

**AMERICAN REVOLUTION MUSEUM AT YORKTOWN GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION
MARCH 23-APRIL 4, 2017, TO SALUTE 13 ORIGINAL STATES,
FEATURE MUSEUM DEDICATION, PATRIOTIC CEREMONIES & MILITARY MUSIC**

YORKTOWN, Va., March 7, 2017 — Artillery salutes and flag-raising ceremonies. Fifes and drums and military dragoons. Brass bands and color guards. Historians, military veterans, re-enactors, entertainers and enthusiasts reveling in the Revolution will come together March 23 to April 4 to present 13 days of festivities showcasing the new American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

The Grand Opening Celebration of the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown will feature a patriotic salute to America's 13 original states, a dedication ceremony on April 1, tours of expansive gallery exhibits, and military music and 18th-century interpretive experiences in the newly expanded Continental Army encampment and Revolution-era farm.

The Grand Opening culminates the museum's 10-year transformation from the Yorktown Victory Center. Through immersive indoor gallery exhibits with nearly 500 period artifacts, experiential films and interpretive living-history experiences, the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown presents a renewed national perspective on the meaning and impact of the Revolution.

Ceremonies honoring the legacy of the first 13 states in the United States of America will take place each day in the order that they ratified the Constitution – Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina and Rhode Island. A dedication April 1 will officially launch the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown.

Daily programs recognizing each state will begin midday with ceremonial welcoming remarks and presentation of the state flag, followed by an Honor Guard procession along the Grand Corridor to the outdoor re-created Continental Army encampment's artillery amphitheater for a flag-raising ceremony and artillery salute. Visitors will be able to learn more about each state's Revolutionary War history through a variety of educational programs, new exhibition galleries, and interpretive programs in the newly expanded Continental Army encampment and Revolution-era farm. Children's games and family friendly activities will round out the festivities.

Highlights of each of the 13 days include:

- ★ **March 23, Delaware** – Welcoming Ceremony (11 a.m., Artillery Amphitheater); Fife & Drums performance and the 1st Delaware Regiment Volley Salute (12:30 p.m., Event Lawn); Author Kim R. Budick, "Revolutionary Delaware: Independence in the First State" lecture (1 p.m., Classroom); Historian Wade Catts, "1777 Battle of Cooch's Bridge" (2 p.m., Classroom); Commander Christopher Mlynarczyk, "Captain Robert Kirkwood and the 1st Delaware Regiment" (3 p.m., Classroom); and Panel Discussion on the "Delaware Signers of the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution (4 p.m., Classroom).

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- ★ **March 24, Pennsylvania** – Welcoming Ceremony (11 a.m., Artillery Amphitheater); Michael Kochan will conduct 18th-century scientific experiments as “Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Scientist” (10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Event Lawn). Patricia Jones of Independence National Historic Park will discuss the Continental Congress and Pennsylvania State House (1 p.m., Classroom); and Nancy K. Loane of Valley Forge National Park, Winter Encampment at Valley Forge and the Making of the Continental Army (4:15 p.m., Classroom).

- ★ **March 25, New Jersey** – Welcoming Ceremony (11 a.m., Artillery Amphitheater); Noreen Bodman, Historian & Executive Director, Crossroads of the American Revolution, “An Overview: New Jersey during the American Revolution” (1 p.m., Classroom); Historians Larry Kidder and Roger Williams of Old Barracks Museum, Trenton, “Ten Crucial Days: The Battles of Trenton and Princeton” (1:45 p.m., Classroom); Historian and Ranger Eric Olsen of Morristown National Historic Site, “Joseph Plumb Martin: Recollections of the Revolution” (2:30 p.m., Classroom); Historian and Ranger Michael Timpanaro of Monmouth Battlefield State Park, “The Battle of Monmouth” (3:15 p.m., Classroom); Noreen Bodman, “Signers of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution” (4 p.m., Classroom). **Evening Lecture:** Historian Robert Selig presents “The Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail” (7 p.m., Theater).

