



# Chester County Ledger

The Newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

Volume 17, Number 1

February 2014

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

Sandy Momyer  
*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 cupola and bell from the historic Schuylkill School that stood on that very spot from 1930 until recently.

Phoenixville Area School District Superintendent Dr. Alan Fegley 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 Harmer joined in welcoming everyone and then introduced Erini 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 cupola and its dramatic weathervane before and after its restoration by Roberson 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.

Supervisors for their work in establishing this great memorial to the Historic Schuylkill School and the legacy of local educational history. I also commend the Friends of Schuylkill School (FOSS) for its diligence in working together as a

Chester County Ledger

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Published by the Chester County  
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Direct all queries to: The Editor,  
CCHPN, P.O. Box 174, West  
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Editor and articles for the *Chester  
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no guarantee, however, that  
submissions will be published. No  
such submissions will be returned.  
The CCHPN does not endorse the  
content of advertisements herein.

grassroots entity to save the cupola and bell so that all who attended or worked here can drive by, see it, and treasure fond memories of their Schuylkill School days.” I also believe this monument is a beacon to the future and to all who will attend Schuylkill School and make their own memories. A plaque is being designed to go on the eight-sided base (one side for each of the school’s eight grades).

I would like to extend my thanks to the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, who stood with me on my journey that began in 2002 to save the historic school. While so distraught over the demolition of the school, I recall the words of the late Jane Davidson. Jane said we had to look at the positive in any situation and, as always, her wisdom was correct. She remembers talking with Jane about all the facets of the Schuylkill School project and what occurred because of our work.

Schuylkill Township, where the school is located, had its eyes and ears opened to historic preservation and enacted an ordinance to establish its first Historical Commission of which I have been a member for 11 years and the chair for nine years. I believe preservation was recognized when I and other FOSS members were regular participants at their meetings over the years of our struggle to save the school.

A current historic resource survey has been completed by the Historical Commission supported by the Supervisors. Likewise, a revised historic ordinance has been enacted to be current and all data has been completed for the Chester County Atlas.

Residents are more aware of the historic legacy in their township.

A mural has been installed at the current Schuylkill School detailing the historic schools of the township as well as other historic resources so that the

children can learn about the place where they live.

And, of course, the cupola/bell monument has been installed as a permanent tribute to the legacy of education in Schuylkill Township and a new tradition of ringing the bell on the opening day of school has been established. The township and the school district jointly paid for the installation.

For me, personally, I learned a lot and made many new friends and gained supporters to help with my work on the school and now with the Historical Commission. Getting the school classified as eligible for listing on the National Register was a major triumph right in the beginning. Those many hours and days of working with federal, state and local agencies and governmental departments, as well as funding sources, introduced me to many people who have been of major assistance over the years. Our local legislators remain good friends. There is a wealth of knowledge and support out there that was invaluable to me and I am appreciative of it and indebted to all who helped and continue to help.

I especially want to thank everyone, too numerous to list, for their help. You were there when we did the adaptive reuse study, available by phone for any questions and direction, assisting with application forms and so much more. Please know you are part of our success which could not have happened without you.

Our FOSS group is disbanding but as chair of the Schuylkill Township Historical Commission and a member of the National Trust, Preservation PA and the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, I will keep my zeal for saving and preserving the history of Schuylkill Township, Chester County and the Commonwealth. As you know, there is always work to be done.



# Best Practices

## Spring Training & Workshop

### “Working Effectively in Your Municipality”

**Saturday, March 15, 2014**  
**8:00 am – 12:30 pm**

New Venue!

**Chester County  
 Historical Society**

225 North High Street  
 West Chester, PA

**Fees:**

- Municipal Member
- Passes\*: .....\$15.00
- CCHPN Member: ..... \$20.00
- Non-member: ..... \$25.00

\* Member municipalities get four passes per year.

