



LancasterHistory

For Immediate Release

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American Ramble: An Evening with Author Neil King, Jr.

Renowned Journalist's New Book features A Significant Chapter in Lancaster in His Walking Journey from Washington, D.C. to New York City

LANCASTER, Pa. – LancasterHistory welcomes author **Neil King Jr.** back to Lancaster to launch his new book, *American Ramble: A Walk of Memory and Renewal*.

American Ramble: An Evening with Neil King Jr. will take place on **Tuesday, April 4, 2023**, at the **Ware Center for the Performing Arts**, 42 N. Prince Street in Lancaster. A book signing will begin at 5 p.m., followed by King's presentation at 5:30 p.m.

The book chronicles King's walk from Washington, D.C., to New York City, which began as a whim and grew into an obsession. King was determined to rediscover the most important parts of life and to see parts of America with fresh eyes. Armed with just a small backpack and the mission to pay attention to the land he crossed and the people he met, King spent 26 days on foot through historic battlefields and cemeteries as he crossed over the Mason-Dixon Line and

into Lancaster County.

King's quixotic journey landed him in Lancaster County for three days, where he discovered its historical sites, Amish and Quaker farms – past and present – the petroglyphs along the Susquehanna River, and the bed James Buchanan died in. Along the way, King was treated to a custom sandwich in Farmersville, watched Mennonite children play a softball game, and was treated to an impromptu concert by schoolchildren in Akron. King's journey travels deep into America's past and present, uncovering forgotten pockets and overlooked people. At a time of mounting disunity, the trip reveals the profound power of our shared ground.

"We at LancasterHistory are thrilled to welcome Neil back to Lancaster to launch this remarkable book," Vice President of LancasterHistory **Robin Sarratt** said. "We spent a memorable day with Neil in the spring of 2021 talking about James Buchanan, Thaddeus Stevens, and the particularly unique interplay of America history in our community. His thoughtful and well-crafted writing captures the essence of America at an unusual moment while carefully considering the ways in which our lives during the pandemic and political turmoil of the last few years are deeply connected with the past. We are excited to have him share his insights with our community, especially as he commences his national book tour from Lancaster on Thaddeus Stevens' birthday."

Tickets for the event are free and open to the public. However, advance tickets are recommended to guarantee a seat for the program. To secure tickets for the event, visit lancasterhistory.org or call (717) 392-4633. *American Ramble* books will be available for sale at the event while supplies last.

More information about the event, including parking and accessibility information, is posted on [LancasterHistory's website](https://lancasterhistory.org).

About Neil King Jr.

[Neil King, Jr.](#) grew up in Colorado in a house with the Rocky Mountains out the back door and the flat plains out the front. He attended school in Chicago and then New York City, where he studied philosophy at Columbia University. He worked many jobs, from busboy and ranch hand to cab driver and private investigator, before settling into a career in journalism. He worked for the *Tampa Tribune* and later for the *Prague Post* in the newly-born Czech Republic. For 20 years, he traveled to more than 50 countries on all continents to write and report and poke around as a

reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*. During his years in Washington, D.C., he served as chief diplomatic correspondent, a national political reporter, and, ultimately, the *Journal's* global economics editor. He now travels and writes on his own. He is the founder and editor of [Gotham Canoe](#), an online journal dedicated to life out of doors. [American Ramble: A Walk of Memory and Renewal](#) is his first book.

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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