by other members of Congress. A total of 56 delegates eventually signed the document. [TEXT Source: Library of Congress. IMAGE Source: Jefferson, T. & Second Continental Congress, U. S. C. (1776) Engrossed Declaration of Independence. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2021667571/>]

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

An original Dunlap Broadside of the Declaration of Independence was on a state-wide tour of Maine this summer and local Matlack relatives gathered in Camden, Maine to see it. HSM Trustee Anne Matlack shared this email from her uncle Jim Matlack:

Dear Family Members,

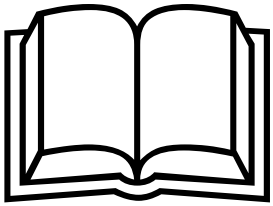
We as Matlacks have a direct link to the 1776 Dunlap printed text of the Declaration that was on display at the Camden [Maine] Library.

As many of you may know, Timothy Matlack was in charge of documents for the 1776 Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia. He was born in N.J. but like many Matlacks crossed over the river to seek better prospects for employment in Philadelphia. He was a sometimes small businessman who was active in city and state politics over a long lifetime. In particular he developed skill in drafting legal documents with a quill pen (not an easy process). He was asked to be assistant to the Secretary of the

Continental Congress. He wrote out the commission document that appointed George Washington as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.

When Jefferson’s text of the Declaration was debated, amended, and then approved by the [Continental] Congress, it was important to make this action known quickly and widely among the colonies. Jefferson and Matlack took an approved text (almost certainly written out by Matlack) to the print shop run by [John] Dunlap. In the laborious process of setting type by hand, Jefferson had to return to Independence Hall but Matlack spent the night at the print shop to oversee the production of what we now call the Dunlap Broadside of the Declaration so that we can be almost certain that Timothy was watching when the copy of the text that we saw in Camden was being printed.

[James “Jim” Matlack was born and raised on Colonial Avenue in Moorestown. He spent his career in peace work, primarily with the American Friends Service Committee in Washington, DC. He and his wife Jean currently reside in Camden, Maine.]



LIBRARY NEWS

The Historical Society recently received a donation of letters, certificates, deeds, photos and ephemera related to residents of the house at 505 Camden Avenue. One of the most interesting items in the collection was a three-page letter addressed to George Hunt "Opposite the Woodman Hotel on the Germantown Road, Philadelphia, North Ammerica." It was posted from Spalding, Lincolnshire, England on January 3, 1836 by John and Mary Muffett and received by Hunt on March 9, 1836.

Genealogical research revealed that John Muffett's sister, Mary Ann, was married to George Blanchflower Hunt, who was a Kensington, PA brickmaker. The letter relayed Muffett family news and gossip and John shared that he had a 7-week old son named Robert. He then went on to recount the poor economic conditions in England at the time. John Muffett was also a brickmaker and it was hard to find work in England at that time. There were few jobs to be had except for building government work houses and wages were very low.

John Muffett said he would like to come to "Ammerica" but he didn't have enough money and was hoping that George Hunt and other family members could offer him a loan. He was interested in the "system of work" here – how many hours of work per day, how hard was the work, and the details of the brickmaking trade such as the type of kiln and fuel used.

After several pleas for assistance, he states:

"I should like to have an answer about the letter end of March next that I may be prepared time enough to leave England about the first of April, but remember I shall always be desirous of coming at any opportunity as I shall not stand for the time of year wether Spring or Autumn Butt the sooner the better – it will suit me, for our Prospects are anything but good ones as it appears to me that we are coming to the last scene of the Play, that is after they get the Workhouses done, trade will then be at a stand is the opinion of many."

