

The Chester County Board of Commissioners through the Chester Westtown Township, the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, and the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau announce the 19th 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. Join us to explore Chester County's heritage on Thursday evenings, June 13 - August 22. Tours begin at 5:30pm and generally last 50 minutes. The last tour leaves at 7:00 pm unless daylight allows for additional tours. Each tour is designed to inform, entertain and increase awareness of Chester County's rich heritage and historic landscapes. A number of our sites offer a good selection of restaurants and shops to enjoy after your tour.

This summer, you will tour inside gracious homes in the Lukens Historic District and four of Phoenixville's historic churches. The "Blo" may frighten you in Historic Yellow Springs and we will learn about the "real housewives" of Kennett Square. We will return to two favorite historic villages - Nantmeal Village and Kimberton and will learn about the Civil War in Goshenville. We will meet Richard Thomas, West Whiteland statesman and enjoy the stories of historic West Chester Borough. Our final stop will be at Chester County's newest museum dedicated to the ice industry - it is one man's vision and you will be glad you visited.

Don't miss our March 12th Talks & Walks lecture on the reclaiming of the Schuylkill River and Sunday tours of Hibernia Mansion. Last year, over 2,400 Chester County citizens and visitors enthusiastically endorsed the assortment of historic evening walking tours and lectures! In 2005, Preservation Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission awarded the program one of two statewide educational awards.

IMPORTANT: For everyone who has enjoyed past tours, we are trying something new. There will be no preregistration after the first tour in West Chester, just come and enjoy each tour. Also, please remember for popular tours there can be a wait of up to 15 minutes. For information and weather updates, refer to www.chesco.org/planning or contact Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator, at 610-344-6923 or kmarshall@chesco.org.