Fees include workshop registration and light breakfast. Register early to ensure your spot! No refunds can be given. For more information, please call 610-344-6923

Increasingly, Historical Commissions and Committees are being called upon to work with members of the public who own historic properties and/or participate in the land development and planning process for historic resources. We have asked some of our County preservation professionals to give you their perspective on ways to work effectively under these circumstances. We will end the workshop with a case study which will give everyone a chance to apply the presentation information to a fictional but familiar situation. Then, we all get to tour the museum!

- 8:00a **Refreshments**
- 8:30 **Welcome!** *Steve Brown, AIA, President CCHPN*
- 8:40 **Working with the Public: General Guidelines**  
*Karen Marshall, County Preservation Officer*
- 9:00 **Working with Consultants: When to Call and What to do Next**  
*Jane Dorchester, Architectural Historian*
- 9:45 ~ **Break** ~
- 10:00 **Historic Structures Reports & Impact Studies:  
 Very Important Tools** *Bob Wise, Wise Preservation Planning*
- 10:45 **Working Effectively with Municipal Leadership**  
*Tom Scofield, AICP, and Cory Kegerise, PHMC Regional Representative*
- 11:30 **Case Study: Now You Are the Experts...**  
*Steve Brown, AIA, President CCHPN*
- 12:30p **Adjourn & Tour the Chester County Historical Society**

This event is co-sponsored by the Chester County Historical Society.

**Registration Form**

Please Print

**RSVP by February 28, 2014**

Municipality/Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Primary Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Make checks payable to CCHPN**

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Attendees - Municipality/Organization  
 Members *Up to four special passes per year, per municipality.*

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00

Names of Attendees at Regular Membership Rate

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00

Names of Attendees at Non-Members Rate

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00

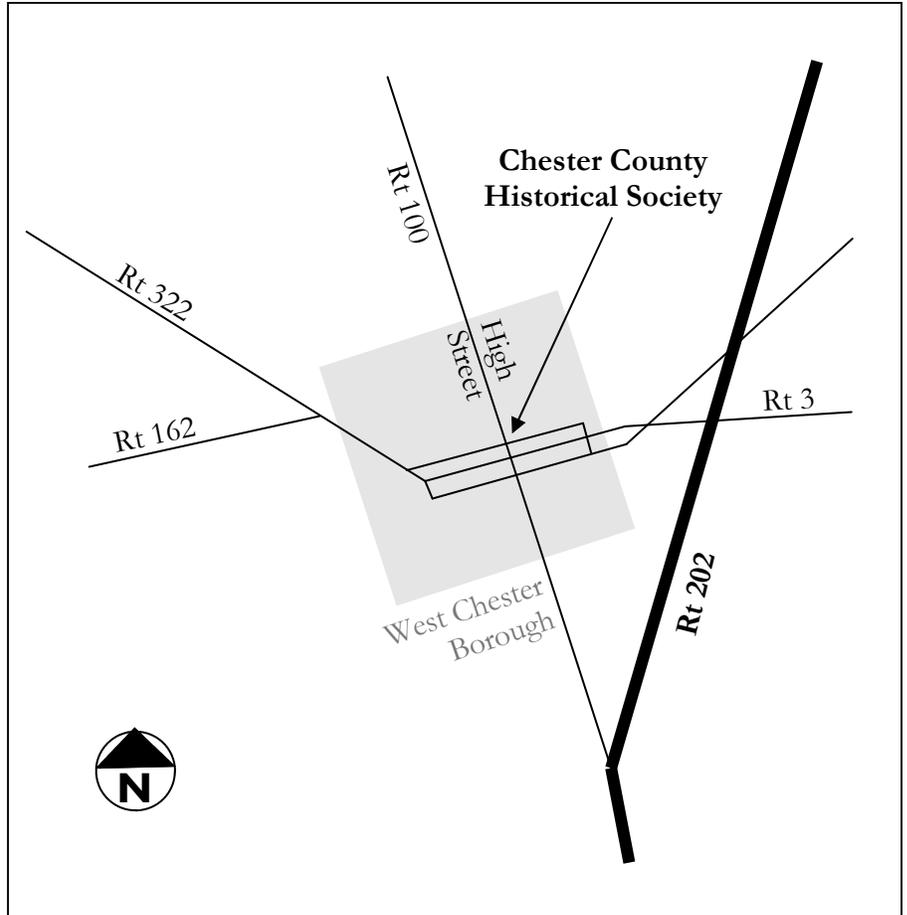
Total amount of check for registration fee(s)  
 and/or Membership fee(s) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Also at the Training/ Workshop...

