



LancasterHistory

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May 2024 Upcoming Events

from LancasterHistory

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

Storytime

Every Thursday in May
10am at LancasterHistory

Enjoy the sights and sounds of nature this May during Storytime! Each week, we'll read aloud from a book centered on a historical or environmental topic, and then lead a craft or activity. This May, we'll explore gardening, growing, and other springtime themes!

For May, the following books have been selected:

- **May 2:** *We're Going On A Nature Hunt* by Steve Metzger (illustrated by Miki Sakamoto)

- **May 9:** *John Deere, That's Who!* by Tracy Nelson Maurer (illustrated by Tim Zeltner)
- **May 16:** *And Then It's Spring* by Julie Fogliano (illustrated by Erin E. Stead)
- **May 23:** *Senorita Mariposa* by Ben Gundersheimer (illustrated by Marcos Almada Rivero)
- **May 30:** *Let's Build A Rain Garden* by Sally Wenzel

Each Storytime program is free, but registration is required to ensure we have craft supplies for everyone. Storytime is designed for young readers, ages 2-6, but older and younger siblings or friends are welcome to attend. Register for all Storytime programs or individual programs [online](#) or over the phone by calling (717) 392-4633.

Storytime will take place outdoors unless it rains, in which case it will be moved indoors. We kindly ask that at least one (1) adult 18 years or older attend for every household.

Events take place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Ave., Lancaster, PA.

Harriet Lane: Compassionate Philanthropist

Saturday, May 4

Tours from 10am - 3pm at LancasterHistory

By the age of 10, Harriet Lane had lost her mother, father, and two brothers to tuberculosis. Her uncles, Edward and James Buchanan, served as her guardians. During this special subject tour, visitors will learn about Harriet's life and the unique resilience that shaped her concern for others and helped her rise above personal challenges and sorrows.

Harriet Lane: Compassionate Philanthropist, a special guided tour of Wheatland, will be held on Saturday, May 4. Tours will be available on the hour, beginning at 10am and continuing until the last tour at 3pm. **Please Note: These tours are not our regular General Admission tours and will be more focused on a particular topic than a general history of Buchanan and the home.**

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 May 4, 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 Ave., Lancaster, PA.

Spring Seasonal Gathering Tour

Saturday, May 4

10am at LancasterHistory

Join the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum for their Spring Seasonal Gathering Tour on Saturday, May 4 at 10am. Horticulturist Jeffrey (Jeff) Hazlett will lead attendees on a walking tour through the Arboretum for a glimpse at what's new, blooming, or to come with the approach of warmer, sunnier months. In particular, attendees will learn about the many flowering trees on the grounds, the pollinator gardens, and the two recognized Pennsylvania Champion Trees that call the Arboretum home!

Jeff Hazlett is the current Vice President of the Board of the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum and past president of the organization. He studied horticulture at Penn State University and is currently the president of Ever Green Tree & Lawn Care in Lancaster, PA. Jeff is a nature lover and an active volunteer for the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum and LancasterHistory.

The event, "Spring Seasonal Gathering Tour," will take place on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 10am at LancasterHistory. Tickets are \$5/Adult (18+) and \$3/Child. Friends of the Tanger Arboretum members receive complimentary admission, but should still register for the program. Tickets may be purchased [online](#) or by calling (717) 392-4633. Advance tickets recommended as the program has limited capacity. The tour will last approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour.

If you would like to attend but have questions or concerns about the accessibility of the walking route, please contact Emily Miller at (717) 392-4633, ext. 133 or emily.miller@lancasterhistory.org for more information.

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

County Founding Day Open House

Saturday, April 20

10am at LancasterHistory

On May 10, 1729, Governor Patrick Gordon granted a county charter to local citizens to create what would become Lancaster County. Join us on **May 9 from 5-8pm** (technically County Founding Day Eve!) as we celebrate 295 years of Lancaster County with extended museum hours and special tours of our major exhibit, *Thieves & Vagabonds*, which tells the story of the county's origins and the complex history of law and justice in our community.

Open House activities include:

- Display of the "Petition for the Establishment of Lancaster County," on loan from the Pennsylvania State Archives, for one night only;

- Curator's Tours of *Thieves & Vagabonds: A History of Law and Justice in Lancaster County*, LancasterHistory's latest major exhibition at 5:30 and 7pm;
- "1729: The Year Lancaster Went Legit," an illustrated presentation of Lancaster County's geography by Ben Webber, Manheim Township Historical Society President, around 6pm;
- Uncharted Lancaster Scavenger Hunt for the Campus of History, an activity for all ages;
- Debut of "Harpo's History Explorer's Activity Sheet: Thieves & Vagabonds Edition," an activity for kids based on the *Thieves & Vagabonds* exhibition; and
- Birthday cake cutting around 6:30pm! **Happy Birthday, Lancaster County!**

Tickets for County Founding Day Open House are \$10/Adults (18+), \$8/Seniors (65+), \$5 (Students 11-17 or with College ID), and free for children 10 and under. LancasterHistory Members receive complimentary admission!

Please register for tickets to the County Founding Day Open House [online](#) or by calling 717.392.4633. Limited tickets will be available at the door for walk-ins. Registration ensures ample resources for all participants to enjoy the festivities, including a slice of birthday cake!