TOUR AND LECTURE SERIES

Town Tours & Village Walks

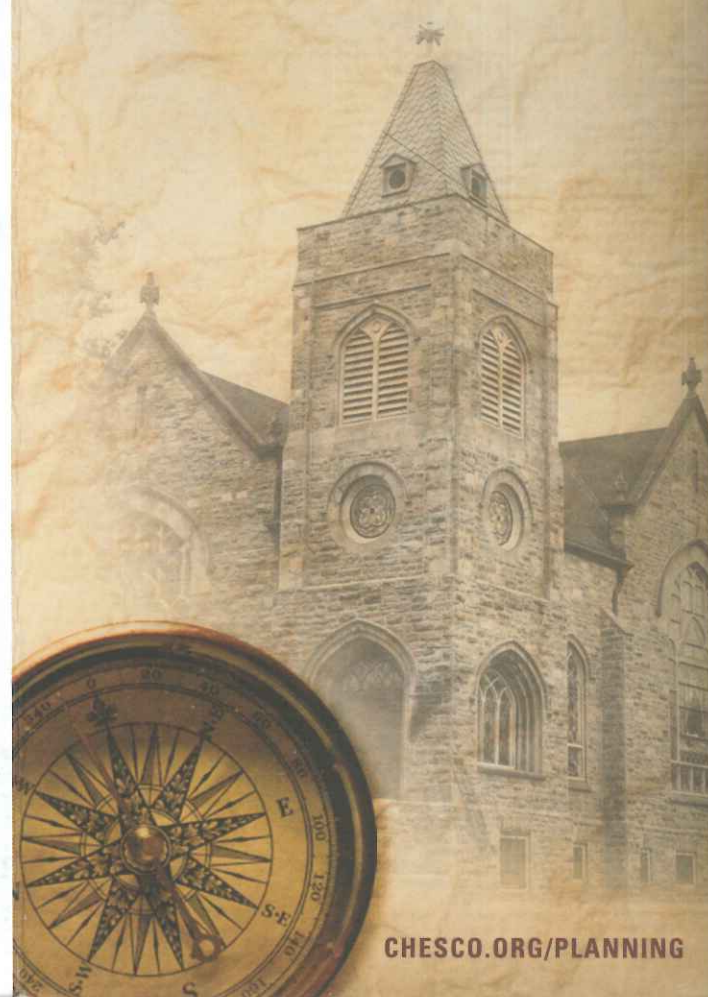
SUMMER 2013

SUMMER 2013

Town Tours & Village Walks

• FREE TOURS •