- ★ **March 26, Georgia** – Welcoming Ceremony (11 a.m., Artillery Amphitheater); Historian Robert Davis of Wallace State Community College, Alabama, “Georgia during the American Revolution” (1 p.m., Classroom); Executive Director Jack Warren of The Society of the Cincinnati, “The Battle of Kettle Creek” (1:45 p.m., Classroom); Archaeologists Rita Elliott and Daniel Elliott of The LAMAR Institute, “Archeological Site Excavations at Kettle Creek and Savannah” (2:30 p.m., Classroom); and Scholar Robert Davis, “Elijah Clarke and the American Revolution” and “Georgia Signers of the Declaration of Independence & the U.S. Constitution” (4 p.m., Classroom).

- ★ **March 27, Connecticut** – Welcoming Ceremony (12 Noon, Artillery Amphitheater); Historian James Gallagher, “Connecticut during the American Revolution” (1 p.m., Classroom); Rebecca Gavin, Connecticut Historical Society, “Tories, Spies and Traitors: Divided Loyalty in Revolutionary Connecticut” (2 p.m., Classroom); and Historian James Gallagher, “Connecticut’s Signers and Soldiers” (4 p.m., Classroom).

- ★ **March 28, Massachusetts** – Welcoming Ceremony (11 a.m., Artillery Amphitheater); Curtis White of Salem Maritime National Historic Site, “Customs Enforcement in Salem, Massachusetts: Prelude to War 1760-1775” (1 p.m., Classroom); Leslie Obleschuk of Minute Man National Historic Park, “The Battles of Lexington and Concord” (1:45 p.m., Classroom); Ethan Beeler of Boston National Historic Park, “Joseph Warren & the Battle of Bunker Hill” (2:30 p.m., Classroom); Garrett Cloe of the Longfellow House Washington’s Headquarters National Historical Site, “George Washington: ‘...the Gentleman and Soldier look agreeably blended in him’” (3:30 p.m., Classroom); and Jason Halin of Adams National Historical Park, “Families in the Revolution, Patriots in the Countryside: The Revolutionary Partnership of John and Abigail Adams” (4:15 p.m., Classroom).

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- ★ **March 29, Maryland** – Welcoming Ceremony (11 a.m., Artillery Amphitheater); Senior Historian Glenn Campbell of the Historic Annapolis Foundation, “Annapolis in the Revolutionary Era” (1 p.m., Classroom); Historian and Author John Beakes, “Otho Holland Williams in the American Revolution” (2 p.m., Classroom); Historian Robert Mullauer, “The Maryland 400 at the Battle of Cowpens” (3 p.m., Classroom); Historian and Author John Beakes, “John Eager Howard in the American Revolution” (4 p.m., Classroom). **Evening Lecture:** Historian and Author Patrick O’Donnell, “Washington’s Immortals: The Untold Story of an Elite Regiment Who Changed the Course of the Revolution” (7 p.m., Theater)

- ★ **March 30, South Carolina** – Welcoming Ceremony (11 a.m., Artillery Amphitheater). Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution panel discussions with Doug Bostick of the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust, Historian Robert Dunkerly of the National Park Service, Tray Dunaway of the Historic Camden Foundation, and Doug McIntyre and David Reuver of the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution. Programs include “1775-1776 Loyalists & Whigs” (1 p.m., Classroom); “1777-1779 Archives, Archeology & Anecdotes” (2 p.m., Classroom); “1780-1781 Battles, Bravado & Blood” (3 p.m., Classroom); and “1781-1782 Internecine Hatred & Isaac Hayne” (4 p.m., Classroom). **Evening Lecture:** Author and Historian John “Jack” Buchanan, “Partisan War in the Carolinas” (7 p.m., Theater).

