

Forty-fourth
ANNUAL
PRESERVATION AWARDS

Saturday
May 7th, 2022

Presented by
Delaware County Council
and the
Heritage Commission of Delaware County



Delaware County Council

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The Heritage Commission is a volunteer body appointed by County Council with a mission to encourage historical and cultural awareness and preservation within the County. It has been recognizing worthy preservation projects and individuals throughout Delaware County for over forty-four years.

44th ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS

The Heritage Commission has been presenting these awards with County Council since 1978 to highlight National Preservation Month in May.

The Commission selects the award recipients from nominations submitted by residents and organizations throughout the County. They are selected for outstanding contributions to the preservation of our County's heritage in the following categories: Site Preservation, Publications, Special Programs/Projects, Individual Achievement, Historic Preservation Planning, Youth, the Leedom B. Morrison Heritage Award, and Legacy.

SITE PRESERVATION

Residential Rehabilitation

Leedom-Dickinson Mansion exterior restoration Haverford Township

Anthony Morinelli, D'Onofrio Historical Restoration

The Leedom Dickinson Mansion is on the Haverford Township Historic Resource Survey (#15) and is one of the oldest houses in the township, with its earliest section dating to ca. 1725. It was possibly originally a tenant farmer's house, but Samuel Leedom and George Dickinson were the owners of the nearby mill, and therefore the most significant of the building's owners. It was built in three sections: ca. 1725, ca. 1750 and ca. 1800s, although research is continuing to verify these dates and the owners. It was in poor condition in recent years, the previous owner having started interior renovations and leaving them incomplete; the exterior being left to deteriorate. In 2018, Anthony Morinelli purchased the property and began restoration, including replacing the roof (formerly shingle and standing seam) and porch restoration.

Michael D'Onofrio Historic Restoration undertook the restoration of the roofing and the porch. The roof beams were preserved, but the cedar shingles and metal roof were replaced with new cedar shingles. The windows were replaced with energy efficient windows with historical appearance.



PUBLICATION

Marple History Blog Marple Township

Samuel Pickard

This is a blog looking to explore the history of Marple Township in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. The blog posts are also sent via email and posted on Facebook.

Each post focuses on an event, topic, building, or person relating to Marple's history. While some of these will inevitably be well-known or well-documented, some dig deeper or shed light on a previously unknown story. A full bibliography of the sources Samuel has consulted is cited in his posts.

The posts are sorted into different eras— from before 1700 to the 20th century, and also by topics such as cemeteries, industry, historic resources, politics, and others. Some of the posts are in multiple parts such as the 'Marple in the 1850s' series, which keeps readers engaged for multiple posts.

<https://marplehistory.com/blog/>



PUBLICATION

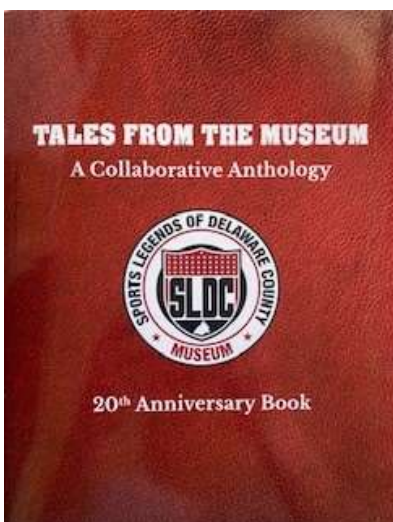
Tales from the Museum: A Collaborative Anthology

Sports Legends of Delaware County, Inc.;
Curators: Barbara & Jim Vankoski; Designer: Dan Falone;
Memorabilia Photographer: George Rothacker

The Delaware County Sports Museum began twenty years ago as an historical exhibit hosted by the Delaware County Athletes Hall of Fame at the Delaware County Historical Society in Chester. About six years later, the dream of an actual sports museum became a reality. The museum has moved three times since its inception, and it has hosted many thousands of visitors to see its extensive sports exhibits, vintage photo library, athletic memorabilia, and posters dedicated to Delaware County's rich sports tradition. In 2019, Jim Vankoski, the museum curator, proposed a 20th anniversary book celebrating the museum's history.

