



# Chester County Ledger

The Newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

Volume 16, Number 3

October 2013

## CCHPN Announces: The Chester County Preservation Fair is now our Fall Workshop

Matthew Roberson, Fair Coordinator

Building on our efforts to provide technical support to our region's preservationists, the Chester County Historic Preservation Network is adopting the Chester County Preservation Fair as its Fall Workshop. This means that we will be working more closely with Historic Yellow Springs, Inc. and our other partners to bring you the information and guidance you need for your work and projects.

In an era of tight budgets but expanding needs, the name of the game is collaboration and sharing of resources. Much is made of the new "sharing economy" in which we try to do the most we can with our collective skills, knowledge, and energy. Need a hammer? Your neighbor may have one. Need advice on almost any topic? You can go to the web or make some calls.

The information, tools, and resources are out there, but the trick is knowing where to go for the right tool and the best answer.

The Chester County Preservation Fair was created to serve as that source for matters relating to historic buildings and their preservation. The Fair brings together the people

who know and the people who need to know. The presentations are given by experts in their fields, and the vendors have all of the technical knowledge you could ask for, and they are here to answer your questions. Every year, the Fair produces the Directory of tradespeople and preservation professionals. It is distributed by Karen Marshall, our county preservation officer, and is available for downloading from the CCHPN website. It is a wonderful list of people, companies, and organizations who specialize in work on historic buildings. Please check it out.

In past years we have tried to provide a smorgasbord of information, but this we are paring things down to be more focused. Under the banner, *Talk to the Experts!*, we are presenting two sessions,

The Chester County Historic Preservation Network is an affiliation of local organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting, protecting, and preserving Chester County's historic resources and landscapes through education, facilitation, and public and private advocacy.



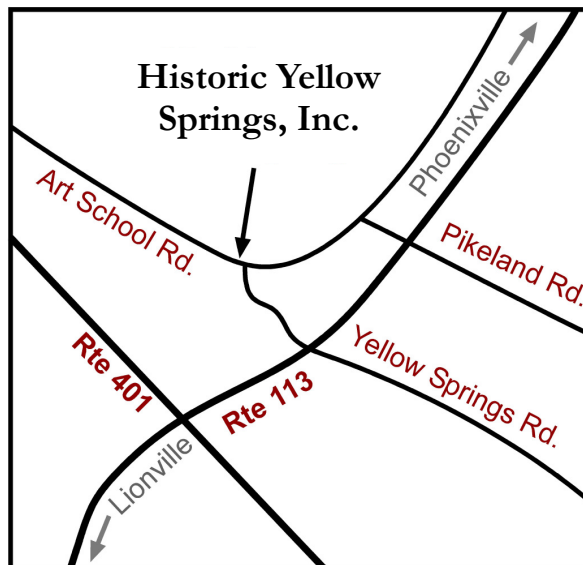
*At last year's Fair, Dale Frens, AIA, gave a presentation on "green" preservation projects, demonstrating how to install highly efficient mechanical systems and use sustainable products while retaining historic fabric and character in a rehabilitation project.*

each with a panel of experts and a period for open discussions. The first session is on historical research, sources and methods. We will be looking at the archives and repositories around the region that you may or may not know of and how local historians have used these in their work. The second session is focused on fund- and friend-raising, building the capacity of groups and organizations to do their work, meet their missions, and achieve their goals. This session is for any *ad-hoc* collection of friends, nonprofit organization, municipal committee or commission, or any other entity who may benefit from such guidance. Your admission gets you to both sessions.

Next year we may focus on project and municipal planning or on the trades and historic fabric. As we have done, we will continue to survey our attendees to ensure we are providing what everyone needs.

In between the sessions we will break for lunch, giving you a chance to mingle with the exhibitors and ask them about your projects.

So, if you need a good roofer, want to know where the best railroad archives are, or want to know how to get the most out of your volunteers, come to the Fair!



