



WINTER / SPRING

**PROGRAMS &
EXHIBITIONS**

JANUARY - JUNE 2025



The Stahr Armory has served many purposes since its opening in 1916. Named after Lancaster Brigadier General Charles P. Stahr, the armory has hosted everything from National Guard exercises to basketball games to the bowling alley and vintage arcade of its current incarnation as the restaurant Decades. The basketball game pictured above took place on February 11, 1929. *From the Darmstaetter Collection, Collections of LancasterHistory.*

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



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Cover Image: A carte de viste of Lydia Hamilton Smith.
From the General Collection, Collections of LancasterHistory.

Greetings friends!

Twenty-eight years ago, on January 1, 1997, I began my service as the Executive Director of the Lancaster County Historical Society. Within weeks of my arrival, we sponsored our first Regional History Colloquium, a forum on local history. Today, that tradition continues. Continuity is a good thing, but so too is change. When you look inside this brochure, you'll discover a host of familiar—and new—programs and activities.

One major change in 2025 is the leadership at LancasterHistory. Last year, by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, Robin Sarratt was selected as the next President and CEO, beginning January 1, 2025. Robin joined the organization in 2007 as the Director of Development and was named Vice President three years later. She arrived here from the Winterthur Museum where she honed the fundraising skills which have been essential to LancasterHistory for nearly two decades.

As Robin takes the reins, I will assume an *emeritus* role and focus my efforts on completing the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy, preparing it for its opening in early 2026. It's been the



honor of a lifetime to shepherd this organization, accompanied by an exceptional board of directors and a creative and dedicated professional staff, all in a community with a passionate appreciation of its history. And it doesn't get any better than having a hand in establishing a center honoring the legacies of abolitionist Congressman Thaddeus Stevens and entrepreneur Lydia Hamilton Smith as the capstone of one's career. Thank you for being an important part of my life and our work together these last 28 years as we explored America's history right here in Lancaster County!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Ryan'.

THOMAS R. RYAN, Ph.D.
PRESIDENT & CEO

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY - JUNE 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, purchase tickets, or register for a program, please visit lancasterhistory.org/events or call 717.392.3644.

LECTURES in the *Regional History Colloquium* and *Presidential Lecture Series* feature scholars presenting research on the history of southeastern Pennsylvania and the history of the presidency in mid-19th century America.

TOURS & POP-UP EXHIBITS take you deeper into President James Buchanan's Wheatland, the Stevens & Smith Center, and the LancasterHistory collections.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS offer unique social experiences with a historical twist for families and the Lancaster community. From tours to storytimes to nature events, these programs make history educational, fun, and inspirational.

JANUARY

BATS IN PA: ACOUSTIC SURVEY TECHNIQUES FOR ID & CONSERVATION

Sat, January 25 | 10am

*Tanger Arboretum Program
at LancasterHistory*

Millersville University's Dr. Aaron Haines will kick off the first Nature Series program of 2025 with a presentation on remote acoustic survey efforts for bats, a cost-effective way to survey rare bats in Pennsylvania. Learn about seven

species of bats and the recording devices that are an integral tool in evaluating bats in need of conservation with minimal human interference. *Tanger Members Free.*

FEBRUARY

MAPLE SUGARING

Sat, February 1 | 10am

*Tanger Arboretum Program
at LancasterHistory*

Join Lancaster County Park Senior Naturalist Lisa Sanchez to learn about the production of maple syrup and its importance to Indigenous

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Peoples and European colonists, its role in food rationing during World War II, and its influence on our taste buds today. Explore the history of the tools and techniques used to produce maple syrup and learn all of the steps required to make it, from identifying trees to collecting and boiling sap. *Tanger Members Free.*

INAUGURAL WREATH-LAYING FOR LYDIA HAMILTON SMITH

Sat, February 8 | 11am

Special Event at St. Mary's Cemetery

Join us for LancasterHistory's inaugural wreath-laying ceremony for Lydia Hamilton Smith. Smith was Thaddeus Stevens' housekeeper, a businesswoman in her own right, and also a devout Roman Catholic who was buried at St. Mary's upon her death in 1884. Taking place the week before Smith's birthday, the ceremony will feature the laying of fresh flowers at her gravesite and remarks by community leaders. *Free.*

IN THE SPIRIT OF LYDIA

Sat, February 8 | 2-4pm

Family-Friendly Program at LancasterHistory

Following the wreath-laying, join LancasterHistory for a reception and family-friendly program with an appearance by Lydia herself. Children—and adults—will have the opportunity to ask questions

and learn about Smith's life and times from Darlene Colón who has been interpreting the life of this remarkable Lancastrian for over two decades. *Free.*

SNEAK PEEK SOIREE

Sat, February 15 | 6-9pm

Special Event at the Stevens & Smith Center

The Stevens & Smith Center is coming in early 2026, but before we fill the space with priceless artifacts and beautiful displays, we want to welcome guests in for a sneak peek—and a once-in-a-lifetime party! With lavish food stations, bars, and music throughout the Center, the Sneak Peek Soiree is a chance to preview the Center and get a first look at its beautifully renovated spaces while supporting LancasterHistory's education and public programs.

