



Chester County Ledger

The Newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

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20th Anniversary Issue

Celebrating 20 years of
The Chester County Ledger





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John Miller

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THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Imagine if George Washington's Mount Vernon had been purchased by a major hotel chain, you might see an advertisement like this: "Visit Mount Vernon Vacation Resort! Stay in the George Washington Wing! Located on the site of Historic Mount Vernon and conveniently near Washington, D. C."

To even think of such a possibility would be sacrilege to many Americans. But, consider this, except for the efforts of Ann Pamela Cunningham, the scenario above could have been a reality. Ms. Cunningham, after receiving a letter from her mother who had recently seen Mount Vernon and its neglect, was moved to start the Mount Vernon Ladies Association in 1853. By 1858, this Association had raised \$200,000.00 (\$5,882,352.94 in 2015 dollars) to buy the mansion and 200 acres. Not only was this a difficult amount to raise, but to raise it on the eve of the Civil War showed a strong commitment to the preservation of this historic site by the Association.

Early attempts in historic preservation for most of our national history were based on the efforts of individuals and small groups. But, there were also several efforts at the national level to move the country toward a preservation ethic. In 1916, Congress passed the Antiquities Act and in 1935, the Historic Sites Act (Historic American Buildings Survey). In 1949, the National Trust for Historic Preservation was founded. These efforts were significant because they were national policies; however, they were not up to the challenges that followed World War II (WWII).

With the end of WWII came a large push for urban renewal. Individuals, small groups, and the established national policy could not cope with the fast pace of change. In some neighborhoods, complete blocks of historically and architecturally significant properties were leveled and replaced by nondescript housing. This was happening throughout the nation and some estimates place the loss of significant historic structures at 50% by the early 1960s. In response to this loss, the National Historic Preservation Act was passed in 1966. For the first time establishing a national preservation policy, the Act required each state to establish its own Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). In spite of all these efforts, there are still many individuals that fail to grasp the importance of preservation or even to recognize that preservation makes good economic sense. What is the answer?

It goes back to where preservation has always been - in the hands of individuals and small groups, whether they are preservation-minded home owners of significant properties, or are volunteers serving on local historical commissions, or a citizens' group who sees a need and takes a stand for preservation.

I cannot let this opportunity go without once again emphasizing the need for education. We must educate ourselves in the area of preservation. Can we explain to a developer that preservation makes economic sense? Can we make a valid argument for preservation to our planning commissions, boards of supervisors, and to our neighbors?

In my short term as President of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, I have seen a great many achievements in our townships, boroughs, and cities. We are lucky that many of our citizens

CCHPN MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of CCHPN is to connect local governments, organizations, and individuals in their efforts to protect, preserve, and promote the historic resources and cultural landscapes of Chester County through communication and education.

Chester County Ledger Directory

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER, continued

are involved! But, we still have a long road to travel before preservation is first on our list and not last when it comes to planning for future development and growth in Chester County.

John Miller, President

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

As I noted in my column in the February 2017 issue, Jane Davidson and I founded the *Chester County Ledger* in 1997. I thought, since we are celebrating our 20th Anniversary (Huzzah!), that it would be interesting to chronicle the *Ledger's* progress in the first 20 years of its life. I was the first and Founding Editor from 1997 through 2000. Jane and I established the first "look" for the *Ledger* which we thought should clearly bespeak the historical basis of the Network (right). We decided to organize the *Ledger* into departments, with each department named after a historic regional newspaper; for instance, we had "*Bulletin Board*" named after the old *Evening Bulletin*, and "*For the Record*" named after West Chester's *Village Record*. In addition, we decided to publish the *Ledger* four times a year. I stepped down as Editor in 2000 to pursue my Masters in Historic Preservation.

Baylen Kaskey, a fellow member of the CCHPN Steering Committee, became the second Editor in 2001. He and his Graphic Designer, Matthew Roberson, worked on re-designing the look of the *Ledger*. They started with a more modern look, but by the end of the year, they had settled on a more traditional look, cleaner than the original, but with the use of more traditional fonts. Baylen dropped the departments and made the decision to publish the *Ledger* three times a year. From 2001 until 2015, the *Ledger* was published three times a year, except in 2007 when four issues were published. Kaskey stepped down at the end of 2001 and Jane Davidson became the third Editor. She decided to have the *Ledger* printed on an ivory-colored paper (called Cougar White) as opposed to the traditional white paper (page 5, top left). This look lasted until 2013. In 2003, Peter Benton became the fourth Editor and remained the Editor through 2004. Jane was back as the fifth Editor in 2005. In 2006, the *Ledger's* Graphic Designer Matthew Roberson became the sixth Editor. After eight years, he stepped down. His last issue was the February 2014 issue. With that issue, the look of the *Ledger* was changed with the introduction of more modern

THE CHESTER COUNTY LEDGER

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The Newsletter of THE CHESTER COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

HOT OFF THE PRESS

THE JOHN AND NATHAN COPE HOUSE
by the East Bradford Historical Commission

When a developer begins its discussion with a Historical Commission about a historic resource by filing for a demolition permit, you know that resource is in jeopardy. That's how the discussion about the John and Nathan Cope House in East Bradford Township began. The Cope House is not out of trouble yet, but the developer now understands the importance of the Cope House to East Bradford Township. The developer has agreed not to apply for a demolition permit for at least three years, and to take certain stop-gap measures to halt "demolition by neglect". Much of the success to preserve the Cope House to date is due to educating the developer about the significance of the property, and to the support of the East Bradford Township Board of Supervisors. Now all the Cope House needs is a buyer.

The Cope House's significance lies in the early date of the structure as well as the prominence of its residents. Five building campaigns, starting with a pre-1750 frame structure, have been revealed through a recent site analysis by John Milner and his students from the University of Pennsylvania. The Cope Family added two stone wings in the 18th Century and two more stone wings in the first half of the 19th Century. In addition to housing members of the Cope family for about one and a half centuries, the Cope House was the homestead from which the prominent Cope family spread throughout the central part of East Bradford. At least six of the homes in which John Cope's children and grandchildren settled stand today as East Bradford historic resources.

Saving the Cope House comes down to finding someone with the desire and resources needed to rehabilitate this exceptional historic resource. Although

the amount of rehabilitation needed is significant, the Cope House is generally structurally sound and retains a surprising amount of its original woodwork and hardware. The developer assures us that the price is flexible. If you or someone you know is interested in taking the Cope House into the 21st Century, please call House/Chamberlin Homes in Exton.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

WEST CHESTER'S BOYS OF SUMMER
by Grace DeCaro

The first organized baseball club in West Chester was called the Brandywine Baseball Club which was organized in 1865; it issued challenges to other teams to "cross bats". This team was very successful and stayed together for many years. The games were usually informal but they generated a lot of interest in the borough. The results of each game were published in the *Daily Local News* with batting orders and lineups. There were no leagues and the games were first played on lots, then on baseball fields. Many times the teams traveled by train or wagon to Kennett, Coatesville, Downingtown, even Wilmington, for a game.

Quite a few clubs were formed after this

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September 2002 Volume 9, Number 1

Take A Look At The Strode's Mill Historic District

Two and a half miles south of West Chester at the intersection of Leasing Road (Route 52) and Birmingham Road sits the crossroads village of Strode's Mill. As residents and commuters, we now have a better chance to view the village should we be drawn by the recently installed traffic light.

All four corners of the intersection have significant historic structures. In the southwest corner sits Strode's Mill, now the home to a dining shop and private residence. In the southeast corner sits Strode's Sawmill, originally a serpentine stone barn. In the northeast corner stands the Green Lodge Farm house, a beautiful serpentine structure that once served as a boarding school for boys. Another structure associated with the village, a serpentine farmhouse, located just south of the mill on Birmingham Road, was built by the Strode family in 1750. Family descendants still own it.


Two hundred and eighty-one years ago, the architectural history of this site began. Three neighbors erected the grist mill along Plum Run, a tributary of the Brandywine River, to serve the surrounding farms. The mill was erected along established roads and a dam was built to create a power source for the mill. In a short period of time this pond also became a popular swimming hole for local residents. The Strode family purchased land in 1708 and their millwrightson construction began. The mill was purchased by the Strode family, who were successful farmers and blacksmiths, saw mill operators, general store keepers, and wheelwrights.

