



# LancasterHistory

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## May 2025 Upcoming Events

*from LancasterHistory*

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

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### Storytime

**Every Thursday in May**

**10-11am** | LancasterHistory

Gather 'round for Storytime each Thursday this May! Each week, we'll read aloud from a book centered on a history or nature-focused theme or story, followed by a craft or activity inspired by that week's book.

For May, the books schedule is as follows:

- May 1: [\*\*Finding Wild\*\*](#) by Megan Wagner Lloyd
- May 8: [\*\*The Hike\*\*](#) by Alison Farrell
- May 15: [\*\*Rosie Revere, Engineer: A Picture Book\*\*](#) by Andrea Beaty
- May 22: [\*\*A Seed Is Sleepy\*\*](#) by Dianna Aston
- May 29: [\*\*Miss Rumphius\*\*](#) by Barbara Cooney

Storytime is free, and 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.

*These events take place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA.*

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## First Friday Open House at the Stevens & Smith Center

**Friday, May 2**

**5-7pm** | The Stevens & Smith Center

Join LancasterHistory on Friday, May 2, for First Friday at the Stevens & Smith Center! From 5-7pm, enjoy a sneak peek of the Stevens & Smith Center, see the incredible progress happening at this future museum, and learn about the road ahead to opening in 2026.

This is one of a series of events throughout April and May to support the Stevens & Smith Center and its capital campaign. For a full list of upcoming events, please visit [stevensandsmithcenter.org/events](https://stevensandsmithcenter.org/events).

The First Friday Open House on May 2 is free and open to the public and does not require advance registration. This event is also family friendly; all ages are encouraged to attend. The event will take place at the Stevens & Smith Center, 45 S. Queen Street, Lancaster. Please use the entrance around the corner on East Vine Street.

*This event takes place at the Stevens & Smith Center, 45 South Queen Street, Lancaster, PA. Please use the entrance around the corner on East Vine Street.*

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## C. Emlen Urban By The Letter

**Saturday, May 3**

**Presentations at 10am and 2pm** | LancasterHistory

Join LancasterHistory on Saturday, May 3 at 10am and 2pm at LancasterHistory for 90-minute presentations by author and architect Gregory J. Scott on his latest work, *Urban Alphabet*. This new release focuses on the architectural details that Lancaster's most prolific architect, C. Emlen Urban, incorporated into the designs of his many buildings throughout Lancaster City and the County. Attendees will learn about these different architectural details and come away from the presentation with a better understanding and appreciation for the artistry of Urban's work.

**Gregory J. Scott** is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, partner emeritus at RLPS Architects, architectural columnist for Lancaster Newspaper LNP, recent architectural correspondent for Lancaster NBC affiliate WGAL, and twice recipient of the Journalist and Educator Award presented by the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County. Gregg and his

wife, Terri, reside in Northeast Harbor, ME, and Lancaster, PA. They have two children and two grandchildren. Gregg's current board and community positions include the Hamilton Club, Northeast Harbor Neighborhood House, Mount Desert Island Housing Trust, and Lancaster County Behavioral Health and Developmental Services advisor. He is also an Eagle Scout.

### **About *Urban Alphabet***

*Urban Alphabet* is an illustrated dictionary detailing the work of C. Emlen Urban, the architectural legend who left an indelible and distinctive mark on the City of Lancaster a century ago. The author, Gregory J. Scott, FAIA, connects each letter of the alphabet to the architectural term for a detail or style of architecture common to Urban's buildings. *Urban Alphabet* is the second book in a series created by Scott to foster an appreciation and understanding of the inspired work of Lancaster's most prolific architect.

### **REGISTRATION**

Presentations will take place on **Saturday, May 3 at 10am and 2pm at LancasterHistory**. Copies of *Urban Legend* and *Urban Alphabet* will be available for purchase in LancasterHistory's Museum Store while supplies last. Scott will be available after each presentation for book signings.

Presentations are free and open to the public, but advance registration is appreciated and encouraged as space for walk-ins is not guaranteed.

[Register for the 10am Program](#)

[Register for the 2pm Program](#)

*This event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA.*

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## **The Nation Is Plunged in Grief**

**Saturday, May 3**

**Tours from 10am - 3pm | LancasterHistory**

Step back to May 1865 and eavesdrop on Mr. Buchanan and his house guests as they react to the news of President Lincoln's assassination. In this living history tour, you'll meet the President and hear him discuss with his companions the penalties that may confront the southern states and the challenges Andrew Johnson will face as he ascends to the presidency.

