



# Chester County Ledger

The Newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

Volume 20 Number 1

Established 1997

February 2017

## Historic Yellow Springs

by Tony Conaway

### Save The Date!!!!

**June 28, 2017**  
**Volunteer Recognition**  
**Celebration**  
at  
**The Washington**  
in  
**Historic Yellow Springs**

**Please join us for an evening of camaraderie, special recognition, and delicious food!**

At the annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration, the Chester County Historic Preservation Network recognizes the efforts of organizations and individuals who have contributed to preservation in Chester County through Preservation Projects, Preservation Services, or Preservation Education.

Come! Join us as we celebrate the past year's triumphs in preserving our County's historic resources!

**Registration and details will follow on the CCHPN Web site and by e-mail.**

### 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.

Pennsylvania has two villages named Yellow Springs. The coal-mining Yellow Springs in Lebanon County is now abandoned. However, the Yellow Springs in West Pikeland Township, Chester County, is a thriving community with a storied past.

The village dates back to the 1720s, when English, Welsh, and German settlers moved into the area, displacing the area's original Lenni Lenape inhabitants. The Lenape long knew of the mineral springs that are located in the area. Colonial settlers began using them as early as 1722. Soon thereafter, a mineral water spa was opened. The presence of the spa probably led to the selection of Yellow Springs as the location of the first military hospital in the United States. The hospital was commissioned by George Washington when he paused in Yellow Springs after the Battle of the Clouds on 16 September 1777 and en route to Reading, where the Continental Army had stored munitions and supplies.

The military hospital was used as a hotel after the Revolutionary War and a school house during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. A walk in a nearby field will bring you to the bubbling waters of an iron spring, which is enclosed in a newly-renovated gazebo. On the other side of Yellow Springs Road you will find sulphur and magnesium springs housed in their own buildings.

After the Civil War, twenty-three boarding schools for the orphans of soldiers sprung up throughout Pennsylvania. Yellow Springs became home to the largest of these schools, bearing the unwieldy name of the Chester Springs Soldiers' Orphans' School. Opening in 1868, this school had the only female principal in the state system, one Mrs. Eleanor Moore. Gradually, the supply of orphans of active-duty soldiers dwindled, although its numbers received a boost from the Spanish-American War. The facility closed in 1912.

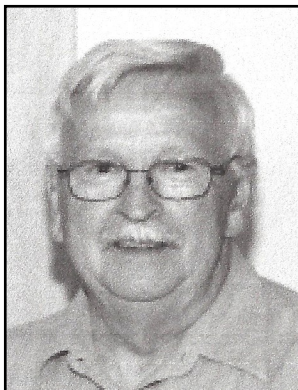


*Historic Yellow Springs circa 1908  
(postcard courtesy of Philp Yocum)*

The village has also been home to a thriving artistic community. The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts operated its Chester Springs Country School here. Its heritage can be seen in the name of the main street of Yellow Springs: Art School Road. The Chester Springs Studio, founded in 1978, has revived that tradition. Today, it is home to nationally-known experts in painting and ceramics, and teaches fine arts to hundreds of students each year.

In the 1950s, the Academy sold its Yellow Springs campus to a most unlikely buyer: a Philadelphia church group led by an ambitious young man named Irvin Shortess Yeaworth, Jr. "Shorty" (as he was called) was the son of a Presbyterian minister, and his life's work was to bring the Word of the Lord, the "Good News," to people through a variety of media. His production company was named Good News Productions, Inc. Its first big success was a television show on ABC-TV called "Song Time" which debuted in 1949. Over the years, Good News produced hundreds of films, television, and radio shows.

Shorty and his wife Jean (who served as his screenwriter and chief assistant) never made much money out of their media business. They owned sixteen buildings in Yellow Springs, turning two barns into production studios and the old hospital into an editing facility. Many of the Good News employees (who numbered as many as fifty) lived in the other buildings.



John Miller

**Chester County Ledger***The 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.

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

When was the first time you discovered you had a passion for history, old buildings, and/or historic landscapes? For me it was on a fifth grade class trip to the Gettysburg Battlefield. This discovery would lead me to study this period of American History extensively. In my study I soon discovered that homes, other structures, and natural features played a significant part in the strategy of both sides. This passion eventually led me to become a Federal Park Guide at Gettysburg.

