

Explore From County Seat to Country Retreat in West Chester; walk where General George Washington passed with his troops in Parkers Ford during the Revolutionary War; see stabilized historic archaeology ruins of the iron industry at Dowlin Forge; be fascinated by village life in the Merlin Hamlet, Historic Goshenville and Glenmoore's Bridal Row. Be a part of Berwyn's historic streetscape on the Main Line; stand in awe of Phoenixville's collection of beautiful churches or Village Walk.

The nostalgic delights of our historic villages are yours to discover as you spend lovely summer evenings on the FREE evening Town Tours and Village Walks. Designed to evoke memories of life in simpler times, they are an experience to share with family and friends. Your guides some in period dress, are experts in local history and architecture. They bring to life the people who lived and worked along the streets you will travel. For years, they have researched old records to learn about the historic buildings in their neighborhoods. Highlighted are properties, both residential and business, revealing the fabric of three centuries of domestic, social and industrial life in our region, one of William Penn's first named counties. Here, homes are lovingly restored and show the charm of small town life in the Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Victorian and twentieth century styles. Many of these, along with designated Historic Districts, are part of this summer's tour itineraries. In Pennsylvania, Chester County is second only to Philadelphia in the number of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Observe the preservation and adaptive reuse of our period architecture – to inspire ideas for your own lifestyle. Discover how our waterways and mills – French Creek, the Schuylkill River and branches of the Brandywine – influenced life in our valleys and along our early toll roads. Tales, great and small, told of the characters that lived here will intrigue and amuse.

Summer 2004 Town Tours & Village Walks

Summer 2004



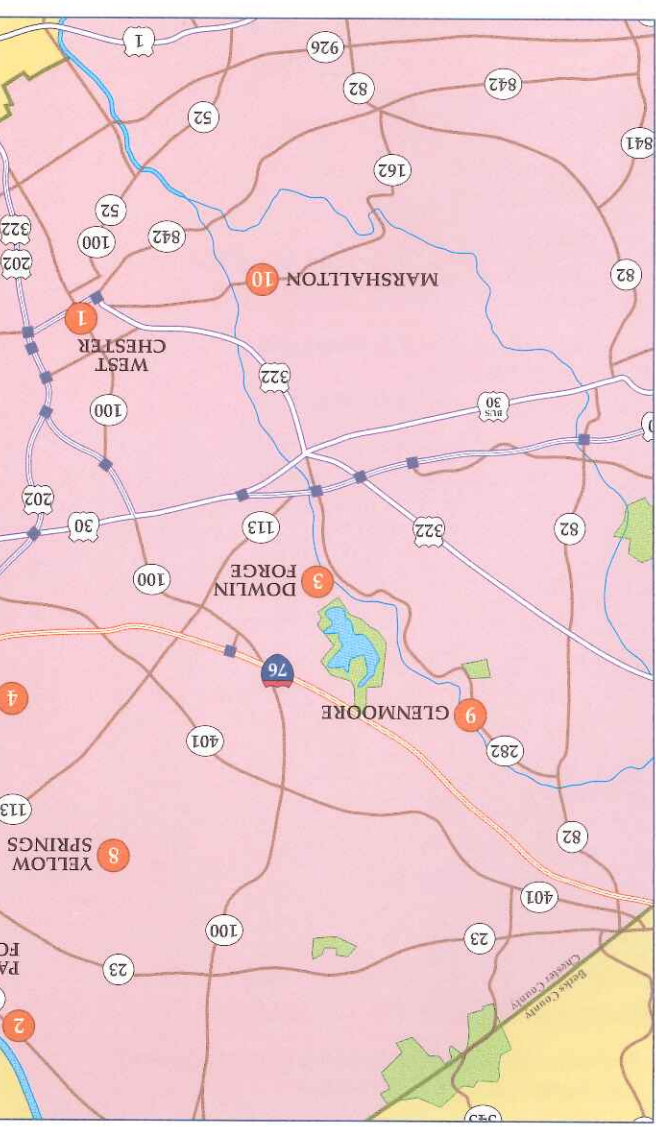
Town Tours & Village Walks Celebrating its 10th Anniversary!