*The Nation Is Plunged in Grief*, a special living history tour of Wheatland, will be held on Saturday, May 3. 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 not be Buchanan-focused. Living History Tours are an immersive and interactive experience that incorporate historical tools, activities, and dress to give observers or participants a sense of stepping back in time.*

Tickets are available for purchase [online](#) or over the phone by calling (717) 392-4633. Advance reservations are highly recommended as tours may sell out and walk-in tickets may not be available. Members receive complimentary admission, but must reserve their tickets in advance. [This tour is eligible for LancasterHistory's Museums for All rate!](#)

*This event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA.*

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## County Founding Day

**Thursday, May 8**

**5:30-8pm** | LancasterHistory

On May 10, 1729, Lancaster County was born. Since then, 10 generations of Lancastrians have lived, laughed, loved, and eaten shoofly pie in our community. Join LancasterHistory for the annual County Founding Day celebration and lift a glass to everyone who has called Lancaster County home over the last 296 years. In addition to evening museum hours, the event will include special flash talks, access to exhibits, and kids activities.

Activities on County Founding Day will include:

- **Regional History Flash Talks:** 15-minute talks from local researchers on a variety of topics;
- **Pop-Up Exhibits:** Artifacts and documents will be on display in coordination with the flash talks;
- **Cake Wars:** Area bakers will craft odes to Lancaster County in dessert form. Attendees will get to taste at least one of their creations.;
- **Kids Activity Area:** Crafts and activities for children inside and outside if weather permits; and
- **Light Refreshments:** Enjoy light bites, a specialty cocktail by Jimmy Juice (locally brewed in Pequea) and non-alcoholic options.

**NEW:** The Regional History Flash Talk schedule is now available. [Click here to view or download a PDF](#) [176kb, .pdf].

County Founding Day will be held on **Thursday, May 8, 2025** from 5:30-8pm. Tickets are \$20 for Non-LancasterHistory Members and \$15 for LancasterHistory Members aged 18 and older. Children 17 and under are free. (Children must be accompanied by a paying adult aged 18 or older.) Tickets are required so that space, cake, and activities can be guaranteed for all. To purchase tickets, [click here to buy online](#) or call (717) 392-4633 to purchase over the phone. Ticket purchase includes access to the event, light bites and a specialty cocktail\*, cake, and access to a series of flash talks by local historians.

*\*Must be 21 years or older with valid ID to consume alcoholic beverages. Non-alcoholic options will be available.*

*This event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA.*

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## Empowering Community Climate Resilience

**Saturday, May 10**

**10-11am** | LancasterHistory

Feeling overwhelmed by climate anxiety? Feeling isolated in your search for climate action? Building strong communities around climate resilience can help! Join the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum on Saturday, May 10 as we welcome Aidan Fife, Director of Community Engagement at RegenAll, to learn about the ways to get involved with your community that can provide hope and agency in the face of climate change. Discover actionable steps, like making home energy improvements or joining RegenAll's Climate Action Neighborhood program, listen to stories of climate hope, and find ways to make climate action feel tangible, actionable, and possible.

**Aidan Fife** has a passion for ecology, regenerative agriculture, and education. After international experience with the Peace Corps and work at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, DC, Aidan returned to Lancaster where he shifted his focus locally to find ways for Lancastrians to collaborate to build better soils, community, and climate resilience. He serves as the Director of Community Engagement at RegenAll, a Lancaster-based non-profit dedicated to organizing and working collaboratively with communities and individuals toward local climate solutions. When Aidan isn't inside dreaming of a vibrant regenerative future, you can find him out on nearby farms planting fruit and nut trees on pasture.

### HOW TO REGISTER

The event, "Empowering Community Climate Resilience" will take place on Saturday, May 10 at 10am at LancasterHistory. The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$10/Adults and \$5/Children (17 & Under). 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 walk-in tickets are not guaranteed.

*This event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA.*

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## Unraveling The Red Tape: Researching Historic Government Records | Part 1

**Saturday, May 10**

**10am - 12pm** | LancasterHistory

Has your research come to a roadblock? Wondering where to look next for your ancestors? On

Saturday, May 10 at 10am, unlock the past and discover new avenues for research by exploring Lancaster County's historic government records! Join Heather Tennies, Director of Archives & Manuscript Collections, and Marianne Heckles, Archives Assistant, to examine the historic government records held at LancasterHistory, how to access them, and how the records can be used for genealogical, historical, or property research.

