

Center City Tour Guide's Discoveries about Philadelphia History

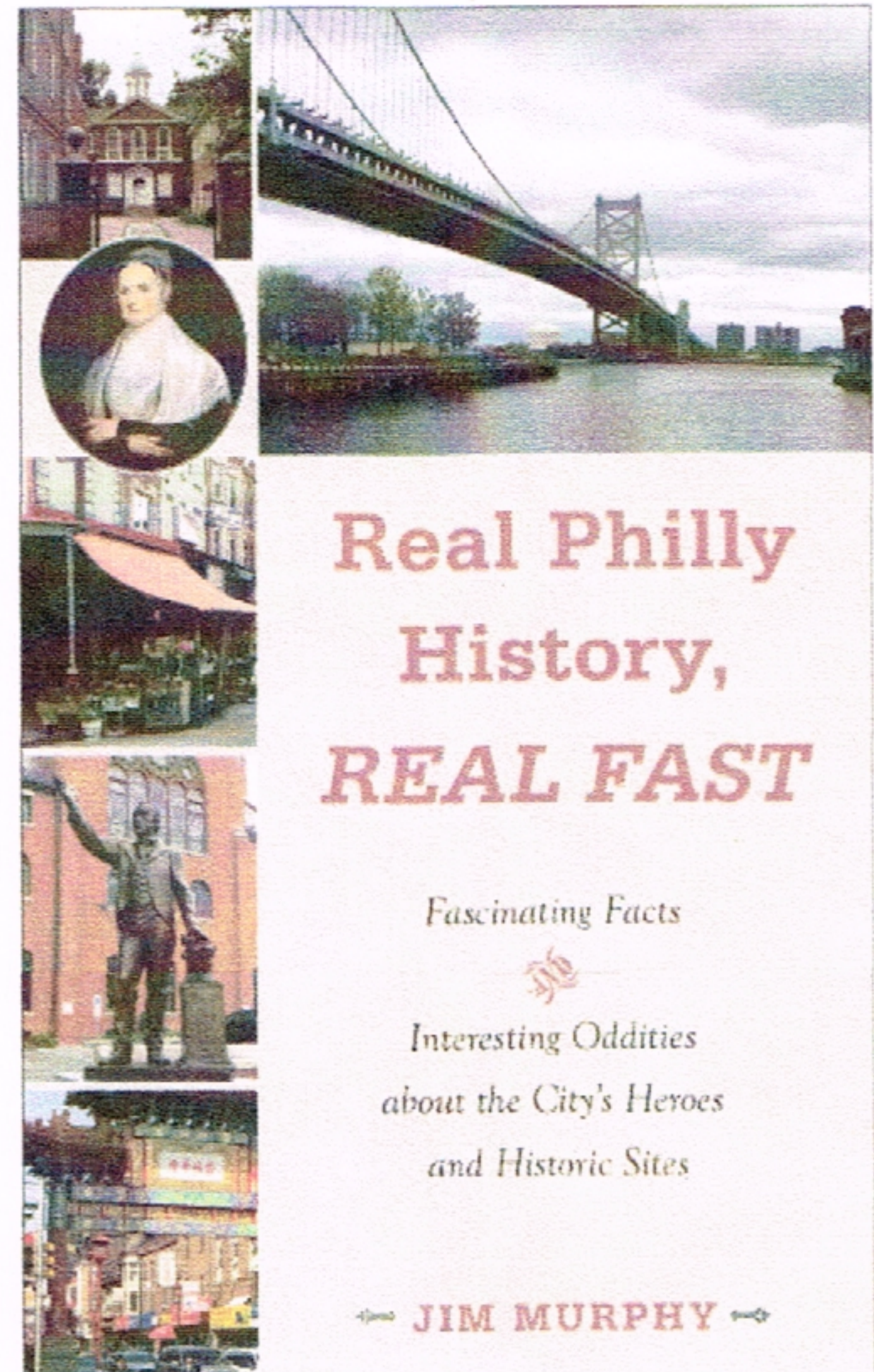
By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Real Philly History, Real Fast is a collection of 51 true stories of discovery, highlighting facts and lesser-known oddities about Philadelphia's past, compiled into what author Jim Murphy calls a "history buffet." For example, did you know there was a Washington Avenue Immigration Station through which almost one million immigrants passed from 1873 to 1915? The site is identified by a marker at the Washington Avenue Pier at Columbus Avenue near a U.S. Coast Guard station.

Formerly a certified tour guide (Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides) and writer for the *Society Hill Reporter*, Murphy is an enthusiastic fan of Philadelphia and "Philadelphia's superstars" William Penn and Ben Franklin, to whom he dedicates his book. Murphy introduces the reader to some Philadelphia history that many people might not know at all, and provides a new and interesting perspective on familiar historic places, people, museums, architecture, and communities.

In addition to well-researched facts, each story includes Murphy's discovery, engaging viewpoint and recommendations; each story includes a photo and ends with a short summary of facts, location, hours, and other details.

Murphy suggests using this book yourself, as well as giving it to family and friends to help guide and enliven visits to the city. Published by Temple University Press. Learn more at <https://www.realphillyhistory.com/>



From the book cover.

Around the Neighborhood...

French for "come to see," Venez Voir used to be a doctor's office in the 1970s. It is one of many architecturally distinctive and unique buildings on the 2000 block of Locust. Noted Philadelphia Magazine in 2015, "Built circa 1898, the sleek Locust Street residence wears an elegant 1920s façade and an air of mystery..."