Ledger's structure provide only a small glimpse of the day to day life that existed among these historical resources at Strode's crossroads. The day of greatest excitement was September 11, 1777, when British troops, led by Cornwallis and Howe, marched south from Somerstown through the village to surprise Washington and his troops in what became known as the Battle of the Brandywine. Twelve to fourteen thousand troops passed through the area, with some skirmishing near the mill, as an advanced contingent of Washington's troops, alerted by Squire Cheney, engaged the oncoming Redcoats. Strode's farm was pillaged by the British, and Hooper farm, known today as Chertside Farm, located just south of the mill on Leasing Road, was occupied by troops. Joseph Strode was the only resident in East Bradford Township to request compensation from the U.S. government for theft and property damage after the war. Historical accounts reveal that British troops, as well as the Continentals, found supplies at the mill. The mill also helped supply food for the Continentals through the harsh winter at Valley Forge.

*Photograph above by Douglas E. Brown, 1895, from the online H.A.B.S. archive.
Photograph on back cover from the online H.A.B.S. archive.*

Cheney
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February 2014 Volume 17, Number 1

Schuylkill Elementary School Rings in the First Day of School with Historic Bell

Sandy Hamner
Schuylkill Township Historical Commission

Students, teachers, and special guests gathered outside at the Schuylkill Elementary School on White Horse Road on Monday, August 26, to observe the first day of school and also to dedicate the installation of the capitol and bell from the historic Schuylkill School that stood on that very spot from 1930 until recently.

Phoenicia Area School District Superintendent Dr. Alan Fogley welcomed everyone to the event and proclaimed that henceforth the ringing of the bell would be a ceremony on all first day of school openings. He gave a brief overview of the history of the school and how it was built by philanthropist Frank Foster to consolidate the one-room schoolhouses in Schuylkill Township. He also commented on the partnership between the school district and the Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township in facilitating the building of this monument.

Principal Mr. Kelley Hamner joined in welcoming everyone and then introduced Erin Pappas and Jack Riley who together rang the bell for the first time in many years to commemorate the history of the school and the opening day of the 2013-2014 school year. Students then proceeded back into their classrooms to begin the day and a new year of learning.

As the Chair of the Schuylkill Township Historical Commission I was present to hear the pealing of the bell and stated, "While we were disappointed that the school could not be saved, I am very pleased to be a part of this great day and commend the school district and the

The capitol and its dramatic weatherstone before and after its restoration by Rebecca Preservation Services, Inc.

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.

CHESTER COUNTY LEDGER

Mission Statement

As the official newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network (CCHPN), the purpose of the *Chester County Ledger* is to raise awareness of Chester County's history and historic character, to encourage the public to preserve the physical evidence of that history, and to educate the public and members of municipal historical organizations in best preservation practices.

EDITOR'S WORD, continued

looking fonts for the masthead, captions, and headings (see left, middle). Sali Cosford Parker became the seventh Editor with the May 2014 issue. Between 2015 and 2016, Seth Hinshaw became the eighth Editor and Alexandria Proko became the ninth. The look of the *Ledger* continued to undergo changes as the desktop publishing technology changed and the number of issues was reduced to two and then to one a year. In the Fall of 2016, I became the tenth Editor of the *Ledger*. The look of the *Ledger* will continue to change over the next year as we find a look that we are comfortable with. We're searching for one that will maximize the *Ledger's* ability to communicate with its readership and to establish a look that it will be identified with from here on out. In addition, we will be publishing the *Ledger* twice a year with the goal of increasing that to three times a year in the next three or four years.

I look forward to continuing to improve the *Ledger's* ability to communicate with you, our readers. I would be delighted to hear from you about the *Ledger's* look, and possible articles and submissions pertaining to preservation and history-oriented events. And, oh yes, we are ALWAYS looking for advertisers! Feel free to e-mail me at jedi-torhspv@verizon.net with your ideas, suggestions, and submissions.

About the *Ledger's* Departments

You may have noticed that we have added departments to the *Ledger*. When Jane Davidson and I founded the *Ledger*, we organized it into departments so that the reader would know where to look for specific kinds of articles. The departments were dropped after 2001 (please see "A Word from the Editor" above for more details). The current editorial staff has decided to reinstate the departments. Below is an explanation of where the names of the departments come from and what kind of articles you (the reader) can expect to find there.

HOT OFF THE PRESS: Is named after the *Oxford Press*, one of at least two newspapers that were located in Oxford (not necessarily at the same time). Here you will find articles of a timely nature, including breaking news items (as best we can since we only publish twice a year).

FOR THE RECORD: Is named after the *Village Record* which was West Chester's longest running newspaper, surpassed only by *The Daily Local News*. Here you will find articles that attempt to set the record straight about historical and preservation procedures and information.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: Is named after the *Downingtown Archive*, one of several newspapers located in Downingtown over the course of time. Here you will find articles about some aspect of Chester County's history.

ITEMS OF INTEREST: Is named after the *Malvern Item*, one of several newspapers located in Malvern over the course of time. Here you will find Photo Essays, Registration Forms, the Bulletin Board, and The Advertiser.

BULLETIN BOARD: Is named after Philadelphia's *Evening Bulletin*. Here you will find announcements about upcoming events, "save

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Departments, continued

the dates” and the “What in the World Is It?!” Quiz.

THE ADVERTISER: Is named after the *Kennett News and Advertiser* which was one of several newspapers located in Kennett Square over the course of time. Here you will find advertisements from our supporters.

These departments may not appear in every issue; which departments are included in any given issue will depend on what kinds of articles have been submitted to us. And we may add new departments in the future as the need arises. And finally, we are happy to accept submissions of articles either about some aspect of Chester County’s history or about preservation information as well as announcements about history or preservation oriented events. Please see the *Ledger’s* Directory for submission details.

Jane E. Dorchester, Editor

FROM THE CCHPN BOARD

About the CCHPN Logo

The Chester County Historic Preservation Network’s logo came about in this way. Jane Davidson and a few other Board members thought the Network should have an instantly recognizable image. At a Board retreat in the Winter of 2008, the Board thought the “On the Board” artist, me, should design a logo, although all the Board members had a say in what it was to look like. We all thought it should represent networking and be something indicative of Chester County . . . Hey, how about a bridge! A bridge would illustrate both getting people, municipalities, and organizations to the historical resources that the Network has access to and then getting those people to come back across to us and to others on any matters of history and preservation. Matthew Roberson, a Board member then, suggested a “credo” or a slogan along with the logo. I thought a loose handwritten script type would look like running water under a bridge. I searched high and low to find unique wording because “the past and future” have been used by countless other slogans. I finally came up with “A bridge to the past also leads to the future.” So when we had our credo and bridge, I decided our acronym should be on the bridge somehow but did not want it to distract from the stone structure so I created it “dimensionally” on top of the bridge. It has evolved from a scruffy original version (that Matthew and fellow Board member Bob Wise kept saying “clean up”) that’s now refined into several forms - but it’s still the same concept that Jane and we worked out for The Chester County Historic Preservation Network back in 2008.

Since 2007 at our “Recognition Celebration,” individuals have received awards with either their own homes or a site that is special to them on them. Municipal awards have illustrations of sites recognizable or special to their municipalities. Since 2008, all awards have had “that bridge” that was created that Winter. Sometimes, our awards have “bumps and lumps” but they’re each “hand done” and unique to those awardees.

Ann Bedrick, CCHPN Board Member

HOT OFF THE PRESS

The Chester County Planning Commission and Its Historic Preservation Efforts by Chester County Planning Commission staff

The Chester County Planning Commission is excited to share the latest information on the development of *Landscapes3* with the historic preservation community, a valued partner in preserving our sense of place in Chester County. "Historic resources and their context are a critical component to the identity of Chester County, and are valued by both residents and visitors," said County Planning Services Director Susan Elks. "In developing *Landscapes3*, preservation of historic resources, open space, and natural resources has been repeatedly called out as a priority."

