

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023

PAHERITAGE.ORG

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.

PHF Holds First Sip & Savor Fundraiser

Donna L. Fisher, PHF Vice President

On Sunday, October 2, 2022, the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation hosted its first Sip & Savor fundraiser at Grandview Vineyard in Mount Joy, Lancaster County. The purpose of the evening was to raise funds for PHF in its work supporting the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission and to celebrate Pennsylvania's rich history over regional wines, cheeses, meats and chocolates.

Although festivities were held indoors because of rain, attendees were welcomed inside the warm tasting room and greeted with charcuterie and tables of chocolate donated by Neuchatel Swiss Chocolates of Oxford, Chester County; Wilbur Chocolate of Lititz, Lancaster County; and Sarris Candies of Canonsburg, Washington County. Attendees then enjoyed a wine tasting held by the Grandview vintner.

PHF plans to make the Sip & Savor an annual event, introducing its members and supporters to different Pennsylvania wineries, foods and treats while fundraising for PHF. The foundation wishes to thank the generous sponsors of Sip & Savor and all who attended the event.



Photos, PHF

Sip & Savor Sponsors and Donors

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PHMC Curator Highlights Prized Object from Collections

PHF's newsletter series showcasing PHMC's collections and the curators at the Pennsylvania Trails of History museums and historic sites who acquire, catalog, interpret and exhibit the objects continues with Jennifer Eaton at the Pennsylvania Military Museum. The featured curator is asked to choose a significant object in the collection and write about it.

Jennifer Eaton on the Model 1917 Light Tank

I have been curator at the Pennsylvania Military Museum for the past four and a half years. The museum explores the history of the commonwealth's men and women who have served in the Armed Forces, civilian activities on the home front, and Pennsylvania's contributions to military innovation. One of the things I love about the museum's collection is its diversity. We have everything here from tanks to teacups, and each object has its own unique story.

One of my favorite objects at the museum is our Model 1917 light tank (M1917). When the United States joined World War I in 1917, it did not own any tanks, but it soon became clear that new battle techniques and weaponry made tanks a necessary part of the nation's arsenal. The U.S. military borrowed a few French and British tanks to get through the end of the war but immediately began developing their own.

The M1917 is patterned after the French Renault FT-17. It had a four-cylinder, 42 horsepower Buda HU engine and armor plating that ranged from one quarter to just more than one-half inch in thickness. Armed with either a 37mm M1916 cannon or a Marlin Rockwell M1917 machine gun, the tank was operated by a crew of two men, one to drive and the other to manually operate the turret and gun. The M1917's engine was slow at 5.5 mph, but it produced high torque, making it good for traversing the ditches and trenches of the modern battlefield. The M1917 never saw battlefield service but was used to promote the sale of war bonds.

Our M1917 came to the museum in the late 1960s as a gift of J. William Richey of Everett, Bedford County. A World War I veteran, he purchased the tank in 1932 from Frankford Arsenal, where it had been used for tours. When Richey purchased the tank, it had no engine; according to him, an officer at the arsenal had removed the engine to use in his boat. Richey installed a Ford Model A engine in the tank and drove it in parades until the outbreak of World War II. He and his friends then hid the tank under a haystack in a barn to save it from being melted down for scrap. Richey continued to drive the tank in parades until the early 1960s, when he hit a parked car and decided to donate the tank to the museum. After its arrival, the tank was restored to its original "dazzle" paint scheme, intended to obscure its shape from enemy observers.

Many of the M1917 tanks were sold for scrap or given away, making this one quite rare. There are only 20 known models left in the world, and ours is the only remaining model fitted for the M1917 Marlin Rockwell machine gun. The tank is a fantastic example of the rapid advances in technology taking place all over the world during the beginning of the 20th century.



Photo, PHMC

PHF ANNOUNCES

New Board Members

The Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation is pleased to welcome Samantha G. Freise and Demielo C. Luckette to its Board of Directors.

