

The quarterly series begins January 24 with Jay Robert Stiefel for "The Cabinetmaker's Account"

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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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LancasterHistory.org launches new artifact-focused program series to center on decorative arts, material culture

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Lancaster, PA (December 27, 2018) – Be a part of the launch of LancasterHistory.org's new artifact-focused programming series, the Material Culture Forum. On Thursday, January 24, join LancasterHistory.org Curatorial staff for in-depth object studies of Lancaster County furniture followed by a presentation by Jay Robert Stiefel, who will join us in conversation about his new book, *The Cabinetmaker's Account: John Head's Record of Craft & Commerce in Colonial Philadelphia, 1718-1753*.

At 4pm, LancasterHistory.org Assistant Curator Tori Pyle will present a close look and conversation about Lancaster County furniture, using objects from the LancasterHistory.org Collections.

At 4:30pm, special guest Jay Robert Stiefel will join us in a presentation and discussion of *The Cabinetmaker's Account*.

English joiner John Head (1688–1754) immigrated to Philadelphia in 1717 and became one of its

most successful artisans and merchants. However, his prominence was lost to history until the author's discovery of his account book at the Library of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. A find of great historical importance, Head's account book is the earliest and most complete to have survived from any cabinetmaker working in British North America or in Great Britain. It chronicles the commerce, crafts, and lifestyles of early Philadelphia's entire community: its shopkeeping, cabinetmaking, chairmaking, clockmaking, glazing, metalworking, needleworking, property development, agriculture, botany, livestock, transport, foodstuffs, drink, hardware, fabrics, furnishings, household wares, clothing, building materials, and export trade.

Jay Robert Stiefel, historian of Colonial Philadelphia society and its material culture, presents the definitive interpretation of the John Head account book and introduces many other discoveries. The culmination of nearly 20 years of research, this new volume serves as an essential reference work on 18th-century Philadelphia, its furniture and material culture, as well as an intimate and detailed social history of the interactions among that era's most talented artisans and successful merchants. ([Click here to view John Head's digitized account book.](#))

About The Event: The Material Culture Forum is a quarterly series designed to lead small groups in an exploration of history through objects. At 4pm, LancasterHistory.org's Curatorial staff will offer white glove object studies using highlights from our Collections; at 4:30pm, guest scholars and lecturers will join our group to discuss new research related to our regional history and its material culture, the objects and architecture that surround Lancastrians. Scholars, decorative arts enthusiasts, and curious learners are all welcome to join us for this enriching program. Whether you know a lot or a little about the county's history, we will learn from each other's observations and knowledge. Attend all four Material Culture Forums throughout the year, or choose just a few of particular interest to you. Water bottles and note paper will be provided.

Tickets: The forum, *The Cabinetmaker's Account*, takes place Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 4pm at LancasterHistory.org, 230 N. President Avenue in Lancaster, PA. Tickets are \$15 for LancasterHistory.org members and \$25 for non-members. ([To become a member or renew your membership, please visit our website.](#)) To register, please visit www.lancasterhistory.org or call (717) 392-4633. Sell out is likely; early, advance registration is highly recommended. Questions and accessibility requests may be directed to info@lancasterhistory.org or (717) 392-4633.

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