The *Landscapes3* process is currently transitioning from Phase One (understanding the issues) to Phase Two (constructing the vision). One component of Phase One was a photo contest which focused on favorite places in Chester County. The last step in Phase One was a public survey that received almost 6,000 responses. Participants provided feedback on their priorities and preferences for the future of Chester County, and left over 9,000 comments and 13,000 map markers. Analysis of the survey responses is still ongoing, but Sense of Place, including historic villages and structures, was a priority for participants. Phase Two was kicked off with the formation of a steering committee which will begin meeting this Fall. It will continue with a public meeting that will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on October 26, 2017, at the West Whiteland Township Building (101 Commerce Drive, Exton, PA 19341) in order to share background information and receive feedback.

As part of Phase Two, we are pleased to announce that a second photo contest for *Landscapes3* is now open, with a focus on the people of Chester County. Is your favorite Friday evening activity dining in one of our boroughs? Do you spend your weekends canoeing down the Brandywine or fishing from its banks? Are you lucky enough to work on a farm? Show us! The contest, "Putting a Face on Chester County," will be open until noon October 13, 2017. For more information about the contest and to submit an entry, visit www.chescoplanning.org.

In addition to the development of *Landscapes3* and the work that is advanced by Heritage Preservation Coordinator Karen Marshall, County Planning Commission staff are involved in a variety of efforts that address historic preservation, including:

- **Historic Resource Atlas Project and Documentation of the Campaign of 1777:** The staff of planning and technical services work with municipalities to document and map historic resources within individual municipalities and landscapes from the Campaigns of 1777. The Battle of Brandywine, Battle of the Clouds, and the Battle of Paoli were the three battles waged in Chester County.
- **Brandywine Battlefield Task Force:** The Brandywine Battlefield Task Force Steering Committee consists of the County Planning Commission and Open Space Departments, the Brandywine Conservancy, the Chadds Ford Historical Society, the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and Friends of Martin's Tavern. The task force consists of over 200 members who support the preservation of the 35,000-acre Battlefield in Chester and Delaware Counties.
- **Brandywine Battlefield Preservation Plan:** The 2013 Brandywine Battlefield Preservation Plan recommended thirteen Battlefield strategic landscapes for further consideration and planning. These strategic landscapes are being examined in phases due to the complexity of the battle and large size of the Battlefield. The Marshallton Strategic Landscape, Trimble's Ford and Jefferis' Ford Strategic Landscapes, and Sconnetstown/Strode's Mill Strategic Landscape have been completed, while the Two Columns and Encampment Plans are currently underway. Multiple county staff and municipalities are involved in this effort. These plans are funded in part through an American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) grant from the National Park Service. For more information, visit: <http://www.chescoplanning.org/HisResources/BattleBrandywine.cfm>.



HOT OFF THE PRESS

Chester County, continued

- **Cultural Resource Review Committee:** Working with the County bridge engineer, transportation and planning staff meet on a regular basis to review the historic registration of the county's bridges and provide advice on the preservation of the many historic bridges which the County maintains. The committee also works with the County Department of Community Development on Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development funded projects that will effect historic resources. The committee recommends ways to minimize adverse effects on those resources.
- **Vision Partnership Program (VPP):** Eligible VPP Preservation Projects include preservation elements of a comprehensive plan, historic resource surveys, and preservation plans drawn up in accordance with *Preserving Our Places* (1998). There are currently multiple municipal comprehensive plan projects underway that address historic preservation, and several ordinance amendment projects that include historic resource provisions.

How the National Park Service Is Helping Preserve Our Local Heritage by Bruce Knapp

CCHPN's updated website has an excellent feature: *Preservation Partners* featuring National Park Service (NPS) resources. I would add one additional NPS source: the American Battlefields Protection Program (ABPP). NPS has been a major ally in preserving Chester County's Revolutionary War heritage. The Paoli Battlefield and Parade Grounds site in Malvern is a great example of how the NPS supports local efforts to preserve our past.

The 1777 Battle of Paoli was one of the major battles between George Washington's Continental Army



Reenactors at the Paoli Battlefield

and the British Army, which was marching to occupy the American capital of Philadelphia. It involved over 1800 of the elite British Light Infantry. They routed 2200 of the war-hardened veteran Pennsylvania Line under General Anthony Wayne in a midnight, bayonets-only raid. Brutal atrocities committed by the Redcoats enraged American soldiers and civilians. Although now considered the ninth bloodiest battle in the Revolutionary War, it had faded from American memory in the last century. Interest in the Battle and its importance was reawakened when a forty-acre

property, virtually unchanged since the 1700's, was put up for sale to developers in the mid-1990's. That property was where the Battle was fought.

NPS and the federal government became involved in the site during the late 1990's. If the federal government had not gotten involved, the current site would be expensive "McMansions" at the end of the Main Line. NPS acted swiftly in the 1990's by approving a rushed nomination to put the Paoli Battlefield site on the National Register of Historic Places (NR). And the U.S. Congress acted quickly to help fund the purchase of the undeveloped land. Let me explain.

The Battle of Paoli (aka Paoli Massacre) site was initially preserved by Chester County militias in 1817. It centered around a mass grave for 52 Continental soldiers buried by local farmers after the Battle. The militia men, using their own money and labor, erected a monument atop the grave and started a tradition of parades honoring those who fought and those who died there. Later, they purchased the surrounding twenty acres to be

HOT OFF THE PRESS

National Park Service, continued

preserved “as a place of parade forever.” It is now known as the Paoli Memorial Grounds. In the 1990’s, the owner, Malvern Preparatory School, decided to sell the property to developers. Thomas McGuire, a history teacher there, told his employers about the site’s historical importance. Malvern Prep offered to hold off the sale for three years to give time to raise the appraised value and preserve the land.

Tom McGuire and the Borough of Malvern created the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund (PBPF), a non-profit, to raise the \$2.5 million. Their plan was two-fold, to get the site nationally recognized by putting it on the NR and to initiate a widespread fund-raising campaign. They raised \$1.25 million, but the time period was running out. PBPF contacted federally elected representatives for help. Congressman Curt Weldon (R-7th) took the lead. In a show of patriotic national unity the Pennsylvania Battlefields Protection Act of 1999 (not a pork-barrel transfer of funds) was passed by a margin of 418 yea’s to 4 nay’s in the House, and by unanimous consent in the Senate. It recognized the national importance of the Paoli Battlefield, providing \$1.25 million matching funds to acquire the property. In addition, over \$4 million in matching funds were allocated to preserve Brandywine Battlefield land and the statutory authorization to create the Museum of the American Revolution. President Bill Clinton signed the statute into law on October 31, 1999 - the last day before the land would go on the open market! The Borough of Malvern became the owner and then licensed PBPF to administer the new Paoli Battlefield Historical Park.

Jane L. S. Davidson, one of the founders of CCHPN and the then Chester County Historic Preservation Officer, and Tom McGuire used Tom’s research (later published as a book) to prepare the NR nomination which included both the Historical Park area and the Parade Grounds as a 60-acre site. Because of time limitations and the “newness” of the information, they decided to register the land as being locally significant. This avoided possible delays if a higher significance level was challenged. Time was of the essence but this designation would complicate future efforts to recognize the site’s full significance in history.

Ed Bearss, the NPS Emeritus Chief Historian and well-known commentator on programs such as Ken Burns’ *The Civil War*, told me he approved the NR as one of his last acts before retiring. At the same time, he said the site should also be named a National Historic Landmark (NHL). Unfortunately, the NPS never followed up.

One of PBPF’s goals is for the site to be recognized as an NHL. It seemed simple at first. After all, we had Tom McGuire’s research which showed the Battle of Paoli as a significant part of the Philadelphia Campaign and we had the recommendation from Ed Bearss.

But we found we had to start from scratch. Occasionally this can be frustrating, but overall, it has forced us to research important aspects that might never have been considered.

If successful, the amended Paoli Battlefield Site and Parade Grounds NR will clearly show that, among the approximately 92,000 listings, it stands among the 8,000 with national significance. PBPF’s next step is to submit a nomination supporting the unique nature of its national significance and hopefully be designated as one of the 2,500 that qualify as National Historic Landmarks.

To find out more about the history of the Battle of Paoli, go to our website at www.RememberPaoli.org. Information on the website includes our monthly *A Revolutionary Lecture* series (featuring a dinner/lecture at the top Zagat-rated General Warren Inne), and our Annual Heritage Day on Saturday, September 23rd (with a special free Evening Reenactment of the Battle of Paoli narrated by Tom McGuire), or visit the Battlefield near Monument and Wayne Avenues in Malvern, PA!

