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Join Us for Chester County Summer Strolls Through History

• FREE TOURS •

SUMMER 2012
Town Tours & Village Walks

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FREE TOURS & LECTURE SERIES

The Chester County Board of Commissioners through Chester County Facilities and Parks, the Chester County Historical Society, Westtown Township, the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, and the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau announce the 18th summer of sharing Chester County's heritage during the annual "TOWN TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS."

Town Tours & Village Walks is a series of free summer strolls through historic neighborhoods, hamlets, villages and sites. Explore our county on Thursday evenings, June 14 - September 6. Tours begin at 5:30pm and generally last 50 minutes, with the last tour leaving at 7:30pm. Each tour is designed to inform, entertain and increase awareness of Chester County's rich heritage and historic landscape. A number of our sites offer a good selection of restaurants and shops to enjoy after your tour.

This summer, Historic Yellow Springs invites us to an Art Exhibit and tour and the Mill at Anselma will open their doors with a mill demonstration. We will return to favorite historic villages of Marshallton and Unionville, and add a special new tour of St. Peters Village. Uwchian Township invites us to join in their 300th anniversary. The Boroughs of West Chester, Kennett Square and Oxford will feature their historic districts. For the first time, East Pileland will tour the Revolutionary War Continental Powder Mill, and West Nantmeal will explore its iron heritage at Isabella Furnace and Langoma Mansion.

A new addition to the summer program is the Talk & Walks Lecture Series, which combines a 45 minute lecture by one of Chester County's historians on a topic of interest with a tour of the property that is being discussed.

Last year, over 2,000 Chester County citizens and visitors enthusiastically endorsed the assortment of historic evening walking tours and daytime lectures!

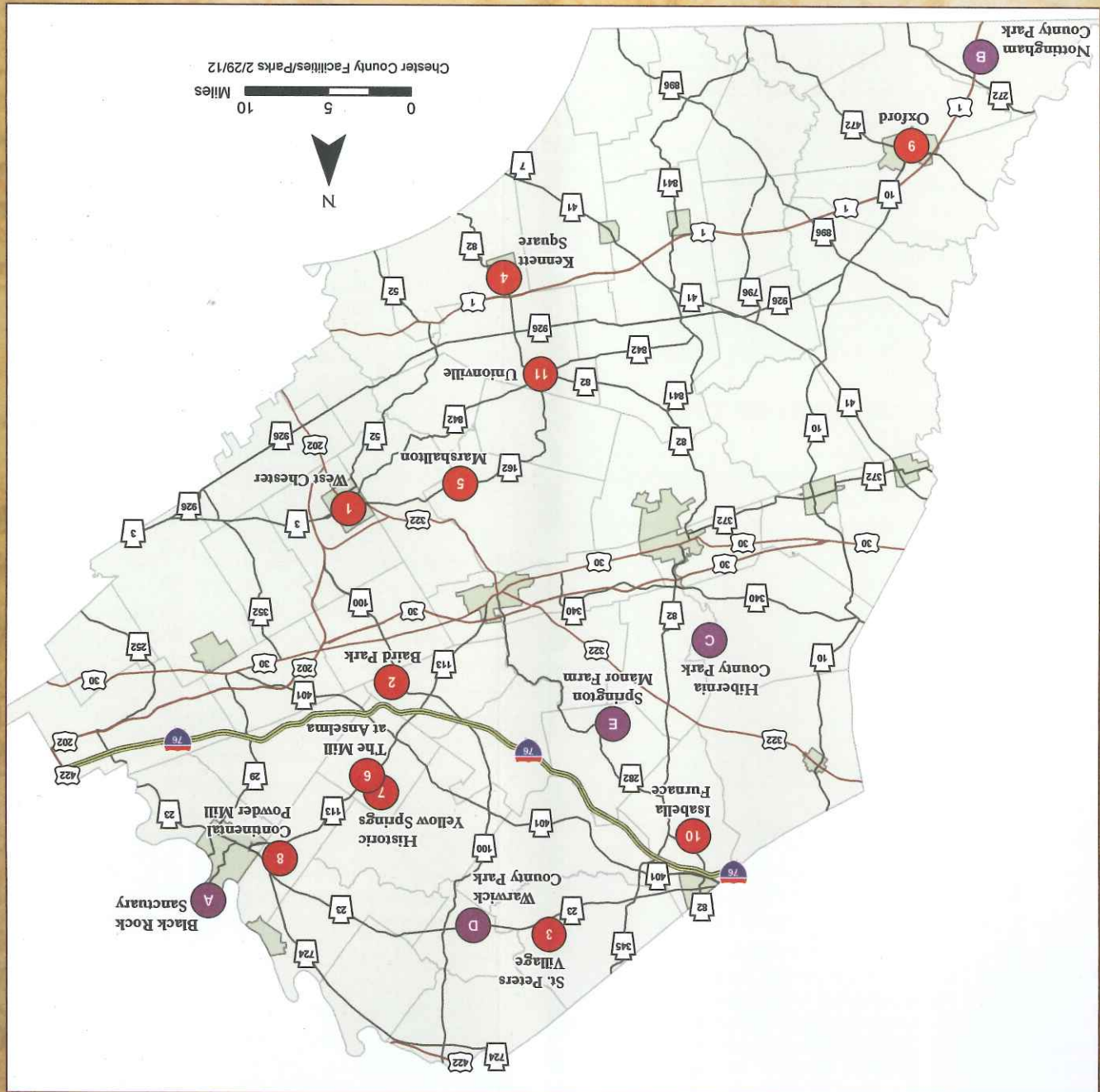
Contact for information:
 Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator
 610-344-6923 or kmarshall@chesco.org

