View From the Porch

This will be my last glance from the Porch of Smith-Cadbury as president of the Historical Society. It has been a privilege to serve the Society and its members and represent you in the community. But before I hop into my rocker for good on April 6, let's take a look at the highlights of what we've accomplished in the last four years.

Because of the hard work and commitment of so many we have accomplished so much. Thanks to Tom and Pam Parkinson, and Trustee Susan Zikmund, the Society saw our first-ever Historic Showcase bring us national recognition with the saving of the c. 1757 Tallman House. This success was followed closely by another fund raising event and a house “on the move,” again because of the Parkinsons, with “Tabletops at Lippincott” a c. 1819 house.

Then there were the new ghost tours, with chair Julie Maravich. And now Julie and her new “team” of volunteers is off and running with the “Porches Revisited” tour coming up May 10. Eight grand porches of Moorestown will be on tour during this first-time event.

Because of a grant from a local foundation, we began an Oral History program to record the memories of Moorestown’s African American community, with volunteer Rich Garvin as the coordinator.

Let us not forget the Nippers—though they are missed for sure, they graced our streets with laughter and activity in 2005 like no other summer in Moorestown that I can remember. It was as much pleasure as it was hard work for me to serve on that committee with the other four Nipper Community partners and HSM representatives John Coles, Sara Homer and Diane Reid.

(continued on next page)
Then there was Smith-Cadbury’s new landscaping, in memory of past president May Borton, and the brick hardscaping, thanks to efforts of former Trustee Sally Gepp! And while our librarian, Stephanie Herz and our web mistress Sara Homer were fast at work sprucing up the library with new computers and new web site, our HP and Community Awareness Committee, with Lisa Knell was always available to consult with the township about issues of Historic Preservation. It has been a treat personally to coordinate the monthly “Historically speaking...” column in the Newsweekly, an endeavor which I hope to continue.

So you see there are so many folks to thank for all the support and encouragement—even for the criticism that helped me along the way. I’d say things are looking pretty good from this old porch, but it is time to let someone else sweep the front steps. Ann, here’s the broom. If you need me, I’ll be out back pulling up some weeds. After all, the garden is where I started.

With great appreciation and affection,

Midge Ingersoll
President

Oral History Project

With a generous grant from a family in Moorestown, the oral history project is moving forward. The project’s aim, in accordance with the grant, is to document the African-American experience in Moorestown. Thus far, four taped interviews have been conducted with individuals who are between the ages of seventy and eighty-nine years old. Their open and sincere revelations of times past have enriched the history of our town and added an appreciation for the diversity of experience that has made it so unique.

The interview tapes are presently being transcribed by a professional in this field in order to ensure the integrity of the taped sessions. The documents thus created will provide a valuable resource for all who are interested in our local history.

More interviews are planned. If you know of anyone who is willing to be interviewed for this project, please contact us.

Moorestown Historical Society,
Richard Garvin, 234-8784
The Historic Architecture of Moorestown Porches

The Historical Society is delighted to welcome guest speaker, Suzanna Barucco, to its Annual Meeting on Thursday April 6th at 7:30 PM at the Moorestown Community House.

Ms. Barucco is the Director of Historic Preservation for Kise Straw & Kolodner, an architectural, planning, preservation and archaeology firm in Philadelphia. She will present a program on the History of the Porch.

Suzanna earned a Master’s Degree in Historic Preservation Planning from Cornell University and has nearly 20 years experience in all aspects of cultural resource management, serving as project manager, lead field investigator, conservator or historian on architectural conservation assessment, building restoration projects, historic structure reports and master plans. She also has extensive experience as a consultant on Federal and State tax credit projects.

This is a unique opportunity to have access to such expertise. Members and guests are invited and encouraged to join us on April 6 for this very interesting and timely presentation. Refreshments will be served.
Porches Revisited

A Tour of Moorestown’s Grand Porches

History of the Porch

The Latin word “porticus” and the Greek work “portico” defined a columned entry to a temple, but dwellings from those times often incorporated columned verandas as shaded walkways around a home. By the Renaissance period in Italy, a “loggia” provided a shaded outdoor space surrounding public buildings and villas of the wealthy.

