



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2026

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Local Historical Society on the BBC podcast *Lady Killers* with Lucy Worsley

Carlisle, PA – The Cumberland County Historical Society (CCHS) participated in the BBC podcast, *Lady Killers with Lucy Worsley*.

The podcast “investigates the crimes of Victorian women from a contemporary, feminist perspective,” according to the BBC website. In 2025, CCHS was contacted by the podcast’s producer about the story of Cloe, an enslaved woman in Cumberland County who was executed in 1801 for the murder of her enslavers’ two youngest children.

Cloe’s story was explored in Dr. Nikki M. Taylor’s book, *Brooding Over Bloody Revenge: Enslaved Women’s Lethal Resistance*. As a story with local significance to Cumberland County, the podcast reached out to CCHS to provide context on the landscape and locations that Cloe would have experienced.

Merri Lou Schaumann, an expert on 18th-century Cumberland County and a longtime volunteer at CCHS, along with CCHS staff, worked closely with the podcast to coordinate the site visit and conduct additional research on the story of Cloe. She was interviewed by Dr. Taylor for the podcast. Speaking on the experience Ms. Schaumann commented that “it was an honor to work with Dr. Taylor and the *Lady Killers* podcast crew to discuss this important and tragic story in Cumberland County’s history.”

Merri Lou’s knowledge and understanding of 18th-century records were instrumental in furthering our understanding of Cloe’s life and the landscape of Cumberland County. Thanks to her research, it was possible to identify the murder location and further build on Dr. Taylor’s groundbreaking research.

“Merri Lou found a historic map that identified the property of Cloe’s enslavers. Using this map and Google Maps, I was able to identify the current location and work with nearby property owners to find a filming site,” noted Dr. Lindsay Varner, CCHS Executive Director.

On February 21 at 10:30 AM, Ms. Schaumann and Dr. Varner will discuss Cloe’s story and their research at CCHS. The event is free for CCHS members and \$6 for non-members. Registration is available at [Cloe - Forced Resistance - Cumberland County Historical Society](#).

The podcast, *Cloe - Forced Resistance*, will be available on audio streaming services. A video of the story is available on BBC Select.

About Cumberland County Historical Society

For 150 years, Cumberland County Historical Society (CCHS) has collected and shared the history of Cumberland County. Through education outreach, exhibitions, and public programming, CCHS engages the public by sharing the U.S.'s diverse history through the County’s history. To learn more about CCHS and upcoming programming, visit www.historicalsociety.com.