

## Chatham



9 August 9

*Chatham Hotel, c. 1765*

Chatham, the oldest settlement in London Grove Township, has a history deeply rooted in commerce and transportation. The village began as a reststop on the Gap-Newport Turnpike for men and horse teams transporting Lancaster County wheat to Wilmington flour mills. In 1741, the second oldest inn in Pennsylvania, the "Half-Way House," was established and still stands today. The community flourished between the 1830's and 1860's, supporting one of the county's first post offices and various businesses. *Information: 869-3837*

August 16

10



## Downingtown

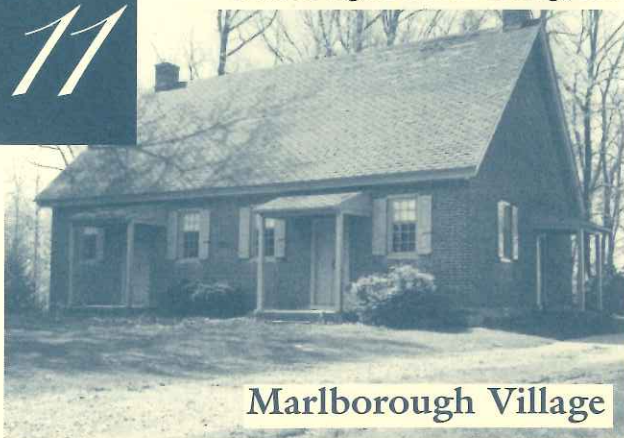
*Downingtown Log House, c. 1701*

Limestone residences were Milltown's bustling eighteenth and early nineteenth century commercial area: a saddler, a mason, furniture dealer, variety store and newspaper office. Home of Chester County's first post office, the village was the halfway point on the Philadelphia-Lancaster stagecoach line. Development of the current historic business district by Eber Garrett, a Civil War veteran, and others was stimulated by several railroads stopping in town. *Information: 269-2685*

Fortunate in its off-the-beaten-path location, Marlborough has kept much of its mid-nineteenth-century look. 150 years ago this quiet village was busy with shops, schools, a post office, blacksmith, carriage-maker, and various tradesmen serving the surrounding farms. Most reflective of the past is the 1801 Friends Meeting with its burial ground—long ago the scene of conflict over the problem of slavery; now an acre of tranquility. *Information: 347-2237*

August 23

11



*Marlborough Friends Meeting, 1801*

## Marlborough Village



*Sloan-Dickey House, c. 1840*

## Oxford

Formerly known as Hood's Tavern in the eighteenth century, the rehabilitated Oxford Hotel has been the center of the borough's historic preservation activity today. Nearby stands the majestic Oxford Presbyterian Church, the business district with Italianate architecture, the railroad station converted into a town hall, and the brick hay and grain building. All of these resources were the result of Oxford's location on the Philadelphia and Baltimore stagecoach line and the export of bricks, timber and tobacco. *Information: 932-2500*

12 August 30

Chester County, one of Pennsylvania's three original counties, was named by William Penn in 1682. Although the northern and western boundaries were not specific, it is known it encompassed present Chester, Delaware and Lancaster Counties. English, Welsh and Irish Quakers came through the Port of Philadelphia to settle eastern, southeastern and middle Chester County, followed shortly thereafter by the Swiss and Swiss-German people. Most of the Scots and Scots-Irish opted to disembark at New Castle, Delaware during the 1730s and 1740s and settled the County's present western and northern regions.

Although 90% of the people farmed the land, rapid immigration and population density gave reason for the County government to subdivide municipalities and create new ones. Neighborhoods banded with neighbors to lay out new roads "to mill, to meeting, to market". Hamlets evolved around water, corn or grist mills, sawmills and fulling mills. Quaker, Presbyterian and Baptist meeting houses, plus one-room subscription schools dotted the countryside.

Two centuries later, Chester County citizens can still enjoy a wonderful historical landscape created by our forefathers. To this extent dozens of volunteers have been researching their respective municipality's heritage for the past two decades. They have uncovered numerous interesting stories and local folklore which has been conveyed to the public through publications, festivals, heritage days and walking tours.

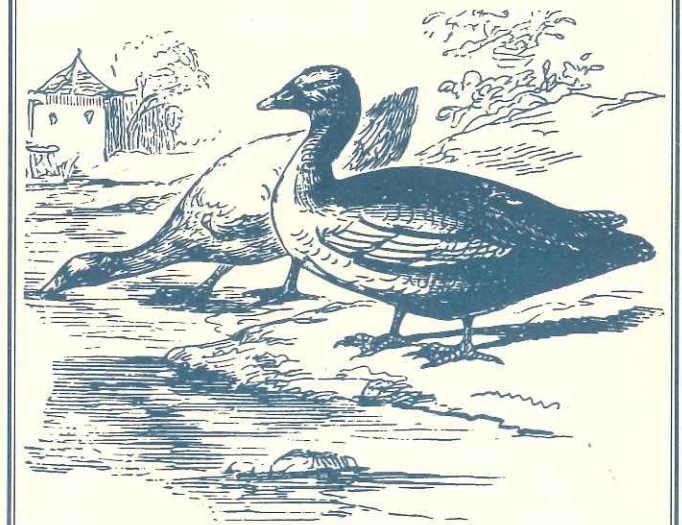
This year a partnership to organize a summer "Town Tours and Village Walks" program was created between the County Parks and Recreation Department and the Chester County Tourist Bureau. Participants include some of the municipal Historic Commissions in the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area, and West Chester's Historic Architectural Review Board.

Celebrate a Chester County summer with us each Wednesday evening between June 7th and August 30th (except July 5th) for twilight tours with your friends and neighbors. Select your tours; call the respective telephone number for reservations; and don't forget to wear comfortable walking shoes.

*Designed by Suzanne D. Gaadt*

# Celebrate a Chester County Summer!

Join us for the first annual  
Town Tours & Village Walks . . .



Twelve delightful  
evening walking tours of  
twelve charming  
Chester County  
Towns and Villages.

June 7 through August 30, 1995