



# Chester County Ledger

The Newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

Volume 12, Number 2

June 2009

## Come to Oxford for the 2009 Volunteer Recognition Celebration!

As part of our ongoing effort to bring people together from across the county, we'll be holding our annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration in Oxford this year. Come on out for a tour of the borough, a fine meal, and our annual awards ceremony. And don't forget our Municipal Roll Call where you can tout your achievements and struggles and hear what else is happening in other municipalities across Chester County. We hope to see you there!

- Robert Wise  
CCHPN President

## Spotlight on the Borough of Oxford

Set in the gentle hills of Chester County's southwestern corner, Oxford is a vibrant community that has served as the social and economic center of its region for more than two and one-half centuries. The nucleus of the village was created in 1754, when a Presbyterian church was established to serve the many Scots-Irish families living on neighboring farms. In that same year an enterprising businessman named Walter Hood opened a tavern near the church to serve folks who traveled the several roads that intersected at the point that became Oxford.

A witness to the Revolutionary War and American Independence, Oxford grew slowly as the nineteenth century approached, adding several homes, work places for craftspeople, and merchants' shops to its cluster of buildings. Developing its own identity in those years, Oxford won the status of an independent borough and had a functioning government in place by 1838. Linked to the larger world by twice-weekly stagecoach runs, Oxford



*So much of the rich architectural heritage of Oxford remains throughout the historic district.*

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.

expanded its role as a commercial and cultural center, acquiring its first bank in the 1850s and establishing public and private schools with sound reputations.

As 1860 was ending, Oxford experienced the event that would radically transform it, enabling it to grow more than ten-fold in a few decades. On a cold December day a crowd of several thousand onlookers cheered as a puffing steam locomotive chugged into town, pulling several passenger cars on the newly-laid rails of the Philadelphia and Baltimore Central Railroad. Although this short line actually ran between Wawa, Pennsylvania and Port Deposit, Maryland, it had links to the two cities of its name, and it enabled the shipment of farm produce, manufactured goods, and the movement of people, placing Oxford squarely in the middle of a corridor of commerce.

During the remaining decades of the nineteenth century Oxford's population swelled, scores of new homes were built, and the town acquired newspapers, electric street lighting, a public water system, a volunteer fire company, additional churches, and a growing variety of merchants and trades people. In addition, workers in the borough were producing carriages and wagons, bricks, iron products, women's hats and clothing, caramel candies, and, for brief periods, railroad cars and automobiles. When a second railroad, the Peach Bottom Railway, appeared in the 1870s, Oxford's role as a business and social center for southern Chester County, northern Cecil County, Maryland, and Lancaster County's "Southern End" was enhanced.

Modern highway systems and the declining importance of railroads conspired to reduce Oxford's significance in the twentieth century. Some specialty manufacturers, such as



*There are many wonderful homes surrounding downtown Oxford.*

a cabinet mill, survived for part of this era, but local retailers found it difficult to compete with the allure of shopping malls. Oxford's status as a residential community did not diminish, however, and as interest in historic preservation began to grow, Oxford's many fine Victorian-era homes and commercial buildings appealed to connoisseurs of older structures.

To highlight aspects of the community's history, the Oxford Area Historical Association will present a walking tour titled "We Were Oxford: People from the Community's Past" in July, 2009. As they stroll along residential and commercial avenues visitors will meet businesspeople, a women's suffrage leader, Civil War veterans, factory workers, a U.S. Supreme Court Justice, a colonial-era Scottish minister, and others. And it is highly likely that a prominent political leader and a world class entertainer who appeared in Oxford on the same day back in 1913 will be returning to town for the tour.

- John Bradley

*The Chester County Ledger*

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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.*



# 2009 Volunteer Recognition Celebration

**June 24, 2009, Wednesday**  
**Oxford Presbyterian Church**  
**6 Pine Street, Oxford, Pa.**  
**All are welcome!**

### *Evening's Schedule*

5-6:30pm *Tour the Oxford  
Historic District*  
6:45 *Dinner is served*  
7:30 *Volunteer Recognition*

Fee: \$25.00 for all attendees

For more information, contact  
Elaine Husted, 610-469-1243.

All are invited to come out to our annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration, honoring the accomplishments of Chester County's Historical Commissions and HARBs and other volunteer preservationists! We hope every historical commission and HARB will be represented!

- ✓ Come and tour the Oxford Historic District and learn about the historical figures who called Oxford home!
- ✓ Eat a wonderful meal prepared by the ladies of the Oxford Presbyterian Church!
- ✓ Find out who receives this year's CCHPN Preservation Awards!
- ✓ Share in the annual recognition of our network of preservationists across the county!

