



Volume 41, Issue One, April 2024

<https://www.cranburyhistory.org/blog>

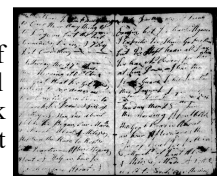
## George Washington Really Did Sleep in Cranbury - And So Did His Army

by John Whiteclay Chambers II

The question “Did George Washington sleep overnight in Cranbury?” has been answered. Washington—and his army of some 8,000 troops - did stay overnight in Cranbury. In fact, they stayed from 9:00 AM, Friday, June 26 until about 7:00 AM, Saturday, June 27, 1778, on their way to the Battle of Monmouth Court House in the American Revolution a day later on Sunday, June 28th.

Members of the CHPS historical research team, John Chambers, Karen Kelley and Steven Golisano, found the hand-written journal of a sergeant, Ebenezer Wild, 1<sup>st</sup> Massachusetts Regiment. Preserved in the Massachusetts Historical Society, Wild’s journal gave the time that the army and its commander left Cranbury the next morning.

Chambers deciphered Wild’s scrawled, unpunctuated entries. (Pictured Wild Journal end of June 26 and all of 27, 1778). Although the sergeant rarely gave the names of towns, he did give dates. By comparing his journal with several other first-hand accounts, it is clear that Wild referred to Cranbury when he wrote that they “took our lodging” there (on June 26) and that the next morning (June 27), “about 7 OCK We Began Our March.” That was key. 7:00 AM meant they stayed the entire night.



The committee also found other contemporary documents confirming that the army had spent the night in Cranbury. In a hand-written letter Sam Adams, son of famous patriot, a surgeon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Continental Artillery, wrote on Friday “night we lay [his term for slept] at Cranbury & Saturday at Pennelupon [today Manalapan].” That document is at the New York Historical Society. The Order Book of Washington’s 10<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment, had the brigadier general’s orders for an inspection the next morning of all troops to insure their weapons and ammunition were ready for use in battle. That document is at the Museum of the American Revolution.

While in Cranbury, Washington had his headquarters at the house of Dr. Hezekiah and Mary Stites, located at what is now 53 South Main Street (the old house was knocked down in 1850, when presumably the current house was erected). Major General the Marquis de Lafayette, heading south to command the Advance Force, had spent the previous night at Stites’ house after conferring there with Colonel Alexander Hamilton. The house’s demolition may have ended any oral tradition in Cranbury that Washington had slept here.

The twenty-two hours spent in Cranbury by Washington and his army were important. While the army prepared for battle, the commander-in-chief, dispatched half a dozen letters from Cranbury to subordinate commanders. Importantly, he replaced the young, impetuous Lafayette as head of the Advance Force with the more senior and experienced Major General Charles Lee, thus avoiding an impulsive premature attack upon the British that Lafayette had planned. Instead, the Marquis and his distant and undersupplied units were ordered to join Lee’s troops in Englishtown. Such a combined Advance Force would number nearly 5,000 soldiers. It would be located half a dozen miles in front of Washington and his army’s main body and half a dozen miles from the enemy.



Emmanuel Leutze’s heroic painting  
“Washington Rallying the Troops at Monmouth

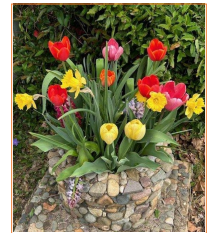
Two days later, Lee and his Advance Force began the battle on June 28, 1778. Lee’s sizable but disorganized force attacked the rear of the British Army on the march. But the British turned and launched a major counterattack, driving Lee’s troops into retreat. Arriving, Washington took personal command. With the main body of the army and some of the Advance Force stationed along the high ground, the Continental Army proved successful in repelling the best units in the British army in a hard-fought battle in extreme summer heat.

The Battle of Monmouth was hailed, in the new United States, as a victory for Washington and the Continental Army. What Washington and his army did in Cranbury had been important in preparing for that battle.

