

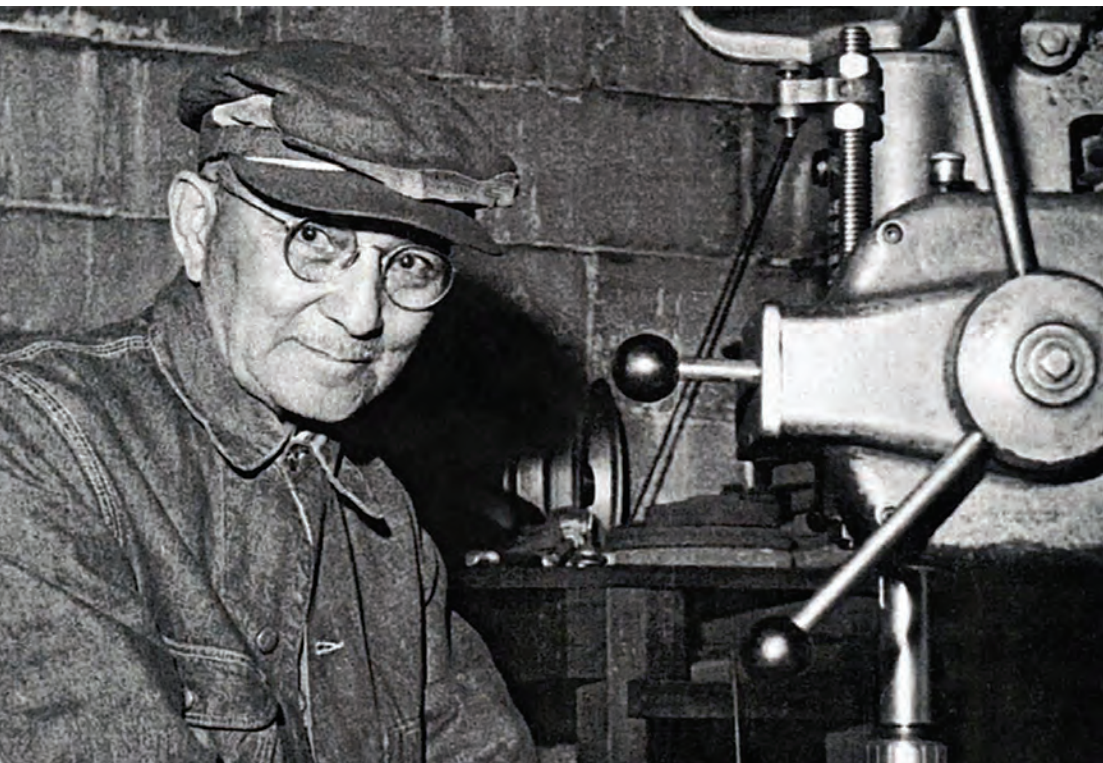


LancasterHistory

SUMMER / FALL

# PROGRAMS & EXHIBITIONS

JULY - DECEMBER 2025



William Chester Ruth (1882-1971) was a Black machinist, entrepreneur, and inventor who spent most of his life in Gap, Pennsylvania. At Ruth's Ironworks Shop, he repaired, modified, and designed machinery for farming. By the end of his life, Ruth held 52 patents, including a patent for a combination baler feeder, farm elevator, and cinder-spreading truck bed. *From the William Chester Ruth Legacy Project.*

**Educational programming  
at LancasterHistory  
supported in part by**



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*Any views, findings, conclusions,  
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**Cover Image:** Revolutionary War reenactors in front of Old City Hall during the American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. Photographed by Larry E. Nixdorf. From the General Collection, Collections of LancasterHistory.



# Greetings, friends!

After 18 years with LancasterHistory, you might think I'd run out of surprises in my job. Yet, these first six months in my role as CEO have yielded fresh discoveries at every turn. The process of building a new world-class museum and educational space—the forthcoming Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy—certainly contributes to a sense of novelty in our daily work. But beyond that, both on the Campus of History and out in the community, there is a sense that the work of history matters now more than ever. It is relevant, resonant, and much-needed as we try to understand our complicated world. We hope that in digging into our history—and sharing it widely—we can illuminate much more about who we are as Lancasterians, and how we've shaped the world around us.