On May 10, the class will focus on Register of Wills and Orphans' Court Records. Heather and Marianne will introduce the probate system and highlight the information found in various types of estate papers, including Auditors' Reports, Miscellaneous Orphans' Court papers, and Vendue Lists.

This class is recommended for those with previous research experience. We also recommend taking [Part 2: Civil and Criminal Court Records](#) on May 17, but this class may be taken by itself.

**Unraveling The Red Tape: Researching Historic Government Records | Part 1** will take place on Saturday, May 10 from 10am – 12pm at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Ave., Lancaster. Tickets are \$20 for LancasterHistory Members and \$25 for Non-Members. Advance registration is encouraged as the class has limited capacity. To register, please [click here to register online](#) or call (717) 392-4633 to register over the phone.

Those who successfully register receive a confirmation email. No supplies or tools are needed to take this class, but note-taking items are recommended.

*This event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA.*

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## Making A Museum: The Stevens & Smith Center Story (So Far)

**Tuesday, May 13**

**7-8pm | Zoom**

The Stevens & Smith Center has been in the making for decades. LancasterHistory assumed responsibility for the project in 2010, with a commitment to develop a state-of-the-art museum that will foster learning, dialogue, and reflection. Join Robin Sarratt, LancasterHistory's President & CEO, Stephanie Townrow, Director of Exhibitions and Interpretation, and Dr. Tom Ryan, Director Emeritus, to learn about the process of making a museum from the ground up and the journey ahead.

This is one of a series of events scheduled throughout April and May to support the Stevens & Smith Center and its capital campaign. For a full list of upcoming events, please visit [stevensandsmithcenter.org/events](https://stevensandsmithcenter.org/events).

“Making A Museum: The Stevens & Smith Center Story (So Far)” will take place online via Zoom on Tuesday, May 13 from 7-8pm Eastern. This event will be recorded and placed on LancasterHistory’s YouTube Channel. This event is free and open to the public. To receive a Zoom link to the presentation, please register [online](#) or call 717.392.4633.

*This event takes place online via Zoom.*

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## Lunch & Learn: Lancaster in the Mid-1800s

**Friday, May 16**

**12-1pm** | Southern Market Lancaster

On Friday, May 16, join LancasterHistory at Southern Market for a unique opportunity to learn about Lancaster in the mid-1800s. Grab your lunch at one of the Market’s extraordinary vendors and discover the hustle and bustle of historic downtown Lancaster, specifically the history of the block where Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith lived and worked. From breweries to barber shops, LancasterHistory’s Stephanie Townrow will give you insight into this active block of South Queen Street sure to delight history lovers and impress friends!

This is one of a series of events scheduled throughout April and May to support the Stevens & Smith Center and its capital campaign. For a full list of upcoming events, please visit [stevensandsmithcenter.org/events](https://stevensandsmithcenter.org/events).

“Lunch & Learn: Lancaster in the Mid-1800s” will take place on Friday, May 16, from 12-1pm at Southern Market Lancaster, 100 S. Queen Street, Lancaster. The event is free and open to the public but requires advance registration to attend as capacity is limited. Attendees are encouraged to grab lunch before or after the presentation by patronizing Southern Market’s wonderful stand holders (no outside food, please). Drinks and desserts will be provided by LancasterHistory. To register, please [click here to register online](#) or call 717.392.4633.

*This event takes place at Southern Market Lancaster, 100 S. Queen Street, Lancaster, PA.*

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## Spring Seasonal Gathering Tour

**Saturday, May 17**

**10am** | LancasterHistory

Join the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum for their Spring Seasonal Gathering Tour on Saturday, May 17 at 10am. Friends of the Tanger Arboretum Board Members Jeffrey (Jeff) Hazlett and Bob Davis will lead attendees on a walking tour through the Arboretum for a glimpse at what’s new, what’s blooming, and what’s 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.

**Bob Davis** is a member of the Board of the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum and a former Board member of the American Conifer Society. He also serves as the Chair of the Program Committee of the Lancaster County Garden Club and has done so for 20 years. A tree and nature enthusiast, Bob maintains a personal collection of trees at his home and is the dedicated caretaker of the American Conifer Society Reference Garden in the Tanger Arboretum.

### HOW TO REGISTER

The event, "Spring Seasonal Gathering Tour," will take place on Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 10am at LancasterHistory. Tickets are \$10/Adult (18+) and \$5/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. The tour will last approximately 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](mailto:emily.miller@lancasterhistory.org) for more information.