In the heading above are Cranbury’s four historical buildings under CHPS care. From left to right: the Elizabeth M. Wagner History Center, the 1713 East Jersey Cottage, the Cranbury Museum and the Parsonage Barn.

## Co-Presidents' Message

It's a blustery spring day in Cranbury. Our village explodes in pastel colors at this time of year. At the first signs of spring, many of us dash out to local garden stores in order to fill our window boxes and flower pots with spring flowers. This is the time when we also start to take more walks through town as we begin to count the days until our wonderful farm stores reopen.



Spring bulbs planted at Museum by Cranbury Daisies. Photo by Louise Palagyi

How fortunate we all are to live in Cranbury! Just ask any child who ever grew up here! Clearly, when it comes to caring for our historical town, its homes and land, we have been good stewards. We know the importance of our continued efforts in historical preservation and environmentally sound practices. That's what makes Cranbury, NJ such a great place to live!

Many of us volunteer and serve the town in one way or another. Since our society's incorporation in 1967, CHPS has been dedicated to its mission statement: ***Committed to the History and Future of Cranbury***, we are a society of volunteers who support and encourage the preservation of Cranbury Township's land, historic buildings, sites and landmarks through education, stewardship, outreach, research and restoration.

As many of you know, CHPS worked tirelessly to ***preserve the precious farmland*** on the north end of town. We also bought and restored the home at 4 Park Place, which now houses the ***Cranbury Museum*** and its wonderful exhibits, antiques, artifacts and local artists' work. It's also where we offer programs and celebrations, like our Christmas Tea, that are designed for the entire community to enjoy.

Not long ago, our society also stored the original rafters of the historical ***Parsonage Barn*** from behind 10 Symmes Court until the barn could be reconstructed in the barn park on Cranbury Neck Road. Our nonprofit organization had already saved ***The Gristmill's House*** at 6 South Main Street, which is now the Society's History Center. At the History Center, our volunteers welcome visitors and researchers every Thursday from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. Come by and see us some day!

And finally, just a few years ago we saved ***The 1713 East Jersey Cottage*** on Old Trenton Road. We moved the cottage from the south side of Old Trenton to Millstone Park on the north side where we are now busy restoring this old and historic N.J. cottage to its original glory. CHPS has done all this with the help of your membership donations, through your volunteerism and our own fundraising efforts.

Speaking of fundraising, this year we have some exciting events on tap. First, we are bringing back ***The Historical House Tour***, which will be held on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. This event will conclude with refreshments in the courtyard of the First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury before a wonderful free concert at 3:30 pm in the historical church sanctuary.

***The Cranbury Wassail*** is also tentatively scheduled for mid-December of 2024. At the last Wassail, 150 visitors were invited to experience *wassailing* through town during the holiday season. Participants visited five homes that night as wine, cider, appetizers and desserts were served and historical characters and musical performances were presented.

I know it's hard to believe, but CHPS been serving the community of Cranbury since 1967! We ask now that you please help us to continue our work by renewing your membership, or by becoming a new member of CHPS this year! You can do this easily on our Website at: <https://www.cranburyhistory.org> or... by filling out the membership form that is part of this newsletter. Mail the form, with your check, to: *The History Center, 6 South Main Street, Cranbury, N.J. Attn: Membership*. Any support you can offer would be greatly appreciated! Being a member of our society is just one way to insure that Cranbury continues to be a thriving historical town for future generations!

Best Wishes for a Happy Spring!!

*Jo D. Andrews and Audrey Smith*

CHPS Co-Presidents

### Correction

In the article *Saving Cranbury's Historic "Old School"* By Jo D. Sechler Andrews, Page 4, published Nov 2023, the names of the original members of the Save the Old School Committee should read *Clara and Charles Amend, Don Armstrong, Allen Burns, Carl (Jake) Cook, Mary Morgan, Kate Shankweiler, Mahbubeh Stave, Emma Stults and Barbara "Babs" Thomsen*.

