

The Chester County Board of Commissioners through Chester County Parks and Recreation, the Chester County Historical Society, Westtown Township, the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, and the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau announce the 17th annual "TOWN TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS."

This year is a very special one for the Town Tours and Village Walks program. Not only will the program explore Chester County's contribution to this country's Civil War, it features a chance to explore the iron and steel heritage of our county. All ten free walking tours reflect an important iron and steel story. This year we even venture outside of the county to visit this important theme in our history. The tours will explore historic towns, villages, iron master plantations and ironworks, highlighting the research knowledge accumulated by our historical commissions and organizations. Enjoy first-person presentations, stately mansions, humble workers housing, and ruins nestled in the beautiful Chester County countryside.

Tours are scheduled for Thursday evenings, June 16th - August 25th, with the first tour starting at 5:30 p.m., the last tour at approximately 7:00 p.m. All tours include light refreshments, are free of charge and only cancelled for severe weather by 5:00 p.m. the day of the tour.

**NEW!** To help you explore, four suggested driving itineraries have been developed, taking you further into iron and steel country to enjoy recreational opportunities as well as educational ones. Along the way, we have suggested historic sites and fun stops for food and recreation for the entire family. The map is enclosed with this brochure. Each 2011 Town Tour and Village Walks destination is included on the driving itineraries.

Last year, over 2,000 Chester County citizens and visitors enthusiastically endorsed the assortment of historic evening walking tours! In 2005, Preservation Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission awarded the program one of two statewide educational awards.

For information contact Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator, Chester County Parks & Recreation, 610-344-6415, or visit the Chester County Parks and Recreation website at [www.chesco.org/ccparks](http://www.chesco.org/ccparks).

FREE TOURS & LECTURE SERIES

# Town Tours & Village Walks

SUMMER 2011

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# Town Tours & Village Walks

• FREE TOURS •

Join Us for a Special Celebration of  
 Chester County's Iron and Steel Heritage  
 and the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War



[CHESCO.ORG/CCPARKS](http://CHESCO.ORG/CCPARKS)

