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

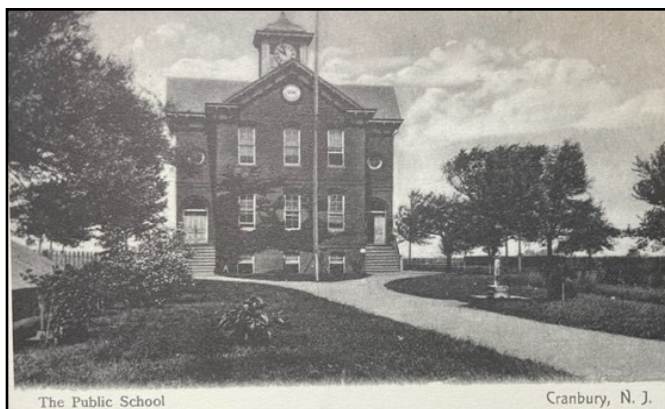
## Saving Cranbury's Historic "Old School"

By Jo D. Sechler Andrews

When I was growing up in town, *The Old School* was the name of the historic brick building with the white clock tower located at the end of Schoolhouse Lane. Today that building is called, "Town Hall" and there is quite a story regarding how the residents and preservationists in our town saved *The Old School* from demolition in the 1960's and 70's. But before getting into that, here is some of the early history of Cranbury School from John Whiteclay Chambers II's wonderful book, "Cranbury: A New Jersey Town from the Colonial Era to the Present."

Cranbury School (*The Old School*) was built in 1896 and opened its doors for learning in 1897. At its inception *The Old School* housed four classrooms. "In the first year, 159 students filled its old fashioned seats and desks. Each of the four rooms contained a different department: primary, grammar, intermediate, and high school. As the town's population grew, a south wing was added in 1906 and a north wing in 1922." (Chambers, 168)

As the town's population grew and more homes were built, added classrooms were also needed for Cranbury School's burgeoning student body. In the 1950's the Board of Ed. began building a series of additional buildings to the school, with a one-story brick addition to the south for kindergarten, first and second grade and another to the west. A large gymnasium with a stage for performances and assemblies was also built during the late 1950's, as well as two locker rooms and six classrooms in the Junior High School Wing. (Continued on Page 3)



Original School Building (CHPS File)

## Cranbury School Memories

By Bonnie Beckford Wagman

In September 1953, an eager group of five-year-old boys and girls went hopping and skipping into the kindergarten classroom of Mrs. Jenny Stackhouse. It was a colorful and welcoming room on the extreme left hand side of the one story brick structure incorporating four elementary classrooms for kindergarten, first and second graders to the oldest part of the school. In kindergarten the girls all wore dresses and the boys were smartly dressed. No jeans or sneakers were in sight. Kindergarten was only half a day. In September, the "walkers" went to school in the morning and the bus students went to school in the afternoon. In January, it was the reverse.

The kindergarten room was a magical place with wonderful play spaces, real desks (kid size) and our own bathrooms (kid size). We even had a play kitchen where we cooked many exciting meals with our imaginations. In the middle of the room, right by the piano, was a large braided rug where many happy memories were formed, and where we learned songs that we would teach our own children and grandchildren. Mrs. Stackhouse was part concert pianist and part contortionist and could play the piano while the eyes in the back of her head kept us under control. (Continued on Page 2)

### WE HAVE A NEW NEWSLETTER HEADING!

Thank you to local Artist, Nadine Berkowsky, Cranbury resident and Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society member for creating the new beautiful and colorful heading of your newsletter depicting the four historical buildings under our care. From left to right above: The Elizabeth M. Wagner History Center, the 1713 East Jersey Cottage, The Cranbury Museum and the Parsonage Barn. Nadine has often shared her artistic talents with CHPS over many years. A few notable examples are the renderings done for the Walking Tour of Historic Cranbury booklet, The Cook's Tour of Cranbury cookbook, and artwork designed for House Tours. The Cranbury Panorama oil painting, which Nadine created in honor of the town's Tercentennial Celebration, hangs in the Elizabeth M Wagner History Center.

