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[The King's Highway | Tacony Self Guided Walking Tour App](#)

[The King's Highway | Frankford Self Guided Walking Tour App](#)



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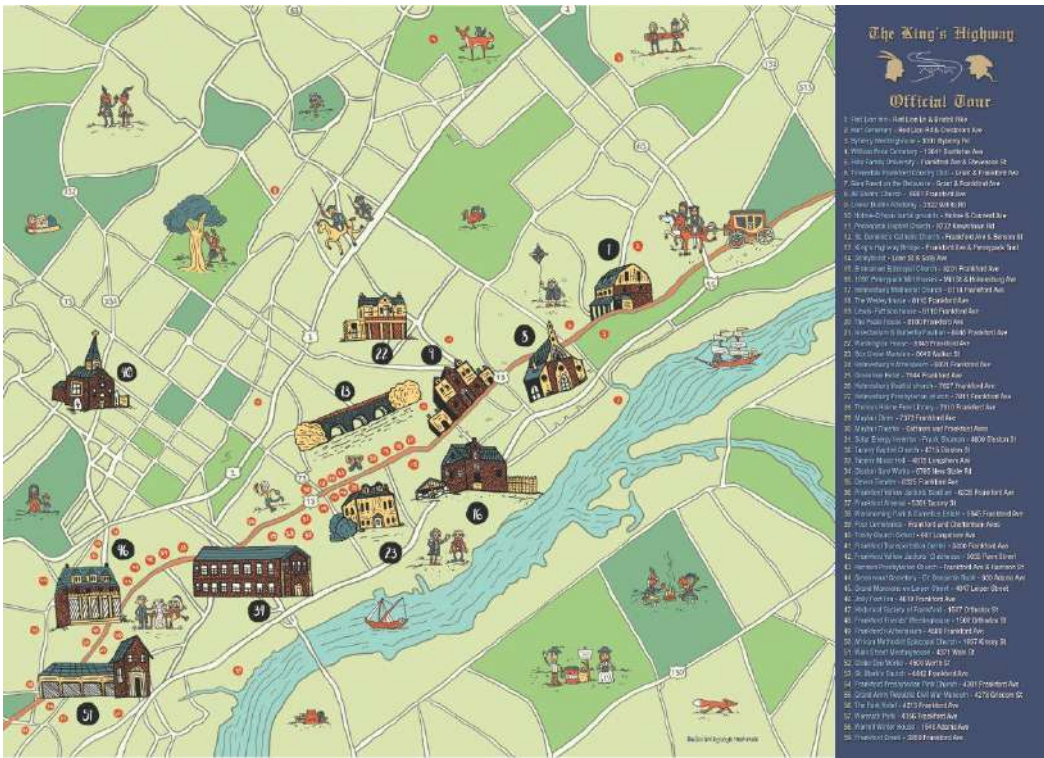


[Best Feature Documentary Audience Award at 2016 FirstGlance Film Festival](#)



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Official Map for the Bus Tour of the King's Highway:



Did You Know?

1. A portion of the King's Highway forms a National Historic Trail for the Washington-Philadelphia-Philadelphia-Philadelphia Trail. The road that leads to the Lower Merion Station in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, was built by the Continental Congress in 1777. The road that leads to the University City Station in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was built by the Continental Congress in 1777.

2. The King's Highway was the main route for the Continental Congress as they fled from Lancaster and York to Lancaster and York.

3. The King's Highway was the main route for the Continental Congress as they fled from Lancaster and York to Lancaster and York.

4. The King's Highway was the main route for the Continental Congress as they fled from Lancaster and York to Lancaster and York.

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9. The King's Highway was the main route for the Continental Congress as they fled from Lancaster and York to Lancaster and York.

10. The King's Highway was the main route for the Continental Congress as they fled from Lancaster and York to Lancaster and York.

Support our Initiatives

The King's Highway Trust is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the King's Highway. We are seeking great partners to help us with our initiatives. If you are interested in supporting our initiatives, please contact us at info@kinghighwaytrust.org.

Our initiatives include:

- Preservation of historic sites along the King's Highway.
- Promotion of the King's Highway as a historic and scenic route.
- Development of educational programs for students and the public.
- Support of local businesses and organizations along the King's Highway.

Tour Info

From the King's Highway Trust website, you can find all the information you need for your tour. The website includes a detailed map of the route, a list of stops, and information about the tour itself. You can also find information about the tour's history and significance.

For more information, visit our website at www.kinghighwaytrust.org.

Historic Site Info

1. Independence National Historical Park - 15th & Arch Sts.

2. Independence National Historical Park - 15th & Arch Sts.

3. Independence National Historical Park - 15th & Arch Sts.

4. Independence National Historical Park - 15th & Arch Sts.

5. Independence National Historical Park - 15th & Arch Sts.

6. Independence National Historical Park - 15th & Arch Sts.

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The Official Tour of

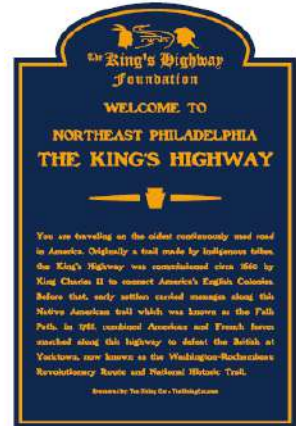
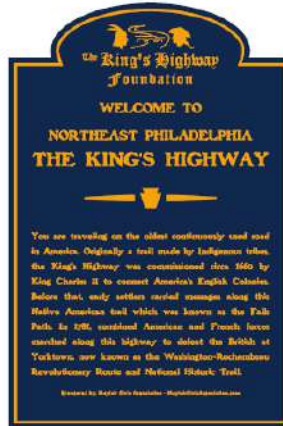
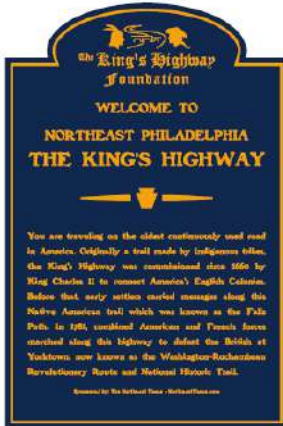
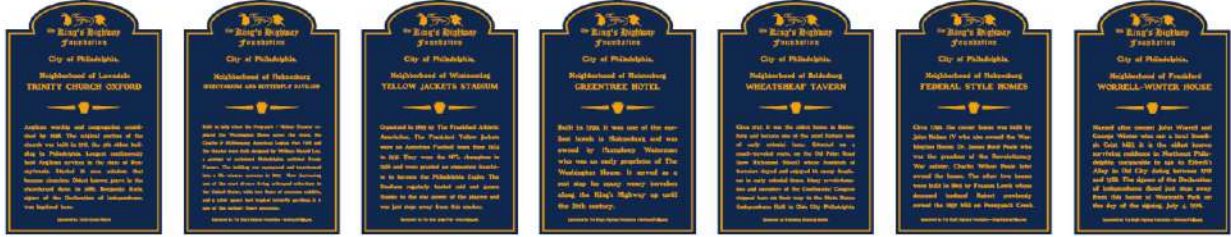
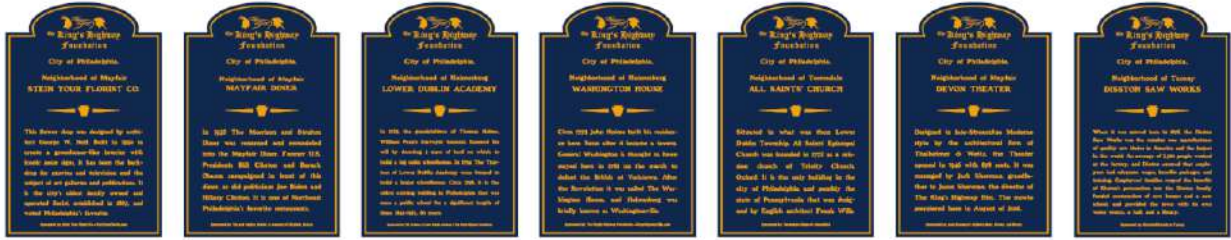
The King's Highway

