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Photos: available upon request

David Library Announces Schedule of Fall Programs on American History

WASHINGTON CROSSING, PA -- The David Library of the American Revolution has announced its schedule of admission-free lectures that will be offered in the Library’s lecture hall over the autumn months. The library, located at 1201 River Road, Washington Crossing, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of American history between 1750 and 1800.

The Fall 2017 Lecture series will be comprised of seven talks by the authors of recent books on the Revolutionary era. The series will launch on Wednesday, September 20 at 7:30 PM with a “So Necessary a Post… So Much A Thoroughfare,” a lecture by Larry Kidder, author of a new book, Crossroads of the Revolution: Trenton 1774-1783.

Kidder, who lives in Ewing, NJ, taught for 32 years at the Hun School in Princeton. For over 25 years he has been a volunteer at the Howell Living History Farm, part of the Mercer County Park System, in Hopewell, New Jersey, where he has served as an historian, interpreter, and draft horse teamster. This interest led to the writing of his first book, The Pleasant Valley School Story: A Story of Education and Community in Rural New Jersey, which won the 2013 Scholarship and Artistry Award presented by the Country School Association of America. It is the story of the schoolhouse that is part of the Howell Living History Farm, and is also a case study of a rural school in central New Jersey from the early 19th to the mid-20th century. His second book, A People Harassed and Exhausted: The Story of a New Jersey Militia Regiment in the American Revolution was published in 2013.

His lecture at the David Library will focus on Trenton during the American Revolution.
Explains Kidder, “Because of its geographic location in western New Jersey on the main road connecting the New England and Southern colonies, and the fact that George Washington’s army spent most of the war in New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania, Trenton became an important military post that supported an army hospital and a Continental supply depot. Units of American troops on their way to or from Washington’s main army continually were passing through Trenton, and often staying for periods of time. In the winter of 1778 when the main army was wintering at Valley Forge, Washington sent his brigade of light cavalry to winter at Trenton, not realizing just how much the town had suffered from its contributions supporting the war. The town leaders, although very patriotic, felt so overwhelmed at the prospect of maintaining the horsemen that they begged him to send them elsewhere, because they knew the demands on the town and its people would only get worse as Trenton continued to be, in their words, ‘so necessary a post and so much a thoroughfare.’”

Reservations are required for David Library lectures. Call 215.493.6776 x 100 or email rsvp@dlar.org.

Other scheduled lecturers include:

- Dean Snow, author of *1777: Tipping Point at Saratoga* on Wednesday, October 11 at 7:30.
- Marie Jenkins Schwartz, author of *Ties That Bound: Founding First Ladies and Slaves* on Sunday, October 29 at 3:00.
- Richard D. Brown, author of *Self-Evident Truths: Contesting Equal Rights from the Revolution to the Civil War* on Wednesday, November 1 at 7:30.
- James E. Lewis, Jr., author of *The Burr Conspiracy: Uncovering the Story of an Early American Crisis* on Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30.

Additionally, the David Library will screen a documentary film, “The Duel: Hamilton vs. Burr,” on Saturday, November 4 at 3:00. Reservations are not required to attend the screening.

For detailed descriptions of the programs, visit [www.dlar.org/events.htm](http://www.dlar.org/events.htm)