

## HISTORIC LECTURE SERIES

### **NEW! HERITAGE OF THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY**



Outside Philadelphia lies the Brandywine Valley, a beautiful region with rolling hills, farms, equestrian ranches and amber-leafed maples in the Fall. Beginning with the arrival of William Penn in October 1682, Heritage of the Brandywine Valley tells a captivating narrative of the area's 300-year history where statesmen, inventors, soldiers and artists helped to create the America we know today. Through stories of the Lenape Indians, early settlements, conflicts, grist and powder mills, the Underground Railroad and world-changing events, you'll meet E. I. du Pont, William Darlington, Bayard Taylor, Gilbert Cope and others – going 'behind the scenes' exploring their fascinating lives and achievements'.

### **FORGOTTEN FOUNDING FATHERS: PENNSYLVANIA AND DELAWARE IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**



This lecture explores the foundations of our republic, with a special emphasis on the key roles that ten men from Pennsylvania and Delaware played in our struggle for liberty and creation of our system of government. These individuals were active in this grand drama, framing the debates as signers of the *Declaration of Independence* and the *U.S. Constitution*, hands-on participants in events which helped form "a more perfect union."

### **THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN KENNETT SQUARE AND WILMINGTON: HOW PEACE-LOVING QUAKERS HELPED WIN THE CIVIL WAR**



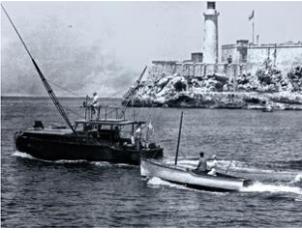
The Underground Railroad in Kennett Square, PA was a conduit for thousands of slaves to escape and gain their freedom. The Longwood Progressive Friends, a Quaker group, were active abolitionists. They believed that ending slavery would resolve the chaos enveloping the nation. Members of the group met with Lincoln at the White House in June 1862 to persuade him on this issue; the President later released the Emancipation Proclamation. This move allowed blacks to fight and bring victory in the Civil War.

### **MEET THE FOUNDING FATHERS: WHAT THEY THOUGHT ABOUT GOVERNMENT, TAXATION AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES**



Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, Franklin, Adams and Madison all had strongly held beliefs about the role of government, its presence in the lives of citizens and how the nation should proceed going forward. This lecture delves into the statements and mindset of the Founding Fathers, delivering insights into what they felt about centralized authority, political power... and their likely views about America today.

## HEMINGWAY, CUBA AND THE GULF STREAM



Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) lived for 61 years, but experienced more than most men see in five lifetimes. He resided in Cuba for 20 years. The island nation fascinated and inspired him to create some of his finest works, including *The Old Man and the Sea*, for which he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize in literature. Visits to his home, the Finca Vigia, his favorite watering hole El Floridita, the quaint fishing village of Cojimar enhance your understanding of this talented man who was one of the most important authors of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## ALEXANDER HAMILTON: ARCHITECT OF THE AMERICAN FINANCIAL SYSTEM



Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804) is one of the most important, yet least understood of the Founding Fathers. Orphaned as a young boy on the island of St. Croix, he later emigrated to the colonies and fought as a soldier in the American Revolution. He became a trusted aide-de-camp to General Washington, serving through most of the war and fighting at the final victory at Yorktown. Hamilton was an important contributor to the U.S. Constitution and the *Federalist Papers*, subsequently becoming the first Secretary of the Treasury, where he transformed a bankrupt nation into an efficient government able to pay its debts, issue currency and regulate trade. His accomplishments stand among the most critical in the founding of our nation. This lecture presentation is conducted by Gene Pisasale in full Continental Army officer's uniform, making Hamilton "come alive" for the audience.

## MYSTERIES OF THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER AND THE WAR OF 1812



The War of 1812 is a misunderstood and in many ways "forgotten war". Raging from June 1812 to January 1815, this conflict with the British was caused by continuing acts of piracy against American shipping and the impressment of thousands of sailors against their will. With battles occurring from the Great Lakes to New Orleans and both major oceans, the war saw the burning of much of our nation's capital and the near destruction of our military. Yet it had many positive repercussions. America proved herself, taking a place among the most powerful nations, gaining stature in the eyes of the world. An icon- the Star-Spangled Banner was born, the song becoming our National Anthem and the flag which flew above Fort McHenry treasured as proof of our dedication to liberty. Mysteries remain to this day surrounding important aspects of the Star-Spangled Banner. Fascinating highlights of the flag and the war are covered in this review of a critical period in American history.