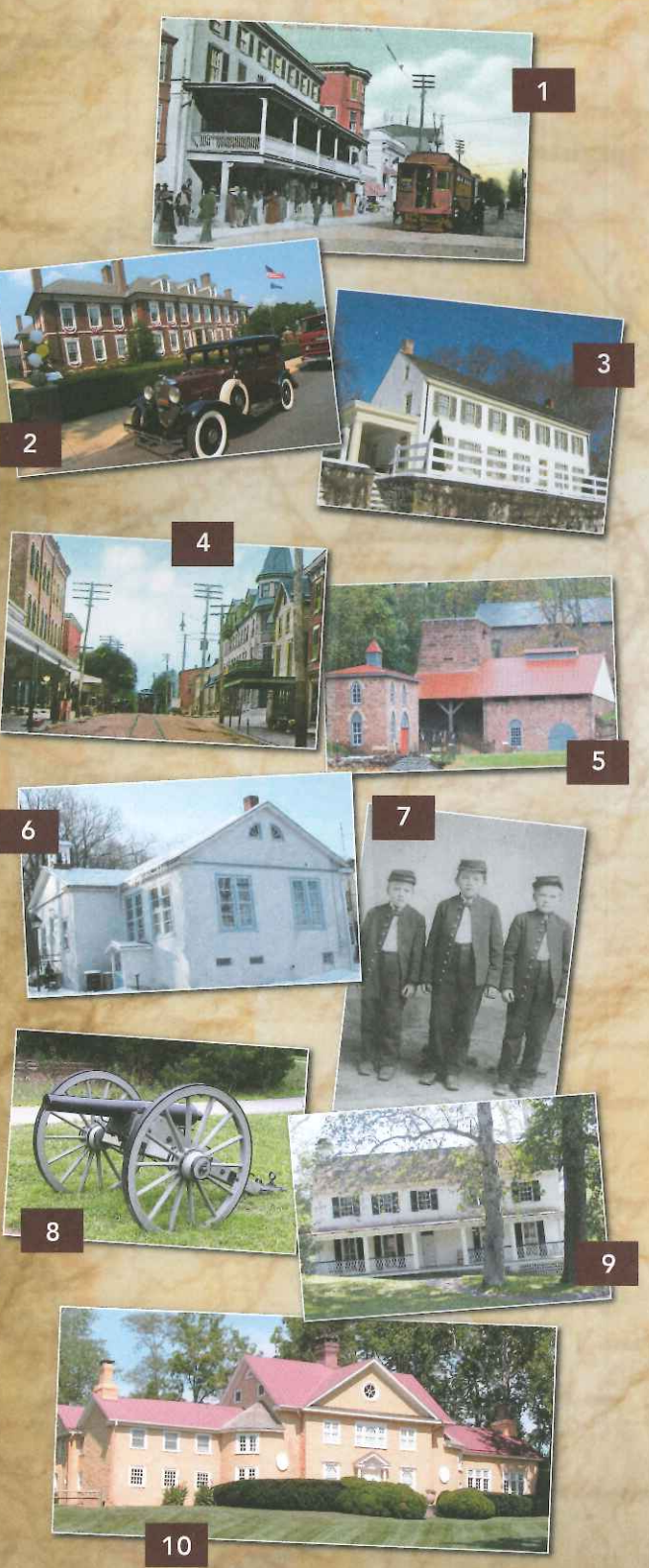
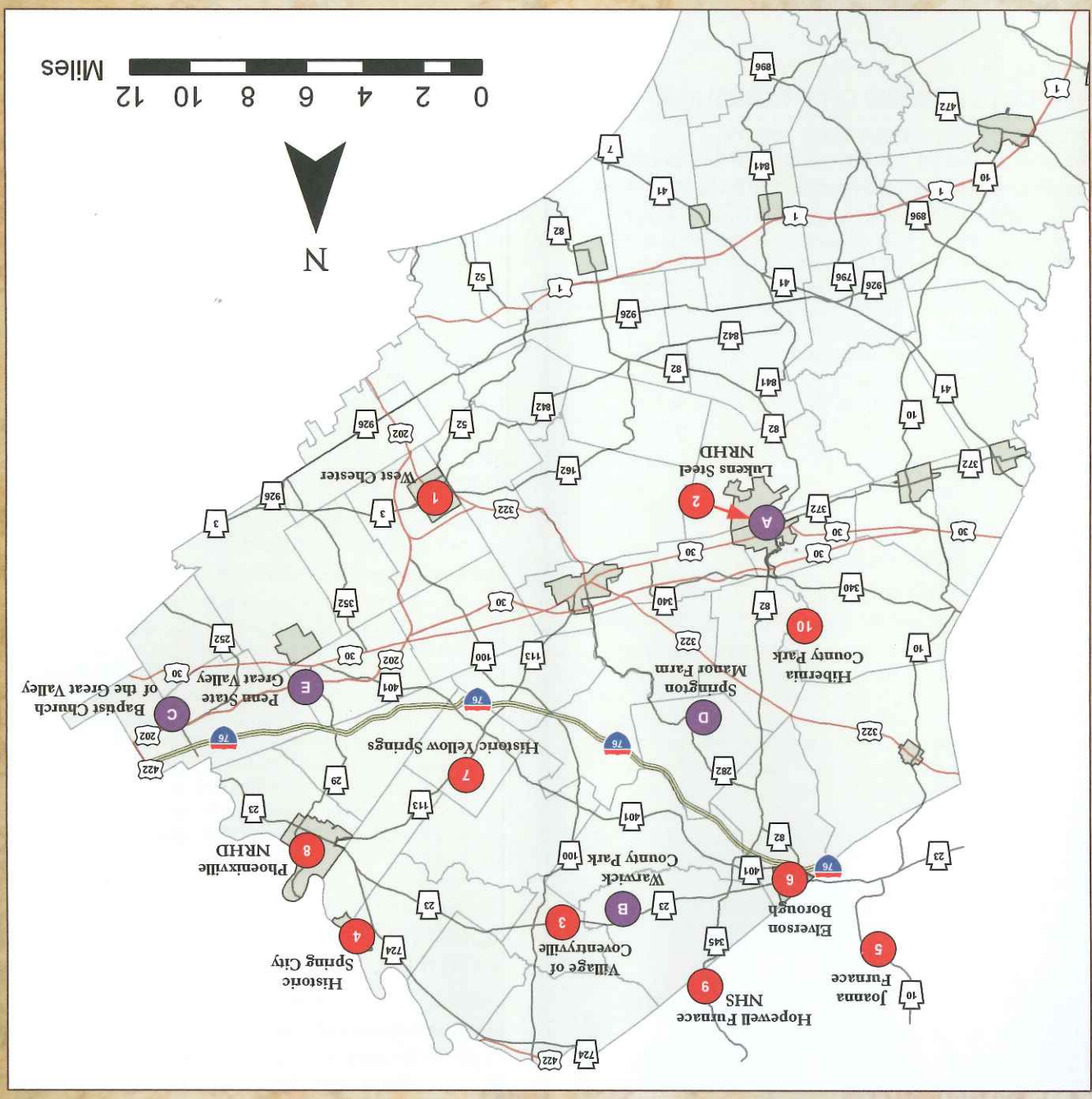
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[www.cchpn.org](http://www.cchpn.org)

