

Internship Opportunities

Call for Applications for the C. Dallett Hemphill Undergraduate Internships

The McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania is co-sponsoring two undergraduate summer internships in the summer of 2021. The Center's partner institutions in 2021 are the Newlin Grist Mill and LancasterHistory. The stipend for each internship is \$3,000.

These internships are open to undergraduate and terminal masters students enrolled at McNeil Center Consortium institutions and are designed to introduce students to professional work in public history settings. Interns are expected to work full-time (35 hours per week) for at least 8 weeks. Beginning and end dates will be arranged between the hosting institution and the intern, but internships should be completed by September 1. Stipends are intended to cover housing, travel, and daily living expenses – all arrangements and costs for which are the responsibility of the intern. This year's program has remote and/or hybrid options to accommodate public health precautions regarding COVID-19. However, each internship will have on-site activities if it is safe to do so, and interns should be prepared to travel to the sites as needed. One half of the stipend will be paid at the beginning of the fellowship, and the other half will be remitted at the completion of the internship.

Please submit applications by April 15, 2021.

Partner Institutions and Position Description

- (1) **Newlin Grist Mill**, located in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving its land and historic buildings for the education and enjoyment of the public. The 160-acre historic site and park is home to a broad range of habitats, 8.5 miles of trails, and 12 historic buildings including a working 1704 gristmill, a reconstructed blacksmith shop, four eighteenth-century houses, a 1730s store (now Research Archive), a railroad station (now Visitor Center), and several outbuildings. The organization welcomes approximately 50,000 visitors each year for tours, programs, events, and recreational activities featuring its historic and environmental resources.

This internship will focus on the refurnishing and interpretation of the blacksmith shop. The shop was reconstructed in 1975 around an original eighteenth-century hearth moved to the site from a nearby blacksmith shop. NGM aims to interpret the shop for the first half of the eighteenth century based on Joseph Moxon's 1703 description in *Mechanical Exercises*. This will be the only English-style blacksmith shop used for public demonstrations and trades training in the United States.

The NGM intern will gain experience working on historic interpretation from research to implementation. Working with NGM staff, the intern will produce a reference document covering early-eighteenth-century blacksmithing, blacksmith shops, and the role of indentured and enslaved labor in the blacksmithing trade. They will also create an outline

for interpretation of the restored blacksmith shop, work on a furnishing plan for the blacksmith shop, and generate a bibliography of reference materials.

NGM is an experienced host for student interns, with a staff eager to mentor interns in their respective areas of expertise. The Hemphill intern will work directly with the Director and Program Manager as well as with other staff and volunteers as needed. The intern will be required to present a progress report at weekly meetings. Meetings will occur both in person and online, but daily consultations will be available for guidance. Each element of the internship represents a step of transforming historical research into a finished public project. Interns will need transportation for on-site meetings and (if possible) local research and reliable internet access for online meetings and research.

- (2) **LancasterHistory**, formerly known as Lancaster County's Historical Society, is an award-winning local history museum in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Its 11-acre campus includes Wheatland, the home of 15th U.S. President James Buchanan; a Research Center with more than 2 million documents, manuscripts, and books; rotating museum exhibitions interpreting three centuries of local history through art, artifacts, and archival materials; and the Louise Arnold Tanger Aboretum.

The LancasterHistory intern will be tasked with working collaboratively with Dr. Louise Stevenson of Franklin & Marshall College and Stephanie Townrow of LancasterHistory to conduct research into the early life of U.S. Congressman and noted abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens and/or Stevens' housekeeper and confidante, Lydia Hamilton Smith. LancasterHistory is currently engaged in the early stages of interpretation for a forthcoming museum space, the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Smith Historic Site. This site, located in the City of Lancaster at the site of Stevens' former home and law office, will include interpretation of Stevens' early life and career, pre-1850, that led to his later decisions and actions. Many scholars contend that Stevens' childhood in a tumultuous household, lack of early access to quality education, and discrimination due to his clubfoot shaped his views later in life. Prior to 1850, Stevens began his law career in Gettysburg and York, and experienced foundational moments defending slaveholders that would affect his later views on slavery and his sympathy towards the enslaved. Working with the resources in LancasterHistory's collections, and additional collections accessible locally and digitally, the intern will be tasked with conducting primary research to support or refute these widely held beliefs, and to discover new evidence to support additional interpretation of Stevens' early life. This intern will also have the option to research the life of Lydia Hamilton Smith, a woman of color who survived myriad adversities to become a businesswoman, property owner, and mother, and was also the confidant of Thaddeus Stevens.

This research, and the findings that come out of it, will contribute to the scholarly dialogue surrounding both Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Smith, and will be incorporated into the interpretation at the Stevens & Smith Historic Site. Working collaboratively with

Dr. Louise Stevenson, a noted expert in this time period, the intern will have the opportunity to bridge the gap between scholarly knowledge of Stevens and the way we share this history with the public.

LancasterHistory has an active summer internship program and strives to offer students an introduction to the diversity and depth of museum careers. In keeping with the educational mission of the organization, they aim to provide educational opportunities for interns to engage with collections and Lancaster County's history. The Hemphill intern will have access to programs including weekly seminars on topics related to museum studies and related fields taught by LancasterHistory's expert staff and regular conversations with museum professionals across the country and field visits to local institutions when possible.

Please note that this internship requires a start date of June 8, 2021 in order to align with LancasterHistory's larger summer internship program; the end date will be arranged between the intern and site.

Eligibility

This program is intended for undergraduate and terminal masters students currently enrolled at McNeil Center Consortium institutions. A list of these institutions can be found at <http://www.mceas.org/consortium.shtml>. If your institution is not yet a Consortium member, please contact Amy Baxter-Bellamy (abaxter@sas.upenn.edu) for more information. Students should explain their interest and (where applicable) experience in history, historic preservation, museum studies, or archival work.

Submission

Please address applications and inquiries to:

Laura Keenan Spero
Coordinator of Scholarly Programs, McNeil Center
lakeenan@sas.upenn.edu

Applicants should submit the following items 1-4 in a single pdf document. Letters of recommendation should be submitted directly from the recommender.

1. Cover Sheet (including contact info, institution, major/minor, anticipated date of graduation, recommender, and ranking of interest in internships – do not rank an internship for which you do not wish to be considered).
2. Application letter. Applicants should explain their interest in these internships, relevant experience and coursework, commitment to pursuing interests in public history or related fields, and what they hope to gain from this summer internship.
3. C.V.
4. Transcript (unofficial).

5. Letter of recommendation from professional reference (professor or public history professional): due via email directly from recommender to Laura Keenan Spero (lakeenan@sas.upenn.edu) by April 15, 2021.