



LancasterHistory

For Immediate Release

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Lancaster Vice: LancasterHistory to Host Walking Tour of Lancaster City's Notorious Past

Explore the Hidden History of Early 1900s Lancaster City

LANCASTER, Pa. – LancasterHistory will host ***Lancaster Vice: The Hidden History of Sex, Crime, and Power in the 1900s***, a walking tour that will take participants back in time to the early 1900s when Lancaster City was known as a “wide open city” where police and city officials turned a blind eye to drinking, gambling, and prostitution, creating a vibrant underground culture of brothels, bars, and other illicit activities.

Tours are scheduled for Saturday, April 22 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., May 20 at 2 p.m., and June 17 at 2 p.m.

Franklin & Marshall College's **Alison Kibler** will lead the tour through the streets once home to brothel keepers, bartenders, charity girls, traveling salesmen, crooked politicians, moralistic reformers, and a host of colorful characters. Attendees will hear the stories of the average and otherwise anonymous Lancastrians who worked in silk mills, cigar factories, candy stores, and hotels, who delivered beer to brothels, exchanged sex for meals, and dreamed of escaping parents, husbands, dead-end jobs, and sometimes Lancaster itself.

“We’re excited to offer this unique opportunity for visitors to learn about an often-overlooked part of Lancaster’s history,” Director of Education and Exhibition Planning **Dr. Mabel Rosenheck** said. “This tour is a chance to explore the city’s colorful past and gain new insights into the social and cultural forces that have shaped our community. You’ll never look at Prince Street the same way again.”

The tours will last approximately 90 minutes and, on April 22, will depart at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. from outside the Lancaster City Welcome Center, 38 Penn Square in Lancaster. Tickets are \$10 for LancasterHistory Members and Students (with college ID) and \$15 for Non-Members. This program is suggested for ages 18 and older. Advance registration is strongly recommended.

[Tickets may be purchased online](#) or by calling (717) 392-4633.

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 life and legacy of America’s 15th president, James Buchanan, and to preserve and maintain Wheatland, his home.

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