Chester County Board of Commissioners - Chester County Facilities & Parks
 www.chesco.org

Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau
 Brandywinevalley.com

Chester County Historic Preservation Network
 www.cchpn.org

The Chester County Historical Society
 www.chestercohistorical.org

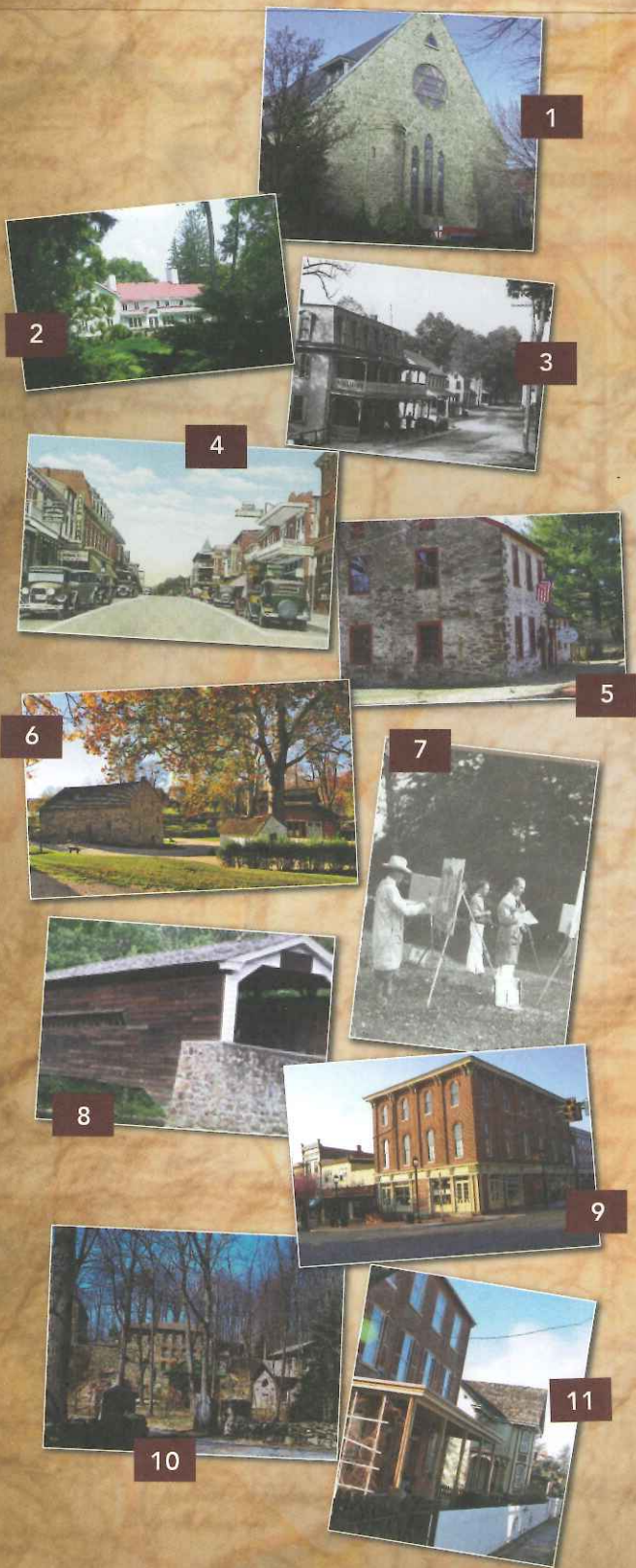


Sponsored by

Summer 2012
Town Tours and Village Walks

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- Chester County Board of Commissioners
- Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau
- Chester County Historic Preservation Network
- The Chester County Historical Society
- Chester County Facilities & Parks
 313 W. Market Street, Suite 5402
 West Chester, PA 19380
 www.chesco.org/ccparks



Town Tours and Village Walks

Lecture Series

JUNE 14 ①

WEST CHESTER KICK-OFF AND TOUR

SPONSORS: WEST CHESTER HARB & CHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #101

Join us for the annual Town Tours & Village Walks kick-off celebration at the Chester County Historical Society for greetings from the Society, the Borough, and the County. You will next join your tour guide to explore the Southeast quadrant of West Chester Borough. This sector of the Borough includes an impressive part of the downtown, distinguished churches and other historic buildings, and handsome residential streets. Each individual group tour is a specially designed and written tour with its own focus and itinerary. Registration and information for the tours and entertainment by the Lukens Band begins at 5:30 p.m.

JUNE 21 ②

BAIRD PARK AND UWCHLAN TOWNSHIP CAMPUS

SPONSOR: UWCHLAN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #102

Uwchlan Township is celebrating its Tricentennial year in 2012. Come celebrate as you visit Baird Park and the historic buildings that comprise the Uwchlan Township Campus. The Administration Building encloses the Pugh family one room home that dates to the early 1700's. During renovation in the 21st century, a bake oven was found and restored. Formerly owned by the Baird family, the present structure reveals how adaptive re-use can save and enhance our history. An outside tour features the grounds where seven ponds enhance the setting for old trees, the springhouse, and the large stone barn. There will be a "virtual tour" presentation available for those who may not be able to walk the entire tour route.

