SUMMER 2013

Town Tours & Village Walks

TOUR AND LECTURE SERIES

The Chester County Board of Commissioners through the Chester County Planning Commission, the Chester County Historical Society, Westtown Township, the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, and the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau announce the 15th 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 7:30pm and generally last 50 minutes. The last tour leaves at 7:50 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'll tour inside gracious homes in the Lukats Historic District and four of Pennsylvania's historic churches. The "Bible" may highlight you in Historic Yellow Springs and we will learn about the "real inventor" of Kennett Square. We will return to two favorite historic villages - Narrowsville Village and Kinburnton and will learn about the Civil War in Shavertown. We will meet Richard Thomas, West Whiteland statesmen 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 reclamations of the Schuylkill River and Sunday tours of Haverford Mansion.

Last year, over 2,600 Chester County citizens and visitors enthusiastically endorsed the annual tour series with tours and lectures! In 2015, 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, or 814-344-0255 or kmarshall@chesco.org.

Sponsored by:

Chester County Board of Commissioners
Planning Commission
www.chesco.org/planning

Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau
www.visitchestercounty.com

Chester County Historic Preservation Network
www.cchpn.org

The Chester County Historical Society
www.chestershistorical.org
August 15 ①

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.

July 25 ③

GOSHENVILLE 1863*

SPONSOR: East Goshen Historical Commission

TOUR INFORMATION: Historic Goshenville and parking are located at the corners of Rts 362 and East Boot Road in East Goshen. (1800 East Boot Road, West Chester PA 19380)

Despite having no bollards 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 ⑤

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 Glensmore. Stroll through Nantmeal Village, Welsh for "sweet water." Out village began as a "quiet" Quaker settlement in the early 1700's, convenient to nearby forges. When the meeting closed in style, the village was reborn through the "wheelings and dealings" of John Murray and others. By the 1890's, it had become quite the destination with a church, two schools, band hall, store, smithy, wheelwright, shoemaker and more! This sleepy residential hamlet hides a colorful past illuminated for you on the Town Tours!

August 8 ⑤

SOLDIER-STATEMAN-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 Motors.

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 policies at all levels of government. 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 ①

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 wording if you are using GPS).

The story of American steel parallels the growth of the Lukens National Historic District—humbling 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 Terracon 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 ③

BARN AGAIN IN CHESTER COUNTY*

SPONSOR: East Bradford Historical Commission

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

In 2009, JoAnne and Peter Stack purchased a dilapidated stone barn c. 1834 in East Bradford Township which had once housed the Darlington Seminary for Girls from 1837-1933. 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 Age industry. The renovation of this story of industry began in 1825. At its height in 1933, over 1 billion dollars was added to the US economy from the industry that served the world. Come tour the barn and learn about this vanished part of our history.

"Tours 2 – 2.5 hours. The first tour leaves at approximately 9:30 am and tours continue every 5 – 10 minutes until the last tour leaves at 7 pm. No preregistration."

Day of registration accepted on site unless otherwise noted, contact Karen Marshall, kmarshall@feschco.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: Cheri Towner, Schuylkill Watershed Specialist

Cheri Towner, a leader of the Riverkeeper's Network since 1998 has written an extraordinary story about the mid-20th century Schuylkill River clean-up efforts that saved the river. Her book will present amazing historical images from her book. A River Again. Admission is free.

D  Sundays, May 26 – September 1st 1 – 4 pm.

Hibernia Mansion Tours

Hibernia County Park

1 Park Road, Coatesville

Guided Tours

This fully furnished 10th century Irish Master's residence was redesigned in the early 20th century to resemble an English Country house. The legacies of the mansion builder Charles Brooks and "Dolores" Franklin Sawyer and the evolutions of the 20th century master will be the focus. A 75 minute guided tour of the mansion. $12.00 person, children under 12 free.

Tours are sold out. No registration accepted. Please contact the museum for availability. (610) 384-0324.

LAME DAY LIGHT REFRESHMENTS ARE SERVED AT ALL LOCATIONS!