



# Chester County Ledger

The Newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

Volume 16, Number 2

May 2013

*Come out to Historic Sugartown - a piece of old Chester County*

Bruce Knapp, CCHPN President

It all started over 20 years ago with small potluck summer picnics. Early Network supporters gathered to have fun, mix, mingle and celebrate hard-won preservation victories. Over the following years the number of participants grew as did official recognition by County, State and Federal officials. County-wide awards were added, larger venues were used, and the event became more formal. But the mixing, mingling, celebrating and fun still remain as the heart of the event. It is a time for Chester County and its townships, boroughs and city to share their past year's accomplishments and challenges.

This year, although it might be our largest ever, we will attempt to return to our less formal and "outdoorsy" origins with a sit-down buffet dinner under a tent - but next to an air-conditioned building in case it gets too hot. We'll also have a cash bar with low priced "drink tickets".

CCHPN offers the only historic preservation awards focusing on municipalities, organizations and individual volunteers in the county.

Historic Sugartown, Inc. will host this year's event. If you have never

been here, or have not been in a while, come out and experience a model for how historic resources should be rehabilitated, interpreted, and presented for everyone's enjoyment and edification. □



*Come and visit the buildings, grounds, and collections of Historic Sugartown, Inc. Photograph by Carol Molyneaux*

***Please Note:***

The event information and Registration Form for the 2013 Volunteer Recognition Celebration are on the last two pages of this issue.

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.

## 2013 Preservation Award Winners

**The Jane L. S. Davidson**

**Individual Historic Preservation Award**

Mary Dugan (posthumously)

Donation (new): Kennett Underground Railroad

**The Municipal Historic Preservation Award**

East Bradford Township & Historical Commission

**Historic Resource Atlases**

West Brandywine Township & West Vincent Township

**Grace Under Fire**

Franklin Township HARB & Historical Commission

**CCHPN Life-Time Membership**

Brandywine Conservancy

Announcing the Jane L. S. Davidson  
Individual Historic Preservation Award  
&  
Tribute to Jane L. S. Davidson

Bruce Knapp, CCHPN President

At this year's Volunteer Recognition Celebration, we will announce the "re-branding" of our annual Individual Historic Preservation Award to honor CCHPN's founder, Jane L. S. Davidson, a change you may have noticed on the listing of award winners on the previous page. We are also adding a new feature to the award – a donation by CCHPN to a non-profit organization related to historic preservation chosen by the award recipient. The first awardee is Mary Dugan. Alas, Mary passed away recently and so the award will be made posthumously. But Mary did know she was the recipient and was very honored. Mary's choice for the CCHPN donation was the Kennett Underground Railroad Center that she had worked so long and hard to bring to reality.

In addition, we are preparing a *Tribute to Jane L. S. Davidson Booklet* that will be introduced at the Volunteer Recognition Celebration. We are asking all who knew and worked with Jane to send photos, anecdotes, memories and comments to CCHPN, PO Box 174, West Chester PA 19381 or to Dr. Elaine Husted at [1classycat@comcast.net](mailto:1classycat@comcast.net). Donations to the Jane L. S. Davidson Fund, which supports the awards program, are tax-deductible and can be sent to our address with a notation "Fund".

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Chester County retains much of its bucolic vistas and historic sites despite nearly doubling its population since 1970. And we all owe a great debt of gratitude to Jane L. S. Davidson helping make this so.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 provided a framework to identify and protect our historic treasures. But during that time there were no local laws or organizations in place to protect our heritage from development or neglect. Jane, a practical visionary supported by far-sighted government leaders, became

one of the first (if not the first) county-level Historic Preservation Officer.

Jane not only found and trained passionate volunteers; she went one important step further and developed the model for historical commissions for our municipalities. Historical commissions, now present in the majority of Chester County municipalities, help supervisors and governing councils to evaluate and balance the preservation of historic sites and potential development and to enact local ordinances to give them the legal authority to do so.

Jane was a decisive and fearless advocate who used her education as a school teacher to train hundreds of volunteers and officials how to do the painstaking research needed to complete historical resource surveys. She, along with other advocates, helped create and enact protective ordinances, which we now take for granted. The large numbers who enjoyed Jane's training and mentorship called themselves "Jane's Army" with pride and fondness.

