



Laura Golden Beecham was the daughter of Noel and Jean Golden. Her husband, John, was the son of William and Marie Beecham. Both John and Laura were lifetime residents of Palmyra. They met at Palmyra High School, and graduated together as members of the Class of 1962. Laura was the valedictorian of the class, and she went on to graduate with high distinction from the University of Nebraska. They lived and raised their three children in Lincoln, but maintained a close connection to their hometown.

The Beecham family has been farming here for 100 years, and John's father, William Beecham, was a 1925 graduate of PHS.

After Laura's untimely death in April 2003, John wanted to honor her commitment to education, and pay tribute to their deep roots in the Palmyra community. He began the John and Laura Beecham scholarship fund to provide an annual scholarship to a PHS graduate pursuing higher education. John made it clear that he wished to see the scholarship fund grow into something substantial, and after John's death in December, 2003, his children were pleased to continue it in honor of both their parents.