



John Jacobs House, 1767,  
East Whiteland Township

# The Chester County Ledger

The Newsletter of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

February 2005

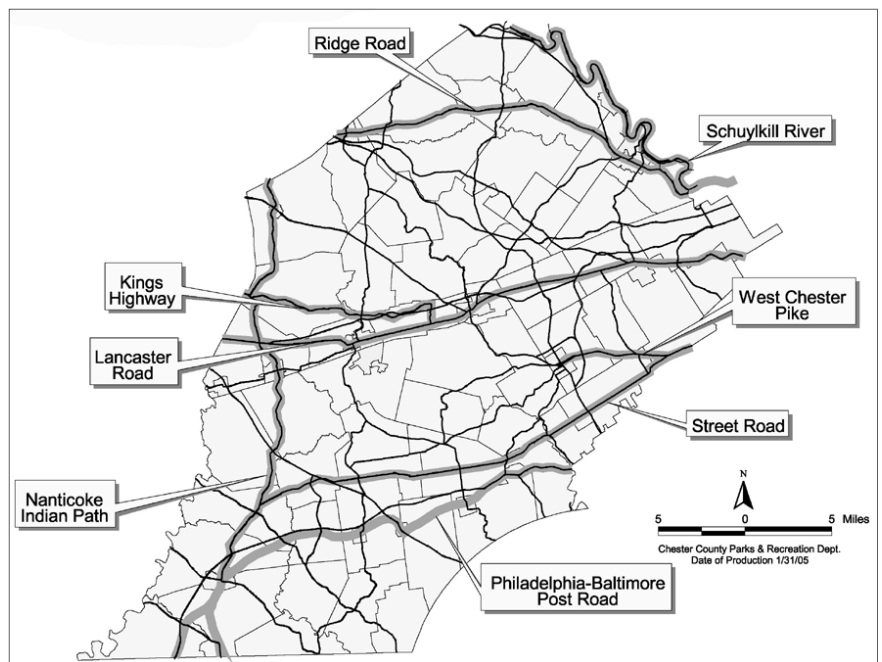
Volume 8, Number 1

## Finding A Sense Of Place In The New World

Take a moment, step back in time and become a person hearing about the New World in the 18th century. It is late winter in Europe, still chilling cold and damp, but you need to close out your affairs before setting sail across the Atlantic Ocean. Knowing that the baggage is limited you methodically go through your possessions, deciding what to take, which items are to be given to family and friends and lastly, you make arrangements to sell the remainder of your goods and chattels.

You decide your route of travel and cost to a major seaport before beginning your summer long arduous

*The Chester County Historic Preservation Network is an affiliation of local organizations and individuals dedicated to protecting and preserving Chester County's historic resources and landscapes through education, facilitation, and public and private advocacy.*



*This map identifies the primary migration routes across the county during the 1700s.*

journey to either Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, or New Castle, Delaware. There is a nip of cool air as you disembark from the ship and depending on your ethnic group, you have to sign your allegiance to the King of England at the Customs House in Philadelphia. If you did not have any contacts in America, you walked on one of several cartways to find the nearest vacant land in Chester County's frontier, backwoods, or, in the case of West Caln Township, the "backside of the mountain."

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Jane L. S. Davidson

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Matthew E. Roberson

CCHPN Board of Directors

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Wow!!!! At last you have freedom, you have clothes, you have land, but no house. Come to the Chester County Historic Preservation Network to hear the

remainder of the story during Chester County's European contact period.

- Jane L. S. Davidson

## Letter from the President: The Year in Review

Over the past year, the Chester County Historic Preservation Network has continued its traditional series of educational programs and has broadened these programs with several new initiatives.

Each year, the CCHPN sponsors four regular educational programs in partnership with township historical commissions. The most significant program of the year is the March Workshop, held at the Brandywine Conservancy. This past year, the March Workshop addressed the significance and preservation of the county's historic roads and bridges. In March 2005, the subject will be Historic Domestic Architecture in Chester County.

The CCHPN's annual picnic is held in June and is a largely social event that enables members from across the county to meet and re-establish connections. Last year, the picnic was held at the historic Carter-Worth in East Bradford Township and featured a Revolutionary War re-enactment, complete with artillery. It was far-and-away the most colorful and exciting event we have held. This year, the summer picnic will be hosted by Tredyffrin Township and held in Wilson Farm Park.

Two evening educational programs are organized by the CCHPN each fall. Last September, London Grove hosted a program on historical archeology in Chester County. In November, Schuylkill Township hosted a program on the adaptive reuse of historic buildings.