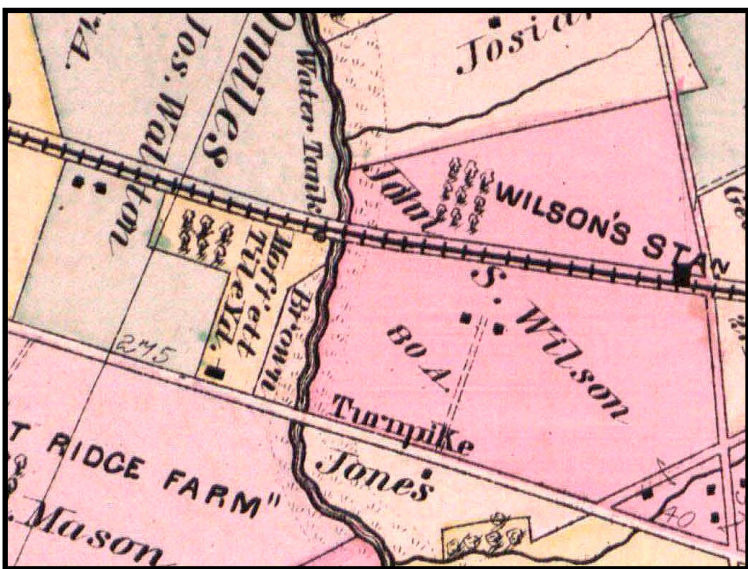
Did John Muffett ever make it to "Ammerica?" His son Robert, according to census records, immigrated here in 1847. Robert appears with his family on the 1860 US Census in Chester Township. It took longer than he would have liked but John and his son purchased land in 1863 on the north side of E. Main St. near the entrance to Maple Shade going up the hill. They owned and resided in an imposing brick double house. It has since been converted to a single family residence. The house is obscured by a thick, tall hedge, but still remains. The Muffett brickyards were behind the house. They appear in the Moorestown Commercial Agency Register business directory for July 1878 as – *John Muffett & Son - Bricks*.

What brought the Muffetts all the way from England to what is now Maple Shade to make bricks? In the 19th century, that area was well known for the excellent clay along the north branch of the Pennsauken Creek. Geologically speaking, that area is part of the Merchantville

Formation, an Upper Cretaceous geological layer spanning western New Jersey through Burlington and Camden counties that was formed underwater roughly 80 million years ago. It consists of dark-colored, clayey glauconite sand and was historically utilized for local brick-making and known for yielding marine fossils. The brickyards of Maple Shade produced not only bricks but also terra cotta pipes and other terra cotta products.

The house and brickyard remained in the ownership of the Muffett family until 1888 when John Muffett died. The next significant owner was Augustus Reeve's Maple Shade Brickworks which was followed by several others. The brickyard operated until the Great Depression. Another nearby brickyard, the Graham Brick Co., operated until the 1950s.

(continued on page 5)



The 1877 G.M. Hopkins Atlas of Philadelphia and Environs map showing the location of the "Moffett Tile Yard" and house. "Turnpike" refers to the Camden and Mount Holly Turnpike which ran through Maple Shade and Moorestown. Wilson's Station was the original name of the Lenola train station.
[Source: 1877 G.M. Hopkins Atlas of Philadelphia and Environs]

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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Constable Systems, LLC

First Class Luxury Limos

McCullough CPA MAI, LLC

Esposito Family Dental

Your generous support helps to sustain the Society's commitment to preserving Moorestown's heritage for generations to come.

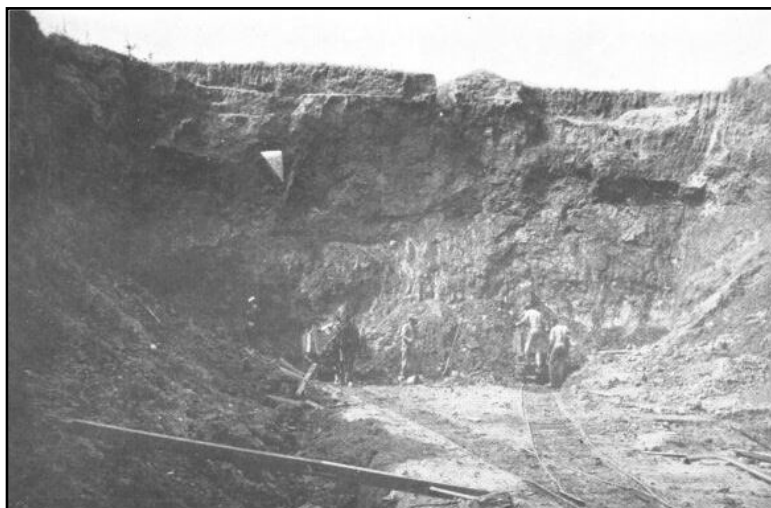
New Business memberships are always welcome! We'll feature your company's name on our website and in our award winning quarterly newsletter.

