



*"YELVERTON COUNTRY" is the title of a lecture by Stephen Paul DeVillo 8 p.m. February 1 at the Chester Town Hall on Kings Highway between Chester and Sugar Loaf. Shown above is the home built by John Yelverton at an Orange County crossroads he called Chester in 1755; now a private residence, the house operated as an inn for many years and was visited by such 18th century personages as George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and Aaron Burr. (Photo by P.E. Clyne)*

## Chester heritage linked to England

What does the Orange County community of Chester have in common with a similarly named industrial city in England and with the hilly countryside of northern Wales?

That question will be answered in both word and picture when Stephen Paul DeVillo narrates the story of "Yelverton Country" at the Chester Town Hall on Friday evening, February 1.

DeVillo, recently elected Welsh chairman of the Celtic League American Branch, spent part of last summer touring Wales, recording its scenery and culture in a collection of color slides.

As he went from hilltop castle to subterranean coal

mine and on to the stone circles that commemorate the still-strong Bardic tradition of Wales, DeVillo also kept an eye out for traces of John Yelverton, a Welshman born in 1693 who founded the Orange County Village of Chester.

Yelverton named Chester after the industrial city in England where he lived for a while before coming to America in the early 1700's. Therefore, "Yelverton Country" encompasses all three areas: the two Chesters as well as Wales.

For a visual preview of the program, area residents may stop by the Chester Public Library, 49 Main Street, Chester, where a "Yelverton Country" exhibit has been mounted in the front window. This, however, is only a sampling of a larger exhibit of Chester-related material and Celtic memorabilia to be on view at the town hall on February 1, when "Yelverton Country" takes place.

Guests are invited to stay after the program for a question and answer period. Light refreshments will be served.

The Friends of the Chester Library, sponsors of "Yelverton Country," specifically chose February 1 for the program, since the an-

cient Celtic festival of Imbolc occurs on that date. Imbolc is the feast of the goddess Brigit (or Brigantia), which is celebrated in all six Celtic nations — Eire (Ireland), Alba (Scotland), Cymru (Wales), Mannin (Manx), Kernow (Cornwall), and Breizh (Brittany).

However, in the event of inclement weather, the program will be a week later, on February 8.

"Yelverton Country" will begin at 8 p.m. in the town hall on Kings Highway (County Road 13) between Chester and Sugar Loaf. Admission is free.

For further information, call the Chester Library (469-4252) or Pat Clyne (469-4398).