Historic Yellow Springs is easy to get to from Route 113 between Lionville and Kimberton

The Chester County Ledger

Editor Matthew E. Roberson  
 Circulation Director Robert Layman

Published by:  
 The Chester County  
 Historic Preservation Network

Board of Directors  
 President TBD  
 Vice President Steven M. Brown, AIA  
 Treasurer Robert Layman  
 Secretary Tom Scofield, AICP  
 Members Ann Bedrick

Gail N. Brown  
 Seth B. Hinshaw  
 Robbyn Kehoe  
 Rob Lukens, Ph.D.  
 Karen Marshall  
 Susan Marshall  
 Sali Cosford Parker  
 Vernon Ringler  
 Matthew E. Roberson  
 Jeff Taylor  
 Kathryn Yahraes

Emeritus Members Peter Benton, RA  
 Robert J. Wise

Direct all queries to: The Editor, CCHPN, P.O.Box 174, West Chester, PA 19381. Letters to the Editor and articles for the *Chester County Ledger* are welcome. There is no guarantee, however, that submissions will be published. No such submissions will be returned. The CCHPN does not necessarily endorse the content of advertisements herein.

Printed on recycled paper.

“Octoberfest” at Wyebrook Farm

Saturday, October 19, 2013

4:00 PM - 9:00PM

150 Wyebrook Road  
 Honey Brook, Pa. 19344

West Nantmeal Historic Commission's  
 first annual fundraiser for the  
**restoration of the historic stonewalls in our township**

Activities: German Band, Food, Beer  
 (included with price of ticket)

Silent Auction, Cow Pie Bingo (added fee)

Cost- \$40.00 per person

Must be pre-paid. NO tickets will be sold at event

For further information:

call 610-286 -9722 or go to [westnantmealhc.org](http://westnantmealhc.org)

# CHESTER COUNTY PRESERVATION FAIR

10/26  
2013

Saturday, October 26th  
9am-3pm

The Lincoln Building at  
**Historic Yellow Springs, Inc.**  
1685 Art School Road  
Chester Springs, PA  
(see map on previous page)

This event is now  
the Fall Workshop of  
**The Chester County Historic  
Preservation Network**

**All are welcome!**

Fee for all attendees: **\$15.00**

Drinks, snacks and lunch items will  
be available for purchase, thanks to  
the **Historical Society of the  
Phoenixville Area**

No pre-registration is required.

To find us, see map on facing page.

## *Talk with the Experts!*

### *Schedule*

- 9-9:30am **Registration** with coffee and doughnuts
- Session 1**  
9:30-11:00 **“Historical Research, Sources & Methods”**  
Panel Discussion by renowned historians, such as Jack McCarthy, *Hidden Collections Initiative for PA Small Archival Repositories*, on the region’s archives and repositories. Moderated by Seth Hinshaw and Jane Dorchester
- 11:00-11:30 **Open Discussion with the Panelists**
- 11:30-1:00pm **Meet and Mingle with the Preservation Professionals over Lunch**
- Session 2**  
1:00-2:30 **“Fundraising and Friend-raising, Building the Capacity of Your Group”**  
Panel Discussion on: Volunteer Recruitment and Board Development, Asking for Large Donations, What the Chester County Community Foundation Can Do For You, and An Introduction to the Chester County Consultants Collaborative (C4). Speakers to include: Seth Bloom and Jeff Metz, *Bloom Metz Consulting*, Beth Briglia, *Chester County Community Foundation*, and Connie Carter, *Sylvia Carter & Associates*
- 2:30-3:00 **Open Discussion with the Panelists**
- 3:00 Fair Ends

### ***Lunch in the Galleries***

During the lunch break you will have the opportunity to meet a variety of preservation experts, including specialists in historical trades, consultants, and representatives of many of our region’s nonprofits. This is a great opportunity to gain technical advice for your upcoming and ongoing projects and to network among your colleagues.

This event is co-sponsored by Historic Yellow Springs, Inc., a non-profit organization that preserves and promotes the history and arts of Yellow Springs village. Historic Yellow Springs is home to the Chester Springs Studio, a vibrant arts center that hosts classes, workshops and exhibitions in the visual arts.





