

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025

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.



Reiley Freed



Kori Kistler

PHF Scholarship Fund Awards Selected

PHF donors have made it possible to grant five PHF Scholarship Fund awards and advance the interests of the next generation of historians, preservationists and archivists.

There were 34 applicants with wide-ranging responses to PHF's call for essays on Pennsylvania's underrecognized history. The entries represented 24 counties across the commonwealth. A three-person scholarship committee reviewed the applications and selected the awardees.

The top awards of \$1,000 each went to Reiley Freed, a major in public history at Duquesne University, for "The Chitlin' Circuit: A Display of Black Creative Resilience"; and Kori Kistler, a freshman at Kutztown University majoring in political science, for "The Christiana Riot."

Awards of \$500 each went to Ava Bennett, a sophomore at Indiana University of Pennsylvania majoring in history, for "Hannah Callowhill Penn, Pennsylvania's First—and Only—Woman Governor"; Sharima Khusial, a freshman at Luzerne County Community College with a major in political science, for "The Lattimer Massacre: Echoes of Modern-Day Exploitation of Immigrants"; and Camilla Meeker, who majors in historic preservation at the University of Pennsylvania, for "In the Footprints of Swedes' Alley: Tracking Queen Village's Black Riverfront Community."

Trails of History Sites and Museums

**BRANDYWINE
BATTLEFIELD PARK**
Chadds Ford, 610-459-3342
brandywinebattlefield.org

BUSHY RUN BATTLEFIELD
Jeannette, 724-527-5584
bushyrunbattlefield.com

CONRAD WEISER HOMESTEAD
Womelsdorf, 610-589-2934
conradweiserhomestead.org

CORNWALL IRON FURNACE
Cornwall, 717-272-9711
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**
Erie, 814-452-2744
eriemaritimemuseum.org

FORT PITT MUSEUM
Pittsburgh, 412-281-9285
heinzhistorycenter.org/fort-pitt

GRAEME PARK
Horsham, 215-343-0965
graemepark.org

HOPE LODGE
Fort Washington, 215-646-1595
historichopelodge.org



New officers of the PHF Board of Directors, left to right: Treasurer Mary Zanolini, Vice President Demielo Luckette, President Mark Markosky, Assistant Treasurer Donna Fisher (past president), and Secretary Cynthia Pritchard.
Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation

PHF Welcomes New President Markosky

Mark A. Markosky was elected president of the PHF Board of Directors at its annual meeting in June 2025. Born and raised in Ligonier, Markosky is CEO of The Markosky Engineering Group, a 110-person consulting group founded in 1999 specializing in civil engineering, environmental consulting, cultural resources and construction management. Markosky has deep interests in Pennsylvania and military history, wildlife management and habitat improvement, hunting, fishing, and anything Frank Lloyd Wright. A PHF Board member since 2018, he looks forward to advancing PHF's capacity to increase awareness, understanding and appreciation for the commonwealth's rich history.

PHF Recognizes President Fisher's Service

Donna Fisher concluded her two years as PHF president on June 30, 2025, and Board members lauded her leadership through a critical time. Fisher has long-standing roots in the commonwealth, growing up in rural Pennsylvania, and she has been a recognized and highly respected attorney in Harrisburg. Members noted that Fisher helped lead PHF out of the "COVID hangover," communicating a long-term vision for the organization with "clarity, confidence, and determination." One member noted that she "engaged our Board as never before" with energized committees and goal setting. She worked with the Board to realign staff roles, select an executive director, and recruit new Board members who added needed skills and diversity. Incoming President Mark Markosky credits her outstanding leadership as a solid foundation to build on. Fisher will continue on the Board as assistant treasurer.

PHF Announces New Board Member

PHF is pleased to welcome Laura Stokley to its Board of Directors. Stokley resides in West Chester and is a project designer with John Milner Architects, where she specializes in historic preservation and architectural design for heritage sites across southeastern Pennsylvania. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Colonial Pennsylvania Farmstead, a living history site in Ridley Creek State Park, and is active with the Daughters of the American Revolution at both the county and state levels, supporting historic preservation and education initiatives. She has worked in architectural, planning and marketing roles in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Louisiana. She brings experience in the documentation of historic buildings, design development, and nonprofit advocacy and is passionate about preserving and interpreting Pennsylvania's built environment.



Laura Stokley

Join Us on a Bucks County Adventure

PHF will be sponsoring a bus trip to Bucks County on November 1, 2025, to explore sites that commemorate the legacies of two notable Pennsylvanians: Pearl S. Buck and Henry Chapman Mercer. The bus leaves from Camp Hill Shopping Center in Camp Hill at 8 am.

Our first stop will be the Pearl S. Buck House, a National Historic Landmark. Buck was an author and recipient of both the Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize in Literature, a humanitarian, and an activist. The guided tour will highlight architecture, folk art, fine art, and the life of an extraordinary woman, with stops at the gift shop and gardens. A boxed sandwich or salad lunch will be provided after the visit.

The second stop on our tour will be the Mercer Museum, a Smithsonian affiliate in Doylestown. Mercer was an American archeologist and artifact collector who founded and built the Moravian Pottery & Tile Works in 1898 and designed and built two other distinctive poured-concrete structures—the Mercer Museum (1916) and Fonthill Castle (1910). The Mercer Museum tour will be self-guided and features local and traveling exhibitions as well as a core collection that offers visitors a unique window into pre-industrial America through 60 different crafts and trades. After the museum tour, you will have time on your own to explore, dine or shop in Doylestown's distinctive downtown or visit Fonthill Castle, Moravian Pottery & Tile Works Museum, or the Michener Art Museum before the bus departs at 6:30 pm.

For more information and to secure your tickets, go to paheritage.org.



Pearl S. Buck House, the Nobel Prize-winning author's home for 40 years.
Pearl S. Buck International/Aaron Mitchell Photography



The unique interior of the Mercer Museum.
Mercer Museum

Thank you very much!

Not for any one thing you've done but for all you've done. Through your thoughtfulness and generosity, you have been a hero to history. You have powered the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation's efforts to protect, preserve, share and commemorate history in our state.

As time rolls on, the need to build awareness and appreciation of our shared history grows stronger. Your support has impact. Thank you for standing up for history.

We are grateful for your care and support. Please make your gift online at paheritage.org or by mail at Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation, 400 North Street, Harrisburg PA 17120.



JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE
Northumberland, 570-473-9474
joseph-priestley-house.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

PENNSYLVANIA LUMBER MUSEUM
Galeton, 814-435-2652
lumbermuseum.org

PENNSYLVANIA MILITARY MUSEUM
Boalsburg, 814-466-6263
pamilmuseum.org

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ARCHIVES
Harrisburg, 717-783-3281
pastatearchives.com

RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA
Strasburg, 717-687-8628
rrmuseumpa.org

SOMERSET HISTORICAL CENTER
Somerset, 814-445-6077
somersethistoricalcenter.org

THE STATE MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA
Harrisburg, 717-787-4980
statemuseumpa.org

WASHINGTON CROSSING HISTORIC PARK
Washington Crossing, 215-493-4076
washingtoncrossingpark.org



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

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



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