There is much to be proud of in Lancaster's past—its ties to invention, innovation, welcome, and diplomacy. Yet the County's past is not perfect. There are also stories of hardship, injustice, and inequality. But, the point of studying history is neither to boast nor belabor...the point is to seek a comprehensive understanding of the past. To listen, learn, and build a bridge to a better future.



In the following pages, you'll find opportunities to dig deeply into the complex history of Lancaster County through an amazing array of exhibits and events. I look forward to seeing you here on the Campus, downtown at the Stevens & Smith Center, and around the County in the months ahead!

*Robin*

**ROBIN SARRATT**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY - DECEMBER 2025

We're excited to offer a wide range of fascinating programs for all ages this season! Please note that most events listed require reservations or tickets. To find more information, to purchase tickets, or to register for a program, please visit [lancasterhistory.org/events](http://lancasterhistory.org/events) or call 717.392.4633.

## JULY

### STORYTIME

**Every Thurs in July | 10am**

*Family-Friendly Program  
at LancasterHistory*

Gather 'round for Storytime every Thursday this July! Each week, we'll read aloud from a book centered on a historical theme or story, followed by a craft or activity inspired by that week's book. Suggested for children 12 and under. *Free.*

### WHEATLAND AT YOUR OWN PACE

**Sat, July 5 | Entry 10am-3pm**

*Wheatland Tour at LancasterHistory*

Explore President James Buchanan's Wheatland at your own pace! This self-guided tour means you can wander through the President's home to see what you want for as long as you want. Tour guides will be stationed around the mansion to provide visitors with information about the space, the objects, and the people who once called Wheatland home. *LancasterHistory Members Free.*

### HISTORY HAPPY HOUR

**Thurs, July 10 | 5:30pm**

*Special Event*

*at the Stevens & Smith Center*

In addition to being the home of Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith, the intersection of S. Queen and Vine Streets is home to a rich history of beer and brewing. In 1759, John Frick founded one of the oldest breweries in Lancaster here, and, in the 1860s, it became a popular beer saloon where even the teetotaling Thaddeus Stevens occasionally enjoyed a drink. Enjoy lager and light bites at the next History Happy Hour inside the Stevens & Smith Center before it becomes a museum!

### MUSIC ON THE LAWN

feat. Trouble with Annie

**Sat, July 12 | 5pm**

*Family-Friendly Program  
at LancasterHistory*

Music on the Lawn returns this summer with more fantastic local bands in James Buchanan's backyard! This family-(and dog-) friendly event welcomes attendees to relax and enjoy an evening

outdoors with live music. July's concert features Trouble with Annie playing the best of country music from the '90s through the 2000s. *LancasterHistory Members and Children Free.*

## AUGUST

### WHEATLAND AT YOUR OWN PACE

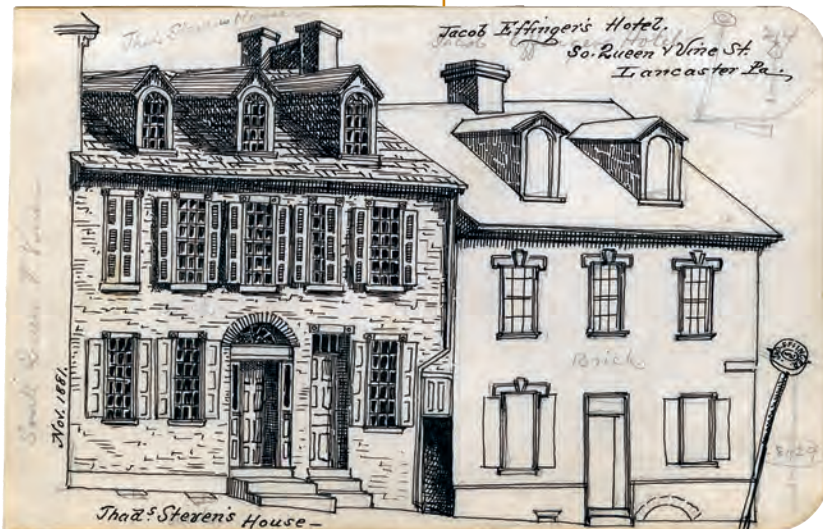
**Sat, Aug 2 | Entry 10am-3pm**  
*Wheatland Tour at LancasterHistory*  
Explore President James Buchanan's Wheatland at your own pace! Tour guides will be stationed around the mansion to provide visitors with information about the space, the objects, and the people who once called Wheatland home. *LancasterHistory Members Free.*