The Chester County Historical Society  
[www.chestercohistorical.org](http://www.chestercohistorical.org)



Summer 2011  
*Town Tours and Village Walks*

Sponsored by  
 Chester County Board of Commissioners  
 Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau  
 Chester County Historic Preservation Network  
 The Chester County Historical Society  
 Chester County Parks & Recreation  
 601 Westtown Road, Suite 160  
 West Chester, PA 19380-0990  
[www.chesco.org/ccparks](http://www.chesco.org/ccparks)



Summer 2011

# Town Tours and Village Walks

JUNE 16 ①

## WEST CHESTER KICK-OFF AND TOUR

SPONSORS: WEST CHESTER HARB & CHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #101

The West Chester tours begin and end with refreshments at the Chester County Historical Society (CCHS) located at the northeast corner of High and Chestnut Streets. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. when we will enjoy the Lukens Band. The season's opening ceremony is at 6:00 p.m. All tours begin at 6:30 p.m. Rich and varied, the northeast quadrant of West Chester includes part of the historic town center and street after street of distinguished buildings in all styles, which flourished from the end of the 18th century through the 19th. Select from one of ten original tours that focus on various aspects of this neighborhood.

JUNE 23 ②

## LUKENS NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

SPONSOR: GRAYSTONE SOCIETY, CITY OF COATESVILLE

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #102

Celebrate the life and times of Rebecca Lukens, American's first female industrialist. 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, 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 the community. Learn about the owners of the mills and the men and women who worked in them.

JUNE 30 ③

## VILLAGE OF COVENTRYVILLE

SPONSOR: SOUTH COVENTRY TOWNSHIP, HISTORICAL COMMISSION AND HARB

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #103

Coventryville was founded in the early 1702 by Samuel Nutt along the banks of French Creek. With the swiftly flowing creek and available supply of hardwood forests, Coventryville became the site of Coventry Forge, the first iron forge in Chester County. As the industry grew, the village flourished in the 18th and 19th centuries. Today, Coventryville remains a lovely residential neighborhood with many historic stories to tell. Be sure to find out why Benjamin Franklin frequented the village, and where one of the first Franklin stoves was installed!

