



LancasterHistory

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February 2024 Upcoming Events *from LancasterHistory*

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

Behind the Scenes: The Making of "Urban Legend"

Saturday, February 3

Presentations at 11am and 2pm at LancasterHistory

Join Gregory J. Scott on Saturday, February 3 at 11am and/or 2pm for an author talk on his newest publication, *Urban Legend: The Life and Legacy of C. Emlen Urban*. *Urban Legend* highlights 25 of C. Emlen Urban's architectural masterpieces, which left an indelible mark on the City of Lancaster. On the pages of this book, Scott shares insight he gathered over seven years of research—collecting from Urban's personal travel diaries, sketchbooks, and linen drawings—tracking Urban's progression and maturity through seventeen different design styles and eleven building types. Enjoy a 60-minute presentation featuring author Gregg Scott to learn "behind-the-scenes" information on how *Urban Legend* came to be! Historic artifacts belonging to Urban will also be on display, including Urban's tail-coat, traveling trunk, and a selection of architectural drawings.

Gregory J. Scott is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, partner emeritus at RLPS Architects, architectural columnist for Lancaster Newspaper LNP, recent architectural correspondent for Lancaster NBC affiliate WGAL, and twice recipient of the Journalist and Educator Award presented by the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County. Gregg and his wife, Terri, reside in Northeast Harbor, ME, and Lancaster, PA. They have two children and two grandchildren. Gregg's current board and community positions include the Hamilton Club, Northeast Harbor Neighborhood House, Mount Desert Island Housing Trust, and Lancaster County Behavioral Health and Developmental Services advisor. He is also an Eagle Scout.

REGISTRATION

Presentations will take place on **Saturday, February 3 at 11am and 2pm at LancasterHistory**. Copies of *Urban Legend* will be available for purchase in LancasterHistory's Museum Store. Customers may have their books signed by Scott after each presentation.

To register for the time of your choice, please click the appropriate link below to register online or

call (717) 392-4633. Advance registration is strongly encouraged as there is limited capacity and walk-in tickets are not guaranteed.

[REGISTER FOR THE 11AM PRESENTATION](#) ****SOLD OUT****

[REGISTER FOR THE 2PM PRESENTATION](#)

These presentations are an encore of presentations previously given at LancasterHistory on in November and December 2023.

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

The 20th Annual Valentine's Day Gala

Saturday, February 10

6-11pm | The Hamilton Club, 106 E. Orange Str. Lancaster, PA

Can you join us for the 20th Annual Valentine's Gala? The theme this year is inspired by Moulin Rouge, the famous French cabaret. Guests are encouraged to dress in theme and enjoy dinner and dancing, with music by the Mama Tried Band at the Hamilton Club. A celebration of romance and history, this event benefits educational programming at LancasterHistory.

The Valentine's Day Gala takes place on Saturday, February 10 at the Hamilton Club in Lancaster. The event begins with cocktails and hors' d'oeuvres at 6pm, followed by fine dining at 7pm. After dinner, dancing and live music by the Mama Tried Band.

Tickets are required to attend the event and start at \$250 per person. Each level contains access to the event, cocktails, dinner, and live music.

[PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE](#)

Tickets may also be purchased over the phone by calling (717) 392-4633, ext. 134 or by [completing and mailing a paper RSVP card](#). Reservations are held upon receipt of payment. **RSVP by February 5, 2024.**

Event takes place at The Hamilton Club, 106 E. Orange Str., Lancaster, PA

Defining Lydia Hamilton Smith

Thursday, February 15

5pm Reception | 5:30pm Lecture

On Thursday, February 15, join LancasterHistory as we welcome author Mark Kelley for a discussion on his latest book, *An Uncommon Woman*, a new biography of Lydia Hamilton Smith (1813-1884), a prominent mixed-race businesswoman who lived in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Ever since Lydia Hamilton Smith arrived in Lancaster to serve as Thaddeus Stevens' housekeeper 184 years ago, people have been trying to define her. Stevens' biographers have noted her importance to the radical congressman. Racists have attacked her. Defenders have

celebrated her. Dr. Mark Kelley is the author of *An Uncommon Woman*, a new biography of Smith jointly published by Penn State Press and LancasterHistory in 2023. Kelley will join us to discuss this remarkable woman, what we know about her, and why her story matters.

