



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2026

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.

Winter Events on the Trails of History

The holiday season is here, and many PHMC sites and museums are offering special events and programs to celebrate. Here's a sampling of what's to come. There may be additional fees for some events. Please visit the websites to get the latest information on hours, admission fees, possible cancellations or postponements, and other details.

Holidays at Hope Lodge & Colonial Tavern

Hope Lodge

December 13, 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Enjoy a leisurely self-guided tour of Hope Lodge decorated for the holidays. Hear music by members of the Ambler Symphony Orchestra (1:00–3:00 p.m.). Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there to greet the kids and get their orders. After the tour, browse the museum shop for unique holiday gifts. Adults can visit the Colonial Tavern to enjoy a warm fire and a selection of craft beers from Round Guys Brewery (additional charge).

historichopelodge.org

Belsnickle Experience

Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum

December 13, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

At this family-friendly event, you can make an ornament, take a wagon ride, enjoy light refreshments, learn about Pennsylvania Dutch holiday traditions, hear a reading of *Pennsylvania Dutch Night Before Christmas*, and meet the Belsnickle. Reservations are required.

landisvalleymuseum.org



Lantern Tours, Ephrata Cloister
Photo, Ephrata Cloister, PHMC

Late Night with the Belsnickel!

Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum

December 13, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

This version of the Belsnickle Experience is recommended for adults only (21 and up). Enjoy light refreshments, make an ornament, take a wagon ride, learn about Pennsylvania Dutch holiday traditions such as the Putz, and meet the Belsnickle.

Reservations are required.

landisvalleymuseum.org

Home for the Holidays

Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania

December 13, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (last ticket sales, 3:30 p.m.)

Take a nostalgic look at railroad travel throughout Pennsylvania history, with costumed engineers, conductors, ticket agents and passengers representing the 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as seasonal period-appropriate music and festive decorations. Readings of the popular children's story *The Polar Express* will take place

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
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

in the museum's historic Reading Co. multiple unit car No. 800 several times that day. Young visitors can have telegrams sent to the North Pole via telegraph inside Steinman Station, the museum's recreated 1915-era passenger depot.
rrmuseumpa.org

Winter Wonderland Tours & Festival of Trees Old Economy Village

Every weekend through December 21
Visit the site's historic 19th-century village decorated for Christmas, with beautiful trees festively trimmed by local individuals, businesses and organizations. Take a tour and see the holiday lights while learning about the history of the Harmony Society and this unique site. It's a seasonal experience that the whole family will remember.
oldeconomyvillage.org

Candlelight Tours Pennsbury Manor

December 19 and 20, 3:00, 5:00 and 6:00 p.m.
Experience old-world holiday magic with Candlelight Tours at William Penn's country estate in Bucks County. Wander through the ornately decorated Manor House and step back in time to a 17th-century holiday feast hosted by William and Hannah Penn.
pennsburymanor.org

Lantern Tours Ephrata Cloister

December 26 and 27 and January 2 and 3, every half hour, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
Experience history come to life during a unique theatrical event led by our talented Student Historians of Historic Ephrata Cloister. This year's performance, *1777: When War Came to Ephrata*, brings audiences into the story of Ephrata Cloister's transformation into a hospital for the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Through dramatic scenes set among the historic buildings, visitors will encounter the soldiers, doctors and Ephrata's own members telling the narrative of how their lives were forever changed during the winter of 1777. The tours last approximately one hour. Group sizes are limited to 30 participants.

Noon Years!

The State Museum of Pennsylvania

December 31, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (open this day for this event only)

Bring the family and ring in the Noon Year at this festive event. Activities include crafts, games, dancing and the famous Firefly Drop at noon.
statemuseumpa.org



Winter Wonderland Tours,
Old Economy Village
Photo, Old Economy Village, PHMC

Winter in the Lumber Camp Pennsylvania Lumber Museum

January 24, 2026

Enjoy outdoor fun in the snow at this free event. Visitors can try their hand at using cross-country skis and snowshoes with equipment provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources and the help of volunteer instructors. Bring a sled to slide down our hills. Build a snowman or get creative with snow art activities. Warm up at our bonfire or go inside for some light refreshments and beverages. lumbermuseum.org

Winter Academy Virtual Lunch Break Drake Well Museum

January and February 2026 (virtual)

Log on for these free virtual classes to discover more about the oil industry and the region. One session is held each month, usually on a Thursday at 12:30 p.m. Registration is required. drakewell.org



Winter in the Lumber Camp, Pennsylvania Lumber Museum
Photo, Pennsylvania Lumber Museum, PHMC

Forthcoming U.S. 250th Events on the Trails of History

As the 250th anniversary of the United States approaches, Pennsylvania Trails of History sites are mounting exhibitions and preparing programs for the commemoration. Here's what's coming this winter.

