



# LancasterHistory

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## April 2025 Upcoming Events

*from LancasterHistory*

*Please scroll to the bottom for updates on hours and current exhibitions.*

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### Congressman George S. Boutwell: Radical Republican & Champion of Democracy

Thursday, April 3

5pm Reception, 5:30pm Lecture | LancasterHistory

While Congressman George S. Boutwell of Massachusetts interacted with James Buchanan during the Antebellum Era and worked with Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War and Thaddeus Stevens during Reconstruction, he remains the most consequential American political figure you've never heard of. In this lecture, the Congressman's distant relative, Dr. Jeffrey Boutwell, traces a life that offers an insider's view of the pivotal moments that laid the groundwork for modern America.

**Dr. Jeffrey Boutwell** is a writer, historian, and policy specialist whose forty-year career spanned journalism, government, and international scientific cooperation. He has a B.A. in history from Yale University, a Ph.D. in political science from MIT, and has written widely on nuclear weapons arms control, Middle East security issues, and environmental degradation and civil conflict. He lives in Columbia, Maryland. His book, *Boutwell: Radical Republican and Champion of Democracy* (2025, W.W. Norton) was published on January 21, 2025.

**EVENT DETAILS & HOW TO REGISTER**

This event will take place in person at LancasterHistory on **Thursday, April 3, 2025**. Doors open and a reception begins at 5pm. The lecture will begin at 5:30pm. The lecture will also be streamed to Zoom at 5:30pm for those who wish to join us virtually.

This program is free and open to the public. In-person attendance requires advance registration in order to guarantee a seat. Due to capacity restrictions, tickets may not be available at the door. Virtual attendance requires advance registration in order to receive the Zoom link. The Zoom link will be emailed to registrants before the event. Register online by clicking the appropriate link below or by calling (717) 392-4633. Registration will close online on Thursday, April 3 at 5:30pm.

**[Register to Attend In Person](#)**

**[Register to Attend Online](#)**

*This event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA and on Zoom.*

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## **First Friday Open House: Celebrate Thaddeus Stevens' Birthday!**

**Friday, April 4**

**5-7pm** | The Stevens & Smith Center

Join LancasterHistory on Friday, April 4, for our first-ever First Friday at the Stevens & Smith Center! From 5-7pm, enjoy a sneak peek of the Stevens & Smith Center, see the incredible progress happening at this future museum, and learn about the road to opening it in 2026. Plus, it's Thaddeus Stevens' 233rd birthday! We'll be celebrating the special occasion with good cheer and birthday cake.

This is one of a series of events scheduled throughout April and May to support the Stevens & Smith Center and its capital campaign. For a full list of upcoming events, please visit **[stevensandsmithcenter.org/events](https://stevensandsmithcenter.org/events)**.

The First Friday Open House on April 4 is free and open to the public and does not require advance registration. This event is also family-friendly; all ages are encouraged to attend. The event will take place at the Stevens & Smith Center, 45 S. Queen Street, Lancaster. Please use the entrance around the corner on East Vine Street.

*This event takes place at the Stevens & Smith Center, 45 South Queen Street, Lancaster, PA. Please use the entrance around the corner on East Vine Street.*

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# Wheatland: A Gentleman's Farm

Saturday, April 5

Tours 10am - 3pm | LancasterHistory

James Buchanan is best-known as our nation's 15th President, but he was also a gentleman farmer. From 1849 to 1868, Buchanan lived at Wheatland, which sat upon 22.5 acres of meadows, orchards, and gardens. In this special subject tour, discover how the grounds functioned as a farm and why Buchanan was called "the Sage of Wheatland."