JULY 14 ④

## HISTORIC SPRING CITY BOROUGH

SPONSOR: SPRING-FORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PIKELAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BOROUGH OF SPRING CITY

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #104

Spring City was a small industrial town that grew up along the canal. Its foundry has been in operation for 168 years. James Rogers started making cast iron stoves in 1843. Today the foundry manufacturers cast iron lamp posts that are shipped throughout the world. From Pierre Bezallion, the French Canadian fur trapper who lived in a cave along the river in 1700, to the Royers brothers who came in 1800 and operated a boat helping people cross the Schuylkill, learn about our history and see buildings inherited from our ancestors. These include the Paper Mill Mansion, Flag House, Spring City Hotel, Lyceum, Methodist Church and the Newborn House.

JULY 21 ⑤

## HISTORIC JOANNA FURNACE

SPONSORS: HAY CREEK VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #105

Nestled in an area rich with iron ore, abundant woodland for charcoal, limestone, and waterways to provide power, lies Joanna Furnace – a historic remnant of Berks County's thriving early iron industry. Unlike today's corporations with their large buildings and complex hierarchies, the 19th century iron industry at Joanna Furnace was the product of rugged individualism. From the semi-wilderness of Robeson Township in 1791, Joanna Furnace was started by Samuel Potts, Thomas Rutter III, Thomas May and Thomas Bull. The furnace was named in honor of Pott's wife, Joanna Holland Potts, and was a cold blast, single stack, charcoal iron furnace most of her life. The furnace blew out in 1898, and for the next eighty years was hidden by vines and forgotten. Come see the rebirth of Historic Joanna Furnace.

JULY 28 ⑥

## ELVERSON BOROUGH: 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SPONSORS: ELVERSON BOROUGH COMMISSION & BOROUGH OF ELVERSON

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #106

Elverson represents a crossroads of the iron and steel revolution that forged our nation. Trace the paths taken by Conestoga wagons that carried the iron ore from Jones Mine to where wagoners stopped for a bath in the Springfield Springs and a hard drink at the White Horse Tavern. Come and listen as the Elverson tree stump speaks, and memories of the "dog pen lot" yelp in anticipation of your visit to our historic places.

AUGUST 4 ⑦

## HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS CIVIL WAR ORPHANAGE

SPONSOR: HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #107

The period from 1868 to 1912 tells the story of the aftermath of the Civil War and its impact on the village of Yellow Springs. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania established the largest Soldiers' Orphan School right here. The school cared for children under the age of 16 and their impoverished mothers, who depended on public charity due to the death or maiming of their fathers while serving in the war. Principal Eleanor Moore and school staff will tell the poignant story of the lives of the children educated here.

AUGUST 11 ⑧

## PHOENIXVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

SPONSORS: SCHUYLKILL RIVER HERITAGE CENTER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE PHOENIXVILLE AREA

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #108

Situated along the French Creek and the Schuylkill River, the growth of the Phoenix Iron and Steel Company in the 19th century created opportunities for all, and the town grew up around it. The tour begins at the historic Foundry Building Center, a jewel-box museum at the historic Foundry Building (1882) that interprets Phoenixville's iron and steel history. It continues with visits to homes and churches along Main Street through Phoenixville's Historic District. At Reeves Park, there is a 3" ordinance rifle (Griffen Cannon) made by the iron company in 1862. Over 1,200 were used by the Union Army. View a special Civil War exhibit at Phoenixville's Historical Society.

AUGUST 18 ⑨

## HOPEWELL FURNACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

SPONSOR: HOPEWELL FURNACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #109

The people of Hopewell Furnace supported the Union Civil War effort in a variety of ways. Most obviously, workers from the furnace joined the Union army. Other Hopewell Furnace employees remained behind to produce the pig iron so essential to the Union effort. Meanwhile, the women busied themselves knitting socks and scarves for the army, making bandages, and preparing care packages for the troops. This walking tour will introduce visitors to the 19th century inhabitants of Hopewell and their war efforts and struggles.

