



LancasterHistory

For Immediate Release

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September Presidential Lecture at LancasterHistory to Focus on Slavery in James Buchanan's Pennsylvania

Dr. Cory James Young to Discuss How Slavery Remained Legal in the Keystone State Until the Civil War Era

LANCASTER, PA — On Thursday, September 19, **Dr. Cory James Young** of the **University of Iowa** will join LancasterHistory for the presentation, “The Persistence of Slavery in James Buchanan’s Pennsylvania.” In 1826 on the House floor, Congressman **James Buchanan** professed his hatred of slavery and insisted that it did not exist in Pennsylvania. However, 30-years later, the 1856 State census still recorded an enslaved person living in Lancaster County, President-elect Buchanan’s home community. Dr. Cory James Young will discuss how slavery remained legal in Pennsylvania until the Civil War Era, contrary to the belief of Mr. Buchanan then and to many more today.

Young's lecture is part of LancasterHistory's **Presidential Lecture Series**, which presents new scholarship related to the presidency in mid-nineteenth century America. Topics for the Series explore the critical issues of political, social, and civic life faced by the persons holding America's

highest office during some of the nation's most fraught events.

"The Persistence of Slavery in James Buchanan's Pennsylvania" kicks off the fall slate of lectures at LancasterHistory, which include [*Southern Unionism During the Antebellum and Civil War Era*](#) (Presidential Lecture on October 10), [*The Legacy of Slavery at Franklin & Marshall College*](#) (Regional History Colloquium on October 17), and [*Forgotten Fighters: Chinese Soldiers in the Civil War*](#) (Regional History Colloquium on November 7). Young last gave a [*lecture at LancasterHistory in 2020*](#) on Pennsylvania's gradual emancipation of enslaved peoples.

Dr. Cory James Young is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Iowa. His book manuscript, "For Life or Otherwise: Pennsylvania Slavery in the Age of Gradual Abolition," explores how state legislation transformed rather than eliminated Black bondage in the Keystone State. His work has been supported by the Cumberland County Historical Society, Library Company of Philadelphia, and McNeil Center for Early American Studies. Dr. Young is a member of the Scholarly Advisory Committee for LancasterHistory's forthcoming [*Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy*](#).

EVENT DETAILS & HOW TO REGISTER

This event will take place in person at LancasterHistory on **Thursday, September 19, 2024**. 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. Register online by clicking the appropriate link below or by calling (717) 392-4633. Registration will close online on Thursday, September 19 at 5:30pm.

[**REGISTER TO ATTEND IN PERSON**](#)

[**REGISTER TO ATTEND ONLINE**](#)

About LancasterHistory

LancasterHistory is a community-based, not-for-profit organization established to educate the public on the history of Lancaster County and its place in the history of Pennsylvania and the United States, to advance the missions of regional historical organizations, and to promote the acquisition, preservation, and interpretation of resources representing the history of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania within the broader context of state and national history, including the homes of 15th US President James Buchanan and Congressman Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith.

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