## *Co - Presidents' Message*

*Jo D. Andrews and Audrey Smith*

Dear CHPS Members,

At this time of the year, we look forward to Thanksgiving, a time to feel thankful for what we have. Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society is fortunate to have four buildings under our care. The Cranbury Museum and the 1713 East Jersey Cottage are owned by the Society. The Elizabeth M. Wagner History Center and the Parsonage Barn are owned by Cranbury Township and leased by the Society, which is responsible for the maintenance of both. As you can imagine, caring for all of these buildings requires effort and resources. CHPS is thankful for you, our members who give your time and support through your membership and donations.



We are pleased to announce that our Annual Membership meeting will be at the Cranbury Public Library, Park Place West, on Monday, January 8 at 7 pm. Along with refreshments and the election of Officers and Board members, we will enjoy a portrayal by Steve and Irene Curcio of William Henry Seward, who was Secretary of State in the Lincoln administration and his wife, Frances Miller Seward, an abolitionist. Irene and Steve are CHPS members and have done the Seward portrayal in Gettysburg and other places.

Happy Thanksgiving with our thanks and appreciation,

Audrey & Jo D.

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### **Cranbury School Memories** (continued from Page 1)

Down the hall from the kindergarten classroom, and connected to the cafeteria, were the first and second grade classrooms. Each day one lucky kindergarten student was given the job of going down the hall with the little wooden wheelbarrow to pick up the milk and cookies for the class. The other students cheered the arrival of that wheelbarrow, but emblazoned on my brain is the memory of the terror I felt with the daily arrival of that wheelbarrow. I hate milk. I made every excuse not to drink it. One day, I attempted to escape, shouting over my shoulder as I tumbled down the stairs, "I have to go home, I forgot my vitamin pill."

When we became third graders, the class moved to the old section of the school. The building was imposing, no longer kid-sized. We felt so important. The Old School was wonderful with its big wooden windows, high ceilings, gleaming old wooden floors and belching radiators where we could dry our mittens in minutes on a snowy day. Everything in the building was cleaned and polished to a standard that would pass inspection at the Ritz. The washrooms in the basement were old and dark, but always spotlessly clean.

On the right side of the basement, in what is now the Senior Center, we had an auditorium, which doubled as an air raid shelter. It wasn't a very exciting room, but we didn't know anything else. On the other side of the basement, was a tiny space, the school library. Using the Dewey Decimal System, Librarian Mrs. Janet Reece taught us how to find the perfect book. We wandered through the old wooden drawers with the file cards that contained a whole world of wonderful people, places and things outside of our little town. If we were too lazy to look ourselves, Mrs. Reece would suggest the perfect book. She knew every student and what would appeal to him or her. It was a happy place, even though we heard a lot of "shhhhhh."

Every classroom was utilized back then so when our class reached the third grade, construction began on a new, modern addition to the old school. For those of us who were lucky enough to be in Mrs. Seiber's third grade class, we had a bird's eye view of the construction of a real gym and auditorium for the school. Two students were chosen every day to go and inspect the construction site and record the progress. We were all excited about the gym, the locker rooms (little did we know that we would later have to change into those horrid blue gym uniforms in there) and the six new classrooms plus offices for the Principal and the nurse. It was exciting to see it all come to life, and we looked forward to the time when we would be the big kids attending classes in the sparkling new wing with the four full length mirrors!

For three wonderful years, while we were in the third, fourth and fifth grades, our class occupied The Old School building. It was warm, familiar and comfortable, and we often heard the "old timers" in town tell us about their experiences in those very classrooms sitting at the same desks we were using in 1956. Today, when we go through Town Hall, it is hard to resist telling everyone we meet that "this was my fourth (or third, or fifth) grade classroom and I remember ..."

In many ways, that wonderful old building, which should have been in a Norman Rockwell painting, still represents to me the quintessential school building. I know that the modern, sleek school buildings are more popular, but they do not have the character and warmth, or hold the smell of wax and wet mittens on the radiators. I am so grateful to the dedicated and intelligent people who fought so hard to preserve it.