What’s in the Future for the Paoli Battlefield by Bruce Knapp

Since 2005, the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund (PBPF) has conducted numerous studies, historic researches, and archaeological investigations. As part of our second American Battlefields Protection Program (ABPP) grant, we are preparing an amendment to the original National Register of Historic Places (NR) documentation supporting a national level of significance. This will be forwarded to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) for review and processing to the National Park Service (NPS) for final approval.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Paoli Battlefield, continued

This amendment will include:

- Outcomes of numerous archaeological studies ranging from metal detector surveys, geomagnetic surveys, ground radar sampling, physical excavations, and analysis of artifacts. The overall result was to establish that the site was consistent with a Revolutionary War battlefield.
- Extensive private historic research funded by PBPF including the 1817 monument and the annual veterans parades.
- Two ABPP grants for research on the Paoli Battlefield site and one on the closely related Battle of the Clouds conflict just 4 days earlier. These grants funded historic research that revealed startlingly new information about the impact of the Paoli Massacre including:



Paoli Massacre Monument

- “Remember Paoli!” was America’s first battle cry. It and the Paoli Massacre became household words throughout the 18th and 19th Centuries across the continental United States. The battle cry became the template for future national rallying cries (“Remember the Reason” in the War of 1812; “Remember the Alamo” for Texas independence; “Remember the Maine” for the Spanish-American War; “Remember the Lusitania” for WWI; “Remember Pearl Harbor” for WWII; “Remember 9-11” for the War on Terrorism).
- Paoli was Wayne’s only defeat in the Revolutionary War. The battle cry evolved from a call for revenge (which they got at the Battle of Germantown) to one that represented early national values. In 1779, Wayne led the Continental Army’s first Light Infantry on a bayonets-only midnight raid against a fortress high above the Hudson River at Stony Point, NY. He captured 600 British troops and, unlike the British at Paoli, treated them with mercy and dignity. This victory was acclaimed throughout the nation and, as Benjamin Rush (Founding Father, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and Surgeon General of the Continental Army) praised, “You have established the national character of our country. You have taught our enemies that bravery, humanity, and magnanimity are the virtues of the Americans.”
- The 1817 monument is the second oldest Revolutionary War monument in the U.S. This fact was established by research of over 9,000 monuments, memorials, and markers. It documented that its designer was the famed engineer and architect William Strickland. Many of his buildings are NHLs. Research indicates that this was the first of his monuments which included Washington’s Tomb at Mt. Vernon.
- A complete review of the tradition of annual parades centered on the Paoli Massacre monument from 1817 to present. Although still in progress, results indicate an unbroken string of annual commemorations honoring not just those who died in action (Memorial Day type celebrations) but also for military veterans (Veterans Day type celebrations). The annual date changed from the anniversary of the Battle of Paoli in September to dates after the Civil War closer to what is now Memorial Day. We have found no other location that has a longer history of honoring military veterans.
- Documentation of the role of the Battle of Paoli and its effect on both Washington’s strategic plans to defend Philadelphia, the attack on Germantown, the Valley Forge encampment, and military training.
- Documentation of the impact of the Paoli Massacre on General Anthony Wayne personally, as well as on his military conduct and experience.
- Preliminary reviews of this information by staff from the NHL and ABPP indicated that the site qualifies as being listed as nationally significant.

FOR THE RECORD

Interview with Karen Marshall: CCHPN and Preservation Issues in Chester County

by Jane E. Dorchester

I recently had the pleasure of speaking with Karen Marshall, Chester County Heritage Preservation Coordinator. We discussed the preservation issues facing the County today and the role the Chester County Historic Preservation Network (the Network) plays in the preservation of our heritage.

JED: What was the state of preservation at the time you took on Jane's job in 2007?

KM: Jane Davidson retired in 2006 and passed away in 2012. For those five years it was wonderful to be able to consult with her. Jane's vision was that "the County is a park without borders". Since I had long admired Jane's work, my goal was to consolidate and clarify the projects that she had started. Those many projects included the *Atlas of Historic Resources* and the development of historical commissions and HARBs, including their ordinances and formal administrative roles within their municipalities.

Jane had created a spider web of contacts and resources, but it relied on her guidance. The components did not necessarily communicate with each other. My goal was to refine and connect the web. I took the Historic Resource Atlas Project and used it to encourage the development of historical commissions. As County Historic Preservation Officer, Jane was often forced to be reactive to preservation issues. I have been working to make my position more proactive, and I believe that Chester County has a preservation model that doesn't exist anywhere else in Pennsylvania.

JED: What kind of a role did the Network have at the time you took on Jane's job?

KM: The goal of the Network has always been training, recognition, and connectivity to promote and encourage historic preservation in Chester County.

JED: How has preservation changed in Chester County since then?

KM: Most importantly, when the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC or Act 247) was amended in 2000, it replaced the language that stated that municipalities "may" preserve and protect their historic resources with language that municipalities "shall" plan for the preservation of their historic resources. That change made it easier for residents to convince their municipalities that they needed to create historical commissions or HARBs and to enact preservation ordinances, moving preservation planning towards being more proactive. County-wide preservation efforts started with the 1979-1982 "Windshield" Surveys, which led to municipalities creating historical commissions and HARBs, comprehensive historic resource inventories and surveys, and historic preservation ordinances. At the County level, *Landscapes*, *Preserving Our Places*, *Preservation Toolbox*, *Landscapes2*, the Historic Resource Atlas Project, historic resource eTools, and the Vision Partnership Program grants have all encouraged and supported historic preservation and its integration with comprehensive planning.

JED: How has the role of the Network changed since then, if it has?

KM: After Jane died, the Network refined its mission and goals and reconnected with Jane's original vision by:

1. Forming specific working subcommittees
2. Developing a Board handbook with clear administrative and preservation procedures
3. Dividing the County into Municipal Support Areas and re-organizing its Board of Directors into two levels, with twelve Support Area representatives and three at-large members.

JED: What is the state of preservation now?

KM: The good news: 57 of the 73 municipalities in the County now have historic preservation language incorporated into their municipal zoning codes; all comprehensive plan updates since 2000 have included historic preservation goals; all Act 247 (MPC) reviews at the Chester County Planning Commission address historic resource preservation; CCHPN is represented on the *Landscapes3* steering committee; and 93% of those surveyed

FOR THE RECORD

Karen Marshall, continued

during Phase 1 of the *Landscapes3* development process thought historic preservation should be a priority.

The bad news: Municipal volunteers are often overwhelmed, especially those who sit on commissions and HARBs. Many volunteers are not interested in politics - they are there because they are interested in history or in preservation. Therefore, they are not prepared to deal with changes in the elected leadership and the resulting changes in municipal staff, procedures, and policies. In addition, many municipal commissions and HARBs need volunteers and/or lack a clearly defined role within their municipality's governing procedures.

JED: What is the role of the Network now?

KM: The Network had less than 25 municipal members in 2006. Now there are 50 municipal members (out of 73). The Network is working on refining the Municipal Service Areas to better serve the HARBs, historical commissions, and committees. My goal is to have each Network Board member take an active role in their Municipal Service Area and get involved on one subcommittee of the Board.

JED: What are the historic preservation issues now facing the County?

KM: There are two:

1. The founding generation of historic resource and land stewards is generally over 70 years of age; we must develop new leadership and property owner commitment to stewardship. We need to engage with the next generation to encourage an appreciation of Chester County's ethic of historic resource preservation and land conservation.

2. We need to define specific sensitive historic areas in the County where we need to incorporate cultural resource preservation planning into broader comprehensive planning and have this reflected in *Landscapes3*.

JED: What is in the future for the Network?

KM: Jane originally conducted regular hands-on training for all historical commissions and HARBs. CCHPN and I plan on reinstating those training sessions to help commission/HARB members understand the bigger picture of preservation planning, including municipal political processes.

JED: And finally, what can the citizens of Chester County do to prevent the further destruction of our historic resources?

