



# LancasterHistory

**For Immediate Release**

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## **LancasterHistory To Host Dr. Louise Stevenson to Illuminate James Buchanan's Lesser-Known Foreign Policy on Human Trafficking**

*Lecture to Explore the Intricacies of 1850s American Foreign Policy and Humanitarian Efforts in  
Cuba*

**LANCASTER, Pa.** – LancasterHistory is proud to announce an intriguing and enlightening lecture on Thursday, September 28, 2023, featuring **Dr. Louise L. Stevenson**, Professor Emerita of History and American Studies at Franklin & Marshall College. Dr. Stevenson will delve into the complex interplay between the African slave trade, Chinese labor, and American foreign policy during the 1850s under President James Buchanan.

James Buchanan is known for many aspects of his presidency, but his humanitarian advocacy for Cuba remains largely underexplored. His foreign policy initiatives aimed to curtail the human trafficking of African and Chinese peoples into the burgeoning sugar industry in Cuba. However, Buchanan's support for annexing Cuba raises ethical questions due to his apathy towards the institution of slavery flourishing within the United States. Dr. Stevenson's lecture will provide in-depth insights into this complex period of American history.

“We’re excited to offer a platform for this essential dialogue,” **Patrick Clarke**, Director of James Buchanan’s Wheatland, said. “Buchanan’s role in American foreign policy, particularly concerning humanitarian issues, is an under-discussed topic that deserves greater attention. Dr. Stevenson’s expertise promises to shed new light on this pivotal moment in American history.”

**Louise L. Stevenson, Ph.D.**, has made significant contributions to the field of American cultural and intellectual life in the 19th century. Her most recent publication, *Lincoln in the Atlantic World*, follows an impressive portfolio that includes numerous articles and books. Dr. Stevenson has served as an officer of the Lancaster County League of Women Voters for nearly three decades and was nominated by President Clinton as a trustee to the James Madison Memorial Scholarship Foundation.

This event, titled "Buchanan's Legacy to Lincoln," is expected to take place in person at LancasterHistory on **Thursday, September 28, 2023**. Doors open and the reception begins at 5pm. The lecture will begin at 5:30pm. The lecture will also be livestreamed 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. Register online for either the [in-person](#) or [virtual](#) option or call (717) 392-4633 to register over the phone. Registration will close online on Thursday, September 28 at 5:30pm. The online version of this program will also be recorded and uploaded to [LancasterHistory's YouTube channel](#) after the event.

Join us for an evening of thought-provoking discussion as we dive into this critical, yet underexplored aspect of American history.

### **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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