Explore Historic Northeast Philadelphia as you travel along the oldest continuously used road in the United States of America on our official tour. Continues also the King's Highway was originally a trail made by the indigenous people who inhabited the land. Marked out in 1870 and authorized in 1886, it was the first legally laid out roadway in Pennsylvania.

Nearly every delegate from New England and New York attending the Continental Congress in Philadelphia traveled along this road. In 1771, colonial American and French armies led by General George Washington and General Jean-Baptiste Rochambeau marched along the King's Highway down to Yorktown, VA, to defeat General Cornwallis and the British army to give the United States of America its freedom once and for all.

Tour Map and Info **Inside!**

Historic Signage Program for the King's Highway:



The King's Highway Trust Foundation presents:

All FREE Events!

The First Annual Northeast Philadelphia History and Heritage Celebration



August 16th to 23rd, 2018

Details on the Back!

To be a Vendor or for Event info visit: <http://NPHHC.KingsHighwayFilm.com>

Thurs. Aug. 16, 1-3pm - Tacony Walking Tour!

Join Lou Iatarola Jr. on a walking tour of Tacony to visit several historic locations and hear stories of what took place in this charming National Heritage District!

Tacony Real Estate Co.
6913 Tulip St., Phila. PA. 19135

Thurs. Aug. 16, 6:30-9pm - Bus Tour, Movie & Festival!

Enjoy a bus tour to end at Cottman & Frankford for an outdoor festival, screening of The King's Highway Film, and a Q & A with the Director & Actors of the film! Sign up for the bus tour on KingsHighwayFilm.com

Depart from Cottman & Frankford Aves. 19135

Friday Aug. 17, 7-9pm - Share Your Story!

Be a part of history and share the stories of your family, ancestors, and everything Northeast Philadelphia in a fun and interactive series of workshops hosted by Manor College Professor Matthew Smalarz and moderated by Jason Sherman.

First Phila. Prep. Charter School
4300 Tacony Street, Phila. 19124

Saturday Aug. 18, 1-5pm - History & Heritage Festival!

Join The King's Highway Trust Foundation for a fun filled outdoor colonial-era event full of reenactments, costumed actors, colonial food and music, children's games, a raffle, interesting artifacts, and special guests throughout American history!

Pennypack on the Delaware, Enter:
7801 State Rd, Phila. PA 19136

Sunday Aug. 19, 1pm-2pm - King's Highway Day!

Come to a special ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication at the 1697 King's Highway bridge to honor the legislative resolution passed in Harrisburg that named Aug 20th "King's Highway Day"

The Pennypack Bridge
Frankford & Soly Ave, Phila. 19136

Sun. Aug. 19, 3pm-6pm - Tour, Artifacts & Photos!

Go on an architectural walking tour of Frankford at 3pm with Debbie Klak and Diane Sadler. Then see ancient artifacts & photos at the Historical Society of Frankford.

Historical Society of Frankford
1507 Orthodox St, Phila. 19124

Aug 23, 7pm-9:30pm - Movie Screening + Q&A

Come to a screening of The King's Highway and Q&A with preservationists and the director of the film, Hosted by KORHeritage, Venise Whitaker, and 1701 Frankford

Palmer Park at Frankford
Ave and Palmer St

VENDORS & MORE EVENT INFO:

To be a Vendor for the Aug. 18th Festival or for all event info please visit: <http://NPHHC.KingsHighwayFilm.com> as locations and times might be changed, and more events may be added! Also, please RSVP for the events on Facebook!

Special Thanks to our Key Sponsors:



House of Representatives passed Resolution 974 by State Rep Martina White - designating August 20, 2018, as King's Highway Day in Pennsylvania:



Preservationists Fight To Save One Of Oldest Buildings In Philadelphia

By Trang Do April 27, 2018 at 6:40 am Filed Under: Local TV, Lower Dublin Academy



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- 5 Grace Kelly's Philadelphia Childhood Home Restored, Back In Family Hands
- 6 Neighbors In Shock Over Death Of Toddler In Camden County
- 7 Woman Accused Of Stalking Man She Met Online; Sent Him 65,000 Text Messages
- 8 Top 5 Baby Names In The United States

f t in r +

PHILADELPHIA (CBS) - In a city rich with history, a group of preservationists is in a race against the clock to save one of the oldest buildings in Philadelphia.

The Lower Dublin Academy, built around 1800, could go to sheriff's sale as early as September, if relief doesn't come soon.

With the blessing of the building's owner, a filmmaker and entrepreneur named Jason Sherman is leading this effort. He is a third generation Northeast Philadelphian, who is committed to

NORTHEAST TIMES

Zone 1

www.NortheastTimes.com

50¢

NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA'S AWARD-WINNING COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2015

IN THE TIMES

Violent assault

Attackers sought for beating elderly man in NE home invasion. **Page 8.**

Big changes

Register of Wills candidate says he wants to abolish office. **Page 14.**

Season of fear

Terror Behind the Walls celebrates 25 years of horror. **Page 16.**

Voice of reason

Former NFL player from the Northeast now hosts sports talk show. **Page 42.**



MARIA S. YOUNG / TIMES PHOTO

A trip down memory lane: Jason Sherman stands under the Pennypack Bridge, the oldest roadway bridge in continuous use in the country. His documentary, *King's Highway*, gets its title from the Colonial-era name for Frankford Avenue.

► Local filmmaker Jason Sherman is creating a documentary about the Northeast's role in the development of America.

By Julie Zeglen
Northeast Times

Holmesburg resident Jason Sherman lives right near the oldest bridge in the New World, but it took a long time for him to realize it.

