

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Erika Byrnison

ebyrnison@morven.org

Photos: morven.org/press

MORVEN

MUSEUM & GARDEN

New Programs Launch America's 250th Anniversary at Morven Including a speaker series exploring the Declaration of Independence

PRINCETON, NJ (January 6, 2026) — The semiquincentennial is here! Throughout 2026, Morven Museum & Garden, home of Founding Father Richard Stockton, will be commemorating the milestone with special exhibitions and new programs. This month, the new speaker series *Generation Declaration* launches, featuring public historians, scholars, and writers sharing lesser-known, surprising, and underrepresented aspects of America's founding document.

January also marks the return of popular afternoon teas with The Secret Tea Room, as well as Morven's Curator Corner, a behind-the-scenes look at new acquisitions and exhibitions.

From hands-on creative experiences to thought-provoking conversations about history, Morven's programs invite visitors of all ages to kick off the year with enriching, memorable experiences.

Program highlights include:

- **"No-Sew" Great American Birthday Quilt Event (Sun, Jan 11)**, a free event hosted by the Princeton Daughters of the Revolution, inviting people to create a quilt block for the 250-foot-long "Great American Birthday Quilt."
- **Morven's Curator Corner: USS Princeton Memorial Artwork (Tue, Jan 13)**, a free virtual lunchtime talk exploring a new museum acquisition.
- **Afternoon Tea with The Secret Tearoom (Thu & Fri, Jan 15 & 16)**, the return of our popular cream tea service, served in Morven's Garden Room.

- **Slavery and the Declaration of Independence: The Deleted Clauses (Sun, Jan 25)**, an expert historian discusses the deleted clauses of the Declaration, notably those that complained about the actions of the English king related to slavery.
- **Meet the Curators Tour: *Northern Family, Southern Ties* (Wed, Jan 28)**, a special behind-the-scenes, after-hours tour of the new exhibition, led by Morven’s curatorial and research team.

Registration is now open at morven.org/events. **Details on the full slate of January programs is below.**

CALENDAR LISTINGS

“No-Sew” Great American Birthday Quilt Event

Create a quilt block to contribute to the 250-foot-long “Great American Birthday Quilt.” No sewing skills necessary—fabric and fabric glue will be provided. You’re welcome to drop-in (plan for 90 minutes to complete your piece). This event is hosted by the Princeton Daughters of the American Revolution.

Date/Time: Sun, Jan 11, 12:30-3:30 pm

Location: Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540

Tickets: Free (registration required) at morven.org/events

Morven’s Curator Corner: USS Princeton Memorial Artwork

At this free virtual lunchtime talk, go behind-the-scenes with Morven’s curators as they discuss a recently acquired watercolor and ink mourning picture, made in remembrance of those lost in the 1844 explosion aboard the USS Princeton.

Date/Time: Tue, Jan 13, 12-1 pm

Location: Virtual (link will be provided with registration)

Tickets: Free (registration required) at morven.org/events

Afternoon Tea with The Secret Tea Room

Enjoy an enchanting Cream Tea service (fine teas, warm scones, tea sandwiches, and more!) served on fine chinaware in Morven’s historic Garden Room. Registration includes admission to the museum and an optional guided tour.

Dates: Thu, Jan 15 and Fri, Jan 16; seatings at 12 pm and 2:15 pm

Location: Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540

Tickets: \$55 per guest/\$45 for Morven Members at morven.org/events

Slavery and the Declaration of Independence: The Deleted Clauses

Morven's new series *Generation Declaration* launches with Organization of American Historians (OAH) Distinguished Lecturer Holly Brewer, Burke Professor of American History and Associate Professor at the University of Maryland, discussing the Declaration's deleted clauses, notably those that complained about the actions of the English king related to slavery

Date: Sun, Jan 25, 2-3:30 pm

Location: Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540

Tickets: \$20 general admission/\$15 Morven Members/\$10 student (with valid ID) at morven.org/events

Meet the Curators Tour: *Northern Family, Southern Ties*

Experience a behind-the-scenes look at Morven's newest exhibition, *Northern Family, Southern Ties*, with Morven's curators and research team. The result of three years of research, this exhibit complicates the more traditional understanding of the "North" and "South" by following two families before, during, and after the Civil War and the interstate movement of the people they enslaved.

Date: Wed, January 28, 6:30-7:30 pm. In case of inclement weather, the tour will take place Thu, January 29, 6:30-7:30 pm.

Location: Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540

Tickets: \$15 general admission/\$10 Morven Members/\$5 student (with valid ID) at morven.org/events

Northern Family, Southern Ties

Morven Museum & Garden's new exhibition gallery opens with *Northern Family, Southern Ties*, which reveals the overlooked connections between families straddling the Mason-Dixon Line. Learn how a marriage between a son of Princeton's most powerful family and a wealthy planter's daughter from Charleston changed the landscape of New Jersey. Discover how the fate of the people they enslaved was on the line as the debate over slavery unfolded on the national political stage.

Dates/Times: Opened November 6, 2025; on view through 2028. Open Wednesday-Sunday from 10 am-4 pm. Closed Easter Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Location: Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540

Tickets: \$12 for adults; \$10 for seniors (ages 60+), youth ages 7-18, students with ID, and

active military or veterans with ID. Free for Members and ages 6 & younger.
Reserve tickets at www.morven.org/visit.

#

About Morven Museum & Garden:

Most historic sites celebrate a single notable resident—Morven is different. Built in the 1750s for Richard Stockton (a signer of the Declaration of Independence) and his wife, Annis Boudinot Stockton, an early published poet, Morven was home to five generations of the Stockton family as well as generations of enslaved men and women, and later, immigrant servants. The twentieth century saw the innovative industrialist and humanitarian Robert Wood Johnson, Jr. and five New Jersey governors.. Over 250+ years, its walls have witnessed the lives of governors, political leaders, celebrities, and everyday families alike.

Today, Morven Museum & Garden welcomes visitors to explore this layered history through exhibitions, programs, and historic gardens. The museum, located at 55 Stockton Street in Princeton, NJ, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 am-4 p.m. The gardens are open to the public daily from dawn to dusk. Learn more at morven.org.

Northern Family, Southern Ties is made possible by Lisa and Michael Ullmann.

Additional support from Liza and Schuyler Morehouse, Colleen Goggins, Helen R. Buck Foundation, and The George H. and Estelle M. Sands Foundation.