



# Middletown Township Historical Society

## MIDDLETOWN MONDAYS 2019

Lectures begin at 7:00 p.m.  
at Lima Estates, 411 North Middletown Road, Media, PA 19063  
Free and open to the public, no registration required.

This fall we continue with our look at how Philadelphia celebrates the anniversaries of American Independence from the Sesquicentennial in 1926 through the planning for the Semiquincentennial in 2026.

Monday, September 23, 2019

### **THE SESQUI-CENTENNIAL INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION OF 1926**

by Thomas H. Keels, historian and author of Sesqui! Greed, Graft, and the Forgotten World's Fair of 1926

The Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition of 1926, held in South Philadelphia, was meant to be the greatest world's fair since the 1876 Centennial. Thanks to political corruption, greed, egotism, and the wettest summer on record, it became a crumbling, sodden, bankrupt mess, Philadelphia's "forgotten fair." This talk also explores how the Sesqui became an unwitting battleground for many of the social struggles convulsing America in the 1920s: racism, anti-Semitism, women's rights, the Ku Klux Klan, eugenics, and Prohibition. Mr. Keels is author or co-author of seven books on Philadelphia history.

Monday, October 21, 2019

### **THE BICENTENNIAL: THE BATTLE FOR AMERICA'S 200th BIRTHDAY PARTY**

by Edward W. Duffy, former City of Philadelphia employee and author of Philadelphia Celebrates: Three Great Anniversaries - 1876 - 1926 - 1976

This is the story of the conflicting visions of Mayor Tate's planning director Ed Bacon, charged with creating a low budget exhibition on the model of Seattle's Century 21, and the Philadelphia Junior Chamber of Commerce and their allies styling themselves the Young Professionals proposing a billion dollar Expo centered on a platform to be built over 30th Street Station's coach yards. Ultimately the platform advocates won the battle but lost the war when federal funds from the Watergate-entangled Nixon Administration were not forthcoming. A series of hastily formed fall-back plans were vetoed by NIMBY activists and a final scaled-down celebration was nearly derailed by Mayor Rizzo's announcement that the City was about to be invaded by radicals during Freedom Week.

Monday, November 18, 2019

### **USA250, INC: GETTING READY FOR AMERICA'S SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL**

by Danielle DiLeo Kim, Executive Director, USA250, Inc.

Over past several the years, the non-profit USA250, Inc. has been very successful in accomplishing the first part of their mission by expanding 250th leadership circles and spreading excitement about the opportunities for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. Today USA250 is leading efforts with city and state partners to create an inspiring, national experience in Philadelphia and to provide inclusive legacies for the region and its residents. This proactive, collaborative work will position Philadelphia and the region as the preeminent destination for all Americans in 2026. Join us to learn about the up-to-date plans and processes that have already begun for the Semiquincentennial celebration in the Philadelphia region.

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### **Delaware County Celebrates The Year of The Mill**

**Join us on Thursday, September 26 at Lima Estates at 7:00 p.m. for a special lecture**

### **MILLS OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY**

by Daniel T. Campbell, AIA, architect and long-time officer of SPOOM (The Society for the Preservation of Old Mills)

From the beginning of European settlement the creeks of Chester County (from which Delaware County was created in 1789) were a source of revenue for area residents. In 1699 William Penn partnered with Caleb Pusey and Samuel Carpenter to operate a grist mill along Chester Creek in Upland, only one of the hundreds of grist, saw, fulling and other mills, that lined the banks of our County's waterways flowing into the Delaware River going north from the Brandywine, to Chester, Ridley, Crum, Darby and Cobbs Creeks. Join Dan for the fascinating history of milling in southeastern PA and the process of locating and identifying these mills, whether still existing, re-purposed or in some degree of decay.

*In case of inclement weather or changes in the schedule please visit our website [www.mthsdelco.org](http://www.mthsdelco.org) or call 610-316-5620.*