Sherman, 38, who lives near
See **HIGHWAY 1** Page 18

Highway of history



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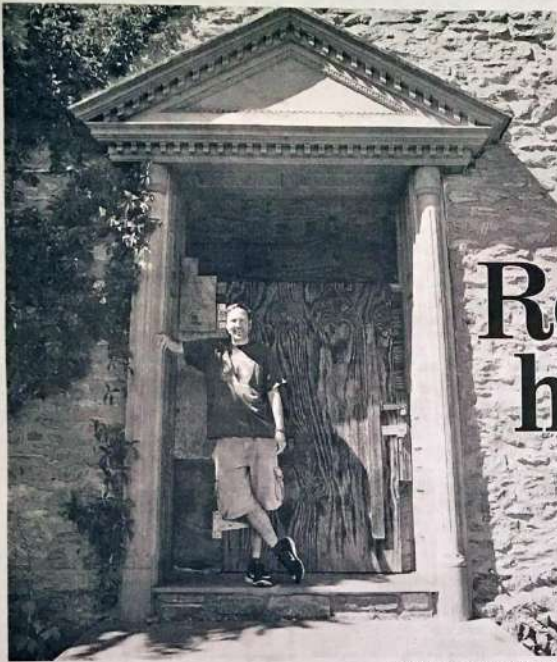


PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER SEAMANS

Saved from the wrecking ball: Jason Sherman stands in front of Lower Dublin Academy, the possible future home of a King's Highway museum.

By Christopher Seamans
For the Times

Look out, Society Hill. Northeast Philadelphia is looking to claim its rightful place in the history of Philadelphia, and the country as a whole. For many people, Philadelphia's history begins and ends in Center City — that's where Independence Hall, the Betsy Ross House, and all the tourists are, after all. Holmesburg resident Jason Sherman seeks to challenge that perception with his new documentary, *King's Highway*, which will be premiering at the Kimmel Center, 300 S. Broad St., on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

The film focuses on Frankford Avenue, which was part of a network of roads linking Charleston to Boston that was constructed between 1650 and 1735. It tells the thoroughfare's story from evi-

dence of its use as a Lenape trail as long as 6,000 years ago to modern concerns about the effects of gentrification in 21st century Fishtown.

Along the way, viewers are introduced to sites that many today do not even realize are historically significant, such as the Pennypack Creek Bridge.

Built on the orders of William Penn in 1697, cars still pass over the three-span bridge today, making it the oldest continuously used roadway bridge in the nation. Everybody who traveled on horseback between Philadelphia and the northern colonies, in either direction, crossed over that bridge.

That includes most of the Founding Fathers, including John Adams. George Washington passed over it many times, once in command of an Army — it's now part of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route historic trail — and

► Holmesburg resident seeks to raise awareness about historical significance of Frankford Avenue with premiere of documentary.

once on his way to the first U.S. presidential inauguration in New York.

"Most of the stories that are told in the documentary have never been told before, whether on camera or in interviews," Sherman said. "These are stories that have been forgotten about, they've been overlooked."

The director's cut of the film, which

then won't be there," Sherman said.

Sherman is in the process of founding the King's Highway Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public on the history of the area, preserving its buildings, and engaging the community with tours and events.

The organization has already scored its first victory — helping to obtain historic status for the former Lower Dublin Academy, 9125 Academy Road.

The school was built in 1798 using funds left in the will of Philadelphia's chief surveyor, Thomas Holme. It continued to function as a public school until 1925, making it the oldest continuously operating public school in Pennsylvania. It served as a private residence until it went vacant in the 1990s. In the early 2000s, it was renovated for use as offices, but it became vacant again after being heavily damaged by a fire in 2006. For the last decade, it has lived under the shadow of the wrecking ball.

On Wednesday, Sept. 14, the building was added to the Philadelphia Historical Register.

The next step is to purchase the building, rehab it, and turn it into a museum, cultural center and café, so people can actually come visit, look at artifacts, look at deeds, documents, and maps, or sit down and watch a show with people in colonial dress reenacting the Declaration signers," Sherman said.

The proceeds from the Kimmel Center premiere are going right into the King's Highway Foundation, to support the first set of bus tours and colonial-themed events. In the long term, however, the project is going to take support in the form of volunteers and donations to get the foundation and the planned museum started.

According to Sherman, the best way to get involved right now is to join the King's Highway group on Facebook.

"We are really hoping to get local businesses — lumberyards, contractors, home renovation specialists — to help us rebuild the Lower Dublin Academy. Just like on Lincoln High School's field you have all the plaques of all the businesses that sponsored it, we'll do the same at Lower Dublin Academy and on our website." ••

Tickets for the premiere of *The King's Highway* are \$10 and can be purchased at kimmel.kingshighwayfilm.com. For information, visit kingshighwayfilm.com.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

Road to history

devotes more time to locations of interest specifically to a hometown audience familiar with the history of the area, has already seen limited release. It even had a special screening at the Devon Theater, 6325 Frankford Ave., which Sherman's grandfather, Jack Sherman, ran from 1946 to 1996. A new version of *King's Highway* has been cut for its theatrical premiere at the Kimmel Center.

"The theatrical version is an eye-opener," Sherman explained. "It's an awakener. It's for people who either don't know about this history or aren't from around here, to let them know that a lot of the stories, a lot of the people and a lot of the facts of how America formed did not happen in Center City, they happened along the King's Highway in Northeast Philadelphia's neighborhoods."

The film closes with a look at what's being done to preserve the rich history of the King's Highway.

Spoiler warning: It's not enough.

Many historic locations in the area have been lost already, including all of The Colonial Era inns and taverns along the route. Most of the rest are endangered. Currently, only about 2 percent of the city's historic sites are protected.

In that sense, the film represents the first chapter of a larger and more ambitious story — the revitalization of a neighborhood.

"I feel compelled to help save the area because if I don't do it and the people that I'm working with don't do it, then who is going to do it? Nobody. And

Philly Jesus looking for a GoFundMe miracle. **B7**

LOCAL NEWS

Film tribute to a path well traveled

Tracing the winding history of the King's Highway in Northeast Philadelphia, the state's oldest road.

By Jeff Gammage
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Jason Sherman felt he had to speak up — for a road.

An old road, one that served as an Indian trail in the age before settlers arrived, was later traveled by the likes of William Penn and George Washington, and today endures as the busy asphalt thoroughfare of Frankford Avenue.

It was christened 300 years ago under a grander name: the King's Highway.

It's the oldest road in Pennsylvania, marked by the oldest surviving road bridge in the country. Now it's the focus of a forthcoming film that claims for Northeast Philadelphia some of the early American glow that shines so brightly in Center City.

"People know about Independence Hall, the signing of the Declaration, and the Liberty Bell," Sherman said. "When I tell them that the 'oldest this' or 'first that' is here in Northeast Philly, they don't know about that."

