

## *Christopher S. Witmer*

**M**r. Christopher Witmer is a retired attorney who has worked for both the non-profit and for-profit sector. During his career, he provided commercial transaction management and loan portfolio development for manufacturing, industrial, and agricultural clients.



Mr. Witmer received his BA from Pennsylvania State University and his MA from the University of Wisconsin, before he attended Widener University School of Law, where he was awarded his Juris Doctor degree. After undergraduate school, he was accepted in the Summer Fellowship program at Historic Deerfield Museum in Deerfield, MA. Over the years, he developed a network of experience through volunteer time at heritage sites. These include several National Park Service (NPS) sites – *viz.*, Valley Forge, Hopewell Village, Gettysburg Battlefield); a number of Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission (PHMC) sites – *viz.*, Daniel Boone Homestead, Conrad Weiser Homestead,

Washington’s Crossing, and the Pennsylvania Military Museum; and several heritage sites maintained by private foundations – *viz.*, Colonial Williamsburg, Goschenhoppen Folk Festival, Historic Schaefferstown, and Mt. Harmon Plantation). He currently serves as the vice-president of the Historic Barn and Farm Foundation of PA, an advocacy and grant organization that promotes Pennsylvania’s rich agricultural history and heritage. Additionally, he has been published and is an accomplished lecturer on the specifics of Pennsylvania Dutch culture and Pennsylvania agricultural history.

Mr. Witmer has a keen interest in the history of Colonial Pennsylvania, and particularly in architecture of the period. He resides in the deeply historical area of Berks County, PA, where he is a member of his church, the Worship Center of Leola, PA. He has a strong working knowledge of Pennsylvania Dutch, a unique German dialect that dates to Pennsylvania’s earliest settlers; and to foster his PA Dutch heritage, he has become adept at making apple butter every autumn in the traditional manner – *viz.*, in a 30-gallon copper kettle over an open fire. He enjoys cooking, hiking, photography, and doing various amounts of volunteer work; and he counts amongst his vast and varied interests the facts that he is an amateur entomologist, logician, and cartographer (or, map-maker).