The book's four chapters each highlight a different era of the museum's history. The chapters include photographs and brief histories of donated and on-loan memorabilia from local athletes and coaches some of whom were also special guests of the museum. The book also includes contributions by various individuals including sportswriter Harry Chaykun and reporter Kathleen Carey. "Behind the Scenes" stories offer personal stories about many of the featured athletes and speakers. Highlights include stories about local legends like Mickey Vernon, Danny Murtaugh, Emlen Tunnell, Kim Mckee, Ted Meredith, Ed Dougherty, Gertie Dunn, Billy "White Shoes" Johnson and others too numerous to mention. The book is not just a history of the museum; it provides a wealth of photos and stories about Delaware County's most famous athletes and their professional accomplishments.

Copies are available to purchase from the museum or to borrow at Delaware County libraries.



PUBLICATION

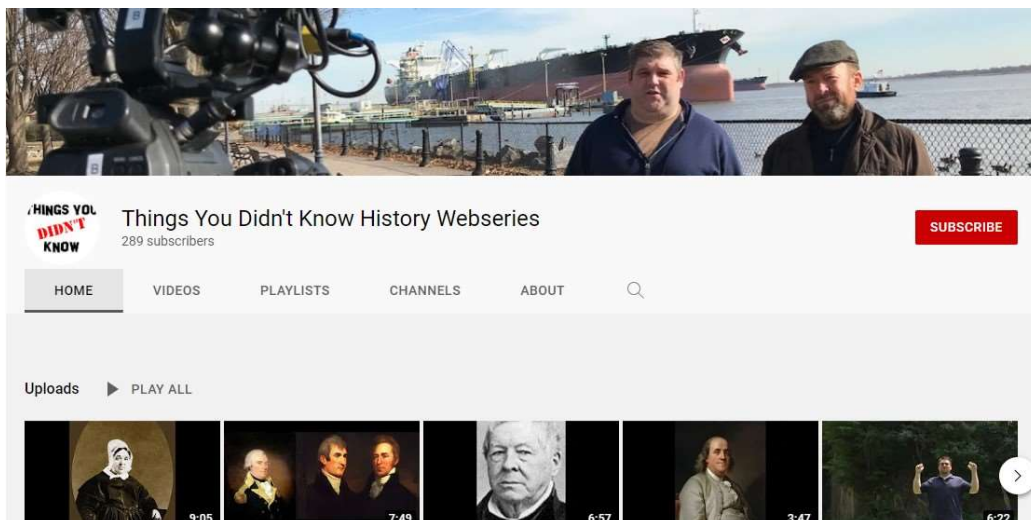
Things You Didn't Know

Stan Hitchins, David Kappler, and Sean Kling

"Things You Didn't Know" is a Web series that highlights obscured historical people, places and things that exist all around us in our everyday lives. It is available on YouTube and features historical photos, sites, people and events.

The videos encompass Delaware and surrounding counties. Places in Delaware County include: Thomas Leiper Railroad, Lazaretto, Old Eagle School, Radnor Quaker Meeting House, Penns Landing (Chester), Plank House, Swedish Cabin, and more. People featured include Thomas Garrett, Rebecca Lukens, and Anthony Wayne.

The videos are short but informative, easily understood by non-historians, and encourages everyone to take a closer look at the places around them.



PUBLICATION

Jane Lownes, One of the First Caucasian Settlers of Springfield Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, (Now Delaware County), and Her Cave Dwelling in Which She Called Home, Springfield Township

Carla Welsh

Jane Lownes (fl. 1658–1685), an early English Quaker settler of Springfield Township, allegedly had lived in a cave for a time before her house was constructed. When Carla Welsh attempted to learn more about the cave, specifically its location, she kept turning up with dead ends. After exhausting available information from descendants of Lownes, the township, and the records of the defunct Springfield Historical Society, Welsh set out to find out the story behind the cave for herself.