His movie, *The King's Highway*, aims to change that — to engage the Northeast in the larger conversation and spur interest in preserving remaining structures along the highway, where demolition has been extensive.

Sherman, 39, isn't a full-time filmmaker. He describes himself as an entrepreneur, writer, photographer, Web designer, videographer, and creative human.

But he has experience in film. His previous movie, *The Bucks County Massacre*, was a modern *Blair Witch*-style horror film (tagline: *The birthday party that became a funeral*). It was produced for \$50,000 in 2010 and won an audience-choice award at the New Hope Film Festival.

Sherman grew interested in the See **ROAD** on B4

Jason Sherman in front of the King's Highway Bridge, the oldest surviving road span in the country, built in 1697 to cross the Pennypack Creek. MICHAEL BRVANT / Staff





PHOTOS COURTESY OF KINGSHIGHWAYFILM.COM

Still shots featured on The King's Highway website. (L to R) First postal map of New England. Former Bridesburg Public School. Frankford Bridge, 1697.

Frankford Avenue: More than what meets the eye

By Julie Zeglen
Star Editor

Holmesburg resident Jason Sherman lives right next to the oldest bridge in the New World, but it took a long time for him to realize it.

Sherman, 38, who lives now at Frankford and Sheffield avenues, grew up in various neighborhoods of the Northeast, and his family has been in the area for over 100 years.

He didn't consider his neighborhood's history, though, until he read a July *Northeast Times* article about the Friends of Pennypack Park's free tours of the park that mentioned that the area was once the hunting ground of Native Americans.

He began doing his own research, and soon enough, he learned that the Pennypack Bridge, across which he often walked his dog, is the oldest footbridge in continuous use in the country.

Sherman was shocked to realize that local historians and historical societies "have been spending their whole lives [studying] this, and nobody knows" the area's rich history.

So, he set out to change that.

The King's Highway is an in-the-works documentary film about Northeast Philadelphia's role in the development of the country. Neighborhoods explored in the film are Bridesburg, Fishtown, Kensington, Port Richmond, Frankford, Holmesburg, Tacony, Wissinoming, Fox Chase, Bustleton, Byberry, Sunerton, Mayfair, Oxford Circle, Torresdale, Pennypack Creek, Poquessing Creek, and Frankford-Tacony Creek.

The documentary will begin by describing the area in the 1600s, when the Swedes and Dutch lived there, then the area's industrial boom, then its role in the Revolutionary War.

The delegates of the Continental Congress used to meet in the Northeast in the 1770s, Sherman said. A combination tavern, stagecoach stop and postal stop called The Jolly Post Inn once stood on Frankford

Avenue near Orthodox Street and hosted travelers of all manners of importance who held conversations about how best to separate from England, among other revolutionary topics.

After this period, the film will describe the area's role in the Civil War, the time when the African American population began to own land, and the establishment of now-historic churches. It will end by looking at the importance of registering significant buildings on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

Specific places discussed in the film include Penn Treaty Park, where Native American chiefs once congregated; manufacturing hubs such as the Disston Saw Works; the Grand Army of the Republic Museum and Library; numerous churches, such as the Pennypack Baptist Church; and more.

Over 50 local historians, archivists, archaeologists, heads of local historical societies and civic associations, politicians, and ancestors of the founders of Philadelphia were interviewed for the film.

The film's title refers to former name of Frankford Avenue, which runs from the Delaware River in Fishtown through the Northeast to Bucks County, where it becomes Bristol Pike. This route is known as the oldest road in American and was once traversed by Native Americans, George Washington and the Continental Congress until it eventually became the modern avenue it is today. The name "King's Highway" was used from 1683 to about the 1800s, according to Sherman.

Former Holmesburg resident Fred Moore is involved with the Northeast Philadelphia History Network, a group of local historical societies and individuals interested in discussing the area's history, and is a featured interviewee in the documentary.

About the Northeast, he said, "its history has not been properly documented. We need to do a much better job."

Moore is concerned about the number of historic and historical buildings in the Northeast that have been demolished to make way for development.

"If the buildings aren't there anymore and all you see is a bunch of condos, you're not gonna ask, 'Oh, I wonder what used to be where those condos are?'" he said. "That doesn't pique your interest. An old building does."

"We need to have a smattering, at least, of historic structures to wonder about and touch and go up to and maybe even walk in them and think of the people who might have lived in them."

Ken Milano, also a featured interviewee, is a Fishtown-based historian whose family has lived in the Kensington area for 170 years. He has written six books on the histories of Penn Treaty Park, Palmer Cemetery, the anti-Irish riots that occurred in Kensington in the 1840s, and more.

Milano laments that "perfectly good homes from the 1820s are being knocked down and built [upon]" in Fishtown.

"Gentrification is now the biggest event since they bulldozed it for the highway [in the 1960s], and it's really changing the neighborhood," he said. "It's certainly not the Fishtown we knew."

There are pros and cons to these changes, Milano said, but overall, he thinks that if people were more aware of the area's history, they might think differently about its future. "It's important to know what came before you," he said.

The King's Highway crew is about halfway through shooting, and Sherman expects editing to begin in the wintertime. The film will be released sometime in the late spring or early summer. It will run approximately an hour and a half.

A Kickstarter for the film will go live on Monday, Oct. 12. Money raised will go toward submission fees for film festivals and other expenses. A teaser trailer and still shots from the film can be seen now at kingshighwayfilm.com.

Eventually, Sherman hopes to get the film into area movie theaters, as well as to establish a bus tour of the locations mentioned in the film with local historians as tour guides. If the film is well-received, he may also pitch it as a series to PBS.

"We have a chance here to really make the Northeast come out," he said. ■■

► Holmesburg resident making documentary about the street once known as "The King's Highway."

NORTHEAST TIMES

Zone 6

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NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA'S AWARD-WINNING COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018

IN THE TIMES

Joining together

7th District captain talks police-community partnership. **Page 6.**

From death row

Documentary examines the 1988 murder of Castor Gardens girl. **Page 8.**

On the road

Joe DeFelice tours Tacony, Mayfair and Frankford with members of his staff. **Page 16.**

Flower power

After starting as a freshman, Little Flower pitcher ready for softball season. **Page 36.**



LOGAN KRUM / TIMES PHOTO

Roots of Philadelphia: Jason Sherman stands in front of the old Greentree Hotel at 7944 Frankford Ave. The historic building is one of many locations on Sherman's King's Highway Tour.

Hidden history

► Jason Sherman designed a sight-seeing tour to celebrate the history of the Northeast.

By Logan Krum
Northeast Times

Walking through a stretch of Pennypack Park tucked away between Holmesburg and Frankford avenues, Jason Sherman is devastated to see a forked sycamore tree has been damaged by a fallen trunk.