*Wheatland: A Gentleman's Farm*, a special guided tour of Wheatland, will be held on Saturday, April 5. Tours will be available on the hour, beginning at 10am and continuing until the last tour at 3pm. **Please Note: These tours are not our regular General Admission tours and will be more focused on a particular topic than a general history of Buchanan and the home.**

Tickets are available for purchase [online](#) or over the phone by calling (717) 392-4633. Advance reservations are highly recommended as tours may sell out and walk-in tickets may not be available. Members receive complimentary admission, but should reserve their tickets in advance to guarantee the tour time of their choice. [This tour is eligible for LancasterHistory's Museums for All rate!](#)

*This event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA.*

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## Lunch & Learn: Who Were Stevens & Smith?

Friday, April 11

12-1pm | Zoom

*Lawyer, Congressman, Abolitionist  
Housekeeper, Mother, Entrepreneur  
...and so much more!*

On Friday, April 11, grab your lunch and hop on Zoom to learn about Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith. From the comfort of your office, home, or car, listen to LancasterHistory President Robin Sarratt and Director of Exhibitions and Interpretation Stephanie Townrow dig into the lives of two Lancasterians from history whose work still influences us today.

This is one of a series of events scheduled throughout April and May to support the Stevens & Smith Center and its capital campaign. For a full list of upcoming events, please visit [stevensandsmithcenter.org/events](https://stevensandsmithcenter.org/events).

"Lunch & Learn: Who Were Stevens & Smith?" will take place on Friday, April 11 from 12-1pm on Zoom. The event is free and open to the public but requires advance registration to obtain a link to the Zoom. The event will be recorded and posted to LancasterHistory's YouTube channel. To

register, please [click here](#) or call 717.392.4633. Please note that this is a virtual event only and will not take place in person.

*This event takes place online via Zoom.*

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## "Pathways of Persistence" Open House & Reception

**Saturday, April 12**

**3-6pm | LancasterHistory**

Wherever you go in Lancaster County —up Route 30, down quiet country roads, or along bustling city streets—you'll encounter the rich and enduring legacy of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities. Lancaster's AANHPI residents have contributed to the county's cultural, economic, and social landscape, adapting to challenges and thriving across generations. *Pathways of Persistence*, a collaboration between Lancaster Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders and LancasterHistory, celebrates these stories of resilience, perseverance, and impact. Through this exhibit, we honor the voices and experiences that have helped shape Lancaster, bringing to light the multifaceted contributions AANHPI individuals have made in business, culture, and beyond.

Join LancasterHistory and Lancaster Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (LAAPI) on Saturday, April 12 from 3-6pm for a special open house and reception celebrating *Pathways of Persistence*. Attendees will be able to view the exhibitions and enjoy snacks from [Momma Son's](#), a food vendor and caterer based in Columbia that specializes in Cambodian cuisine. At 4pm, there will be remarks from LancasterHistory, LAAPI, and community members who contributed photographs to the exhibit.

This event is free and open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome if capacity permits, but advance registration is appreciated. To attend, register [online](#) or over the phone by calling (717) 392-4633.

*This event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA.*

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## Making A Museum: The Stevens & Smith Center Story (So Far)

**Tuesday, April 15**

**5pm Reception, 5:30pm Presentation | LancasterHistory**

The Stevens & Smith Center has been in the making for decades. LancasterHistory assumed responsibility for the project in 2010 with a commitment to creating a state-of-the-art museum to foster learning, dialogue, and reflection. Join Robin Sarratt, LancasterHistory's President & CEO, and Stephanie Townrow, Director of Exhibitions and Interpretation, to learn about the process of making a museum from the ground up and the journey ahead. Plus, get up close and personal with historic artifacts slated to go into the Stevens & Smith Center!

This is one of a series of events scheduled throughout April and May to support the Stevens & Smith Center and its capital campaign. For a full list of upcoming events, please visit [stevensandsmithcenter.org/events](https://stevensandsmithcenter.org/events).

"Making A Museum: The Stevens & Smith Center Story (So Far)" will take place in person at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, on Tuesday, April 15, 2025. Doors open and a reception begins at 5pm. The presentation will begin at 5:30pm. This event will not be streamed to Zoom. Instead, we encourage those who cannot attend to [join us on Tuesday, May 13 from 7-8pm ET on Zoom](#) for a similar presentation.