For details, visit us at

<http://moorestownhistory.org/membership/become-a-business-partner/>

The Historical Society is a registered 501(c)(3)

Robert Muffett lived on Camden Avenue in Chester Township (the Maple Shade part) according to local directories from 1894 to at least 1920. Census records list him working in the brick industry into his 80s. He passed away in 1925 and was buried in Colestown Cemetery. His obituary pronounced him one of the first settlers in Maple Shade and one of the oldest Odd Fellows.



An acquisition like this is fascinating because it explains the motivations for an immigrant family to leave everything searching for a better life. And we learned the origin story of a prominent local family of tradesmen whose labor contributed to the buildings we still see every day.

—Stephanie Herz

Clay pit in the early 1900s from when it was run by Augustus Reeve's Maple Shade Brickworks.
[Photo: The Clays and Clay Industry of New Jersey by Heinrich Ries and Henry B. Kummel, 1904]

FOR MORE INFORMATION

On brick making in Chester Township, see the excellent and informative chapter at: <https://www.mapleshadehistory.com/Brickyards/index.html>.

On local geology: <https://geology.rutgers.edu/rutgers-core-repository/nj-coastal-plain/merchantville-formations>.

To see the actual Muffett letter: <https://moorestownhistory.org/new-acquisitions/>.

1830 Rachel Collins Sampler Added to Collection

This past July, the Historical Society acquired a wonderful new addition to our collection of local samplers. We were informed of its availability by Moorestown residents Lon and Denise Haines who discovered the sampler at the shop of Philadelphia antique sampler dealer, M. Finkel & Daughter.

This beautiful and intricate sampler, made in 1830 by Rachel Collins (1816-1881), has returned to the place of her birth and long-time residence here in Moorestown. The sampler is a fine example of early 19th century stitchery and is in excellent condition. In addition to teaching needlework skills, samplers were one of the few ways that girls of that era could creatively express themselves.

Rachel Collins was born to Quaker farmers Arthur and Martha (Ballinger) Collins. Arthur and Martha were

married under the care of the Evesham Monthly Meeting in 1809, and the family subsequently transferred their membership to the Chester Monthly Meeting, where Rachel's birth was recorded on February 19, 1816. (Her brother Isaac's son was John S. Collins, the first developer of Miami Beach, FL.)

Rachel stitched eight different versions of the alphabet, four of them in the classic Quaker block letter font closely associated with Friends schools in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The motifs along the bottom reflect Quaker traditions as well. A note that came with the sampler tells that it was made when she was at boarding school, possibly Westtown in Pennsylvania. She included initials of family members on her sampler – those of her parents and two brothers, Isaac and Chalkley, and her grandmother Rachel Collins, for whom she was named.

In 1837, Rachel married fellow Quaker, Clayton Lippincott (1810-1891). Clayton Lippincott was a local VIP. He was a judge of the court of common pleas in Burlington County. He wrote an important history of Chester Township. In his varied experience, he was a teacher, freeholder, tax collector, town clerk, and conveyancer. He was a founder of the Burlington County Agricultural Society. He served in the NJ State Legislature in 1845. He was a director of First National Bank of Camden and President of the Moorestown National Bank for many years.

The beautiful historic farmhouse that Rachel and Clayton Lippincott built and lived in at 310 Pleasant Valley Avenue in Moorestown was demolished in June by a developer.

—Stephanie Herz



The Rachel Collins 1830 Sampler (left) and a rendering of the former home of Rachel and Clayton Lippincott at 310 Pleasant Valley Avenue
[Photo: HSM; Sketch: Lisa Knell]

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

It really is wonderful that so many of you make the generous decision each year to continue to support us in our work preserving Smith-Cadbury Mansion and its contents which include a very busy library and many archival collections—believe it or not we get “new” things all the time! If you have something you think the Historical Society might be interested in, give us a call or send us an email and we’d be happy to take a look!