JUNE 28 ③

ST. PETERS VILLAGE

SPONSOR: WARWICK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #103

The Falls of French Creek is nestled in northern Chester County. Sitting beside this scenic spot is a lovely Victorian village known as St. Peters, which is listed on the National Historic Register. Known for its mining of iron ore and quarrying of black granite, it became a popular summer resort when rail service arrived in 1880. The original buildings, once home to miners and quarry workers, are now occupied by artisan shops, restaurants and local businesses. We are closing our road to traffic so you can enjoy our unique village.

JULY 12 ④

SCANDALS, SCOUNDRELS & SPIRITS IN KENNETT BOROUGH

SPONSOR: KENNETT SQUARE BOROUGH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #104

Most current residents of Kennett Square are unaware of the mysteries and scandals that puzzled or shocked the quiet village folk of yesteryear. Costumed characters will give first-hand accounts of events from the past on a guided tour through the borough. These accounts will seem mild in contrast to the news events that we witness today and are not meant to tarnish reputations. Enjoy music with your refreshments at the end of the tour.

JULY 19 ⑤

VILLAGE OF MARSHALLTON

SPONSORS: WEST BRADFORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #105

Join our tour of this nearly untouched village, named for botanist Humphrey Marshall (born 1722). Marshallton Village was an important stop on the Strasburg Road, a freight road from Lancaster to Philadelphia. Being a free road, it was heavily traveled since Lancaster Pike was a toll road. There were two hotels in the village and one outside dating to 1765. Among the outstanding features of the village is a Quaker Meeting dating to 1722 (present building is 1765), a cradle factory, which made grain cradles and scythes, a blacksmith shop, pump maker, cigar factory, tinsmith shop, clothing store, bakery, and 1829 Methodist Church. Enjoy our new streetscape!

