



Town Tours & Village Walks

“Founding Mothers and Fathers”

SUMMER 2022

Town Tours & Village Walks is a series of free summer strolls through historic neighborhoods, hamlets, villages, and sites to learn about significant founders of these places or institutions and explore what they are today!

Each tour is designed to inform, entertain, and increase awareness of Chester County’s rich heritage and historic landscape. A number of our sites offer a good selection of restaurants and shops to enjoy after your tour.

This summer you can explore Chester County’s heritage on Thursday evenings, June 9th–August 18th.

Please note

- Tours generally last 50 minutes and begin at 5:30 pm with the last tour leaving at 7:00 pm, except for the July 7th bus tour that requires advance registration.
- The kickoff celebration will be on June 9th at the Chester County History Center, and will be followed by a tour.

Founded in 1682 by William Penn, Chester County enjoyed fertile soil, moderate climate, abundant natural resources, and access to nearby markets. Here the early settlers quickly realized the quality of the rich soils and the abundant creeks, tributaries and their considerable slope, could power numerous mills which became the early centers of trade. Slowly trails were formalized into dirt roads leading to Philadelphia and vital market and cultural centers. These roads also connected trade centers located at mills and furnaces as well as cultural and social destinations of taverns and sacred places. The names of the majority of roads throughout the county still reflect their original destination of an early business, meetinghouse or tavern. Crucial to economic vitality, villages developed starting in the late 18th century, at the crossroads of early roads and destinations. As technology spurred innovation in the 19th century, canal, railroad and industrial villages grew into towns. By the early 19th century, our boroughs and Coatesville City were well on their way to becoming the cultural and economic centers we know today.

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For more information

www.chescoplanning.org/historic/towntours
 Chester County Planning Commission
ccplanning@chesco.org
 610-344-6285

Please note

- Sites are handicapped limited access—please contact Chester County Planning Commission for specific needs.
- CDC guidelines for in-person events will be followed.
- As an attendee of this event, you agree to the release of photos that may be taken and used on our website, social media sites, and publications.

Supported by

- Chester County Board of Commissioners
- Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau
- Chester County Historic Preservation Network
- Chester County History Center
- Chester County Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is pleased to support the 2022 Town Tours and Village Walks and thanks the many partners and volunteers who make the program an annual success, as we welcome this summer’s participants in learning about the county’s heritage.

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 601 Westtown Road, Suite 270
 West Chester, PA 19380-0990
www.chescoplanning.org/historic/towntours



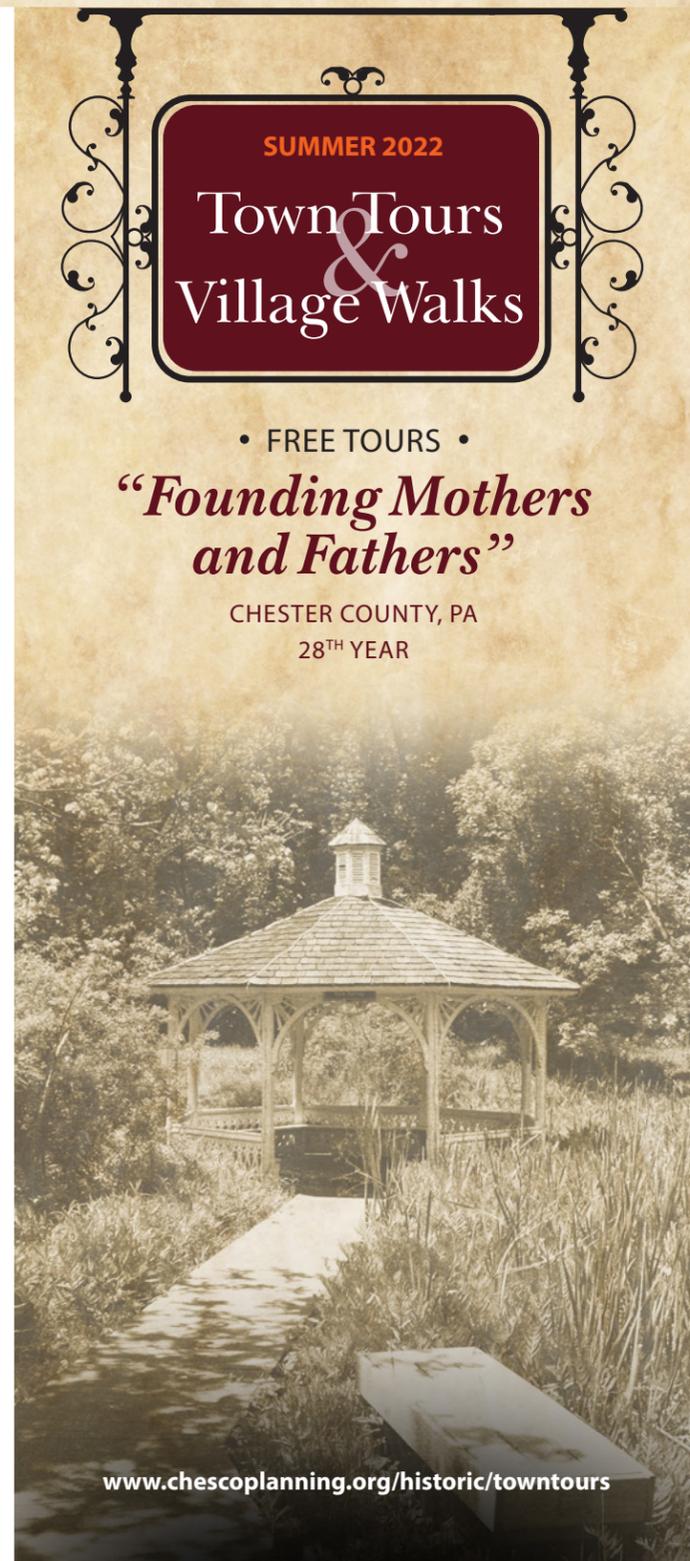
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&
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• FREE TOURS •