## Saving Cranbury's Historic "Old School" (continued from Page 1)

During 1950's and early 60's *The Old School* housed third, fourth and fifth grade classrooms. The building had a small auditorium with a stage in the basement, which is now our Senior Center and Polling Place. Town Hall's Meeting Room was a fourth grade classroom. The Gourgaud Gallery was a third grade classroom and the smaller room beside it, with its window facing west, was a second and third grade classroom. Above Town Hall's Meeting Room there was a fourth/fifth classroom. Below it was the library in what is now the Boy Scout Room. A fifth grade classroom was above the Gourgaud Gallery and an Art Room was also on the second floor with windows looking out onto Schoolhouse Lane.

By 1964, Cranbury School was once again overflowing. That's when the Board of Ed. (BOE) made a big decision. The BOE proposed to the town that *The Old School* should be demolished in order to make room for a larger and more efficient building. At the time, the BOE considered *The Old School* an outdated facility for school classrooms and thought it was a wiser choice to raze *The Old School* and build a one story building in its place. (Chambers, 168)



Third grade class in today's Construction Office (CHPS File)

This proposal by the Board of Ed. immediately set the preservationists in town into motion. Their mission: to save the historic *Old School* and its clock tower. The preservationists first formed a committee called The Save the Old School Committee (SOSC) had then began researching ways to protect *The Old School*. After years of heated township meetings and lots of hard work and research SOSC was finally able to place *The Old School* on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places on May 6, 1971. It was then added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 21, 1971 and finally, it was saved from demolition by public referendum in 1971.

But still... *The Old School* remained at risk. The township gave SOSC, which by then had incorporated into Cranbury Landmarks Inc., one year to find a use for the building. Legal and political battles over its renovation and use then began. SOSC and Cranbury Landmarks members, along with volunteers, local builders and designers had already begun the renovation work needed. Many of them hammered, scraped, spackled and painted the interior of the building as local tradesmen rewired the building. Despite these arduous efforts by Landmarks, the Board of Ed. still began soliciting bids for *The Old School's* demolition, a move that was halted only by a court injunction obtained by Cranbury Landmarks Inc.

In a July 20, 2001 article written by Casha Caponegra in centraljersey.com, Robert Craig of The New Jersey Historic Preservation Office explained that the year's stay from demolition awarded through the courts, "gave the building a measure of protection from public undertakings. Any project concerning the building, whether it be demolition or restoration, would have to be reviewed and authorized by this NJ's Preservation office before it could be carried out." This was done because The New Jersey Historic Preservation Office considered the building an important landmark that provided a glimpse into the foundations of modern education. "The Old School is a good example of the schools built in the aftermath of the state's passage of a school consolidation act in 1894." Mr. Craig explained, "The state, at that time, was trying to get towns to close down one-room schools and open consolidated schools that would be graded. This was a big move in public education, making it more manageable and more like modern schools. It is important that we remember these buildings for the advances in education that they brought." <https://archive.centraljersey.com/2001/07/20/leading-the-fight-for-preservation-of-the-old-school-building>.

I know it's hard to believe, but despite its new official designation, *The Old School* was still not "out of the woods." The Board of Ed. now insisted that Cranbury Landmarks must not only renovate the building, but it had to find a use for the historic schoolhouse. If not, the Board of Ed. was prepared to take legal action to get permission from the State to destroy it. Cranbury Landmarks then made the decision that *The Old School* would become a cultural center for the town and began its search for nonprofit and commercial tenants for the building. Landmarks also reached out to the public for matching donations for grant funds that had been awarded by the National Park Service and the New Jersey Historic Sites Commission in order to complete *The Old School's* restoration. (Continued on Page 4)



### DONATIONS AND ACQUISITIONS

Peter Wise donated two photos he received from Thomas Witt before Mr. Witt moved from Cranbury. The photos are of his grandparents, Emil Witt, Sr. and his wife, Lila Titus Witt (circa 1914-1918) and their farm.



## Saving Cranbury's Historic "Old School" (continued from Page 3)

The restoration was completed in 1974. Cranbury Landmarks then rented out the building to various cultural groups and organizations including The Princeton Ballet Society and the Rutgers Extension Division's Program for Women. SOSC and Cranbury Landmarks founding member, Mahbubeh Stave, is quoted in the above article as saying, "The Old School served the purpose of a cultural center for many years until the BOE needed extra room. We then encouraged BOE to come in and we gave some rooms to the township. Eventually the township needed more rooms and the Board of Education wanted the building back."