JULY 26 ⑥

THE MILL AT ANSELMA

SPONSORS: THE MILL AT ANSELMA

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #106

Nestled along the Pickering Creek in Chester Springs, The Mill at Anselma, a National Historic Landmark, is an extraordinary artifact of 250 years of our nations' industrial and agricultural heritage. Constructed in c. 1747 by Samuel Lightfoot, The Mill retains its wooden gears, grain elevators, and bolter or shifter. The Mill and the Village of Anselma demonstrate how 18th-century technology was adapted to serve the prosperity of the Industrial Revolution and the challenges of the Great Depression. Today, the Mill at Anselma connects visitors with our past through tours, flour milling demonstrations, and our stone ground flour and cornmeal. A milling demonstration will be offered the afternoon of the tour.

AUGUST 2 ⑦

THE COUNTRY SCHOOL AT CHESTER SPRINGS (1916-1952) & ART EXHIBIT

SPONSOR: HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS, INC.

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #107

The effect of the French Impressionist movement influenced the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts to establish its Country School at Chester Springs (1916-1952). Here, in the village of Yellow Springs, artists were afforded "fine-art instruction in the open air, with all the beautiful surroundings of nature herself." Learn about the artists' life in the village. Discover this art colony right in Chester County where art instruction and appreciation continues today. View an exhibition by Country School artists.

AUGUST 9 ⑧

THE CONTINENTAL POWDER MILL ON FRENCH CREEK

SPONSORS: PIKELAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY/EAST PIKELAND HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #108

On February 16, 1776 the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety resolved to build a state-owned and operated gunpowder mill for the benefit of the Continental Army, which would become known as the Continental Powder Mill at French Creek. The perceived need for gunpowder was so great that by the end of 1776, a large manufacturing complex had been erected with numerous buildings. In short order, 3,000 pounds per week of powder was being produced. Walk the grounds of this important contributor to American independence, enjoy Rapps Dam covered bridge, mill and dam sites, and inspect the latest archaeological findings.

AUGUST 23 ⑨

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT STROLL

SPONSOR: OXFORD MAINSTREET, INC. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OXFORD AREA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #109

By the early 1700's, the Scotch-Irish had settled in Oxford along an old Nanticoke Indian trail that led to the Chesapeake Bay. By 1754, there was a community formed around Hood's Tavern and the Presbyterian Church. But the great growth came with the arrival of the railroad in 1860. Experience the early Victorian architecture of Downtown Oxford. Meet men and women in period clothing who were responsible for the founding of Lincoln University, starting the 2nd oldest library in the state (1784) and having their own newspaper, bank, water company, fire company and electric company by the end of the 19th century. Included in the tour is an Art History of Oxford Exhibit at the Oxford Arts Alliance Gallery.

AUGUST 30 ⑩

ISABELLA FURNACE & LANGOMA MANSION

SPONSOR: WEST NANTMEAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #110

A unique area of rural Chester County will be on display as wagons provide a driving tour of the Langoma area in West Nantmeal Township. Isabella Furnace and several of the buildings related to iron making will be seen, as well as the magnificent Langoma mansion, constructed at the turn of the century as the home of J.D. Potts furnace owner. The route follows the dry stonewalls built by furnace workers of that time. Participants will meet at West Nantmeal Township Park where they will board wagons for the tour.

