

# New Jersey Celebrates 350 Years

*This year marks the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Jersey. To celebrate this special year, the Morris County Tourism Bureau has put together short stories about notable events that took place in the 39 municipalities that constitute Morris County along the official 350th themes of Innovation, Diversity and Liberty.*

*Each week in this space, we will feature one or more of those 39 short stories. To read more, visit the Morris County Tourism Bureau's website at [www.morristourism.org](http://www.morristourism.org)*

## Featured This Week: Morris Plains

### MORRIS PLAINS: Innovation

Homer Calvin Davenport, one of the most influential and highly paid political cartoonists of his time, is credited with establishing the flag-festooned Uncle Sam as the enduring personification of America. He called Morris Plains home at the turn of the last century. Red Gables was located on 27 acres on Tabor Road, where he entertained the likes of Thomas Edison and Buffalo Bill and kept his stable of renowned Arabian horses. Davenport worked for newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst and helped elevate the might of the political cartoon, creating social commentaries that made corrupt abusers of power tremble. His most famous work – Uncle Sam tapping then-underdog presidential candidate Teddy Roosevelt for the White House with the caption, “He’s good enough for me.” – has been called the greatest vote-generating cartoon, helping Roosevelt win. Davenport died in 1912 at 45. Red Gables eventually was reduced to rubble and the property paved over for a corporate parking lot.

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

## Morris County New Jersey



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