## Matthew Alexander Rue and Bottle Collecting

By Jerry Pevahouse

Matthew Alexander Rue of Cranbury is well known by area bottle collectors. His bottles rates among the rarest New Jersey soda bottles, and include four green variants of different rarities, three of which are pontil and one is flat based. Some of the variants have the town name.



My wife and I moved from Tennessee to New Jersey in 1970, and soon after I began bottle collecting. My wife's grandmother bought a Victorian home on Main Street. That home had been Mr. Rue's home from about 1850 until his death in 1898. Interested in Mr. Rue, I paid attention to various reports by locals finding Rue bottles around town. The bottles would show up in the most unusual places, such as inside the wall of a home on Maplewood Avenue, another in a neighbor's backyard while digging a flower bed, and another from a cistern behind a house on Main Street in the 1950s. A Rue porter-style bottle was found in a crawl space under the back porch of the old Grist Miller's house on Main Street. That bottle is on display now in the Cranbury Museum on Park Place.

A friend of mine, Mike, passed construction for sewer pipes along Old Trenton Road and noticed a bottle laying on a pile of dirt. He stopped and found a complete pontil version of a Rue Mineral Water bottle. The bottle was in good condition with only a few small scuffs and is a prized part of my bottle collection today ... thanks to Mike!

What is remembered locally as the old Rue Distillery building still stands on Station Road adjacent to Rue's home on Main Street. It had been converted into a private residence, but still looks much as it did when it was used for the Rue bottling and cider business. Though identified on old maps of Cranbury as the "Rue Distillery," Rue actually never distilled anything. His only mildly alcoholic drink was his Champagne Cider, a sparkling fermented beverage. Five Rue Champagne Cider bottles were unearthed by a landscaping company while digging flower beds. Years ago, it would have been a bargain to buy one of these bottles for a thousand dollars or more.

I have a box of fragments of Rue bottles I found in and around Cranbury. Digging along Brainerd Lake during the Lake Dredging Project in 2022, we dug up at least four broken Rue bottles. While disappointing not to find the elusive Champagne Cider bottle, we did find numerous other colored soda bottles of the 1860s to 1870s.

My interest in Rue has grown over the years, not just because we shared an interest in bottles, but because he was a prominent town elder, businessman and well-respected member of the community. During the 1860s he was a trustee of the Presbyterian Church and under the leadership of the prominent minister John Gaston Symmes, erected the first NJ monument to local Civil War dead.



Though remembered by bottle collectors as a bottler, Rue was listed on census records as a wholesale cider manufacturer. A description in the 1880s directory of businesses in Union and Middlesex Counties states Rue entered the bottling business in 1852 and ended about 1866. The 1850 US Census lists Rue as a wheelwright in business with Peter Bergen, who continued as the local wheelwright long after Rue went his own way.

Across the street from the original distillery business is a large track of land on which Rue's apple orchard stood. Today that land is occupied by a housing development built around the 1960s. It was recorded that Rue's cider operation could produce 300 gallons of cider a day in season.

Rue headed the committee to work with the State Legislature to incorporate Cranbury as a town in 1872. The US Postal Service in the early 1870s required that small rural communities must standardize names or they would not be eligible for a post office. Cranbury kept its Post Office thanks to Rue. Before incorporating, Cranbury was often called "Cranberry" on maps and official documents. Rue used the same spelling he had always used on his bottles "Cranbury." With his death in 1898 Matthew Rue's contributions and accomplishments set noble standards which contributed to making our small village a beautiful prosperous place to live and raise a family. (Photos by Jerry Pevahouse)

## Cranbury Proud - Path to Preservation

By Karen Kelley

Walk through the new exhibit at the Cranbury Museum and see how the town worked hard to preserve historic Cranbury. Threatened by building disrepair, demolition, a county dump, a proposed highway and excessive development during the past sixty years, Cranbury maintained its historic charm due to the activism of its residents and organizations.

Read the documents, letters, applications, announcements, posters, the proclamations and acknowledgments that depict Cranbury's long journey to protect the historic town as seen in 2024. View the photos, artifacts and artwork that help tell the preservation story. See the old desk and tools of the architect/builder of the Old Cranbury School, which was slated for demolition. Cheer the before and after pictures of our renovated homes & buildings.

