



LancasterHistory

For Immediate Release

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

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Yuletide at Wheatland 2019 to feature the traditions of James Buchanan's German and Irish domestic servants

History and holiday-focused tours to take place November 25 - December 30

Lancaster, PA (November 6, 2019) – A Lancaster holiday favorite, LancasterHistory's *Yuletide at Wheatland*, returns on November 25 with tours available Monday - Saturday until December 30, 2019. The annual history and holiday-themed program features a different theme each year, commonly centered around the history of Wheatland, its inhabitants, or the time period in which they lived. This year visitors will tour the festive halls and rooms of President James Buchanan's Wheatland, and discover the historic Christmastime traditions and customs held by Buchanan's German and Irish domestic servants in *Yuletide at Wheatland: Christmas Below Stairs*.

James Buchanan retired from public service just as a majority of Americans began to embrace Christmas as a family holiday, as well as an opportunity for solace and unity after the Civil War. Since many of the domestic servants at the mansion were immigrants from Ireland and Germany (or the children of immigrants), both Celtic and Teutonic traditions were likely present at Wheatland. At least two "domestics," Emma Etner (18) and Rachel Fanestock (45), were of German descent. Three "domestics," Edward Bolger, Thomas Gordon, and Lizzie Stoner, were of Irish descent. Tours of *Yuletide at Wheatland: Christmas Below Stairs* will expand upon the history of the home and the lives of the domestic servants, as well as the origins of the many

Christmastime traditions they observed. Many of these traditions may be familiar to today's audience, such as German advent wreaths and calendars and table-top trees to Irish holly, ivy, and nativity scenes.

Visitors begin their *Yuletide at Wheatland* experience in the LancasterHistory museum by watching the orientation film *Buchanan's America: A Nation Divided*, followed by a *Yuletide at Wheatland* tour, an approximately one hour long history and holiday-themed tour of the presidential mansion. Ticketholders also receive admission to the self-guided museum exhibitions, including the new *Lancaster in the '60s* exhibition, in LancasterHistory's museum.

Additional Special Holiday Events at LancasterHistory

Also during the holiday season, LancasterHistory will host two special events.

- **Candlelight Tours:** On Friday, December 20 from 6-8pm, visitors can enjoy the warmth and festivity of a *Yuletide at Wheatland* tour in the evening by candlelight. Tours are available on the half hour starting at 6pm. The last tour of the evening is at 7:30pm. Tickets are available online at LancasterHistory's website or by calling (717) 392-4633.
- **Yuletide Family Day:** On Saturday, December 21 from 10am to 3pm, families can visit LancasterHistory for the first annual Yuletide Family Day. LancasterHistory educators will be hosting free, kid-friendly workshops and programs throughout the day, including a Holiday Storytime and some visitors from historic holiday characters! This event is free and open to the public while supplies last.

Yuletide at Wheatland Hours & Admission

Yuletide at Wheatland: Christmas Below Stairs begins Monday, November 25. Tours are available Monday - Saturday, on the hour, from 10am to 3pm. There are no tours on Sundays, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. The last day of *Yuletide at Wheatland* is Monday, December 30.

Tickets are \$17 for adults (14+), \$8 for children (6-13), and free for small children (5 & Under with the purchase of a paying adult). Tickets may be purchased online at

<https://www.lancasterhistory.org/yuletide> or by calling (717) 392-4633. Advance tickets are recommended as tours often sell out and walk-in space is not guaranteed.

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[Download Yuletide at Wheatland Group Image \[Horizontal\]](#)

[Download Yuletide at Wheatland Group Image \[Vertical\]](#)

[Download Yuletide at Wheatland Ladies](#)

[Download Yuletide at Wheatland Man & Firewood](#)

[Download Wheatland Garland](#)

About The Photos

Above photo downloads are suitable for web content. If you require a higher resolution, print quality photo, please contact Emily Miller, emily.miller@lancasterhistory.org. All photos should credit LancasterHistory.

Additional photos of Wheatland decorated will be available after Wednesday, November 27. Please contact Emily Miller if you are interested in also obtaining those photographs for marketing purposes.

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