Despite no prior historical training, Welsh thoroughly researched Lownes and the cave, familiarizing herself with various databases, and the formatting/citation styles typically used when writing formal histories. In 2021 she authored a 11-page paper examining Lownes' life, the usage and historic context of dugout “cave” dwellings among early Quaker settlers, and the location and eventual fate of the cave dwelling. The paper is well-cited and a valuable research contribution to Springfield Township's history, but also accessible to a more casual reader.

Welsh's research and writing about Jane Lownes and her cave is a valuable contribution to Springfield Township's history, and, in the absence of a township historical society, its open-access digital form and archival copy



Photo taken by this compiler, of the original photo hanging in the township building.

at the HSP ensure easy access to researchers into the future. Beyond this, Welsh's effort and the ensuing paper also serve as an example of the quality local history work that an average citizen can produce with a little passion and dedication.

<https://archive.org/details/jane-lownes-cave-story/>

SPECIAL PROJECT

Historic Sites of Aston Township Sign Aston Township

**Carol Cannon, Karen Micka, Sheila Withelder, Patricia Smith,
John MacFarland, Rick Kirkwood, Larry Curry & Dave Kelso**

Aston has long been in need of a map locating the historic sites in Aston. This handsome three-panel sign highlights some of the sites in Aston and each site's history. A couple of the sites are gone but significant, such as the Seven Star Inn where General Cornwallis is reported to have stayed after the Battle of Brandywine...the British troops came a few days after the battle.

Carol Cannon and Karen Micka worked on obtaining the grant and coordinating with the designer and manufacturer of the sign. Sheila Withelder, Pat Smith, Larry Curry, John MacFarland, Rick Kirkwood and Dave Kelso gathered pictures together and worked tirelessly on the historic text. After many editing meetings where all were involved, the sign was manufactured and installed.

The sign was unveiled with much fanfare in October 2021 at Aston Community Day. It is located at the Aston Community Center.



SPECIAL PROJECT

Railroad Switch Restoration Middletown Township

Barry Pinkowicz

Barry Pinkowicz, President of the Friends of the Chester Creek Rail Trail, rescued this switch before it was scrapped and took it home where it sat until he could find the time to do the restoration. Over years, he has authentically restored the switch along with the old rails, metal plates and old spikes that he found along the rail line. The level of his effort to exactly replicate the rail system is demonstrated by the inclusion of the inspection nails that are marked by the #61, the year the railroad ties were last inspected.

The switch was used to go on and off the line into the Defusilite property. It directed trains into and out of the yard. The yellow and white targets were used in yards or non-main track situations. It is now on display at the Middletown Township Historical Society Museum.



Switch and rail on display at museum

SPECIAL PROJECT

Swedish Farmstead in Essington, PA Tinicum Township

**John Tepe, Joe Mathews, Pat Barr, Highline Construction,
Crystal Trust**

Seven cabins were moved and reassembled in Governor Printz Park that were originally in Bridgeton NJ. These cabins are representative of what kind of cabins were in Governor Printz Park shortly after the time of Johan Printz's landing in 1643. These cabins will be used for telling the story of what it was like to live and work in Essington in 1643. They are open for public tours the first Saturday of every month from 11am to 2 pm.

Each of the buildings of the Farmstead was based on historical research conducted by the Swedish architectural preservationist and builder, Gunnar Zetterquist, and his associate Severin Johansson. There was also a Swedish mason, Ake Frank. The buildings were arranged in a rectangle to form a courtyard and fenced in to control livestock. Each building had a different purpose and was built over months and years in an order dictated by circumstances obtaining in the wilderness: simple shelter first while the land was cleared and the livestock and harvest was protected; and a roomier dwelling later on as the family grew and conditions improved. Other buildings included a granary, a stable with a hayloft, a livestock barn, a threshing barn with a storage loft, and a forge or smithy which was shared with other families nearby.



SPECIAL PROJECT

Nathaniel Newlin Log Home Preservation Project Concord Township

**Concord Township, Newlin Foundation (Newlin Grist Mill),
Concord Twp Historical Society, Concord Twp Historical
Commission, Daniel Campbell**

Concord Township acquired the property that included the Nicholas Newlin Log Home but required the building to be moved in order to use the land for open space. The home is on the Concord Historic Resource Survey (#18). Concord Township Historical Commission and Council requested the assistance of Preservation Architect Daniel Campbell to measure and record the entire building in drawings to document for the archival record. The property was further researched as well by the Historical Society. In addition to measuring and recording, the request was also to provide advice on the integrity of the 1775 period remaining log structure.