Mark Kelley holds a Ph.D. in journalism from Syracuse University. He worked for twenty-five years as a broadcast journalist and has taught journalism and mass communications at Goshen College, Syracuse University, the University of Maine, and the New England School of Communications. *An Uncommon Woman* is his fourth book. Kelley currently serves on the Scholarly Advisory Committee for the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy, a museum under development by LancasterHistory. He resides in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Marty.

EVENT DETAILS & HOW TO REGISTER

This event is expected to take place in person at LancasterHistory on **Thursday, February 15, 2024**. Doors open and the 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. Register online by clicking the appropriate link below or by calling (717) 392-4633. Registration will close online on Thursday, February 15 at 5:30pm. The online version of this program will also be recorded and uploaded to [LancasterHistory's YouTube channel](#) after the event.

In-person registration is sold out and not accepting a waiting list. Please consider attending via Zoom. Thank you for your interest!

[REGISTER TO ATTEND ONLINE](#)

Event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Ave., Lancaster, PA, and on Zoom

Presidents' Day Storytime

Monday, February 19

10am

Gather 'round with LancasterHistory for a special Presidential Storytime! We'll read aloud from a book about American presidents and then lead a craft or activity inspired by the theme.

For Presidents' Day, we'll read *If I Ran for President* by Catherine Stier (Illustrated by Lynne Avril). After story time, children will craft their own "I Voted" badges, followed by a visit from the 15th President of the United States, James Buchanan! President Buchanan will drop by, as presidents do, introduce himself, and give children an opportunity to ask questions of the president.

Storytime is free, and registration is required to ensure we have craft supplies for everyone. Storytime is designed for young readers, ages 2-6, but older and younger siblings or friends are welcome to attend. The suggested age range is 12 and under. Register for Presidents' Day Storytime [online](#) or over the phone by calling (717) 392-4633.

Storytime will take place indoors. We kindly ask that at least one (1) adult 18 years or older attend for every household.

James Buchanan: The One-Term President

Monday, February 19

Tours 10am - 3pm

On Presidents' Day, February 19, join LancasterHistory at Wheatland for a special-subject tour exploring the year 1859, when President James Buchanan sealed his fate as a one-term executive. Learn about Buchanan's attempts to expand the nation, his struggle with corruption in the War Department, and more in this special Presidents' Day tour.

James Buchanan: The One-Term Executive, a special guided tour of Wheatland, will be held on Monday, February 19. 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. When booking online, be sure to first select the date of February 19, followed by the tour time of your choice. 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.

Event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Ave., Lancaster, PA

LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH...

The Rich Uncle We Always Wanted

Saturday, March 2

Tours 10am - 3pm

In 1821, James Buchanan became the patriarch of his family after it was devastated by tuberculosis. On this Special Subject Tour of Wheatland, attendees will learn how Buchanan supported his extended family by providing his orphaned nieces and nephews a nurturing home, access to a good education, and the stability of a stern—but loving—uncle.

The Rich Uncle We Always Wanted, a special guided tour of Wheatland, will be held on Saturday, March 2. 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. When booking online, be sure to first select the date of March 2, followed by the tour time of your

choice. 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.

Event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Ave., 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 - ***Black Lancasterians in the Arts: A Lasting Legacy***

Explore the enduring work of African American artists in Lancaster County. This new photo exhibit highlights the music, films, and performances of artists like Madeline Anderson and The Tranells through historical images in LancasterHistory's archives. Examine how these individuals navigated Lancaster from the Fulton Opera House to J.P. McCaskey High School and the impact they left on local, national, and international institutions.

LANCASTERHISTORY HOURS OF OPERATION

FEBRUARY HOURS 2024

LancasterHistory is open Mondays through Saturdays from 9:30am to 5pm to the public. Tours of Wheatland are available from 10am to 3pm. The Research Center is open Wednesdays - Saturdays from 9:30am to 2pm for appointments.

LancasterHistory, including President James Buchanan's Wheatland, will be open Monday, February 19 for Presidents' Day. The Research Center will be closed.