SEPTEMBER 6 ⑪

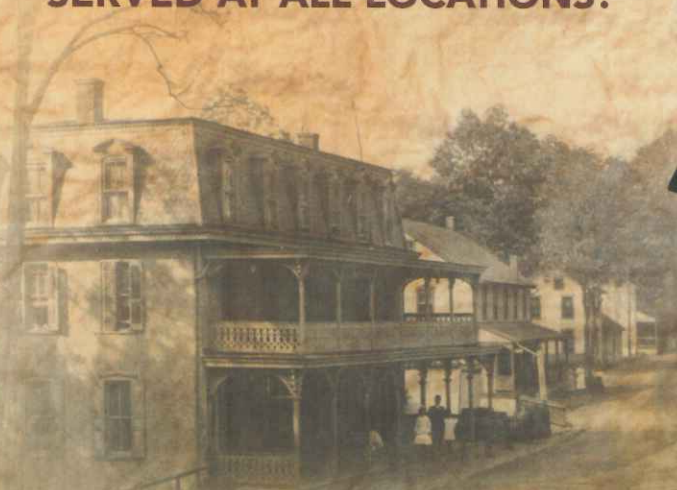
THE VILLAGE OF UNIONVILLE

SPONSOR: UNIONVILLE HARB

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #111

In the gently rolling Southeastern corner of Chester County sits the small village of Unionville, a community that dates back to the middle of the 18th century. Though locally manufactured brick is the predominant mode of construction, fine examples of stone and frame buildings also exist. Unionville Village has long played a vital role providing goods and services to area residents; this is still the case today. We welcome you to learn about our lovely village. Several local businesses will be open to greet visitors. As you stroll you will learn about the underground railway, our historic houses and perhaps a ghost or two.

REFRESHMENTS ARE SERVED AT ALL LOCATIONS!



A new addition to the summer program is the Talks & Walks lecture series which combines a 45 minute lecture by one of Chester County's historians on a topic of interest with a tour of a site that is being discussed. Advance registration of \$4.00/person is requested, kmarshall@chesco.org or 610-344-6923. Day of registration accepted on site unless otherwise noted.

A. Saturday, April 28 • 1 p.m.

The Weirs & Whys of Black Rock

Black Rock Sanctuary
953 Black Rock Rd, Phoenixville

Presenter: Chari Towne, Schuylkill Watershed Specialist

As part of Phoenixville's 2nd Annual Shad Festival, explore one of the little known but best birding spots in Black Rock Sanctuary along the Basin Trail. Journey to our waste weir and learn about the 1940's Schuylkill River Project which was one of the first environmental clean-ups in this nation's history. Wear warm clothing and walking shoes. This is a moderate hike of about a 1.5 miles round trip over uneven ground. \$4.00/person, children under 12 free.

B. Saturday, May 19 • 2 p.m.

The Parker Kidnapping & Rescue

Talk: Union United Methodist Church
321 Fremont Rd., Nottingham

Walk: Nottingham County Park

Presenters: Rachel and Elizabeth Parker
Kidnap Research Team

In December 1851, Rachel and Elizabeth Parker were kidnapped from Nottingham. The two free young black women were accused of being slaves and taken to Baltimore where they were imprisoned. The local community sprang to their defense and rescued them. Come hear the incredible story then walk at Nottingham County Park to see the mining site that gave rise to the intentional false accusation. \$4.00/person, children under 12 free.

C. Sundays, May 27 – September 2 • 1-4 p.m.

Hibernia Mansion Tours

Talk & Walk: Hibernia County Park
Park Rd., Coatesville

Presenters: Trained Tour Guides

This fully furnished 19th century Iron Master's residence was redesigned in the early 20th century to emulate an English Country House. The legacies of the mansion builders Charles Brooks and "Colonel" Franklin Swayne and the evolution of the 19th century iron plantation are explored during 45 minute guided tours of the mansion. \$3.00/person, children under 12 free.

D. Sunday, June 3 • 2 p.m.

Abraham Lincoln & Coventryville

Talk: Coventryville United Methodist Church
1521 Old Ridge Road, Coventryville

Walk: Coventry Forge Trail Warwick
County Park

Presenter: Tom Walsh, Historian

In 1717 Samuel Nutt and partners established the second forge in Pennsylvania, Coventry Forge. In 1720 they sold a partnership share to one Mordecai Lincoln, Jr. Where was he from and where did he go? Where is the marker erected by the Chester County Historical Society in the early part of the 20th century that commemorates the Nutt - Lincoln partnership? Learn more about this little known Chester County connection to one of our most famous Presidents. \$4.00/person, children under 12 free.

E. Sunday, June 10 • 2 p.m.

Miracle of Innovation at Springton Manor

Talk & Walk: Springton Manor Farm
860 Springton Rd., Glenmoore

Presenter: John Miller, Park Technician and Historian

In 1848, Congressman Abraham Robinson McIlvaine built a hydraulic ram system at Springton Manor to supply water to the Manor House and farm, a luxury that today we take for granted. Considered a miracle of innovation, the system of running water in the house was so unusual that it warranted an article in the local newspaper. Explore parts of this system that still exist at Springton Manor Farm. Walking in some areas may be difficult. Gather at the lower Parking Lot, \$4/person, ages 12 & older, Preregistration required, limit 15 participants.