Freise is the curator and historic house director at Pearl S. Buck National Historic Landmark in Perkasio, Bucks County. She received a B.S. in historic preservation and a B.A. in history from Southeast Missouri State University and an M.A. in museum education from the University of the Arts. Freise has wide experience working in museums and historic sites in Missouri, Pennsylvania and the United Kingdom. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution in which she participates on the local, state and national levels, bringing awareness to historic preservation, American history, and service to veterans. She has deep roots in Pennsylvania. Her ancestors immigrated from Germany in 1701 to the Allentown area. During the American Revolution, four of her ancestors participated in the war through the Pennsylvania militia and civil service. She lives with her husband, daughter and Siamese cat in Hatfield, Montgomery County.



Samantha G. Freise

Luckette serves as a consultant for an international spirit company and has decades of experience in leading large organizations in government and private industry. In previous positions, she oversaw human resources, information technology, budget and finance for a call center servicing five major health care systems across the nation, and in state government, she held several positions, including chief operating officer for business functions. Luckette served in the U.S. Army Reserve as both an enlisted soldier and a noncommissioned officer (sergeant first class), before being selected to attend Warrant Officer Candidate School. Upon successful completion, she received a U.S. Army commission as a warrant officer in the Adjutant General's Corp (personnel and administration), served as a platoon leader in a personnel service company, and was mobilized in support of Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia. After return from active duty, she served in a staff position at a training brigade until her retirement in 1999. A Harrisburg native and resident, Luckette serves the local community as a board member of Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors Inc. and was previously a board member at St. Stephen's Episcopal School and an officer of north Harrisburg's American Legion Post.



Demielo C. Luckette

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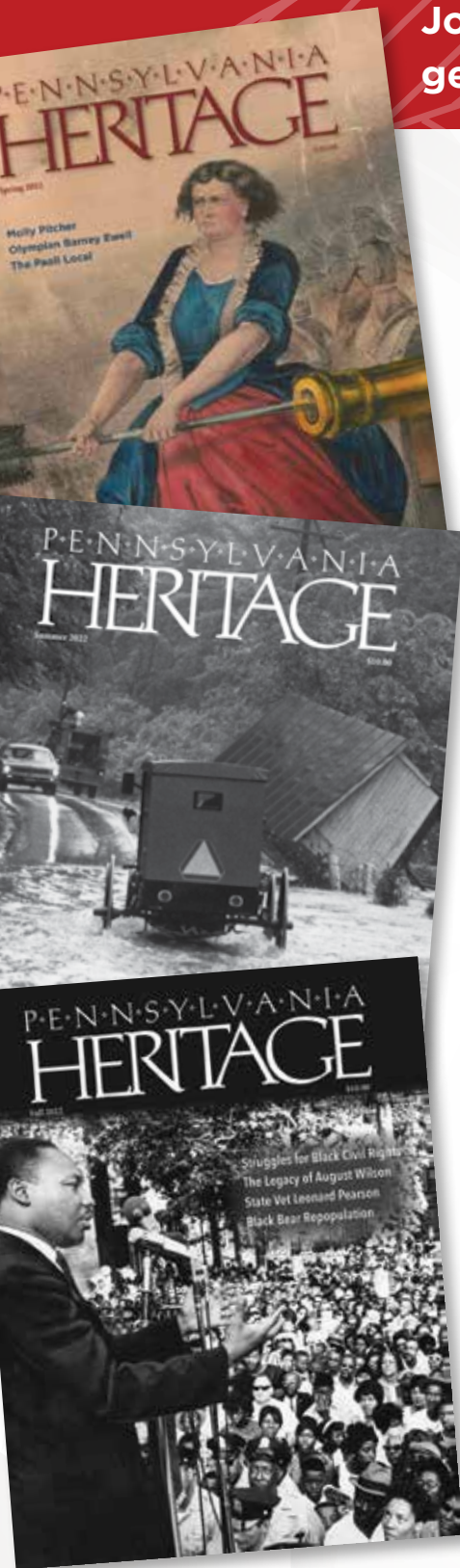
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- \$25.00 gift to the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation and its support of presenting and preserving the history of Pennsylvania
- online member's portal access to information and activities
- biweekly e-digest with updates and history

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



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Online:

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