



PENNSYLVANIA
HERITAGE
FOUNDATION®

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022

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PHF Expands Committee Work to Support PHMC Programs

Throughout the past year, the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation has been enhancing its events, projects and programs or launching new ones to support the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission in its mission to “discover, protect and share Pennsylvania’s past, inspiring others to value and use our history in meaningful ways.”

Several new members have been welcomed to PHF’s Board of Directors, which has in turn increased hands-on efforts by forming two new committees: Audit; and Development, which consists of subcommittees for Grants, Membership, Special Events, and Annual Giving and Campaigns. An expanded Finance Committee now includes Budget and Endowments subcommittees.

The board is making additional opportunities available to PHF members, such as special tours of opening exhibits. Recently, such a tour was offered for the new long-term exhibit at The State Museum of Pennsylvania, *A Place for All*, highlighting three stories of the Civil Rights Movement in Pennsylvania to commemorate efforts to overturn segregation after World War II.

Additionally, PHF has increased its support of special events for PHMC. In June the foundation was host to the opening reception of *A Place for All*. At that event, individuals whose stories are featured in the exhibit—Lynda Myers, the daughter of William and Daisy Myers, the first African American family to move into Levittown; and Carl Riley, one of the first four African American



Lynda Myers, daughter of William and Daisy Myers, the first African American family to move to Levittown, speaks at the opening reception of *A Place for All*.

Photo, PHMC

The Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation is the nonprofit partner of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. Governed by a volunteer board, PHF helps preserve the commonwealth’s rich heritage through charitable funding, membership, grant management, and community engagement.

Trails of History Sites and Museums

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brandywinebattlefield.org

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bushyrunbattlefield.com

CONRAD WEISER HOMESTEAD

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conradweiserhomestead.org

CORNWALL IRON FURNACE

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cornwallironfurnace.org

DANIEL BOONE HOMESTEAD

Birdsboro, 610-582-4900
thedanielboonehomestead.org

DRAKE WELL MUSEUM

Titusville, 814-827-2797
drakewell.org

ECKLEY MINERS' VILLAGE

Weatherly, 570-636-2070
eckleyminersvillage.com

EPHRATA CLOISTER

Ephrata, 717-733-6600
ephratacloister.org

ERIE MARITIME MUSEUM AND FLAGSHIP NIAGARA

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flagshipniagara.org

FORT PITT MUSEUM

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heinzhistorycenter.org/fort-pitt

GRAEME PARK

Horsham, 215-343-0965
graemepark.org

HOPE LODGE

Fort Washington, 215-646-1595
historichopelodge.org

students admitted to Girard College in 1968—attended and shared their memories. Hearing their stories enabled everyone present to reflect on what was achieved 60 years ago and what remains to ensure equal rights today for all citizens of the commonwealth.

PHF also provides an award of a one-year PHF family membership to the Pennsylvania Trails of History for PHMC's annual Volunteers of the Year event. At a virtual ceremony held on April 30, 2022, PHMC recognized 27 individuals for their contributions of time, talent and expertise in 2020 and 2021 as volunteers at PHMC's Pennsylvania Trails of History sites and museums. In addition, four other honorees received Outstanding Service Awards for long-term volunteer participation and exceptional dedication.

Coming events that the board has added to the calendar include the first annual Sip and Savor wine



A special PHF members tour of the exhibition *A Place for All*.
Photo, PHMC

and cheese fundraiser on October 2, 2022, at Grandview Vineyards in Mount Joy; and a reception for the new state-of-the-art Pennsylvania State Archives facility at 1681 North Sixth Street in Harrisburg in early 2023.

For more information on how you can join PHF and make a donation to help support PHMC programs, please visit our website at paheritage.org or call 717-787-2407.

PHF ANNOUNCES

New Board Member

The Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation is pleased to welcome Laura Ricketts to its Board of Directors.

Ricketts grew up in the suburbs of Pittsburgh with a keen appreciation for the built environment. She studied art history with a specialization in American architecture at the Pennsylvania State University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). She then spent three years living in a garret in Paris and commuting by train to nearby Versailles to teach for UIUC's architectural study abroad program housed in the former stables of King Louis XIV. This extraordinary experience afforded her the opportunity to develop her own courses, indulge in travel and cosmopolitan living, and intensify what has been a lifelong passion for museum-going.