*“Founding Mothers
and Fathers”*

CHESTER COUNTY, PA
28TH YEAR



www.chescoplanning.org/historic/towntours



How We APPRECIATE

GOAL: Preserve the historic resources and landscapes that define our cultural heritage to inspire the future through tangible connections to our shared past.

1 JUNE 9 THURSDAY 5:30 pm

Kickoff Celebration and Humphry Marshall Birthday Bash in West Chester



Sponsors: West Chester HARB & Historical Commission

The Annual Kickoff Celebration starts at the Chester County History Center, 225 N. High St, West Chester. It is followed by a tour to celebrate the 300th birthday of colonial Quaker botanist Humphry Marshall of West Bradford. Tour the northeast quadrant of the borough with a focus on Marshall Square Park and Marshall Street, both named in honor of Mr. Marshall. Learn about the botanical work of Dr. William Darlington, David Townsend, Dr. Joseph Rothrock plus the Hoopes Nursery. Along the way we will reference architecture, the Sharples Machine Shop, the Great Explosion, Buffalo Bill, and General Lafayette.

Parking & Registration

Parking is available at the garage at 14 East Chestnut Street, West Chester. Many businesses and restaurants validate garage tickets with purchase. There is also metered street parking. The door opens at 5:00 to register for a tour. The kickoff starts at 5:30, and is immediately followed by the tour.

2 JUNE 16 THURSDAY 5:30 pm SELF-GUIDED

Founding Families of the African American Community in Kennett Square



Sponsor: Kennett Heritage Center

The self-guided tour begins with a brief demographic history of Kennett, slave ownership, and the 1780 Gradual Abolition Act of Pennsylvania. The tour will take visitors on a two-block walk, noting the area where free blacks settled, their homes, places of worship, and contributions of some of the founders.

Parking & Registration

Free parking in the municipal garage at 120 E. Linden Street, Kennett Square. Exit the garage from the main stairway onto Genesis Walkway. The self-guided tour will begin at the State Street end of the Genesis walkway.

3 JUNE 23 THURSDAY 5:30 pm

Village of Eagle



Sponsor: Upper Uwchlan Township Historical Commission

The Upper Uwchlan Township Historical Commission presents the Village of Eagle. The tour will show how the village grew around the Eagle Tavern and the early homes of founding families, as well as other historic village buildings.

Parking & Registration

Parking will be at the Pickering Valley Elementary School, 121 Byers Road, Chester Springs. Registration will be across the parking lot at the Upper Uwchlan Township building (former Windsor School House), 140 Pottstown Pike, Chester Springs.

