

Town Tours & Village Walks

SUMMER 2017

1 JUNE 15

THE LAND OF GOSHEN 1777 - FROM TURK'S HEAD TO COUNTY SEAT

SPONSORS: West Chester HARB

Annual Kick-off Celebration: Chester County Historical Society



In the summer of 1777 West Chester was only the Turk's Head Inn and a few other buildings and farmhouses at a crossroads on the western edge of Goshen Township. We will explore the Revolutionary War happenings around the Turk's Head Inn and will visit the northeast quadrant of present-day West Chester. Topics will include Lafayette, Marshall Square Park, Victorian architecture, the Chester County Hospital, private academies, industrialization, plus plants and nurseries.

PARKING & REGISTRATION: Arrive at 5:30 pm for pre-registration, all tours leave at 6:30 pm after the celebration. The closest public parking for the Chester County Historical Society is the Chestnut Street Garage at 14 East Chestnut St., West Chester. Many business and restaurants validate your garage ticket with purchase, so take it with you. There is some metered street parking as well.

2 JUNE 22

TWO DAYS BEFORE BRANDYWINE

SPONSOR: Historic Kennett Square in Kennett Borough



It was an overcast and humid dawn, September 11, 1777. Two days earlier, a Royal Army of 15,000 soldiers and camp followers had begun arriving in the tiny crossroads settlement of Kennett Village along the Great Nottingham Road to Philadelphia or streaming north from a ford along the Red Clay Creek from Delaware. Guides will escort visitors to points of interest and re-enactors will recreate the arrival, encampment and departure of the British and Hessian troops in and around Kennett Square to attack General Washington and the Continental Army assembled five miles away along the Brandywine Creek. Enjoy refreshments and meet Kevin Sheridan, author of "Timepiece Chronicles-Battle of Brandywine Creek."

PARKING & REGISTRATION: Tours will begin at 5:30 pm. The 6 pm tour will be in Spanish. Free parking E. Linden St. Garage, 120 E. Linden St., Kennett Square.

3 JUNE 29

THE BRITISH FLANK AT TRIMBLES FORD: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNEY

SPONSORS: Friends of Martins Tavern, West Bradford Historical Commission, Pocopson Historical Committee



Between 5 and 6 am, the Royal Army formed two columns in Kennett Square. Led by three local loyalists, General Sir William Howe and General Cornwallis column of 8,500 soldiers marched north to outflank General Washington's forces. Following a maze of local roads, they arrived on the Road to the Great Valley that forded the Brandywine Creek at Trimble's Ford. Explore the lost road, ford and Village of Trimbleville with guides and archaeologist Wade Catts whose research team discovered the lost road and ford.

PARKING & INFORMATION: Tours will begin at 5:30 pm. Parking 300 Broad Run Rd., West Chester. *Difficult field walking.

4 JULY 4TH

SPECIAL OBSERVATION: 25TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONY AT THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS' CEMETERY.

SPONSOR: East Vincent Township



Tuesday, 9 AM: Celebrate freedom on our country's birthday while honoring the price paid by the unknown Revolutionary War soldiers who lie at rest in this cemetery. The program takes place on the route that the Continental Supply Train traveled toward Warwick and Reading Furnaces after the Battle of the Clouds. The log church that eventually served as a hospital for the Revolutionary soldiers, in East Vincent, was dedicated May 27, 1758. As a hospital, it lent care to the wounded from the Battle of Brandywine and to soldiers from Valley Forge.

PARKING & REGISTRATION: 280 Hill Church Rd., Spring City. After the celebration, visit the East Vincent Church at this address and view the location of the historic log hospital. Visitors are welcome to use the parking lot and bathrooms. Light refreshments.

5 JULY 6

WITNESS TO BATTLE: TWO ARMIES CLASH ON THE FARM FIELDS OF BIRMINGHAM

SPONSORS: Birmingham & Thornbury Historical Commissions



When General Washington discovered that he had been outflanked by the British, he repositioned troops on either side of Birmingham Road. There the two armies clashed in the largest, single-day battle of the Revolutionary War. Tour the 18th-century Spackman Farm which sits in the heart of the battlefield. The 1709 farmhouse bears a stone patch where a cannon ball tore into the thick stone walls. Visit the 254-year-old Birmingham Meetinghouse which served as a hospital for wounded soldiers in 1777 and still has an active membership today. Guides will interpret the battle action contrasting war with the local Quaker Testimony of Peace.