Because the home was originally part of the Newlin family, the Newlin Grist Mill was contacted to help strategize on preservation ideas. Based upon the above assessment results and further discussion, the Board of Trustees of the Nicholas Newlin Foundation decided to dismantle and relocate the log structure, with the intent of reconstruction in the future. An exact inventory and labeling of the logs have been completed, with assistance from a log house/barn relocation specialist company. The materials are expected to be stored for a period of time, then reconstructed at a later date, including restoration and rehabilitation of missing elements with like materials in kind.



INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

David Kavanagh

Mr. David Kavanagh is the Founder and President of the Sun Ship Historical Society (SSHS) founded in 2004. Dave, a Chester native, worked for Sun Ship for 18 years, and developed a deep passion for its role in shipbuilding history, and more importantly, Delaware County history. Sun Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company (Sun Ship) was founded in 1916. For 66 years it was a leader and innovator in shipbuilding practices, and significantly impacted the people of Delaware County, employing approximately 100,000 men and women over this period of time. Sun Ship grew to become the largest ship manufacturing plant in the world at its height during World War II. Sun Ship was sold to Pennsylvania Ship Building in 1982 which subsequently closed in 1989.

In the early years of 2000, Dave had the foresight to rescue documents and artifacts from the Sun/Penn shipyard when it was scheduled for demolition. From there he began organizing massive amounts of material and continues to grow this archive through meticulous research and collaboration. He started the Sun Ship Historical Society's website, www.sunship.org, in 2001, which chronicles every aspect of Sun Ship from its very beginnings, to the mechanics of ship building, and to the lives of its employees. The site welcomes stories and comments from its readers, especially those who were part of the Sun Ship "family." Dave embodies the qualities of a valued historian – sharing, teaching, and collecting – all parts of his SSHS Mission Statement. Dave considers this his life's work and cares greatly about making it available to everyone through his website and presentations.

Dave routinely gives talks about Sun Ship history, including one in February 2022 with DCHS- "Sun Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Company – Yard No. 4". The video is available at: <https://youtu.be/a6ux8yPO38g>



HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING

Historic Resources Survey: Photographic Updates and Additions Haverford Township

**Haverford Township Board of Commissioners,
Haverford Township Historical Commission,
Richard Grubb & Associates**

The Haverford Township Historical Commission (HTHC), working with Commissioner Kevin McCloskey and Township staff, applied for and received a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant to assist the Commission in meeting its obligation under Township Ordinance No. 2580-2009, to “Maintain and update the Historic Resource Survey and Inventory of Historic Resources.” A professional historic preservation consultant, Richard Grubb & Associates, was retained to update photographs of existing buildings and sites on the Township’s Historic Resources Survey (not updated since 1994!) and to complete PA Historic Resource Survey Forms for 11 historic resources that could be proposed to be added to the Haverford Township historic preservation zoning overlay.

Of particular importance was the documentation of three significant mid-century modern properties in the township, not previously represented in the survey, of which the township has both residential and commercial examples. The final consultant report, "Historic Resource Survey Update Final Report" is an essential document for the township. The report represents the HTHC's and the township's capacity for administering this type of project--the first time the HTHC has taken such a project on (but hopefully not the last). The HTHC has presented the report in public meetings and in articles written for the Board of Commissioner newsletters (distributed to all township residents). The report is also available to all residents on the township website and the state's PA SHARE platform.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY UPDATE
FINAL REPORT



TOWNSHIP OF HAVERFORD
Delaware County, Pennsylvania

PREPARED FOR:
Haverford Township Historical Commission
1014 Duhr Road
Haverford, Pennsylvania 19053
December, 2020



HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING

Township of Newtown Historic Preservation Ordinance Newtown Township

Township of Newtown, Newtown Square Historical Society

The Newtown Township Board of Supervisors unanimously enacted a historic preservation ordinance on February 28, 2022. The ordinance adopts an inventory of historic places, establishes a Historic Commission, and enacts regulations regarding the alteration or demolition of historic resources in the township.