KM: Get active, get involved! And this is how:

1. Attend municipal meetings: council/supervisors, planning and historical commissions, HARBs
2. Pay attention to transportation projects through the TIP and ProjectPath
3. Familiarize yourself with your municipal comprehensive plan and historic preservation ordinance(s)
4. VOTE (at every election, primary and general)
5. Get involved with *Landscapes3*
6. Volunteer in your municipality on your commission/board or with special events

In addition, for PennDoT projects:

7. Get to know your state representative and senator; let them know your concerns
8. Encourage your municipality to develop a relationship with PennDoT District 6 (which covers Chester County)
9. Utilize my position when communicating with state and federal agencies

For development projects:

10. Support local events that highlight history and the importance of having preserved structures and landscapes
11. Encourage your municipality to develop a legally defensible preservation ordinance. Both the East Pikeland and the Schuylkill preservation ordinances are excellent examples to follow.

FOR THE RECORD

The Synergy of Land Conservation and Historic Preservation

by Gwendolyn Lacy, Executive Director

One cannot separate the land from its history. In addition to land conservation, environmental education, and stewardship, the Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County (TLC) focuses on preserving the stories of the land told by its historic sites, structures, and remains. Our historic preservation work is motivated by a desire to connect area residents with their local history and in turn with each other. We believe that land and history are interconnected, and that to preserve one without the other threatens the integrity of both. Our greatest challenge is raising both awareness and the funds to not only conserve land, but to preserve the historic structures and landmarks situated on the land that so often are bulldozed to make way for modern structures. Some historic sites are preserved and left to stand in developing areas, where the surrounding land is not preserved. Such sites are in danger of being enveloped by encroaching housing, shopping centers, office parks, and subsequent wider roads to accommodate our ever-growing population in Southern Chester County. To this end, TLC actively seeks to conserve properties that include historic structures; three of our conservation easements and two of our nature preserves include historic structures. Our headquarters is located within our newest Chandler Mill Nature Preserve and our offices are housed in "Walnut Hill" (built circa 1840), Kennett Township's longest operating bed & breakfast. Under the guidance of Jane E. Dorchester, Architectural Historian, we are now part of the Red Clay Creek Locally Designated Historic District. The District contains two structures already listed on the National Register: a circa-1700s estate known as the Joseph Gregg House and the 100-year-old Chandler Mill Bridge, a steel-plated through girder bridge.

Our proximity to history gives us the opportunity to host historic hikes and education programming and thus advocate for the protection of the irreplaceable. One of our most exciting living history projects to date is the Bucktoe Cemetery, which abuts our Chandler Mill Nature Preserve headquarters and the Bucktoe Creek Preserve, a 300-acre privately-owned preserve where TLC hosts the majority of our environmental education programming. Local historians believe that the Cemetery played an important role in the local Underground Railroad. In the 1800s, the Bucktoe Cemetery was part of the New Garden Memorial UAME Church that originally stood on the site. The Church served as a central meeting place for African-Americans from all over Chester County and the surrounding areas. During the Civil War, it was part of a surrounding community known as Timbuktu or Freedman's Village where African-Americans, including many freed and escaped slaves, lived, worked, worshiped, and marketed goods made exclusively without slave labor. The Cemetery became the final resting place for at least eight African-American Civil War soldiers, who gave their lives to fight for the Union despite the severe injustices they faced. Also buried in the



Bradbury Camp Sons of Union Civil War Veterans
with Willis Phelps, storyteller.

Bucktoe Cemetery are approximately 120 local residents who lived during the Civil War era. In the early 1900s, the church standing on the site was destroyed in an incident of arson known as "White Lightning," attributed to the Ku Klux Klan. The church relocated to historic East Linden Street in Kennett Square, where it remains today. Over the years, the Bucktoe Cemetery fell prey to neglect, and most of the original headstones were lost, destroyed, or stolen. The surrounding Timbuktu community was slowly abandoned with a few ruins remaining

FOR THE RECORD

Land Conservation, continued

today on the Bucktoe Creek Preserve property. In 2010, TLC partnered with members of the UAME Church and professional restorationist Eugene Hough of Heritage Guild Works to restore the Bucktoe Cemetery, identify burial sites, replace missing headstones, and provide educational programming to highlight the site's significant history.



Students from the Migrant Education Program
Excavating Unit K at Bucktoe Cemetery

TLC regularly works with local schools, scouts, and underserved populations in and around Kennett Square through various organizations including the Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU) and its Migrant Education Program (MEP). Since 2014, TLC has held an annual month-long classroom and field program with the MEP. The program is designed to complement the summer program's unit on the Civil War. With the guidance of UAME members, TLC's professional restorationist, and staff preservationist and archeologist Abbie Kessler, approximately 40 students participate each summer in a hands-on archaeological exploration of the original church foundation and the ruins surrounding the cemetery. Since the program's incep-

tion, students have uncovered many exciting artifacts and structural elements. Students also participate in hikes of the surrounding natural and historic area, and classroom sessions connect what they learn in the cemetery to larger issues of historic preservation while assimilating students to the cultural heritage of Southern Chester County. By sharing the history of our local area, TLC encourages an understanding and appreciation of these unique resources, which we hope will lead to their preservation for future generations. Our historic preservation projects also encourage volunteerism and community service; they demonstrate the impact individuals can have in protecting and restoring our local heritage. TLC's overarching goal is to share this story of the synergy of land and historic preservation with a broader audience in hopes of instilling this commitment in the community as a whole for generations to come.

To explore the area outlined in this article you are invited to join TLC for a Living History Hike on Sunday, October 22nd from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Meet at our Chandler Mill Headquarters at 541 Chandler Mill Road, Avondale, PA 19311

To learn more and/or to join TLC in our historic preservation efforts, please visit our website <http://tlcforscc.org/> or contact us at (610) 347-0347 x 107.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Pickering's Progressives by James B. Garrison

Places have the power to influence events. The Pickering Valley in the northeast corner of Chester County, Pennsylvania, is such a place. The region is well endowed with natural resources, and the Pickering Creek powered many of the mills that changed those resources into finished goods for successive generations of early and later-arriving American immigrants. The land both rewarded physical labor and provided a setting that inspired ideas. Immigrants at first flocked to Pennsylvania because of the opportunities provided by William Penn's vision. This pattern persisted through the 19th Century, with an intermingling of cultural heritages working to

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Pickering's Progressives, continued

ward a common goal of prosperity in the New World. Beginning in the 1930s, a new generation came to Chester County, drawn both by the rural surroundings and the area's proximity to urban and suburban centers. Two families settling in the Pickering Valley would become extraordinarily influential in progressive movements in architectural design and planning, education, and labor relations.

Oskar G. Stonorov was a 1929 immigrant from Germany, and Edmund ("Ed") N. Bacon was from an old Quaker family, but they both shared a conviction that design could make the world a better place. It was not design in an academic sense but a more holistic approach involving psychology, humanism, and a sense of what was required for ideas to become reality. Stonorov's European cultural and educational background would harmonize with Bacon's design sense that had been formed in American academe and influenced by the country's advancement to the global stage. And in a further felicitous course of events, these men's careers and those of their wives (Elizabeth "Betty" Foster Stonorov and Ruth Holmes Bacon both pursued common interests in children's welfare and education) would prove to be mutually complementary and would support the friendship of both families. All four individuals' progressive ideas and activities would, in turn, enrich the lives and opportunities of many others, both in the Pickering Valley and in communities across the Philadelphia region.

Oskar Stonorov was eager to build on the success of the Carl Mackley Houses he had completed in 1936. Stonorov was truly a "Renaissance man," not only for the breadth of his knowledge on many topics, but because he was a humanist. Born in Frankfurt am Main in Germany in 1905, he was the son of a structural engineer. Even as a youth, his interests were wide ranging, from music and art to architecture. He studied as a sculptor in Italy, then took up architecture in Zurich. The ingredients that had been nurtured in Europe and America would coalesce in the Pickering Valley for a three-decade period (1940-1970) of unmatched achievements led by this small group of progressives. A shared sense of values united the different personalities who pursued common goals in varied venues, bringing in still more participants from around the world.

Oskar was a legendary entertainer, and the cast of characters who visited Avon Lea—Oskar and Betty's farm, where they raised four children—included notable names in architecture, the arts, government, and business during the period.