Join Us for Chester County
Summer Strolls Through History
19th Year

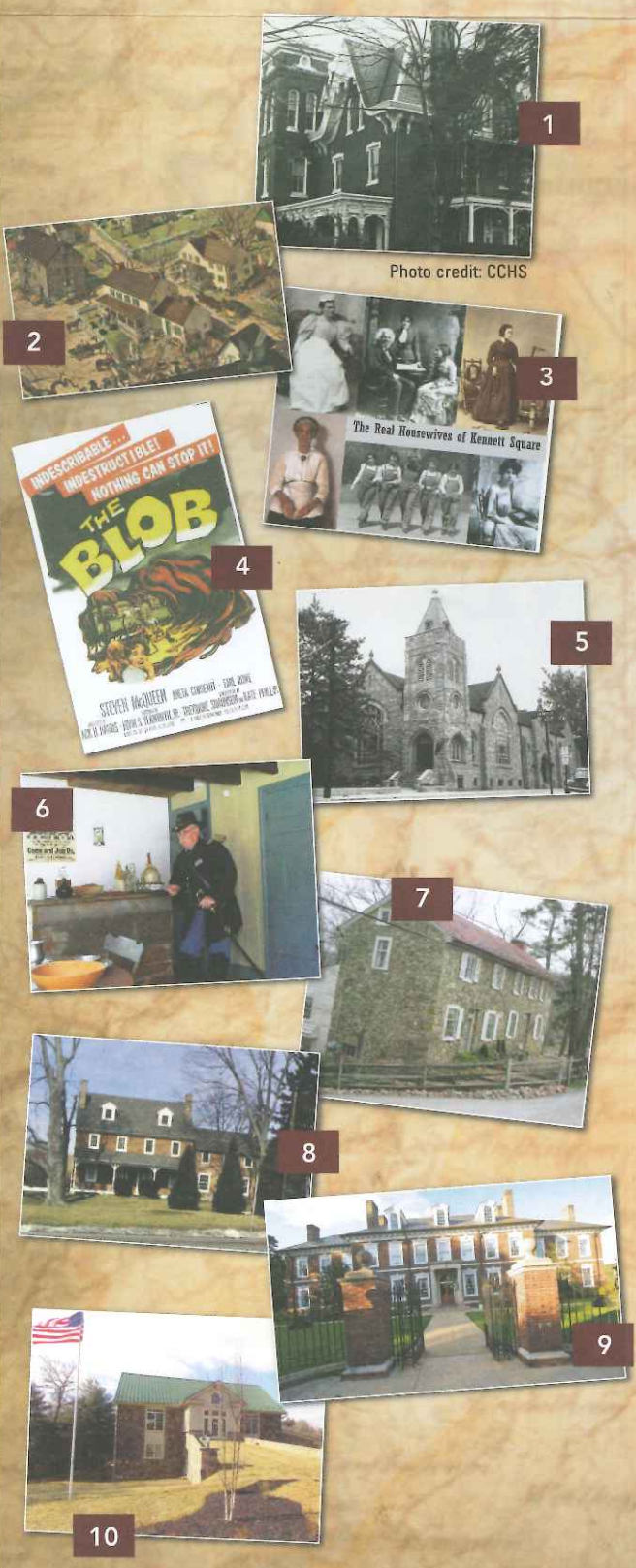
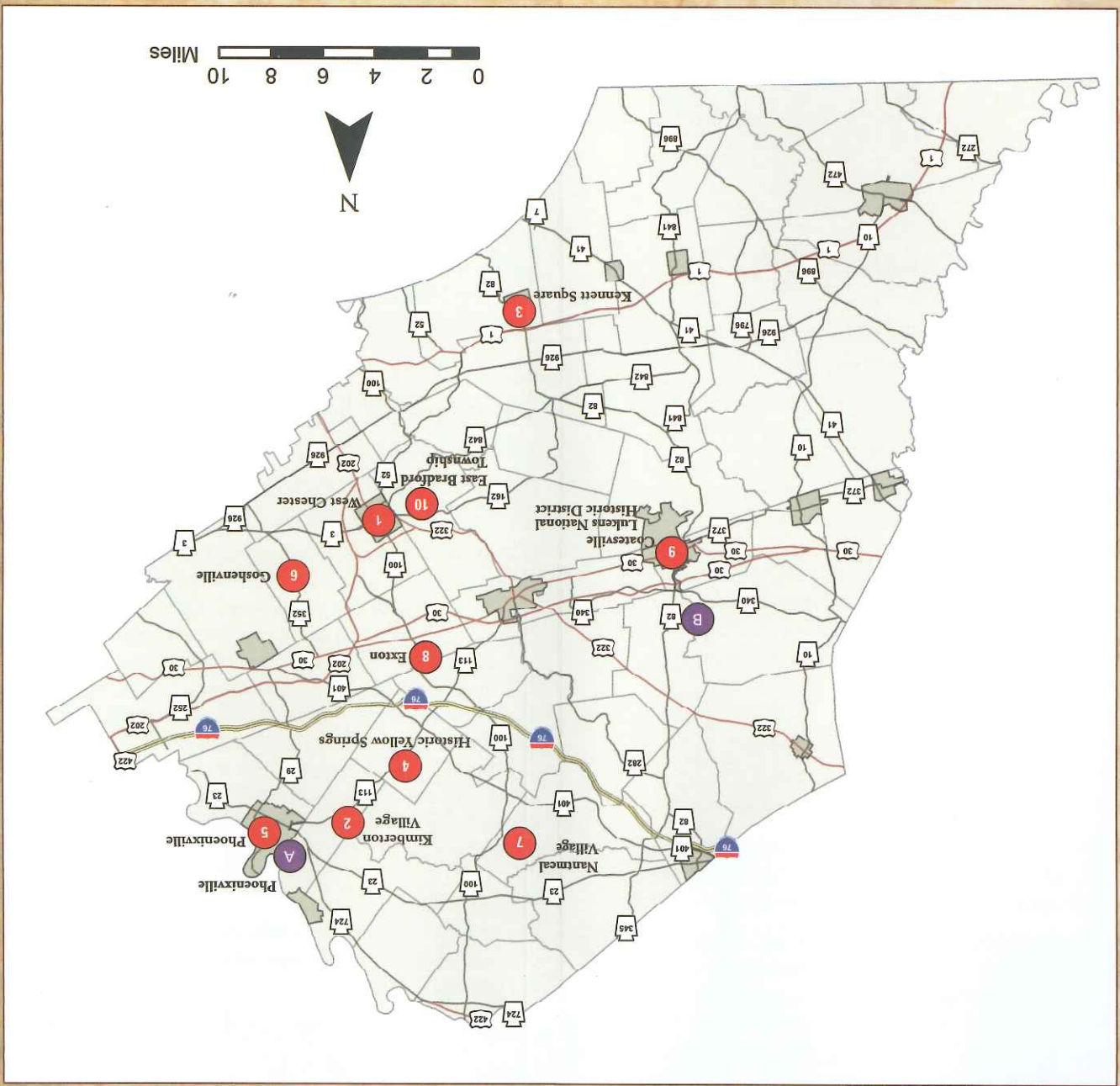


