

HISTORIC WRIGHTSVILLE INC



Volume 11

Spring 2026



Number 30

Museum 309 Locust Street, Hours: Wednesday 11:00 to 2:00, Sunday 1:00 to 4:00 or by appt.

Diorama 124 Hellam Street, Hours: Sunday 1:00 to 4:00, or by appointment

Visit our website for more information <https://historicwrightsvillepa.org/> or call 717-252-1169

FROM THE PRESIDENT: SHARON YOUNG

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the start of a new year.

Historic Wrightsville has been closed through March 1st as we take time to reorganize, clean, and refresh our space. Sometimes a little pause gives us the opportunity to come back stronger — and we're excited about what's ahead. Our new display will debut in June as part of the 250th Celebration period, and we can't wait to share it with you.

While things have been quieter on the surface, there's been meaningful work happening behind the scenes. We recently reorganized our board, and I'd like to warmly welcome our new members: Lori Cappello, Lynn Anne' and Tanya Rogers. We look forward to working together and appreciate their willingness to serve.

Look for details in this newsletter about our Sub Sale in April — we hope you'll support this fundraiser! I'd also like to thank Sue Weitzel-Joiner, who is spearheading our Mission Possible campaign. Sue has done an amazing job, and we're partnering this effort with Give Local York in hopes of doubling our impact. Our big project for this year is replacing the porch, and we're looking forward to a strong campaign to help make that happen.

Thank you all for your continued support, encouragement, and involvement. We truly appreciate each of you and look forward to working together as we move into an exciting season for Historic Wrightsville.

Sharon

Museum/Events News by Lisa Burk

Spotlight on Community: Old Towne Night Brings Neighbors Together

Old Towne Night has long been a favorite tradition of Historic Wrightsville and this year's event will be no exception.

Join us as we welcome Mr. Jeri Jones, a native Yorker who owns Jones Geological Services where he studies southeastern PA geology. Having previously taught at several of our local colleges, his interests include mining and geologic history, ground water resources and southeastern PA earthquakes.

Most recently, having completed a study of the building stone used in the AME Zion Church and the Mifflin House, we are looking forward to his presentation entitled "Your Backyard Geology".

Community traditions matter- they bring us together and strengthen local pride. Mark this date on your calendar and join us!

Friday March 27 6:30 PM Trinity Lutheran Church

Museum Yard Sale -Treasures up for Grabs

The Wrightsville Historical Museum is opening its doors for our annual Yard Sale. This is a great chance to bring home unique pieces of donated items, retired displays, vintage decor, duplicate artifacts, books, and lots of other interesting items.

Whether you're a bargain hunter, a history buff, or simply love collecting, you'll discover something worth exploring. Proceeds support museum programs, preservation efforts, and future exhibits. Come treasure-hunt and help keep our local heritage thriving. Mark these dates on your calendar now!

Saturday May 16 or 23

Our plans are still developing so watch for more information on our Facebook page

(historicwrightsvillepa.org), website (Historic Wrightsville Incorporated) or call the museum at 717-252-1169.

Riverfest: Honoring Wrightsville's Civil War Legacy

Each year, Riverfest brings Wrightsville, Columbia and Marietta together in a way few events can - by blending community celebration with a deep appreciation for the towns' remarkable place in American history. Set along the scenic Susquehanna River, the festival has become a significant tradition that honours both the spirit of the towns and the pivotal moments that unfolded here during the Civil War.

While still in the planning stages, we at Historic Wrightsville are encouraging you to set aside the weekend of June 27 and 28, for an incredible celebration. Family activities, living history diorama, tours, museum displays, speakers and the dedication of the Wrightsville Legends and Lore historical marker- it's going to be great. Watch for more details and information!

And if you would like to volunteer your time and talent to assist Historic Wrightsville, we would love to hear from you. Call the museum at 717-252-1169.

Historic Wrightsville Calendar of Events

Friday, March 27: **Olde Town Night**, 6:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Fellowship Hall in Wrightsville. Special presentation by Jeri Jones. Admission is free. "Your Backyard Geology – Building Stone Used In the Wrightsville AME Zion Church & Mifflin House"

Wednesday, April 1: **Mission Possible Capital Campaign Kick Off!**

Thursday, April 9: **Spring Sub Sale** featuring Sue's Market's overloaded subs! Place orders by Thursday, April 2. PU on April 9, 3:30-5 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church (rear entrance). Order from any HWI Board member or by calling the museum at 717-252-1169.

Sunday, April 12: **Diorama reopens** for the season, Sundays, 1-4.