Clearly our town owes a debt of gratitude to the original members of The Save the Old School Committee: Charles and Clara Amend, Don Armstrong, Bill Bunting, J. Carl (Jake) Cook, Mary Morgan, Agnus Ostergaard, Kate Shankweiler, Lewis Spense, Mahbubeh Stave, Emma Stults, Stan Tarr, Barbara "Babs" Thomsen, and Norman Wright. Without their initial vision and dedication The Old School and its historic clock tower would have been reduced to a pile of bricks and our beloved Old School building might have existed only in photos and the memories of former students and faculty.



The Old School Today - Cranbury Township Town Hall

by Cranrob/Wikimedia

my grandchildren, I often point to my fourth grade classroom, (Town Hall's Meeting Room) and tell stories of my time in Mrs. Hammond's fourth grade class. And when I go to vote, I remember the ballet classes held in the Old School's basement auditorium and the etiquette classes for seventh and eighth graders that were offered there on Monday evenings. To this day I still enjoy touching the banisters in *The Old School* and feeling my feet on the concrete stairs that used to lead to the old classrooms of the teachers I knew and loved.

In my mind there is no better experience for a child than to be part of a community where education and preservation are paramount. That's why many young families move to Historic Cranbury. They come here not only because our town is quaint and historic, but because it has an excellent school that has been supported, protected and preserved by its residents as a Center for Learning and Culture since 1897. And for that we should all be very proud and grateful!

### Celebration of Cranbury School's 125th Anniversary

By Linda Schilling

On Sunday, April 30, 2023, the Cranbury School recognized its 125th Anniversary with a Community Day Celebration. There were games, food vendors, community tables and activity tables. A Hall of Memories displayed memories from former students and staff members. A 125th Museum in the School Library featured pictures of graduating classes and other pictures and memorabilia gathered by the School with the aid of the Historical Society and Community members. Special thanks are extended to Cranbury School's Rebecca Leonard for all her hard work collecting and organizing the memories and photos. Tommy Nichols, Cranbury School Technology Teacher, created a video from pictures and videos supplied by the Cranbury History Center which was playing during the day in the School Library. The video is available to view on youtube with this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCwGI4DULWo>.



Student leaders led school tours of the old school building (now Town Hall) and there were performances by the Cranbury School Band, Jazz Band and Choir. CHPS organized an "Alumni Chat" featuring Alumni Barbara Wright, Lisa Rue, Jay Taylor, Chris Giovanos Schafer, Jim Taylor and former teacher, Linda Penney. A "sold-out" alumni & community dance held in the gym on Friday evening, April 28th was hosted by DJ Brett Gash & Chris Rollins. At the closing ceremony, a special gift to the school was unveiled in the auditorium – Cranbury's first-ever school song "O Cranbury We Sing" which was the idea of Jennifer Dizler, Principal and Chief School Administrator. Kristin Schenk, Josh Wilson and Gary Charwin composed the song, and Cranbury students performed it at the closing ceremony.

## Past Events

### Cranbury Colonial Fair and Spring Picnic

1713 East Jersey Cottage

By Karen Kelley

Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society sponsored the May 7th Cranbury Colonial Fair and Spring Picnic at the 1713 East Jersey Cottage site to celebrate the initial phase of restoration of the Cottage while acknowledging the building's significance in the American Revolution. The Sons of the American Revolution and BSA Troop 52 opened the celebration with the presentation of colors. Mayor Ferrante presented a proclamation. Senator Linda Greenstein shared in the opening remarks. Many Township Committee members and County Supervisors attended. Colonial music played throughout the afternoon. Colonial games occurred on the fields, coordinated by the Girl Scouts. Vincent and Ann Bodine, owners of the cottage during the American Revolution, shared their story thanks to Lynn Lakner and Peter Wise, our talented reenactors.