Upon her return to Pittsburgh, Ricketts became a cultural resources consultant completing all aspects of Section 106 compliance for historic structures, as well as historic preservation work for private and municipal clients. She currently serves as the senior architectural historian and Historic Structures Group leader for The Markosky Engineering Group Inc. in Ligonier. Ricketts is also active with the Pittsburgh Modern Committee of Preservation Pittsburgh and has led modern design walking tours for the group. She can regularly be spotted taking classes or perusing exhibits at local museums, and she dedicates much of her free time to creative projects.



Laura Ricketts

Curator Highlights Documents in Collections

In this article, PHF continues to showcase PHMC collections and the curators at the Pennsylvania Trails of History museums and historic sites who acquire, catalog, interpret and exhibit the objects that represent Pennsylvania's heritage. The featured curator is asked to choose a significant object in the collection and write about it.

John Fielding on Eckley Scrapbooks



Curator John Fielding holds Lois Witmer's scrapbook documenting the filming of *The Molly Maguires* at Eckley Miners' Village.

Eckley Miners' Village

I have been the curator for the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum in Scranton and Eckley Miners' Village in Weatherly since 2004. Both sites preserve and interpret the culture of the people who lived and worked in the Anthracite Region of Pennsylvania, focusing on themes of mining technology, ethnicity, immigration, community and organized labor. What I like about my position is working with the variety of items in the collections.

Many of the artifacts center on the working families of the region. The stories are often lost over time, but by preserving the artifacts I help to keep the memories of those in the past alive so their history will not be forgotten.

My favorite artifacts are the numerous scrapbooks and photograph albums in the museum collections. One example is a scrapbook album created by movie buff Lois Witmer during the filming of *The Molly Maguires* at Eckley in 1968. Eckley was a "patch town" built around a coal mine in 1854 as a



A photograph of children at Eckley from the Sophia Falatko photo album.

home for the anthracite company's workers. It was chosen to serve as a setting in the film because it was so well preserved. During the filming, the village became a local tourist attraction as many people traveled there to see the Hollywood stars who played the lead roles—Sean Connery, Richard Harris and Samantha Eggar. The movie became a significant part of the history of Eckley, raising awareness about the site that eventually led to its acquisition and preservation by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission.

Another album, which is leather-bound, was compiled by Sophia Falatko of Eckley in the early to mid-1940s. It showcases the lives of her family and friends at the village and other surrounding communities, as well as family members serving in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Both albums capture and preserve moments from the past that can engage and inform us in the present.

You Can Help Preserve Pennsylvania's History

It is instrumental to the existence of the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation to have the support to continue its mission to preserve the commonwealth's rich heritage. Many of our projects and programs are outside the scope of the state budget. To continue this great work, we depend on donors for their generous gifts.

It is a critical time in our history and together we can keep the door open to the treasures of our past and impact our future.

To support PHF, visit our website at paheritage.org or mail your gift to Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation, 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120.



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josephpriestleyhouse.org

LANDIS VALLEY VILLAGE & FARM MUSEUM
Lancaster, 717-569-0401
landisvalleymuseum.org

OLD ECONOMY VILLAGE
Ambridge, 724-266-4500
oldeconomyvillage.org

PENNSBURY MANOR
Morrisville, 215-946-0400
pennsburymanor.org

PENNSYLVANIA ANTHRACITE HERITAGE MUSEUM
Scranton, 570-963-4804
anthracitemuseum.org

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Galeton, 814-435-2652
lumbermuseum.org

PENNSYLVANIA MILITARY MUSEUM
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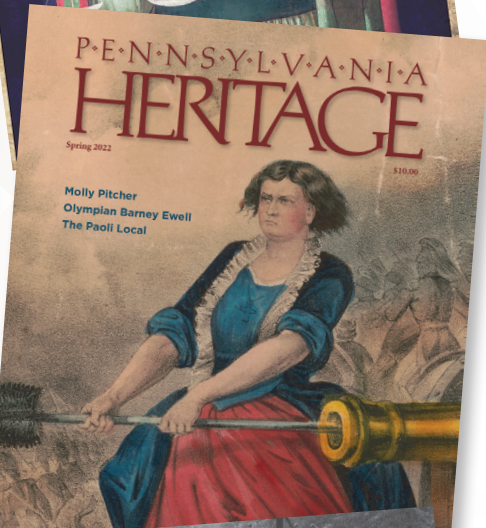
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- \$25.00 gift to the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation and its support of presenting and preserving the history of Pennsylvania
- online member's portal access to information and activities
- biweekly e-digest with updates and history

**Some special events and tours at PHMC sites require an additional fee*



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