Town Tours and Village Walks is a very popular summer program that features walking tours of historic communities in Chester County. Organized by the County Parks and Recreation Department and the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau, CCHPN members play a key role in organizing and conducting the tours.

This year, CCHPN members will continue to be instrumental in undertaking the resurveying of historic resources township by township. The project, led by the Chester County Department Parks and Recreation, will result in an accurate mapping of historic resources in the county GIS system and will be a great aid to future township research, planning, and preservation efforts.

Finally, we have our publications. The newsletters highlight preservation issues and activities throughout Chester County. By next fall, the CCHPN will have its own website, which will be a state-of-the-art resource with information of use to historical commissions and preservation interests countywide.

We wish to thank the CCHPN's growing membership for its participation and support of the organization's activities! Over the coming year we hope to broaden our contacts with local historical commissions and HARBs and to increase the services we are able to provide. Thank you for your support and encouragement!

- Jane L. S. Davidson

### The Chester County Ledger

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*Graphic Design* Matthew E. Roberson

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Direct all queries to: The Editor, CCHPN, P.O.Box 216, Chatham, PA 19318. 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.



## Chester County Historic Preservation Network Spring 2005 Workshop

# Historic Domestic Architecture

### Program Agenda

Saturday, March 12, 2005  
Brandywine River Museum  
Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania

- 8:45 a.m. Check in, coffee and pastries
- 9:15 **Welcome**, David Shields, *Brandywine Conservancy*
- 9:30 **Natural Resources and Early Settlement Patterns**, Jane Davidson,  
*Chester County Heritage Preservation Coordinator*
- 10:15 **Restoring Early Chester County Houses**, John Milner, *John Milner Architects, Inc.*
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 **The Welsh Log House?**, Estelle Cremers, *Historical Land Research*
- 12:00 p.m. Box Lunch and Open Discussion with Presenters

Registration Fee: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, includes box lunch. Please mail your registration form below by February 28, 2005. Payment can be made at the door. Reserve early because seating is limited!



#### Workshop Registration Form

Please R.S.V.P. by February 28, 2005

Please send a completed registration form indicating the number of people attending to the Chester County Historic Preservation Network, P.O. Box 216, Chatham, PA 19318. Walk-ins are welcome, but registration helps us plan for the lunch order. For questions and directions, please call Linda Saunders at 610-869-3837.

Name:

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Number Attending:

## March 2005 Workshop Speaker Profiles

The list of speakers for the March 2005 includes many stars of historic preservation in Chester County. None of these need introductions, but each deserves recognition. Here is a little background information on each one:

**Estelle Cremers**, is a renown local historian, environmentalist, and preservationist. Working for the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, she monitored easements, wrote grant applications, and researched and prepared National Register nominations. Ms. Cremers was instrumental in the preparation of the French Creek Scenic River Study and participated in inventorying historic resources in 21 townships and six boroughs. Ms. Cremers currently works as a freelance historic properties researcher under the name, Historic Land Research, operating in Chester, Montgomery, Lehigh, Berks, and Lancaster Counties. In addition to publishing five books on local history, Ms. Cremers is on the Board of the Tri-County Heritage Society and on the Warwick Township Historical Commission.

**John Milner, FAJA**, has been in private architectural practice since 1968, specializing in the restoration of historic buildings and the design of new buildings, primarily residences, inspired by architectural traditions of the past. Mr. Milner possesses extensive expertise in the detailed analysis

of historic buildings, documenting their physical and cultural history, and in the development of strategies, technical procedures and design solutions for their restoration and adaptive reuse.

In addition, Mr. Milner has, since 1976, been an Adjunct Professor of Architecture in the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Fine Arts. Mr. Milner was selected by the National Endowment for the Arts and the General Services Administration to serve as a National Peer Architect for the review of designs for major new federal buildings; by the American Academy in Rome to serve on the 1998 Fine Arts Jury; and by the American Architectural Foundation to serve on the Octagon Committee.

