

April 1681, William Penn made his cousin William Markham deputy governor of the Province of Pennsylvania, and sent him to Pennsylvania to take control. Penn, age 38, arrived in New Castle on the ship *Welcome* in October 1682. A day later he sailed upriver to Upland (now Chester). After conducting a period of business there, he sailed for his first time, to Philadelphia. Most people coming to Pennsylvania in this time period, landed in Upland, few in Philadelphia, as it was just being established.

Pennsylvania's first three counties were Chester County founded in 1681, Philadelphia County founded in 1682 and Bucks County founded in 1683. Historical documents vary on this, some indicating all three founded in 1682.

In 1687 The Court of Equity in Chester recognized Thornbury as a separate Township and the Township was incorporated. Because Delaware County had not been formed yet, our Thornbury was part of Chester County. Delaware County was formed September 26, 1789. Farmers in Thornbury and Birmingham Townships were allowed to choose whether they wanted their farms to remain in Chester County or be attached to the new Delaware County.

Sources reveal at the time of our Township's incorporation there were only five or six families owning property and living in our borders. Using a median number of five people per family, that would indicate a total population in 1687 of approximately twenty five to thirty people. Our population today is about eight five hundred (8,500).

Within a few miles of our township, in almost every direction, is a wealth of historical resources. If you go to the township website www.thornbury.org and go into the links, click on the Brandywine Conference and Visitors Bureaus. You will be able to find out as much information as you like. The following links are full of information as well, but the Visitor Bureau will be a more direct route for our historical resource purpose: www.brandywinebattlefield.org and www.ushistory.org/brandywine

You may enjoy local points of interest and upcoming events in this interesting economic environment. Lots of things to do inexpensively.

Linda Kaat, President of the Board of Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates reminds us to save Friday September 11, 2009 for their Annual membership meeting and Commemoration Ceremony. The Battle of Brandywine (September 11, 1777) fought in the 10 square mile area surrounding this commemorative park was one of the largest land battles of the American Revolution. American force consisted of about 11,000 troops, commanded by Washington..... against approximately 18,000 British and Hessian troops commanded by Howe.

Chadds Ford Historical Society Chadds Ford Days "The Fair at the Ford" September 12 & 13, 2009 10 AM-5 PM Free Admission and Parking www.chaddsfordhistory.org The Society's mission... to preserve the properties, records, and artifacts; to interpret the history; to educate the public; concerning the way of life in the Chadds Ford area with emphasis on the eighteenth century.

Colonial Plantation Farm www.colonialplantation.org Located in Ridley Creek State Park in Edgemont, on 112 acres, the plantation provides the context of early American History, the setting where the impact of King George's taxes was felt. The Plantation's modest role – as a working farm operating with the methods and implements of colonial America – belies its significance as a living example of that period. Easy to get to, reasonable entrance fees, free parking, educational as well as makes one aware of how easy we have it to day. No hopping in the car and going to Wawa or Acme back then....

Bonner Park / Frazer Ruins....take a walk and learn more about Revolutionary War figure Persifer Frazer. Our Commission is in its next design stage of rebuilding portions of this historic structure for you to enjoy. We are also in the process of cutting a more direct and time saving trail from the Blossom Hill parking lot to the Ruins.

Keep an eye out for posters placed throughout the township and surrounding businesses for the Thornbury Township Delaware County Historical Society 5th annual barn dance Saturday November 7th Tickets are

limited so purchase them early. Call Joan Dehm (610-358-3397). Proceeds go to the preservation of our township's history. www.thornburghistoricalociety.org (under reconstruction)

We hope the information in this article proves to be worthwhile for your continued education of our township and its surrounding areas. These interrelated bits of knowledge helped to form Thornbury. If they light a spark in you to visit and help preserve some of our valued historical resources, that is our intent. Sources for this article (sometimes almost verbatim) come from a large library of books, articles, newsletters and websites.

“When the well is dry we know the worth of water”
-Ben Franklin