

*Pulling together all collection items, database provides greater accessibility, ease of use*

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# LancasterHistory

## For Immediate Release

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

**Contact:** Emily Miller  
Director of Marketing & Communications  
717-392-4633 ext. 133  
[emily.miller@lancasterhistory.org](mailto:emily.miller@lancasterhistory.org)

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## LancasterHistory launches new online collections database, makes James Buchanan Presidential Library to public

*Pulling together all collection items, database provides greater accessibility, ease of use*

Lancaster, PA (October 6, 2020) – On Monday, October 5, LancasterHistory launched access to its new online collections database. The database features a robust discovery tool that allows the public to search all of LancasterHistory's historic collections using one convenient search tool available through its website. Simultaneously, LancasterHistory is also proud to announce the launch of the James Buchanan Presidential Library, which provides online access—for the first time ever—to the papers of 15th United States President, James Buchanan, and his family. Both projects have been ongoing endeavors undertaken by LancasterHistory and its staff during the organization's closure due to COVID-19.

LancasterHistory's new collections database is powered by a discovery tool created by Andornot Consulting, Inc. out of Vancouver, Canada. Andornot Discovery Interface is a modern, web-based search engine that indexes and displays large and diverse collections to maximize access and ease of research. The collections database will allow users to search all of LancasterHistory's historic collections, from library books and archival documents to photographs and three-dimensional objects, and pull together a comprehensive list of results, saving patrons time and enhancing their discovery of resources. The database also provides automatic spelling corrections, intuitive search suggestions, and refinable search filters. It is also accessible "on the

go” on tablets and mobile devices. Funding for the new tool was generously provided by Armstrong World Industries Foundation and the Dodge Family Foundation. The collections database is now available to the public for free at [collections.lancasterhistory.org](https://collections.lancasterhistory.org).

LancasterHistory is also launching the James Buchanan Presidential Library, a digital repository of more than 3,500 items associated with [James Buchanan](#), [Harriet Lane](#), and [James Buchanan Henry](#), extended family members, associates, and [Wheatland](#), Buchanan's home. Scholars and researchers can search and view the digitized collection to examine the events that transpired during Buchanan's presidency and gain a better understanding of how the United States responded to one of the most fraught periods in American history.

The James Buchanan Presidential Library contains:

- Over 9,000 digitized pages of letters, personal and political papers, campaign and inauguration material, legal and financial documents, and ephemera,
- 1,350 transcriptions,
- 700 digitized photographs, and
- Detailed information about more than 1,000 artifacts.

The Library is accessible to the public through LancasterHistory's collections database at [collections.lancasterhistory.org](https://collections.lancasterhistory.org) or [lancasterhistory.org/jbpl](https://lancasterhistory.org/jbpl). Patrons can browse the collection by selecting [“James Buchanan Presidential Library”](#) or a keyword search for specific objects. Digitized photographs and documents can be viewed as if using the original items in-person with high-resolution, searchable scans. Digitization of core documents, ephemera, and manuscript material in the James Buchanan Presidential Library was funded by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission as part of their Historical & Archival Records Care grant program. The items were digitized by Backstage Library Works of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Both LancasterHistory's collections database and the James Buchanan Presidential Library are now accessible online to the public for free. Access to both services are available at [lancasterhistory.org/research](https://lancasterhistory.org/research) or [collections.lancasterhistory.org](https://collections.lancasterhistory.org). Those who wish to support the ongoing efforts of LancasterHistory to digitize and make accessible historic collection items and documents can make a tax-deductible gift at [lancasterhistory.org/donate](https://lancasterhistory.org/donate).