4 JULY 7 THURSDAY register for a time

Willistown Township: Acres of Quakers, Native Americans, and Conservationists



Sponsor: Willistown Historical Commission and Parks and Recreation Department

Willistown Township, founded in 1704, was part of William Penn's 1684 Welsh Tract. The 13-mile tour begins at the Radnor Hunt, the oldest active fox hunt (we do not harm the fox) in the U.S. where participants will board a coach bus and enjoy riding through Whitehorse Village, Okehocking Preserve, Historic Sugartown, the 1860 Bartram Covered Bridge, and historic buildings while touring the conserved land.

Registration Required in Advance

30-Minute bus tours are scheduled 4:00pm-7:30pm. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/historic-willistown-bus-tour-tickets-318979364867. Password: WillistownBusTour2022. For questions or cancellation, email comments@willistown.pa.us.

Parking & Check-in

Radnor Hunt, 826 Providence Road, Malvern.

5 JULY 21 THURSDAY 5:30 pm

Rebecca Lukens: Founding Mother of Iron and Steel in Coatesville



Sponsor: National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum

Celebrate the life and times of Rebecca Lukens, American's first female industrialist, and her descendants. Although by far not the only woman who managed iron furnaces in the 19th century, Rebecca was the only documented woman to manage multiple businesses. The list of National Historic Landmark properties along South First Avenue include her home Brandywine Mansion, Terracina, and the steel industry that evolved from the original iron business. The proximity of these homes and offices to the mill reflects the Lukens and Huston families' long-standing commitment to living and working close to the factory and community. Learn about the owners of the mills and the men and women who worked in them.

Parking & Registration

National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum, 50 South 1st Avenue, Coatesville.

6 JULY 28 THURSDAY 5:30 pm

Jones Log Barn, Tredyffrin Township



Sponsor: Tredyffrin Historical Commission

Supporters: Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust, Tredyffrin/Easttown Historical Society, Valley Forge Park Alliance, PennDOT Cultural Resources & Region 6.

French Generals Lafayette and Duportail served on George Washington's headquarters staff during the Valley Forge encampment 1777-1778. Today a short, wooded walk connects their winter quarters in Tredyffrin Township and Valley Forge National Historic Park. Guides will present French connection stories during our country's founding. Learn about Tredyffrin's Great Valley agrarian life at the newly opened Living History Center in the reconstructed Jones Log Barn, Chester County's newest heritage destination. Finally, enjoy a cool creek-side walk over one of Pennsylvania's remaining metal truss bridges with a guide from PennDOT's cultural resources staff.

Parking & Registration

P.C. Knox Estate in Valley Forge National Historic Park, 151 Library Lane, Malvern.

7 AUGUST 4 THURSDAY 5:30 pm

Celebrating 300 Years of the Springs at Historic Yellow Springs



Sponsor: Historic Yellow Springs

Yellow Springs was first noted in a Philadelphia newspaper in 1722. It described the waters and their curative powers. Many people, including our *Founding Mothers and Fathers*, continued the story of the village. It all began with the healing waters and the Lenape Indian villages; then the health spa, Revolutionary War Hospital, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Country School, PA Soldiers' Orphan School and Good News Movie Productions followed. Over 300 years, much has changed; much has stayed the same. Join us and let these women and men share our story that spans the history of our nation that began with the "yellow waters."

Parking & Registration

Historic Yellow Springs, 1701 Art School Road, Chester Springs. Follow signs for parking in The Washington/Chester Springs Library lot after entering the village.

8 AUGUST 11 THURSDAY 5:30 pm

Malvern Borough c. 1889: From Crossroads to Powerhouse



Sponsor: Malvern Historical Commission

Join the Malvern Historical Commission as they spotlight several founders and early contributors who are buried in the First Baptist Church of Malvern's graveyard, which dates from the mid-19th century. Malvern Borough was incorporated in 1889 and this church is one of their Tier 1 historic buildings. Please note this graveyard is an uneven, grassy field and we caution those with stability/mobility issues.

Parking & Registration

Parking is at the Vision Fellowship/Malvern Baptist Church, 146 Channing Avenue, Malvern. There is additional parking in the Malvern Borough municipal lot across the side street from the church.

9 AUGUST 18 THURSDAY 5:30 pm

Humphry Marshall and the Village of Marshallton



Sponsor: West Bradford Historical Commission

Join the West Bradford Historical Commission as they tell the history of Humphry Marshall's activity as one of the founding fathers of the Village of Marshallton, and the person for whom the village is named.

Parking & Registration

United Methodist Church of Marshallton, 1282 W. Strasburg Road, Marshallton.