



2025 Annual Report

Historical Society of West Windsor



The Historical Society runs the West Windsor History Museum at the Township-owned Schenck Farmstead, which dates to the 1750s.

OUR MISSION

We aim to preserve and promote West Windsor's rich history, educate and inspire current and future generations, and foster pride and appreciation for our community's unique heritage.



Youth Engagement Committee volunteers inventory archival photographs in the Farmstead's one-room schoolhouse.

Support Our Work

DONATE



VOLUNTEER



Preserving West Windsor's Past

Preservation is at the heart of our mission.

In 2025, we took on stewardship of the Schenck-Covenhoven Cemetery—one of New Jersey's oldest burial grounds and home to West Windsor's oldest legible gravestone (dated 1746). This year, we began a multi-year effort to document, stabilize, and restore the cemetery, including professional headstone conservation and critical site improvements.



We also:

- Expanded and reorganized our archives with professional-grade materials to better protect historic documents and artifacts.
- Completed a collections assessment through the CAPES program to guide our long-term preservation strategy.
- Partnered with local Scout troops on hands-on restoration projects across the Farmstead. Highlights included restoring the front yard's brick walkway and repainting the schoolhouse and the garage.
- Advanced plans to secure state and national historic designation for the Schenck Farmstead.

Celebrating Our Shared Heritage



This year we:

- ▶ Welcomed hundreds of visitors to Farm Day for petting zoos, crafts, scavenger hunts, and hands-on fun.
- ▶ Celebrated our third annual History-Music Festival, drawing about 250 neighbors for music, dance, food, and connection.
- ▶ Invited the community to seasonal favorites like our Fall Festival and cozy Holiday Open House.
- ▶ Partnered with West Windsor Parks & Recreation to host Trunk-or-Treat, which drew approximately 450 attendees—our biggest event of the year.

We also held monthly Open Houses and expanded opportunities for students through our Youth Engagement Committee, where local teens catalog artifacts, conduct research, and help bring programs to life.



Sharing History in New Ways

- Installed a new historical marker at Glen Acres, one of the nation's earliest planned integrated communities, and continued work on additional markers.
- Helped organize West Windsor's first "Martian Weekend," celebrating the town's connection to the 1938 War of the Worlds broadcast, including the popular Martian Bike Ride.
- Presented lectures, walking tours, and community programs throughout the year.
- Introduced interactive tablets in the museum, featuring narrated and captioned tours to make the Farmstead experience more engaging and accessible.
- Awarded two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors who demonstrated excellence in historical research and community service.



Port Mercer/D&R Canal Tour



Martian Bike Ride in Grovers Mill



Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church Cemetery Tour



Kay and Clifford Reed present the Reed Family Scholarship to High School South graduate Lauren Kim.

Securing Our Financial Future

- Raised \$12,000 in our winter fundraiser, our most successful campaign to date.
- Secured over \$2,000 in corporate donations and event sponsorships from nine local businesses.
- Received our first Mercer County History Regrant.
- Qualified with the New Jersey Cultural Trust, positioning the Historical Society for future state grant opportunities.



Members of Scout Troop 66 repair a brick walkway at the Schenck Farmstead.



NEW JERSEY
Historical
COMMISSION

Made possible by the Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey Historical Commission.

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Lois Gerstein and Josh Mandell represent the Historical Society at the West Windsor Community Farmers' Market.

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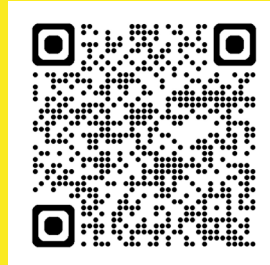


You can help advance our mission of historic preservation and education.
Consider making a gift or becoming a volunteer!

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VOLUNTEER




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 331 North Post Road #774, West Windsor, NJ 08550

 westwindsorhistory@gmail.com

 (609) 751-4061

 westwindsorhistory.com



The Schenck Farmstead's replica windmill.