## AMERICAN REVOLUTION TO FINE ART: BRANDYWINE VALLEY REFLECTIONS



The Brandywine Valley has been home to three signers of the Declaration of Independence, great artists and musicians as well as the scene of the largest land battle of the American Revolution. Its rolling hills and rustic splendor have captivated millions of visitors over the centuries. This presentation delves into more than 300 years of regional history and highlights fascinating people, places and events which shaped our heritage. This lecture complements Gene's book "*American Revolution to Fine Art – Brandywine Valley Reflections*".

## THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE: A FOUNDING SON OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



The Battle of the Brandywine was fought on September 11th, 1777 and was the largest land battle in North America up until the Civil War. The young Marquis de Lafayette fought along with George Washington's troops, putting his life and fortune on the line for our country. Lafayette participated in seven battles of the Revolutionary War and was a major force in helping us gain our independence from Great Britain. His heroism, dedication and support gains him the title of 'Founding Son' of the American Revolution. The lecture covers background on Lafayette, his role in the American Revolution and the historic events in the following decades after the Revolution.

## FRICK'S LOCK: A CHESTER COUNTY GHOST TOWN



Canals were a critical part of America's early transportation network. Allowing much easier movement of heavy commodities, the Schuylkill Canal, Erie Canal and others transformed our economy. Frick's Lock is a small village in northeastern Chester County with a link to the Industrial Revolution. It was once part of the bustling Schuylkill Canal, but now sits frozen in time, waiting to be rediscovered. This lecture takes guests on a trip back in time to the canal era of the early-mid 1800s, when barges moved coal, iron ore and vital supplies around our nation.

**"Abandoned Address: The Secret of Frick's Lock"** is an historical fiction mystery about the town of Frick's Lock.

## TEN DAYS IN PARIS: AN HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



This lecture presentation takes the viewer on an historic "walking tour" along the streets of Paris, Dijon, Rouen and Versailles, yielding new insights about the people and events which make the region so fascinating and Paris the **"City of Lights"**. The tour brings you to ruins of ancient Roman baths, Napoleon's Tomb, the Arc de Triomphe, the art enclave of Montmartre, the Eiffel Tower, watering holes of Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald, the Louvre, Notre Dame and several historic sites nearby. You'll feel as if you're right there- walking the streets and stopping in at some of the world's greatest museums, enjoying superb works of art and architecture at places of cultural interest.

## THE CIVIL WAR: A 150 YEAR RETROSPECTIVE



The lecture highlights America's most devastating war which raged from April 12, 1861 with the assault on Fort Sumter to April 9, 1865 with Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Spawned by the fight over slavery which dominated life in the southern states, northern abolitionists were dedicated to eradicating this horrendous practice. Just weeks after Abraham Lincoln was elected President, states began to secede and formed the Confederacy. After four years of stunning bloodshed, the war finally ended... but America would never be the same.

## THE CHRISTIAN C. SANDERSON MUSEUM: A MAN'S LIFE, A NATION'S HISTORY



Chris Sanderson for many years was the local "historian" of Chadds Ford, Pa. By the time he passed away at the age of 84 in 1966, he'd managed to collect over 18,000 artifacts and relics from days gone by- important mementos, autographs, military memorabilia, paintings, posters and other items from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World Wars I and II, all the way up through the 1960s. Sanderson was good friends with the three generations of the famous Wyeth

family- N.C., Andrew and Jamie, along with many other artists, statesmen and celebrities. The museum bearing his name is the work of many people, notably Tom Thompson and Andrew Wyeth; it was dedicated in 1967. This undiscovered "gem" awaits visitors to Chadds Ford. Gene's book **"The Christian Sanderson Museum- Tom Thompson Remembers"** describes the history and details surrounding this fascinating museum.

### About the Author:



Gene Pisasale is an historian and author who lives in Kennett Square, Pa. He's written ten books and contributes a column titled **"Living History"** to media in the Philadelphia area. He earned a Master's Degree *summa cum laude* in American history at American Public University. Gene began his career as a petroleum geologist after earning a Master's Degree in petroleum geology from The University of Texas at Austin. He later worked as an energy analyst and portfolio manager in the investment industry after earning an MBA Finance from San Diego State University, the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certifications. Gene has lectured at numerous venues, including **Fort**

**McHenry, Brandywine Battlefield Park** and the **Hamilton Grange**. He welcomes inquiries for presentations and other events.