Thursday, April 30 & Friday May 1: **Give Local York Campaign!**

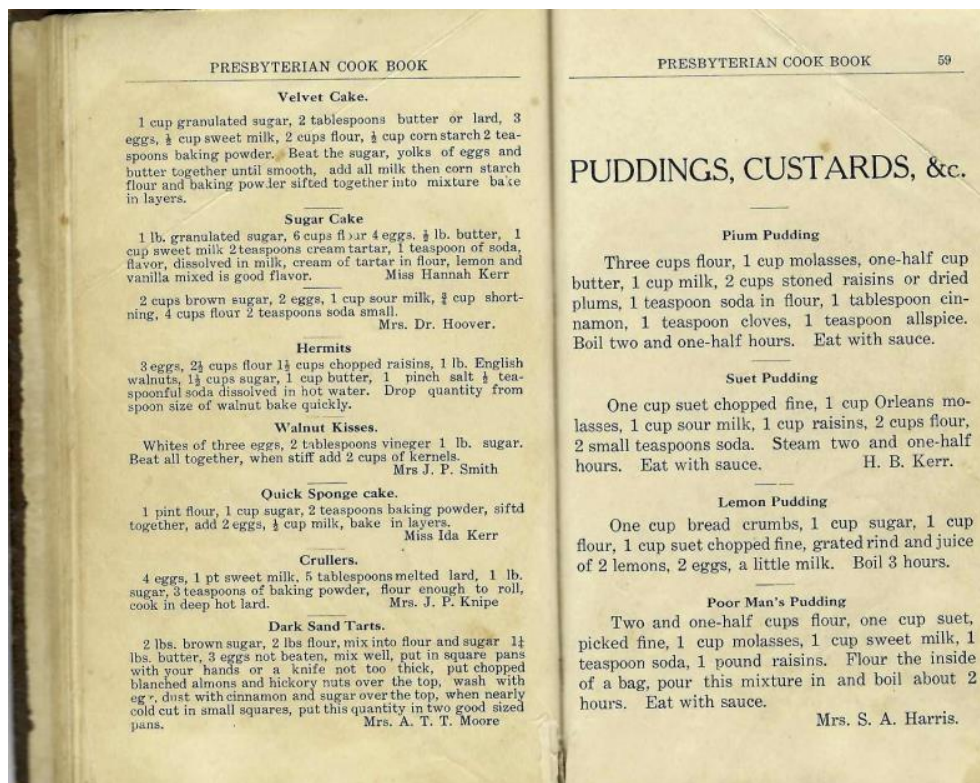
Saturday May ?? **Spring Yard Sale:** Date & Location TBD. Stay tuned!

Sat. June 27- Sun. June 28 **Riverfest.** Confederate invasion & America's 250th Anniversary! Programs for children, adults, families, and participants of all ages.

Friday, Sept. 18: **Fall Olde Town Night** F, 6:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall in Wrightsville. Presented by Tom Davidson. "Road to Independence – The Historic Lincoln Highway"

Sunday, Sept. 8: Veterans Day Program.

Excerpt from the Presbyterian Cookbook submitted by Sue Weitzel Joines



Introducing Our New Collections Policy

The Historians of Historic Wrightsville are pleased to announce a new Collections Policy to guide how we accept and care for donated artifacts. This updated policy helps ensure that each item entrusted to the museum directly supports our mission and preserves the stories that define Wrightsville's heritage. We are grateful to our community of donors, and we hope this clearer, more streamlined process makes contributing to our shared history even easier.

If you're considering a donation or have questions about the new guidelines, our Historians, Lisa Burk and Jeremy Young, are happy to help.

Below is the first part of the new policy.

Historic Wrightsville, Inc. Collections Policy

A. Statement of purpose.

Historic Wrightsville Inc., from this point forward referred to as HWI or the Museum, is organized and operated to promote an interest in the history of the community and to encourage the preservation of historic sites, structures, artifacts, and memorabilia of the community, defined as Wrightsville Borough and the surrounding area. HWI is a registered 501 (C) 3 nonprofit entity.

B. Purpose and scope of the collections policy.

The collection policy will be used as the guiding document for the development and management of the collection. It will explain how HWI may acquire and dispose of items and define when the Museum will, and will not accept items. HWI does not have the power to appraise items prior to acceptance and does not assign monetary value to such items for IRS purposes.

C. What the Museum will collect:

The collections of Historic Wrightsville will consist of both permanent and teaching collections. Permanent collections consist of those in fair to excellent condition that are well documented or unique. These items will be accessioned, catalogued, and deaccessioned when deemed appropriate. Teaching collections consist of items suitable for staff-directed educational purposes only and may be used until no longer useful and then disposed. Items will be collected based on these criteria.

1. Key themes:

- a. History and development of Wrightsville Borough from 1700 to the present, including businesses, churches, industry, people, schools, transportation, and organizations.
- b. The role of the Susquehanna River in the settlement and continuing development of Wrightsville from a "gateway to the west" to the present.
- c. The Confederate invasion of Wrightsville in 1863.
- d. The history of the Historic Wrightsville Inc. organization.

2. Geographic area, defined as the Wrightsville Borough, Long Level, Hellam Township, Lower Windsor Township, East Prospect, Columbia, Marietta, York County and the bordering Susquehanna River basin.

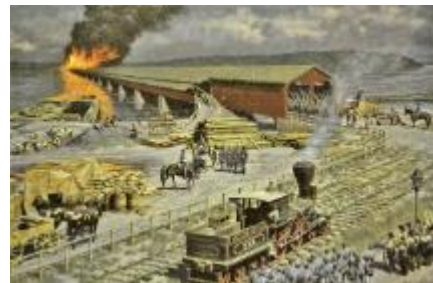
3. Type of items to be collected:

a. Including but not limited to maps, documents, genealogies, prints, photographs, diaries, letters, books, scrapbooks, business records, ledgers, postcards, paintings, textiles, and three dimensional objects representing key themes. Acceptance of an item does not guarantee that it will be placed on display.