PARKING & REGISTRATION: Tours will begin at 5:30 pm. 1256 Thornbury Rd., West Chester. *Difficult field walking.

6 JULY 13

BUS TOUR: ADVANCE WITH THE HESSIANS!

SPONSORS: Pennsbury Historical Commission, Chadds Ford Historical Society, Brandywine Battlefield Park, Brandywine Battlefield Task Force, & Old Kennett Meeting



On the morning of September 11, 1777, the Royal Army advanced in a second column east along the Great Nottingham Road straight at Washington's defenses. Led by General Wilhelm von Knyphausen, they were tasked with engaging the Continental forces along the Brandywine until they heard General Howe's guns from the north indicating that the flanking maneuver had been successful. As they approached today's Longwood Gardens, they were attacked by soldiers commanded by American General William Maxwell. Despite the American delaying tactics, the enemy advanced to the river. Follow the route by bus and hear the description of the battle as well as the role historic resources along the route played. Brandywine Battlefield interpreters will be on each bus. Open House at Brandywine Battlefield before and after bus tour.

PARKING & REGISTRATION: Tours will begin at 3 pm. Chadds Ford Elementary School, 3 Baltimore Pike, Chadds Ford
TIMED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: Call Brandywine Battlefield 610-459-3342 or visit battlefieldtour2017.eventbrite.com.

7 JULY 20

WEST WHITELAND ROLE IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

SPONSORS: West Whiteland & West Goshen Historical Commissions



On the morning of September 15, 1777, the Battle of the Clouds began with heavy skirmishing between the opposing forces in the county's Great Valley. These came to an abrupt halt when a torrential rainstorm made the roads nearly impassable and turned the surrounding agricultural land into sodden fields of mud. The American Army broke contact and retreated and the Royal Army encamped on the field of battle. In 1777, one of West Whiteland's most influential citizens was Richard Thomas (III). During the Revolutionary War, when Richard Thomas (III) served seven years as colonel for the First Regiment of Chester County Militia, he was locally known as "the Fighting Quaker." Visit Richard Thomas' properties; learn about local plundering by the British; the Battle of the Clouds, and what life was like during the Revolution. Presenters: Sean Moir, author of the Battle of the Clouds Technical Report and Revolutionary War re-enactor, John Kabli.

PARKING & REGISTRATION: Tours will begin at 5:30 pm. Whiteland Towne Center parking lot, 229 W. Lincoln Hwy, Exton. Registration near Gloss Salon.

8 JULY 27

REMAINS OF THE DAY

SPONSOR: Historic Yellow Springs



The second engagement of the Philadelphia Campaign was the Battle of the Clouds on September 15th, so named because it was ended abruptly by a storm. Around 5 pm, the Continental army began its almost ten-mile retreat to Yellow Springs in the downpour where soldiers took what shelter they could find. You may wonder: "Where are the bodies buried?" The Revolutionary War Hospital at Yellow Springs and the Quaker meeting houses, churches, and private homes in our area were utilized as medical facilities during the Philadelphia Campaign. We know that many soldiers and community members suffered and died here in Chester County during the early days of the Revolutionary War, yet little is known about their burial places. Come and learn about the cemeteries where we honor those who bravely served. Also, learn about the exploration and attempts to locate these unknown Revolutionary soldiers' graves. You will be able to pick up a driving tour map so you can visit these final resting places we do know about and pay homage.

PARKING & REGISTRATION: Tours will begin at 5:30 pm. Historic Yellow Springs, 1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Follow directional signs after entering the village.

9 AUGUST 3

POWDER MILLS AND MORE

SPONSOR: East Pikeland Historical Commission



One of the first actions of the newly independent Continental Congress was the authorization to build an gun powder mill and gun factory to supply General Washington's army and the broader American cause. The site was on the banks of French Creek in East Pikeland Township.

The millrace is still largely visible on the French Creek Trail, and recent archaeological projects have exposed foundations of the original buildings that stood for less than a year before being destroyed by Hessian troops. Tour guides will explain how the present remains relate to the original forty building manufacturing complex and barracks, and how the powder and arms were produced.

