

Dear Friend: One of LancasterHistory's favorite Wheatland Special Subject Tours, "[A House in Mourning](#)," returns for a three-day run June 1-3, coinciding with the dates President Buchanan laid in state at his home 155 years ago. Visitors interested in the Victorian traditions, décor, and artifacts of mourning will find this program fascinating! -Emily



# LancasterHistory

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## June 2023 Upcoming Events

*from LancasterHistory*

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

### EVENT UPDATES:

- "The Basics of Bonsai," originally scheduled for Saturday, June 3, 2023 has been canceled and will be rescheduled for a future date (to be determined).
- "Lancaster Vice" Walking Tour on Saturday, June 17, 2023 is sold out.
- "History Happy Hour" on Thursday, June 22, 2023 is sold out.

## A House in Mourning

June 1 - 3, 2023

Tours 10am - 3pm at LancasterHistory

**\*\*NOTE FOR MEDIA: A press release for "A House in Mourning" was disseminated**

**Monday, May 24, 2023. Please check our [Press Room](#) for this release.\*\***

On June 1, 1868, James Buchanan passed away in his bedchamber at Wheatland, sending the house and family into a period of mourning. Back by popular demand, this guided, Special Subject Tour touches upon mourning culture in the Victorian era. Learn about the décor and dress of mourning and how thousands arrived at Wheatland's door to pay their last respects to James Buchanan.

The Special Subject Tour, "A House in Mourning," will be offered for three days, coinciding with the dates Buchanan laid in state at Wheatland, 155 years ago. Tours will be available on the hour, beginning at 10am and continuing until the last tour at 3pm on June 1, 2, and 3. 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 your visit, 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 Avenue, Lancaster, PA*

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## The Archaeology of Northern Slavery

**Thursday, June 15**

**5pm Reception | 5:30pm Main Presentation** at LancasterHistory

**\*\*NOTE FOR MEDIA: A combined press release for the "Archaeology of Northern Slavery" and "Archaeology at the Stevens & Smith Site" will be disseminated on ~June 1, 2023. Please check our [Press Room](#) for this release.\*\***

On Thursday, June 15, join LancasterHistory as we welcome archaeologist and Millersville University professor Dr. James Delle to our Regional History Colloquium. Dr. Delle will review and contextualize key archaeological sites whose excavations have deepened our understanding of African American history and the relationship between slavery and freedom above the Mason-Dixon Line.

Since the early 1940s, archaeologists and historians have conducted research that confirms the magnitude and persistence of slavery in the northern states. In this talk, Dr. James Delle will review some of the work conducted on key archeological sites relating to African American history, including case studies of sites he has excavated here in Lancaster County. These excavations provide a fresh perspective on the relationship between slavery and freedom in the United States as seen from sites north of the Mason-Dixon line. Case studies in this presentation

will include the Parker House in Christiana and the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center in Lancaster City.

**Dr. James A. Delle** is the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Associate Provost for Academic Administration at Millersville University. Delle has written extensively on archaeology and the architectural heritage of the African Diaspora in the Caribbean and North America. He has directed archaeology projects in Jamaica, Dominica, Hawaii, New York, and Pennsylvania, including excavations at the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center, the Swan Hotel site, and the Pennsylvania Academy of Music, now the Ware Center. In 2014, he served as a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh. Delle currently serves as the Vice President of Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County Board of Directors.

## EVENT DETAILS & HOW TO REGISTER

This event is expected to take place in person at LancasterHistory on **Thursday, June 15, 2023**. 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.

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

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# Archaeology at the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Historic Site

**Saturday, June 17**

**2pm** at LancasterHistory

**\*\*NOTE FOR MEDIA: A combined press release for the "Archaeology of Northern Slavery" and "Archaeology at the Stevens & Smith Site" will be disseminated on ~June 1, 2023. Please check our [Press Room](#) for this release.\*\***

Join LancasterHistory on Saturday, June 17 for a presentation of historic artifacts uncovered through archaeological digs at the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History & Democracy in Lancaster City. Dr. James Delle will discuss the dig and talk about the various artifacts and what they tell us about the site and its inhabitants over 100 years later. Attendees will also be able to see the artifacts after the presentation.

In *Collections Up Close* tours, LancasterHistory staff and visiting experts highlight documents, photos, and artifacts from LancasterHistory's vast collections. In a conversational setting,

participants will hear the stories of these objects and what they reveal to us about the history of Lancaster County and its place in American history.