AUGUST 25 ⑩

## HIBERNIA MANSION AND IRONMASTER PLANTATION

SPONSOR: CHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION HIBERNIA COUNTY PARK

Tour Reservations and Information: 1-877-442-2476 - #110

In the summer of 1861, Henry Clay Brooke enlisted in the 11th Cavalry to fight in the Civil War. His father, Ironmaster Charles Brooke, who managed the successful iron plantation at Hibernia since 1821, was now in poor health. Within twenty years, falling victim to the Depression of 1873 among other factors, the once thriving Hibernia Iron Works was silent and virtually abandoned. Explore this legacy created in the midst of a great wilderness at the turn of the 19th century. Tour the fully-furnished mansion and ruins of the ironworks. Visit again on Saturday, August 27th, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., to further honor the 150th anniversary of this troubled time, as Civil War re-enactors demonstrate a cavalry charge, infantry drill and the soldiers' lives.

E Friday, July 29 • 4 – 8 p.m.

## A Heroes Honor Roll: The Civil War Sesquicentennial 1861-2011

Free, no reservations required  
Penn State Great Valley Campus Conference Center  
30 East Swedesford Road, Malvern

Ed and Faye Max will share their collection of Civil War period photographs and Chester County's actual enlistment rosters from the Civil War. See if your family members are among those honored. Period re-enactors will provide educational activities for the entire family.

This program is part of The Civil War Road Show, which will be in Chester County at this location from July 29th – August 1st. See [www.pacivilwar150.com](http://www.pacivilwar150.com) for more information.

CONTACT KAREN MARSHALL, 610-344-6415, [KMARSHALL@CHESCO.ORG](mailto:KMARSHALL@CHESCO.ORG) FOR INFORMATION AND TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS.

# Lecture Series

A Sunday, May 1 • 2 – 3:30 p.m.  
**Skyscrapers & Lukens Steel:  
The 9/11 Trees Come Home**

Free, reservations required, 35 participants  
Lukens Steel Administrative Building

76 South First Avenue, Coatesville

Eugene DiOrto, author and historian, will discuss the role that Lukens Steel has played in the development of cities throughout the world. He will set the stage for the tour of the Lukens National Register Historic District on June 23rd as part of the regular walking series.

B Sunday, May 15 • 2 – 3:30 p.m.  
**From Out the Fiery Furnace:  
How the Hopewell Stove Changed the Life  
of One Woman**

Free, reservations required, 35 participants  
Warwick County Park, Pavilion #2

191 County Park Road, Pottstown

Join us for a one woman play performed outside that will inform and enchant you. The 19th century will come alive sitting among the hardwood trees of Warwick County Park that served to make charcoal for the iron industry at this time. A walk on "The Road to the Furnace" will follow the program.

C Sunday, June 5 • 2 – 3:30 p.m.  
**Baptists & American Religious Architecture,  
1775-1990: The Baptist Church in the Great  
Valley Celebrates 300 years of Continuous  
Service to the Community**

Free, reservations required, 90 participants  
The Baptist Church in the Great Valley

945 North Valley Forge Road, Devon

Join Seth Hinshaw, our popular lecturer from 2010, as he moves from exploring the Quaker architectural influence, to how the Baptist faith shaped our religious architecture. The church was founded in 1711, and some of the tombstones are from the 1700's. Construction of the current Meeting House dates back to 1805. A tour of the historic church and cemetery featuring story tellers in period costumes will follow the lecture.

D Sunday, July 17 • 3 – 4:30 p.m.  
**Be a Barn Detective**

Free, reservations required, 15 participants  
Springton Manor Farm

860 Springton Road, Glenmoore

Join John Miller, Park Technician, as he investigates the Great Barn at Springton Manor Farm from top to bottom. Locate examples of joinery and understand why these techniques were used. Make sure to bring a flashlight and clothes suitable for dusty corners.