



# LancasterHistory

**Contact:** Emily Miller  
Director of Marketing & Communications  
717-392-4633 ext. 133  
[emily.miller@lancasterhistory.org](mailto:emily.miller@lancasterhistory.org)

## February 2025 Upcoming Events

*from LancasterHistory*

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

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### Maple Sugaring

**Saturday, February 1**

**10am** at LancasterHistory

On Saturday, February 1, join Lancaster County Park Senior Naturalist Lisa Sanchez for a 'sweet' Nature Series presentation on maple sugaring! Learn about the production of maple syrup and its importance to Indigenous peoples and European colonists, its role in food rationing during World War II, and its influence on our taste buds today. Explore the history of the tools and techniques used to produce maple syrup and learn all of the steps required to make maple syrup, from identifying trees to collecting and boiling the sap. You'll also get to sample maple sugar candy!

**Lisa J. Sanchez** has been a naturalist at the Lancaster County Department of Parks and Recreation Environmental Center for 30 years. Teaching students of all ages to explore and value the wonders of nature is her passion. She enjoys helping people reconnect with the earth through education and observation. Lisa can often be found in her garden or kayaking on the river.

#### HOW TO REGISTER

The event, "Maple Sugaring" will take place on Saturday, February 1 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.*

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## Inaugural Wreath-Laying for Lydia Hamilton Smith

**Saturday, February 8**

**11am** at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Lancaster

Join LancasterHistory on Saturday, February 8 at 11am for our inaugural wreath-laying ceremony for Lydia Hamilton Smith at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery. Smith was Thaddeus Stevens' housekeeper, a businesswoman in her own right, and also a devout Roman Catholic who was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery upon her death in 1884. Taking place the week before Smith's birthday, the ceremony will feature the laying of fresh flowers at her gravesite and remarks by community leaders.

The event is free and open to the public. Registration is requested so that we may notify attendees of any cancellations in the event of inclement weather. Attendees may register [online](#) or by calling (717) 392-4633.

For information about parking and accessibility, [please click here](#).

*This event takes place at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery, 401 New Holland Ave., Lancaster, PA.*

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## In The Spirit of Lydia

**Saturday, February 8**

**2-4pm** at LancasterHistory

The public is invited to LancasterHistory for a reception and family-friendly event, "In The Spirit of Lydia." A reception begins at 2pm, followed by a program featuring an interactive program with Lydia Hamilton Smith, played by 'edutainer' Darlene Colón, who has been interpreting the life of Mrs. Smith for over two decades.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is appreciated so we can accommodate everyone. This program is suitable for all ages, and will be held at LancasterHistory.

To register for this program, [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.*

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# Be A Revolution: A Discussion on the Past, Present, and Future of Education In Our Community

**Thursday, February 123**

**5:30pm** at The Stevens & Smith Center

Thaddeus Stevens' proudest accomplishment was his successful advocacy for free public education in Pennsylvania. He argued that education was vital to democracy because in a democracy every citizen must make informed decisions about the issues that shape their lives. But education has never been accessible for everyone in our community. As Ijeoma Oluou writes in *Be A Revolution: How Everyday People Are Fighting Oppression and Changing the World – and How You Can Too*: "Education is powerful and capable of powerful good. And it is because of this that white supremacy has worked so hard to keep it out of our hands."

Join Crispus Attucks Community Center's Young Professionals of Color Network and LancasterHistory's Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy on Thursday, February 13 at 5:30pm for a discussion of race and education in America. We will extend the conversations begun in Oluou's keynote address at the 37th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast and explore the past, present, and future of education in our community. A selection from *Be A Revolution* will be shared with participants to read ahead of the discussion.

This inclusive event is free and welcomes participants of all ages and backgrounds who wish to engage in constructive dialogue. We maintain a zero-tolerance policy for disruptive behavior to ensure a respectful environment for all attendees.

To register, [please click here to complete and submit a webform](#) on LancasterHistory's website.

*This event takes place at The Stevens & Smith Center, 45 S. Queen Street, Lancaster, PA.*

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## Sneak Peek Soirée

**Saturday, February 15**

**6-9pm** at The Stevens & Smith Center

LancasterHistory is pleased to announce its upcoming Sneak Peek Soirée on Saturday, February 15 at the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy. The 6-9pm ticketed fundraising event is a one-of-a-kind gathering, and will be the only event of this scale and size hosted in the unique 25,000 square-foot museum space before exhibitions are installed beginning in late 2025. The Sneak Peek Soirée is a 'reimagining' of the organization's annual Valentine's Day Gala fundraising event, previously held at other locations throughout

Lancaster, including Riverdale Manor, Franklin & Marshall College, and the Hamilton Club. The Stevens & Smith Center is set to open to the public in early 2026.

The Sneak Peek Soirée will feature food stations and bars by Cracked Pepper Catering, desserts by Barberet, and live jazz music by 3 WEST. Attendees can explore the newly constructed spaces, recently completed by presenting sponsor Benchmark Construction, and learn more about the next steps in the museum's creation, which will include the fabrication of exhibitions and the installation of historic artifacts.

LancasterHistory's Sneak Peek Soirée will take place on Saturday, February 15, 2025, at the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy, located at the corner of South Queen and Vine Streets in downtown Lancaster City. (Entrance off of Vine Street.) Tickets are required and start at \$200 per person with each additional level giving further support to LancasterHistory. Those interested in attending have until February 7 to RSVP. For more information and to purchase tickets online, please visit [lancasterhistory.org/soiree](https://lancasterhistory.org/soiree).

*This event takes place at The Stevens & Smith Center, 45 S. Queen Street, Lancaster, PA.*

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## The Feud That Divided the Democratic Party

**Monday, February 17**

**Tours 10am - 3pm** at LancasterHistory

Visit President James Buchanan's Wheatland on Monday, February 17 for a special Presidents' Day tour and learn about Buchanan, his personal resentment of Senator Stephen Douglas, and the role it played in the split of the Democratic Party during the 1860 Democratic Convention.

*The Feud That Divided The Democratic Party*, a special guided tour of Wheatland, will be held on Monday, February 17. 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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# COMING IN MARCH

# History Happy Hour at Decades

Monday, March 10

5:30-7:30pm at Decades Lancaster

What do Super Mario, March Madness, and the National Guard have in common? They're all part of the history of the Stahr Armory, which is now home to Decades Lancaster, the host for this spring's History Happy Hour!

Join LancasterHistory for specialty drinks and light bites while we explore the history of a building that has been home to Lancaster's military reserves, the Lancaster Red Roses basketball team, and the area's best vintage arcade!

History Happy Hour will take place on Monday, March 10 from 5:30-7:30pm at [Decades Lancaster](#), 438 North Queen Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.

**Full details and press release forthcoming.**

*This event takes place at Decades Lancaster, 438 N. Queen St., 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 February 1 - 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.

“Pathways of Persistence” will be on display at LancasterHistory from February 1 – May 31, 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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