Cory Kegerise will be telling us about the NACP Forum and the Statewide Conference on Heritage Byways to the Past in **Philadelphia July 16-20, 2014!**

The Chester County Historical Society is located northeast of the intersection of North High and Chestnut Streets. Parking is free on the street at the metered spots and in the permit-parking areas near the venue until 5pm. Parking in the parking garage at Walnut and Chestnut Streets will cost \$1.00 per hour.



All are welcome to the 2014 Best Practices  
Spring Training & Workshop!

Please pass along this information to anyone you know  
who may be interested. This newsletter with this  
registration form is available on our website,  
<http://www.cchpn.org/newsletters.htm>

We look forward to seeing you!

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## 2014 is Off to a Great Start!

Karen Marshall, *Chair*  
CCHPN Education and Programming Committee

**Saturday, March 15th from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm** will be our annual Best Practices Spring Training and Workshop. This spring we will explore topics that will hopefully increase your ability to be “Working Effectively in Your Municipality”. Because of the topic and the fact that our PHMC Regional Representative Cory Kegerise will be joining us, we are expecting a larger than usual response so we have been graciously invited to the Chester County Historical Society to hold our event. We have also asked Steve Brown to develop another fun but helpful case study for all to participate in. Join us for education and fellowship.

**On Wednesday, June 25th**, Nottingham County Park, Herr’s Potato Chips and the West Nottingham Historical Commission welcome you to the Annual CCHPN Volunteer Celebration. Tours will begin at 4:30 pm and the program is set to start at 6:15. Break out the red and white checkered table clothes and sneakers, we are having a picnic and tour of the Herr’s Potato Chip Factory and the Nottingham Serpentine Barrens. Hope you will join us to celebrate your work and the work of your colleagues!!!

**Mark your calendars to be in Philadelphia July 16-20, 2014** for a historic preservation conference unlike any other!! FORUM 2014 will bring together the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions’ (NAPC) biennial training program for local preservation boards and commissions with the Pennsylvania Statewide Conference on Heritage Byways to the Past for a fun-filled and information-packed program. This unique partnership will offer tours, workshops, and educational sessions about a wide variety of topics related to design review, cultural resource management, legal issues, and historic preservation planning in urban, suburban and rural settings throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. NAPC Mission: *“To build strong local preservation programs through education, advocacy, and training.”* NAPC was formed to provide a forum for commissions to discuss mutual

problems and to serve as a national voice representing the particular needs of commissions.

Due to the special preservation conference there will be no Fall program in 2014 so please plan to attend the July conference. CCHPN will be arranging a special bus to take interested CCHPN members into Philadelphia to the conference site at the University of Pennsylvania. Stay Tuned!

The schedule for Town Tours & Village Walks is finalized and we will have 10 exciting programs beginning June 12<sup>th</sup> in West Chester Borough.

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## On Hallowed Ground: The Battle of Brandywine 2014, May 17-18th

Jeff Taylor  
CCHPN

On May 17th and 18th, Birmingham Township is hosting a once in a generation event: a live reenactment of the Battle of Brandywine. Bringing the events of 1777 to life, *On Hallowed Ground* will remind a new generation of the sacrifices of freedom, while demonstrating the lifestyle and technologies of our Revolutionary troops. We will have more than 500 authentically outfitted soldiers, modern officers of British regiments that served in the historic battle, two 45-minute battles each day, firearms demonstrations, cannon fire, sword fighting, authentic encampments, 18th-century food and drink, presentations by Washington and Lafayette, and much, much more! This event benefits the Wounded Warrior Project and Birmingham Battlefields Preservation.