A reminder that a colorful PDF of this newsletter is available at our website: <https://moorestownhistory.org/newsletter/> Our website is also where you’ll find our most updated calendar and tickets for upcoming events like our annual Ghosts & Living History Walking Tours next month. Don’t miss these lantern-lit October evenings that turn our historic streetscapes into an immersive theater of the past!

We extend a warm welcome to our newest member:

• Sydney Kugler •

Jill Weiss, Membership Chairperson
moorestownhistory@comcast.net



Photos, above: exchange students from Japan visit Smith-Cadbury and pose with “George Washington”; far right: the students have fun with our historical costumes; bottom: they brought a wonderful energy! [Photos: HSM]

SEPT 19th at Yancy Adams Park

West End Community Center

Block Party

Presented by: The Historical Society of Moorestown, The AME Church, and the Better Together Task Force



September 19, 2026
2-5pm
Yancy Adams Park

The Block Party brings our stories together. Together, we are building a model for belonging anchored in wisdom of our Moorestown collective memories. Join the Annual block party, with vendors and family activities. There will be Elder interviews, intergenerational storytelling, and other Historical Society archives. The 2026 celebration anchors Moorestown’s 250th anniversary narrative nationally.

Sign up at remembranceus.org/westend-rememberers/

Historical Society Welcomes Visiting

Exchange Students from Japan

The students were here through the non-profit Haddonfield Japan Exchange organization that builds cross-cultural understanding by welcoming Japanese students into local homes and sending American high school students to Japan in alternating years.

“The students absolutely lit up when they spotted our rack of historical costumes,” said HSM Trustee Gary Ell. “I immediately invited them to try the costumes on. Historic outreach needs to be hands-on and great fun to help people truly get a better understanding of the space.”

An unexpected highlight of the tour, was when the group learned about the ongoing paranormal research that New Jersey Paranormal has been conducting at Smith-Cadbury. The students were enthusiastic and inquisitive about the investigations, sparking fun and engaging conversations that brought a wonderful modern energy to the historic space.



MEMBERSHIP FORM 2026/2027

[S26]

BASIC MEMBERSHIP:

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

RENEWAL ☐

NEW ☐

DONOR LEVELS:

- ☐ Town Crier Fund (\$50)
- ☐ 1770 Receipts of Polly Burling Smith (\$100)
- ☐ Library Sponsor (\$250)
- ☐ Patron (\$500)
- ☐ Lifetime (\$1000)

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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.

SEPTEMBER 2026

- 1 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 8 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 9 NJ History Speaks Lecture: Washington's War in the North 1778-1781 at Moorestown Library, 7 PM
- 10 NJ History Speaks Lecture: 25th Anniversary of 9/11: the FBI's forensic response at Staten Island with Retired Supervisory Special Agent Richard Marx at Moorestown Library, 7 PM
- 13 Smith-Cadbury Second Sunday tours & research Library, 1-3
- 15 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 19 2026 British & Hessian Retreat Fun Run on Main Street, 9 AM
- 19 WECC Block Party at Yancy Adams Park, 2-5 PM
- 22 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 26 Paranormal Event with New Jersey Paranormal at Smith-Cadbury, 7-11 PM
- 27 Smith-Cadbury Fourth Sunday tours, 1-3

OCTOBER 2026

- 6 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 6 NJ History Speaks Lecture: Jim Davis on One Man's Mission to Restore Historic Cemeteries at Moorestown Library, 7 PM
- 9 Trolley Tours Smith-Cadbury, 7:00 & 9:00 PM
- 10 Ghost & History Tour Smith-Cadbury, 7:30 & 8:30 PM
- 11 Smith-Cadbury Second Sunday tours & research Library, 1-3
- 13 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 16/17 Ghost & History Tours Smith-Cadbury, 7:30 & 8:30
- 20 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 23/24 Ghost & History Tours Smith-Cadbury, 7:30 & 8:30
- 25 Smith-Cadbury Fourth Sunday tours, 1-3
- 27 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 30 Ghost & History Tours Smith-Cadbury, 7:30 & 8:30
- 31 See our website for details