The farm at Avon Lea, where Oskar and Betty settled after their marriage, was a crucial part of Stonorov's life and demonstrated the duality of his existence as an urbanist and rural dweller. Architecturally the house, built on the foundations and incorporating some of the original stone walls of an old farmhouse, is a prime example of the



Avon Lea: Stonorov House in foreground, barn in left background

modernism of the International Style. While highly abstract in its geometrical forms, it nonetheless retains connections to the original dwelling that can be found by a careful observer. The immediate proximity of the large dairy barn, with its own geometries based on purely functional needs, created a strong dialogue between the old barn and new house.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Pickering's Progressives, continued

Ed and Ruth Bacon came back to Philadelphia in 1939, following his education at Cornell and Cranbrook, then activity on the Flint, Michigan Planning Commission. Bacon's work in Flint, Michigan was well known, and the Bacon-Foster-Stonorov family connections suggested that getting together would yield great dividends. Stonorov was instrumental in the Bacons' purchase of Little Saffron from the Fosters. At Little Saffron, Ed and Oskar designed a one-story pavilion that pierced the corner of the former twin millworkers' house. This bold geometrical move was a three-dimensional transformation of the tall narrow shape of the original house to a horizontal plane where the angle in the plane also referred to the angle between the addition and sloping site. This simple, brilliant home was originally meant to be a place for Ruth's mother to live, but when World War II came, Ruth lived there with their first four children while Ed served in the U.S. Navy. After the war, the family moved back to Philadelphia when Ed became Executive Director of the City Planning Commission. By then, Ruth's mother had purchased an adjacent farm on Merlin Road, and the family, which increased to six children, continued to spend many weekends and summers in the area at Ruth's mother's house until resuming their weekend and holiday time at Little Saffron in 1971.

In 1970, Edmund Bacon retired from his post at the City Planning Commission. Politics in the city and nation were changing. Oskar Stonorov and Walter Reuther were about to inaugurate a new era in the advancement of labor unions with the opening of the Black Lake Family Education Center for the United Auto Workers. On May 8, 1970, both men died tragically when the private plane carrying them to Michigan for a site visit crashed on its landing approach. Progress in the transformation of the labor movement and the role of architecture in supporting its broad agenda were dealt a severe setback. With the loss of architect and patron, both so visionary, a chance for much greater things was lost.

Ed's retirement and Oskar's passing led to a quieting down in activities at Avon Lea and Little Saffron, but Miss Betty and Ruth Bacon continued their activities at the Charlestown Playhouse, which still thrives as a regional example of progressive early childhood education. For three decades in the middle of the 20th Century, the fires of creativity burned especially bright and attracted the greatest minds in the world to this little corner of Chester County, inspired by the landscape, the history, and the special combination of local and new talents.



Little Saffron: Present View

AN EVENT NOT TO MISS!!!

Join historian and author Susannah Brody to learn about the Dowlin Forge, the early iron industry, and how the local area grew from this enterprise!

Event leaders: Susannah Brody and Jay Erb of Chester County Parks

Date: Sunday, September 24, 2017

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Meet at Jones Pond. Dowlin Forge Road, Uwchlan Township.



CAROLYN T. COMITTA MEMBER, 156TH DISTRICT

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Horace Pippin: Recalling A Celebrated Artist's Rise from Obscurity

by Catherine Quillman

The vibrant and colorful paintings of Horace Pippin have often been characterized as a window into the artistic and cultural heritage of African-Americans. Yet the same work that is regarded today as an example of "primitive simplicity" was hailed in Pippin's day merely as a sign of unencumbered self-expression. This attitude may explain why a mural – perhaps Pippin's only mural – on the walls of West Chester's Star Social Club was painted over. In a news item celebrating the Club's 75th Anniversary, "older" members of the Club recalled seeing "several scenes on the walls" but that "no one paid attention" to the then unknown artist. By then, in 1971, "several coats of paint" and paneling had been placed in the bar area. It is not known what Pippin created for the Star Social Club. The grandson of slaves, he often captured the warmth and simplicity of everyday life from stories he heard growing up. With his paintings ranging from interior scenes of slave cabins to memories of the World War I battlefield, Pippin was typically cited as an artist who could convey all-encompassing themes, such as the intimacy of family life and the brutality of war. However, it was his folklore paintings, especially his imagined scenes of cabin life, that made him practically an overnight sensation. Indeed, in 1938, only one year after Pippin's first one-man show in West Chester, his work was found in New York galleries and was being hailed by everyone from N. C. Wyeth (who reportedly loaned Pippin paints) and Dr. Albert C. Barnes to curators at the Museum of Modern Art.

In the 1930s, Pippin sold many of his local scenes, informally, much like a fruit vendor, by propping them against a chair in front of his home. Less than a decade later, a "choice Pippin," as one paper in 1944 reported, could command a price of more than \$1,000. Even years after his death in 1946 at the age of 58, New York gallery owners and museum curators continued to clamor for his work.

In a series of interviews conducted in 1994, on the occasion of a Pippin exhibit at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (the Academy), local residents spoke of Pippin as a friend and neighbor whose career took off only a year after his work was "discovered" in a shoe-repair shop. While a few recall Pippin in his backyard where he burned images into wood panels and then completed the scene with paint and varnish, most spoke of him not so much as the celebrated artist but as the ordinary man. They tended to view Pippin as an unassuming man who painted scenes in and around Chester County. They also related to Pippin's depictions of outdoor activities, especially local pastimes in such works as "Fishing Through Ice," "The Squirrel Hunter," and "Fishing in the Brandywine."

In 1946, Pippin won a prestigious \$300 prize from the Academy for "The Milkman in Goshen." But residents tended to recall how he depicted unusual scenes such as an Amish man writing a letter and a fox hunting in a field. He painted local people such as Paul B. Dague, a Downingtown native who became a member of Congress, and Sam Riccardo, a young newsboy who was depicted in the 1940 painting, "West Chester Court House."

Even after Pippin vaulted into the Manhattan art scene and was exhibiting in galleries there, many locals (judging from the local newspapers of the period) seemed to believe that Pippin was still displaying his paintings in the window of a local shoe-repair shop, where they once sold for as little as \$15 apiece. The shop was also said to be the place where well-known art critic, Christian Brinton, then President of the Chester County Art Association (CCAA), spotted his first Pippin, "Cabin in the Cotton." Brinton then invited the artist to exhibit at CCAA in its Sixth Annual Art Show in 1937. The following year, Pippin's works were being seen across the country as part of a traveling group show from the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Pippin, a tall and reserved man known for his subtle humor and dignified way of carrying himself, was born in West Chester on February 22, 1888. He spent his childhood in Goshen, New York where, according to a *Time* magazine profile in 1940, he often "hung around the race track sketching the trotters on odd scraps of paper." Pippin returned to his birthplace at the end of World War I, when he married Ora "Jennie" Fetherstone Wade, a twice-widowed woman with a 6-year-old son.

Pippin saw trench action as a member of a select group serving in an all-black regiment. He was wounded in the right shoulder by a sniper and started painting partly as rehabilitation. As *Time* magazine reported, a

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Horace Pippin, continued

"German sniper's dum dum bullet ploughed out a big hunk of his right shoulder in October 1918, after he had served 14 months in front-line trenches with his Negro National Guard company . . . But he kept wanting to paint. Unable to raise his right hand to shoulder level, he propped it up with his left, (and) painted that way in the tiny dining room of his home in West Chester, Pa."

In West Chester, he and his family lived a quiet life in a three-story brick house at 327 West Gay Street, marked today with a plaque. His wife took in laundry and Pippin supplemented his disability payments with occasional jobs as a handyman. Although Pippin would later study art at the Barnes Foundation, some critics continued to describe him as an uneducated, "naive" artist in the American folk-art tradition. Barnes, founder of the Barnes Foundation, described Pippin as an artist who "expresses himself in his own language" while carrying on the artistic traditions of the "great artists." Today, Pippin is hailed as the first African-American artist to have his work appear in a major museum – the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

[Editor's Note: Reprinted from http://www.academia.edu/841603/Horace_Pippin_African_AmericanPainter (date unknown) with the permission of the author.]

87 Years of the Warner: From Theatre to Hotel

by Tony Conaway

One of the ways that historic structures can be preserved is by adapting them for new uses. Although the Warner Theatre has lost its iconic auditorium, its three-story street front remains a feature on High Street in West Chester. The theatre held its grand opening on 14 November 1930, shortly after the start of the Great Depression. The art deco building was designed by the architectural firm of Rapp and Rapp. It is said to be similar in design to another Warner Theatre from that firm that was located in Erie, Pennsylvania.



