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LancasterHistory

For Immediate Release

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

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Celebrated Landscape Historian to speak at LancasterHistory on the transformation of the White House grounds

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*Lancaster, PA (October 3, 2019) – On Thursday, October 24, 2019, Marta McDowell will join LancasterHistory to discuss how the White House grounds have grown with America, a talk based on her best-selling book, *All the Presidents' Gardens: Madison's Cabbages to Kennedy's Roses, How the White House Grounds Have Grown with America*.*

The 18-acres surrounding the White House have been an unwitting witness to history—kings and queens have dined there, bills and treaties have been signed there, and presidents have landed and retreated many times over. Throughout it all, the grounds have remained not only beautiful, but also a powerful reflection of American trends.

Marta McDowell will share the untold history of the White House Grounds, starting with plant-obsessed George Washington and ending with Michelle Obama's kitchen garden. History buffs will revel in the fascinating tidbits about Lincoln's goats, Ike's putting green, Jackie's iconic roses, and Amy Carter's tree house. Gardeners will enjoy the information on the plants whose favor has

come and gone over the years and the gardeners who have been responsible for it all. And Lancastrians will delight in the information about First Lady Harriet Lane's contributions to the White House gardens. During Buchanan's presidency, Harriet had a new wooden greenhouse built on the roof of the west terrace, adjacent to the State Dining Room.

Marta McDowell teaches landscape history and horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden and consults for private clients and public gardens. Her latest book is *The World of Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Frontier Landscapes that Inspired the Little House Books*. Timber Press also published *All the Presidents' Gardens*, a New York Times bestseller, and *Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life*, now in its sixth printing. Marta is revising her first book, *Emily Dickinson's Gardens*, due out in a full color edition by Timber Press in 2019.

About The Event: The Regional History Colloquium is a series of lectures and presentations hosted by LancasterHistory throughout the year. Presenters at the Colloquium are historians and scholars who are in the midst of a work-in-progress or who have recently completed a publication. Topics focus on historical issues relating to southeastern Pennsylvania and its wider borders.

Tickets: The event *All The Presidents' Gardens* will take place on Thursday, October 24, 2019 in Ryder Hall at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue in Lancaster. A speaker's reception and book signing by the author takes place at 4pm, followed by the main presentation at 4:30pm. The event is free and open to the public. Due to the popularity of the Regional History Colloquium series, **advance registration is required to guarantee a seat at the presentation**. Visit www.lancasterhistory.org/lectures to register online or call (717) 392-4633. Limited tickets still available. Questions and accessibility requests may be directed to info@lancasterhistory.org or (717) 392-4633.

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[Link to Marta McDowell's Website](#)

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