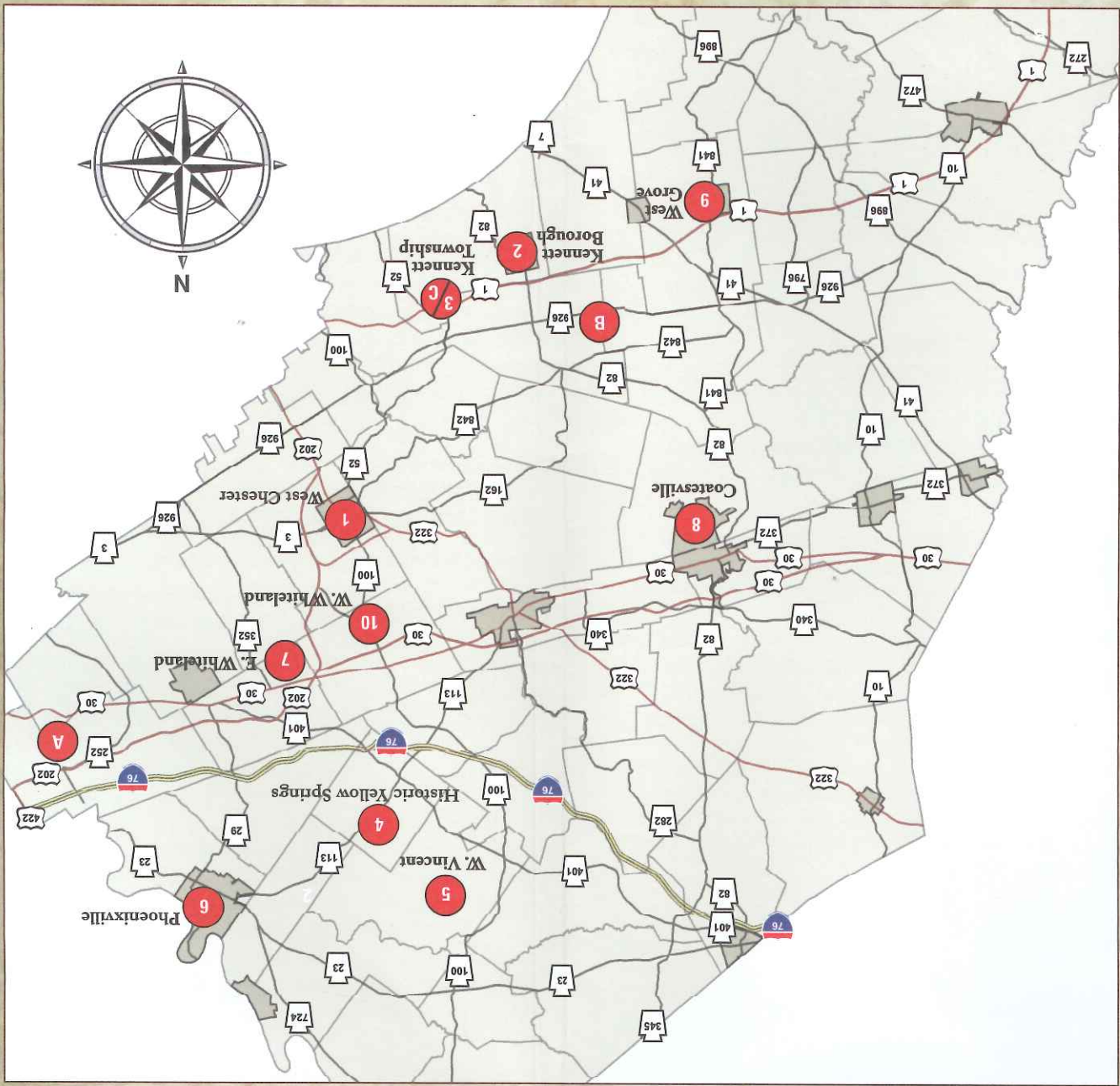


Sponsored by



For more information, refer to: www.chesco.org/Planning/TownTours, or contact Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator, at 610-344-6923 or kmarshall@chesco.org for a brochure.

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 21st 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. This summer, you can explore Chester County's heritage on Thursday evenings, June 11 - August 20. For all but noted programs, the first tour begins at 5:30 pm and tours continue until 7:00 pm with no pre-registration needed. 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.