The Warner was not the only cinema in town. At various times, West Chester boasted at least three others: the Grand Opera House (one of the many incarnations of High Street's Horticultural Hall, which now houses the museum exhibits of the Chester County Historical Society), and, on Gay Street, the Royale and the Harrison (also known as the Garden and, even earlier, as the Idle Hour). Interestingly, all four of these cinemas were within three blocks of each other.

It's not difficult to set up a venue for watching films – most of us watched many educational films in classrooms when we were in school. Any large room with uninterrupted sight lines can be used as a movie house. But the Warner was, by far, the most opulent theatre in town.

The Warner was built to seat 1,650 people, split between a main floor (1,300 seats) and a balcony (350). The walls and ceiling were elaborately decorated. Since, in those days, upscale movie theaters sometimes featured appearances by movie stars, there was a stage as well. While not as deep as a Broadway stage, it proved quite sufficient to hold bands or small shows.

All things have their day, and by the 1960s, the Warner was no longer very profitable. Competition from television hurt all cinemas. The Warner lacked a large, convenient

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Hotel Warner, continued

parking lot, so suburban moviegoers began to patronize suburban cinemas with ample free parking. As energy prices soared in the 1970s, large theaters everywhere found it difficult to pay to heat and air-condition their vast interiors. To make matters worse, moviegoers switched their loyalties to concrete-box multiplex cinemas. Some old movie theaters divided their rooms to hold more than one theater, either with a vertical partition (like the still-operating Bryn Mawr Cinema) or with separate screens for the balcony and the main floor. The Warner remained a single-room theatre.

With movies no longer profitable, the Warner limped on into the late 1970s and early 1980s as a venue for bands and stage shows. Unfortunately, hosting occasional stage shows and bands could not pay the upkeep on the deteriorating building. The Warner Theatre closed for good sometime in the 1980s. There is a photograph of the marquee announcing "Closing May 17," but the exact year is not known.

Eventually, its empty auditorium crumbling, West Chester's Borough Council voted in 1986 to allow for partial demolition of the Warner. A group calling itself "Friends of the Warner" protested, to no avail (see right). The auditorium portion was demolished and became much-needed additional parking for the growing town. The theatre's three-story front was renovated into offices. The marquee, the box office, and the vertical "Warner" sign were removed (see page 18). The renovated street front became the Chester County bureau offices of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

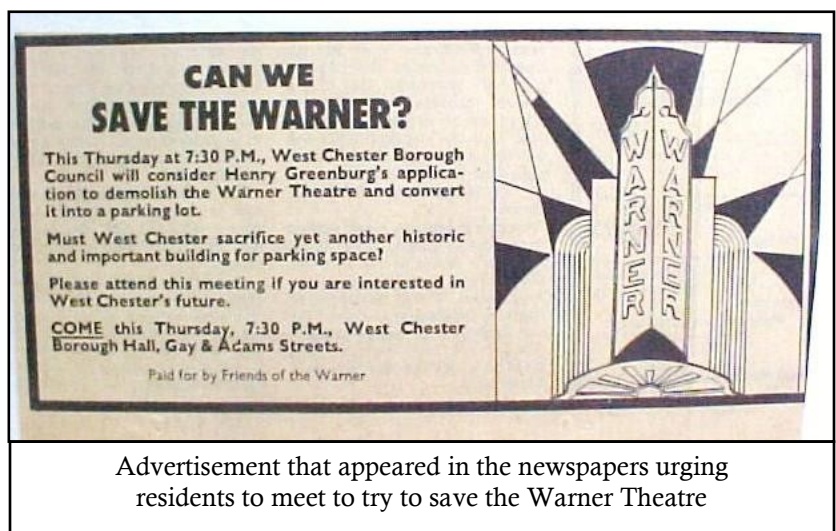
"It was a very special location," said Kathleen Brady Shea, a former *Inquirer* reporter, "We were all cognizant of the building's history and appreciated being able to work there. The building held even more significance for those of us who once attended movies there."

The renovated offices had three stories. Reception was on the first floor, while most of the reporters' desks were on the second floor. The top floor previously housed the projection booth and had little usable space.

As newspapers contracted, the *Inquirer* closed its Chester County bureau and the building became empty. On August 17, 2013, the Hotel Warner opened; it married the remains of the Warner Theater, which is its lobby, to a hotel addition that was built on the site of the demolished auditorium. The addition includes a two-level parking garage.

The Hotel Warner was the first hotel to open in the West Chester Borough in over 100 years, and the Borough's first operating hotel since the old Mansion House was demolished in 1970. A visitor to the Hotel Warner will see many photographs of the heyday of the Warner Theatre displayed both in the Hotel's lobby and throughout its corridors. The Theatre's grand staircase still exists as a centerpiece of the Hotel's lobby. The Hotel's check-in desk is located where the Theatre's concession stand once stood, the original brick wall still behind it. There is also a floor-to-ceiling mural in the lobby depicting High Street in 1949.

We all would prefer to have the original Warner Theatre still with us, merrily showing movies. Unfortunately, that's not economically possible. A similar movie palace, Phoenixville's Colonial Theatre, still hosts movies only because of volunteer efforts. But the Warner could have been completely eradicated, like the long-gone Royale. Or it could have been renovated so heavily that passersby don't even realize it was once a theatre, like the Harrison. The current owners of the Hotel Warner honor the building's past by incorporating the name and displaying old photographs of the theatre.



ITEMS OF INTEREST

PHOTO GALLERY: Winter and Spring Workshops



The First Annual CCHPN Winter Workshop was held on Saturday, January 21, 2017 in the Carriage House (pictured on the left) at Soledad Mansion (also known as the Kates Mansion) in West Whiteland Township and was attended by about 60 CCHPN members (pictured on right). The Workshop's program was "Saving Neglected Buildings." Speakers included John Snook of the Brandywine Conservancy who spoke about best preservation practices in planning and zoning, Sandy Momyer and John Gregory of the Schuylkill Township Historical Commission, who spoke about the Schuylkill Township Preservation Ordinance; Peter Staz, a developer, who spoke about the developer's point of view; and Bob Hollingshead, the owner of Soledad who, with his wife, graciously hosted us. Hollingshead spoke about the preservation/restoration of Soledad.



The Annual CCHPN Spring Workshop was held on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at the Brandywine Conservancy and was attended by about 55 CCHPN members (pictured above). The Workshop's program was "True Life Adventures in Historic Preservation." Speakers included Karen Marshall, Chester County Heritage Preservation Coordinator, who spoke about historic preservation planning; Shelby Splain, Outreach and Education Coordinator for the PA SHPO (formerly the Bureau for Historic Preservation under PHMC), who described all the preservation services that the SHPO provides; Jeanine Speirs, Chester County Senior Community Planner, who spoke about state and local preservation laws; Seth Hinshaw, architectural historian at RGA, and Wade Catts, former Regional Director, Commonwealth Heritage Group, who spoke about how to document and defend historic resources; David Ward, Assistant Director, Chester County Planning Commission, who spoke about holding effective meetings; and Jim Garrison, Chair, East Pikeland Historical Commission, who spoke about the East Pikeland Preservation Ordinance.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

PHOTO GALLERY: Volunteer Recognition Celebration 2017

The Chester County Historic Preservation Network held its annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration the evening of June 28, 2017 in the Washington House at Historic Yellow Springs. A total of four awards and one lifetime membership were bestowed (please see photographs below and on page 22). Almost 100 historic preservationists from Chester County, many of them members of historical commissions and HARBs, attended.

CCHPN Awards and Recognitions are determined by the value the recipients bring to Chester County through one or more of the following: Preservation Projects, Preservation Service, or Preservation Education.

The **Municipal Historic Preservation Award** was given to Pennsbury Township after the Board of Supervisors, on November 19, 2016, approved the purchase of three parcels of land totaling 23 acres that are adjacent to the Township Building and Park. This approval concluded a ten-year struggle to preserve these parcels as part of their on-going efforts to preserve the landscape related to the Battle of Brandywine.

The **Jane L. S. Davidson Historic Preservation Award** was given to Don Hannum. Among his many achievements, he was a founding member of CCHPN, is a staunch advocate of preservation throughout Chester County, served as a West Caln Supervisor, instituted the West Caln Township Historical Commission, and started the West Caln Township Historical Society.

