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

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Scholar to discuss the "other women" of the White House at April free lecture

Katie Sibley, Ph.D. of St. Joseph's University to tell all about surrogate First Ladies, including Lancaster's First Lady Harriet Lane

Lancaster, PA (March 20, 2019) – On Thursday, April 4, 2019, Dr. Katie Sibley will join LancasterHistory to discuss the “other women” of the White House: First Ladies never married to presidents. Beginning with Martha Jefferson Randolph, Thomas Jefferson’s daughter, there have been a handful of “surrogate First Ladies” who have performed the duties of White House hostess while not being married to the president. Even when these women are acknowledged as “surrogate First Ladies,” they are often not granted the value or respect of official First Ladies, though many served important roles in presidential administrations.

Perhaps most notable to the lineup of surrogate First Ladies is Harriet Lane, niece of President James Buchanan, who is the only woman who was not married to a president that is considered an “official” First Lady. Harriet Lane acted as Buchanan’s hostess and was a highly visible public figure. Other non-spousal relatives, including Emily Donelson and Sarah Yorke Jackson (Andrew Jackson’s niece and daughter-in-law, respectively), Angelica Singleton Van Buren (Martin Van Buren’s daughter-in-law), and Rose Elizabeth Cleveland (Grover Cleveland’s sister), took on the

duties of First Lady.

Katie A. S. Sibley, Ph.D. is the Director of the American Studies Program at St. Joseph's University. Professor Sibley's most recent publication is a comprehensive monograph on Florence Harding, entitled *First Lady Florence Harding: Behind the Tragedy and Controversy* (University Press of Kansas, 2009). She recently served as editor of *A Companion to First Ladies* (Wiley Blackwell, 2016).

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 *Surrogate First Ladies* will take place on Thursday, April 4, 2019 in Ryder Hall at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue in Lancaster. A speaker's reception 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. Questions and accessibility requests may be directed to info@lancasterhistory.org or (717) 392-4633.

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