



Historical Society Hamilton Newsletter



January 2026

Come out to see the Wescoat display at the museum. The family history and interesting items to view. **Charles Wescoat will be at the museum on Sat. Feb 28th for question and answer session and walk through the family history He will be at museum 10:30 to 12:30pm**

Calling all descendants...



February will be an exciting month at the museum...

Happening at the museum in FEBRUARY

Feb. 4th – Coffee & History “Did you say Poddlers?”, 10:00am

Feb 7 – museum open 9:00-12:00

Feb 14 – How to you write LOVE 9-12am at museum

Feb 28 – Wescoat family review, 10:30-12:30

[www.](http://www.hamiltonhistorical.org)

hamiltonhistorical.org

Through the years Reverend John T. Ash III has been ever present as a founding member, past President, Board Member of the Twp. of Hamilton Historical Society to a historical “ghost narrator to the Ghost Walk. Reverend Ash has retired after 62 years being pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Mays Landing on Feb. 1, 2026.

John is a South Jersey native having grown up in Haddon Heights. He graduated from Cornell University in 1959 with degrees in philosophy and chemistry and decided to enter the ministry graduating from Princeton theological Seminary in 1962. He received his master’s degree in social work from Rutgers-Camden in 1978 and held various roles at the NJ Department of Human Services until his retirement in 1993. He earned a PhD in social work from Rutgers main campus in 1994.

He was active in community, serving as vice president of the Mays Landing Merchants Association, coordinating both the Hamilton Township 9-11 committee and church blood drives, along with other roles.

One of the first founding members of the historical society along with Dottie Kinsey, he was instrumental in acquiring the “little red schoolhouse” for the society- first as renters, then finally as owners from the school board. He was also responsible for saving printed material, trophies, video, an actual seats from the Atlantic City Racetrack and adding to the society’s collection. During his tenure of being involved with the society we had antique appraisals bus trips coin drops craft fairs, speaker series and historical Ghost Walks, Year after year, he portrayed one of the judges of the Courthouse on our Ghost Walk. We extend our best wishes as he, an energetic 88-year-old, prepares to embark on his travels around the world.