*Cranbury Proud-Path to Preservation* is featured at the Cranbury Museum, a home renovated, furnished and maintained for 52 years by volunteers of the Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society. The Cranbury Museum is open on Sundays, 1- 4pm. This exhibit will run through July.

## Eagle Scout Enhances Museum Walkway

Thank you to Neel Naladala of BSA Troop 52, who completed his Eagle Scout project by rebuilding the side brick walkway at the Cranbury Museum. The new walkway, using the original bricks, enhances pedestrian and equipment passage and provides better water drainage. Scout Master Tim Brennan provided supervision and additional bricks for the project.



Photo by Karen Kelley

### VOLUNTEER DOCENTS FOR THE CRANBURY MUSEUM

#### Share your love of History and Cranbury!

Volunteer docents are needed at the Cranbury Museum located at 4 Park Place, Cranbury, New Jersey. The Museum was established in 1972 to highlight local history and is in need of enthusiastic and dedicated individuals to help it come alive for the residents and visitors to the museum.

The Cranbury Museum is open on Sundays from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

To learn more, please contact Dr. Sue Saravalli, Docent Coordinator, at [ssaravalli@comcast.net](mailto:ssaravalli@comcast.net) or (609) 529-1767

## Treasures in the Museum Basement

By Syra Bhatt

A saunter through the Cranbury Museum highlights the richness of our town's history, be it the wide pine floorboards in the dining room, the blueberry-buttermilk paint of the hearth, or the dainty little details that adorn the embroidery hanging on the walls. I've always admired the artifacts on the first and second floors, but last summer I was introduced to a room with just as many treasures as its upstairs counterparts: the museum basement.

Home to a miscellaneous array of items – farm tools, Civil War artifacts, products from old Cranbury businesses, and Lenape arrowheads, to name a few – the basement's variety gives it a unique charm compared to the other decorated rooms in the rest of the house. Despite that, I was informed of the volunteer assistance desperately needed to update the space, and from there on our project was born: cleaning, reorganizing, re-labeling, and updating the basement to preserve it for future visitors.

After approval and partnership with museum curator Karen Kelly, I pitched the project to The Helene Cody Scholars Program, a selective leadership program that supports high school student-led community service projects in the greater Princeton area. Since receiving funding from the program in September 2023, we have relocated the early 20th-century doilies, laces, fans, and other fashion items to the upstairs sewing room. We also disinfected the antique case that held the aforementioned items, ridding it of mold and dust and filling it with cleaned artifacts from the Civil War and The Revolutionary War. We have also disassembled and disinfected the Native American artifact case, which holds arrowheads, spears, rocks, and parts of stoneware found in the Cranbury area. In addition to cleaning specific areas, we plan to update the labeling system to be uniform in font, paper type, lamination, and format. We've also experimented with sustainable lighting options, such as puck lights with rechargeable batteries and LED strips, to make said labels easier to read in darker areas of the basement.

Local Girl Scout Troop #70195 has also expressed interest in our project, and we've been grateful to have extra sets of hands helping us with our goals. In the next few months, we hope to finish installing labels and lighting in time for the Helene Cody Scholar Expo this summer. In the meantime, feel free to stop by lending a hand or to check out our progress! We appreciate any help from the community.



Syra (on right) and her sister Sanya making labels for the artifacts in the basement.

Photo by Purba Lahiri



## History Center Report

By Linda M. Schilling, History Center Director

The History Center continues to be busy on Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm and often after.

During February we had visitors interested in our Cranbury Black History Project that Karen Kelley and William Wright have been working on. Several visitors came in to look for genealogical and house history information, and we received several email and phone requests for genealogy information.

On Saturday, March 9th, the Plainsboro Junior Archivists visited the History Center to research the separation of the Plainsboro area from the Cranbury schools in the early 20th century when the Township of Plainsboro was formed. In addition, the children were each researching significant historical persons in Plainsboro and Cranbury .

