



# LancasterHistory.org

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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## History of America's Pumpkin Obsession Explored in Free Colloquium

*LancasterHistory.org welcomes Cindy Ott for a colloquium the iconic fall vegetable.*

*Lancaster, PA (September 15, 2017)* – Celebrate autumn harvest season with LancasterHistory.org on Thursday, October 5. Professor Cindy Ott of the University of Delaware will present the Regional History Colloquium: *Pumpkin: The Curious History of an American Icon*. Why do so many Americans drive for miles each autumn to buy a vegetable that they are unlikely to eat? Americans have used the pumpkin to fulfill their desire to maintain connections to nature and to the family farm of lore, and small farms and rural communities have been revitalized in the process. While the pumpkin has inspired American myths and traditions, the pumpkin itself has changed because of the ways people have perceived, valued, and used it. *Pumpkin* is a smart and lively study of the deep meanings hidden in common things and their power to make profound changes in the world around us. Having done research in Lancaster County, Professor Ott will explore the fascinating history of the pumpkin and its connections to southeastern Pennsylvania.

Cindy Ott is an associate professor in the history department and museum studies program at the University of Delaware. Her fields of expertise are American food and culture, U.S. environmental history, history and memory, and material and visual culture. Along with her book *Pumpkin: The*

*Curious History of an American Icon* (2012), she has published articles on urban gardens, food reform movements, Indian and non-Indian relations, visual and material culture, and landscape and memory. She is the President of the Society of Fellows at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society based in Munich, Germany, and a member of the executive committee of the American Society for Environmental History. Cindy is currently writing a book entitled *Biscuits and Buffalo: Squashing Myths about Food in Indian Country*.

The Regional History Colloquium is a series of presentations hosted by LancasterHistory.org throughout the year. Presenters at the Colloquium are esteemed scholars and historians who have published works on historical issues relating to southeastern Pennsylvania and its wider borders.

The colloquium *Pumpkin* takes place on Thursday, October 5 in Ryder Hall at LancasterHistory.org, 230 North President Ave., Lancaster. A reception begins at 4pm, followed by the presentation at 4:30pm. The event is free and open to the public.

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