"Someone's gotta fight for those trees," he mutters as we hike back up the slope back to the trail, twigs and rotting leaves crunching under our feet. The fallen trunk landed in the sycamore's fork; one trunk remained standing straight, but the other appeared to be bent at the roots. Bark is scraped away to reveal the white wood underneath, possibly meaning the full trunk landed right on it and rolled

See **HISTORY** / Page 18

HISTORY

► Continued from Page 1

down its side.

We had taken a brief detour from our walk around historic Holmesburg, a route Sherman had mapped out. He wanted to show me a site he couldn't include on his tour. After walking through the muddy path and passing under an old broken street lamp, it became obvious why. Fallen branches and overgrown sprouts snag at our clothes.

The forked tree is one of the last surviving markers of the 1697 Pennypack Grist Mill. It's where the nearby Mill Street got its name. A 1900s photograph of the mill's remnants shows the double sycamore.

It's the hardest spot to reach on our tour, which is why it wasn't included in Sherman's app, but it's well worth the view. We're finishing up our hour-long tour of historic sites in the area, guided by the app "Sidewalk," which gives detailed maps and trivia about the area that otherwise just looks like a typical neighborhood.

As we walk, he tells me about everything else Northeast-centric he's been working on. Since we last talked, plenty of progress has been made. Some of these projects aren't ready for the public eye yet. But Sherman has a vision for the Northeast, and it's coming along quickly.

"This is just the beginning," he said as we reached the trail again.

KING'S HIGHWAY BRIDGE

Our tour starts at the King's Highway Bridge, the oldest bridge still in use in the country. Of course, it's not in use at the moment — it's covered in web-like metal latticework as construction ensures it can continue to hold its historic title.

"I guess you can click, I'm here now," Sherman said. We both have our phones

out. We take pictures of the bridge next to the whispering water of the stream under the bridge which is somehow more symmetrically beautiful with the artificial additions surrounding it.

This was the bridge that started it all for Sherman. He was torn between buying a house in the Northeast or in Fishtown — a decision, he said, that led him to create his documentary, *The King's Highway*, about the area's lush history.

He ended up with a property close to the historic bridge, though wasn't aware of its history until, by chance, he checked out an issue of the *Times*. In it was an article discussing the area's lush history, which sparked his own interest.

The property he was eyeing in Fishtown may now have a lofty price tag, but he can't let that bother him.

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Every time the *Times* checks in with Sherman, it's because he's undertaking an ambitious new project related to the area. This time, there's several.

"Sidewalk" is guiding us to each stop. The Emmanuel Episcopal Church is third on the 11-stop tour.

When you open the app, the King's Highway Tour is the first thing you'll see. Sherman said the creators wanted to show off the tour as an example of what the app can do — it's meant to get you out exploring areas you wouldn't normally. It's like "Pokemon GO" for adults. Sherman's tour is one of the first in Philly — currently, most take you to touristy spots in New York City.

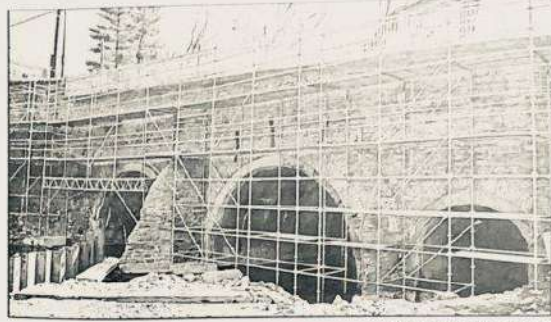
The app is available on iTunes and the Google Play Store. Once you're at the bridge, you can start the tour. It will give you walking routes to the next stop as well as trivia and suggestions from Sherman.

At the church, Sherman's trivia encourages you to walk through the gravestones to see how far they date.

There are plenty of familiar names on the stones — Casior, Hartel, Rowland, Fox. All names of people nearby roads have been named after.

We find the stone of Elizabeth R. Warrington, wife of Andreas Hartel, the namesake of Hartel Avenue. She was born in 1830 and died just before the turn of the 20th century.

It's far from the oldest stone in the area, but



Bridging the gap: Jason Sherman's tour starts at the King's Highway Bridge, the oldest bridge still in use in the country.

what fun would it be if I spoiled it here?

GREENTREE HOTEL

I stand in the middle of Frankford Avenue, cars whizzing just feet behind me, to capture the full building that was once a hotel with Sherman posing in front for a photo. The old Greentree Hotel is one of Sherman's favorite buildings in the area.

It's owned by O'Neill Insurance Providers now, but back in 1799, the building at 7944 Frankford Ave. was used for weary Highway travelers to pause and to rest.

The "Sidewalk" tour is just a small leg of the official King's Highway tour, which has 59 spots to check out. Official maps of the full tour are now available at select locations, such as Stein Your Florist, Sharoo Owens State Farm, Giggles Gifts, the Insectarium, Grey Lodge and Mayfair Diner. The maps were illustrated by Leigh Menkevich, whose father, Joe, works to get local sites historically nominated.

One stop that's on the official tour but not the walking tour is Lower Dublin Academy. Sherman is in early talks with the owner of the historic building to discuss logistics to transfer ownership to Sherman and the King's Highway Foundation. As he told the *Times* before, he wants to convert the building into a museum that showcases history from every Northeast neighborhood as an "anchor" for the area. Still, there's a lot to figure out with the logistics of making that happen. But two months ago, it was just a spec on the horizon. Now, it's gotten a lot closer to reality.

Sherman thanks the work of everyone involved in the King's Highway

Foundation and Northeast Philadelphia Initiative, including Mia Hylan, Tara Gontek, Ten Grambrecht, Cathy Reynolds, John Cambridge and area politicians. He also thanks local historians Fred Moore and Lou Iatarola Jr.

"The owner of the building is supportive," Sherman said. "That's a huge step."

THE WASHINGTON HOUSE

Once we're back on the trail after leaving the old mill site, the tour is mostly done. It took us about an hour, but we whipped through some of the stops, and meandered off trail. Sherman ponders about whom to contact to get the fallen trunk cleaned up. As we walk, he brings up a pipe dream.

"This morning, I was having breakfast and I was just imagining being here in the 1700s," he said.

Even though it no longer remains, Sherman included the Washington House on his tours. Its history is something he laments over. It was built circa 1773 by John Holme, the founder of Holmesburg, and is thought to have been occupied in 1781 by George Washington on the march to defeat the British at Yorktown.

The building was torn down in the 1920s to build the Holmesburg Theater, another ranting point of Sherman's, as it was used as a theater for only a short time (it's not known exactly when) before being shut down.

