

SUMMER 2002

# TOWN TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS

The nostalgic delights of our historic villages are yours to discover as you spend lovely summer evenings on any, or all of the FREE one-hour evening Town Tours & Village Walks. Designed to evoke memories of life in simpler times, they're 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'll travel. 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.

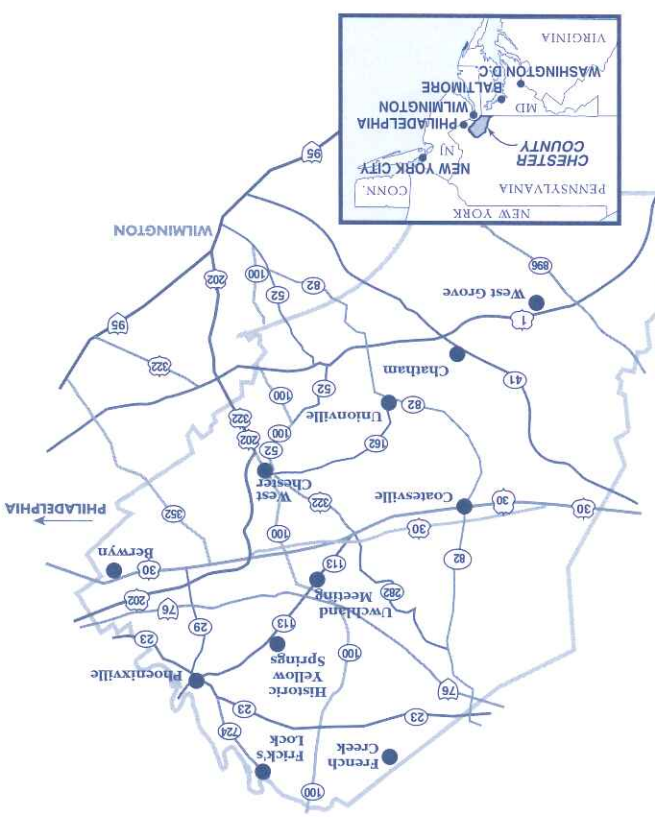
Early Quaker families continue to play a part today, as do those of later arrivals who came to live, work and make important contributions to Pennsylvania's diverse cultural heritage. Here, homes are lovingly restored and show the charm of small town life in the Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Victorian and pre-war eras.

In Pennsylvania, Chester County is second only to Philadelphia in the number of sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many of these, along with designated Historic Districts, are part of this summer's new tour itineraries. Observe the preservation and adaptive reuse of our period architecture—it will give you ideas for your own lifestyle.

Discover how our waterways and mills—French Creek, the Schuylkill and branches of the Brandywine—influenced life in our valleys and along our early toll roads. Tales told of the characters, great and small, who lived here will intrigue and amuse the entire family!

For years, local citizens have researched old records to learn about the historic buildings in their neighborhoods. Not only are they learning 18th- and 19th-century construction methods, but how the Industrial Revolution changed their streetscapes.

Descendants of founding families tell amusing anecdotes about their ancestors' coping with "modern" 19th-century technology. Partnerships have been established to take facts out of filing cabinets and share stories and folklore with neighbors and all the visitors we welcome to our FREE summer-long program.



**CHESTER COUNTY**  
 400 Exton Square Parkway  
 Exton, Pennsylvania 19341  
 610-280-6145  
 Visit us on the web  
[www.brandywinevalley.com](http://www.brandywinevalley.com)

**CHESTER COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU & CONFERENCE**  
 Visit us on the web  
[www.brandywinevalley.com](http://www.brandywinevalley.com)

PENNSYLVANIA | *memories last a lifetime*

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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!

For a FREE Chester County Official Visitors Guide or lodging and dining suggestions, call the Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-228-9933


SUMMER 2002

## Chester County

*Come of the Brandywine Valley*

FREE GUIDED EVENING STROLLS

# TOWN TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS



HISTORIC SOUTH WALNUT NEIGHBORHOOD, WEST CHESTER

ENJOY A CHESTER COUNTY SUMMER!