The Pennsylvania Military Museum, supported by all PHMC bureaus, will host *The Pursuit of Freedom: Patriots & Prisoners of PA* at the Pennsylvania Farm Show on January 10–17, 2026, held at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center in Harrisburg. The exhibition will focus on the commonwealth's role in the American Revolutionary War and World War II, with displays highlighting the experiences of four prisoners of war, two from each conflict and one from each side.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania will be opening the exhibition *Revolutionary Things* in January 2026, featuring artifacts from its collection that highlight Pennsylvania's role in the American Revolution, as well as the ways it has been remembered and celebrated in later years in the commonwealth.



TRAILS OF HISTORY SITES AND MUSEUMS

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

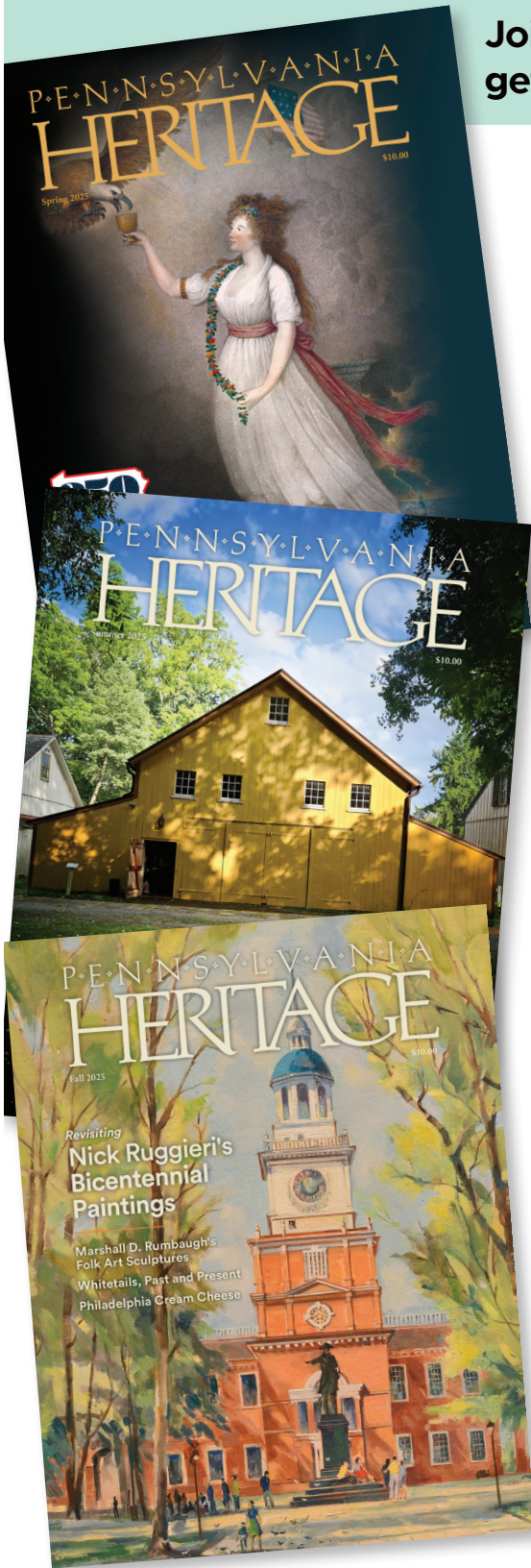
Thank you very much!

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.





Join the Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation and get a year's subscription to *Pennsylvania Heritage*!

Heritage \$35

- subscription for one year of *Pennsylvania Heritage* (4 issues)

Individual \$55

- one year of *Pennsylvania Heritage* (4 issues)
- free general admission for one adult to Pennsylvania Trails of History sites and museums*
- Time Travelers privileges: free or discounted admission and gift shop discounts at more than 300 museums nationwide
- discounts on special events and bus trips to historic places
- weekly e-digest with updates and history

Family \$75

- one year of *Pennsylvania Heritage* (4 issues)
- free general admission for two adults in the same household and all children and grandchildren under age 18 to Pennsylvania Trails of History sites and museums*
- Time Travelers privileges: free or discounted admission and gift shop discounts at more than 300 museums nationwide
- discounts on special events and bus trips to historic places
- weekly e-digest with updates and history

Contributor \$100

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- free general admission for two adults in the same household and all children and grandchildren under age 18 to Pennsylvania Trails of History sites and museums*
- Time Travelers privileges: free or discounted admission and gift shop discounts at more than 300 museums nationwide
- discounts on special events and bus trips to historic places
- weekly 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*



Online: paheritage.org Toll free: 866-823-6539

Mail:
Pennsylvania Heritage Foundation
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0053



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