Today, I am the owner of a home that is part of a Historic District. As the owner of a historic home I want to do the correct things that will protect and preserve its historic character. You may not own a historic home, but as members of HARBS and Historical Commissions you are probably asked to give advice. Many of you are qualified to offer this advice; unfortunately I am not one of those. I have had to seek help from other sources. One such source was at a CCHPN workshop. I was able to ask a number of questions related to projects I had completed and those I was anticipating doing. I was greatly relieved to be assured that I had made good decisions.

To help further the education mission of CCHPN, we are in the process of re-vamping the Ledger. It is the Network's goal to see the Ledger become a tool you can use as you serve your community. In this effort we are pleased to announce a new Editor of the Ledger. Jane Dorchester, who many of you already know, has volunteered to take on this challenge. Thank you, Jane, as you take the lead to make the Ledger an important tool in helping us continue to serve our community.

*John Miller*

**Historic Yellow Springs, continued**

This source of cheap--and sometimes unpaid--labor allowed them to grind out productions on a shoestring budget. The bulk of Good News' output would have been long forgotten had Shorty and Jean not tried to save their failing finances

by getting into non-religious, commercial filmmaking. A Hollywood producer, Jack C. Harris, convinced Shorty that there was money to be made in making a low-budget science-fiction movie.

That movie was titled "The Blob." Shorty's crew filmed it in the Good News studios and at nearby locations, mostly in Downingtown and Phoenixville. Producer Harris managed to scrape together enough money to hire actor Steve McQueen to star in the movie. He had allocated \$120,000 to make the film, and Shorty brought it in under budget. Harris then sold "The Blob" to Paramount Pictures, which released it in 1958 on a double bill with "I Married a Monster from Outer Space." "The Blob" brought in some \$4 million to Paramount. Unfortunately, very little of that money trickled down to Good News Productions (now going by the name of Valley Forge Films).

Undaunted, Shorty and Harris produced two more science fiction films. However, neither "The 4-D Man" (released in 1959) nor "Dinosaur!" (1960) were a success. Producer Harris moved on. Shorty and his crew went back to religious programming.

Finally, in 1974, the folks at Good News Productions had had enough. When they put the property up for sale, their neighbors saw to it that the site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The village was purchased by the not-for-profit organization Historic Yellow Springs, Inc. (HYS), which runs the historic district today.

"When you look at the history of Yellow Springs, you are looking at the history of our country," says Eileen McMonagle, HYS' Executive Director. "Our mission is to share, preserve, and celebrate the unique living village of Yellow Springs. We focus on history, the arts, education, and the environment. Our goal is to make sure this unique and beautiful village enriches the lives of all who come here."

Historic Yellow Springs is open Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM. Free self-guided tours are available; guided tours must be arranged in advance.

To visit Yellow Springs, exit Route 113 in Chester Springs and go north on Yellow Springs Road. That road dead-ends in the heart of Historic Yellow Springs. Turn right at the dead end to see the ruins of the hospital or turn left to visit the newly renovated building "The Washington" which also houses the museum.



# Spring 2017 Workshop True Life Adventures in Historic Preservation

The Brandywine Conservancy  
& Museum of Art

1 Hoffman's Mill Road

Chadds Ford, Pa. 19317

### Registration Fees

**Member: \$30.00**

**Non-member: \$40.00**

Registration fees include workshop registration, notebook, and refreshments. Attendance is limited to 80, so register early to ensure your spot! No refunds can be given. For more information, contact Karen Marshall at 610-344-6923 or [kmarshall@chesco.org](mailto:kmarshall@chesco.org).

**Saturday, March 11, 2017 - Rain or Shine!**

- 8:00 Registration
- 8:30 Welcome
- 8:40 What is Historic Preservation Planning?
- 9:30 The Role of the SHPO & PHMC
- 10:15 BREAK
- 10:30 State Codes & Preservation Ordinances
- 11:15 How to Document Historic Resources
- 12:15 Working Lunch: Both Sides of the Table
- 12:45 Chester County Preservation Planning
- 1:30 Adjournment

## Registration Form

**RSVP by March 3, 2017**

### CCHPN MEMBER

Name of Registrant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Registrant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Registrant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Registrant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Municipality/Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00

Total amount of check for registration fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### NON-CCHPN MEMBER

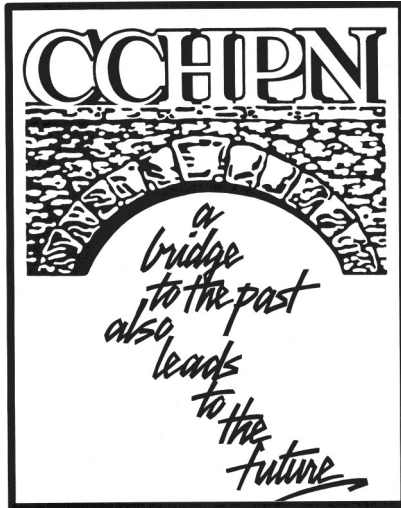
Name of Registrant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Municipality/Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40.00