## Exploring the Octoraro

Robbyn Kehoe, CCHPN Board Member

During the summer months, lush foliage hides much of the Octoraro Creek from hikers and bikers on a three-mile section of Creek Road in Sadsbury Township, Lancaster County. From just south of Christiana to Steelville, the Octoraro cuts a deep ravine from the surrounding tableland of rich farmland, providing a dramatic yet serene landscape for quiet contemplation.

As the leaves change and fall into the water, the Octoraro reveals clues to its industrial past. Visitors first find Mercer's Mills Covered Bridge, linking Sadsbury Township to West Fallowfield Township, Chester County. Remnants of a dam and mill buildings remain downstream from the covered bridge, sometimes visible through the trees of Appleseed Hollow on Creek Road. Caleb Peirce patented this bend in the Creek in 1744 and built the first mill here. The mills changed hands several times, with the Sterrett brothers using one race to power two mills, before Captain John and Rachel Mercer took possession. The covered bridge was built much later, in 1880.

The Mercer Mill complex is one of about 18 mills and forges that dotted the banks of the Octoraro in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Sadsbury Forge, Ringwood Forge, Steele's cotton mill, saw mills, iron bloomeries – all tried to find fortune using the power of the Creek. Quick advances in technology, war and economic recessions, and spring freshets took their toll on the businesses, and by 1900 the mills were closed and mostly in ruin. A stroll along Creek Road in winter, perhaps after a fresh dusting of snow, reveals chimneys and cabins, races and runs, dams and walls. Steele's cotton mill remains at the intersection with Brick Mill Road, now an elegant home with copper door and window hoods. Buckley's Mill at Steelville still stands from 1732.

More recently, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the banks of the Octoraro held hunting cabins for local townies, summer respites from Philadelphia, and picnic spots for families. The Atglen Sportsmen's Club owns tableland on the west side of the Creek down to the water. While there are no reports of wolf sightings, the Octoraro is home to deer, heron, and eagles and to Pennsylvania's state flower, the Mountain Laurel.

Hikers can experience the Octoraro from the Chester County bank as well. Wolf's Hollow County Park opened in December 2010 as Chester County's newest park. At the northern tip of the park, the Waterfalls Trail follows an old cart path through stone ruins and offers a close view of the Octoraro. Throughout the park, trails follow old roads and cart paths used to connect numerous charcoal hearths to the forges. The Octoraro Ridge Trail traces the ridge of the Octoraro's gorge, offering spectacular views of the Creek, its gorge, and glimpses of Lancaster County's farms on the tableland to the west.



*Wolf's Hollow County Park features many remnants of the region's industrial past, nestled within beautiful landscapes.*

## Thank You for Years of Dedicated Service through CCHPN

Steve Brown, CCHPN Vice President

Many thanks to Elaine Husted and Bruce Knapp for their excellent and long-standing service with the Network. Each has provided much time and helped many others with their expertise in Preservation throughout the County.

Elaine, the secretary for the Board, kept us well informed and on task as we discussed the business and challenges of historic preservation.

Bruce, president for the Board, provided the strong guidance needed for all of our educational events and activities, and championed our efforts in supporting many preservation opportunities.

Each have stepped down from the Board, but are still working with us in various ways to preserve the history of Chester County.

Thanks again to Elaine and Bruce for their commitment, knowledge and integrity.

Friends Always!

## CCHPN is Proud to Announce Our New Board Members

Steve Brown, CCHPN Vice President

It is my pleasure to announce the addition of three new Board Members to CCHPN. Susan Marshall, Robbyn Kehoe, and Seth Hinshaw have joined the Board to help continue the services of the Network.

Susan, currently serving as president of the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area and secretary of the Schuylkill River Heritage Center, will be joining the CCHPN Board in earnest at the beginning of 2014. Her career in Information Technology will be very helpful with communicating with our many members throughout the County.