THE FEUD THAT DIVIDED THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Mon, February 17 | Tours 10am-3pm

Wheatland Special Subject Tour at LancasterHistory

Visit James Buchanan's Wheatland for a special Presidents' Day tour and learn about Buchanan, his personal resentment of Senator Stephen Douglas, and the role it played in the split of the Democratic Party during the 1860 Democratic Convention. *LancasterHistory Member Discount.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

HISTORY HAPPY HOUR

Mon, March 10 | 5:30pm

Special Event at Decades

What do Super Mario, March Madness, and the National Guard have in common? They're all part of the history of the Stahr Armory which is now home to Decades, the host for this spring's History Happy Hour! Join LancasterHistory for specialty drinks and light bites while we explore the history of a building that has been home to Lancaster's military reserves, the Lancaster Red Roses basketball team, and the area's best vintage arcade.

Ink drawing of "an arch erected by the patriotic citizens of W. King S. Lanc. in honor of the arrival of General G. M. Lafayette who visited this town July 27th 1825." From the Print Collection, LancasterHistory.

AN ADOPTED SON OF AMERICA: PERSPECTIVES ON THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Thurs, March 20

Reception 5pm | Lecture 5:30pm

Regional History Colloquium

at LancasterHistory & via Livestream

50 years after fighting for the American cause in the Revolutionary War, the Marquis de Lafayette returned to the United States, visiting all 24 states on a 13-month farewell tour that included three days of festivities in Lancaster. Join LancasterHistory and a panel of local historians for an exploration of who Lafayette was, what he believed, and what he did here when he passed through Central Pennsylvania in July 1825. This event is co-hosted with the Lafayette200 Bicentennial Planning Committee of Lancaster and Western Chester Counties. *Free.*



An Arch Erected by the Patriotic Citizens of W. King S. Lanc. in Honor of the arrival General G. M. Lafayette who visited this town July 27th 1825

THESE PLANTS ARE FOR THE BIRDS

Sat, March 29 | 10am

*Tanger Arboretum Program
at LancasterHistory*

As we emerge from winter and into spring, it's time to combine two common interests for nature lovers: gardening and birding! Join presenter Holly List to learn about how we can share our landscape with birds, pursuing plants that support our feathered friends while providing seasonal interest and joy to our homes and community. Plus, get tips on how to ID common resident birds as well as those migrating through our area. *Tanger Members Free.*

APRIL

CONGRESSMAN GEORGE S. BOUTWELL: RADICAL REPUBLICAN & CHAMPION OF DEMOCRACY

Feat. Dr. Jeffrey Boutwell

Thurs, April 3

Reception 5pm | Lecture 5:30pm

Presidential Lecture at

LancasterHistory & via Livestream

Congressman George S. Boutwell of Massachusetts worked with James Buchanan during the Antebellum Era, Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, and Thaddeus Stevens during Reconstruction, but he

remains the most consequential American political figure you've never heard of. In this lecture, the congressman's distant relative, Dr. Jeffrey Boutwell, traces a life that offers an insider's view of the pivotal moments that laid the groundwork for modern America. *Free.*

WHEATLAND: A GENTLEMAN'S FARM

Sat, April 5 | Tours 10am-3pm

*Wheatland Special Subject Tour
at LancasterHistory*

James Buchanan is best-known as our nation's 15th President, but he was also a gentleman farmer. From 1849 to 1868, Buchanan lived at Wheatland, which sat upon 22.5 acres of meadows, orchards, and gardens. In this special subject tour, discover how the grounds functioned as a farm and why Buchanan was called "the Sage of Wheatland." *LancasterHistory Member Discount.*

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE TANGER ARBORETUM

Wed, April 16 | 6-9pm

Tanger Arboretum Program

at DoubleTree Resort in Willow Street

Celebrate and gather with friends for an evening of fellowship and fun, benefitting the care and conservation of the Louise Arnold Tanger Arboretum at LancasterHistory. *More information forthcoming.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ANNUAL PRESIDENTIAL WREATH-LAYING

