



LancasterHistory

For Immediate Release

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LancasterHistory Presents "First to Rise & Last to Retire" Living History Tour

Special Tour Spotlights Buchanan's Staff Who Made Wheatland A Home, Buchanan's Lifestyle Possible

LANCASTER, Pa. – Dive into a day in the life of the people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes at Wheatland, home of the 15th U.S. President, James Buchanan. On Saturday, September 2, LancasterHistory will present a unique Living History tour that showcases the often-unsung heroes of Wheatland's past.

Edward Bolger, Mary Smithgall, Rosanna Gordon — these are not just names, but individuals who dedicated their lives to ensuring that Buchanan and his family enjoyed an opulent lifestyle. This special event is dedicated to giving them the spotlight they rightly deserve.

First to Rise & Last to Retire: Meet Wheatland's Domestic Workers will take place on Saturday, September 2. The guided tours commence every hour, beginning at 10 a.m. and concluding with the final tour at 3 p.m. It's important to note that this is not a regular General Admission tour. This

is a Buchanan-less experience, focused solely on the day-to-day lives of Wheatland's dedicated domestic workforce.

Living History Tours are a unique interactive experience that can incorporate historical tools, activities, and dress to give observers or participants a sense of stepping back in time. The tour will feature brief meetings with domestic workers of the 19th century, set against the backdrop of Wheatland's period rooms. Each room will feature a dedicated staff member, enacting their roles, providing hints of their future endeavors, and subtly detailing the class separation of the era.

“History is not just about the figures who command headlines, but also about the many individuals whose diligent work and personal stories form the rich tapestry of our past,” **Patrick Clarke**, Director of James Buchanan's Wheatland, said. “At Wheatland, every room, every piece of furniture, and every meal prepared had a story, largely thanks to the dedicated staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. This Living History tour is our tribute to those unsung heroes. It's our way of ensuring that their legacies, their contributions, and their stories are preserved.”

In addition to the interactive experience, a tour guide will be present to provide a deeper historical context, shedding light on the lives of these domestic workers. Guests will be briefed on the unique nature of this living history, wherein they'll meet 19th-century workers who are recognized as guests from the 21st century, visiting Buchanan.

Tickets can be booked [online](#) or by phoning (717) 392-4633. Reservations are strongly advised as slots may fill up quickly, and walk-in tickets might not be available. Members can enjoy the tour free of charge but must reserve their spots in advance.

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 Congressman Thaddeus Stevens, his house manager, Lydia Hamilton Smith, and America's 15th President, James Buchanan.

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