This event is co-sponsored by the Oxford Area Historical Association, and we give special thanks to Oxford Presbyterian Church. Directions are on the next page.



## Registration Form

**RSVP by June 18, 2009**

Municipality/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Additional Attendees

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to include your membership dues with your registration, please check below:

- Individual (\$20.00)
- Municipality/Organization (\$85.00)

### **Total Payment Amount For Registration**

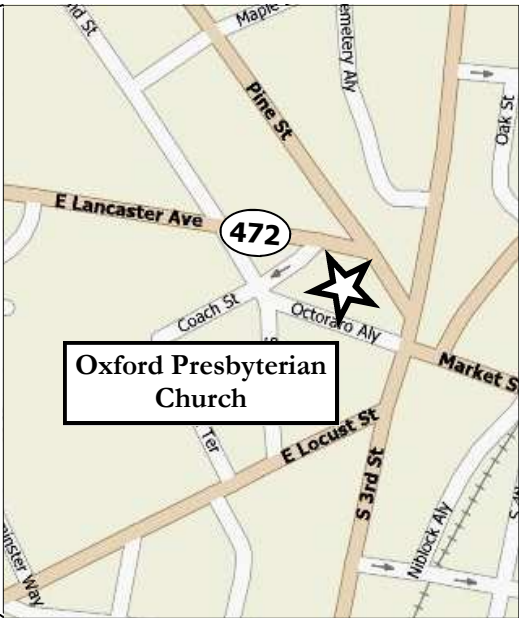
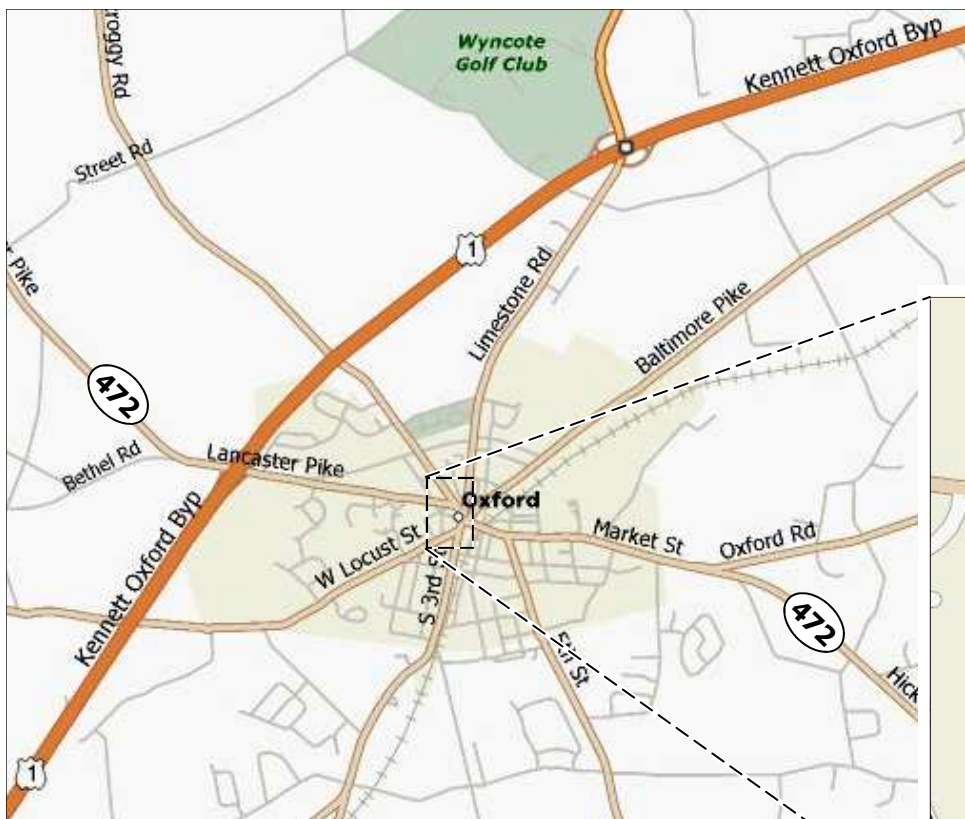
Number of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 ea. \_\_\_\_\_

plus membership dues, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to CCHPN**

**Mail form and check to: CCHPN, PO Box 174, West Chester, PA 19381. *Thanks!***



**Directions:** From the north, take US Route 1 south, take the Route 472 exit, take a left onto Route 472 South (Lancaster Pike) and head toward the steeple of Oxford Presbyterian Church, approximately 0.8 mile. The church is at 6 Pine Street.

