



# LancasterHistory

## For Immediate Release

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## A House in Mourning: Wheatland Commemorates the 155th Anniversary of James Buchanan's Death

*Immersive Tour Offers Glimpse into Age-Old Mourning Traditions*

**LANCASTER, Pa.** – LancasterHistory is proud to announce the return of the highly anticipated Special Subject Tour, "A House in Mourning." On June 1, 2, and 3, 2023, participants will be transported back to June 1, 1868, the day **James Buchanan**, the 15th President of the United States, passed away in his Wheatland home.

This immersive, guided tour offers a rare glimpse into the deep-rooted mourning traditions of the Victorian Era. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the décor and dress associated with periods of mourning in the late 19th century. This event also pays tribute to the thousands of mourners who arrived at Wheatland to pay their final respects to President Buchanan 155 years ago.

"We are excited to be bringing back 'A House in Mourning,' one of our most popular Special Subject Tours," **Patrick Clarke**, Director of President James Buchanan's Wheatland, said. "It offers visitors a unique opportunity to learn about a fascinating sociocultural period in our history. The Victorian customs surrounding death and mourning are unique and give us

insight into how individuals memorialized and grieved the loss of loved ones or important figures. This tour is about the passing of our 15th President and the thousands of people who journeyed to Wheatland to honor him."

"A House in Mourning" is part of a three-day event, each day mirroring the dates Buchanan laid in state at Wheatland. Tours will be held on the hour from 10 a.m. until the last tour at 3 p.m. Please note that these tours are not LancasterHistory's regular General Admission tours. The focus will be on the specific topic of Victorian mourning customs rather than a general history of Buchanan and his home.

Tickets are now available for [purchase online](#) or over the phone by calling (717) 392-4633. To book online, select the preferred date and time of your tour. Advance reservations are highly recommended due to the popularity of this event and the potential for tours to sell out.

LancasterHistory members receive complimentary admission, but reservations are still required to secure your chosen tour time.

For more information, visit [lancasterhistory.org](http://lancasterhistory.org) or call (717) 392-4633.

## **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 life and legacy of America's 15th president, James Buchanan, and to preserve and maintain Wheatland, his home.*

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