Jane spearheaded the notably popular and nationally recognized *Town Tours and Village Walks* and Historic Resource Atlas programs. She founded the Chester County Historical Preservation Network, which continues to assist the County and municipalities in preservation training and recognition. Jane's Historical Commission model is being emulated by other Pennsylvania counties as is the Historical Preservation Network concept. Jane was also appointed a member of the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation (commonly called "The President's Council") and continued providing expert testimony and research for it until she passed away.

CCHPN vows to honor her legacy and continue her good work with your help. □

*Always a Friend*

*The Chester County  
Ledger*

*Editor* Matthew E. Roberson  
*Circulation Director* Robert Layman

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*The Chester County  
Historic Preservation Network*

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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.*

## Summer 2013 Town Tours and Village Walks

Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator

Mark your calendars for the 19<sup>th</sup> summer of sharing Chester County's heritage. *Town Tours & Village Walks* is a series of free summer strolls through historic neighborhoods, hamlets, villages and sites. Explore the entire county on Thursday evenings, June 13 – August 22. Tours begin at 5:30pm and generally last 50 minutes, 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. From barns, to Blobs, to feisty housewives and sleepy villages, we have it all! This summer, you will tour inside the gracious mansions in the Lukens Historic District and get inside four of Phoenixville's historic churches. The Blob may frighten you in Historic Yellow Springs and you will learn about the "real housewives" of Kennett Borough. We will return to two favorite historic villages – Nantmeal Village and Kimberton and will learn about the Civil War in Goshenville. We will meet Richard Thomas, West Whiteland statesman, and enjoy the stories of historic West Chester Borough. □

For more information, refer to [www.chesco.org/planning](http://www.chesco.org/planning) or contact Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator, 610-344-6923, [kmarshall@chesco.org](mailto:kmarshall@chesco.org).

### June 13 *West Chester Kick-Off and Tour*

West Chester HARB &  
Chester County Historical Society

### June 20 *Kimberton Crossroads*

East Pikeland Historical Commission &  
Pikeland Historical Society

### June 27 *The Real Housewives of Kennett Borough*

Kennett Square Borough Historical Commission

### July 11 *It Creeps, It Crawls, It Will Get Us All!*

Historic Yellow Springs, Inc.

### July 18 *Inside The Churches Of Church Street*

The Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area

### July 25 *Goshenville 1863*

East Goshen Historical Commission

### August 1 *Historic Nantmeal Village, The "Sweet Water" Meeting On Coventry Road*

East Nantmeal Historical Commission  
and Society

### August 8 *Soldier-Statesman-Leader:*

*The Legacy Of Rich Thomas III (1744-1832)*

West Whiteland Historical Commission

### August 15 *An Inside Glimpse of the*

*Lukens National Historic District*

National Iron & Steel Museum

### August 22 *Barn Again In Chester County*

East Bradford Historical Commission

## Spring 2013 Workshop Wrap-Up

Karen Marshall, CCHPN Program Chair

I hope the 100 representatives from Chester and Delaware County Historical Commissions and Committees had as good a time as I did at our 2013 Spring Workshop! This was a first for the Network; all of our presenters were peers who were presenting the outcomes of projects that they had been working on. Three presenters were CCHPN Board members! I left feeling confident in the depth and breadth of the volunteers and professional municipal staff who do so much for the history of our County!

We also introduced our new Board members, Susan Marshall who is currently the President of the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area; Robbyn Kehoe who recently stepped down as President of the Atglen Public Library, and Seth Hinshaw who is the Senior Preservation Planner for Wise Preservation Planning. Welcome!

The presentation will be posted on our website for those of you who were not able to attend. I encourage

you to take a look. Thank you again to Kathryn Yahraes of the CCHPN Board and Ellen Carmody, who are both on the East Goshen Historical Commission for their excellent presentation on hosting special community events and to Vernon Ringer from the Oxford Area Historical Association and the CCHPN Board for discussing how to develop a regional audience. I think Paul Lagasse made many new friends with his story of the Franklin Township HARB's efforts to preserve a barn in the Kemblesville Historic District, and Kim Moretti, East Pikeland Township's Manager, made fundraising for heritage projects look easy. Steve Brown, of the West Caln Historical Commission and the CCHPN Board rounded out the day sharing how the West Caln Historical Commission maintains a historic, two-story building for their files and information on West Caln history.

