



LancasterHistory

For Immediate Release

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Discover the Legacy of Harriet Lane Through LancasterHistory Guided Tour

Special Subject Tour Highlights the Life and Compassion of the "First" First Lady

LANCASTER, PA — LancasterHistory is proud to announce a unique guided tour, "Harriet Lane: Compassionate Philanthropist," to be held on Saturday, May 4, at President James Buchanan's Wheatland. This tour offers a deep dive into the inspiring life of Harriet Lane, James Buchanan's niece who would go on to serve as his First Lady during his presidency.

Born on May 9, 1830, Harriet Lane was the youngest surviving child of Elliot Toll Lane and Jane Buchanan Lane. When both of her parents died of consumption, now known as tuberculosis, Harriet went on to be her Uncle James Buchanan's ward in 1841. A well-educated lady, Harriet attended several boarding schools before graduating from the Georgetown Academy of Visitation Convent at the age of 18. When James Buchanan served as the U.S. Minister to Great Britain, Harriet Lane joined him in London for a time and served as his hostess. During her time in England, which she noted as "the realization of a beautiful dream," she befriended Queen Victoria. When her uncle assumed the presidency, Harriet Lane assumed her role as White House hostess. She is considered the "first First Lady," as she was the first person to be given the title of "First Lady" by the American press.

Despite encountering numerous personal tragedies throughout her life, Lane's resilience and her vast charitable works left a significant mark on the nation. During their tour, visitors will gain insights into Harriet's philanthropic legacy, which still resonates today.

The special tour will run hourly from 10am to 3pm on Saturday, May 4. As these tours are focused on Lane's life rather than the general history of Wheatland and Buchanan, advanced

ticket purchase is advised to secure a spot. Tickets can be obtained [online](#) or by calling (717) 392-4633. LancasterHistory members can enjoy complimentary admission but are encouraged to reserve their tickets early.

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 homes of 15th US President James Buchanan and Congressman Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith.

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