*Come and see a once-in-a-generation event!*

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## Get the Word Out!

Matthew Roberson, *Chair*  
CCHPN Communications Subcommittee

Want more attendance at your events? Want to let people know when your next meeting is? Want to make sure that your event does not conflict with someone else's event? CCHPN can help.

The front page of our website - [www.cchpn.org](http://www.cchpn.org) - has two spots that list upcoming events in our area: one for our events and one for *YOURS!*

We invite all of you to submit your list of events for the year to me at [meroberson@gmail.com](mailto:meroberson@gmail.com).

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## PHMC's Statewide Conference on Heritage and NACP's Forum in Philadelphia in 2014

Cory Kegerise, Community Preservation Coordinator - Eastern Pennsylvania  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

See you in Philly!

We are excited to announce a unique partnership with the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) to host a joint conference in Philadelphia on July 16-20, 2014! The event will bring together the Statewide Conference on Heritage and NACP's FORUM.

The blending of these two events will provide conference-goers with a wide variety of session and tour options and a host of pre-conference workshop opportunities. We're also taking advantage of Philadelphia's close proximity to New Jersey and are planning a number of tours and programs in the Garden State.

The conference program is under development, but promises to offer sessions that are relevant to local historic preservation commission and review board members, municipal staff and elected officials, planners, architects, transportation planners, cultural resource management consultants, heritage tourism organizations, and citizen advocates.

FORUM will be in the University City neighborhood of Philadelphia at the Sheraton University City and the University of Pennsylvania. University City is home to Penn, Drexel, and the University of the Sciences

and is easily accessible from major highways and is a short walk or subway ride from Center City. The conference hotel is a 10 minute walk from Amtrak's 30th Street Station, which also serves as a hub for SEPTA's regional rail service. For more information: [pennbyways.org](http://pennbyways.org)

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## Vernon and Gail, Thank You for Years of Dedicated Service Through CCHPN

Steve Brown, AIA, *President*  
CCHPN

Many thanks to Vernon Ringler for his quiet but excellent service with the Network. Vernon provided service for the southwestern part of our County and helped many others with his leadership and guidance in preservation throughout the County.

Vernon is always eager to make an impact with his preservation efforts and willing to lend a helping hand where needed. Whenever requested, Vernon was ready at the helm. He provided the strong guidance needed for all of our educational events and activities.

He is stepping down from the Board, but will still be working in various ways to preserve history.

Many thanks to Gail Brown, who is also, unfortunately for us, stepping down. She was an important voice for

### Save the Dates!

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| March 15   | Best Practices Spring Training & Workshop: "Working Effectively in Your Municipality"    |
| June 25    | 2014 Volunteer Recognition Celebration   |
| July 16-20 | National Alliance of Preservation Commissions' Biennial Training Program in Philadelphia |

us representing the northern section of the county through her service to the East Coventry Township Historical Commission. She has been a tireless advocate in her township and has played an important role in the restoration of Frick's Lock Village, a project funded by the Exelon Corporation.

Like Vernon, her role in preservation will continue in her township, and we will enjoy seeing her again at our events.

Thank you, Vernon and Gail, for your commitment, knowledge and integrity. We wish you both luck.

A friend always!

## CCHPN is Proud to Announce Our New Board Member: Blair Fleischman

Steve Brown, AIA, *President*  
CCHPN

It is my pleasure to announce the addition of Blair Fleischmann to CCHPN. Blair joins the Board to help continue the services of the Network concentrating on the southwestern portion of our County.

