



LancasterHistory.org

Lancaster County's Historical Society & President James Buchanan's Wheatland

For Immediate Release

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

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October 2017 Story Ideas

from LancasterHistory.org

Thursday, October 5

Reception at 4pm | Presentation at 4:30pm

Pumpkin: The Curious History of an American Icon

Regional History Colloquium

Why do so many Americans drive for miles each autumn to buy a vegetable that they are unlikely to eat? Americans have used the pumpkin to fulfill their desire to maintain connections to nature and to the family farm of lore, and small farms and rural communities have been revitalized in the process. While the pumpkin has inspired American myths and traditions, the pumpkin itself has changed because of the ways people have perceived, valued, and used it. *Pumpkin* is a smart and lively study of the deep meanings hidden in common things and their power to make profound changes in the world around us. Having done research in Lancaster County, Professor Cindy Ott of the University of Delaware will explore the fascinating history of the pumpkin and its connections to southeastern Pennsylvania.

The event is free and open to the public.

LancasterHistory.org, 230 North President Avenue, Lancaster

Saturday, October 7, 11am & 2pm

African-American Heritage Walking Tours

These are the last tours of the season. Guides take visitors on a 60-90 minute walk of 12 important African-American sites in downtown Lancaster and discuss Black businesses on Penn Square, the site of the Elite Hotel, the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith historic site, Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster County Courthouse, St. James Episcopal Church, site of the old Lancaster Train Station, Shreiner-Concord Cemetery, Fulton Hall/Old Jail and Central Market.

Tours will be given the first Saturday of every month through October. No reservations needed. Tickets available tour days at the Lancaster City Visitor Center.

Lancaster City Visitor Center, 38 Penn Square, Lancaster

Saturday, October 7, Tours 12 - 3pm

Antietam: The Bloodiest Day

Living History at Wheatland

Nearly 23,000 men were killed, wounded or went missing on September 17th, 1862, at the Battle of Antietam. The figure staggered the nation, and was never again seen as glorious. Former President James Buchanan and his family are as horrified as everyone else and he is deeply troubled about the direction of the nation's democratic principles.

Presentations are on the hour and last about 30 minutes. Coverage can be arranged for any tour. Tickets available online at www.lancasterhistory.org.

President James Buchanan's Wheatland, 230 North President Avenue, Lancaster

Friday, October 13, 5:30pm

Curator's Tour of the Hairy & Scary!

Peek into curiosities found in the historic collections of LancasterHistory.org just in time for Halloween! Join Assistant Curator Tori Pyle on Friday, October 13 at 5:30pm for a *spooky* look at items like mourning jewelry made with human hair, crystal balls, and mysterious books and learn about what they mean.

Advanced tickets are required. Tickets available online at www.lancasterhistory.org.

LancasterHistory.org, 230 North President Avenue, Lancaster

Tuesday, October 17, 12 - 1pm

Tobaccoland: Landscape, Culture, and the Transformation of Central PA, 1828-2017

In an age when smoking is viewed by many as a vice, tobacco remains the second biggest cash crop in Lancaster County. How is that possible? LancasterHistory.org National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship recipient Caitlin Black says it has a lot to do with the soil, Pennsylvania German culture, gender and our material world. In a noontime lecture, she will explain how these factors interact with government policy and manufacturing, and how Lancaster County is different than other tobacco growing areas.

The event is free and open to the public. To attend the presentation, please RSVP to Emily Miller at (717) 392-4633, Ext. 133 by October 13.

LancasterHistory.org, 230 North President Avenue, Lancaster

Thursday, October 19

Reception at 4pm | Lecture at 4:30pm

Expansionism Denied: President Buchanan's Failed Quest to Annex Cuba

Presidential Lecture Series

James Buchanan wanted Cuba. As Secretary of State, as Minister to Great Britain, and as President he advocated and agitated for it. The Southern states approved, yet Buchanan could never get the traction he needed. An expert on pre-Civil War American empire building, Penn State professor Dr. Amy Greenberg discusses the politics and intrigue surrounding "the Cuba question."

The event is free and open to the public.

LancasterHistory.org, 230 North President Avenue, Lancaster

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