PARKING & REGISTRATION: Tours will begin at 5:30 pm. East Pikeland Township building, 1158 Rapps Dam Rd., Phoenixville.

10 AUGUST 10

SEPTEMBER 20, 1777: REMEMBER PAOLI

SPONSORS: Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund, Paoli Memorial Association & Malvern Historical Commission



Come to the site of one of the bloodiest battles of the Revolutionary War, the Paoli Massacre, where the British troops staged a midnight raid on General "Mad" Anthony Wayne's Pennsylvania Line on September 20/21. Tales of the brutality of the British, who fought with bayonets and swords, gave rise to the nation's first battle cry "Remember Paoli." You will meet re-enactors who will portray Continental soldiers and their British counterparts and explain what life was like in the 18th century. Visit the gravesite of the 52 dead Continental soldiers from this battle, and other monuments on this hallowed ground. Learn from the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund on their status on making this scared ground a National Historic Landmark.

PARKING & REGISTRATION: Tours will begin at 5:30 pm.

11 AUGUST 17

SELF-GUIDED DRIVING TOUR: THE FURNACE REGION DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

SPONSORS: East Nantmeal Historical Commission and Warwick County Park



On September 17, 1777, following the stormy retreat from the Battle of the Clouds to Yellow Springs, the main Continental Army, desperately low on ammunition and practically defenseless against the enemy only a couple hours away, began the march from Yellow Springs to Warwick and Reading Furnaces. With roads still almost impassable, the supply train traveled on today's Route 23 with a brief stop in East Vincent Township. The next day they reached Chester County's vital iron furnace region, where General Washington was able to resupply and refresh the troops. A self-guided map will allow visitors to explore this fascinating iron region.

COMPANION LECTURE: *Washington's Encampment at Warwick and Reading Furnace.* Reservations Required. *See details under Lectures.

PARKING & REGISTRATION: Warwick County Park, Pavilion 3, 191 County Park Rd., Pottstown.

5:30 to 7:00 pm: Pick up your self-guided driving tour of the furnace region. Refreshments.

12 AUGUST 24

WALKING WITH WASHINGTON, LITERALLY!

SPONSORS: Valley Forge Park Alliance, Schuylkill Township Historical Commission, Valley Forge National Historical Park



On December 19, 1777, following a devastating Philadelphia Campaign, George Washington led a weary Continental Army into Valley Forge. For the next six months, the hills along the banks of the Schuylkill River would serve as the Army's home. Washington's Headquarters, also known as the Isaac Potts House, has the distinction of being the structure General Washington used as his headquarters during the 1777-1778 Valley Forge Encampment. The building could be considered the "Pentagon" of its time, as it was the place where Washington and his highest-ranking officers worked and lived during the encampment. Start your tour of the entire Headquarters complex at the restored Train Station. Enjoy an opportunity to visit the park after hours and learn about the Valley Forge encampment from George Washington himself! Our national re-enactor is traveling from Mount Vernon for this special occasion!

PARKING & REGISTRATION: Tours will begin at 5:30 pm. All parking will be at Washington Memorial Chapel on Rt. 23 in Valley Forge National Historical Park. Free shuttles to Washington's Headquarters.

*Please be advised of hilly terrain. Handicapped access is limited.