We are working on finalizing our Memorandum of Understanding with the Cranbury Library and have many of our old Bibles ready to take to the Library. Each Bible is labeled and packed in an archival box. Genealogical information in the Bibles was photographed and will be saved in our files as many of the Bibles are very fragile.

Karen Kelley, Eileen McGillan, Michaele Kehrt, William Wright and I continue to volunteer time every Thursday at the History Center. Our intern, Matt Holland, who started volunteering on Thursdays in June 2023, is now working at Princeton University Library. We hope to see you at the History Center on April 20<sup>th</sup> for the Walking Tour and April 27<sup>th</sup> for the Porch Sale!

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### New Cranbury Junior Historians Program

By Delpha Georges

CHPS will be providing a weekly 30-to-45 minute history-themed activity for the 4th to 8th grade age group for the seven weeks of Summer Camp 2024. Each week will be a unique activity for those campers who attend multiple weeks. We will include a flyer to send home about the activity the students participated in with additional information about the Society and our mission.

### Countdown to

### The 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution!

On July 4, 2026, New Jersey will commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution.

CHPS is pleased to announce the formation of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution Committee. With Dr. John Chambers as advisor, committee members Karen Kelley, Linda Schilling, Purba Lahiri, Jean Golisano, Louise Palagyi, Bobbie Marlowe, and Kelly Lavery are planning the commemoration in 2026, pre-events in 2024 and 2025 and post events in the following years.

CHPS is also pleased to announce partnerships with key organizations dedicated to the preservation, teaching and interpretation of history in NJ. We are a Proud Partner of Revolution NJ, Heritage Partner of Crossroads of the American Revolution, and the New Jersey Historical Society. For further information, visit RevNJ.org and revolutionarynj.org.

We look forward to exploring and celebrating NJ's and Cranbury's contribution to the American Revolution and commemorating this milestone anniversary together.

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### A Third Edition of George Washington in Cranbury by John Whiteclay Chambers II Will Be Published This Year!

This edition will include new information and additional illustrations. CHPS published the first edition of the book in 2003. In 2004 Dr. Chambers received an award for this publication from the League of Historical Societies. The second edition of the book was published in 2010. We look forward to the third edition which includes historical evidence to prove that George Washington stayed overnight in Cranbury on his way to the Battle of Monmouth.

#### IN MEMORIAM

*The Society notes with sadness the passing of the following members:*

Lillian Conley—November 12, 2023

Dorothy Kocher—January 1, 1024

Beverly Luck—January 30, 2024

## Past Events

### Welcome to the Cranbury Museum

Using artifacts and a slide presentation, curator Karen Kelley and docents, Lynn Lakner and Sue Saravalli shared a glimpse of the Cranbury Museum with the audience at the Cranbury Library on November 14, 2023.



Photo by Karen Kelley

### Christmas Tea

by Karen Kelley, Museum Curator

The Annual Christmas Tea at the Cranbury Museum was held on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1-4 pm. We appreciate the musicians, Girls Scouts, Daisies, Cub Scouts and volunteers who helped with decorating, baking, providing music, caroling and hosting. Everyone seemed to enjoy the tea and decorated museum as well as the new exhibit on antique and vintage toys. At least 125 people attended the Christmas Tea.



The exhibit, *All I Want for Christmas...Toys of the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century* was open through the end of January 2024. Featured in the exhibit was a charming cabin doll house,



Photos by Karen Kelley

## CHPS Annual Membership Meeting

CHPS was honored to host Civil War era reenactors Steve and Irene Curcio who portrayed William Henry and Frances Seward. Attendees were treated to stories of William's affairs as Governor of New York and Lincoln's Secretary of State, as well as stories from his childhood through later life. His wife Frances was there to add insight into her life as an intellectual, committed abolitionist, and mother to their five children.