Keep an eye out for the date for the Chester County Preservation Fair at which will has moved to the fall. The CCHPN has become a sponsor of this event in lieu of our traditional fall meeting. □

## Spotlight on Modena Borough!

John Graves, Modena Borough Historical Commission

Modena celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2011 as an incorporated borough. Prior to 1921 Modena was part of East Fallowfield Township. It is located on the West Branch of the Brandywine Creek, approximately 2 miles southeast of Coatesville. Today, it has a population of about 600.

The borough's history has been much influenced by its location on the Brandywine. The name is derived from the Quaker family with the last name of Mode, but it has also been known as Modeville and even Papperville. Its location was ideal for harnessing the power of flowing water. The first to do so was Alexander Mode, a carpenter by trade, who established a sawmill and later grist and fulling mills in this location before 1751. The water rights, obtained from James Hayes for 999 years, involved an annual payment of 30 shillings and one ear of Indian corn. Alexander's son, William, continued to run the mills and was a well-known and respected Quaker. He wrote a brief account in his 80s describing his boyhood and experiences as a Quaker including the difficulties during the American Revolution. He was one of the Quaker elders who organized the Quaker meetinghouse in nearby Ercildoun. His house still stands in the borough on Hephzibah Hill Road.

William's sons, Alexander and William, learned the paper-making trade and converted their father's mill into a paper mill around 1812. Fine-quality paper was made by hand from rags at this time. Certain checks from the Second Bank of the United States bear the Mode watermark. In the decades that followed the mill prospered and several tenant houses for workers were built along the Brandywine in addition to several fine mansions, which still exist in the borough. The mill fell on hard times after the Panic of 1837 and the death of William; for a time it became a cocoonery for raising silk worms.

William and Alexander, sons of William, then managed the mill. Their brother, James B.

Mode, was one of the signatories of the deed on People's Hall in nearby Ercildoun, the meeting place of local abolitionists. People's Hall is still used as a meeting place; now for the Fallowfield Historical Society. After the Civil War, Alexander and William became officers at the Bank of Chester Valley in nearby Coatesville. A railroad was constructed through the area; at that time Modena was known by the name 'Modeville.' A general store and post office were established by R.B. Daniels. The general store building still exists as apartments. A public school established in Modena prior to the war was expanded.

In 1882, the Modes sold their paper manufacturing business to the Megargee Brothers for unknown reasons; the new owners introduced steam power in addition to the water power. Many of the people in town were employed by the mill and nearby industries. In 1903 a new mill was constructed across the Brandywine from the original 1812 mill and expanded in 1907 and 1937. The 1812 mill was used until about 1912 as a rag processing site. A future president of Reed College, Ernest B. MacNaughton, supervised the new mill's construction and stayed with Alexander and Annie Mode who were very hospitable to him. Annie Mode was very involved in charitable causes such as Coatesville Hospital.

In 1921 Modena separated from East Fallowfield, becoming a borough. Annie was the first Burgess



### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS**

**Nomination Period Open Thru June 14**  
**Go to [www.DowntownWestChester.com](http://www.DowntownWestChester.com)**  
**for information and nomination forms**

Come meet the winners at the **Awards Ceremony**  
 October 22nd, 8-10 am at the Chester County Historical Society  
 A FREE event but RSVP required to [emcguire@wcbid.com](mailto:emcguire@wcbid.com)



(Mayor). The fire company was also started at this time. The mill transferred to the Paterson Parchment Paper company in 1923. Its office with red-tiled roof is still in existence as a home. Modena was truly a mill town with most of the housing stock owned and maintained by the mill. The 1812 mill was demolished in the 1940s although one may still see the remains of the mill race. The 1903 mill is largely intact and in spite of the hard times of the Depression the mill remains as an industrial site; today it is the home of a paper recycling operation run by the Sealed Air Corporation.