This event is free and open to the public. In-person attendance requires advance registration in order to guarantee a seat at the program. Due to capacity limitations, tickets may not be available at the door. To register, please [click here](#) or call 717.392.4633.

*This event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA.*

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## The Annual Dinner of the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum

**Wednesday, April 16**

**6-9pm** | The DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Hotel Lancaster

Celebrate and gather with friends for the Annual Dinner of the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum! Join us on **Wednesday, April 16 from 6 – 9pm** at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Lancaster for an evening of fellowship and fun, benefitting the care and conservation of the Louise Arnold Tanger Arboretum at LancasterHistory.

The Annual Dinner begins at 6pm with cocktails, followed by a plated dinner at 6:30pm and a program, awards, and raffle drawings around 7:30pm. We're excited to welcome local tree enthusiast Len Eiserer for a great presentation spotlighting "In Celebration of the Humble Serviceberry."

Tickets to attend the Annual Dinner for the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum are \$65 per person. Ticket purchase includes access to the event, a plated dinner (salad, sides, main entree, and dessert), and the main presentation by Len Eiserer. Raffle tickets may be purchased during the cocktail reception at 6pm with cash. Proceeds from the dinner and raffle benefit the care and

conservation of the Tanger Arboretum.

**RSVP by April 1, 2025** by [completing your RSVP online](#) or by calling Emily Miller at (717) 392-4633, ext. 133. If you have any food allergies or dietary needs, please also let Emily know by phone or by emailing [emily.miller@lancastrhistory.org](mailto:emily.miller@lancastrhistory.org).

*This event takes place at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Hotel Lancaster, 2400 Willow Street Pike, Lancaster, PA.*

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## Annual Presidential Wreath Laying & Ceremony

**Saturday, April 19**

**10am** | Woodward Hill Cemetery

Join LancasterHistory at Woodward Hill Cemetery for the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony for President James Buchanan, the United States' 15th President. Taking place in the week of Buchanan's birthday, the ceremony features the laying of fresh flowers at the gravesite of the former president and remarks by the presiding officer of the Pennsylvania National Guard as well as local dignitaries.

On April 19 at 10am, the ceremony and remarks will include the following individuals and groups. Please note that this list will continue to be updated as more information develops.

- Brigadier General Francis R. Montgomery will present the ceremonial wreath at the gravesite of James Buchanan;
- The Lancaster Fencibles will fire a 21-gun salute;
- A member of Masonic Lodge No. 43, James Buchanan's lodge, will make brief remarks;
- Boy Scout Troop 58 will conduct a pre-ceremony cleaning of the gravesite and plant new flowers as well as lead those assembled for the ceremony in the Pledge of Allegiance; and
- The Red Rose Veterans Honor Guard will present a new American Flag for the gravesite and play Taps on the bugle.

This event is free and open to the public. No reservations are required. For directions to the Cemetery, [please click here](#).

*This event takes place at Woodward Hill Cemetery, 508 S. Queen Street, Lancaster, PA.*

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## Members' Night at the Stevens & Smith Center

**Thursday, April 24**

**5-7pm** | The Stevens & Smith Center

**Members make history happen!** On Thursday, April 24 from 5-7pm, LancasterHistory members are invited to join LancasterHistory staff and the Stevens & Smith Steering Committee and Board of Directors for a delightful and energizing evening at the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy. Enjoy light bites and refreshments as you tour the site to learn about the progress that has been made and the road ahead to opening the Stevens & Smith Center in 2026. Members will enjoy unique access to the site, plus a meet and greet with local artist Scott Cantrell, the painter of five unique portraits of abolitionists that will be a part of the future museum.

This is one of a series of events scheduled throughout April and May to support the Stevens & Smith Center and its capital campaign. For a full list of upcoming events, please visit [stevensandsmithcenter.org/events](https://stevensandsmithcenter.org/events).