By the early 18th century, a porch was known as a veranda, loggia, portico, and piazza. By the late 19th century, a “porch” was defined as a “roofed, but incompletely walled living area contiguous to the frame of a house.” But in America, this covered, shady area would be uniquely found attached to the front of a house, creating the American front porch.

Moorestown is a cornucopia of this American architectural phenomenon. Main Street, Chester, Central, Oak, and Prospect Avenues outline superior examples of porches, most constructed from 1860-1920. In Moorestown, the porch thrived, expanded and supported both inherited Quaker wealth and newly acquired industrial American affluence. Whenever possible, even the middle class would add a simple one-story porch to the front of their homes as a statement of fashion. Porches were added over back doors, where the domestic help could enjoy the cool evening breezes.

These stately homes of Moorestown dot Main and Chester and many of our side streets. Many have been newly painted and renovated, and remain tributes to an era of fine design and craftsmanship, of great wealth and prestige. Yes, they remain so we can still ponder, admire, appreciate, and revisit the great American Front Porch.
Travel back in time and experience the variety and delight of Moorestown’s porches . . .

**An Artist’s Studio**  A newer home with a custom-designed front porch . . . the porch will be staged by the homeowner as “An Artist’s Studio.”

**Victorian High Tea**  An 1890 Queen Anne house . . . Diane Burgoyne Interiors will decorate the porch for a “Victorian High Tea.”

**A Haunted Porch!**  A 1920s Victorian Revival house . . . the original front porch features stick balustrades with Doric-style posts . . . Walter Carroll from Patio Homes and Hearth will provide the staging and decoration.

**A Mother’s Day Luncheon Party**  A 1910 Georgian Revival house designed by noted architect Walter Smedley . . . the porch will be decorated by Pauline Vastardis Interiors as “A Mother’s Day Luncheon Party.”

**Up, Up and Away**  An 1889 Queen Anne also designed by Walter Smedley architects . . . inspired by china from Bailey, Banks and Biddle, interior designer Gary Ruff will decorate the porch for a luncheon theme, “Up, Up and Away.”

**Mid-19th Century**  The oldest portion of this elegant white house was built in 1802 and in 1835 the house was further enhanced by front and side porches . . . Audry Shinn Interiors will decorate the porches in a mid-19th century style.

**Turn of the Century Lawn Party**  The porches at Smith-Cadbury Mansion were added in the 19th century . . . today the grounds and porches are celebrating a “Turn of the Century Lawn Party” . . . be sure to come inside and see the Society’s collection of parasols that will be on display.
Searching for Birds!

Did you know that one of John James Audubon’s dearest friends was Edward Harris of Moorestown, New Jersey?

Mr. Harris not only lived in Moorestown, but this wealthy gentleman farmer lived right at Smith-Cadbury Mansion! Mr. Harris helped Audubon a great deal and also accompanied him on several trips. It could be said that he was instrumental in helping Audubon to achieve his place in American history. Unfortunately, the prints that Mr. Harris owned are no longer at the house (although we’ve looked high and low). The family sold them in the early 1900s.

We are looking for people who are willing to share their Audubon prints (any edition) for an upcoming lecture and exhibit. If you or someone you know owns a print that could be loaned to us for this special occasion, please contact Ann Langerhans at 235-5747 or thelangerhans@yahoo.com

2nd Saturday Activities

If you haven’t yet joined us for a great time, there are still two craft sessions this spring. Reservations are appreciated but we still accept all children ages generally from 5 to 12 years old. We have a lot of fun and make beautiful things based on traditional crafts. For parents and grandparents alike, it’s a fun way to spend the afternoon with a child.

We will be meeting to work on a craft project on April 8th and May 13th on the second floor of Smith-Cadbury Mansion between 1:00 and 3:30 p.m.

Please help us plan these events by e-mailing your reservation now to thelangerhans@yahoo.com or by calling 235-5747.

Alex Tsao and Hannah and Caroline Armstrong show off the silhouettes they made at the March 2nd Saturday
Library News

The Historical Society library at Smith-Cadbury has been buzzing with activity. In addition to the usual numerous local requests for information, photos, and research of the archives, we are receiving inquiries from all over the world now that our manuscript collection index is available on the Library of Congress’ National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections on the internet at http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/rlinsearch.html.

