



County Founding Day

Regional History Flash Talk Schedule

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Thank you for joining us for County Founding Day!

5:40pm in Ryder Hall

Adam Shapiro | “Scopes Wasn’t the First: The Lancaster Teacher at the Center of the Country’s First Darwin Trial”

This summer marks the 100th anniversary of the Scopes “Monkey” trial, perhaps the most famous clash between religion and science in American history. But just nine months earlier, another trial occurred virtually unnoticed. At the center was D.S. Domer, a man from Salunga, Pennsylvania who began his teaching career in Lancaster in the 1880s. This flash talk will explore Domer’s upbringing, education, and experience of disability here in Lancaster - and how it set him up to be the educator at the center of the nation’s first evolution trial.

Adam R. Shapiro, Ph.D. is a historian of science and religion in America. He earned his Ph.D. in Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science from the University of Chicago in 2007 and is the author of *Trying Biology: The Scopes Trial, Textbooks, and the Antievolution Movement in American Schools* (2013) and co-author with Thomas Dixon of the second edition of the *Oxford Very Short Introduction to Science and Religion* (2022).

6pm in Ryder Hall

Lynn Brooks | “Meet John Durang: Lancaster’s Early American Dancer-Actor”

Born in Lancaster in 1768, John Durang was a professional dancer, actor, manager, equestrian, puppeteer, and more. Durang traveled throughout North America from Philadelphia to Canada and also brought his family-based troupe to Lancaster where he always advertised himself as a “native” of the town. In this flash talk, Lynn Brooks shares the story of John and his descendants including Edwin Forrest Durang who was an architect and contributor to the renovation of the Fulton Opera House.

Lynn Brooks, Ph.D. is Professor Emerita in the Dance Program at Franklin & Marshall College. She is the author of *John Durang: Man of the American Stage* (2011) and *Theatres of the Body: Dance and Discourse in Antebellum Philadelphia* (2025). She is also the lead editor of the volume *Dance and Science in the Long Nineteenth Century: The Articulate Body* (2025).

6:45pm in Ryder Hall

Linda Aleci | “The Market and the Machine: Lost Urban Landscapes and the Invention of Modern Lancaster”

In the midst of the Great Depression, Farm Security Administration photographers came to Lancaster City and took images of the Arcade Market—a cooperative farmers market established in 1927 and housed in a public parking garage (the Arcade). In this flash talk, Linda Aleci explores Lancaster’s streetscape and the FSA’s interest in this urban market while asking: Why has the Arcade Market (and the garage) become invisible in Lancaster’s histories?

Linda Aleci, Ph.D. is Associate Professor Emerita in the department of Art and Art History at Franklin and Marshall College. She has conducted research in urban markets and food systems, historic preservation, the built environment and public policy, publishing and speaking widely.

7:05pm in Ryder Hall

M. Kelly Tillery | “The Secrets of Our Founders: Lancaster and the Collective Memory of Andrew and James Hamilton”

Andrew and James Hamilton are heralded as the men who founded Lancaster Town in 1734. Yet our Founders were not as noble as popular history might indicate. They were slave owners, supporters of the British monarchy, and enemies of American independence. In this flash talk, M. Kelly Tillery asks why we honor these figures and offers a critical look at imperfect humans and collective memory.

M. Kelly Tillery is an intellectual property litigator as well as a historian and author. His books include *Sidebar: Reflections of a Philadelphia Lawyer* (2018), *Sidebar, Too: More Reflections of a Philadelphia Lawyer* (2020), and *Lancaster Blues: A Philadelphia Lawyer in Amish Paradise* (forthcoming).

7:25pm in Ryder Hall

Nick Siegert | “Joseph Bill Packer: Adventures in Metallurgy, Healing, Alchemy, and Counterfeiting”

300 years ago, Joseph Bill Packer ran a major counterfeiting operation that ran from New England to North Carolina and through Lancaster County. At the same time (if his account is to be believed) he was a medical doctor and healer of cancers, a schoolteacher, a metallurgist working in the mining business, and a dabbler in the mystical art of alchemy. In this flash talk, Nick Siegert will lay out the story of one of the more interesting and little-known characters in colonial American history.

Nick Seigert is currently Group Tours Coordinator at LancasterHistory. He has published work in the *American Communal Societies Quarterly* and given talks at the Communal Studies Association, the Institute of Hermetic Studies, and the Ephrata Cloister Winter History Class.