**Jane L. S. Davidson**, historian, preservationist, genealogist, author and artist, began in the late 1960s to teach local history research and genealogy in workshops, continuing education programs and at West Chester University. She was appointed to the Downingtown Historical Commission in 1975 and the following year wrote and illustrated a book entitled *Christian Schmucker, a Colonial Pennsylvania Farmer*. Ms. Davidson served as historian and preservationist for the Borough of Downingtown from 1977 to 1980 and during this period wrote a book entitled, *A History of Downingtown*. In 1982 Ms. Davidson was appointed County Historic Preservation Officer, a position she held for more than 10 years, and helped to create



numerous municipal Historic Commissions and two National Register-listed historic districts. In 1992, President George H. W. Bush appointed Ms. Davidson to the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Ms. Davidson is the founder of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network

and is currently the Heritage Preservation Coordinator in the Chester County Parks and Recreation Department and continues to be active in a number of local, state and federal organizations.

- Matthew E. Roberson

### Thanks to a Preservation Champion: Donald Hannum

Donald Hannum, West Caln Supervisor and long-time preservationist, has retired from the Board of the Chester County Historic Preservation Network. Having served the organization in a variety of ways since its founding in the late 1980s, he is

irreplaceable and will be greatly missed. We thank him for his diligence, guidance, good humor, and friendship; and we wish him well in his efforts to have more free time. Thanks for everything, Don!

- The CCHPN Board of Directors

### The Pennsylvania Elm Street Program

In downtowns across America, the Main Street Program, operated by the National Main Street Center, has proven that direct, strategic revitalization efforts can pay off. Building on this success, the Elm Street program, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, aims to use similar approaches to revitalize historic neighborhoods and mixed-use areas that are adjacent to downtowns.

Created in early 2004 as part of the New Communities Program, the Elm Street Program provides assistance and resources to help coordinate volunteer support, leverage private investment, undertake strategic planning, fund and support the rehabilitation and reuse of existing buildings, and undertake streetscape improvements. Neighborhood involvement and a visible programmatic connection to an existing downtown revitalization program are primary objectives of the program.

Participants will develop a five-year plan for neighborhood revitalization and to hire an Elm Street manager to guide the implementation of the plan. Residents, neighborhood organizations, and municipal officials will participate in the coordinated effort.

The goals of the program are to:

1. Revitalize neighborhoods in proximity to the existing downtown by improving the exterior appearance of the buildings and streetscapes.
2. Formalize a connection between established residential neighborhood areas with downtown revitalization activities.



*Funding from the Elm Street program will aid neighborhoods adjacent to downtown West Chester.*

3. Prevent neighborhood decline by developing a plan that includes the establishment of a sustainable community organization that will implement the five-year strategy.
4. Assist municipalities in preparing and implementing a revitalization strategy for established residential neighborhoods either in the vicinity of a Main Street Program project or in proximity to an existing commercial district.

Municipalities and Redevelopment Authorities are eligible to apply for funding. In certain cases, non-profit Main Street and economic development organizations, as well as Neighborhood and Business Improvement Districts are also eligible applicants.

Grant funding of up to \$225,000 is available for administrative costs associated with hiring a full-time manager and related office expenses over a maximum five-year program. This period includes one planning year and four operational years.

The program uses a “Five-Point Elm Street Approach,” focusing on: organization; promotion; design; clean, green and safe activities, and neighborhood restructuring.

Four communities in Chester County have applied for funding. Of these, West Chester and Kennet Square have received grants.

*For information, contact:*

Department of Community and Economic Development  
Customer Service Center  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 4th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225  
1-866-GO NEWPA (1-866-466-3972).  
[http://www.newpa.com/program\\_2.html](http://www.newpa.com/program_2.html)

- Matthew E. Roberson

## Chester County and the National Register in 2004

Although it can take time, money, and a lot of work, a number of diligent Chester Countians have added the distinction and protection of the National Register of Historic Places to their historic properties. Notable among the list provided below are the determination of eligibility for the London Grove Township Agricultural Historic District and the re-listing of the Thomas Mill and Miller’s House following the relocation of the house and the exterior rehabilitation of both. In 2004, the following properties have been listed or determined eligible for listing in the Register. Good job to all who work so hard to protect the historic resources of Chester County!



