



LancasterHistory

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October 2025 Upcoming Events

from LancasterHistory

***Please scroll to the bottom for updates on hours, current exhibitions,
and an update on our brand!***

October First Friday

Friday, October 3

5-7:30pm | The Stevens & Smith Center

On Friday, October 3, join LancasterHistory and Evita Colon at the Stevens & Smith Center for “The Truth About Us: A Speak to My Soul Exhibition.” For over a decade, Evita Colon has been a leader in Lancaster’s creative community, writing, performing, and cultivating the talent of Black artists working in diverse media from painting and poetry to music and dance. “The Truth About Us” will spotlight these artists and their work through an artist marketplace, fine art exhibition, and live performances. The historic home of Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith—and the future home of the Stevens & Smith Center— offers a backdrop for “Speak to My Soul’s” exploration of freedom and Black culture in America.

October First Friday at the Stevens & Smith Center is free and open to the public; no registration or reservations are required. The event takes place from 5-7:30pm at the Stevens & Smith Center, 13-15 East Vine Street in Lancaster.

For a full schedule of the evening, [please visit our website.](#)

This event takes place at the Stevens & Smith Center, 13-15 East Vine Street, Lancaster, PA 17602

Domestic Help Wanted

Saturday, October 4

Tour Entries from 10am - 3pm | LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center

On Saturday, October 4, step back in time to Wheatland in 1867 and meet the retired president and his housekeeper, Miss Hetty Parker, as they hire new staff to manage daily life around the mansion. Rosanna and Thomas Gordon resigned in April, leaving Wheatland short-staffed. Miss Hetty is looking for help maintaining a home along with managing her personal responsibilities.

Domestic Help Wanted, a living history tour of Wheatland, will be held on Saturday, October 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. Living History Tours are an immersive and interactive experience that can 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. When booking online, be sure to first select the date of October 4, followed by the time of your choice. Advance reservations are highly recommended as tours may sell out and walk-in tickets may not be available.

This event takes place at LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603

Samurai At The White House: Harriet Lane & The 1860 Japanese Embassy

Thursday, October 9

5pm Reception, 5:30pm Lecture | LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center

In May 1860, Harriet Lane welcomed a delegation of samurai to the White House. These samurai were members of the first official Japanese delegation to the United States. During the embassy's two month visit to America, crowds of people gathered across the East Coast in the hopes of meeting (or at least glimpsing) the mysterious travelers from across the seas. The Japanese embassy members recorded in their journals their different experiences of this historic encounter, and perhaps no American woman left as much of an impression on the samurai as Harriet Lane during her hosting and entertaining of the Japanese at the White House. In this October lecture,

Dr. Natalia Doan of the University of Tennessee will explore the exciting history of Harriet Lane's connection with the Japanese embassy and the impact of the samurai on antebellum America.

EVENT DETAILS & HOW TO REGISTER

This event will take place in person at LancasterHistory on **Thursday, October 9, 2025**. Doors open and a reception begins at 5pm. The lecture will begin at 5:30pm. The lecture will also be livestreamed 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 Museum & Research Center, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603

Past, Present, Pumpkins!

Saturday, October 11

10-11:30am | LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center

Learn about the autumnal icon, the pumpkin, at this fun, family-friendly event on Saturday, October 11 at 10am! Discover the historical origins of the pumpkin and why we decorate our front porches each year with a vegetable we probably won't eat. Plus, embark on an exciting pumpkin hunt across the grounds before creating your very own decorated gourd masterpiece to take home!

Perfect for families and children between the ages of 3-8 years of age (though all are welcome!). Tickets are \$5/Child and free for Adults. (Ticket price goes towards the purchase of supplies.) Advance registration is required to guarantee supplies for everyone. LancasterHistory requests the presence of one (1) adult per household. Tickets may be purchased [online](#) or by calling 717.392.4633.

This event takes place at LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603

Lancaster County Amish Quilts

Saturday, October 18

Presentations at 10am and 2pm | LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center

The Esprit Quilt Collection is an iconic collection of 82 Amish quilts made in Lancaster County between 1880 and 1950. In this special quilt turning and Collections Up Close program, art historian Gloria Mast will draw upon her own heritage to provide a unique understanding of the intersection between the Amish and English worlds as seen in these remarkable works of art.

In *Collections Up Close* programs, LancasterHistory staff and visiting experts highlight documents, photos, and artifacts from LancasterHistory's vast collections. In a conversational setting, participants will hear the stories of these objects and what they reveal to us about the history of Lancaster County and its place in American history.

Gloria Mast is an art historian and educator with roots in Lancaster County. She has many years of experience as a public speaker, tour guide, and interpreter. She draws upon her own heritage as a point of reference to provide a unique understanding of the intersection between the Amish and English worlds. She holds a BFA and an MS in art history from Pratt Institute and is currently pursuing a PhD in Administration and Leadership at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

"Lancaster County Amish Quilts," a *Collections Up Close* program, takes place on Saturday, October 18 with two presentations, one at 10am and one at 2pm, at LancasterHistory. Tickets are \$20/LancasterHistory Members and \$25/Non-Members. To register, please click the applicable program hour below or call (717) 392-4633.