**Parking:** There is no parking available at the church, but there is plenty on the streets surrounding it, especially at the park. You are encouraged to carpool.

## Spring Workshop 2009: Essentials of Fundraising, A Big Success!

Given the current economic difficulties, you would not expect there to be much discussion about raising funds. Granting organizations are cutting their budgets left and right, and donors are barely opening

In their survey forms, attendees stated that they were very pleased with the quality and quantity of information provided, striking a balance between introductory and more in-depth information. Of particular value was the



*State Senator Andy Dinniman and State Representatives Duane Milne, Paul Drucker, and Barbara McIlvaine Smith provided valuable input on how to work with elected officials on fundraising and other issues.*

their checkbooks. But now is a great time to be planning for the future. So says Karen Simmons, President and CEO of the Chester County Community Foundation. Ms. Simmons led our workshop on fundraising and was joined by Connie Carter, Rob Lukens, Nina Kelly, and Corrine Sylvia.

panel discussion with State Senator Andy Dinniman, and State Representatives Duane Milne, Paul Drucker, and Barbara McIlvaine Smith. They gave a detailed presentation on how to request funds from your elected officials at the state level and how to make your voice heard on issues about which you care. On everyone's lips was the governor's proposal to cut funding for the PHMC grant program, which would greatly hurt many local organizations, such as the Chester County Historical Society and Historic Yellow Springs, Inc.

Attendees got a wealth of information and sources for additional information to take home to their fellow preservationists.

CCHPN wishes to thank all of the presenters, the Brandywine

Conservancy, our event co-sponsors, the elected officials, and all of the attendees for helping make this workshop so successful.

The handouts given at the workshop are available for downloading from our website. Go to: <http://www.cchpn.org/histcomm.htm>

## CCHPN Receives A Community Action Award from the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia

Three Cheers for Chester County preservationists and CCHPN! At its 16th Annual Achievement Awards Luncheon on May 11, 2009, the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia presented one of three Community Action Awards to the Chester County Historic Preservation Network. The award recognizes organizations that are building collaborative partnerships focused on historic preservation. Other recipients of

this award for 2009 are the Historical Society of Frankford's Center for Northeast Philadelphia History and Historic Germantown. We are in fine company with these organizations.

CCHPN could not have received this award without the help and support of the preservationists of Chester County. We dedicate this award to all of you! Thank you!

## Come on out for the 15th Annual Town Tours and Village Walks!

### June 11

#### **Borough of West Chester: *Going to Town***

Sponsors: Chester County Historical Society and West Chester Historical and Architectural Review Board  
Tour Registration and information: 610-692-4800  
Chester Countians have come in to “town” for their business, legal, and shopping needs for more than two centuries. Come explore the oldest section of West Chester - from its beginning as the crossroads at “The Turk’s Head” to its role today as the county seat. All tours will begin at the Chester County Historical Society where you can sign up for themed walks before the kick-off ceremonies, and return there for refreshments after your walk.

### June 18

#### **Borough of Downingtown: *150 Year Anniversary Celebration***

Sponsor: Downingtown Historical and Parks Commission  
Reservations 610-269-0322 Ex. 246  
Help Chester County's oldest town celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, May 16, 2009. Featured will be Chester County’s oldest dwelling: the 1701 Log House. Architectural tours will focus on all periods including the fine homes reflecting the prosperity with the arrival of the railroad in the mid-19th century. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 Downingtown had 800 citizens, about 100 men left to fight in the war.

### June 25

#### **Borough of Kennett Square: *Links to Lincoln***

Sponsor: Kennett Square Historical Commission, Reservations: (610) 444-6020  
Everyone knows that Kennett Square is the Mushroom Capital of the World, but do you know of our significant ties to Abraham Lincoln? Join us as we learn about the town resident who created the fallen president’s death mask, the local Quakers’ efforts on the Underground Railroad and the emancipation of slaves, a Civil War regiment that fought valiantly at Gettysburg and Lincoln’s recent immortalization through the art of the late Rea Redifer.

### July 9

#### **East Pikeland Township: *Meet the Emerys of Old Chester Springs Road***

Sponsor: Pikeland Historical Society & East Pikeland Historical Commission  
Old Chester Springs Road runs between 113 and Kimberton Road. Located here are a number of historic houses. Many are originally Emery residences. George Emery arrived here in 1752 and settled in Pikeland. By 1757, he married Anna Elizabeth Haas. Some of these houses were built by their children, including an 1833 house which operated as an unlicensed tavern known as Norlan Square. It is still standing and is a private residence now.