**DON'T MISS THE BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE
REENACTMENT ON SEPTEMBER 16-17.**

For more information, please visit Brandywine2017.org

SUMMER 2017

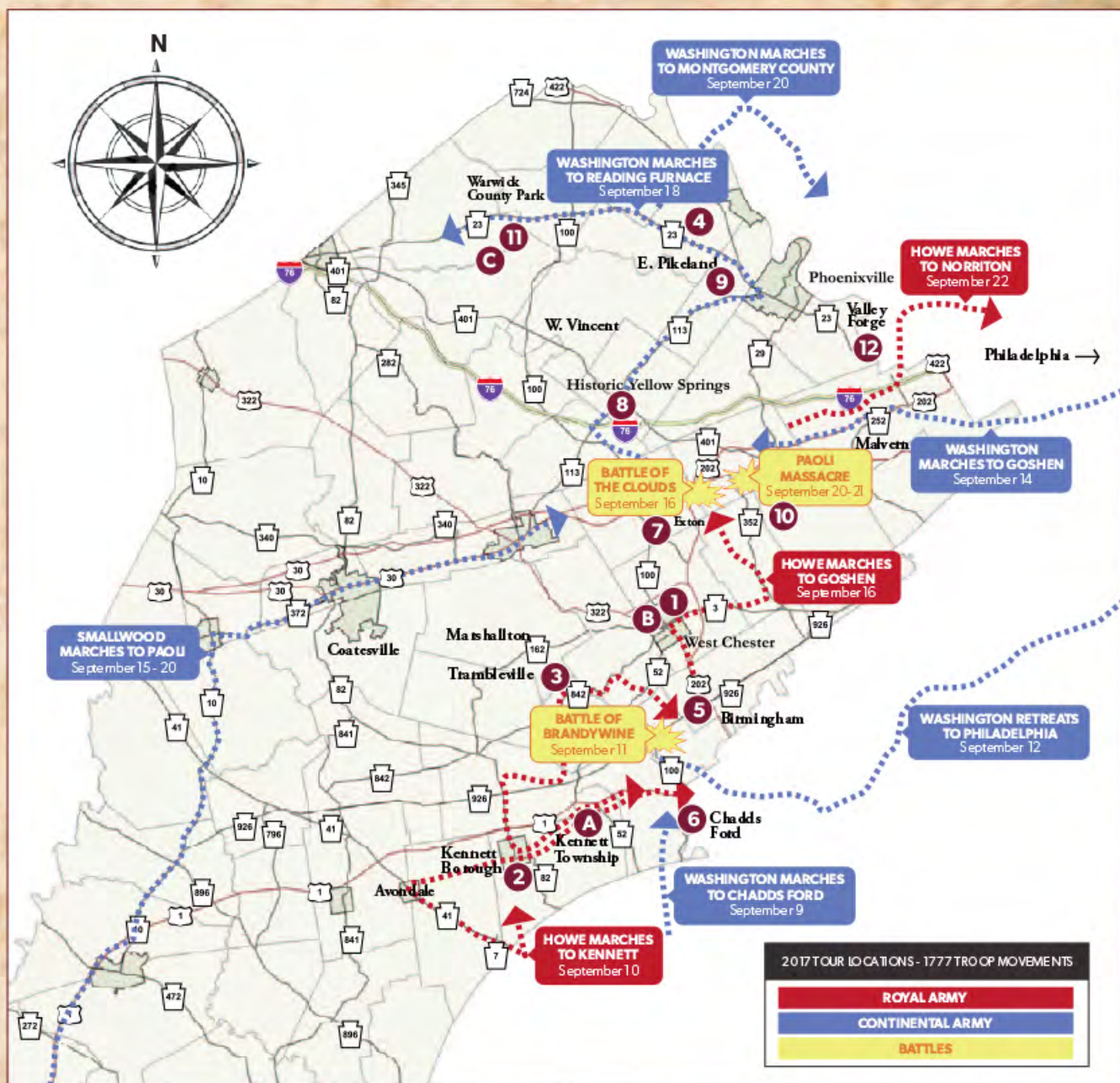
Town Tours & Village Walks

The Chester County Board of Commissioners through the Chester County Planning Commission; the Chester County Historical Society; Westtown Township; the Chester County Historic Preservation Network; and the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau announce the 23rd summer of sharing Chester County's heritage during the annual "TOWN TOURS & VILLAGE WALKS."

Town Tours & Village Walks* is a series of free summer strolls through historic neighborhoods, hamlets, villages and sites. This summer, you can explore Chester County's heritage on Thursday evenings, June 16– August 25. Tours generally last 50 minutes and begin as indicated with the last tour leaving at 7:00 pm. Each tour is designed to inform, entertain and increase awareness of Chester County's rich heritage and historic landscape. A number of our sites offer a good selection of restaurants and shops to enjoy after your tour. Please note: See each tour for specifics. Some tours require reservations.