Robbyn joins us from the western edge of the County where she has been involved with the community through her association with the Girl Scouts of Eastern PA, research and mapping for Wolf's Hollow Park, and former duties as Treasurer and President of Atglen Public Library. Her love for education and sharing her knowledge and passion for preservation will benefit not only the Board but those we serve.

Our third new Board member is certainly well known to many in Chester County and the surrounding region. Seth Hinshaw brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Board. As Senior Planner with Wise Preservation Planning LLC, Seth has his finger on the pulse of preservation throughout the area.

We truly welcome these fine volunteers to the Chester County Historic Preservation Network Board.



### HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS CEREMONY

Tuesday, October 22, 2013  
8am—10am

The West Chester Downtown Foundation presents the **Third Annual Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony** recognizing projects and individuals who have worked to preserve the character and history of the Borough of West Chester, Pa.

Judging is complete — Come find out who the winners are!

See you at the **Chester County Historical Society**  
Tuesday, October 22nd 8am—10am

RSVP to [emcguire@wcbid.com](mailto:emcguire@wcbid.com) by Oct. 15th  
Please put in subject line: "WC Pres Awards RSVP"

## Heritage Events for this Fall

### 2013 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards



Friday, September 27,  
11 am -2 pm

Sunnybrook Ballroom in Pottstown

Tickets are \$65 each, or \$500 for a table of eight.

You are invited to be inspired at the 2013 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards. Join Preservation Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and other partners, to recognize innovative projects and inspiring efforts to protect and preserve Pennsylvania's rich historic resources. Awards presented immediately after lunch.

### TREDYFFRIN HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST

#### Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust - 9th Annual Historic House Tour

Saturday, September 28, 12 Noon - 5 PM

Tickets: \$35

The tour will take you behind the scenes as the doors of eight historic properties in Tredyffrin and Easttown Townships are opened to visitors, including private homes, a church and a historic 'party' barn. The historic properties on the 2013 house tour date from the mid-18th century to the early 20th century. If you have any questions, please contact Pattye Benson, House Tour Chair at 610.644.6759 or email [info@tredyffrinhistory.org](mailto:info@tredyffrinhistory.org)

#### The Great Colonial Festival and Fine Craft Fair

Saturday, September 28, 2013 10am-5pm  
Historic Saint Peter's Church in the Great Valley,  
Malvern

Tickets: \$10.00 per car

Perched on what is commonly referred to as the Holy Hill, the 16+ acres of property will provide everyone, exciting presentation spaces, a church from the 1700's, sheep grazing in a revolution graveyard, outstanding singers and dancers, artisans specializing in the colonial era crafters, food, dance, activities for children, lots of elbow room, and so much more! For more information, visit: [thegreatcolonialfestival.org](http://thegreatcolonialfestival.org)

### Chester County Day



**THE CHESTER COUNTY  
HOSPITAL** Foundation

Saturday,  
October 5, 2013

Location: Northwestern Quadrant of Chester County  
Benefits: The Women's Auxiliary's "Gift of Time" for  
The Chester County Hospital

The annual Chester County Day House Tour is the oldest house tour in the nation. This year, you will experience Chester County's finest examples of original, reclaimed, restored, new and historically significant homes. While you are enjoying "The Day," you will also be supporting The Chester County Hospital in its ongoing mission to bring world-class care close to home. If you love architecture, artistry and antiques, you won't want to miss this premier house tour.

Make your "Day" extra special with a VIP ticket. Your \$100 VIP donation gives you exclusive benefits. Enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres at the private preview lecture on Saturday, September 28th. Your VIP ticket also includes your pass to see the homes on this year's tour and a complementary elegant picnic lunch. For more information or to purchase a VIP ticket, please email [TGavin@cchosp.com](mailto:TGavin@cchosp.com)

#### The African Union Church

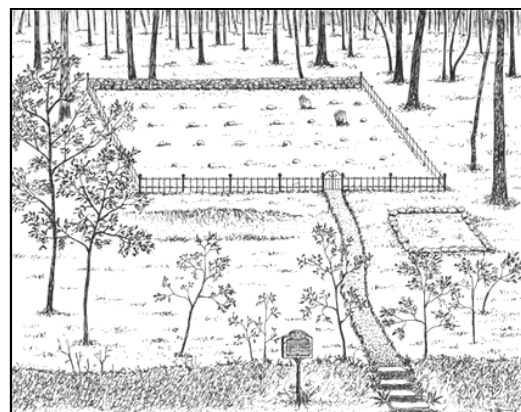
Sunday, October 6, 2013 12:00 - 3:00 PM

Warwick County Park, meet at the Park Office.

