

## Preserving History through Photography

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Coatesville

I'll be 57 years old this year and have lived in Coatesville all my life. I've had a passion for local history for most of my life and enjoy photography.

It's hard to pinpoint exactly when my interest in history started, but I can remember in 1976 the Bicentennial Wagon Train came through Chester County, first seeing it in Coatesville. I took some photos with a point-and-shoot camera with 126 film. I can remember my mother telling me that it would be going down in the history books.

There were a few buildings torn down in Coatesville in the late '70s and early '80s. I took photos of the buildings before they were torn down. It was probably right around that time I knew I could "document" our history through photos.

Since then I've taken many more photos throughout Chester County, primarily Coatesville. Today I have a collection of more than 2,000 photos throughout Chester County and more than 200 postcards of Coatesville.

I have also joined some various historic organizations. I am a member of the Downingtown Area Historical Society, Old Caln Historical Society, and the National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum.

I am also an active member of the Downingtown Historic Commission and the Coatesville Historical Commission. In 2015 the Coatesville Historical Commission played a part in celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Coatesville as a city.

I find the older I get, the more I enjoy history. I also enjoy researching history and finding ways to preserve history.