### GETTING STARTED WITH DNA

**Sat, Aug 16 | 10am**  
*Research Workshop  
at LancasterHistory*

DNA is a powerful tool and, when paired with archival records, can help answer many research questions about family history. In this workshop, Donna Backus, a genealogist with decades of experience, will cover the basics of DNA and how to use *ancestry.com* and other tools to learn more about your heritage. *Discount for LancasterHistory Members.*

*A drawing of Thaddeus Stevens' home and law office and Jacob Effinger's Hotel by David McNeely Stauffer. From the Heritage Center Collection, LancasterHistory.*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### CRADLE OF CONSERVATION: AN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF PA

Feat. Dr. Allen Dieterich-Ward

**Thurs, Aug 21**

**Reception 5pm | Lecture 5:30pm**

*Regional History Colloquium  
at LancasterHistory & Livestreamed*

The environmental history of Pennsylvania includes William Penn's instruction to "leave one acre of trees for every five acres cleared" and the 1971 ratification of the Environmental Rights Amendment as well as today's debates over fracking and the threat of climate change.

Dr. Allen Dieterich-Ward of Shippensburg University will share his survey of the "working landscapes" of Pennsylvania and Lancaster County from the 17th century to the present. *Free.*

### MUSIC ON THE LAWN

feat. The Jordan Rast Trio

**Sat, Aug 23 | 5pm**

*Family-Friendly Program  
at LancasterHistory*

Music on the Lawn continues with more fantastic local bands in James Buchanan's backyard! August's concert features The Jordan Rast Trio playing bluegrass, country, and Americana music. *LancasterHistory Members and Children Free.*

## SEPTEMBER

### MR. BUCHANAN'S COACHMAN

**Sat, Sept 6 | Tours 10am-3pm**

*Wheatland Special Subject Tour  
at LancasterHistory*

In this Special Subject Tour, visitors will learn about James Buchanan's coachmen: the men who represented him in public and transported him from place to place in his horse-drawn carriage. In addition to learning about who these people were, you'll also explore the social and practical importance of coachmen in a time before automobiles. *LancasterHistory Members Free.*



## RESEARCH CENTER BOOK SALE

Sat, Sept 13 | 10am-4pm

*Special Event at LancasterHistory*  
Support LancasterHistory's Research Center at this once-in-a generation book sale! A comprehensive review of the library resulted in the removal of many books from the collection. This is your chance to browse and buy them. Books from the personal collections of LancasterHistory's staff will also be on sale, so expect to find offerings from all genres, for all ages! *No entry fee.*


## MUSIC ON THE LAWN

feat. Denison Witmer & The Vulcans

Sat, Sept 13 | 5pm

*Family-Friendly Program  
at LancasterHistory*

Music on the Lawn concludes the 2025 Season with one final fantastic concert in James Buchanan's backyard! September's event features headliner indie-folk artist Denison Witmer and opening band, The Vulcans. *LancasterHistory Members and Children Free.*



1853 Rock-A-Way carriage owned by James Buchanan. This carriage allowed up to four passengers to ride inside with up to two drivers on the outside. The carriage was sold in 1868 by Buchanan's estate and restored in the 1880s. In 1963, the carriage was bought at auction by the James Buchanan Foundation. From the Wheatland Collection, LancasterHistory.

