



LancasterHistory



13
TH

15
TH

The Second
Founding

PROGRAMS & EXHIBITIONS

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2026



Members of LancasterHistory's staff gather on center stage during the Stevens & Smith Center's Grand Opening Block Party on Saturday, May 2, 2026. The event concluded a two-day bonanza of events celebrating the Center's opening. More photos of the event are on pages 10-11.

Educational
programming
at LancasterHistory
supported in part by



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
Commission

Any views, findings,
conclusions, or
recommendations expressed
in this piece do not necessarily
represent those of sponsors.

Cover Image: Visitors explore the "Legacies of Reconstruction" gallery at the Stevens & Smith Center. Photographed by Ron Blunt Studio. **Throughout:** Photography throughout the booklet includes works by Michelle Johnson Photography, PhotOle Photography, and Bri Nguyen.

Happy Fall, Friends!

And...what an amazing spring we had!

We kicked off the Stevens & Smith Center's new era with a bang in May, hosting a weekend-long bonanza of festivity, history, and celebration. From the ribbon cutting to the community-wide block party with a few thousand of our closest friends, the grand opening was everything we could have asked for—glorious weather included. The response to the Center has been overwhelmingly positive and a joy to watch. And now? We're back to work, with a few new faces that have joined our team—Jason, Brandon, Kate, Holland, and Payton—helping us manage three historic sites in two locations as we enter our busiest season of the year.

With fall comes a fantastic roster of programs, all detailed in the pages ahead. From family-friendly events to Regional History Colloquia, a Presidential Lecture, and experiences in the Tanger Arboretum, there's something for everyone. In October, we're delighted to welcome award-winning writer, poet, and scholar Clint Smith to Lancaster for a deeper look at how history is—and sometimes isn't—shared across the nation. Embrace the back-to-school spirit and read Smith's *How the Word Is*



Passed as a bit of homework of your own!

If you haven't yet visited the Stevens & Smith Center, I encourage you to head downtown and take it in for yourself. Members visit for free, and we'd love to hear what stories you discover that are new to you. And if it's been a while since you've visited the Campus of History, there's plenty new to see there, too—from new interpretive signs across campus, newly planted gardens, and new objects on display in Groff Gallery. I hope to see you at one place or the other in the weeks ahead!

Robin

ROBIN SARRATT
PRESIDENT & CEO

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPT - DEC 2026

We're excited to offer a range of great 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 or call 717.392.4633.

SEPTEMBER

Entrepreneur, Reverend, Abolitionist: Stephen Smith's Journey from Columbia to Philadelphia

Thurs, Sept 10

5pm Reception | 5:30pm Lecture

Regional History Colloquium

*at the LancasterHistory Museum
& Research Center and Livestream*

Stephen Smith, born into indentured servitude in Columbia, Pennsylvania in the 1800s, rose to become a prominent leader in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, a powerful advocate for freedom, and one of the wealthiest Black men in America. Michael Clemmons, former Vice President of Mother Bethel AME Church Historical Society, joins LancasterHistory

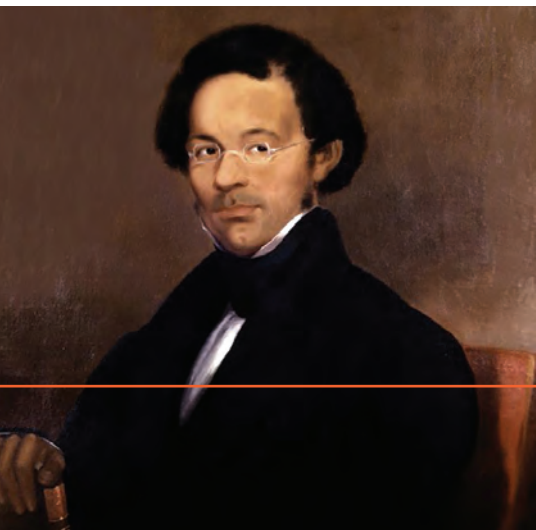
to explore the remarkable life of Stephen Smith, tracing his triumphs and setbacks along his journey from humble beginnings in Lancaster County to prominence in Philadelphia and leadership within the African Methodist Episcopal Church. *Free.*