Chester County possesses a rich, diverse, and intriguing African American history, ranging from enslaved Africans held by founder William Penn, to Quakers and the Underground Railroad, to the county's role in the American Civil War and later in the Civil Rights Movement. The meetinghouses and homes of Quakers and other abolitionists still stand as silent testimony to the struggles surrounding race in this country. They are joined by our iron and steel heritage which provided work and pay for an honest day's labor regardless of race, religion or country of birth. Across the summer the tours will highlight the homes, meetinghouses, and resting places of the brave men and women who "recognized the Equal Brotherhood of the Human Family" before and after the Civil War. There are also special programs featuring a historic struggle for equal opportunity, underground railroad tours and an underground railroad scholars symposium.

*Note: The June 11th Kick-Off Tour requires on-site registration starting at 5:30 pm and the Trolley Tour on August 20th begins at 3 pm and requires pre-reservations. See Tour Brochure for specifics.

Town Tours & Village Walks
 SUMMER 2015

SUMMER 2015
Town Tours & Village Walks

• FREE TOURS •
 Join Us for Chester County
 Summer Strolls Through History
 21st Year

Special Programs

A) Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church Celebration

380 N. Fairfield Rd., Devon • www.historicmtziondevon.org
 Sunday: June 14 • 3:00 pm
 Admission: **FREE!**
 Call 610-647-5835 for more information.

Enjoy Tours of the Historic Church and Cemetery. Light refreshments provided. Newly listed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its role in the battle known as the "School Fight," Mount Zion was the meeting place for the families of more than 200 students who fought a move by school officials in Tredyffrin and Easttown Township to place the youngsters in segregated schools from 1932-34. The children were assigned to run-down elementary school buildings, while their white classmates were to attend a new elementary school building opening in fall 1932. During the controversy, parents protested and were jailed and fined for refusing to send their children to school. The families won their case when it was settled out of court in late April 1934 and the children returned to school next day.

B) Symposium on Current Research on the Underground Railroad

500 West Street Road (Route 926), London Grove
 Saturday: May 23 • 9:30 am - 4:00 pm
 Admission: **FREE!** RSVP by May 20.
 Register by calling 302-475-0554 or by emailing tmaquire@wilmingtonfriends.org.

A symposium on current research on the Underground Railroad in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and New York will feature timely topics with experts from the region. Lunch is available for \$6 or you may bring your own.

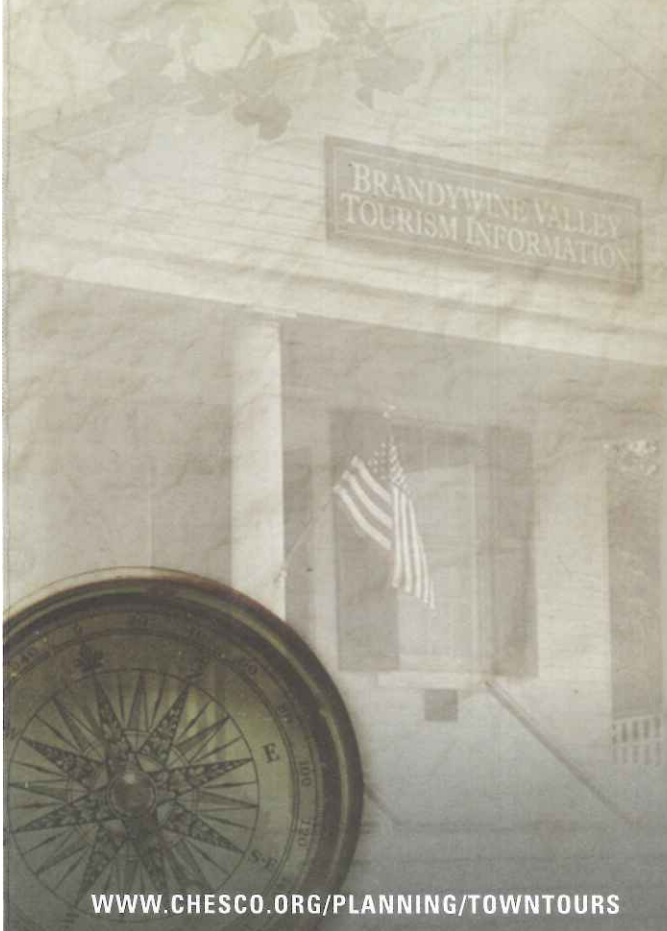
C) Special Kennett Underground Railroad Heritage Guided Bus Tours

300 Greenwood Road, Kennet Square
 Sundays: May 17, June 14, July 12, August 9 & September 20.
 Admission: **Adult \$20 / 17 & Under \$15**
 Register by calling 484-544-5070.

Hear stories of the Underground Railroad stations, learn about our local heroes and visit Quaker meetinghouses. Tours begin at the Longwood Progressive Meetinghouse at 1:45 pm.

