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Lancaster County's Historical Society & President James Buchanan's Wheatland

For Immediate Release

*All events are camera friendly, and
principals will be available for interviews.*

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Free Lecture Series Kicks Off With Presentation on Antebellum Law

Dr. Michael F. Holt shares the politics that shaped a country on the cusp of civil war

*Lancaster, PA (August 29, 2017) – LancasterHistory.org kicks off the 2017 Presidential Lecture Series on Friday, September 29, 2017 with Dr. Michael F. Holt for *Sink Hole: How Kansas Crises Doomed the Presidencies of Franklin Pierce and James Buchanan*. Holt's presentation will explore how the two critical changes in the United States' rule of law---the 1854 Kansas Nebraska Act and the 1857 Dred Scott Decision---created political tripping stones that destroyed the Presidencies of the 14th and 15th Presidents of the United States.*

Michael F. Holt, Ph.D. is the Langbourne M. Williams Professor of American History Emeritus at the University of Virginia. Dr. Holt received his Bachelor of Arts at Princeton University and his doctorate at Johns Hopkins. He is the author of six books, including the award-winning *The Rise and Fall of the American Whig Party* and *By One Vote: The Disputed Presidential Election of 1876*. One the United States' most prolific and influential scholars on antebellum politics, Dr. Holt served as a keynote speaker at the President James Buchanan National Symposium at LancasterHistory.org in 2008.

This lecture is presented as part of the LancasterHistory.org 2017 Presidential Lecture Series. This series, in combination with The Regional History Colloquium, offers free lectures open to the public. The 2017 Presidential Lecture Series will explore westward expansion's impact on James Buchanan's presidency.

The colloquium *Sink Hole* will take place on Friday, September 29, 2017 in Ryder Hall at LancasterHistory.org, 230 N President Avenue, Lancaster. A speaker's reception begins at 4pm, followed by the lecture at 4:30pm. The event is free and open to the public.

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