Blair is very active in southwestern Chester County as a member of the Upper Oxford Township Historical Commission, the Brandywine Conservancy's Environmental Committee, S.A.V.E., and as Homeville Cemetary Company's secretary, as well as Oxford Regional Emergency Management treasurer.

We truly welcome Blair to the Chester County Historic Preservation Network Board and look forward to the energy and expertise she can share.

## Recap and Thanks for the 2013 Chester County Preservation Fair

Matthew Roberson, *Coordinator*  
*Chester County Preservation Fair*

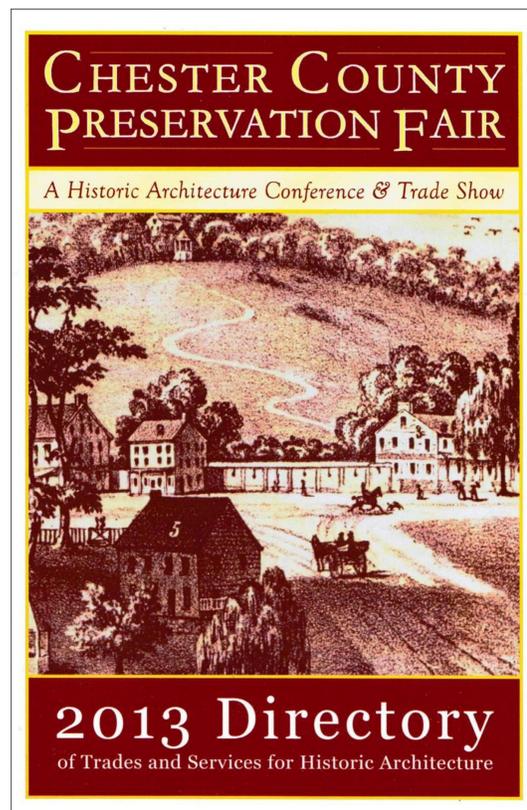
The Fair last year was held on a beautiful fall day. The presenters covered a nice range of topics, including historical research methods and repositories, and nonprofit management and fundraising, to name just a couple. We also has a nice attendance from vendors, such as first-time vendor, Waltz Millwork LLC, and consistent participant, William Dunleavy and Company, Inc.

Need a contractor, architect or historian? The *2013 Directory of Trades and Services for Historic Architecture* is available. For a free, printed copy, please contact Karen Marshall at the Chester County Planning Commission, (610) 344-6285, or you can download a pdf at:

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

We would like to offer our special thanks to the presenters: Seth Bloom and Jeff Metz, of Bloom Metz Consulting, Beth Harper Briglia, from the Chester County Community Foundation, Constance Carter, from Sylvia/Carter and Associates, Frances Delmar, from Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, Jack McCarthy, from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and Jane E. Dorchester. We wish to thank the volunteers from CCHPN and Historic Yellow Springs, Inc. and Sue Marshall, from the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area, for providing the lunch foods and drinks, and Ed Meltzer, owner of two local Dunkin' Donuts franchises for providing the morning coffee and doughnuts.

As mentioned previously in this newsletter, there will not be a 2014 Fair. We are focusing our efforts on the NAPC Forum in Philadelphia. But we will be back in 2015. See you all there!



Copies of the Directory are available



Chester County Historic Preservation Network  
 P.O. Box 174  
 West Chester, PA 19381  
 www.cchpn.org 877-442-2476

PLEASE FORWARD

*Please come and  
 join us for our*

Best Practices  
 Spring Training & Workshop

**“Working Effectively in  
 Your Municipality”**

Saturday, March 15th  
 8:00am - 12:30pm

*New Venue!*

Chester County  
 Historical Society  
 West Chester, PA

*Details Inside!*

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**Matthew E. Roberson, President**

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

If you would like to get more involved with the  
 Chester County Historic Preservation Network,  
 please contact a board member through the  
 website, [www.cchpn.org](http://www.cchpn.org),  
 or at one of our events.

We are always looking  
 for more volunteers!