



Possible Topics for National History Day 2026

The following list highlights some possible topics which students might research in the LancasterHistory collections. There are many more!

Revolution

Revolutionary Wars

- The American Revolution in Lancaster County
 - Patriots and Loyalists
 - Jasper Yeates
 - The Stamp Act
 - John Andre (spy and prisoner of war held in Lancaster County)
- Impact of European Revolutions on Immigration to Lancaster County
 - Isaac Lefever

Technological Revolutions

- James Buchanan and the Transatlantic Cable
- Manufacturing and the Industrial Revolution in Lancaster County
 - Conestoga Cotton Mill
- Transportation Revolutions in Lancaster County
 - Robert Fulton and the Commercialization of the Steam Engine
 - Development of the Conestoga Wagon
 - Transitions from Horse-Drawn Carriages to Trolleys to Cars
- Armstrong Flooring, Linoleum, and Consumer Goods in the 1950s
- Media Revolutions in Lancaster County
 - RCA Manufacturing Plant
 - WGAL TV Station

Revolutionary Ideas and Revolutionary Thinkers

- The American Revolution in Lancaster County
- The Abolitionist Movement in Lancaster County

- The Underground Railroad in Lancaster County
- Thaddeus Stevens
 - Pre-Civil War Abolitionist
 - Advocate for Public Schools
 - Advocate for the 13th Amendment to the Constitution that Abolished Slavery
 - Advocate for the 14th Amendment to the Constitution that Granted Birthright Citizenship and Equal Protection Under the Law
 - Advocate for Voting Rights

Reform

Reform Movements

- The Abolitionist Movement in Lancaster County
- The Underground Railroad in Lancaster County
- The Pennsylvania System and Prison Reform in the 1800s
- Women's Suffrage Movement in Lancaster County
- Temperance Movement and Prohibition in Lancaster County
- Immigration Reform in the 1920s
- African American Civil Rights Movements of the 1900s
 - Lancaster NAACP
 - Rocky Springs Protests (1963)
- LGBTQ+ Civil Rights Movement of the 1990s
 - Pink Triangle Coalition
- Anti-Vietnam War Protests at Franklin and Marshall in the 1960s and 1970s

Reformers

- Thaddeus Stevens
- Underground Railroad Operators
 - Stephen Smith
 - William Whipper
 - Daniel and Hannah Gibbons
- Marianna Gibbons Brubaker (Involved in various movements in the early 1900s)
- William Walton Griest (Involved in various movements as Congressman from Lancaster from 1908 to 1930)
- Clifford Twombly (Anti-Vice Reformer)
- African American Civil Rights Activists
 - Abraham Polite (early 1900s)
 - Nelson Polite, Sr. (1960s)

Reaction

- Christiana Resistance and the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850
- Reactions to Technological Revolutions in Amish Communities

- Protests and Counterprotests
 - Protests of the film *Birth of a Nation* in 1916
 - Protests for Free Speech in 1965
 - Responses to Urban Renewal in the 1960s
 - Ku Klux Klan in Lancaster County