"The Ballad of the Fugitive William Parker" Book Launch

Thurs, Sept 10 | 7pm

*Special Event at the
Stevens & Smith Center*

Join Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz, in conversation with Darlene Colon, to celebrate the release of her new book, *The Ballad of the Fugitive William Parker*. Aptowicz's book revisits the dramatic events of September 11, 1851, bringing new insights to the Christiana Resistance and the ordinary citizens who courageously fought for freedom against innumerable odds. This event is being held in partnership with local booksellers, Pocket Books. *Free.*



Portrait of Stephen Smith. Smith's portrait is featured prominently in the Stevens & Smith Center, alongside the portrait of his wife, Harriet Lee Smith. From the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Atwater Kent Collection at Drexel University.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Gardens, Grounds, and A Gentleman's Farm: A Walk Around Wheatland

Sat, Sept 12 | 10am & 1pm

Special Subject Tour at President James Buchanan's Wheatland

James Buchanan is best-known as our nation's 15th president, but he was also a gentleman farmer. During Buchanan's time at Wheatland, the property spanned 22.5 acres of meadows, orchards, gardens, and more. Join Stephanie Celiberti, Manager of President James Buchanan's Wheatland, for a walk through the Wheatland property. During the walk, you'll learn how Wheatland functioned as a farm and green space over the course of Buchanan's ownership of the property. Plus, don't miss a special pop-up exhibit on Buchanan and foodways happening in the Research Center!

Free for LancasterHistory Members.

The LancasterHistory Research Center Annual Book Sale

Sat, Sept 12 | 10am-3pm

Special Event at the LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center

The Research Center Book Sale is back! Get the chance to browse and buy books from the personal collections of LancasterHistory's staff and volunteers. Expect to find offerings from all genres, for all ages! Cash and card accepted.

Music on the Lawn, feat. Matt Hostetter

Sat, Sept 19 | 5pm

Special Event at President James Buchanan's Wheatland

Join LancasterHistory for the final Music on the Lawn concert of 2026! Lancaster-based singer and guitarist Matt Hostetter

brings his distinctive blend of American roots music, including folk, blues, and jazz, to the lawn for a perfect late-summer evening. LancasterHistory Members are invited to arrive early at 4pm for a special Member reception. *Free for LancasterHistory Members.*

Researching Germanic Lancaster

Sat, Sept 26 | 10am

Workshop at the LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center

Many residents of Lancaster County can trace their family history back to Germanic origins. Join LancasterHistory Reference Librarian Jessica Barbera for a new workshop on how you can research your German ancestors, including what resources are available at LancasterHistory and how to navigate the research process. *Discount for LancasterHistory Members.*



The tombstone of Barbara Meilin, completely inscribed in German. Barbara, wife of "old Martin Meillin," died on April 2, 1742 at 70 years old. From the General Collection, LancasterHistory.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

America250PA: Revolution to Reconstruction: Pennsylvania and the Fight for Liberty & Equality

Wed, Oct 7 | 5:30pm Lecture

Special Event at the Ware Center for the Performing Arts, 42 N. Prince St, Lancaster

Join LancasterHistory for a special, America250PA lecture featuring award-winning author Clint Smith. Smith will share insights on Pennsylvania's central role in shaping American ideals of liberty and equality from the Revolution through Reconstruction, and the notion that there is no such thing as a single American story. *Free.*

From Wheatland to Washington: The 1856 Presidential Campaign of James Buchanan

Sat, Oct 17 | 10:30 & 11:30am

Special Subject Tour at the LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center

