

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHESTER COUNTY HISTORY CENTER EXPANDS "PLAGUES AND PESTILENCE" WALKING TOUR

West Chester, PA – Picture this: It's a sweltering summer day in 1870s West Chester, and you spot the elegant new marble fountain donated by Mrs. John Hickman. Gratefully, you reach for the tin cup dangling from its chain --the same cup used by dozens of strangers that day. You take a refreshing drink, never imagining this simple act might have just sealed your fate.

That beautiful marble planter you pass in front of the Chester County Courthouse is that very fountain --a silent witness to how disease spread when good intentions met deadly ignorance. The shared tin cup, meant as courtesy, became an unwitting accomplice to illness and death.

Stories like this one are exactly what visitors will discover on the Chester County History Center's expanded "Plagues and Pestilence" walking tour, which offers an engaging exploration of how past communities faced health challenges with resilience and ingenuity.

The expanded tour brings to life 18th and 19th-century residents who navigated epidemics with limited medical knowledge. Visitors will discover stories of community response, evolving burial practices, early medical innovations, and the social changes that emerged from health crises.

"This tour shows how Chester County residents faced uncertainty with resourcefulness and community spirit," said Conor Hepp, President of Chester County History Center. "These historical stories remind us that communities have always found ways to care for each other during difficult times."

Tours have multiple dates/times in September and October and depart from the Chester County History Center at 225 North High Street, West Chester, PA. Tickets and schedules are available at www.mycchc.org.

ABOUT THE CHESTER COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

Chester County History Center is a non-profit history museum and educational organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the diverse history of Chester County and beyond. With a focus on inclusivity and education, CCHC seeks to connect the stories of the past with the challenges and opportunities of today.

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Image Attachments:

Drinking Fountain West Chester. Source: CCHC Photo Archives

Plagues and Pestilence Artwork