Sat, April 19 | 10am

Special Event at

Woodward Hill Cemetery

Join LancasterHistory at Woodward Hill Cemetery for the annual wreath-laying ceremony for President James Buchanan, the United States' 15th President. Taking place in the week of Buchanan's birthday, the ceremony features the laying of fresh flowers at the gravesite of the former president and remarks by the presiding officer of the Pennsylvania National Guard and local dignitaries. *Free.*

THE ART & CULTIVATION OF BONSAI

Sat, April 26 | 10am

Tanger Arboretum Program

at LancasterHistory

Learn all about the tiny but mighty bonsai! Whether you're new to bonsai or an experienced caretaker, get tips on the "dos" and "don'ts" of the renowned Japanese botanical art. Discover the history of bonsai and the different inspirational styles, while fostering an appreciation of the diversity of bonsai design. Plus, experience a live demonstration of techniques used to develop and shape bonsai. *Tanger Members Free.*

MAY

STORYTIME

Every Thurs in May | 10am

Family-Friendly Program

at LancasterHistory

Gather 'round for Storytime each Thursday this May! 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.*



THE NATION IS PLUNGED IN GRIEF

Sat, May 3 | Tours 10am-3pm

*Wheatland Living History Tour
at LancasterHistory*

Step back to May 1865 and eavesdrop on Mr. Buchanan and his house guests as they react to the news of President Lincoln's assassination. In this living history tour, meet the President and hear him discuss with his companions the penalties that may confront the Southern States and the challenges Andrew Johnson will face as he ascends to the presidency. *LancasterHistory Member Discount.*



A color lithograph of Wheatland, drawn by J.F. Reigart in 1856. The lithograph offers a unique, aerial view of the property, including outbuildings as well as a black and white portrait of James Buchanan at the top, likeness taken from William McMaster's portrait of Buchanan. From the Wheatland Collection at LancasterHistory.

COUNTY FOUNDING DAY

Thurs, May 8 | 5:30pm

Special Event at LancasterHistory

On May 10, 1729, Lancaster County was born. Since then, 10 generations of Lancastrians have lived, laughed, loved, and eaten shoofly pie in our community. Join LancasterHistory for the annual County Founding Day celebration and lift a glass to everyone who has called Lancaster County home over the last 296 years. Enjoy extended museum hours, flash talks from local historians, pop-up exhibits, and, of course, birthday cake! *LancasterHistory Member Discount.*

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Sat, May 10 | 10am

*Tanger Arboretum Program
at LancasterHistory*

Feeling overwhelmed by climate anxiety? Join Aidan Fife, Director of Community Engagement at RegenAll, to learn about ways to get involved with your community that can provide hope and agency in the face of climate change. Discover actionable steps, like making home energy improvements or joining RegenAll's Climate Action Neighborhood program, listen to stories of climate hope, and find ways to make climate action feel tangible, actionable, and possible. *Tanger Members Free.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPRING SEASONAL GATHERING TOUR

Sat, May 17 | 10am

*Tanger Arboretum Program
at LancasterHistory*

Join the Friends of the Tanger Arboretum for a walking tour and a glimpse at what's new, blooming, or to come with the approach of warmer, sunnier months in the Arboretum. *Tanger Members Free.*

ELIZA PARKER AND THE CHRISTIANA RESISTANCE

Feat. Dr. Iris Leigh Barnes

Thurs, May 22

Reception 5pm | Lecture 5:30pm

*Regional History Colloquium
at LancasterHistory & via Livestream*

In the early 1840s, Eliza Ann Howard fled enslavement at Belle Vue Plantation in Harford County, Maryland and found a home in Lancaster County where she met her husband, William Parker. When, in 1851, a Maryland enslaver threatened their lives and the lives of the others in their community, they fought back in what became known as the Christiana Resistance. While this landmark event is a well-known turning point on the path to Civil War, Dr. Iris Leigh Barnes, a historian, educator, and the Executive Director of the Hosanna School Museum, joins us to retell the story through the often-overlooked figure of Eliza Parker. *Free.*

JUNE

ANNUAL DINNER OF LANCASTERHISTORY

June 2025

Join fellow history-lovers for an evening of food, friendship, and a look at what's ahead! The Annual Dinner benefits education and public programs at LancasterHistory. *More information forthcoming.*

WHEATLAND AT YOUR OWN PACE

Sat, June 7 | Tours 10am-3pm

Wheatland Tours at LancasterHistory

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

CREEKS & CRITTERS

Sat, June 7 | 10am

*Tanger Arboretum Program
at LancasterHistory*

Summer is a fantastic time to explore life in our local creeks. On June 7, Naturalist Lisa Sanchez will bring the creek to LancasterHistory! Examine various "critters" representing a sample of life from a creek, and

learn about the life cycle of the many insects that begin their lives in the water. Aquatic insects, such as dragonflies, mosquitoes, and mayflies, play a valuable role in our ecosystems and tell us a lot about the quality of the water and the health of our creeks and streams.