THURSDAY EVENINGS  
 JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2002

SUMMER 2002

## TOWN TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS

Sponsored by  
 Board of Commissioners  
 Chester County Parks and Recreation  
 Department and the  
 Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau  
 400 Exton Square Parkway  
 Exton, Pennsylvania 19341

## MAKE AN EVENING OF IT!

Why not make these Free Town Tours & Village Walks your excuse for a summer getaway? Some of the Brandywine Valley's most charming B&B's and inns offer special package rates. Many are historic properties so you can extend your experience of times past as you enjoy our countryside for an overnight or even a long weekend. Many of our restaurants will feature "Early Bird" Specials for pre-tour suppers or other dining values after your Town Tour & Village Walk.

- MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:
- JUNE 13- HISTORIC SOUTH WALNUT NEIGHBORHOOD, WEST CHESTER
  - JUNE 20- PROPRIETORS GASLIGHT ERA IN COATESVILLE
  - JUNE 27- THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF UWCHLAN MEETING
  - JULY 11- SITE OF CONTINENTAL POWDER WORKS ON FRENCH CREEK
  - JULY 18- BERWYN: THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS
  - JULY 25- UNIONVILLE
  - AUGUST 1- MAIN STREET, PHOENIXVILLE
  - AUGUST 8- HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS
  - AUGUST 15- WEST GROVE
  - AUGUST 22- CHATHAM
  - AUGUST 29- FRICK'S LOCK VILLAGE

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### HISTORIC SOUTH WALNUT NEIGHBORHOOD, WEST CHESTER



JUNE 13, 2002

TOUR RESERVATION: 610-918-7070

SPONSOR: Historic South Walnut Neighborhood Association

West Chester belongs to the empire of the brick. Local clay was plentiful, local brick manufacturing boomed, bricks prevented fire from spreading, and they were

easier and more economical to use than stone. The Historic South Walnut Neighborhood tour will focus on the rich architectural, historical, and artistic flavor. Centered in the 100 - 300 blocks of South Walnut St., the neighborhood was built largely in the 2nd half of the 19th century during the reign of Queen Victoria in England. A variety of architectural styles will entice you including Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Second Empire, Stick Style and Queen Anne Revival.

### PROPRIETORS GASLIGHT ERA IN COATESVILLE

JUNE 20, 2002

TOUR RESERVATION: 610-384-9282

SPONSOR: Graystone Society, Inc., and Coatesville Historical Commission



Nineteenth century Lukens iron and steel expansion and city population growth spurred rapid construction for middle management and proprietors. Enjoy the various architectural styles on Chestnut and East Lincoln Highway, such as Jacob W. Heck's Carpenter Gothic home constructed in 1892. Churches and the original Coatesville Senior High School, 1900, complete the streetscape display. View Coatesville heritage through a panoramic mural at the Senior Center and explore a city memorabilia collection.

### THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF UWCHLAN MEETING

JUNE 27, 2002

TOUR RESERVATION: 610-363-9450

SPONSOR: Uwchlan Township Historical Commission

Founded in 1712 by the Society of Friends, the Uwchlan Meeting House has served the community for nearly 300 years. The Continental Army took possession of the building in January 1778 for use as a hospital during the Revolutionary War's Philadelphia Campaign. Besides the Meeting House, guided tours include the Friends Burial Ground, the 1859 Edith P. Moore Lionville Schoolhouse and the newly-rehabilitated 18th and 19th century John Cadawalader House.



### SITE OF CONTINENTAL POWDER WORKS ON FRENCH CREEK

JULY 11, 2002

TOUR RESERVATION: 610-933-1770

SPONSOR: East Pikeland Township Historical Commission and Pikeland Historical Society

On February 16, 1776, the Continental Congress authorized the construction of a public powder mill. By summer, one end of the Powder Mill was near finished and capable of making 3,000 - 4,000 pounds a week. Today, 226 years later, stroll beside French Creek past these industrial vestiges along with the millrace and the picturesque Rapp's Dam Covered Bridge built in 1866. Hear the story of the powder mill, the gun factory, the militia, the workers and the "explosion and destruction" of 1777. The intrigue continues.