## FROM BLACKSMITH TO INVENTOR: THE WILLIAM CHESTER RUTH LEGACY

Feat. Gwendolyn Dickinson  
and Bruce Bomberger

Thurs, Sept 18

Reception 5pm | Lecture 5:30pm

*Regional History Colloquium*

*at LancasterHistory & Livestreamed*

Blessed with inherent mechanical genius and a family environment conducive to success, African American metalsmith William Chester Ruth evolved his forge in Gap, Pennsylvania from farm machinery repair into a workshop of mechanical creation. Gwendolyn Dickinson, Ruth's granddaughter, and Bruce Bomberger of the William Chester Ruth Legacy Project join LancasterHistory to tell Ruth's story. *Free.*

## CAPITAL DAY CELEBRATION

Sat, Sept 27 | 5:30pm

*Family-Friendly Program  
at LancasterHistory*

Celebrate September 27, 1777, the day when Lancaster served as the nation's capital! Full of family fun and quirky history, there will be activities throughout the evening, and all attendees are invited to dress in a capital way for Capital Day. *More information and tickets coming soon!*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### OCTOBER

#### **DOMESTIC HELP WANTED**

**Sat, Oct 4 | Tours 10am-3pm**  
*Wheatland Living History Tour  
at LancasterHistory*

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 and Miss Hetty looking for help maintaining a home along with her personal responsibilities. *LancasterHistory Members Free.*

#### **SAMURAI AT THE WHITE HOUSE: HARRIET LANE & THE 1860 JAPANESE EMBASSY**

Feat. Dr. Natalia Doan

**Thurs, Oct 9**

**Reception 5pm | Lecture 5:30pm**  
*Presidential Lecture*

*at LancasterHistory & Livestreamed*

In May 1860, James Buchanan welcomed the first official Japanese delegation to the United States at the White House, but it was Harriet Lane who left the most lasting impression on the samurai. 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. *Free.*

#### **PAST, PRESENT, PUMPKINS!**

**Sat, Oct 11 | 10am**

*Family-Friendly Program  
at LancasterHistory*

Let's learn all about the history of pumpkins! Kids will embark on an exciting pumpkin hunt across the grounds before creating their very own decorated gourd masterpiece to take home. Suggested for ages 12 and under.

#### **LANCASTER COUNTY AMISH QUILTS**

**Sat, Oct 18 | 10am & 2pm**

*Collections Up Close Program  
at LancasterHistory*

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, 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.

*LancasterHistory Member Discount.*



## **DRED SCOTT'S DAUGHTER: BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP & THE MEANING OF 'AMERICAN'**

Feat. Amanda Frost

**Thurs, Oct 23**

**Reception 5pm | Lecture 5:30pm**

*Location To Be Determined*

Throughout its history, the United States has grappled with the question of who qualifies as an "American." After the Civil War, Thaddeus Stevens fought for the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of birthright citizenship, but today that guarantee is under attack. Amanda Frost, an immigration attorney and law professor at the University of Virginia, will examine the legal and historical significance of birthright citizenship for the nation, as well as its prospects for the future. *Presented in partnership with Franklin & Marshall College. Free.*

**NOVEMBER**

## **GENEALOGY 101**

**Sat, Nov 8 | 10am**

*Research Workshop  
at LancasterHistory*

Want to learn more about your family history but not sure where to begin? This class orients beginners to the process of researching family history online and in the

LancasterHistory collections. Learn what kinds of records to look for, where to look for them, and how the Research Center at LancasterHistory can help. *LancasterHistory Member Discount.*

## **YULETIDE AT WHEATLAND**

**November 17 - December 30**

**Tours Mon - Sat | 10am - 3pm**

*Wheatland Special Subject Tour  
at LancasterHistory*

Explore Christmas in the mid-1800s with *Yuletide at Wheatland*, a festive, guided tour of President James Buchanan's historic home! Discover how Buchanan and his Little Family celebrated the season during a time when the Christmas holiday began to take shape in the US. From ornaments to Christmas cards, learn about the time-honored traditions that started in the mid-Victorian era. *LancasterHistory Member Discount.*