A previous effort to enact a historic preservation ordinance in Newtown Township about 20 years ago was unsuccessful, and the present ordinance is the result of two years of work. The current effort was spearheaded by Cathy Cavalier-Gach, President of the Newtown Square Historical Society, and township supervisors Leonard Altieri and Tina Roberts-Lightcap. The ordinance went through several drafts, but a consensus document winning support from the township, property owners, and the historical society was eventually developed.

The ordinance will identify the historic properties/structures in the township; Establish a seven-member Historic Commission to advise owners and the township regarding appropriate alterations or alternatives to demolition for listed historic resources and assist property owners in the preservation of historic resources; Establish a Demolition delay to discuss alternatives with owners or, if need be, document before demolition; and Deny demolition of Class I resources while working with owners to seek alternate uses or potential buyers at fair market value.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING

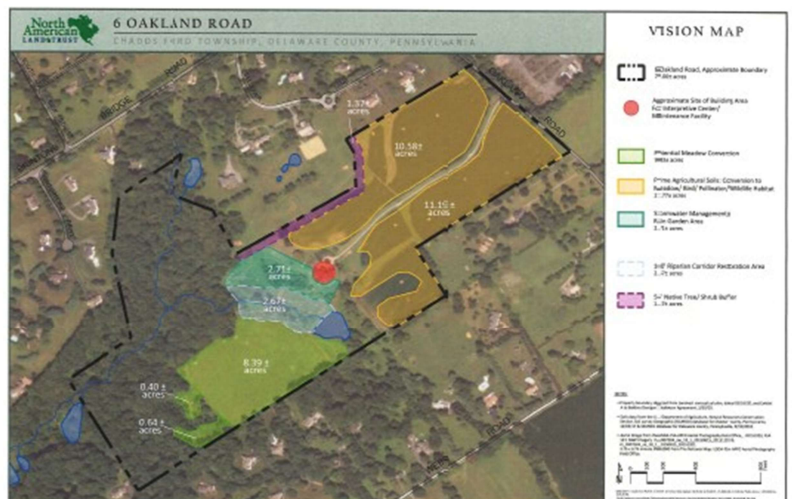
Brinton Run Preserve Chadds Ford Township

North American Land Trust; Sandra Baldino, American Battlefield Protection Program

In March of 2021, North American Land Trust was successful in purchasing and placing a conservation easement on 72 acres in Chadds Ford Township. The site, known as the "Brinton Run Preserve," is of great historic, cultural, scenic and biological significance. Expected to be open to the public this spring, NALT has plans for a stream restoration, indigenous plantings, and conversion of an existing garage into a Heritage Center.

The property is located within the Sandy Hollow Open Space Cluster and is part of the Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark. An "Interpretation Network" was proposed that would allow visitors to experience the historic landscapes and resources within the Battlefield while at the same time respecting the privacy of its residents. Heritage Areas are communities where smaller numbers of visitors could stop in for short visits to learn about the Battle and get information about nearby resources. The proposed Washington's Withdrawal Heritage Center Area includes this property and pending future funding, this property would be ideally situated as a Heritage Area, further advancing the goals of the Brandywine Battlefield Preservation Plan.

Funding for the purchase came from the American Battlefield Protection Program, DCNR, American Battlefield Trust, Mt. Cuba Grant, Delaware County Greenways Grant Program, and Chadds Ford Township.



LEEDOM B. MORRISON HERITAGE AWARD

Chester Women Leaders Storytelling Project Chester City

**Twyla Simpkins (YES Center); Christopher Mele;
NaOmi Richardson**

Chester's community historian and founding director of the YES Center, Twyla Simpkins, has produced and made publicly available to residents of Delaware County and the general public the digital stories of Chester women who work tirelessly to better the quality of life in our city and county. The project is available at:

<http://chesterdigital.sunycreate.cloud/rlbennett/>

The website features 10 women in Chester that have made an impact on their community, Chester, and the county through their hard work and dedication to their chosen causes. Each woman is featured with their story and photographs and allows for guests to comment. The website also features Professor Khadijah O. Miller of Norfolk State University speaking about how activism and change making among women in Chester and elsewhere connects back to the past.