### BERWYN: THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS

JULY 18, 2002

TOUR RESERVATION: 484-419-7210

SPONSOR: Berwyn - Devon Business - Professional Association

Berwyn, a village on the Main Line, has been affiliated with transportation for centuries. Carriages depict travel on the 1792 Philadelphia - Lancaster Turnpike, reminiscent of the "PENNSY" at the train station, and see the old cars that bring us into the auto era. Visit Cockletown before strolling past skillfully restored and lovingly maintained Victorian houses, antique shops and family-owned businesses. In earlier times, farmers of the countryside found needed services in the village. Today it serves the sprawling suburbs.



### UNIONVILLE

JULY 25, 2002

TOUR RESERVATION: 610-347-2070

SPONSOR: Unionville Historic Architectural Review Board

In the 1770s British soldiers plundered the Jacksonville rural community, whose name changed to Unionville in 1821. The exquisite 19th century village of 67 significant historic structures portrays the story of a commercial center for a thriving agricultural community: tinsmith, tannery, cabinetmaker, cobbler, wheelwright, doctor and undertaker. Listen carefully and you can hear the latest debate, musical or lecture at the 1850 Unionville Hall or attend services in the houses of worship.



### MAIN STREET, PHOENIXVILLE

AUGUST 1, 2002

TOUR RESERVATION: 610-935-7646

SPONSOR: Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area

MAIN STREET in an iron and steel company town takes on a new life full of interesting architecture, attractions and historical sites. Using the former foundry building, see the new Schuylkill Valley Visitors Center under construction, and the nearby company owned worker houses. Stroll past beautiful restored homes and help celebrate Phoenixville Library's 100th birthday. An old-fashioned ice cream social awaits you at the Historical Society's excellent museum. Come join the fun.



### HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS

AUGUST 8, 2002

TOUR RESERVATION: 610-827-7414

SPONSOR: Historic Yellow Springs, Inc.

225 years ago, America's first military hospital was built on a hillside in the village known as Yellow Springs. The Yellow Springs Medical Department Headquarters, commissioned by the Continental Congress, became the principal medical facility for the Valley Forge encampment. From 1777 - 1781, the hospital cared for more than 1,300 Revolutionary War soldiers. Walk in the footsteps of General Washington as you tour the village, view their recently unveiled wall mural and get a "sneak peak" at the new orientation center.



### WEST GROVE

AUGUST 15, 2002

TOUR RESERVATION: 610-869-2792

SPONSOR: Borough of West Grove

West Grove's name dates back to 1787 when the Society of Friends constructed a meeting house

on the western edge of London Grove Township. Located on the Philadelphia and Baltimore Central Railway, the town center started to develop with the coming of the railroad in 1860. For many years, it served as the central shipping point for the mail order rose businesses of nursery pioneers Dingee and Conrad and Conard-Pyle. Incorporated as a borough in 1893, today the town features elegant brick homes, early houses of worship and a commercial center with the small-town feel of yesterday.



### CHATHAM

AUGUST 22, 2002

TOUR RESERVATION: 610-869-3837

SPONSOR: London Grove Township Historical Commission

The oldest settlement in London Grove Township, this village has a history deeply rooted in commerce and transportation. It began as a rest stop on the Gap-Newport Turnpike for the men and horse teams transporting wheat to the Wilmington flour mills. In 1741 the "Half-Way House" was established. It still stands today, along with the recently restored 1760 "William Pitt Hotel." Flourishing between the 1830s and 1860s, it supported one of the county's first post offices along with hotels, train stations, several stores and businesses such as a tannery, creamery and carriage factory.



### FRICK'S LOCK VILLAGE

AUGUST 29, 2002

TOUR RESERVATION: 610-495-5443

SPONSOR: East Coventry Township Historical Commission

The Frick's Lock District contains approximately 18 acres of a farming hamlet with domestic and agricultural architecture spanning from 1757 to 1937. The tour includes the remains of locks 54 and 55 of the Schuylkill Navigation Co.'s Girard Canal which extended 22 miles from Lewis Dam, below Reading to Parker Ford, a short distance downstream from Frick's Lock. A lockkeeper's residence and locks, date from the canal's initial construction, plus the area was the site of a 1930s WPA project. Currently, it is in an unrestored state within the Schuylkill River Heritage Corridor.

