

The Scribe

Palmerton Area Historical Society
www.palmertonhistorical.org

March 2025



The Road to Preserving our Past

The last couple of years have been transformative for the Historical Society. Through life events, several key persons to the organization have left us and some restructuring of the Society has been required. A new Board of Directors has been assembled to build our roadmap to the future.

The focus of our plan has centered around several key points: establishing a database to organize and digitize our archives, recording and preserving our oral history, creating a YouTube channel for community access, and forming a Building and Grounds committee to prioritize projects.

To achieve our archive goal, we would like to thank **The Befesa Community Fund**, who recognized our need and awarded the Society a grant to procure the equipment necessary for their preservation. We recently purchased



and setup the computer hardware and an overhead scanner dedicated to books and magazines including significant NJ Zinc Company publications dating back to its inception. Additionally, a large flat-bed scanner was purchased for newspapers and photos that are rapidly deteriorating. It is our long term goal to create a visitor friendly Heritage Center experience where the public is able to access the database to answer questions about the past.

Phase 2 of this project involves creating a record of the remaining oral history of the area. If you have attended any of our recent programs, you may have noticed the programs being recorded. Over time, all programs, with the presenter's permission, will be recorded and available to be viewed on our YouTube channel. This will make our rich history readily available from any location. *(continued on page 3)*

Palmerton Area Historical Society

PO Box 267, Palmerton, PA 18071
www.palmertonhistorical.org
palmertonhistorical@ptd.net
(610)824-6954

OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Barry Scherer

Committee Chairs

Kibler School

Roy Christman

Little White Church

Jeffrey Seng and Barbara Dilley

Programs Coordinators

Vinita Horinko and Marianne Smelas

Grounds

Barry Scherer

Meet our President

Born and raised in Palmerton, Lynn Shupp is the daughter of Leon and Gail Shupp. Lynn learned her love of history from hearing their stories of growing up in the area. It was Mr. Don Delich, her 5th grade history teacher, who fueled her fire for Palmerton history. Lynn is proud of our beautiful Carbon County town and wants its steeped history to live on for generations. Knowing and understanding where one comes from guides where one is headed. As buildings disappear and generations pass, it is important to maintain a connection to our shared past. A local photographer by trade, Lynn's love for Palmerton is apparent in each of the many photos she posts online and shares throughout the community. Lynn thanks each of you for your membership and stewardship of Palmerton's history.



Preserving Our Past

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We have also formed a Building and Grounds Committee to help maintain our Little White Church, The Kibler School, and The Heritage Center. The committee will make long term plans by determining and prioritizing the needed repairs and renovations as well as obtaining cost estimates and possible funding solutions.

The reorganized Board of Directors is energized moving forward while recognizing the magnitude of the task at hand. We are actively soliciting volunteers to achieve our goals including Heritage Center Volunteers, as well as, assistance with the archive project. If any of our members have a willingness to assist, we would welcome any and all help. Please contact Sue Steigerwalt at 610-824-6954.

***Check out and subscribe to our YouTube Channel
Palmerton Area Historical Society TV***



PAHS Board of Directors: *front row left to right* Susan Steigerwalt, Secretary, Vinita Horinko, Richard Horinko, Roy Christman *second row left to right* Patricia Kern, Lynn Shupp, President, Garry Mack, Stephen Goidich *back row left to right* Duane Costenbader, Treasurer, Barry Scherer, John Aulenbach, Bert Holzman, Vice President, Carol Curcio

2024...



The Society hosted many informative programs this past year: The History of the Palmerton Pool, the Palmerton Library, Bowmanstown, and Coca Cola of Palmerton. Several of these programs were recorded and are streaming or soon will be streaming on our YouTube channel for public viewing.

The Kibler School continued their Summer Program Series. A highlight of the year was a debate between the merits of the One Room Schoolhouse versus those of today's Public School.



August brought us the Sidewalk Sale which we moved inside to eliminate the weather factor. We also brought the annual picnic to The Heritage Center. Weather permitting, we are hoping to include an improved backyard space to our picnic this year!

A Year in Review

The summer concluded, as always, with the Palmerton Festival. We had our covered bridge in the Park and recorded record sales of merchandise and memorabilia. In December we were the kick-off program for Christmas in the Park. Marshelle George read *The Polar Express* to the children at the Little White Church. This free event was an instant success and we look forward to its continuation this year. To cap off the year, the Ecumenical Service was held on Sunday followed by our annual meeting and banquet at Bert's Steakhouse.



2025 Monthly Program Schedule

All programs held at 6:30pm in the Knight's Gallery of the Palmerton Library unless otherwise noted
Venues are handicap accessible

March 11

“A Wee Bit of Scottish Madness”

Little White Church

April 14

**“D-Day WWII– Palmerton
Contributions & Sacrifices”**

Rhett Hernandez Lt. General,
US Army, Retired
Aquashicola Fire Company

May 12

“Triumph over Tragedy”

Jeannette Eichenwald

June 9

“The History of George’s Busing”

Leon George
George’s Busing Garage

July 14

Palmerton Research Alliance

Larissa Rex

August 17

Annual Summer Picnic

Heritage Center

September

Join us at the Festival!

October 13

“Eras: The Cemetery Tour”

Samantha Hirneisen
Little White Church

November 10

**“History of the Palmerton
Band”**

Joe Plechavy

December 7

Ecumenical Service (3pm)

Little White Church

Annual Banquet (4:30)

Bert’s Steakhouse

A Fond Farewell



What do you get when you cross a casual walk through the Borough Park and an accidental run-in with Peter Kern? Jeff Seng and Barbara Dilley faced this exact moment. Along with a love of local history, they soon found they were the “Newbies” at the Historical Society and eagerly volunteered to take on the role of stewards of The Little White Church. “Jeff and Barbara have been invaluable to us,” said President Lynn Shupp, “The Church has never looked so good! We will certainly miss them!” Jeff and Barbara have some family obligations that are taking them to their next destination—Arizona! We would like to extend our heartfelt wishes for their continued health and happiness in their new adventure! We all thank you for your hard work and will miss you!

The Little White Church

In the beginning of 2024, the Little White Church was in the need of some TLC. The Church received an overall cleaning, including a cleanout of the basement. Additionally, some repairs were needed to ensure it's continued use. A new furnace was installed, repair was made to the slate roof, and masonry work was done to the foundation and rear of the church. Also, work began to clean some of the headstones in the cemetery (see *photos below*), a new landscaping company was hired and two Ginkgo Biloba trees were planted along Columbia Avenue to replace those taken down with disease.



Kayla Willingham of Hawthorne Preservation has volunteered her time and services to help clean several of the grave stones at the Little White Church.



The Kibler School

The Kibler School was officially deeded to the Historical Society in 2024. Much like the Little White Church, some issues needed to be addressed for the school's future. Windows required new weights to be hung for their operation. Along with a new coat of paint, some structural issues are being looked into for 2025. If you would like to join the Friends of Kibler School, please stop in the Heritage Center for information and membership forms.





P O Box 267
Palmerton, PA 18071

**Palmerton Area
Historical Society
Heritage Center**

410 Delaware Avenue
(610) 824-6954

**Thursdays & Saturdays
10am-1pm**