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Sponsored by

Chester County Board of Commissioners
Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau
Chester County Historic Preservation Network
The Chester County Historical Society

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www.cchpn.org
www.chestercountyhistorical.org



Summer 2013

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 Planning Commission
601 Westtown Road, Suite 270
West Chester, PA 19380-0990
www.chesco.org/planning

Summer 2013

Town Tours and Village Walks

June 13 ①

WEST CHESTER KICK-OFF AND TOUR

SPONSORS: West Chester HARB & Chester County Historical Society

TOUR INFORMATION: 225 N. High Street, West Chester. Registration and information for the tours is from 5:30 to 6:00 pm at the Historical Society. Parking is on the street or in the parking garage a block East at Chestnut and Walnut. Most parking is metered and requires payment.

Sign-up for the tour groups – accompanied by the Lukens Band – begins at 5:30. Opening ceremonies are at 6:00, and all the tour groups leave together at 6:30 pm. This year the tour groups will explore the Southwest quadrant of the Borough. This area includes part of the town center, with its historic buildings, and tree-lined streets of residences in the various styles of the 19th century. Each individual group tour is specially designed and written with its own focus and itinerary.

June 20 ②

KIMBERTON CROSSROADS*

SPONSORS: East Pikeland Historical Commission & Pikeland Historical Society

TOUR INFORMATION: Signage will direct you to parking areas in and around Kimberton Village. To get started go to 2208 Kimberton Rd, Kimberton, PA.

Kimberton crossroads forms the anchor for the sixty-two building Kimberton Village National Register Historic District. Today all four corners retain original structures constructed prior to 1797. The oldest is the Black Bear Tavern (aka 'Sign of the Bear') building, constructed some 'many years prior' to 1771 when a tavern petition was granted to Geo. Chrisman. The Chrisman grist mill c. 1796 is today's village Post Office. The Kimberton Boarding School (a 1787 farmhouse enlarged into that school) is now home to the Station Bistro eatery as well as several residential apartments. The Kimberton Inn, originally built as a still house, continues to serve the beverages and fine cuisine to travelers as it has since c. 1796. East Pikeland is celebrating its 175th year in 2013!

June 27 ③

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF KENNETT SQUARE*

SPONSOR: Kennett Square Borough Historical Commission

TOUR INFORMATION: FREE parking in municipal garage at 120 E. Linden Street, Kennett Square. Exit garage from main stairway onto Genesis Walkway. Registration in walkway.

Guides will lead visitors through the Borough to hear costumed actors reveal the roles that women played at different periods in Kennett Square's history. From nurses and teachers to poets and world travelers, these ladies were as educated and talented as their fathers, brothers and husbands. And like their modern TV counterparts, just as feisty and surprising. Live music and refreshments at end of tour.

July 11 ④

IT CREEPS, IT CRAWLS, IT WILL GET US ALL!*

SPONSORS: Historic Yellow Springs

TOUR INFORMATION: Signage will direct you to parking once you reach 1685 Art School Road, Chester Springs.

What else but THE BLOB! This science fiction classic, starring Steve McQueen, was made at Yellow Springs. Director Yeaworth always said, "The cinema is magical." Share the magic!! Visit the sites where the film was made and meet the people who made it. View our exhibit on moviemaking and continue the fun at Phoenixville's Colonial Theatre BLOBFEST on the weekend.

July 18 ⑤

INSIDE THE CHURCHES OF CHURCH STREET*

SPONSORS: The Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area

TOUR INFORMATION: Signage will direct you to parking areas in and around Phoenixville. To get started go to 204 Church Street, Phoenixville.

Take a stroll down Church Street, one of the oldest streets in Phoenixville, and learn about the six churches that once occupied the street. Learn how immigration fueled the building of places of worship in the early 19th century. Many ethnic groups had their own religious identities and as a result, many churches were built in Phoenixville. We will visit the interiors of several of these churches and hear about their architecture and histories.

July 25 ⑥

GOSHENVILLE 1863*

SPONSOR: East Goshen Historical Commission

TOUR INFORMATION: Historic Goshenville and parking are located at the corners of Rt 352 and East Boot Road in East Goshen. (1600 East Boot Road, West Chester PA 19380)

Despite having no battles fought on its soil, the Civil War directly affected the residents of Chester County in many ways. The Plank House and the Blacksmith & Wheelwright Shops will be converted and styled to reflect the life and times of its residents in 1863. East Goshen Township will be featuring communications, transportation and medical issues along with soldiers from both the Union and Confederate sides. Find out about the Sanitary Commission, see a gun display, or go to a Civil War-era tavern. Discover Wheat's Tigers and their flashy uniforms, learn about telegraphy, photography and the Civil War railroad system. Be transported back to the mid-century and let history come alive.