Summer 2015
Town Tours and Village Walks

Sponsored by
 Chester County Board of Commissioners
 Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau
 Chester County Historic Preservation Network
 Chester County Historical Society
 Chester County Planning Commission
 601 Westtown Road, Suite 270
 West Chester, PA 19380-0990
 www.chesco.org/planning/towntours



Town Tours & Village Walks

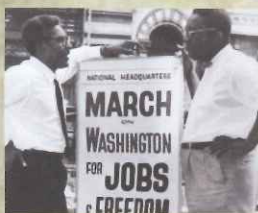
Summer 2015

① June 11

BUSINESSES, NEIGHBORHOODS, AND CIVIL RIGHTS

SPONSORS: West Chester HARB &
Chester County Historical Society

PARKING AND INFORMATION: Tours and program begin at the Chester County Historical Society, 225 N. High St. There is metered street parking and some unmetered neighborhood parking (check signs for restrictions). The Chestnut Street Parking Garage is right around the corner from CCHS.



Come and enjoy the festivities as we kick off the 21st Annual Town Tours and Village Walks. We will depart from the Chester County Historical Society and tour the area west of N. High St. and north of W. Market St. See neighborhoods and homes

of such famous people as Horace Pippin and Bayard Rustin. Learn about early churches, businesses, architecture, the Underground Railroad, and civil rights. On-site registration for the tours and entertainment by the Lukens Band is from 5:30-6:00 pm. All tours begin at 6:30 pm following the kick-off program.

② June 18

FREEDMEN, FUGITIVES AND FRIENDS

SPONSOR: Kennett Square Borough Historical Commission

PARKING AND INFORMATION: Parking lot at the corner of Willow and E. State Street OR the lot behind Bayard Taylor Memorial Library, 216 E. State Street. The tour will start from the Willow & State Street parking lot.

NOTE: Visitors are advised that there will be detours on State and Union Streets for 'Third Thursday Dining in the Street'. Be patient as you make your way to the parking lots and if you wish to dine before or after the tour, please make reservations in advance for this popular event.



Guides will lead visitors through the Borough to see the houses and hear the stories of Kennett Square Quakers and African Americans who co-existed peacefully before and after the Civil War. Learn about their places of worship, employment and social activity.

③ June 25

LONGWOOD PROGRESSIVE MEETING: "AN OPEN DOOR TO ALL WHO RECOGNIZE THE EQUAL BROTHERHOOD OF THE HUMAN FAMILY"

SPONSOR: Kennett Township Historical Commission

PARKING AND INFORMATION: Longwood Gardens, 1001 Longwood Rd, Kennett Square, follow signage from Route 1.



These words from the "Exposition of Sentiments" (adopted when the Pennsylvania Yearly Meeting of Progressive Friends was founded in 1853), capture the intent and spirit of the members of this unusual and highly visible Meeting. The

Longwood Progressive Friends Meetinghouse and Longwood Cemetery were recently named to the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom for their critical contribution to the abolition movement. Kennett Township will be sharing the story of the role the Meeting and its members played in the quest for freedom. A visit to the 160 year old meetinghouse and a tour of the cemetery, where many members are buried, will provide an understanding of the link between the Meeting and its courageous members and the role they played in the pursuit of freedom for all members of the Human Family.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
ARE SERVED AT ALL LOCATIONS!

④ July 9

UNDER THE GROUND AT YELLOW SPRINGS

SPONSOR: Historic Yellow Springs

PARKING AND INFORMATION: 1685 Art School Road, Chester Springs. Follow directional signs after entering the village.



All communities leave a history which we can see, but did you know they also leave important information that we can't see? Many different communities have left their marks under the ground at Yellow Springs. Arrow points and tools verify the Lenape villages; small shoes, uniform buttons and toy fragments tell of the life of the Civil War orphans who lived here; ink bottles, paint materials and pen points identify the artist community. Come and see the archaeology treasures found under the ground in digs at our site and hear from archaeologists how they located the artifacts.

⑤ July 16

INTO WEST VINCENT: A JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

SPONSOR: West Vincent Historic
Resources Committee

PARKING AND INFORMATION: Field parking at 1727 Flint Rd. at intersection with Kimberton Rd.

OPTIONAL PROGRAM: After touring the Lewis/Fussell properties, time permitting, proceed on Kimberton Rd. approximately 1 1/2 miles from the Flint Rd. intersection toward the village of Kimberton, to 1976 Kimberton Rd. and 1320 Pughtown Rd. (on opposite sides of Kimberton Rd.) You can view the Norris and Ann Maris/Royal Spring mill site property. Parking is limited here. No guides.