In 2008 Modena hosted a Town Tours and Village Walks event, which featured many of the locations described above; about 200 people attended the tour. Much of the information above came from documents from the Chester County Historical Society and an unpublished manuscript by Dr. Arthur James. There is still more to be discovered about Modena history, for example, it was recently discovered by the author of this article that several Mode women were listed in a historic newspaper article as aid contributors to soldiers from the Ladies Aid Society from the Coatesville area during the Civil War. An enlargement of this article is mounted on the wall for the current 'On the Edge of Battle' exhibit at the Chester County Historical Society. □



## 18th Century Restorations, Inc.

We are pleased to have restored or preserved historic landmarks in the Delaware Valley for more than 25 years. During that time as general contractor we have continued our mission of historical 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

### "Welcome" to Frick's Locks Village

Gail Brown, CCHPN Board Member

Frick's Locks Historic District is a nineteenth-to twentieth-century canal village, part of the Girard Reach on the Schuylkill River Canal in East Coventry Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. Exelon Generation Co., LLC completed rehabilitation and stabilization of the Frick's Locks Village in the late fall of 2012.

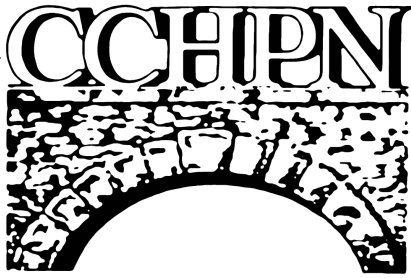
Jane L. S. Davidson joined the Frick's Locks Stakeholders on July 13, 2009, as East Coventry Township's Historic Preservation Consultant, a position in which she remained

until her death on December 15, 2012. Jane's declining health prohibited her from visiting Frick's Locks Village to see the project's completion, but she will be with all

the Stakeholders as we invite everyone to visit Frick's Locks Village for the 2013 season. The Village will be open for guided tours the second and fourth Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. from June 8, 2013 to October 26, 2013. From Rt. 724, in East Coventry Township, take Frick's Lock Road toward the Schuylkill River. Frick's Locks is at the end of the road. Parking is available at the site. □



*The rehabilitation of Frick's Locks village is complete!  
Photograph by Frens & Frens, Restoration Architects.*



# 2013 Volunteer Recognition Celebration

**June 19, 2012, Wednesday  
Historic Sugartown, Inc.**

**690 Sugartown Road  
Malvern, PA**

**All are welcome!**

## *Evening's Schedule*

5-6pm Tour Historic Sugartown  
5:30 Cash Bar opens  
6:00 Buffett Dinner begins  
6:15 Volunteer Recognition  
Ceremony  
8:30 Closing

Fee: \$30.00 for all attendees

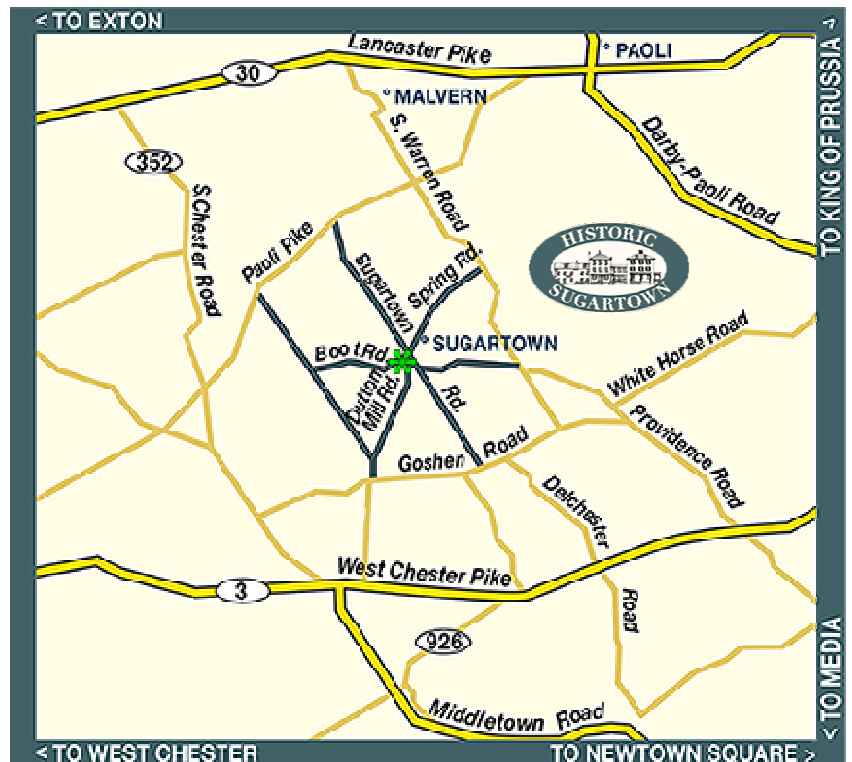
Registration is by this mail-in form only.  
Wine is provided by Black Walnut Winery.