FREE TOURS
Thursday Evenings
June 3 through August 26, 2004

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(not to be missed); absorb the traditional leadership roles of women in historic Yellow Springs through the centuries; and enjoy Historic Marshallton's country setting on a busy 19th century cartway to mill, meeting, and market. Partnerships have been established to withdraw facts from filing cabinets to share stories and folklore with neighbors and all the visitors – we welcome you to our FREE summer-long program. Many of our restaurants will feature "Early Bird" Specials for pre-tour suppers or other dining values after your Town Tour or Village Walk.



Sponsored by
Board of Commissioners
Chester County Parks & Recreation Department
601 Westtown Road, Suite 160
West Chester, PA 19380-0990
CHESTER COUNTY
Brandywine Valley & Beyond
Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau
400 Exton Square Parkway • Exton, PA 19341

Summer 2004

Town Tours & Village Walks

Mark these dates on your calendar!

JUNE	
June 3	West Chester: From County Seat to Country Retreat
June 10	Parkers Ford
June 17	(no tour)
June 24	Dowlin Forge
JULY	
July 1	(no tour)
July 8	Merlin Hamlet
July 15	Berwyn
July 22	Phoenixville
July 29	Historic Goshenville
AUGUST	
August 5	(no tour)
August 12	Historic Yellow Springs
August 19	Glenmoore
August 26	Historic Marshallton Village

FOR EXACT STARTING TIMES AND LOCATIONS, PLEASE CALL THE NUMBER LISTED WITH EACH WEEKLY TOUR.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS FOLLOW EACH WALK.

DON'T FORGET TO WEAR COMFORTABLE SHOES.

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Celebrating its 10th Anniversary!

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June 3, 2004
**WEST CHESTER:
FROM COUNTY
SEAT TO
COUNTRY RETREAT**

Sponsor: West Chester Historical and Architectural Review Board
Tour Reservations: 610-430-3222, ext. 10

Come explore West Chester's northwest quadrant! Follow in the footsteps of County judges as they walked from home to office. Behold belvederes, balconies, and towers designed by nationally known architects. Discover why West Chester became a popular retirement and summer retreat. Pick from eight tours that will wind their way among sites as old as 1786 and as young as 1935.



July 15, 2004
BERWYN

Sponsor: Berwyn Devon Business and Professional Association
Tour Reservations: 610-644-0138

This year, the Village of Berwyn is taking part in the Tricentennial Celebration of Easttown Township founded in 1704. Come, visit and celebrate the many changes that have come to the tiny village that grew along the rocky ridge of the Great Valley. Learn how the impact of first the Lancaster Turnpike and then the coming of the railroad changed the development of the village as it changed into a suburban community along the Main Line.



August 12, 2004
**HISTORIC
YELLOW SPRINGS**

Sponsor: Historic Yellow Springs
Tour Reservations: 610-827-7414

Join us in celebrating the 30th anniversary of Historic Yellow Springs when the vision and leadership of Cornelia D. Fraley created our historic site in 1974. Connie is a descendant of other outstanding women who have reached beyond traditional feminine roles and developed this village over the centuries. Meet the Revolutionary War nurses, innkeeper, school superintendent, arts and actresses whose lives have been woven into the historic fabric of Historic Yellow Springs. Explore this feminine spirit.



June 10, 2004
PARKERS FORD

Sponsor: East Vincent Township Historical Commission
Tour Reservations: 610-933-4424

Parkers Ford National Register Historic District is significant for commerce, transportation and military history between the years 1700-1899. Washington's Continental troops crossed the Schuylkill River at this point in September 1777. The Village is home to the Parker Ford Tavern built by Edward Parker and to be restored by East Vincent Township. Across the road, within view of the Old Canal, is the restored home of Henry Parker. Other features are the Railroad Stone Arch Bridge at Patty's Run, Canal Lock #57 and other historic properties.