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

Native Plants of Hidden Valley

Saturday, May 11

10am at LancasterHistory

Join the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum on Saturday, May 11 at 10am for "Native Plants of Hidden Valley!" Presenter Lydia Martin, a local ecological design consultant, will explore her favorite native plants and how they aid the natural landscape and provide many benefits to wildlife at Hidden Valley, her 10-acre property in southern Lancaster County. Leave inspired to incorporate more native plants in your own green spaces and support the local plants in your ecological community!

Lydia Martin is an ecological design consultant who teaches private and public landowners how to restore and manage their properties for the benefit of people and wildlife. Lydia is also the Director of Community Engagement for Let's Go 123, a local non-profit committed to bringing urban youth and families together through outdoor and nature-based activities. For more than 15 years she's pursued her love of conservation and is passionate about promoting access, education, and advocacy to Lancaster's diverse community about trails, green space, native plant restoration, and waterways in central Pennsylvania. Lydia manages 10 acres of woodlands, wetlands, ponds, and meadow habitats at "Hidden Valley" with her family in southern Lancaster County.

The event, "Native Plants of Hidden Valley," will take place on Saturday, May 11 at 10am at

LancasterHistory. Tickets are \$5/Adult (18+) and \$3/Child. Friends of the Tanger Arboretum members receive complimentary admission, but should still register for the program. Tickets may be purchased [online](#) or by calling (717) 392-4633. Advance tickets recommended as the program has limited capacity.

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

Ceremonial Groundbreaking for the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy

Monday, May 13

9 - 11am at Commons on Vine, Lancaster County Convention Center

Join LancasterHistory for a ceremonial groundbreaking at the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy on **Monday, May 13, 2024!** The event will begin at **9am** in **Commons on Vine in the Lancaster County Convention Center** with coffee and pastries, followed by remarks from local dignitaries. After remarks, the public is invited to tour the Stevens & Smith Center for behind-the-scenes looks at the space before construction officially begins.

This event is free and open to the public, but requires registration and space is limited. Register [online](#) or over the phone by calling 717.392.4633.

Parking for the event is available at local garages for a fee, including the Penn Square Garage at 28 S. Duke Street.

Event takes place in Commons on Vine in the Lancaster County Convention Center, 25 S. Queen Street, Lancaster, PA.

James Buchanan, John Brown, & the 1859 Attack on Harper's Ferry

Thursday, May 16

5pm Reception | 5:30pm Main Presentation

On Thursday, May 16, join LancasterHistory as we welcome author and historian Dr. John Quist for a discussion of John Brown's 1859 attack on the U.S. Armory at Harper's Ferry and why then President Buchanan chose to hand Brown over to Virginia authorities for prosecution.

President James Buchanan's domestic policy of peace and moderation derailed in October 1859 when radical abolitionist John Brown led 21 men on a raid of the U.S. Armory at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. Dr. John Quist of Shippensburg University joins us to discuss Buchanan, Brown, and the challenging questions Brown's actions raised about slavery, violence, and obedience to the law.

John Quist, Ph.D. is a professor of history at Shippensburg University. He received his PhD from the University of Michigan. He is also the author or editor of several books, including *Restless Visionaries: The Social Roots of Antebellum Reform in Alabama and Michigan* (LSU Press, 1998), (with Michael J. Birkner) *James Buchanan and the Coming of the Civil War* (University Press of Florida, 2013), and (with Michael J. Birkner and Randall M. Miller) *The Worlds of James Buchanan and Thaddeus Stevens*.

This event will take place in person at LancasterHistory on **Thursday, May 16, 2024**. Doors open and a 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. Register online by clicking the appropriate link below or by calling (717) 392-4633.

[**REGISTER TO ATTEND IN PERSON**](#)

[**REGISTER TO ATTEND ONLINE**](#)

Event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Ave., Lancaster, PA and online via Zoom.

EXHIBITIONS ON DISPLAY

Main Exhibition - ***Thieves & Vagabonds: A History of Law and Justice in Lancaster County***

LancasterHistory's newest major exhibition, *Thieves & Vagabonds*, chronicles key moments in the history of law and justice in Lancaster County from the 18th century to the 20th century. From prisons to prohibition, *Thieves & Vagabonds* explores the making, breaking, and remaking of laws over 300 years of Lancaster County's history. Visit LancasterHistory's newest exhibition for a deep dive into crime and punishment as well as reform and repair in the Lancaster community.

Special Exhibition - ***Black Lancastrians in the Arts: A Lasting Legacy***

Explore the enduring work of African American artists in Lancaster County. This new photo exhibit highlights the music, films, and performances of artists like Madeline Anderson and The Tranells through historical images in LancasterHistory's archives. Examine how these

individuals navigated Lancaster from the Fulton Opera House to J.P. McCaskey High School and the impact they left on local, national, and international institutions.

LANCASTERHISTORY HOURS OF OPERATION

MAY HOURS 2024

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

EXCEPTIONS TO HOURS

Monday, May 13: All Operations will have a delayed opening. We will be closed from 9am – 1pm. We reopen to the public at 1pm. The first Wheatland tour of the day will be at 1pm.

Monday, May 27: All Operations closed for Memorial Day.



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