"I would go back then and somehow buy all the buildings that were knocked down, like the Washington House," he said wistfully, as we reached the end of the trail. "Then one day I'm here, and I own all the buildings. You can't knock them down." ■■



NORTHEAST TIMES

Zone 6

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NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA'S AWARD-WINNING COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2018

IN THE TIMES

Charges filed

Man arrested for locking his blind brother in a trailer. **Page 8.**

Signed into law

New law will help children of police officers killed in the line of duty. **Page 14.**

Steps to secure

Local students participate in the Gator Walk to raise money for security. **Page 16.**

Top athletes

Northeast Times announces winners to be honored at sports banquet. **Page 50.**



LOGAN KRUM / TIMES PHOTO

Historical adventures: Last week, the King's Highway Foundation hosted the first-ever official bus tour. Historians Debbie Klak and Jason Sherman (pictured) led the tour, which explored ancient schools, churches, cemeteries, mansions and other buildings in Frankford.

A familiar road

► The King's Highway Foundation offered its first-ever tour of the historic road that is now known as Frankford Avenue.

By Logan Krum
Northeast Times

1781. Cheers rise from villagers as the sound of marching grosses loader. Soon, the army is in sight — lead by Gen. George Washington and the Comte de Rochambeau. American and French troops march along the King's Highway on their way to Yorktown, Virginia, and toward declaring America's hard-won independence.

That particular segment of history is already famous, but residents of Northeast
See **KING'S HIGHWAY** / **Page 18**



LOGAN KRUM / TIMES PHOTOS

Quite a ride: The King's Highway Foundation hosted the first-ever bus tour, which features more than 50 historic sites. At left, last week's tour was given to the Torresdale Women's Committee, which reserved the trolley with around 30 seats.

KING'S HIGHWAY

► Continued from Page 1

Philadelphia may not be aware that some of it took place right in their neighborhood. What is currently a section of Frankford Avenue was once the highway Washington led his troops down, among many other historical treasures.

Last week, history was made on that trail again. The King's Highway Foundation hosted the first-ever official bus tour of the route, a tour a long time coming.

"This has been in the making for many years," said tour guide Debbie Klak as the trolley pulled out of the parking lot behind All Saints Episcopal Church.

Centuries, to be precise. The tour was given to the Torresdale Women's Committee, which reserved the trolley with around 30 seats. Historians Klak and Jason Sherman led the tour. Sherman dressed in time period-appropriate attire.

Use of the highway dates to 1667, when it was built by people indigenous to the area. It was officially marked as the King's Highway in 1675, and became the first legally laid out county road in Pennsylvania in 1686. The 1,300-mile road stretches from Charleston, South Carolina to Boston, Massachusetts.

The tour explored ancient schools, churches, cemeteries, mansions and other buildings in the area. One of the stops visited a home built from stone in Frankford, which is one of the oldest stone houses still standing in the city.

The deed of the house located at 1548 Adams Ave. dates it to 1725. It was set for demolition, but saved by a man whose real estate company inherited the building. Instead of knocking it down, he paid to have it fixed up.

Also in Frankford is the site where the Jolly Post Inn

once stood. A plaque now marks the location at the corner of Frankford Avenue and Orthodox Street. This was the place where Thomas Jefferson was assigned the most important task of his life.

"The continental Congress met [at the inn] in secret to decide who would write the Declaration of Independence," Sherman said. "They did not figure that out in Center City. They figured it out right in Northeast Philadelphia."

Klak is a Northeast Philadelphia historian who finds a lot of her information by looking at graveyard plots.

"I know I keep talking about cemeteries, but they're one of the best ways to discover who lived in the area," she said. She had pointed out the resting place of Thomas Holme, marked by a large stone obelisk in the Crispin burial grounds at Holme and Convent avenues. He was the founder of the Lower Dublin Academy, the

longest continually used school in the state.

The King's Highway Foundation has been working on rediscovering the area's hidden history for several years.

"The spirit of our ancestors and the indigenous tribes who created this road were with us on our historic journey," Sherman said.

Official maps of the tour featuring more than 50 historic sites are available at select locations, such as Stein Your Florist, Sharon Owens State Farm, Giggles Gifts, the Insectarium, Grey Lodge and Mayfair Diner.

Tours are not regularly scheduled — a trolley is rented for each tour. If a group of 30 people is assembled, they can reach out to info@kingshighwayfilm.com or call 215-396-8577 to set up a tour.

History buffs can also download the Sidewalk app to take a self-guided walking tour of the area. ♦♦



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WEDNESDAY MAY 2, 2018

NORTHEAST TIMES

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Embracing the past

► Jason Sherman is launching the Northeast Philadelphia Initiative to unite the neighborhoods and celebrate their combined history.

By Logan Krum
Northeast Times

Jason Sherman isn't satisfied with Northeast Philadelphia.

The director of the Northeast-centric documentary *The King's Highway* loves the Northeast, obviously — he wouldn't have directed an entire documentary about it and lived all of his life here otherwise.

But he has a radical vision for the area's future. He wants, and wholeheartedly believes, it can be a tourist destination.

Sherman said his documentary, which was released in 2016, was just the beginning. He's been enjoying unprecedented success — the doc found its way onto Amazon Prime's member streaming service, and was picked up by film distributor Indie Rights for worldwide distribution.

"I put two years of my life into the movie, but I didn't know what was going to happen," he said. "Thousands of people have seen this movie."

But his work in the Northeast is far from over. Here's Sherman's vision in short: He wants to unify all neighborhoods in the Northeast to collectively celebrate the history of the area. Specifically, he wants to launch a bus tour and convert one of the area's most historic buildings into a museum that celebrates the area.

Here's what he has planned.

NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA INITIATIVE

Northeast Philadelphia is far from being Center City Philadelphia, Sherman says, for many reasons.

"Center City is a well-oiled machine," he said. "They have Old City, they have historical areas, preservation areas, parks. They have everything working in unison to promote Philadelphia."

Sherman said the feelings of unity don't apply to Northeast Philadelphia, and that organizations he's worked with are mostly concerned with forwarding their own agendas.

"We need to promote all our areas," he said.

To help bring the neighborhoods together, Sherman is spearheading the Northeast Philadelphia Initiative, what he describes as a news aggregator that will give Northeast Philadelphians a single destination to find



LOGAN KRUM / TIMES PHOTO

Keeping history alive: Jason Sherman, director of *The King's Highway*, wants to launch a bus tour and convert one of the area's most historic buildings into a museum that celebrates the area.

out all their information, including news and events.

NortheastPhilly.org is intended to be a central repository for information about the area, including news, entertainment and history.

It's not a solo effort. Since bringing on a team, Sherman said he's noticed productivity multiply.

"The Northeast has every recipe to become a destination," said Tara Gontek. She is president of the Holmesburg Civic Association, and serves on the initiative's board of directors.

"It houses more or less the social-economic status of this country. It reflects the recent migration patterns and is also affected by the rolling inner city population due to gentrification," she said. "These are current events. These are hot topics now. Whatever you want to learn about America is here in the Northeast. It is America then and it is America now."

As Sherman puts it, the Northeast deserves the credit and recognition Center City does.