*Thomas Mill, 1744, after award-winning exterior rehabilitation*

### **Listed in the National Register**

- Ellis Williams House, 1711 East Boot Road, East Goshen Township
- Thomas Mill & Miller's House, 200 W. Lincoln Highway, West Whiteland Township (re-listed)

### **Determined to be Eligible**

- William and Ester McCune House, 205 Reid Road, Caln Township
- Strodes Mill Boundary Increase, East Bradford Township

- Martha Pennock House and Industrial Site, East Fallowfield and West Marlborough Townships
- Richard Richardson Farm, 99 Church Road, East Whiteland Township
- London Grove Township Agricultural Historic District, Lamborntown, Howellmoore Roads & S.R. 41, London Grove Township
- John Giofreddi Mushrooms, New Garden Township
- M&J Mushrooms, near Broad Run and Sunny Dell Roads, New Garden Township
- Southwood Farms, North Side Old Limestone Rd., New Garden Township
- Laurel Locks Farm, S.R. 724, North Coventry Township
- Squire Cheyney Farm, 1255 Cheyney Road, Thornbury Township
- Un-named property, Wagon Road and U.S. Route 30 Bypass, Valley Township
- Glenmoore Historic District, Wallace Township
- Hide-A-Way Farm, Little Washington-Lyndell Road, West Brandywine Township

This information was provided by the Bureau for Historic Preservation in the *Historic Property Inventory Report* for Chester County. For more information visit: <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bhp/>  
 - Matthew E. Roberson

### Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Tax Credits Reintroduced In General Assembly

On January 5, 2005, State Representative Tom Tangretti and State Representative Dan Frankel reintroduced the PA State Historic Preservation Tax Credit legislation in Pennsylvania's State House. Rep. Frankel's bill for commercial credits is HB 26 and Rep. Tangretti's bill for homeowner credits is HB 27. The language in each bill is the same as the former HB 951 and HB 952 that had been introduced during the last legislative session. Both bills have more than sixty cosponsors.

The State House of Representatives referred both bills to the Finance Committee for review and consideration during their session on January 25, 2005. The text of both bills can be found on the state's web site. Send thank you letters to the following Chester County State Representatives who were co-sponsors of for both bills: Robert J. Flick, Tim Hennessey, Carole A. Rubley, Curt Schroder, and Elinor Z. Taylor.

- Jane L. S. Davidson

### CCHPN Files Amicus Brief for Ten Commandments Case Before Supreme Court

The CCHPN has filed an Amicus Curiae brief in support of the case of Thomas Van Orden (Petitioner) versus Rick Perry, in his official capacity as Governor of Texas and Chairman of the State Preservation Board. The case is scheduled to be heard on March 2, 2005, by the US Supreme Court. The case involves a petition to remove a stone monument engraved with the Ten Commandments that stands on the grounds of the Texas State Capitol. As with the similar case here in Chester County, the CCHPN supports the preservation of the monument as a historic feature of the Capitol landscape.

- Matthew E. Roberson

*Special Advertisement*

\$39,900  
 THIS OLD HOUSE  
 National Register-listed Home, Circa 1800,  
 Awaits Restoration

Do you have imagination, creativity and the desire for a home with history and character? Unique opportunity for eligible buyer to restore the Joseph Gladden House, currently in ruins. Exterior of 20' x 30' two-story "Penn Plan" stone home must be restored, subject to some restrictions. Addition allowed, architect's conceptual sketch available. The home sits on 1/3 acre, fully improved with public sewer, water, electric and natural gas in street. Future owners will be part of a charming new home community with open space, trails, tot lot and village green. East Fallowfield Township.

Call Carol at 610-518-7100  
 Rouse/Chamberlin Homes  
 500 Exton Commons, Exton, PA 19341

## The Chester County Ledger Bulletin Board

Attention  
Historical Commissions and HARBs!

Please send your updated address information to Linda Saunders at the address below.

### Upcoming CCHPN Events

March 12, 2005 Workshop: **Historic Domestic Architecture**

June 22, 2005 Picnic: **Tredyfrin Township**  
(Rain date: June 29, 2005)

Fall 2005 Meetings: Topics to be announced

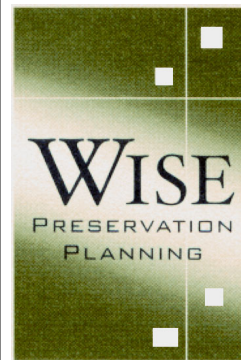
Look for information on these events in upcoming issues of *The Chester County Ledger*

Any time is a good time to join the Chester County Historic Preservation Network!  
We need you!

Annual Membership dues:

Individual: \$15.00  
Municipal: \$75.00  
Corporate: \$150.00  
Benefactor: \$500.00

Please send checks to the address below.  
All contributions are tax-deductible.



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PLANNER

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Historic Preservation Network  
P.O.Box 216  
Chatham, PA 19318

PLEASE FORWARD

Please come and join us for the

Spring 2005 Workshop  
Historic Domestic Architecture

Saturday, March 12, 2005  
Brandywine River Museum,  
Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania

(Details Inside)