



# The Mill at Anselma Internship

Andrew Ross

West Chester University of Pennsylvania

History Major

As the intern at the Mill at Anselma, I held a number of responsibilities. The first of my duties included reporting on time to help open up the mill. Second, I had to learn how to give outstanding tours around the mill property. Finally, I was to keep a daily journal, write a press release and conduct original independent research. Over the course of the semester, I inquired about the post office located on the Mill at Anselma property. Throughout my research I found out a great deal of information that will add to the history of the National Historic Landmark.

After visiting the Chester County Historical Society, I stumbled upon the Robert Brinton collection of post offices in Chester County's and was able to find a list of all the Postmasters of the Anselma Post Office from the time it opened in 1872 to the time it closed in 1958. The Chester County Historical Society has an amazing collection of information and was a great deal of help in conducting my research. This experience as an intern opened up my eyes to the real world in a way that class or a part time job never would have. The fact that I was able to get a taste of what it is like to work in the public history field makes me appreciate the time I spent at the Mill at Anselma immensely.

History is a very important, if not the most important, subject to study. Everything has history whether it be sports teams, food, countries, culture, science, no matter what the object is, it has history. As a history student at West Chester University, I learned that history is much more than regurgitating information about dates and events. Thinking like a historian is the idea of taking everything into consideration and coming up with the most plausible result. After reading about one side of a conflict, history majors must turn around full circle and inspect the other side of the source without bias. Looking at history this way is by far the most interesting because the most extreme sources can aid in understanding the historical context of any event.

To truly understand history, teachers, museum curators, tour guides, and anyone in the public history field should know not only the “truth” about history but more importantly the fallacies. To achieve this understanding of history, the historian must temporarily leave their beliefs behind and enter into a world unknown.

West Chester University has made opportunities accessible to me that went above and beyond my expectations. I have learned an unmeasurable amount over the past four years at WCU and matured from freshman to college graduate. I would highly recommend enrolling in an internship to challenge, teach and help the students of West Chester prepare for what the real world has to offer.