Members' Night is free to LancasterHistory members but advance registration is encouraged. To register, please [click here](#) or call 717.392.4633. If you aren't a member and would like to become one, please visit [lancasterhistory.org/membership](https://lancasterhistory.org/membership). The event will take place at the Stevens & Smith Center, 45 South Queen Street in Lancaster. Please use the entrance around the corner on East Vine Street. Parking is available on-street or in local garages for a fee (nearby garages include the Penn Square Garage or Steinman Park Garage).

*This event takes place at the Stevens & Smith Center, 45 South Queen Street, Lancaster, PA. Please use the entrance around the corner on East Vine Street.*

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## The Art & Cultivation of Bonsai

**Saturday, April 26**

**10-11:30am** | LancasterHistory

On Saturday, April 26, learn all about the tiny but mighty bonsai with Millersville University's Dr. Ryan Wagner! Whether you're new to bonsai or are an experienced bonsai caretaker, get tips on the "dos" and "don'ts" of bonsai with special attention to aesthetics and improving general health. At this presentation, you'll discover the history of bonsai and the different inspirational styles, while fostering an appreciation of the diversity of bonsai design. Plus, experience a live demonstration of techniques used to develop and shape bonsai.

**Dr. Ryan Wagner** is a Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Biology at Millersville University. Before joining the faculty at MU, Wagner completed his post-doctoral work at Iowa State University in Ames, IA, and his Ph.D. at Washington State University in Pullman, WA, where he studied plant physiology. Having grown up in South Dakota, Wagner has long held an interest in all botanical areas, including the horticultural art of bonsai. After joining the regional Lancaster Bonsai Society in 2005, Wagner experienced rapid growth in both his horticultural and artistic development as applied to bonsai. Wagner has given numerous lectures aimed at introducing bonsai to the public and to provide newcomers and experienced bonsai artists alike

with practical information aimed at developing/improving their creations.

## HOW TO REGISTER

The event, “The Art & Cultivation of Bonsai” will take place on Saturday, April 26 from 10-11:30am at LancasterHistory. The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$10/Adults and \$5/Children (17 & Under). Friends of the Tanger Arboretum members receive complimentary admission, but should still register for the program. Tickets may be purchased [online](#) or by calling (717) 392-4633. Advance tickets recommended as walk-in tickets are not guaranteed.

*This event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA.*

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## EXHIBITIONS ON DISPLAY

### Main Exhibition - ***Thieves & Vagabonds: A History of Law and Justice in Lancaster County***

LancasterHistory’s newest major exhibition, *Thieves & Vagabonds*, chronicles key moments in the history of law and justice in Lancaster County from the 18th century to the 20th century. From prisons to prohibition, *Thieves & Vagabonds* explores the making, breaking, and remaking of laws over 300 years of Lancaster County’s history. Visit LancasterHistory’s newest exhibition for a deep dive into crime and punishment as well as reform and repair in the Lancaster community.

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### Special Exhibition - ***Pathways of Persistence: AANHPI Legacies in Lancaster County***

**On Display Through May 31, 2025**

Wherever you go in Lancaster County —up Route 30, down quiet country roads, or along bustling city streets—you’ll encounter the rich and enduring legacy of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities. Lancaster’s AANHPI residents have contributed to the county’s cultural, economic, and social landscape, adapting to challenges and thriving across generations. *Pathways of Persistence*, a collaboration between Lancaster Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders and LancasterHistory, celebrates these stories of resilience, perseverance, and impact. Through this exhibit, we honor the voices and experiences that have helped shape Lancaster, bringing to light the multifaceted contributions AANHPI individuals have made in business, culture, and beyond.



# LANCASTERHISTORY HOURS OF OPERATION

## HOURS OF OPERATION

LancasterHistory is open Mondays through Saturdays from 9:30am to 5pm to the public.

Tours of President James Buchanan's Wheatland are available from 10am to 3pm. The Research Center is open Wednesdays - Fridays and the first Saturday of the month from 9:30am to 2pm for appointments.