- ★ **March 31, New Hampshire** – Welcoming Ceremony (11 a.m., Artillery Amphitheater); Abby Pietrantonio of the American Independence Museum, “New Hampshire during the American Revolution: Historic Artifacts, and Current Preservation Efforts” (1 p.m., Classroom); Callie Stewart of Bennington Museum Collections, “John Stark and the Battle of Bennington” (2 p.m., Classroom); and Author Glenn F. Williams “Year of the Hangman: George Washington’s Campaign Against the Iroquois” with a particular focus on John Sullivan, Enoch Poor, and Henry Dearborn” (3 p.m., Classroom).

- ★ **April 1, Virginia** – Dedication Day will feature patriotic ceremonies, an 18th-century fair with period amusements of juggling and puppet shows, Revolutionary War re-enactors and dragoons, military music and artillery salutes. Museum gallery exhibits will debut a new mobile app to enhance gallery storylines and the “Liberty Tree,” a new interactive gallery feature that allows visitors to share their thoughts on liberty.

- ★ **April 2, New York** – Welcoming Ceremony (11 a.m., Artillery Amphitheater); Historic Site Manager Wade Wells of Johnson Hall State Historic Site, “Scorched Earth: The Destructive Raids in the Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys” (1 p.m., Classroom); Historian and Author James L. Nelson, “Benedict Arnold’s Navy: The Ragtag Fleet that Lost the Battle of Lake Champlain but Won the American Revolution” (2 p.m., Classroom); Historian and Author Bruce Venter, “Hubbardton: The Battle that Saved the Northern Army” (3 p.m., Classroom); and Historian and Ranger Eric Schnitzer of Saratoga National Historic Park, “The Northern Campaign of 1777” (4 p.m., Classroom).

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- ★ **April 3, North Carolina** – Welcoming Ceremony (11 a.m., Artillery Amphitheater); Director Keith Hardison of the North Carolina Historic Sites, “North Carolina Preserves its Revolutionary History,” and Site Manager Jim McKee of Historic Brunswick Town, “North Carolina Signers of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution” (1 p.m., Classroom); Rangers Matthew Woods and Jason Howell of Moores Creek National Battlefield Park, “Loyalists v. Whigs: the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge” (2 p.m., Classroom); Historian Karl F. Davie Burgdorf, “The Life and Times of William Richardson Davie” (3 p.m., Classroom); and Historians Steve Ricker and Richard Luce of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association, “The Overmountain Men Who Turned the Tide in the South” (4 p.m., Classroom). **Evening Lecture:** Historian and Author Lawrence Babits, “Long, Obstinate and Bloody: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse” (7 p.m., Theater).

- ★ **April 4, Rhode Island** – Welcoming Ceremony (12 Noon, Artillery Amphitheater). Historian John E. Concannon, “The Burning of the Gaspee” (1 p.m., Classroom); Editor Don H. Hagist of the Journal of the American Revolution, “The Battle of Rhode Island,” (2 p.m., Classroom); Director John Pentangelo of the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, “The Road to Yorktown” (3 p.m., Classroom); and David C. Lavery, Right Worshipful Grand Historian, Masonic Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, “The Ancient Mystic Tie: Fraternal Relationships of the American Revolution” (4 p.m., Classroom). **Evening Lecture:** Historian Sarah Goldberger-Kohen, “In the Shadow of Yorktown Monument: The U.S. Navy & The Rise of American Sea Power” (7 p.m., Theater).

Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown is located at 200 Water Street, in Yorktown, Virginia. 2017 admission is \$12.00 for adults, \$7.00 for ages 6 through 12, and free for children under 6. A combination ticket is available with Jamestown Settlement, a museum of 17th-century Virginia. Residents of York County, James City County and the City of Williamsburg, including College of William and Mary students, receive complimentary admission with proof of residency.

For more information on the Grand Opening Celebration, visit <http://www.historyisfun.org/grandopening/> or call (888) 593-4682 toll free or (757) 253-4838.

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Media Images: <http://www.historyisfun.org/new-yorktown-museum-images/>

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