Photo by Purba Lahiri

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### Honoring Cranbury's Black History

In honor of Black History Month, the Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society invited Society members to drop by the History Center on Thursday, February 15 or February 22 to view a current project in progress. The volunteer staff (Karen Kelley, Linda Schilling, Eileen McGillan and Intern William Wright) are organizing and beginning to digitize the Black History files. As the volunteers conduct further research, the History Center is expanding its content on the Black History of Cranbury. The files include some of the earliest Cranbury families and their stories, starting as early as the 18th century.

Several Society members visited the History Center during February and learned about this project, begun a year ago. Anyone who has information to share is encouraged to contact the History Center

The Elizabeth M. Wagner History Center, located at 6 South Main Street is open on Thursdays between 10 am and 1 pm or by appointment.

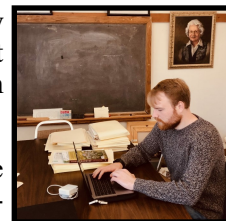


Photo by Karen Kelley

Intern William Wright pictured at the History Center researching early records for the Black History Project.

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### Parsonage Barn



The Society schedules events at the barn during the spring, summer, and fall, and it has been the setting for wedding ceremonies, wedding photos and other events. To arrange for a tour or to schedule your own event, please email [historycenter@comcast.net](mailto:historycenter@comcast.net)

## 1713 East Jersey Cottage Update

Restoration work at the 1713 East Jersey Cottage is going full steam ahead.

Using the original river rocks, stone mason Earl Groendyke, completed the front and rear exterior steps on November 10 and December 13, 2023 respectively.



Photos by Karen Kelley



A new cedar shake roof with a moisture barrier has been installed on the cottage. Work began on November 9 and was completed on Nov 30, 2023.

Nelson Mount, our carpenter, completed exterior trim work related to the new roof and thresholds above the stone steps. Work was completed on December 23, 2023.

In January 2024, skilled volunteers began chipping away at the faux brick that was applied to the old fireplace on the first floor in the 1970's. After more prep work is completed by volunteers, a contractor will begin the restoration of the interior brick nogging and plaster walls.

The 1713 East Jersey Cottage now has 593 followers on Instagram! (Cranbury\_1700\_house)

Donations and volunteers are greatly appreciated.

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### CHPS Business Members

We appreciate our business members. Please help us to show our gratitude by supporting their businesses.

Breakwater Treatment and Wellness  
Cranbury Comfort Systems  
Steven J. Golisano Architect LLC  
Herrs Plumbing and Heating Services Inc  
Richard Grub & Associates  
Allen & Stults Co.

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### Museum Acquisition

Sarah and Susan Danser donated this desk from the Old Cranbury School to CHPS. It is being used in the current exhibit, Cranbury Proud - Path to Preservation at the Cranbury Museum.



Photo by Karen Kelley

## CRANBURY HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION SOCIETY

### 2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD AND TRUSTEES

#### OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Audrey Smith & Jo D. Andrews
VP/Program Chairperson	Linda Morgan
Recording Secretary	Open Position
Corresponding Secretary	Eileen McGillan
Treasurer	Bob Dreyling
Museum Curator	Karen Kelley

#### TRUSTEES

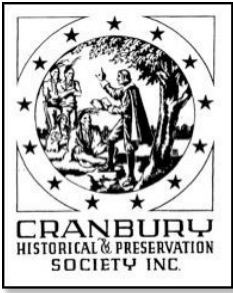
2022-2024	2023-2025	2024-2026
Steven Golisano	Kathy Jani	Anupurba Lahiri
Karen Kelley	Michaele Kehrt	Eileen McGillan
Bobbie Marlowe	Linda Schilling	Tim Brennan
Cheryl Clarke	George Smith	Jay Taylor
Joan Weidner	Bonnie Wagman	Heather Keltz Scott