Total amount of check for registration fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check out to: CCHPN and mail it and the form to: CCHPN Spring Workshop  
P. O. Box 174, West Chester, PA 19381.**

*Thank you!*



# Chester County Historic Preservation Network

## Spring 2017 Workshop

### True Life Adventures in Historic Preservation

Saturday, March 11, 2017

at the

Brandywine Conservancy and Museum of Art

All Are Welcome!!

You are invited to come to our Spring Workshop!

This Spring, our Workshop will be addressing the fundamentals of preservation planning. We hope every member of Historical Commissions, HARBs, and History Committees will consider attending!

This Workshop will be the prototype for an annual program on “Working Effectively in Your Community to Plan for Historic Resources” that CCHPN will offer to new HARB, Commission, and Committee members or veteran members who would like a refresher course. **Each of the scheduled sessions will focus on topics with accompanying handouts that will go into your Preservation Planning Notebook that will be the take away from the program. The 2017 Fall Workshop will be the next step: Educating the Community and Public Officials.**

Speakers at the Workshop include:

1. Steve Brown, AIA, long time member of the CCHPN Board and its past president, who will welcome the participants to the Workshop
2. Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator, Chester County Planning Commission (CCPC), who will explain what Historic Preservation Planning is and where it came from
3. Shelby Splain, Outreach & Education Coordinator, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), who will explore the role of the SHPO & PHMC
4. Jeannine Speirs, Senior Preservation Planner, CCPC, who will explain State Codes & Preservation Ordinances
5. Seth Hinshaw, Architectural Historian & Wade Catts, Archaeologist, who will delineate what a historic resource is & how to document it
6. Jim Garrison, AIA, East Pikeland Historical Commission Chair, who will present the New East Pikeland Preservation Plan Model as an example of best Chester County preservation planning practices.

Come! Join us for this exciting journey into Historic Preservation in Chester County!

Start your Preservation Planning Notebook with this workshop and watch it grow with each new workshop!

**SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

**OCTOBER 21, 2017**

**2017 FALL  
WORKSHOP**

Location: TBA

Subject: Effectively  
Educating the Commu-  
nity and Public Offi-  
cials

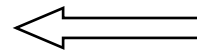
This will be the second  
workshop in the on-  
going “Working Effec-  
tively in Your Commu-  
nity to Plan for Historic  
Resources” CCHPN  
workshop series.

Look for more infor-  
mation this Spring.



**2016 Volunteer Recognition Dinner  
June 22, 2016**

Volunteer Recognition Dinner participants  
enjoyed a barbeque dinner, curtesy of the  
Downtown Country Club, and an enlight-  
ening evening of awards and celebrations  
when seven Awards were handed out to de-  
serving recipients.



**2016 Volunteer Recognition Dinner  
June 22, 2016**

E. Spencer Claypoole received the 2016 Jane  
L. S. Davidson Historic Preservation Award  
and several citations, including one from the  
Chester County Commissioners presented to  
him by County Commissioners Michelle  
Kichline (l) and Kathi Cozzone (r). ➡



**A WORD FROM THE EDITOR**

Jane Davidson and I founded the *Chester County Ledger* in 1997 and I am thrilled to be the new  
veteran editor of the *Ledger* and chairman of the *Ledger* subcommittee! I have big plans for the  
*Ledger*; it has the potential to be an important instrument of communication among preserva-  
tionists (that would be you!), and between preservationists and the general public, elected offi-  
cials, and others. To fulfill that goal, three things will be happening over the course of the next  
twelve months:

1. Over the next three issues, we will be establishing a newish look for the *Ledger* that will  
enhance its ability to communicate with its audience. To that end, we have started by some-  
what revamping the *Ledger* with this issue. My goal is to develop a format we are comfortable  
with, from here on out, in order to maximize the *Ledger*'s ability to communicate with its read-  
ership and to establish a look that it will be identified with. I would love to hear from you, the  
reader, over the course of the coming year regarding the look and content of the *Ledger*. After  
all, the whole purpose of the *Ledger* is to communicate with you. To contact me, e-mail me at:  
jeditorhspv@verizon.net.