Tanger Members Free.

BASEBALL'S COLOR LINE IN LOCAL AND NATIONAL CONTEXTS

Tues, June 17

Reception 5pm | Lecture 5:30pm

Regional History Colloquium

"Goes to the Movies"

at LancasterHistory

In 1925, the Harrisburg Giants, a Negro League baseball team, began playing their Sunday games at Rossmore Base Ball Park in Lancaster. Join LancasterHistory, Community Action Partnership, and local historian Jeremy Raff as we celebrate the Giants' 100th anniversary with a special exhibit and documentary screening about the 1920s teams that created their own leagues when Major League Baseball excluded them. *Free.*



(Top Photo) The Harrisburg Giants team in 1906. (Middle Photo) Eastern Colored League banner. (Bottom Photo) The Pittsburgh Crawfords team in 1932. All Photos from Wikimedia Commons.

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 January and June 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

Now 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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Dennis Shumaker | Mark Stoner

PATHWAYS OF PERSISTENCE: AANHPI LEGACIES IN LANCASTER COUNTY

On Display February 1 - May 31, 2025

Lancaster's Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) residents have contributed to the county's cultural, economic, and social landscape, adapting to challenges and thriving across generations. *Pathways of Persistence*, a collaboration between LAAPI and LancasterHistory, celebrates these stories of resilience, perseverance, and impact. Through this exhibit, we honor the voices and experiences that have helped shape Lancaster, bringing to light the multifaceted contributions AANHPI individuals have made in business, culture, and beyond.



(Above Photo) From the Johnny Hauck Photograph Collection, Collections of LancasterHistory.

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

On Display June 9 - 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.

On The Horizon: *A New President's Welcome*

IN 1909, appealing to his fellow architects, Daniel Burnham endorsed the beauty of aiming high: “Make no little plans,” he said, “They have no magic to stir men’s blood and probably will not themselves be realized. Make big plans, aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistency.”

Plans are funny. In the spring of 2020, we all learned how quickly plans can change: big plans, small plans—all can be affected by the course of history and human behavior. It’s a marvel to look back nearly five years ago and see how far we’ve come.

We’ve been in the planning process for the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History and Democracy for all five of these past years, building on the plans begun by many others. Our plans have evolved, grown, shifted, and been shaped by the input of countless community members, dozens of scholars, and a talented team of designers. In recent days, we’ve seen so much change happen at the Center—new floors, new walls, new windows, and the outline of what’s to come.



New plans will take flight in the months ahead. We’ll design programs to share with visitors and community members at the Stevens & Smith Center once we open in about a year. We’ll plan the best ways to celebrate America’s 250th birthday in 2026 through the lens of Lancaster County’s history. And, I will be working with our team on plans that keep LancasterHistory a fun and exciting place to work and visit as I embark on my first year as President of an organization I truly love! I hope you’ll visit often, both onsite and online, and be with us for all that’s to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin".

ROBIN SARRATT
PRESIDENT & CEO

Thaddeus Lydia Hamilton
Stevens & Smith
Center for History and Democracy



Photo from the 2024 ExtraGive Sneak Peek at the Stevens & Smith Center.

The Road Ahead

Stevens & Smith Center Update

There has been a flurry of activity at the Stevens & Smith Center lately, as Benchmark Construction and their subcontractors have been hard at work. By late January 2025, they'll put down their hammers and paint brushes, and the interior spaces will be ready for the next phase: exhibition installation! LancasterHistory recently hired key teammates for the final phase of the project. Art Guild, based outside of Philadelphia, is a world-class exhibition fabrication team with 90 years of experience working in museums worldwide. In the next few weeks, Art Guild will create

shop drawings and prototypes, preparing all the infrastructure needed to showcase 25,000 square feet of stories, artifacts, and media experiences. We'll be sure to share their progress in the months ahead at stevensandsmithcenter.org!

HOW TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT

Visit our website, stevensandsmithcenter.org, to make a tax-deductible gift to support Lancaster's newest museum!



230 North President Avenue
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