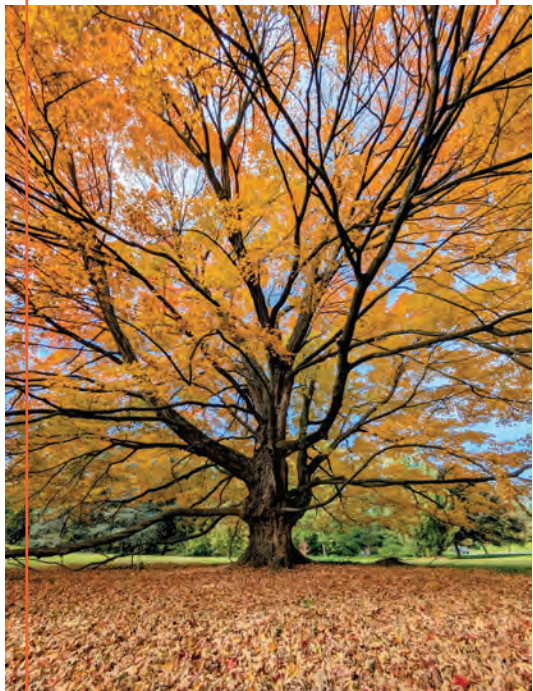
Step inside the headquarters of James Buchanan's 1856 presidential campaign with a guided tour of Wheatland. Discover how Buchanan used his home as campaign headquarters to promote his candidacy in an age before modern media. The tour will begin with a curator's talk exploring a display of campaign artifacts in Groff Gallery. *Free for LancasterHistory Members.*

Genealogy 101

Sat, Oct 17 | 10am

Workshop at the LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center

Curious about your family history but not sure where to begin? Led by Aimee Caya, Director of Collections and Research at LancasterHistory, Genealogy 101 introduces the essential tools and techniques for tracing your family story using LancasterHistory's extensive collections and online resources. You'll leave with practical strategies and a clearer path toward your next discovery! *Discount for LancasterHistory Members.*



The Black Maple in the Tanger Arboretum lights up with brilliant fall foliage. Photo by Emily Miller.

Past, Present, Pumpkins!

Sat, Oct 17 | 10am

Family-Friendly Program at the LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center

Celebrate the season and learn about the autumnal icon, the pumpkin! Discover the surprising history behind our love of pumpkins, set off on a pumpkin hunt across the grounds, and decorate your own pumpkin to take home. A fun autumn adventure for the whole family!

Edible Insects

Sat, Oct 24 | 10am

Tanger Arboretum Nature Series Program at the LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center

Join the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum for a creepy—and tasty—Nature Series program! Lisa Sanchez, Senior Naturalist at the Lancaster County Environmental Education Center, will explore edible and inedible insects and why some of these critters can be a good source of protein. Plus, we'll put them to the test, cooking up edible insects for adventurous attendees to try! *Free for Friends of the Tanger Arboretum Members.*

White House Workers

Thurs, Oct 29

5pm Reception | 5:30pm Lecture

Presidential Lecture at the LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center and Livestream

Since its completion in 1800, thousands of dedicated workers have labored behind the scenes to help the White House fulfill its roles as a seat of government, a family residence, and a historic site. Join White House Historical Association historian

Sarah Fling as she highlights lesser-known stories of White House workers throughout history, including the men and women who worked for President James Buchanan. *Free.*

NOVEMBER

A Tuber of Many Tales: The Sunchoke

Sat, Nov 7 | 10am

Tanger Arboretum Nature Series Program at the LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center

At our final Nature Series program of 2026, presenter Andrew Leahy, Education & Outreach Specialist at the Horn Farm Center, will unbury the curious history and evolving reputation of the sunchoke. Together, attendees will gain a deeper appreciation for this hardy and reliable winter food, exploring its ecological value, cultural significance, and versatility in the kitchen. *Free for Friends of the Tanger Arboretum Members.*

Becoming the Family Archivist

Sat, Nov 14 | 10am

Workshop at the LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center

Have you found yourself with all the family research, records, photographs, and heirlooms? Congratulations—you've become the family archivist! Led by Heather Tennes, Director of Archives and Manuscript Groups at LancasterHistory, this workshop introduces family historians to the methods and supplies needed to preserve treasured papers and photographs for generations to come. *Discount for LancasterHistory Members.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

C. Emlen Urban and the Chocolate King

Thurs, Nov 19

5pm Reception | 5:30pm Lecture

Regional History Colloquium at the LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center and Livestream