2. Which brings me to the next item. We have created a Mission Statement to guide the  
*Ledger* Committee and the Board of Directors as they plan a very exciting future for the *Ledger*  
(please see the sidebar to the left).

3. Which now brings me to the last item we are working on. Over the next year, the *Ledger*  
Committee will be working on a Plan for the Future of the *Ledger*. My goal is to see the *Ledger*  
grow over the next several years into a more effective tool in the preservation of our precious  
and rapidly disappearing historic resources that are constant reminders of our heritage.

Please, join us on this exciting journey to create a meaningful tool that can be used effectively in  
our efforts to preserve our heritage!

*Jane E. Dorchester*

**CHESTER COUNTY  
LEDGER  
Mission Statement**

As the official newslet-  
ter of the Chester  
County Historic Preser-  
vation Network, 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 histo-  
ry, and to educate the  
public and members of  
municipal historical  
organizations in best  
preservation practices.

**SUMMER 2017**  
**TOWN TOURS AND VILLAGE WALKS**  
***A FORENIGHT IN CHESTER COUNTY***  
**Honoring the 240th Anniversary of the Campaign of 1777**

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, announces the 23rd annual "TOWN TOURS AND VILLAGE WALKS."

Town Tours and Village Walks is a series of free summer strolls through historic neighborhoods, hamlets, villages, and sites. This summer, on Thursday evenings, June 15—August 24, you can follow the British and American movements during that fateful fortnight in Chester County in 1777. Tours generally last 50 minutes and begin at 5:30 PM with the last tour leaving at 7:00 PM unless daylight allows for additional tours. Each tour is designed to inform, entertain, and increase awareness of Chester County's rich heritage and historic landscape. **Please Note: The June 15th Kick-off Program begins at 5:30 PM.**

For more information about the Tours and the Lectures to be given in conjunction with the tours, please refer to [www.chesco.org/planning/towntours](http://www.chesco.org/planning/towntours) or contact Karen Marshall, Heritage Preservation Coordinator, at 610-344-6923 or [kmarshall@chesco.org](mailto:kmarshall@chesco.org) for a brochure.

**Tour 1: June 15 - Town Tours and Village Walks Kick-off**

*Taverns & Trade*

**SPONSORS:** West Chester HARB & Chester County Historical Society

**Tour 2: June 22**

*September 10, 1777: Encampment at Kennett*

**SPONSOR:** Historic Kennett Square & Kennett Square Borough

**Tour 3: June 29**

*Trimble's Ford: An Archaeological Journey*

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

**Tour 4: July 6**

*Birmingham Road: The Battle Legacy*

**SPONSORS:** Birmingham & East Bradford Historical Commissions

**Tour 5: July 13**

*Trolley Tour: Old Kennett Meeting to Brandywine Battlefield Park: Hessians, Hopes, Chadds, & Brintons*

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

**Tour 6: July 20**

*Battle of the Clouds*

**SPONSORS:** West Goshen, East Goshen, & West Whiteland Historical Commissions

**Tour 7: July 27**

**TITLE:** TBA

**SPONSOR:** Historic Yellow Springs, Inc.

**Tour 8: August 3**

*Powder Mills and More*

**SPONSOR:** East Pikeland Historical Commission

**Tour 9: August 10**

*September 21, 1777: Remember Paoli*

**SPONSORS:** Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund & Malvern Historical Commission

**Tour 10: August 17**

*Parkerford Crossing*

**SPONSORS:** East Vincent Historical Commission, Sly Fox Brewery, and Others To Be Announced

**Tour 11: August 24**

*Washington's Headquarters at Valley Forge: Lessons Learned*

**SPONSORS:** Friends of Valley Forge, Schuylkill Historical Commission



Bob Wise and Seth Hinshaw are happy to announce that we have partnered with RGA, Inc. to provide expanded Historic Preservation and Archaeological Services from our Chester Springs office.

1480 Hilltop Road  
Chester Springs, Pa 19425  
484-202-8187  
Bob Wise - rwise@rgaincorporated.com  
Seth Hinshaw - shinshaw@rgaincorporated.com



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Building D  
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www.rgaincorporated.com



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\* \* \* \* \*

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***DID YOU KNOW. . .***

That the Chester County Historic Preservation Network was founded in 1989 by the late Jane L. S. Davidson (first Chester County Historic Preservation Officer) and Peter Benton, RA. And that makes us twenty-eight (28) years old!! YEAH!

**Chester County Ledger**  
Volume 20 Number 1 February 2017

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