## **THE EXTRAGIVE**

**Fri, Nov 21**

Lancaster County's largest day of online giving is back! The ExtraGive kicks off a season of gratitude, and your support is more important than ever for LancasterHistory. *More information coming soon, including any day-of events.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### DECEMBER

#### CAMPUS OF HISTORY CHEER

**Sat, Dec 6**

*Family-Friendly Program  
at LancasterHistory*

Get in the holiday spirit with Campus of History Cheer, a festive event filled with fun for the whole family! From tours of Wheatland to live music, kids' activities, and a cookie station, there's something merry and bright for everyone. *More information and tickets coming soon!*

#### CANDY CANES & COCOA ON CAMPUS

**Sat, Dec 13 | 10am**

*Family-Friendly Program  
at LancasterHistory*

Help us on our hunt for candy canes across the Campus of History! Children will listen to a story read aloud, complete a holiday craft to take home, and enjoy a hot cup of cocoa. Suggested for children age 12 and under.



*Above: While Music for Everyone's Ukulele Uprising plays in the background, Sadie Weeks sprinkles red glitter onto a magnolia seed pod to make a nature ornament during "Campus of History Cheer" in 2024.*

*Below: Wren Townrow reaches for a candy cane during "Candy Canes & Cocoa" in 2024. Photo courtesy Stephanie Townrow.*



# THE TANGER ARBORETUM



The Louise Arnold Tanger Arboretum surrounds the historic and contemporary buildings on the Campus of History, providing a lush backdrop and “living collection” for visitors and locals alike to explore. This summer and fall, be sure to check out these events, hosted by the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum, at LancasterHistory. To learn more about the Tanger Arboretum and to become a Friend, please visit [lancasterhistory.org/arboretum](http://lancasterhistory.org/arboretum).



Tickets required for event admission.

*Friends of the Tanger Arboretum Members attend all events for free!*

## BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

**Sat, July 26 | 10am**

Discover the worlds of some of our favorite pollinators: butterflies and moths! Master Gardener Deb Carman will present on the niche that lepidopterans (butterflies and moths) occupy among other insect pollinators. Learn about the similarities and differences between dazzling butterflies and marvelous moths, as well as which native plants attract certain species.

## THYME TO GROW: A GUIDE TO HERB GARDENING

**Sat, Aug 23 | 10am**

Discover the wonderful world of herbs in this hands-on program with presenter Madison Walter! Explore various herb types, learn

essential care techniques, and delve into the best practices for growing, harvesting, and preserving your herbs. Whether you are a beginner or looking to grow your green thumb, you'll leave with practical skills and a new appreciation for our flavorful friends!

## WINE & CHEESE AND A WALK IN THE TREES

**Fri, Sept 5 | 5pm**

Join the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum for a delightful, late summer social! Enjoy refreshing drinks and light bites while taking a leisurely stroll through the many stately trees in the Tanger Arboretum. There will be a brief presentation about the Tanger Arboretum alongside member-led tours throughout the evening.

## THE TANGER ARBORETUM

### RETHINKING FALL GARDENING & CLEANUP

Sat, Sept 13 | 10am

Cutting back stems and raking out flower beds may feel therapeutic after summer, but the stems, sticks, and leaves we take away are vital to the wildlife and insects that call our gardens home. Join Master Gardener Adam Barkafski and discover new ways to tackle your fall gardening that have positive effects on the health and survival of pollinators, wildlife, and even the soil itself!

### PITCHER PLANTS: CARNIVORES OF THE BOG

Sat, Oct 18 | 10am

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!

### FALL SEASONAL GATHERING TOUR

Sat, Oct 25 | 10am

Enjoy a guided walking tour through the Tanger Arboretum to take in the changing of the seasons through vibrant fall colors, ornamental trees, and the pollinator gardens.

