

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 2020. The Center's partner institutions in 2020 are the Newlin Grist Mill and LancasterHistory (extended descriptions of each site and internship position below). 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) on site 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, 2020. Stipends are intended to cover housing, travel, and daily living expenses – all arrangements and costs for which are the responsibility of the intern. 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 6, 2020.

Please contact Laura Keenan Spero, McNeil Center Coordinator of Scholarly Programs, at lakeenan@sas.upenn.edu with any questions.

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 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 48,000 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 description from 1703. This will be one of very few English-style blacksmith shops 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 report on early eighteenth-century blacksmithing and iron industries in southeastern Pennsylvania, develop an outline for interpretation of the restored blacksmith shop, work on a furnishing plan for the blacksmith shop, and assist with an outline for a training program. The intern will also gain hands-on experience in period woodworking and iron working, including the recreation of a set of bellows for NGM's period Millwright Shop, where restoration and maintenance projects are completed using period-appropriate tools and techniques. The intern will also work on fabricating furnishings in the blacksmith shop for the newly-restored

Trimble Kitchen. As a member of the NGM team, the intern will be required to present a progress report at the weekly staff meeting and work with various members of the staff observing museum operations and the daily realities of public history. Each element of the internship represents a step of transforming historical research into a finished public project. The hands-on elements not only provide valuable experience with historic trades, but also will also provide a tangible connection with historic objects by understanding the skills that went into their manufacture.

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 need to have transportation for research at regional library and archival resources. The need to work with the schedules of volunteer and outside consultants may require a limited number of evening meetings and weekend work.

(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 Arboretum.

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. 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 lead 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 research, and the findings that come out of it, will contribute to the scholarly dialogue surrounding Thaddeus Stevens, 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 weekly field trips to institutions throughout the region.

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, Associate Director, at 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

Applicants should submit the following items 1-4 in a single pdf document. Letters of recommendation should be submitted directly from the recommender. All materials should be sent to mceas@sas.upenn.edu by Monday, April 6, 2020.

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 mceas@sas.upenn.edu by April 6, 2020.