"Archaeology at the Stevens & Smith Site," a *Collections Up Close* tour, takes place on Saturday, June 17 at 2pm at LancasterHistory. Tickets are \$10/Adults (18+), \$8/Seniors (65+), and \$6/Students (11-College ID). LancasterHistory Members are free, but should still register in advance to receive their complimentary admission. Tickets can be purchased or reserved [online](#) or by calling (717) 392-4633. Capacity is limited, so advance registration is strongly recommended.

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

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## Thaddeus Stevens' Lancaster City

**Monday, June 19**

**6pm at Shreiner-Concord Cemetery**

Join LancasterHistory's Randy Harris for a walk through Lancaster City to learn about what city life would have been like for lawyer, congressman, and abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens. This walking tour will visit sites such as the Shreiner-Concord Cemetery, Penn Square, and the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center. Tour attendees will hear stories of the Underground Railroad, Stevens' political career, and the life of Lydia Hamilton Smith, a free woman of color who worked with Stevens as his household manager and close companion. At the conclusion of the tour, participants will have the opportunity to view the interior of the Center as well.

*Thaddeus Stevens' Lancaster City*, a walking tour, will take place on Thursday, June 19 at 6pm. The tour will meet at Shreiner-Concord Cemetery at the corner of North Mulberry and West Chestnut Streets in Lancaster City. The tour lasts approximately 90 minutes. Tickets are \$10 for LancasterHistory Members and Students; \$15 for Non-Members. **Advance registration is strongly recommended.** Tickets may be purchased [online](#) or by calling (717) 392-4633.

**\*\*Limited tickets remaining!\*\***

*Event takes place at Shreiner-Concord Cemetery, corner of North Mulberry & West Chestnut Streets in Lancaster City*

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## People's Shakespeare Project presents "The Merry Wives of Windsor"

**June 20 - 25, 2023**

**Performances at 6:30pm at LancasterHistory**

Lancaster's People's Shakespeare Project returns to LancasterHistory this summer to present *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Performances will take place from June 20 – 25 at 6:30pm, weather permitting.

Description: Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* is a story of marriage, wealth, jealousy, and lies. Sir John Falstaff, staying in Windsor and down on his luck, decides to restore his fortunes by seducing the wives of two wealthy citizens. He sends Mistress Page and Mistress Ford identical love letters, but they discover his double dealing and set about turning the tables... [[From the Royal Shakespeare Company](#)]

The People's Shakespeare Project's production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* has been adapted and set in the mid-1950s. Characters gather at a resort near Windsor, Connecticut for a hilarious take-down of Sir John Falstaff, whose bad behavior demands a course correction. Director Rachel Luann Strayer remarks that the strict moral code and rigid social norms (of the play) are very reflective of 1950s America... but, despite the norms, is a surprisingly feminist comedy. [[PSP's website](#)]

Performances are free to attend, although a \$20 donation per person is appreciated. Attendees are welcome to bring their own foldable chairs, blankets, and picnics. Parking available onsite at LancasterHistory. Restrooms available via port-o-pots onsite.

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

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## CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

### Main Exhibition - ***Lancaster in the '60s***

Over the course of more than 350 years, the physical and cultural landscapes of Lancaster County have undergone transformative change. *Lancaster in the '60s* examines the issues of conflict, resolution, and protest against the backdrop of four pivotal decades—the 1660s, 1760s, 1860s, and 1960s—in Lancaster County's history. The pivotal events that transpired in each of these decades changed the lives of those who experienced them, and continue to impact the way we live our lives today.

**- Exhibition Closes Saturday, September 16, 2023 -**

### Special Exhibition - ***A Sweet Start: Milton Hershey's Lancaster Connections***

Milton Hershey spent much of his early life in Lancaster County. Hershey grew up on a farm in Bart Township and then, as a young man, learned how to make chocolate and established his first successful business in Lancaster City on Church Street. Buoyed by success, Hershey founded the Hershey Chocolate Company in Lancaster in 1894 and

lived in the city with his wife from 1898 until 1904. Explore the photograph exhibit, *A Sweet Start*, highlighting Milton Hershey's personal and professional connections to Lancaster.

**- Exhibition Closes Saturday, July 1, 2023 -**

## **LANCASTERHISTORY HOURS OF OPERATION**

**JUNE 2023**

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 Tuesdays - Saturdays from 9:30am to 2pm for appointments.