November Lectures at the David Library Will Focus on Native Americans

WASHINGTON CROSSING, PA -- The David Library of the American Revolution will present two lectures in November.

Michael A. McDonnell, D. Phil will give a lecture titled “Mastering Empires: The Anishinaabeg of the Great Lakes and the Making of America” on Wednesday, November 18 at 7:30 PM.

On Monday, November 23 at 7:30, Daniel J. Tortora, Ph. D., Assistant Professor of History and Native American Studies at Colby College in Maine will give a lecture called “Carolina in Crisis, 1761: The James Grant Expedition Against the Cherokees and the Rumblings of Revolution.”

Both lecturers are former research fellows of the David Library.

Both lectures will be given in Stone Hall at the David Library, 1201 River Road (Rt. 32) in Washington Crossing, PA, 1.3 mi. from the Washington Crossing Bridge. While David Library lectures are admission-free, reservations are required and can be made by calling (215)493-6776 ext. 100, or by sending an email to rsvp@dlar.org.

Michael McDonnell is the author of a much-anticipated new book, Masters of Empire: Great Lakes Indians and the Making of America. In it, he reveals the pivotal role played by the native peoples of the Great Lakes region in the history of North America. Though less well known than the Iroquois or Sioux, the Anishinaabeg who lived along Lakes Michigan and Huron were just as influential. McDonnell feels they have been relegated to the edges of history for too long, and through rigorous reading and interpretation of Anishinaabeg-authored chronicles, he overturns any assumption a reader may have about colonial America and the origins of the Revolutionary War.
McDonnell received his B.A. at University of Ottawa and his Doctor of Philosophy degree at Balliol College, University of Oxford. He is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Sydney in Australia. His previous book, *The Politics of War: Race, Class and Conflict in Revolutionary Virginia* won the 2008 New South Wales Premier’s History Prize.

Daniel J. Tortora’s lecture will draw from his book, *Carolina in Crisis: Cherokees, Colonists, and Slaves in the American Southeast, 1756–1763*. In 1761, an army of British troops, South Carolina provincials, and Indian allies under Lieutenant Colonel James Grant, marched against the Cherokee Indians. They emerged victorious in a decisive battle and then burned fifteen villages. A dramatic two-year war came to a close. But its conclusion devastated the Cherokee people and set the stage for the American Revolution in the South. Tortora’s talk will introduce such historical figures as James Grant, Francis Marion, and Christopher Gadsden, focusing on their activities before they gained fame in the Revolutionary War.

The David Library’s fall 2015 lecture series will conclude on Thursday, December 3 at 7:30 PM with “The Indian World of George Washington and the ‘Other Revolution’” by Colin G. Calloway, Ph. D. of Dartmouth College. For more information, visit the Library’s website, [www.dlar.org](http://www.dlar.org).

The David Library of the American Revolution is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of American History, 1750-1800. In addition to making its unparalleled collection of primary source materials available to researchers, DLAR offers educational programs, such as its fall and spring lecture series, to the general public.

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