Two **Grace Under Fire Recognitions** were given. West Goshen received the first **Recognition** for successfully creating, after three long years and many trials and tribulations, the West Goshen Historical Commission in 2016. Schuylkill Township received the second **Recognition** because of its efforts to preserve the Anderson Barn from demolition by neglect through legal procedures which ended with a successful ruling from the Chester County Court of Common Pleas. This court case was important because first, it proved that the Township's newly updated historic preservation ordinance could stand up in court; and second, it established a legal precedent that others can now follow.

A **Lifetime Membership** was awarded to Historic Yellow Springs (HYS) because it has continued the spirit of Chester County preservation through a generous long-term partnership with CCHPN. HYS was the site of the CCHPN Preservation Fair for three years and is the current home to CCHPN's office.

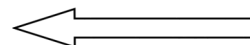
Congratulations to this year's award winners! You are an inspiration to all of us as we keep moving forward in our efforts to preserve Chester County's rich heritage.



2017 Awards Recipients:

Front Row (l-r): Sandy Momyer of Schuylkill Township, Ginny Stearly of Schuylkill Township, Nancy McCabe of West Goshen Township

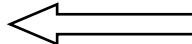
Back Row (l-r): Donald Hannum (Preservationist of the Year), John Gregory of Schuylkill Township, David Keifer of Schuylkill Township, Dianne Cram of Schuylkill Township, Jay Stearly of Schuylkill Township, Kevin Pistiner of West Goshen Township, Eileen McMonagle, Executive Director, Historic Yellow Springs, and Kathleen Howley, Pennsbury Township Manager.



ITEMS OF INTEREST: Volunteer Recognition Celebration 2017, continued



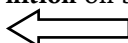
Aaron McIntyre (r), Vice-Chairman, Pennsbury Township Board of Supervisors, accepted the Chester County Historic Preservation Network **Municipal Historic Preservation Award** from CCHPN President John Miller (l) on behalf of the Township of Pennsbury.



Donald Hannum (middle), the **Jane L. S. Davidson Historic Preservation Award** recipient, gives his acceptance speech as CCHPN President John Miller (l) and County Heritage Coordinator Karen Marshall (r) look on.



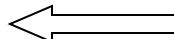
Nancy McCabe (middle), Chairman, West Goshen Historical Commission, & Kevin Pistiner (r), member, West Goshen Historical Commission, accepted the first **Grace Under Fire Recognition** on behalf of the Township of West Goshen from CCHPN President John Miller (l).



Sandy Momyer (middle), Chairman, Schuylkill Historical Commission & John Gregory (r), Vice-Chairman, Schuylkill Historical Commission, accepted the second **Grace Under Fire Recognition** on behalf of the Township of Schuylkill from CCHPN President John Miller (l).



Historic Yellow Springs Executive Director Eileen McMonagle (r) accepted the **Lifetime Membership to the Chester County Historic Preservation Network** from CCHPN President John Miller (l).





**CHESTER COUNTY HISTORIC
PRESERVATION NETWORK
2017 FALL WORKSHOP
SOCIAL MEDIA, CONTINUED, & NEWS
RELEASES: TELLING THE PUBLIC YOUR STORY**

Saturday, October 21, 2017

8 am – 12:30 pm

**East Goshen Township Building
1580 Paoli Pike
West Chester, PA 19380**

AGENDA

Your Events and Information:

What you are, what you do on your own, and how your HC or HARB can help other agencies of the Township.

Telling Your Story:

Use News Releases to “tell your story.” How to pick the subject matter and the media.

Social Media:

Types of social media. Three kinds or major social media: Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Pros and Cons, samples, how your municipality can use them.

Websites:

Should it only be the historical commission’s or HARB’s website or part of the township’s website? What features should be included?

SCHEDULE

8:00 - 8:30am:	Registration
8:30 - 8:45am:	Welcome
8:45 - 9:15am:	Review of Spring 2016 Workshop
9:15 - 10:00am:	Public Relations & News Releases
10:00 - 10:15am:	BREAK
10:15 - 11:45am:	# Major Types (Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram) Pros and Cons Samples
11:45 - 12:15am:	Social Media Part II
12:15 - 12:30am:	Closing

THIS WORKSHOP

- Will give you pros & cons of each type of social media and samples.
- Will help you tell your story to the public through the media.

**RSVP DEADLINE OCTOBER 7TH
(NO REFUNDS AFTER OCTOBER 7TH)**

CCHPN
2017 FALL WORKSHOP
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017

Municipality/Organization _____

Primary Contact _____

Day Telephone _____ **Email** _____

First four Members of the Municipality for \$15 per person:

_____	Day Phone _____	Email _____	\$15
_____	Day Phone _____	Email _____	\$15
_____	Day Phone _____	Email _____	\$15
_____	Day Phone _____	Email _____	\$15

Additional Municipal Members or Individual Members for \$20 per person:

_____	Day Phone _____	Email _____	\$20
_____	Day Phone _____	Email _____	\$20

Non-Members of CCHPN for \$25 per person:

_____	Day Phone _____	Email _____	\$25
_____	Day Phone _____	Email _____	\$25

Membership Dues:

Municipality/Organization (\$85) _____

Individual (\$20) _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

RSVP BY OCTOBER 7TH

(NO REFUNDS AFTER OCTOBER 7TH)

Make checks payable to:
CCHPN 2017 Fall Workshop
P. O. Box 174
West Chester, PA 19381

ITEMS OF INTEREST

BULLETIN BOARD

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS IT?! QUIZ

The *Ledger* will be featuring a What in the World Is It?! Quiz in every issue. If you are the first person to send the Editor the correct answers to the quiz, you will have your name and answers posted in the next issue of the *Ledger*! Send your answers to: jeditorhspv@verizon.net. Many thanks to the Chester County Historical Society for the use of the photographs!

WHERE IS IT?



This is the former Denny Tag Company Building. Where is it? What was it *before* it was used as a Tag Company?

WHAT IS IT?



These are two artifacts in the collections of the Chester County Historical Society. What are they? What are they used for?

LOOKEE HERE!!!

Membership dues are due NOW!!!!

Municipality/Organization	\$85.00
Individual	\$20.00

Please make checks out to CCHPN and send to
CCHPN /P. O. Box 174 / West Chester, Pa.
19381 /ATTN: Treasurer

ATTENTION!!!

Are you getting ready to move?

Would you like to keep abreast of the Preservation happenings in Chester County?

Then, the Editor of the *CHESTER COUNTY LEDGER* would be delighted to receive your CHANGE OF ADDRESS!!

Simply send your old (so we can identify you) AND new addresses to:

CCHPN /P. O. Box 174 / West Chester, Pa. 19381 /
ATTN: Editor

SAVE THESE DATES!!!!

SPRING WORKSHOP: March 10, 2018
Inclement Weather Date: March 17, 2018
Location: Brandywine River Museum

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CELEBRATION: June 20, 2018
Location: To Be Announced

FALL WORKSHOP: October 20, 2018
Location: To Be Announced

THE ADVERTISER

CHESTER COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK

SAVING CHESTER COUNTY HISTORY

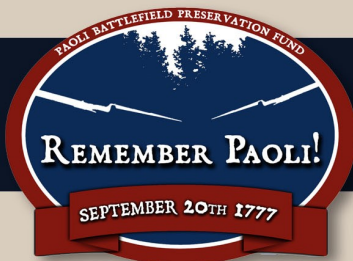
THANK YOU

SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION



On the National Register of Historic Places, the Meadow Brook farmstead is available for new use and renovation. Call the Phoenixville Area School District at 1-484-927-5476 to discuss favorable long-term lease arrangement allowing you to renovate to customize your needs for business and/or residence. This is a great opportunity.

Kids Games - Food - Crafts - Vendors -
Demonstrations - Authors - Historical
Sites - PA National Guard -
Re-enactors - Veteran's Groups - Kid's
Prize Drawings - Table Displays - and
Much More!



Twilight Battle Reenactment

5TH ANNUAL PAOLI BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE DAY

Saturday September 23, 2017

11 am to 4 pm

Paoli Memorial Grounds, Malvern PA



For more information visit RememberPaoli.org

THE ADVERTISER



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**LOOK FOR THE NEXT
CHESTER COUNTY LEDGER!**

The next *Ledger* will be published in February 2018!