



LancasterHistory

For Immediate Release

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LancasterHistory to Host American University Professor for Discussion on Cooperation, Clashes between James Buchanan and James K. Polk

Dr. Michael David Cohen to Present for LancasterHistory Presidential Lecture on May 18

LANCASTER, Pa. – LancasterHistory is excited to announce an upcoming Presidential Lecture featuring [Dr. Michael David Cohen](#), research professor at American University, on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 5 p.m.

Dr. Cohen will provide fascinating insights into the relationship between **James Buchanan** and President **James K. Polk** during the latter's presidency (1845-1849). Discover how these two prominent politicians cooperated and clashed on issues such as the Mexican-American War, the potential Buchanan presidency, and the liberation of a Black U.S. citizen from enslavement overseas.

As a historian specializing in nineteenth-century America, Dr. Cohen brings unique expertise to this discussion. He has completed extensive research on presidential correspondence, published two books, and currently serves as editor of the Correspondence of **Zachary Taylor** and **Millard Fillmore**. Most notably, Dr. Cohen served as the Chief Editor of the President James K. Polk

Papers. His knowledge and experience make him the perfect speaker for this engaging and informative event.

“We are excited to host Dr. Michael David Cohen for this lecture on the dynamic relationship between James Buchanan and James K. Polk,” Director of President James Buchanan's Wheatland, **Patrick Clarke**, said. “Dr. Cohen's expertise will help illuminate the complexities and nuances of their cooperation and conflicts, offering attendees a fresh perspective on the history of these two influential figures in 19th century America.”

Event Details & How to Register

Join us in person at LancasterHistory on Thursday, May 18, 2023, for a reception starting at 5:00 p.m., with the lecture to follow at 5:30 p.m. For those who prefer to attend virtually, the lecture will also be streamed to Zoom at 5:30 p.m.

This program is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required to guarantee a seat for [in-person attendance](#) or to receive the Zoom link [for virtual participation](#). Register online or by calling (717) 392-4633. Registration will close online on Thursday, May 18, at 5:30 pm. A recorded version of the program will be available on LancasterHistory's YouTube channel after the event.

About Dr. Michael David Cohen

Dr. Michael David Cohen is a historian of nineteenth-century America. A research professor at American University, he currently serves as editor of the Correspondence of Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore. From 2009 to 2019, he edited the Correspondence of James K. Polk, completing a fourteen-volume print and digital edition of the 11th President's letters. He earned a Ph.D. at Harvard University and has published two books: *Reconstructing the Campus: Higher Education and the American Civil War* (2012) and *James K. Polk and His Time: Essays at the Conclusion of the Polk Project* (2022).

For more information on this event and other LancasterHistory programs, visit the [events page](#), or follow LancasterHistory on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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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