



LancasterHistory

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

August 2025 Upcoming Events

from LancasterHistory

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

Getting Started With DNA

Saturday, August 16

10-11:30am | LancasterHistory

****THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT****

DNA is a powerful tool and, when paired with archival records, it can help answer many research questions about family history. On Saturday, August 16, Donna Backus, a genealogist with decades of experience, will cover the basics of DNA and how to use *ancestry.com* and other tools to learn more about your heritage.

Although there are no prerequisites for this workshop, it is recommended that prior to attending you have had your DNA analyzed, have an online family tree that dates back at least to second great-grandparents, and have linked your DNA results to yourself on your online tree.

Donna Backus is a family genealogist and historian who has been conducting research for over fifty years. She has presented for genealogy groups throughout Lancaster County and spends her spare time keeping up to date on the latest technology associated with genealogy and family research.

“Getting Started With DNA” will take place on Saturday, August 16 from 10-11:30am at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Ave., Lancaster. Tickets are \$20 for LancasterHistory

Members and \$25 for Non-Members. Advance registration is encouraged as the class has limited capacity. To register, please [click here to register online](#) or call (717) 392-4633 to register over the phone.

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

Cradle of Conservation: An Environmental History of Pennsylvania

Thursday, August 21

5pm Reception | 5:30pm Lecture

Held at LancasterHistory and Livestreamed

The environmental history of Pennsylvania includes William Penn's instruction to "leave one acre of tree for every five acres cleared" and the 1971 ratification of the Environmental Rights Amendment as well as today's debates over fracking and the threat of climate change. Dr. Allen Dieterich-Ward of Shippensburg University will share his survey of the "working landscapes" of Pennsylvania and Lancaster County from the 17th century to the present.

Dr. Allen Dieterich-Ward is a professor of history and director of The Graduate School at Shippensburg University. His first book, *Beyond Rust: Metropolitan Pittsburgh and the Fate of Industrial America*, won the 2016 Arline Custer Memorial Award from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference. His second book, *Cradle of Conservation: An Environmental History of Pennsylvania*, is now available from Temple University Press. He is the past president of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, former editor of the Pennsylvania History Series, and a board member of PA Humanities.

EVENT DETAILS & HOW TO REGISTER

This event will take place in person at LancasterHistory on **Thursday, August 21, 2025**. Doors open and a reception begins at 5pm. The lecture will begin at 5:30pm. The lecture will also be livestreamed 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.

>>[REGISTER TO ATTEND IN PERSON](#)<<

>>[REGISTER TO ATTEND ONLINE](#)<<

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

Thyme to Grow: A Guide to Herb Gardening

Saturday, August 23

10-11:30am | LancasterHistory

Join the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum as we welcome August Nature Series presenter Madison Walter for “Thyme to Grow: A Guide to Herb Gardening.” Discover the wonderful world of herbs in this hands-on program. Explore various herb types, learn essential care techniques, and delve into the best practices for growing, harvesting, and preserving your herbs. Whether you are a beginner or looking to grow your green thumb, you’ll leave with practical skills and a new appreciation for our flavorful friends!

Madison Walter is the urban agriculture coordinator for the New Castle Conservation District, chair of the Delaware Urban Farm and Food Coalition, and a content developer and guest instructor for Longwood Gardens’ Continuing Education program. Leveraging her background in horticulture and Master’s Degree in Environmental Education, Madison has presented to local, national, and international audiences to build an understanding of how connections developed through farming and gardening build stronger communities. Her passion for plants and an equitable local food system are what drive her to encourage others to believe in a brighter, greener future.

HOW TO REGISTER

The event, “Thyme to Grow” will take place on Saturday, August 23 at 10am 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.

Music on the Lawn, feat. The Jordan Rast Trio

Saturday, August 23

5-7pm | LancasterHistory

Music on the Lawn returns this summer with more fantastic local bands in James Buchanan’s backyard! This family- (and dog-) friendly event welcomes attendees to relax and enjoy an evening outdoors with live music. August’s concert features The Jordan Rast Trio playing bluegrass, country, and Americana music.

Tickets are free for LancasterHistory Members, \$10/Adult (18+) Non-Members, and free for Children 17 & Under. Tickets may be purchased [online](#) or by calling (717) 392-4633. Tickets are also available at-the-door with cash or card (cash preferred).

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own blankets, foldable chairs, and picnics. Well-behaved, leashed dogs are welcome. If you require any special accommodations to attend, please notify Annie Weeks at (717) 392-4633, ext. 134 or annie.weeks@lancasterhistory.org in advance. Restrooms available onsite.

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

COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER

Wine & Cheese and A Walk in the Trees

Friday, September 5

5-7pm | LancasterHistory

Join the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum for a delightful late-summer social on Friday, September 5 at LancasterHistory! Enjoy refreshing drinks and light bites, while taking a leisurely stroll through the many stately trees in the Arboretum. Plus, join us for a “State of the Arboretum” address and election of new Board Members for 2025-2026. (Must be an active member to vote.)

Wine & Cheese and A Walk in the Trees is free for Friends of the Tanger Arboretum members. Tickets for non-members are \$25/person. Ticket purchase includes access to event, program, beverages, and appetizers. Non-alcoholic options will be available.

To RSVP, please click the button below to purchase or register online. You may also call Emily Miller at (717) 392-4633, ext. 133 to register over the phone. RSVPs are open until August 30.

>>[**RSVP to the Wine & Cheese**](#)<<

The event will take place at the Carriage House at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, on Friday, September 5 from 5-7pm. The event is rain or shine.

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

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.

Special Exhibition -

Open The Door: Baseball's Color Line in Central Pennsylvania

When Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color line in 1947, he toppled a barrier that existed nationwide for Black baseball players, including those in Central Pennsylvania. *Open The Door*, will tell the remarkable stories of teams like the Harrisburg Giants of the Eastern Colored League and men like Keith Kelley who integrated the Red Roses on the 100th anniversary of the Giants' stint playing at Lancaster's Rossmore Baseball Park.

"Open The Door" is now on display at LancasterHistory in Stoudt Gallery through August 30, 2025. Admission to the exhibit is included with the purchase of a General Admission ticket or Exhibitions-Only ticket. LancasterHistory Members receive complimentary admission.

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.



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