August 1 ⑦

HISTORIC NANTMEAL VILLAGE, THE "SWEET WATER" MEETING ON COVENTRY ROAD*

SPONSOR: East Nantmeal Historical Commission and Society

TOUR INFORMATION: Signage will direct visitors to parking. The Village is located at the intersection of Coventryville and Fairview Roads in Glenmoore.

Stroll through Nantmeal Village, Welsh for "sweet water." Our village began as a "quiet" Quaker settlement in the early 1700's, convenient to nearby forges. When the meeting closed in strife, the village was reborn through the "wheelings and dealings" of John Murray and others. By the 1880's, it had become quite the destination with a church, two schools, band hall, store, smithy, wheelwright, cabinetmaker and more! This now sleepy residential hamlet hides a colorful past illuminated for you on the Town Tours!

August 8 ⑧

SOLDIER-STATESMAN-LEADER: THE LEGACY OF RICHARD THOMAS III (1744-1832)*

SPONSORS: West Whiteland Historical Commission

TOUR INFORMATION: Parking will be located behind 233 West Lincoln Highway, Exton, across from Exton Nissan.

Richard Thomas III struggled with loyalty to his pacifist Quaker upbringing and belief in the Patriot cause. His duty to country prevailed and he took up arms during the Revolution. As the new nation formed he participated in its politics at state and federal levels. On this tour, costumed guides will take participants on a tour of the homes and businesses built by Thomas and describe the life and times of this famous Exton citizen.

August 15 ⑨

AN INSIDE GLIMPSE OF THE LUKENS NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT*

SPONSOR: National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum

TOUR INFORMATION: Parking & tour will begin at the Lukens Headquarters, 50 South 1st Avenue, Coatesville. (Use this exact spelling if you are using GPS.)

The story of American steel parallels the growth of the Lukens National Historic District—humble beginnings, stories of struggle and courage, and leaps in technology that changed the course of American history. Meet Rebecca Lukens, the first female American industrialist, and tour her home. Visit the gracious mansions of Terracina and Graystone, homes to Rebecca's daughter Isabella and grandson A. F. Huston. See the 1902 Executive Offices and learn how Lukens steel appeared in icons like the Space Needle, World Trade Center, and the USS Nautilus.

August 22 ⑩

BARN AGAIN IN CHESTER COUNTY*

SPONSOR: East Bradford Historical Commission

TOUR INFORMATION: Parking is located at the site, 825 Sconnelltown Road, West Chester.

In 2009, Joann and Peter Stack purchased a dilapidated stone barn c. 1834 in East Bradford Township which had once housed the Darlington Seminary for Girls from 1877-1933. For the next three years, a remarkable transformation took place which resulted in a fully renewed historic structure. Today, this adaptive reuse project has resulted in a museum which features Mr. Stack's collection of artifacts from the Ice Industry. The remarkable story of this industry began in 1805. At its height in 1920, over 1 billion dollars was added to the US economy from the ice industry that served the world. Come tour the barn and learn about this vanished part of our history.

*TOURS 2 – 10

The first tour leaves at approximately 5:30 pm and tours continue every 5 – 10 minutes until the last tour leaves at 7 pm. No preregistration.

Talks & Walks Lecture Series

Day of registration accepted on site unless otherwise noted, contact Karen Marshall, kmarshall@chesco.org or 610-344-6923 for information.

A Tuesday, March 12 • 7:30 p.m.
The Renaissance of a River
Schuylkill River Heritage Center at Phoenixville
2 Main Street, Phoenixville
Presenter: Chari Towne, Schuylkill Watershed Specialist

Chari Towne, a leader of the Riverkeeper's Network since 1996 has written an extraordinary story about the mid-20th century Schuylkill River clean-up efforts that saved the river. She will present amazing historic images from her book: *A River Again*. Admission is free.

B Sundays, May 26 – September 1 • 1 – 4 pm.
Hibernia Mansion Tours
Hibernia County Park
1 Park Road, Coatesville
Guided Tours

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. \$4.00/person, children under 12-free.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS ARE SERVED AT ALL LOCATIONS!