One built an empire with a Kiss and the other designed it. This is the untold story of Milton S. Hershey and his architect C. Emlen Urban. What drove these two men to achieve goals and fame beyond their wildest dreams? Why is one an American icon and the other unknown beyond his hometown? Drawn from his new book, *Urban and the Chocolate King*, architect and historian Gregg Scott joins us to tell the tale of two men who met as young boys in the small town of Lancaster, PA and began a journey of design and construction that endured for fifty years. *Free.*

ExtraGive 2026

Fri, Nov 20 | 5-8pm

Special Event at the Stevens & Smith Center

Celebrate the Lancaster community's 15th annual day of online giving by joining LancasterHistory at the Stevens & Smith Center for special programs, behind-the-scenes tours, and a chance to stump resident expert Stephanie Townrow at our "Ask a Historian" booth! Plus, we're a hop, skip, and a jump from ExtraGive festivities next door at the ExtraGive Fest in Commons on Vine! *Free. Donations appreciated.*

Yuletide at Wheatland

Nov 21 - Dec 30

Tours from 10:30am-3:30pm

Special Event at President James Buchanan's Wheatland

Visit LancasterHistory for *Yuletide at Wheatland*, a guided tour that explores Christmas traditions that gained popularity when Buchanan lived at his beloved home from 1848-1868. From the Christmas turkey to the tabletop tree and Christmases spent at home and abroad, discover how Buchanan celebrated the holiday as it gained popularity in the mid-19th century. *Free for LancasterHistory Members.*

DECEMBER

Campus of History Cheer

Sat, Dec 5 | 11am-5pm

Special Event at the LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center

This is the event where history meets holiday cheer! Join us for a day of festivity and merriment, with a storytime for children, a holiday greens and bake sale benefitting the Tanger Arboretum, and an opportunity to explore Wheatland at your own pace with guides stationed around the house ready to share stories of Christmas traditions from the time of James Buchanan. *More information and tickets coming in November!*

CELEBRATING AMERICA250

LancasterHistory continues to mark America's Semiquincentennial with programs and exhibits that explore 250 years of local and national history. Through exhibitions, talks, and community events, we've examined how Lancaster has helped shape the nation from the Revolutionary Era to the present. This anniversary is both a celebration and an invitation: to reflect on the stories we tell, to uplift voices often overlooked, and to consider the future we want to build together. Join us for the rest of the year as we commemorate the past, engage the present, and imagine the next chapter of American history.

With Support From



On Display in Gerhart Gallery through December 30, 2026

The Spirit of '76: Artifacts of the Past, Visions for the Future

Anniversaries are powerful moments for reflection. They are opportunities to both explore the past and consider who we want to become in the future. In celebration of America's 250th birthday, LancasterHistory is proud to present ***The Spirit of '76: Artifacts of the Past, Visions for the Future***. This exhibit looks at the ways Lancastrians have remembered our founding and how they have worked to fulfill the promise of freedom and equality for all. How do you think we should remember our past? What is your wish for America's future?



STEVENS & SMITH CENTER

GRAND DAYS IN MAY

**PHOTOS FROM THE GRAND OPENING
OF THE STEVENS & SMITH CENTER**

GRAND OPENING RIBBON CUTTING



FIRST LOOK FETE



GRAND OPENING BLOCK PARTY



VISIT THE CENTER TODAY!

Have you made your way to the Stevens & Smith Center yet? With our latest enhancements to the LancasterHistory membership program, access is right at your fingertips! All LancasterHistory memberships include complimentary access to the Stevens & Smith Center, as well as continued access to the LancasterHistory Museum & Research Center and President James Buchanan's Wheatland. We're one big LancasterHistory family!

The Stevens & Smith Center is open Tuesdays-Saturdays from 10am-5pm. We are also booking group experiences! And spread the word--tell family, friends, and anyone you meet. We'd love to see you at the Center! Discover more at stevensandsmithcenter.org.

**Stevens &
Smith** Center for History
and Democracy



230 North President Avenue
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

