Town Tour & Village Walks

Mark these dates on your calendar!

JUNE
June 11 Kick-off Celebration & Tour
   Borough of West Chester: Going to Town
June 18 Borough of Downingtown: 150 Year Anniversary Celebration
June 25 Borough of Kennett Square: Links to Lincoln

JULY
July 9 East Pikeland Township: Meet the Emory's Old Chester Springs Road
July 16 Village of Eldolaun: On the Road to Freedom
July 23 Village of Glenmore: Trading a Village's Growth
July 30 Borough of Oxford: We Were Oxford, People from the Community's Past

AUGUST
August 6 Historic Yellow Springs: Celebrating 35 Years
August 13 Village of B遊wray: From Indian Trails to Rails
August 20 Borough of Avondale: From Wheat Fields to Borough

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.

Summer 2009

Chester County's Brandywine Valley

Town Tour & Village Walks
Celebrating its 15th Anniversary!

FREE TOURS
Thursday Evenings
June 11 through August 20, 2009

Please join the Chester County 400, the Chester County Preservation Network and the Chester County Heritage Association for a special summer series of FREE TOWNS AND VILLAGE WALKS. Sponsored by Chester County Board of Commissioners, Chester County Parks and Recreation, and Preservation Network of Chester County.
**June 11, 2009**

**KICK-OFF: CELEBRATION & TOUR**

**BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER: GOING TO TOWN**

Sponsors: Chester County Historical Society and West Chester Historical and Architectural Review Board Tour Registration and Information: 610-629-4800 Meet at: Chester County Historical Society

Chester Countians have come to “town” for their business, legal, and shopping needs for over two centuries. Come explore the oldest section of West Chester - from its beginning as the crossroads at “The Turk’s Head” to its role today as the county seat. All tours will begin at the Chester County Historical Society where you can sign up for themed walks before the kick-off ceremonies, and return there for refreshments after your walk.

**Featured:** The Lukens Bend

**June 18, 2009**

**BOROUGH OF DOWNTOWN: 150 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Sponsor: Downingtown Historical and Parks Commission Reservations: 610-269-0322 Ex. 246 Meet at: The Log House

Help Chester County’s oldest town celebrate its 150th anniversary, May 16, 2009. Featured will be Chester County’s oldest dwelling: the 1791 Log House. Architectural tours will focus on all periods including the fine homes reflecting the prosperity with the arrival of the railroad in the mid 19th century. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Downingtown had 800 citizens; about 100 men left to fight in the war. This summer we are celebrating their contribution along with the stories of our past residents.

**June 25, 2009**

**BOROUGH OF KENNETH SQUARE: LINKS TO LINCOLN**

Sponsor: Kenneth Square Historical Commission Reservations: 610-644-6020 Meet at: Genesis Walkway

Everyone knows that Kenneth Square is the Muskovia Capital of the World, but do you know of our significant ties to Abraham Lincoln? Join us as we learn about the town resident who created the fallen president’s death mask, the local Quaker’s efforts on the Underground Railroad and the emigration of slaves, a Civil War veteran who fought valiantly at Gettysburg and Lincoln’s recent immortalization through the art of the late Rea Redfield.

**July 9, 2009**

**EAST PIKELAND TOWNSHIP: MEET THE EMERYS OF OLD CHESTER SPRINGS ROAD**

Sponsor: Pikeland Historical Society & East Pikeland Historical Commission Reservations: 610-933-1770 Meet at: Ask for location when you make reservations

Old Chester Springs Road runs between Route 113 and Kimberton Road. Located on this road are a number of historic houses. Many are originally Emery residences. George Emery arrived in the area in 1752 and settled in Pikeland. By 1757, he married Anna Elizabeth Hess. Some of these houses were built by their children, including an 1833 house which operated as an unincorporated tavern known as Norton Square. It is still standing and is a private residence.

**July 16, 2009**

**VILLAGE OF ERCILDOUN: ON THE ROAD TO FREEDOM**

Sponsor: Ercildoun Historical Society Reservations: 610-857-1824 Meet at: The Ercildoun Grove

With Quaker roots that run as deep as those of the oaks that line its Grove, the Village of Ercildoun was a major stop on the Underground Railroad. It is also the final resting piece of Rebecca Lukens (first woman industrialist) and many others who fought to abolish slavery. Ercildoun’s appearance has changed very little over the years. Come and discover its many hidden charms and stories of the county’s past in liberating slaves.

**July 23, 2009**

**VILLAGE OF GLENMOORE: TRACING A VILLAGE’S GROWTH**

Sponsor: Glenmoore Township Historical Commission Reservations: 610-942-3632 Meet at: The Faith Alliance Church

A log schoolhouse stood beside the 1738 cart road, 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 Springfield Manor story. As the Norwood hamlet grew into the Glenmoore Village, ornately decorated houses were constructed for newly married couples, hence Bridal Row. We look forward to sharing our architectural past with you.

**July 30, 2009**

**BOROUGH OF OXFORD: WE WERE OXFORD, PEOPLE FROM THE COMMUNITY’S PAST**

Sponsor: Oxford Area Historical Association Reservations: 610-933-0740, oxfordchamber@oxfordpa.org Meet at: The Oxford Memorial Park

By the early 1700’s the Scotch-Irish had settled in Oxford along an old Nemiscoke Indian trail that led to the Chesapeake Bay. By 1754, there was a community formed around Hoed’s Tavern and the Presbyterian Church. But the great growth came with the arrival of the railroad in 1850. Experience the early Victorian architecture of Oxford and meet the men and women who were responsible for the founding of Lincoln University, starting the 2nd oldest library in the state (1788) and having their own newspaper, bank, water company, fire company and electric company by the end of the 19th century. Surprise - visitors will include Annie Oakley.

**August 6, 2009**

**HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS: CELEBRATING 35 YEARS!**

Sponsor: Historic Yellow Springs Tour Registration & Information: 610-827-7414; www.yellowsprings.org Meet at: The Washington Building

Join us in celebrating the 35th anniversary of Historic Yellow Springs - a time to honor our “Founders”. Come meet HYS Founder Connie Fraley, who, in 1974, decided the village was too important not to save. The Lenape Indians, Revolutionary War, spa, orphanage, art school and filmmaking era will be explored with “founders” sharing the importance of each period. The beautiful landscape, the historic buildings, and the people, continue to make this an important living village today!

**August 13, 2009**

**VILLAGE OF BERWYN: FROM INDIAN TRAILS TO RAILS**


The Village of Berwyn grew along the historic tracks of the Main Line and the first tunkpike in the new United States that ran from Philadelphia to Lancaster. The village spread into both Easttown and Teddytown Townships. The walking tour weaves through the town from the churches above down to the railroad station squeezed between the tracks and Lancaster Pike. Visitors also will visit the Berwyn Veterans Memorial that honors area veterans from all the Nation’s wars. Refreshments at Hardie’s Ice Cream!

**August 20, 2009**

**BOROUGH OF AVONDALE: FROM WHEAT FIELDS TO BOROUGH**

Sponsor: Avondale Historical Commission Reservations: 484-720-8208 Meet at: Avondale Borough Hall

In the early 1850’s, most of what is now Avondale Borough was a large wheat field situated in portions of both New Garden and London Grove Townships. Early Avondale consisted of a stone bridge, four houses, a blacksmith shop, a tailor shop, a mill and several lime kilns. The village was served by the Philadelphia and Baltimore Central Railroad and two mail routes. Led by visionary residents, Avondale’s train connection caused it to grow rapidly in the 1860’s. Come explore and discover the clues to the past within the bustling borough of today.