LEGACY AWARD– 100 YEARS

Weathers Dodge- Weathers Motors Business Middletown Township

Weathers Motors is located on the north side of Baltimore Pike about 200 yards east of Pennell Road in Middletown Township, Delaware County. It was the first automobile dealer in the township. In 1920 Lawrence Weathers, Sr. opened an automobile repair shop in the barn next to Weathers Store where he serviced Model-T Fords, Chevys, Packards, Paiges and other cars that came along. Service stations sold gasoline in those days. For years he had a towing business and was the only tow truck around for miles.

A garage was built next to the barn in 1922, and Weathers began to sell cars. In 1933 this became Weathers Dodge Dealership. In 1939 a new showroom was added to the front of the garage.

Designed by the Weathers, the showroom was recognized by Architect-Planners, who in 1985 made the presentation of the Building of the Year Award to Weathers Dodge Dealership for their building withstanding the test of time by remaining intact with only alterations to the sign.

Immediately following the mandated closing in 2009 by Chrysler, the family reinvented the business as Weathers Motors and now sells and services all makes and models of used cars. Through everything, the building remains unchanged, once again with the only exception being the alterations to the sign.

The dealership continues to be run by offspring of the original owner's family.



LEGACY AWARD– 150 YEARS

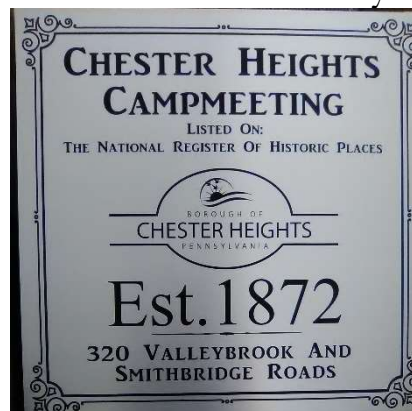
Chester Heights Camp Meeting Chester Heights Borough

In the late 1700s and 1800s Campmeetings were a popular form of having outdoor religious services. Many Campmeetings were located up and down the East Coast. Delaware County had at least three: Brandywine Summit, Chester Heights and Twin Oaks.

In 1872, the 148 acres farm of Joshua and James Williamson of Aston Township was purchased for \$23,804. It was along the Baltimore Central Railroad, now Penn Central, and 50 acres of it was woodland. This location offered a pleasant summers' respite from the hot, busy, dirty streets of Philadelphia, Wilmington, West Chester, Oxford and Chester.

That first summer, 44 Sunday Schools, mostly from the city, visited. The largest excursion group was that of Bethany Presbyterian SS with John Wanamaker (King of Merchants), Superintendent- 727 adults and 796 children. Five other excursion parties followed including the first excursion to the camp on June 4, 1872 given by the Ladies Aid Society for the benefit of the "Old Peoples Home"- 410 adults and 70 children attended. The beginning of each service was announced by the ringing of a large bell that could be heard at a considerable distance.

Over the past 150 years, despite suffering from fires and wind damage, development pressure and other issues, CHCM is still an active, integral part of Delaware County's rich heritage, with summer "Concert in the Woods" series, retreats, ministries, themed camps and more. Chester Heights Borough gifted CHCM a historical marker at a ceremony in 2021.



Heritage Commission of Delaware County

What We Do

- The Delaware County Heritage is made up of 11 historically minded residents who are appointed by Delaware County Council to make recommendations to the Council on preservation issues in the County.
- Have a seminar annually on some aspect of historic preservation, we present awards to groups and individuals for their preservation efforts each May at a Council meeting.
- Oversee and make recommendations on County owned historic properties.
- Make recommendations to County Council on applications from historic sites for Community Development Block Grants.
- Act as a liaison between County Council and historic organizations in the County.

Information on seminars and awards are available at:
delcopa.gov/heritage

To get in touch with a member of the Heritage Commission, contact the Planning
Department at:
610-891-5200 or
Planning_Department@co.delaware.pa.us