NOVEMBER 2026

- 3 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 8 Smith-Cadbury Second Sunday tours & research Library, 1-3
- 10 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-3
- 17 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 17 NJ History Speaks Lecture: Quaker Sons Go To War by Dorothy Talavera at Moorestown Library, 7 PM
- 19 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4
- 22 Smith-Cadbury Fourth Sunday tours, 1-3
- 24 Smith-Cadbury Library & tours, 1-4

Ongoing EXHIBIT:
Heads Up – Hats
from the HSM
Textile Collection



"From The Front Porch," the newsletter of the Historical Society of Moorestown (that you are currently reading!), was awarded a 2025 Kevin Hale Publication Award by the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey at their annual summer meeting held on June 20th at the Raritan Yacht Club on the Raritan Bay in historic Perth Amboy. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in newsletter publication.

Left: Raritan Yacht Club, Perth Amboy, NJ



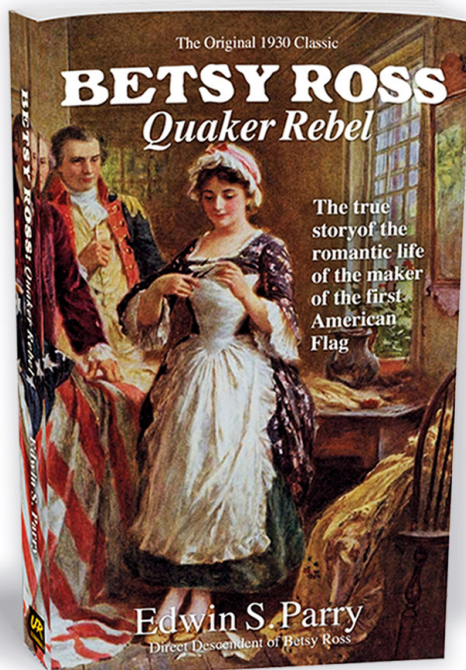
Pictured (L to R): Brian Armstrong, Executive Director of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey, HSM



Trustee Lisa Knell, editor of "From The Front Porch", and HSM Vice-President Lenny Wagner [Photos: HSM]

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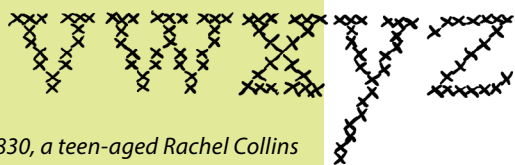
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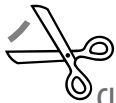


In 1830, a teen-aged Rachel Collins stitched a sampler (sometimes called a "specimen of achievement"). She lived in what was then called Chester Township (at one time, Moorestown Township was part of the larger Chester Township). In 2026 (almost 200 years later!) the HSM acquired Rachel's skillfully stitched sampler (see page 5) and brought it back to Moorestown.

SEPTEMBER 2026

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MOORESTOWN
GHOST &
LIVING HISTORY
WALKING
TOURS

*Fridays &
Saturdays in
October:*

10th
16–17th
22–24th
30th

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

CRAZY QUILTS: A STORY IN STITCHES

A new chapter of the Matlack family history arrived this July when family members around the world came to the area to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America and the contributions of the Matlacks — from Declaration of Independence scribe Timothy Matlack all the way down to the famous Dusty Road sundae from Matlack's Dairy Bar.

A wide array of items belonging to different members of the family were donated to the Historical Society. Among them were two crazy quilts. Not only do they represent a chapter of Matlack family history, they are also extraordinary examples of the crazy quilting fad that took off because of the

1876 Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park Memorial Hall. New fabrics, embroidery stitches, decorative ribbons from around the world, and for the first time fabric printed to commemorate an event, fascinated the sewists of the late 19th century. It ignited the fad of making crazy quilts.

Both quilts are wonderful examples of this art form.

—Linda Vizi



One of the quilts is composed of blocks decorated with various fabrics, ribbons and stitches and was made by Kate A. Britton (above, left).

The other quilt, made by Magdalene Dauber, is backed with a rare commemorative patriotic print (right). [Photos: HSM]