Peter Wise and Lynn Lakner (Photo by Anupurba Lahiri)



Photo by Robert Zurfluh

Other activities included: free raffle for a Cranbury Historical Preservation Society throw, book signing by Dr. John Chambers, Native American artifacts display, basket weaving demonstration, herb sale, barn wood crafts, wood craft and tools display, antique and crafts shoppes, American Girl table, Society gifts, honey and assorted plant sales, and colonial cutout boards for photos.

Friends from the Cranbury Library participated. The Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society shared the story of the 1713 East Jersey Cottage. Liberty Tea was served. Apple pie, ice cream, lemonade by the Daisy Troop and delicious food from Market on Main was available throughout the day.

## Cranbury Colonial Fair 2024

Interested in having another Colonial Fair at the 1713 East Jersey Cottage? If we have enough volunteers, the Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society will host this event in May 2024. Please email Karen Kelley at [cranchrisk@comcast.net](mailto:cranchrisk@comcast.net) to volunteer and join the committee.

**Further Information:**  
CHPS Website  
[www.cranburyhistory.org](http://www.cranburyhistory.org)

**Email:**  
[Historycenter@comcast.net](mailto:Historycenter@comcast.net)

**Tel:** 609-655-2611 to hear a recorded message

**Facebook:** *Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society*

**Twitter:** [@cranburyhistory](https://twitter.com/cranburyhistory)



Photo by Karen Kelley

### 1713 East Jersey Cottage Update

Work continues on the 1713 East Jersey Cottage. The construction of the front entry steps has been completed using the original basement stones. Interior preparation is ongoing by skilled volunteers and a new cedar roof is planned.

Instagram: [Cranbury\\_1700\\_house](https://www.instagram.com/Cranbury_1700_house)

**Donations and volunteers are greatly appreciated!**

### IN MEMORIAM

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

Patricia Sullivan - February 25, 2022

Elizabeth-Ann Callaway - May 19, 2023

Patrick Meehan - June 4, 2023

Joan Fraser - July 14, 2023

Thomas Ingegneri - October 7, 2023

## Past Events Continued

### Battle of Monmouth Driving Tour 2023



Washington Rallying the Troops at Monmouth  
by Emanuel Leutze

On June 10th, a driving tour followed General Lafayette's march from Cranbury through Hightstown to Robbins Tavern, a route that was taken two days before the Battle of Monmouth. The driving tour, sponsored by the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield and the Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society, started at the Elizabeth M. Wagner History Center, 6 South Main Street, Cranbury.

The driving tour proceeded to the 1713 East Jersey Cottage on Old Trenton Road. The tour participants learned about this early settler's cottage and its connection to the American Revolution. In 1778, it was the home of the Bodine Family, visited by Lafayette during his stay in Cranbury. James Bodine, the oldest son of the Bodines, served in the American Revolution. Next the driving tour visited the site of Dr. Stite's house at 53 South Main Street. Quartering their advanced troops in Cranbury, Lafayette and Hamilton established headquarters at the Stites house on June 25, 1778. With their advanced troops, both officers left to follow the British by the time General George Washington and his main army arrived in Cranbury on the morning of June 26th.

The driving tour continued to follow Lafayette's route through Hightstown and the Old York Road to the site of Robbins Tavern, located in Clarksburg. It was during these two days, information was gathered, and plans formed for the Battle of Monmouth that occurred on a very hot Sunday, June 28, 1778.

### Mayor's Walk to School

On October 5th, Cranbury School students, parents, faculty, Mayor Ferrante and Committee Members El-Badawi and Scott assembled early in the morning by Memorial Park to participate in the Mayor's Walk to School. The Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society represented by Linda Schilling and Karen Kelley provided an exhibit on the 1713 East Jersey Cottage. Through artifacts and photos, the Society presented the early history of the cottage, the Bodine Family and their connection to the American Revolution. A self-check quiz was provided along with stickers.



Photo by Linda Schilling

### Author Neil King, Jr. Visits Cranbury

On June 22, 2023, CHPS partnered with Cranbury Public Library to present a talk by Neil King Jr., journalist and author of the book, *American Ramble - A Walk of Memory and Renewal*, in which Cranbury is featured. Neil talked about his walk from his home in Washington DC to New York City in the spring of 2021 and his visit to Cranbury during his walk. When he was in Cranbury in April of 2021, he visited Cranbury Museum and met with a few CHPS Board members in the backyard of the Museum.