*This event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA.*

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## Unraveling The Red Tape: Researching Historic Government Records | Part 2

**Saturday, May 17**

**1 - 3pm** | LancasterHistory

Has your research come to a roadblock? Wondering where to look next for your ancestors? On Saturday, May 17 at 1pm, unlock the past and discover new avenues for research by exploring Lancaster County's historic government records! Join Heather Tennies, Director of Archives & Manuscript Collections, and Marianne Heckles, Archives Assistant, to examine the historic government records held at LancasterHistory, how to access them, and how the records can be used for genealogical, historical, or property research.

On May 17, the class will focus on Civil and Criminal Court Records. These records include documents produced by the Court of Common Pleas and the Court of Quarter Sessions, as well as other county offices. Additional records will include Mechanics' Liens, Bridge Papers, and Tavern Petitions.



This class is recommended for those with previous research experience. We also recommend taking [Part 1: Register of Wills and Orphans' Court Records](#) on May 10, but this class may be taken by itself.

**Unraveling The Red Tape: Researching Historic Government Records | Part 2** will take place on Saturday, May 17 from 1-3pm at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Ave., Lancaster. Tickets are \$20 for LancasterHistory Members and \$25 for Non-Members. Advance registration is encouraged as the class has limited capacity. To register, please [click here to register online](#) or call (717) 392-4633 to register over the phone.

Those who successfully register receive a confirmation email. No supplies or tools are required to take this class, but note-taking items are recommended.

*This event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA.*

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## Eliza Parker and The Christiana Resistance

**Thursday, May 22**

**5pm Reception, 5:30pm Presentation** | LancasterHistory

In the early 1840s, Eliza Ann Howard fled enslavement at Belle Vue Plantation in Harford County, Maryland and found a home in Lancaster County where she met her husband, William Parker. When, in 1851, a Maryland enslaver threatened their lives and the lives of others in their community, they fought back in what became known as the Christiana Resistance. While this landmark event is a well-known turning point on the path to Civil War, Dr. Iris Leigh Barnes, a historian, educator, and the Executive Director of the Hosanna School Museum, joins us to retell the story through the often-overlooked figure of Eliza Parker.

**Dr. Iris Leigh Barnes** is an award-winning historian, educator, and museum professional with twenty-five years of experience. Her scholarly interests range from the Civil War to Civil Rights with a particular focus on the tenacity, resilience, and brilliance of African Americans who survived and thrived against the odds. She has worked with a range of institutions including the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture, the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, and the Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum at Morgan State University. She has graduate degrees in Museum Studies and Historic Preservation as well as in African American History. Dr. Barnes is currently the Executive Director of the Hosanna School Museum and serves on the Harford County Historic Preservation Commission, the board of the Havre de Grace Colored School Museum and Cultural Center, and was appointed by Governor Larry Hogan to serve on the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

### EVENT DETAILS & HOW TO REGISTER

This event will take place in person at LancasterHistory on **Thursday, May 22, 2025**. 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. The Zoom link will be emailed to registrants before the event. Register online by clicking the appropriate link below or by calling (717) 392-4633.

**[Register to Attend In Person](#)**

**[Register to Attend Online](#)**

*This event takes place at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA.*

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## 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.

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### Special Exhibition - ***Pathways of Persistence: AANHPI Legacies in Lancaster County***

**On Display Through May 31, 2025**

Wherever you go in Lancaster County —up Route 30, down quiet country roads, or along bustling city streets—you'll encounter the rich and enduring legacy of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities. Lancaster's AANHPI residents have contributed to the county's cultural, economic, and social landscape, adapting to challenges and thriving across generations. *Pathways of Persistence*, a collaboration between Lancaster Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders and LancasterHistory, celebrates these stories of resilience, perseverance, and impact. Through this exhibit, we honor the voices and experiences that have helped shape Lancaster, bringing to light the multifaceted contributions AANHPI individuals have made in business, culture, and beyond.

# **LANCASTERHISTORY HOURS OF OPERATION**

## **HOURS OF OPERATION**

LancasterHistory is open Mondays through Saturdays from 9:30am to 5pm to the public. Tours of President James Buchanan's Wheatland are available from 10am to 3pm. The Research Center is open Wednesdays - Fridays and the first Saturday of the month from 9:30am to 2pm for appointments.

## **CLOSURES**

All operations of LancasterHistory, including President James Buchanan's Wheatland, will be closed Monday, May 26, 2025 for Memorial Day.