#### HONORARY TRUSTEES

Bill Bunting	Norma Swale	Jan Wagner
Jerry Pevahouse	Ginny Swanagan	John Chambers

#### COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

<b>Acquisitions</b>	Karen Kelley, Eileen McGillan, Michaele Kehrt, Susan Saravelli, Linda Schilling
<b>Buildings and Grounds</b>	
Museum:	Ed Kelley
History Center:	Open Position
1713 East Jersey Cottage:	John Chambers, Bob Dreyling, Steven Golisano, Karen Kelley, Bobbie Marlowe, Audrey Smith
Docents	Sue Saravelli
Education	Delpha Georges
Exhibits	Karen Kelley
Finance	Bob Dreyling, Kathy Jani, Jay Taylor, George Smith, Steve Silverman, JoD Andrews, Brian Barry, Audrey Smith, Linda Schilling, Karen Kelley
Fundraising	Committee
Gardens	Louise Palagyi, Cheryl Clarke
History Center Director	Linda Schilling
Historic Preservation	Mark Berkowsky
Membership	Audrey Smith, Michaele Kehrt
Museum Inspectors	George Smith
Nominating Committee	Karen Kelley
Parsonage Barn	Audrey Smith
Publicity/Media	Delpha Georges
Newsletter Editors	Kathy Jani, Anupurba Lahiri, Jean Golisano
Website/Social Media	Heather Keltz Scott



**Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society**  
**6 South Main Street**

**Cranbury Museum**  
4 Park Place East  
Open Sundays 1 pm to 4 pm & by appt.  
Tel: 609-655-2611

**Cranbury History Center**  
6 South Main Street  
Open Thursdays 10 am to 12:30 pm & by appt.  
Tel: 609-860-1889

Email: [historycenter@comcast.net](mailto:historycenter@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.cranburyhistory.org](http://www.cranburyhistory.org)  
Twitter: [@cranburyhistory](https://twitter.com/cranburyhistory)  
Facebook: Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society.  
Instagram: [Cranbury\\_1700s\\_house](https://www.instagram.com/cranbury_1700s_house)

**UPCOMING CHPS EVENTS**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

March 24 to July 28 - Museum Exhibit "Cranbury Proud - Path to Preservation"

April 20 - Preservation New Jersey's Visit to Cranbury, 10 am to 1 pm, Walking tour of downtown Cranbury and its historic sites with CHPS. Reservations are required. RSVP at [www.preservationnj.org](http://www.preservationnj.org)

April 27 - Porch Sale at History Center

May 5 - A Conversation with Mark Berkowsky about Cranbury Preservation. To register, contact Karen Kelley at [cranchris@comcast.net](mailto:cranchris@comcast.net)

May 27 - Memorial Day Parade

June to August - Cranbury Township Summer Camp - New Cranbury Junior Historians Program for all registered 4th to 8th graders.

Sept 21 - Tavern Tidbits (7:00 to 9:30 pm)

Sept 28 - Historic House Tour

Sept 29 to Oct 27 - Einstein Exhibit at Museum

December - Wassail (Date to be announced)

Please consider volunteering at the House Tour and Wassail events. Contact Audrey Smith at [aud123abc@aol.com](mailto:aud123abc@aol.com)

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Tavern Tidbits at the Cranbury Inn**

The 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution Committee is planning an event at the Cranbury Inn for Saturday, September 21st, 7:00-9:30 pm. *Tavern Tidbits at the Cranbury Inn* will introduce the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution that culminates in 2026. *Tavern Tidbits* will be a fun-filled evening, where you can greet your neighbors, learn a bit about Cranbury & the American Revolution and enjoy a signature drink & tasty appetizers. Your ticket will also help fund the publication of the third edition of the booklet, *George Washington in Cranbury* by Dr. John Chambers. The new edition includes current research that finally answers the question, "Did George Washington Sleep Here?" Tickets are limited and will be on sale in late Spring. Check the CHPS website soon for updated information.

**2024 Museum Closing Dates**

Mother's Day - May 12  
Father's Day - June 16  
July 4th Weekend - July 7  
Labor Day Weekend - September 1  
Day after Cranbury Day - September 8  
Thanksgiving Weekend - December 1  
Christmas Weekend - December 22  
New Year's Weekend - December 29