382 County Park Road, 610-469-1916

Join the Friends of the African Union Church  
South Coventry to learn about the community around

"Coventry  
Village" that  
was home for  
the founders  
of the church,  
and about the  
cemetery that  
still exists  
today. Jay  
Erb, Park  
Ranger



*Artist's rendering of FAUCSC Site*

*Artist: Susan Donmoyer*



## Town Tours and Village Walks Wrap Up

Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator

The 2013 Town Tour and Village Walks program closed on a high note with almost 300 people touring one family’s tribute to the Ice Industry in Chester County in East Bradford Township. It was a difficult summer for outdoor tours between the heat and downpours. In fact, the last tour on September 5th, “Real Housewives of Kennett Square”, was rescheduled from its June time slot. The timing was good as the tour ushered in all the excitement in the Borough over the Mushroom Festival which began the next day. The new Chester County Planning Commission Town Tours website at [www.chesco.org/planning/towntours](http://www.chesco.org/planning/towntours) worked well to provide information to our tour participants. It was supported by our new unofficial blog at <http://2013chestercountywalkis.blogspot.com> which Michael Manieri, a Town Tours supporter, created. Thank you Michael!

Despite the cancellation of three tours for weather, something that never happened before, almost 1,500 people enjoyed the tours and are eagerly anticipating the tour in West Chester which will be given next June and the tour in East Nantmeal. We have also asked Phoenixville to hold their tour of churches again since only 89 of our stalwart supporters braved the almost 100-degree heat.

So thank you West Chester HARB, East Pikeland Historical Commission and Historical Society, Kennett

Borough Historical Commission, Historic Yellow Springs, The Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area, East Goshen Historical Commission, East Nantmeal Historical Commission and Society, West Whiteland Historical Commission, the National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum, and the East Bradford Historical Commission and the Stack Family for a memorable summer!!

And next summer? Already signed up is Malvern Borough for its 125th Anniversary Celebration; the historic villages of Fricks Lock in East Coventry, Nantmeal Village in East Nantmeal and Birchrunville in West Vincent; and West Chester’s southwest Quadrant.



**The Real Housewives of Kennett Square**



*Like all of the tours, the tour for “Real Housewives of Kennett Square” provided us with new memories linked to old stories.*



Chester County Historic Preservation Network

P.O. Box 174

West Chester, PA 19381

www.cchpn.org 877-442-2476

PLEASE FORWARD

Please come and  
join us for the

## Chester County Preservation Fair

at Historic Yellow  
Springs, Inc.

**Saturday, October 26**  
9am - 3 pm

Details Inside!

## Chester County Ledger

The Newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

### Inside this issue:

CCHPN Announces: The Chester County Preservation  
Fair is now our Fall Workshop *Matthew Roberson*

Exploring the Octoraro *Robbyn Kehoe*

Thank You for Years of Dedicated Service through  
CCHPN *Steve Brown*

CCHPN is Proud to Announce Our New Board  
Members *Steve Brown*

Heritage Events for this Fall

Town Tours and Village Walks Wrap Up  
*Karen Marshall*

**ROBERSON  
PRESERVATION  
SERVICES, Inc.**

Historical Carpentry  
Bespoke Joinery  
Preservation Consulting  
Sustainability

**Matthew E. Roberson, President**

**610-620-4656 meroberson@gmail.com**

To download a Directory of local preservation trades and services, please visit:

**[www.CCHPN.org/preservationfairdirectory.htm](http://www.CCHPN.org/preservationfairdirectory.htm)**