On July 4, 1776, the Thirteen Colonies declared their independence from the English Crown. One month later, 30,000 British troops, landed in New York. They joined the forces already stationed there under the command of General Sir William Howe. By the spring of 1777, a plan developed by Howe had been approved to attack Philadelphia. In July 1777, the Howe's Royal Army of some 15,000 men embarked from Staten Island on 260 ships to attack the colonial capital. After almost six weeks at sea, Howe's force landed near Elkton, Maryland in late August. General George Washington's Continental Army moved to Wilmington, Delaware, to block the main road to Philadelphia. For two weeks Chester County was the seat of war, with more than 30,000 American and Royal troops maneuvering, pillaging, and fighting three battles. On September 11, 1777, Howe's army mounted a two-prong attack that successfully outflanked Washington's Army at the Battle of Brandywine. The next encounter took place on September 16 at the Battle of the Clouds which was curtailed due to a violent storm resulting in Washington's movement toward Reading Furnace Sept 17-19 to protect the crucial ironworks in northern Chester County. The final encounter in Chester County was the Paoli Massacre on September 21. The Continental Powder Works and Gun Factory at French Creek were destroyed on September 22. Howe outmaneuvered Washington's forces along the Schuylkill River and captured Philadelphia on September 26. After a battle at Germantown on October 4, Washington's army spent the winter at Valley Forge while General Howe occupied Philadelphia.

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



Sponsored by

Chester County Board of Commissioners
Planning Commission
www.chesco.org/planning

Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau
www.BrandywineValley.com

Chester County Historic Preservation Network
www.cchpn.org

The Chester County Historical Society
www.chestercohistorical.org

2017 LECTURES

A MAY 11
MARCH TO THE BRANDYWINE: THE MARCH OF THE BRITISH ARMY ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1777 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 10, 1777

SPONSORS: Kennett Township Historical Commission

This year Walt Chiquoine will be speaking about the March of the British from Delaware through New Garden and Kennett Townships on their way to clash with Washington's army along the Brandywine. The route was only able to be correctly traced after the location of General Howe's headquarters which took years to locate. It is the tercentenary of the battle and we think a fitting program. Hope you can join us.

PARKING & REGISTRATION: Lecture begins at 7 pm. 801 Burrows Run Rd., Chadds Ford, 610-388-1300. Light refreshments served.

B JUNE 1
A FORTNIGHT IN CHESTER COUNTY INTRODUCTION

SPONSORS: Chester County Historical Society

Chester County was central for the fight for independence in 1777. Bruce Mowday, author of *September 11, 1777: Washington's Defeat at Brandywine Dooms Philadelphia* and contributor to *Reporting the Revolution, Before It Was History, It Was News*, will give an overview of events that took place in the county at the battles of Brandywine and Paoli, and the encampment at Valley Forge. He will also talk about the impact of the war in Chester County on the civilian population, including the Quakers. A brief sneak preview of the updated Battle of Brandywine Animated Map will open the lecture.

PARKING & REGISTRATION: Doors open at 5:30 pm. Lecture begins at 6 pm. \$8.00 per person, CCHS members FREE. The closest public parking for the Chester County Historical Society (225 N. High St., West Chester) is the Chestnut Street Garage at 14 East Chestnut St.

C AUGUST 17
CHESTER COUNTY'S HISTORIC FURNACE REGION

SPONSORS: East Nantmeal Historical Commission, French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, and Warwick County Park

Join local historians to learn about Chester County's iron furnace region and it's role in the American Revolution. French & Pickering Creeks Trust will discuss preserving the 553 acre historic Warwick Furnace. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Warwick Furnace was the third furnace built in Chester County in 1737 and the 4th in the state. It was established by Samuel Nutt just prior to his death in 1737. Washington brought his exhausted army through here in September, 1777 and the heating stove invented by Benjamin Franklin was probably first cast here in 1742.

PARKING & REGISTRATION: Lecture begins at 5:30 pm. Warwick County Park, Pavilion 3, 191 County Park Rd., Pottstown. Call 610-344-6923, 60 person limit.

5:30 TO 7:00 PM: Self-guided driving tour of the furnace region available. Refreshments

Town Tours & Village Walks

• FREE TOURS •

A Fortnight in Chester County
HONORS THE 240TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CAMPAIGN OF 1777

Summer 2017
Town Tours and Village Walks

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Chester County Board of Commissioners
Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau
Chester County Historic Preservation Network
The Chester County Historical Society
Chester County Planning Commission
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