

Revolutionary Ideas: Fairfax in the American Revolution
is presented in collaboration with:



FAIRFAX COUNTY
VA 250



Special thanks to conference co-chair George Oberle and all GMU faculty and Ph.D. students; history commissioners Todi Carnes, Subhi Mehdi, Brian Heintz, Margo Coleman, Cheryl Repetti, Carmen Powell, Anne Barnes, Michelle Arcari Rose and Anne Stuntz; former commissioners Mary Lipsey, Lynne Garvey-Hodge, Esther McCullough; and Ellen Gipko, Barsha Parajuli, Robert Phillips, Chris Barbuschak, Suzanne Levy, Linda Mellott, Emily G.K. Smith, Aimee Wells, Liz Crowell, Marc Dluger, Rishi Agrawal, Marion Ransell Dobbins and all other volunteers.

— Sue Kovach Shuman, Fairfax County History
Commission conference chair

Thanks to Fairfax County Channel 16.



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FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY COMMISSION PRESENTS:

Revolutionary Ideas: Fairfax County's American Revolution

Saturday, April 18, 2026

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fairfax County
Government Center

Conference Program



8:30 a.m. **Registration check-in, coffee and conversation – Forum**

9 a.m. **Welcome – Board Room**

9:15 a.m. **Keynote speaker Dr. Richard Bell
Board Room**

Author of *The American Revolution and the Fate of the World*

10:30 a.m. **Break – Forum**

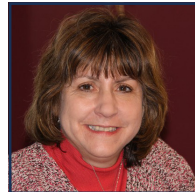
10:45-10:55 a.m. **History Commission Awards**



Cynthia Kierner



George Oberle



Rosemarie Zagari



Richard Bell

10:55 a.m.–12:15 p.m. **The Big Picture – Board Room**

Featuring George Mason University faculty:

- **Rosemarie Zagari:** *Politics in Revolutionary Fairfax*
- **Cynthia Kierner:** Living the Revolution
- **George Oberle:** Slavery in Fairfax County in the Revolutionary Era
- Moderator: **Subhi Mehdi**

12:15–1:30 p.m. **Lunch – Forum or off-site (attendee's choice)**

**Visit nonprofit and government tables
Upper Forum, Reception, Room 9**

Afternoon Sessions

1:30–3:45 p.m. – Choose between concurrent presentations and activities
Some activities are designed for all ages.

1:30–2:30 p.m. – **Impacts of the Revolution – Board Room**

Featuring original research by George Mason University Ph.D. candidates:

- **David Armstrong:** *“Not Satisfied with the Provisions Made for Her”:
Elizabeth Mary Ann Barnes Hooe, the Mason Family, and the Transfer of
Property in Early Virginia*
- **Anne Champlin:** *The Mason Family Account Book and Revolutionary Virginia,
1774–1783*

- **Alessandra DelDonna:** *“An Agreeable Companion, Prudent Mother,
and Humane Mistress”:
Ann Eilbeck Mason as the ‘Planter’s Wife’ in
18th-Century Virginia*
Moderator: George Oberle

“It’s Revolutionary” Trivia Competition – Room 4/5

All ages. Cheer for high school students. Marc Dluger, director of the Public History and Historic Preservation Program at Northern Virginia Community College, emcees. Thanks to teacher Rishi Agrawal, Fairfax High School.

Dig Archaeology – Reception

All ages. Fairfax County Park Authority’s Archaeology and Collections Branch presents “What Is It?”—a guessing game that asks you to be the archaeologist. Handle artifacts that highlight what makes Fairfax County unique.

Mason Neck’s Free Black Community – Room 10

Gunston Hall’s Descendants Advisory Board and Shiloh Baptist Church present a short film.

1:30–3:45 p.m.

In Your Own Words – Room 6

All ages. What does freedom mean to you? Contribute your thoughts to our community poster.

Our Talented Students – Room 7

All ages. Middle and high school students interpret our history.

Live Like a Colonial – Room 8

All ages. Make a whirligig, explore jobs of the past, learn slang terms, play dress-up and take a selfie with George Washington. .

2:45–3:45 p.m.

African American Cemeteries – Board Room

Historian Mary Lipsey explains African American burial traditions and historic cemetery preservation. Learn about Fairfax County’s rich African American cemetery heritage.

Land Records and Racial Covenants – Room 4/5

Interactive research and mapping workshop. Krystyn Moon, professor of history and American studies at the University of Mary Washington, presents “Housing Justice, Historical Truths: Documenting Exclusion and Resilience in Northern Virginia.”

AI for the Humanities – Room 9

All ages. GMU faculty and scholars explain the tricks to using Artificial Intelligence.

Find Your Roots – Room 10

All ages. Interactive session. The Fairfax Genealogical Society helps you explore your family history.