Be sure to wear casual clothes and walking shoes because the ground may be uneven!

Directions:  
Historic Sugartown is located south of Malvern on Sugartown Road at the convergence of Boot Road, Spring Road, Dutton Mill Road, and Providence Road.

Everyone is 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 buildings and grounds of Historic Sugartown!
- ✓ Bask in the bucolic village setting!
- ✓ Participate in the Roll Call of the Successes and Challenges of our Historical Commissions and HARBs!
- ✓ Join us as we celebrate the achievements of our award winners!



# Celebration Registration Form

Please Print

RSVP by June 12, 2013

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

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

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

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

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Additional Attendee(s)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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 \$30.00 ea. \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Please make checks payable to CCHPN**

No refunds after June 13.

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



## A Brief History of Historic Sugartown

Heather Reiffer, Executive Director  
Historic Sugartown, Inc.

In 1982, John Nagy peered out across Sugartown Road from his front window, and shook his head as he watched the old Worrall store and house seemingly crumble in front of him. Deeply passionate about local history, he teamed up with Penny Wilson to mobilize a group of Board members and volunteers to purchase and preserve the dilapidated property. By 1983, they had formed Historic Sugartown, Inc., purchased the property, and commenced planning for its painstaking restoration.

Sugartown was not always in such a forgotten state. In the first decade of the 1800s, Sugartown quickly evolved as a vital stop for weary travelers hauling freight, raw materials, and produce between the Great Valley lime kilns and southern parts of the county. The stop quickly became known as “Shugart’s Town” after tavern keeper, Eli Shugart, who must have had quite a reputation as he was the tavern keeper for only two years! Before long, Sugartown was an important village center, with a general store, cottage industries, a Quaker school, a tavern, and later, the center of Willistown government.

With the expertise of Frens & Frens, Restoration Architects and Tom DiOttavio & Co., Historic Sugartown brought the village back to life. The organization restored and furnished the General Store as it might have looked during the 1880s, and the Worrall House was turned into commercial space to provide vital operating income for the organization. The Waterman home and Saddle Shop were also restored and adapted to serve as private residences.

In 2000, Historic Sugartown purchased the Cheever-Coxe property located across the intersection from the General Store, on the corner of Spring Road. The c. 1835 Cheever House was restored. In 2002, the Book Bindery was constructed to house the world-class bookbinding tool collection of master bookbinder Fred Shihadeh. Finally, in 2006, Historic Sugartown embarked on its most ambitious project, saving the William Garrett House located off of Providence Road, and moving it to the Spring Road property.

In 2010, Historic Sugartown opened the Carriage Museum to showcase the collection of carriages and sleighs owned by Chester County Historical Society. We welcome you to tour and enjoy this crossroads village, and to honor the legacy of John Nagy and Penny Wilson. □



Chester County Historic Preservation Network

P.O. Box 174

West Chester, PA 19381

[www.cchpn.org](http://www.cchpn.org) 877-442-2476

PLEASE FORWARD

Please come and  
join us for our

**2013 Volunteer  
Recognition Celebration**

Historic Sugartown, Inc.  
Malvern, PA

**Wednesday, June 19**  
5:00 - 8:30pm

Details Inside!

## Chester County Ledger

The Newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

### The Tribute to Jane L. S. Davidson booklet

If you would like to contribute something,  
an article, a remembrance,  
photos, or images, send them to  
CCHPN, PO Box 174,  
West Chester PA 19381 or to  
Dr. Elaine Husted at  
[1classycat@comcast.net](mailto:1classycat@comcast.net)

The deadline for submission is  
May 30, 2013!

### ROBERSON PRESERVATION SERVICES, Inc.

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For Technical Information and  
Contacts for Historic Preservation, please visit:  
[www.CCHPN.org](http://www.CCHPN.org)

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

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