We’ve also been busy with our ongoing database project. Many thanks to library volunteer Bill Archer for his tireless data entry efforts on the project and his invaluable knowledge of Moorestown history. Also, a big welcome to three new volunteers, high school students Kaki Wehmann, Rachel Carlton, and Elisa Herz, who have also been assisting in the data entry project and helping out with various other library tasks.

Two new monographs by local authors have been added to our collection recently. *A Quiet Walk Through Time: Excerpts from the Weekly Moorestown Chronicle Newspaper Columns of Percy Lovell 1942-1957*, by Moorestown resident Philip J. Flanders, provides an overview of Moorestown history through the words of “Under the Old Hat” editor Percy Lovell, with extensive photos of local subjects, old and new. Copies are on sale in the Smith-Cadbury gift shop and are available for perusal in the Historical Society library. *Moorestown - Out in the Country: the 1940s & 1950s Airport Road Area*, by Maple Shade resident Dennis Weaver, is a fascinating account of life in the area of Westfield Rd. (aka Airport Rd.) and Borton Landing Road during the ‘40s and ‘50s, with plenty of great photos, both recent and historic.

Those interested in the historic homes of Moorestown and Burlington County will want to check out the online photo album “*Early Houses of Burlington County, New Jersey,*” offered by the New Jersey Division of Archives & Records Management at www.state.nj.us/state/darm/links/guides/pewan001.html. The series contains 110 photos taken by Nathaniel Rue Ewan of Moorestown during the 1930s and 1940s and show 17th to early 19th century private homes and outbuildings all over Burlington County.
Membership News

The Moorestown Historical Society appreciates the continued support of its members. The following new members are recognized:

**FOUNDER’S SOCIETY** ($100 donations)

*John and MaryAnn O’Meara*

For additional membership information, please contact:
MaryAnn Alberti at 856-764-9052 or
call Smith-Cadbury at 856-235-0353.

Membership renewal forms will be mailed at the end of March. A timely response is always greatly appreciated. New members are always welcome. If you have a friend or neighbor who might be interested in joining the Historical Society and its efforts to preserve our legacy, please encourage them to contact us.

**NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- Friends of Smith-Cadbury $25 ___
- Friends of Research Genealogy $35 ___
- Founders Society $100 ___
- Thomas Moore Society $500 ___
- 1738 Society $1,000 ___

DATE:

TELEPHONE:

**Make check payable to:**

*Historical Society of Moorestown*

**Mail to:** Historical Society of Moorestown
P.O. Box 477
Moorestown, NJ 08057

Membership renewals will be arriving shortly

Please fill out the address, phone and e-mail information on your renewal form as we are hoping to publish a membership booklet this year.

If you’d like to become more involved with the museum or work of the Society let us know and we will contact you.
Can you help out during the Porch Tour on May 10th?

No experience necessary

Send in the form or call Cathy Ruff at 856-235-8631

We Need Docents for the Porch Tour

NAME
ADDRESS
PHONE
E-MAIL

I am willing to volunteer during the following times:

Wednesday, May 10, Porch Tour
(at least three people are needed for each time slot)

10:00 - 12:00 ___
12:00 - 2:00 ___
2:00 - 4:00 ___
4:00 - 6:00 ___
6:00 - 8:00 ___

We have a Wrought Iron trolley rail that holds the attention of visitors.

Mrs. Dorothy Shockey and daughter Bonnie stop by to see Jim Laeslie during his “Trains & Trolleys of Moorestown” exhibit at Smith-Cadbury.
**SAVE THESE DATES:**

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<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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<td><em>(at Moorestown Community House)</em></td>
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<td>April 8</td>
<td>Second Saturday Children's Craft</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>(at Smith-Cadbury)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Porches Revisited</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>Second Saturday Children's Craft</td>
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<td>May 22, 24, 31</td>
<td>Third Grade Tours of Smith-Cadbury</td>
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<td>June 10</td>
<td>Moorestown Day</td>
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**HELP! No experience required!** Volunteers are needed to work as hostesses at Smith-Cadbury during our “Porches Revisited” tour on May 10th (2-hour shifts between 10 AM and 6 PM). If you can help, call Cathy Ruff at 856-235-8631.