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LancasterHistory

For Immediate Release

All events are camera friendly, and principals will be available for interviews.

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LancasterHistory to reopen in late May for limited capacity, in-person activities and tours

Museum to offer admission to exhibits, Research Center, and tours of Wheatland

Lancaster, PA (May 4, 2020) – Beginning Wednesday, May 26, 2021, LancasterHistory will reopen to the public for limited-capacity programs and offerings including in-person tours of President James Buchanan's Wheatland, self-guided access to museum exhibitions, and admission to the Research Center. The organization will be open Wednesdays - Saturdays from 9:30am to 5pm. Visitors are encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance online. All visitors are required follow LancasterHistory's Reopening Protocols, located online at lancasterhistory.org/reopening-info, which include the wearing of face masks or face coverings and social distancing. Tickets for all of the offerings discussed below may be purchased at lancasterhistory.org/tickets.

"We are excited to welcome the public back to explore America's past right here in Lancaster," says Tom Ryan, President & CEO of LancasterHistory. "With vaccinations and vaccination access continuing to rise, we think it's the right time to once again share Lancaster County's history with locals and visitors onsite at the museum."

Tours of President James Buchanan's Wheatland

One of LancasterHistory's most popular offerings is guided tours of President James Buchanan's Wheatland, which will resume May 26 on Wednesdays - Saturdays with tours on the half hour

starting at 10am until last entry at 3pm. Tours will still travel both floors of the presidential mansion and tour guides will wear masks and abide by social distancing recommendations.

"During our closure, we created and offered Zoom tours of the mansion and we will continue to offer them on Saturdays at 3:30pm," says Emily Miller, Director of Marketing & Communications at LancasterHistory. "We welcome the new long-distance ways we're able to provide access to patrons who aren't able to visit Lancaster, all while we are reopening and welcoming visitors back to Wheatland in-person."

Even if guests have already visited Wheatland in the past, LancasterHistory has made some important changes to interpreting the house that could warrant a return visit. Despite being closed, LancasterHistory staff continued their work on multiple projects, including researching more about the history of Wheatland and its occupants.

"People tend to think of history and historical buildings as unchanging," says Patrick Clarke, Director of President James Buchanan's Wheatland. "However, we're always researching, learning, and finding new information that informs and changes how we interpret the former president's home."

Historical evidence has led LancasterHistory to reinterpret spaces within Wheatland, including the bedroom of Harriet Lane, Buchanan's niece and First Lady, the bedroom of Hetty Parker, Buchanan's head housekeeper, and the Warming Kitchen, now interpreted as the butler's pantry.

Museum Exhibitions

Other new opportunities to learn about Lancaster's past are found throughout LancasterHistory, including in its exhibition spaces in the main museum. *Lancaster in the '60s*, LancasterHistory's most recent major exhibition, is on display for those wishing to learn about Lancaster's history through the lens of four pivotal decades of change and transformation: the 1660s, 1760s, 1860s, and 1960s.

In addition, the installation of a new exhibition, *Lincoln: The Constitution and The Civil War*, in Ryder Hall adds significantly to *Lancaster in the '60s*. Developed by the National Constitution Center in collaboration with the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities, *Lincoln: The Constitution and The Civil War* explores Abraham Lincoln's struggle to resolve the questions that divided Americans at its most perilous moment: Was the

United States truly one nation, or was it a confederacy of separate, sovereign states? How could a country founded on the belief that “all men are created equal” tolerate slavery? In a national crisis, would civil liberties be secure? Lincoln’s decisions about these three wartime crises helped reinvent the Constitution and the promise of American life. A complementary exhibition explores how two Lancastrians—Lincoln’s predecessor, James Buchanan, and abolitionist Congressman Thaddeus Stevens—each approached the questions of secession, slavery, and civil rights.

These exhibitions are available to view with the purchase of a General Admission ticket (which includes a tour of Wheatland) or an Exhibitions-Only ticket, and can be visited Wednesdays - Saturdays from 9:30pm until last entry at 4pm beginning May 26.

The Research Center

For those interested in digging more into history, including the history of their families, LancasterHistory's Research Center will have admission time slots available for those interested in accessing on-site resources. Beginning May 26, time slots will be available Wednesdays - Saturdays at 9:30am and 12:30pm in two-hour increments. Those with tickets to the Research Center are encouraged to email research@lancasterhistory.org in advance of their visit to discuss their research goals and needs with staff so that any resources needed may be pulled and available during their visit.

Tickets & More

Prior to May 26, LancasterHistory will reopen for a Members' Only Early Access Week from May 19 - 22 with members' only ticketing available for all of the above offerings.

"We're so grateful to have such a dedicated group of members who have supported LancasterHistory generously throughout the years, and especially last year," says Robin Sarratt, Vice President. "Thanks to their stalwart support—and that of all our donors—we've been able to stay connected to the public and adapt to doing business in a completely new way."

LancasterHistory will reopen to the general public on May 26, 2021, for limited-capacity programs with hours Wednesdays - Saturdays from 9:30am to 5pm. Visitors are highly encouraged to purchase or reserve their tickets in advance. More information, including reopening protocols, can be found on LancasterHistory's website at lancasterhistory.org.

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