"Seventeen strangers were here..." Esther Fussell Lewis wrote cryptically in her diary one evening... Long before there was an organized network called the Underground Railroad, Quakers and free blacks guided fugitives here, a stop on their way to freedom. By the 1800's, the Lewis-Fussell family, in four adjacent houses along the Old Kimberton Road, had devoted themselves to abolition and to the care of runaway slaves. The tour will show those four farmsteads, which comprised the original "John and Esther Lewis Farm", including "Sunnyside", built in 1848. Highlighted will be the work of the Quaker families who lived there: John and Esther Lewis, their daughters Mariann, Rebecca, Graceanna, and Elizabeth; Norris and Ann Maris; Dr. Bartholomew Fussell, Dr. Morris Fussell, Dr. Edwin Fussell; Eleanor Bechtel Moore and others.

⑥ July 23

A WALK IN THE PARK: EXPLORING PHOENIXVILLE'S REEVES PARK

SPONSOR: The Historical Society
of the Phoenixville Area

PARKING AND INFORMATION: Reeves Park is located at 3rd and Main Street in Phoenixville. Street parking is available around the park and on side streets.



Much of Phoenixville's rich heritage reflects the Phoenix Iron and Steel Company's approach to hiring regardless of race, religion or ethnicity. Reeves Park and the neighborhood that surrounds it has reflected that diverse history since the park's founding in the 1870's. Come and tour key sites in the park and adjacent areas which will include monuments, ethnic churches, industrialists' mansions and a Carnegie Library. Tours will begin at the historic 1903 band shell in Reeves Park.

⑦ July 30

WALKING THROUGH HISTORY ON THE CHESTER VALLEY TRAIL

SPONSOR: East Whiteland Historical Commission

PARKING AND INFORMATION: Tours will start at the East Whiteland Township building at 209 Conestoga Road.



Walk along the trail of days gone by and learn the rich history of our forebearers. From limestone quarries to revolutionary battlegrounds, we will stroll along the former railroad bed and learn the significance of the local ruins

and converted buildings on the trail. We will also discuss the revolutionary war battles that were fought in the same location before the tracks ever existed. Come and gain a deeper insight into the surroundings that many people run and ride past every day.

⑧ August 6

QUAKERS AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN THE COATESVILLE AREA

SPONSOR: National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum

PARKING: Tours will start from 76 S. 1st Avenue, Coatesville.



The Quaker community has been known for their commitment to abolitionism and the Coatesville area was no exception. In 1688, a small group of Quakers issued a statement of protest from their

native Germantown against slavery, beginning a lasting local legacy which influenced the local community even before the time of Rebecca Lukens. This summer's tour will take place in the Lukens National Historic District, where visitors will be introduced to the community's history and local involvement in abolitionism. The buildings of the Lukens and Huston family will be open to the public, in addition to the historic Lukens Executive Office Building.

⑨ August 13

HISTORIC WEST GROVE BOROUGH

SPONSOR: West Grove Borough

PARKING AND INFORMATION: West Grove Memorial Playground Lot, Parkway Avenue, West Grove. Entrance off Rosehill Avenue.



West Grove's name dates back to 1787, when the Society of Friends built a meetinghouse on the western edge of London Grove Township. Its purpose was to provide a place of worship for the significant population of Quaker farmers, millers and nurserymen that had settled in the area. This

area of London Grove Township was home to the family of Ann Preston, an early nineteenth century leader in women's rights and the abolitionist movement, and a pioneer in women's medicine. Incorporated as a borough in 1893, this year's tour will feature elegant brick homes, the commercial center and the 1903 Quaker Meeting built on the site of the original meetinghouse.

⑩ August 20

WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP; 250 YEARS OF HISTORY BY TROLLEY!

SPONSORS: West Whiteland Township Historical
Commission, Springfield Hyundai,
Church Farm School, and Sloan Ford

PARKING AND INFORMATION: West Whiteland Township Building, 101 Commerce Drive, Exton.

TROLLEY RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: Trolley Tours will depart every 20 minutes from the West Whiteland Township Building beginning at 3:00 pm. Please call 610-363-9525 ext. 1915 or e-mail: 250th@westwhiteland.org for your reservation.



Join in our celebration of West Whiteland Township's 250th Anniversary. In 1765, the township of Whiteland decided to divide into West Whiteland and East Whiteland. We will share with you historic stories of properties and the people that helped develop our community.

Travel back in time on one of our trolleys to view properties along Pottstown Pike, Lincoln Highway and Swedesford Road. Some of the properties featured will be Church Farm School, Pennypacker House and the Ship Inn. Following the tour, stop in to visit the Township building to view artifacts, pictures and learn about the buildings that are part of Main Street Exton.