



LancasterHistory

For Immediate Release

Contact: Emily Miller
Director of Marketing & Communications
717-392-4633 ext. 133
emily.miller@lancasterhistory.org

LancasterHistory's History Happy Hour To Be Held at Stevens & Smith Center on July 10

Popular program to focus on the history of beer and brewing at the corner of South Queen & East Vine Streets

LANCASTER, PA — **LancasterHistory** is excited to announce the summertime return of its popular program **History Happy Hour** on Thursday, July 10 at the **Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy**.

In addition to being the home of **Thaddeus Stevens** and **Lydia Hamilton Smith**, the corner of South Queen and East Vine Streets in Lancaster City is home to a rich history of beer and brewing. There, in 1759, John Frick founded one of the oldest breweries in Lancaster. In the 1860s, the building became a popular lager beer saloon where even the teetotaling Thaddeus Stevens occasionally enjoyed a drink.

The lively talk about the Stevens & Smith Center's brewing and drinking history will be hosted by **Stephanie Townrow**, Director of Interpretation & Exhibitions at LancasterHistory's Stevens & Smith Center and a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Delaware. Stephanie will bring a deep

knowledge of historic foodways and years of experience researching Stevens, Smith, and the history of the site---as well as a love of beer.

"Thaddeus Stevens once called Lancaster a 'beer-drinking, excellent, healthy community.' Even though he didn't drink, Stevens understood the value of gathering as a community around a glass of lager," said Townrow. "I'm looking forward to gathering in the shadow of an old saloon and brewery owned by Stevens and celebrating the history of our beer-drinking, excellent community!"

History Happy Hour will take place on Thursday, July 10 from 5:30-7:30pm at the Stevens & Smith Center, 13-15 East Vine Street in Lancaster, PA (formerly 45 S. Queen Street). Doors open at 5:30pm and the main program will begin at 6pm. LancasterHistory is partnering with **Raney Cellars Brewing Company** of Millersville, who will be providing and serving History Happy Hour's beer selection for the evening.

Tickets for July 10 are \$35 per person and include access to the event, the program by Stephanie Townrow, and a drink and light appetizers. The event is suggested for ages 18 or older, and individuals must be 21 years or older to consume alcohol. Non-alcoholic beverages will also be available.

Tickets for the popular program go on sale Monday, June 30 at 10am Eastern on LancasterHistory's website, <https://www.lancasterhistory.org/events/hhh-july2025>. The event is sponsored by Henrietta Heisler Interiors, Inc.

About LancasterHistory

LancasterHistory is a community-based, not-for-profit organization established to educate the public on the history of Lancaster County and its place in the history of Pennsylvania and the United States, to advance the missions of regional historical organizations, and to promote the acquisition, preservation, and interpretation of resources representing the history of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania within the broader context of state and national history, including the homes of 15th US President James Buchanan and Congressman Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith.

#

Copyright © 2025 LancasterHistory, All rights reserved.