"We built Center City," he said, hitting his fist against the table each word for emphasis. "We traveled down King's Highway every day to build the buildings William Penn's statue on City Hall, that was built in Tacony."

The initiative has four main goals: starting a historic bus tour (more on that below), attracting tourism, saving historic buildings and uniting the neighborhoods.

"If every neighborhood could lend 10 percent of their time and resources to this, then we will be able to make it bigger, better, faster," he said. "We could get larger budgets, more tourism, and the awareness level multiplies."

neighborhood, creating an "anchor" for the area.

"If we work together, we can pull this off," he said. Sherman said if/when the museum opens, he would go to every organization in the Northeast and hopefully have them contribute something to display.

He estimates the project would take \$1.2 million to pull off, which he is in the beginning stages of raising money for. He hopes once the project gains traction, it will receive grants and donations, but right now is focused on assembling a team to get started.

Luka Lakuriqi, vice president of Holmesburg Civic Association, has been working on preliminary sketches for the museum featuring two exhibit rooms.

Lakuriqi, who has a background in architecture, has preliminary sketches showcasing an outdoor area with gardens, benches and parks, as well as an indoor com-

BUS TOUR

Part of what unites the Northeast is its shared history. Sherman's documentary focuses on King's Highway, a stretch of road laid out in the original colonies in the 17th century.

Today, it's covered by modern roads and highways, but the original road stretched 1,300 miles from Boston to Charlestown, passing through Philadelphia over what is currently Frankford Avenue. Sherman says the road is packed with history that is not being celebrated. For example, in 1786 George Washington crossed the Frankford Avenue Bridge (also referred to as Pennypack Creek Bridge) on his way to the first presidential inauguration.

As the Initiative's first priority, Sherman is organizing the King's Highway Bus Tour that will take participants to about 56 sites along the historic road, including Lower Dublin Academy, many churches and graveyards, and a stop at Frankford Creek.

The bus tour was scheduled to begin this spring but will be postponed until renovations on the 1697 King's High Bridge are completed, which Sherman said are expected to be this year. Tickets will be available on the Initiative's website.

In the meantime, Sherman is working on raising funds and creating metal signage to display along the highway that will signify the historic landmarks. A preliminary design displayed text saying, "You are traveling on the oldest road in America," which Sherman said would be displayed on blocks that did not have signs for specific landmarks.

Please see **HISTORY** | Page 13

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2018

HISTORY

► Continued from Page 12

LOWER DUBLIN ACADEMY

Lower Dublin Academy is the oldest standing school building in Pennsylvania. The building was saved by Northeast resident Joe Menkevich, who submitted the successful proposal for its historical designation. Sherman believes the building's lifespan is far from over.

"The Northeast Philadelphia Museum of American History," Sherman said. "That's the goal."

Sherman envisions turning the building into a museum that showcases history from every Northeast

munity room.

"Imagine an old Greek vase that has fallen apart," Lakuriqi said. "The individual pieces mean nothing, but put the vase together and it becomes a whole. That is my inspiration right now. My job is to maintain the historic pieces of the building while filling the gaps with today's needs."

There's still a lot to do before the museum can get underway, but Sherman is determined.

"I felt something magical was going on in Northeast Philly, but no one was helping it grow," he said. "If there's one thing I'm really good at, it's raising awareness to something."

His ambitious plans will require help. Sherman said anyone interested in helping could contact him at [Hello@NortheastPhilly.org](mailto>Hello@NortheastPhilly.org)

NORTHEAST TIMES

Zone 6

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NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA'S AWARD-WINNING COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018

IN THE TIMES

Summer vibes

For the first time, Wawa Welcome America comes to the Northeast on Saturday. **Page 6.**

Making a splash

Kenney officially opens Philly's public pools in Lawncrest. **Page 16.**

Sign of the times

King's Highway Trust Foundation mounts historic designation signs. **Page 32.**

They're on a roll

Local students helped their school win four championships this year. **Page 36.**

A cut above the rest

► **Mayfair resident Joshua Santiago offers free haircuts to homeless people to boost their self-confidence.**

By **Logan Krum**
Northeast Times

Driving through the streets of Kensington, Joshua Santiago pulls his dark blue Jeep Compass to the curb near the intersection of Lehigh and Frankford avenues. Tents are pitched in the shade cast by an overhead bridge — this is where heroin encampments have been set up since last fall.

Santiago has spotted his next customer, a man named Bruce wearing a plain white T-shirt, his wispy chin hair tied together and

See **EMPOWERING** / **Page 18**

LOGAN KRUM / TIMES PHOTO

A fresh look: Mayfair resident Joshua Santiago, 27, has created Empowering Cuts, where he offers free haircuts to people in need. He shaves the head of Bruce, who has lived at the heroin encampments in Kensington for the past month.



Sign of the times

► The King's Highway Trust Foundation has mounted historic designation signs along Frankford Avenue.

By Logan Krum
Northeast Times

As of about two weeks ago, a simple walk along Frankford Avenue can supply an entire history lesson.

Signs demarcating historic or influential sites like The Devon Theater, Red Lion Inn and the Thomas Holme Free Library were placed by the King's Highway Trust Foundation June 14.

The signs are meant to provide historical context to Frankford Avenue, which used to be a highway in colonial times.

"Situated in what was then Lower Dublin Township, All Saint's Episcopal Church was founded in 1772 as a mission church of Trinity Church, Oxford. It is the only building in the city of Philadelphia that was designed by English architect Frank Wills," reads the sign outside of All Saints' Church.

Every time the *Times* checks in with founder Jason Sherman, he spiffers a number of updates on initiatives the foundation has been working on. The group's nonprofit declaration is one of them — now officially the King's Highway Trust Nonprofit, they have officially received their articles of incorporation and have applied for a 501(c)(3).

Here are some of the updates.

KING'S HIGHWAY DAY

August is going to be a big month for the KHTF.

On June 12, Sherman and Mia Hylan

traveled to the Pennsylvania State Capitol to watch the House of Representatives vote on PA House Resolution 974, introduced by State Rep. Martina White. The resolution would designate Aug. 20 as King's Highway Day in PA.

"They voted on the bill on the House of Representatives floor and had to say yea or nay," said a clearly excited Sherman as he drove along Frankford Avenue, taking in the mint condition signs. "I was on the floor wearing a suit. It was like being in a dream. It's so hard to put into words."

The resolution received unanimous approval.

"It is my honor to have my colleagues join me in recognizing Aug. 20, 2018, as King's Highway Day in Pennsylvania," White said after the vote.

That means Aug. 20 and the days leading up to it are going to be packed with activity for Northeast Philadelphia.

The First Annual Northeast Philadelphia History and Heritage Celebration will run Aug. 16 to 19 and will offer a number of attractions and activities.