### July 16

#### **Village of Ercildoun: *On the Road to Freedom***

Sponsor: Fallowfield Historical Society  
Reservations: 610-857-1824  
With Quaker roots that run as deep as those of the oaks that line its Grove, the Village of Ercildoun was a major stop on the Underground Rail Road. It is also the final resting place of Rebecca Lukens and many others who fought to abolish the *scourge of slavery*. Ercildoun’s appearance has changed very little over the years. Come and discover its many hidden charms!!



*Attendees at last year’s village walk in Historic Yellow Springs were treated to guides in period dress, refreshments, and a demonstration of his-*

**July 23****Village of Glenmoore: *Tracing a Village's Growth***

Sponsor: Wallace Township Historical Commission  
Reservations - 610-942-3632

A log schoolhouse stood beside the 1738 cart way, Indiantown Road, where wagons loaded with iron products from the furnaces passed through on their way to the Wilmington market. Later the 1859 schoolhouse with its second story community room became the setting for this historic Indiantown crossroads and the early Springton Manor story. As the Norwood hamlet grew into the Glenmoore village, ornately decorated houses were constructed for newly married couples, hence Bridal Row.

**July 30****Borough of Oxford**

Sponsor: Oxford Area Historical Association  
Reservations: Oxford Area Chamber of Commerce, 610-932-0740, oxfordchamber@oxfordpa.org  
By the early 1700's the Scots-Irish had settled in Oxford along an old Nanticoke Indian trail that led to the Chesapeake Bay, and by 1754 there was a community formed around Hood's Tavern and the Presbyterian Church. But the great growth came with the arrival of the railroad in 1860. Experience the early Victorian architecture of Oxford and meet the men and women who were responsible for the founding of Lincoln University, starting the 2nd oldest library in the state (1784) and having their own newspaper, bank, water company, fire company and electric company by the end of the 19th century.

**August 6****Historic Yellow Springs: *Celebrating 35 Years!***

Sponsor: Historic Yellow Springs, Inc.  
Tour Registration & Information: 610 827-7414; [www.yellowsprings.org](http://www.yellowsprings.org)  
Guided Tours 6 – 8 PM light refreshments provided.  
Join us in celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Historic Yellow Springs – a time to honor our “Founders”.  
Come meet HYS Founder Connie Fraley who, in 1974, decided the village was too important not to save. The Lenape Indians, Revolutionary War, spa, orphanage, art school and filmmaking eras will be explored with “founders” sharing the importance of each period. The beautiful landscape, the historic buildings and the people continue to make this an important living village today.

**August 13****Village of Berwyn**

Sponsor: Berwyn Devon Business & Professional Association  
Reservations: 610 644 0138 at the Easttown Library and Information Center.  
The village of Berwyn grew along the historic tracks of the Main Line and the first turnpike in the new United States that ran from Philadelphia to Lancaster. The village spreads into both Easttown and Tredyffrin Townships. The walking tour weaves through the town from the churches above and down to the railroad station squeezed between the tracks and Lancaster Pike. Visitors also will see the Berwyn Veterans Memorial that honors veterans from all the nation's wars.

**August 20****Surprise Village**

Look for the official brochure coming out soon for information on this tour!

**18th Century Restorations, Inc.**

We are pleased to have restored or preserved historic landmarks in the Delaware Valley for 25 years. During that time as general contractor we have continued our mission of historic accuracy from carpentry to finishes in the area's period stone, brick, log and timber frame structures. We focus on the preservation of original elements: windows, doors, cornice, shutters, stair systems and flooring and cyclical preservation maintenance. We design and build sympathetic additions and welcome small projects as well. Please view our website.

[www.18thcenturyrestoration.com](http://www.18thcenturyrestoration.com)

610-469-6649

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For Technical Information on Historic Preservation and Contacts to help you with your historic house or with your preservation efforts, and for information on preservation events around the county, please visit:

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

## Matthew E. Roberson

### Historic Preservation Services

CCHPN & Historic Yellow Springs, Inc. Board Member

610-620-4656 [meroberson@gmail.com](mailto:meroberson@gmail.com)

[www.meroberson.com](http://www.meroberson.com)

Period-Accurate Carpentry For Historic Structures

### Please join CCHPN

Individual Membership - \$20.00/year

Municipal/Organizational Membership - \$85.00/year

Membership dues are tax deductible. Your dues pay almost all of our expenses, all of which serve the preservation community.

Please send your check to the address below.



Chester County Historic Preservation Network

P.O. Box 174

West Chester, PA 19381

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

PLEASE FORWARD

Please come  
join us for our

**Volunteer Recognition  
Celebration**

June 24, 2009  
Oxford Presbyterian  
Church  
Oxford, Pa

Details Inside!