Photo by Tim Brennan

After his visit, he continued his journey by borrowing Tim Brennan's kayak and heading east toward Monroe Township. He returned to Cranbury in March of 2023, just before his book was published, and had lunch at Teddy's with the same group he had met two years before.

CHPS was pleased to welcome Mr. King back to Cranbury for a book signing at the Elizabeth M. Wagner History Center on July 11, 2023.

### CHPS Porch Sale



Photo by Linda Schilling

On Cranbury Day the Society held a sale of donated items on the History Center Porch, raising approximately \$250. Many residents of the community stopped by and were greeted by CHPS members.

## Cranbury Sampler: Taste of Local Talent

The Cranbury Museum enjoyed an eclectic collection of art in its recent exhibit, Cranbury Sampler: A Taste of Local Talent. Many of the participating artists were Cranbury residents and supporters of the Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society. The artists represent multiple generations, a variety of art media and all bring joy to their audience. We were proud to exhibit the work of the following artists: Louise Palagyi, Wilma Shimer, Prashun Patel, Marvin Sitrin, J. Harold Wells, A Ross Pittman and Courtney Rohrig.



Cranbury Woman's Club Members

Photo by Woman's Club



Courtney Rohrig

Photo by Karen Kelley

## Cranbury Woman's Club Visits Museum

The Cranbury Woman's Club Arts and Cultural Department visited the Cranbury Museum to view the exhibit "A Taste of Local Talent." The tour, led by Karen Kelley, was also joined by Courtney Rohrig, owner of the Nook and Fern, who spoke to the group about her woodblock printing.

### 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. Docents lead tours through the museum and focus on cultural highlights in the exhibit room. This is a perfect opportunity for adults and high school students who are passionate about their town and can commit to one Sunday a month. Training and museum policies will be provided.

To learn more, please contact Dr. Sue Saravalli, Docent Coordinator, at [ssaravalli@comcast.net](mailto:ssaravalli@comcast.net) or (609) 5258-1767.

## CRANBURY HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION SOCIETY

### 2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD AND TRUSTEES

#### OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Audrey Smith & Jo D. Andrews
VP/Program Chairperson	Linda Morgan
Recording Secretary	Jennifer Suttmeier
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, Jo D. 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

## UPCOMING CHPS EVENTS

**December 3, 1 to 4 pm - Annual Christmas Tea** at the Cranbury Museum. There will be music, carol singing, treats, punch, cookies and our famous Christmas Tea. The museum rooms will be decorated for the holiday.



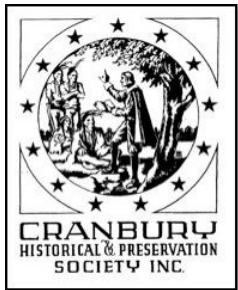
**December 3 - All I Want for Christmas** - Toys of the 19th and 20th Century. Featuring antique and vintage toys, games and books found under the Christmas tree, the Museum exhibit is open on Sundays, 1-4 pm, through January.

**December 9 and 16, 10 am to 2 pm - CHPS Holiday Gift Shop** at the Elizabeth M. Wagner History Center, 6 S. Main Street. Find Cranbury themed items, including Cranbury Dog and our Cranbury Hugging Bears as well as Cranbury utensil sets, glasses, coasters, canisters, ornaments, magnets, trays, tote bags, mugs, photos, notecards, pens, bracelet, throws, pillows, and books.

**January 8, 7 pm—Annual CHPS Membership Meeting** at the Cranbury Public Library, 30 Park Place West. A portrayal of William Henry Seward and his wife Frances Miller Seward will also be presented. Refreshments will be served.

### Hear ye, Hear ye! 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution Committee

On our nation's birthday, July 4, 2026, New Jersey will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution! CHPS is forming a planning committee and will meet in January 2024. Please email Karen Kelley at [cranchrisk@comcast.net](mailto:cranchrisk@comcast.net) if you wish to join this committee.



**Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society**  
**6 South Main Street**  
**Cranbury, NJ 08512**

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

**Cranbury History Center**  
6 South Main Street  
Open Thursdays 10AM to 12:30PM & 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.