[10am Program Registration](#)

[2pm Program Registration](#)

This event takes place at LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603

Pitcher Plants: Carnivores of the Bog

Saturday, October 18

10am | LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center

Join the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum for the 'spooky' Nature Series program, "Pitcher Plants: Carnivores of the Bog." Pitcher plants are silent but deadly hunters, utilizing pitfall traps to secure their prey. Learn about pitcher plant habitats, the types of pitcher plants, and how you can grow your own 'carnivorous crew' in your garden!

Jeff Lapp is a Senior Science Policy Advisor at the National Association of Wetlands Managers

(NAWM). Before joining NAWM he spent over 32 years with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), primarily in the wetlands program. An avid botanist and horticulturalist, Jeff designed and constructed the EPA's Philadelphia Flower Show exhibit for 29 years, earning several awards including Best in Show, gold and silver medals, the Buckley Medal, American Horticultural Society award, and the Chicago Horticultural Society award. At his home in Lancaster, Jeff raises a multitude of plants, including Sarracenia, Rhododendrons, Hosta, and a host of other rare and unusual species in his greenhouse and shade houses. Jeff currently serves on the Boards of the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum and LancasterHistory.

HOW TO REGISTER

The event, "Pitcher Plants: Carnivores of the Bog" will take place on Saturday, October 18 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 Museum & Research Center, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603

Dred Scott's Daughter: Birthright Citizenship & The Meaning of 'American'

Thursday, October 23

5:30 - 7pm | Freedom Hall A, Lancaster County Convention Center

Throughout its history, the United States has grappled with the question of who qualifies as an "American." Citizenship was contested throughout the antebellum era, culminating in the Supreme Court's 1857 decision in the case of Dred Scott which denied citizenship to all Black people, whether enslaved or free. After the Civil War, Thaddeus Stevens, together with other members of the Radical Republicans, raced to guarantee citizenship to recently emancipated people and to others born in the United States by introducing a policy of birthright citizenship in the Fourteenth Amendment. Though the Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed this policy in landmark decisions, it remains a contentious issue. On Thursday, October 23, Amanda Frost, an immigration attorney and law professor at the University of Virginia, joins LancasterHistory to examine the legal and historical significance of birthright citizenship for the nation, as well as its prospects for the future.

For full event information, including a bio on Amanda Frost, [please click here](#).

****NOTE FOR MEDIA: We will be disseminated a specific press release about this event in the upcoming days.****

The event, "Dred Scott's Daughter: Birthright Citizenship and the Meaning of 'American,'" will take place on Thursday, October 23, 2025 in Freedom Hall A at the Lancaster County Convention

Center, 25 S. Queen Str., Lancaster, PA. It is free and open to the public, but **registration is required**. To register, please [click here](#) or call 717.392.4633, ext. 100 to register over the phone.

This event takes place at the Lancaster County Convention Center, 25 S. Queen Street, Lancaster, PA 17603

Fall Seasonal Gathering Tour

Saturday, October 25

10-11am | LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center

Join the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum for their Fall Seasonal Gathering Tour on Saturday, October 25 at 10am. Tanger Arboretum Board Members will lead attendees on a walking tour through the Arboretum to take in the changing of the seasons through vibrant fall colors, ornamental trees, and the pollinator gardens in the Tanger Arboretum.

HOW TO REGISTER

The event, "Fall Seasonal Gathering Tour," will take place on Saturday, October 25 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. 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.

This event takes place at LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603

LANCASTERHISTORY HOURS OF OPERATION

HOURS OF OPERATION

LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center 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.

The Stevens & Smith Center is not open for public visitation at this time, unless it is a special event.

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 - ***Building Bridges: The First Japanese Embassy to the United States***

On Display through December 30, 2025

In 1858, Japan entered into a treaty with the United States and Europe, ending the centuries-long Tokugawa Shogunate that had minimized Western influence. In 1860, a group of samurai traveled to the United States for the first time. There, they met President James Buchanan, First Lady Harriet Lane, and countless American citizens. In *Building Bridges*, we explore the bridge between the two nations through the gifts that they exchanged.

Building Bridges will be on display at LancasterHistory in Gerhart Gallery through December 30, 2025. Admission to the exhibit is included with the purchase of a General Admission ticket or Exhibitions-Only ticket. LancasterHistory Members receive complimentary admission.

We've Refreshed Our Brand!

We're excited to announce LancasterHistory's newest look. The development of the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy marks a moment of extraordinary transformation for us. Among the ripples created by this transformation, LancasterHistory is receiving a fresh, updated logo.



With a slightly more contemporary look, our refreshed brand brings all our logos into alignment with new fonts, a refined color palette, and clarity on what you'll find at each of our facilities! Notably, our headquarters at 230 N. President Avenue is getting a little extra attention, with its own version of the new logo to help visitors differentiate between our locations. The Lancaster History Museum & Research Center logo and tagline—straightforward as they may seem—will highlight the key aspects of what you can enjoy when you visit this location: the historic collections and museum exhibitions, as well as the research experiences supported by our remarkable library and archive.



You may have started to see these new logos appear on digital and print pieces, and you will continue to see them roll out over the coming weeks and months. From email signatures and envelopes to large-scale signage on our grounds and buildings, we have quite a to-do list. Plus, we're making a concerted effort to minimize waste with our rebrand and will phase out and update items in a smart and economical way.

If you have questions about the new logos or use of the new logos, please reach out to Emily Miller, Director of Marketing & Communications, at emily.miller@lancasterhistory.org.



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