### ORCHIDS 101

Sat, Nov 1 | 10am

Delicate and colorful, orchids are the stylish residents of many greenhouses. If you've ever wanted an orchid but have been intimidated by its care, this program is for you! Join Trey Pyfer, manager of Little Brook Orchids, to learn about how to identify and care for a variety of orchids.

### HOLIDAY GREENS SALE

Sat, Dec 6 | 11am-3pm

Stop by to peruse and buy a fresh selection of greenery from the grounds while supporting the Arboretum at the same time! Open until 3pm or sold out.

### OWLS OF LANCASTER COUNTY

Sat, Dec 13 | 6:30pm

Get to know our local owls with the help of Lancaster County Park Senior Naturalist Lisa Sanchez for the final Nature Series program of 2025! Learn about the unique features of owls, their life cycle, and the various sounds they make. After the presentation, we'll go outside for an 'owl prowl' to look and listen for the owls that may live in and around the Tanger Arboretum.





Thaddeus Lydia Hamilton  
**Stevens & Smith**  
Center for History and Democracy

What woman in history  
inspires you?

What Does Family  
Mean to you?

Students participate in an educational feedback session at the Stevens & Smith Center.

## Coming Together

### *A Stevens & Smith Center Update*



We loved hosting friends and history enthusiasts at the Stevens & Smith Center this spring! From open houses and community conversations to lively social gatherings, it's been thrilling to see the building come to life with people and purpose. Now that construction is complete, LancasterHistory is excited to shift gears into the next phase: bringing the exhibits to life! In the next ten months, our partners at Art Guild will be working alongside us to wrap up the exhibition fabrication process, with an eye toward beginning their installation early in 2026. We can't wait for you to experience what's coming next!

Meanwhile, we're in the final stretch of our fundraising campaign. With just under \$2 Million left on our capital campaign goal and \$3 Million to go to complete the Stevens & Smith Center endowment campaign, we need your support to get us across the finish line. Now's your chance to be part of this incredible movement to bring the legacies of Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith to the nation and the world. Make your gift today at [stevensandsmithcenter.org](https://stevensandsmithcenter.org)!

## MAIN **EXHIBITION**

# EXHIBITIONS

Explore three centuries of history through a series of changing interpretive exhibitions featuring historic art, artifacts, and archival materials. The following exhibitions will be on display at LancasterHistory between July - December 2025.



Exhibition admission is included with the purchase of a General Admission or Exhibitions-Only ticket. *Members visit for free!*

# THIEVES & VAGABONDS

A HISTORY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
IN LANCASTER COUNTY

## On Display

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.



## EXHIBIT SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS



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CLAIR



FoxDuck | Lancaster City Bureau of Police | Lancaster County Courthouse | Lancaster County Prison  
Richard & Lynda Levensgood | Mennonite Life | Pennsylvania State Police Museum | Pennsylvania State Museum  
Dennis Shumaker | Mark Stoner

## OPEN THE DOOR: BASEBALL'S COLOR LINE IN CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

On Display Through August 30, 2025



When Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color line in 1947, he toppled a barrier that existed nationwide for Black baseball players, including those in Central Pennsylvania. *Open the Door* will tell the remarkable stories of teams like the Harrisburg Giants of the Eastern Colored League and men like Keith Kelley who integrated the Red Roses on the 100th anniversary of the Giants' stint playing at Lancaster's Rossmore Base Ball Park.

*(Above Photo) Keith Kelley began playing for the Lancaster Red Roses in 1951, pitching a no-hitter in his debut. From the Collections of LancasterHistory.*

## BUILDING BRIDGES: THE FIRST JAPANESE EMBASSY TO THE UNITED STATES

On Display September 15 - 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.



*(Above Photo) A hand fan with the signatures of Matsumoto Sannojō, Osakabe Tetsurō, Hidaka Keizaburō, Naruse Zenshirō, Morita Okatarō, and Shinmi Masaoki Buzen-no-kami. From the Collections of LancasterHistory.*



230 North President Avenue  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603

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