HWI does not currently have the facilities to store large agricultural, industrial, organizational, church, school or business items. Oversize items will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis due to storage limitations.

D. Accessibility:

Collections and records will be accessible to the general public through Museum displays, tours and other educational programs. Articles not on display may be made available for study to visitors and researchers by appointment.



Burning Bridge Diorama

The Wrightsville diorama originated in 1991, when the building that now houses the exhibit was donated to Historic Wrightsville. Over its long history, the structure had served as a post office, a barbershop, and a stove store. In 1996, after generous contributions from local residents and organizations, the diorama officially opened to the public. It presents a dramatic historical narrative, depicting Confederate forces under General John B. Gordon reaching Wrightsville in June 1863 as they searched for a way across the Susquehanna River—the final barrier between them and key Pennsylvania cities such as Philadelphia and Harrisburg. The exhibit also portrays the efforts of a lightly trained local militia who used improvised defenses to slow the Confederate advance, culminating in the burning of the Wrightsville–Columbia Bridge—one of the world’s longest covered bridges at the time—to halt the eastern push of Lee’s army.

The guides at the diorama are a very knowledgeable group of volunteers, who would be happy to answer your questions regarding the role of Wrightsville in our Nation’s civil war. The diorama hours are Sundays from 1 to 4pm April through October. Private tours are available by appointment at 717-252-1169.

Snipped from the Headlines by Mary Ellen Kasian

As we celebrate Wrightsville's 250th birthday this year, I've been thinking back to the excitement and community spirit that filled our town during the Bicentennial. Wrightsville truly went all out for the 1975-1976 celebration, bringing neighbors together in a way we'll never forget.

To help preserve those memories, I'm looking for photographs, stories, and any information from Wrightsville's Bicentennial festivities. If you have pictures tucked away in an album, newspaper clippings, souvenirs, or personal recollections from those special years, I would love to hear from you.

Please reach out with anything you're willing to share—your contributions will help us honor our past as we celebrate this milestone year.

THE YORK DISPATCH, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1976.

<p>Wrightsville Legion event is Sunday</p> <p>WRIGHTSVILLE — "I Love America" is the theme for the public Bicentennial program at Wrightsville Elementary School from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, sponsored by the Abel-Poff-Leithiser American Legion Post 469.</p> <p>The program will be opened</p>	<p>with the "Star Spangled Banner," advancement of the color guard, and greetings and welcome by Commander Leroy Morton. Master of ceremonies will be Marlin Lehman. The program will feature a portrayal of Lancaster County's Revolutionary War hero, General Edward Hand and his aide, a sing-along directed by Mrs. Paul Ream and accompanied by Ethel Reinholt, and a film in which Alistair Cooke narrates</p>	<p>events leading up to the Revolutionary War period. The program will close with "God Bless America," retirement of the color guard, and taps.</p> <p>Chairman is Earnest Feaser assisted by John Stephens, Charles Lebenight, Leroy Morton and Dean Harrison.</p>
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Historic Wrightsville Inc. was organized to promote interest in the history of the community; to identify, acquire, restore and preserve historic sites, and to promote community spirit by enriching the social, educational and cultural life of Wrightsville Borough and the surrounding area. Board of Directors' meetings are held on the fourth Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Wrightsville Historical Museum, 309 Locust, Wrightsville, PA.

OFFICERS: President – Sharon Young; First Vice President – Mary Ellen Davis-Kasian; Second Vice President – John Weitzel; Secretary – Lynn Anne; Treasurer – Mike Bailey

CO-HISTORIANS: Lisa Burk and Jeremy Young

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Vicki Cumming, Arthur Faircloth, Lynne Shelton, Ed Sipes, Bonita Emenheiser, Lori Cappello, Tanya Rogers

Email: historicwrightsville1983@gmail.com Like us on Facebook: Historic Wrightsville Incorporated (not Inc)



Once again, HWI is proud to participate in this years GLY!

Your support of HWI during this campaign may result in bonus dollars from the GLY major sponsors!

Stay tuned for more on this in April!



2026 MISSION POSSIBLE!

CAMPAIGN RUNS APRIL 1—MAY 1, 2026

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

GIVE LOCAL YORK

This year our focus turns to caring for the building that houses our precious collections of artifacts. We're raising funds to complete important repairs to the museum's porch, replacing the aging HVAC systems and upgrading the smoke/fire/security alarm system to ensure that the collections remain safe. These capital repairs will total over \$75,000, but every dollar helps. This will ensure that the museum continues to be a welcoming and safe place for visitors.

Watch for details to be released by April 1 with ways to support our drive. By tying in with GLY, we will be qualified to receive bonus support from their sponsor fund pool.

Please check out our website: Historicwrightsvillepa.org

You can also check us out at: Givelocalyork.org (keyword: Historic Wrightsville)