July 22, 2004
PHOENIXVILLE

Sponsor: Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area
Tour Reservations: 610-935-7646

At the convergence of the Schuylkill River and French Creek, lies the Borough of Phoenixville and named by Louis Wernwag, owner and operator of the Phoenix Nail Works. Samuel Reeves developed the works into the Phoenix Iron Company. Labor was needed to operate the Iron Company, hence the town drew immigrants from foreign countries: Poland, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, and Czechoslovakia, to name a few. They came seeking new jobs, a new life and brought with them different religious cultures. Come join us as we tour the many ethnic churches that still exist today with their native country flags to greet you.



August 19, 2004
GLENMOORE

Sponsor: Wallace Township Historical Commission
Tour Reservations: 610-942-3632

A log schoolhouse stood beside the 1738 cartway, Indiantown Road, where wagons loaded with iron products from the furnaces passed through on their way to the Wilmington market. Later the 1859 schoolhouse with its second story community room became the setting for this historic Indiantown crossroads and the early Springton Manor story. As the Norwood hamlet grew into the Glenmoore village, ornately decorated houses were constructed for newly married couples, hence Bridal Row.



June 24, 2004
DOWLIN FORGE

Sponsor: Uwchlan Township Historical Commission
Tour Reservations: 610-363-9450

For much of the 19th century, John Dowlin and his descendants owned and operated the Mary Ann Forge, blacksmith shop, gristmill, saw mill and company store in the industrial site known as Dowlin Forge. By the 20th century, most of the community had disappeared. Surviving buildings and traces of many landmarks associated with the iron forge can now be found along park trails in western Uwchlan Township. Visitors will be shuttled from Shamona Park.



July 29, 2004
**HISTORIC
GOSHENVILLE**

Sponsor: East Goshen Township Historical Commission
Tour Reservations: 610-692-7171

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Goshenville was founded in 1704. A "Hall and Parlor" house filled with period pieces, the Milltown-Hickman Plank House (1808) is in the Historic American Building Survey. Retaining its functioning forge, the William Sharpless Blacksmith and Wheelwright Shop was built in two sections (1704-1740). Now a B&B, the Jesse Reece House (1800) was the first Post Office and General Store. The Wetlands Boardwalk will also be open.



August 26, 2004
**HISTORIC
MARSHALLTON
VILLAGE**

Sponsor: West Bradford Township Historical Commission
Tour Reservations: 610-486-0790

This nearly untouched village, named for botanist Humphrey Marshall (born 1722), was an important stop on a road. There are two hotels in town and one outside, dating back to 1765. Among the outstanding features of this village were a Quaker Meeting dated 1730 (present building 1765), a cradle factory which made grain cradles and scythes, a blacksmith shop, a pump maker, a cigar factory, a tinsmith shop, a clothing store, a bakery, a plumbing business, a restaurant, in 1805 a post office and in 1829 a Methodist church.



July 8, 2004
MERLIN HAMLET

Sponsor: Pikeland Historical Society and East Pikeland Township
Tour Reservations: 610-933-1770

The village of Merlin is actually a small crossroad hamlet. A gristmill later a cider mill and now converted to a dwelling house, is said to be pre-revolutionary and actually provided forage for the Continental Army. The mill owner's home remains, also the former Merlin post office. Further along the scenic Pickering Creek is the dam, stone ruins and house connected to an early saw mill as well as a Denithorne Iron Bridge.

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Chester County Parks & Recreation Department
601 Westtown Road, Suite 160
West Chester, PA 19380-0990
610-344-6415



Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau
400 Exton Square Parkway
Exton, Pennsylvania 19341
Phone 610-280-6145 Fax 610-280-6179

800-228-9933
BRANDYWINEVALLEY.COM