Things kick off Aug. 16 with a walking tour of Tacony, the return of the bus tour and screening of the *King's Highway* documentary that started it all. Those on the bus tour will be dropped off at Cottman and Frankford avenues where an outdoor festival will be. The next few days will bring activities such as Share Your Story, where citizens can tell their own stories and their ancestors' through



LOGAN KRUM / TIMES PHOTO

Making their marker: The King's Highway Foundation recently installed signage to denote the history of the historic path. King's Highway Day will highlight the history of the area with multi-day events and demonstrations this August.

a series of interactive workshops.

A special ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held Aug. 19 at the 1697 King's Highway Bridge. There will be another festival that day at Pennypack on the Delaware that will place attendees right in the colonial era with reenactments, costumed actors, colonial food and music and much more.

This is just the beginning of what to expect that week. For further events and details, go to the holiday's website nphhc.kingshighwayfilm.com

PRESERVATION AWARD

Earlier in the month, King's Highway Foundation received the Preservation Education Award by the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia.

King's Highway was one of 20 award

recipients this year, and was honored for the documentary and efforts to save Lower Dublin Academy.

"The award is a testament to the work we've been doing and how important it is," Sherman said. "Saving a building is great, but spreading awareness to all of the buildings is important as well."

The foundation's other initiatives have included creating walking tours that lead tourists to historic sites and running a bus tour of the highway.

Sherman was surprised to learn his foundation was named a recipient.

"I was in shock," he said. "I couldn't believe they were giving us an award for something we didn't expect to get an award for. We were doing it because we want to help, and didn't expect to get an award out of it." ♦♦

King's Highway Day celebrating NE history

By Logan Krum
Northeast Times

History is making history this week in Northeast Philadelphia.

The King's Highway Trust Foundation will host the first Northeast Philadelphia History and Heritage Celebration, which will host events around the area from Aug. 16 to 23.

The celebration's climax will take place Sunday, Aug. 19, which is the day before King's Highway Day as declared by PA House Resolution 974. A special ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Pennypack Bridge.

Saturday's History and Heritage Festival at Pennypack on the Delaware will be another cornerstone for the celebration. The outdoor colonial-era event will feature reenactments, costumed actors, colonial food and music, children's games, a raffle, artifacts and special guests. Jason Sherman, creator of KHITF, teased that Ben Franklin himself would be in attendance.

One event is Share Your Story, an interactive workshop where local residents can sign up to talk about their family, ancestors and more. They will be asked to give one-word answers to various topics and share memories that will be recorded.

"We're going to try to get the people to tell their stories so that we can record them for future people to see and hear,"

Sherman said.

Sherman said the celebration is a way to continue to raise awareness of historic preservation in Northeast Philadelphia.

"What we are continuing to do now that we have helped the Lower Dublin Academy secure a future is continuing our quest to help other buildings in need," Sherman said.

Here's the full schedule:

- Tacony Walking Tour: Thursday, Aug. 16, 1 to 3 p.m. Lou Iatarola Jr. will visit several historic locations and tell stories of what took place in the district. Begins at Tacony Real Estate Co., 6913 Tulip St.

- Share Your Story: Friday, Aug. 17, 7 to 9 p.m. Become a part of history and share your stories about Northeast Philadelphia for future generations to hear. First Phila. Prep. Charter School, 4300 Tacony St.

- History & Heritage Festival: Saturday, Aug. 18, 1 to 5 p.m. Fun-filled outdoor festival featuring colonial-era costumes and activities. Pennypack on the Delaware. Enter at 7801 State Road.

- King's Highway Day Ribbon Cutting: Sunday, Aug. 19, 1 to 2 p.m. Special ribbon cutting in honor of King's Highway Day. The Pennypack Bridge, Frankford and Solly avenues.

- Frankford Architectural Tour: Sunday, Aug. 19, 3 to 6 p.m. Go on an architectural walking tour and then see ancient artifacts and photos. Begins at Historical Society of Frankford, 1507



TIMES FILE PHOTO

Highway to pride: Jason Sherman, creator of the King's Highway Day, will host the first Northeast Philadelphia History and Heritage Celebration beginning this week.

Orthodox St.

- Movie Screening and Q&A: Thursday, Aug. 23, 7 to 9:30 p.m. See a screening of *The King's Highway* movie and ask questions to filmmakers. Palmer Park at Frankford Avenue and Palmer Street.

The celebration is sponsored by Manor College. Thanks to the Historical Society of Frankford, KHITF will soon release a walking tour of Frankford. This will be its third tour after Holmesburg and Tacony. KHITF met with Elaine

Peden, a 90-year-old Northeast resident who worked for a decade to make William Penn an honorary American citizen. Sherman filmed a featurette to highlight her work in honor of King's Highway Day. The video is available at youtu.be/Bw1FEjQAEzM

"I hope that our indigenous and colonial ancestors, our forefathers and the people who built Northeast Philadelphia are proud of us for remembering them and celebrating their achievements," Sherman said. ♦♦



Making history

By Logan Krum
Northeast Times

History came to life last week in Northeast Philadelphia.

King's Highway Trust Foundation brought a week's worth of educational entertainment to the area in honor of King's Highway Day on Aug. 20. Over 200 residents attended the events.

"This week has been a tremendously humbling experience. Seeing all of the volunteers within various organizations working together on a common goal to celebrate Northeast Philadelphia history was a sight to be seen," said Jason Sherman, founder of KHTE.

The events began with a historic walking tour of Tacoma led by Lou Iatarola Jr. He showed the group of approximately 25 sites around the area in 90-degree heat, including St. Leo Church at Tulip and Keystone streets, which held its first Mass in 1884.

Other events included a Share Your Story, where 12 people verbally recorded their stories for future generations. Saturday saw the History & Heritage festival at Pennypack on the Delaware, which featured colonial costumes and food.

"Watching families and their children enjoy our entertainment and interactive exhibits was such a delight," Sherman said. "We will continue to spread awareness to our heritage and our history for years to come."

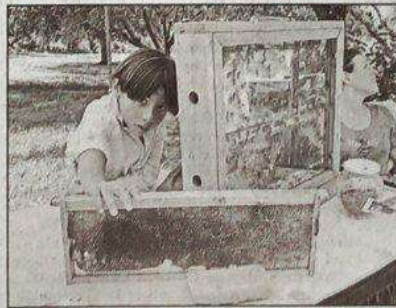
The day was commemorated with a ribbon cutting at Pennypack Bridge on Sunday.

Sherman said he plans for things to be bigger and better next year. **

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 22, 2018

"This week has been a tremendously humbling experience. Seeing all of the volunteers within various organizations working together on a common goal to celebrate Northeast Philadelphia history was a sight to be seen."

► Jason Sherman



NORTHEASTTIMES.COM



SOURCE: JASON SHERMAN

Walk down memory lane: More than 200 residents attended various events leading up to King's Highway Day on Aug. 20. The week long celebration was organized by King's Highway Trust Foundation in an effort to celebrate Northeast Philadelphia history.

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