

Prince William County residents played a central role in the American Revolutionary War from 1775-1783. Leaders such as William Grayson, Henry Lee II, Thomas Blackburn, Andrew Leitch, and Henry "Light-horse Harry" Lee III led in the halls of government and on the battlefield. Hundreds volunteered to fight in the war with the Second Virginia Regiment, Third Virginia Regiment, Eleventh Virginia Regiment, Grayson's Additional Battalion, the Prince William Minute Battalion and multiple County militia companies, including one of Virginia's first independent militia companies in 1774.

*Note: Drawings are initial conceptual artist renderings. Final design will depend upon additional parking needs, lay of the land and road construction impacts along the Route 1 corridor.*

These military units were comprised of a diverse group of county residents including planters, farmers, shop keepers, clerks, attorneys, free and enslaved African Americans, recent immigrants from around the world and people of all ages. All sacrificed to not only defend Prince William County but also to establish our nation.

This project aims to construct a memorial to Prince William County residents that fought or lived during the American Revolutionary period (1775-1783). We acknowledge this founding time of our nation impacted all people of Prince William, with no regard to gender, race, free, enslaved or economic status.

This founding generation played a pivotal role in establishing the freedoms we have today and the community we call home. The memorial will provide a lasting tribute and will include interpretive panels to expand on the stories of Prince William County during the American Revolution. Prince William County has memorials to the Civil War, World War I, World War II and all other modern wars.

It is time to honor and tell the story of those that led Prince William County during the founding of our country.



*The memorial will be a simple inscribed stone, with a landscaped plaza surrounding it. Included in the plaza will be interpretive markers providing a historical overview of Prince William County's role in the American Revolution.*



*Williams Ordinary, Dumfries, VA*

Revolutionary War

WILLIAMS ORDINARY

PRINCE WILLIAM  
Historic Preservation

For soldiers of the revolution, battles were a small part of their service. They were often the most memorable events of their careers. Prince William County men formed three companies of the 3rd Virginia Regiment in February 1776, then marched north to join Washington's Main Continental Army that August. These regular troops led the fighting at Harlem Heights and Trenton, endured the hardships of Valley Forge and Morristown, fighting at every battle in the north until the survivors were captured at Charleston in 1780.

Citizen soldiers usually served close to home, or within the bounds of Virginia, but after the setback at Camden, August 16, 1780, Virginia militia were called to fill the ranks. Capt. John Britt raised a company of men for six-months service in September 1780. Although they never saw combat, they suffered a great deal of hardship on active service, and escorted prisoners from Cowpens to Charlottesville.

A third group arose in July 1780 when Governor Thomas Jefferson ordered counties to select one man for every fifteen militiamen, by lot, for service in the badly depleted Continental Army. These draftees would serve for eighteen months, most of them seeing service at Guilford Courthouse, Hobkirk's Hill, Ninety-Six, and Eutaw Springs. Unlike earlier soldiers, these men did not form a unit but served individually in many companies.

During the battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777, the 3rd Virginia supported attacks against British in the Chew House. Confusion and friendly fire eventually caused a retreat.

**Military Units Raised in Prince William County**

- Prince William Independent Company of Cadets (1774-1775)
- Prince William District Minute Battalion (1775-1776)
  - Leitch's Company
  - Johnson's Company
  - Fitzgerald's Company
  - Harrison's Company
  - Lee's Company
- 3rd Virginia Regiment (1776-1782)
  - Leitch's Company
  - Fitzgerald's Company
  - Lee's Company
- 11th Virginia Regiment (1776-1778)
  - Johnson's Company
  - Gallahue's Company
- Grayson's Additional Regiment (1777-1779)
  - 1st Continental Light Dragoons (1776-1783)
  - 4th Troop
  - Lee's Legion (1778-1781)
  - 1st Virginia State Line Regiment (1778-1782)
  - Ewell's Company
  - Lucas' Regiment, Stevens' Br Virginia Militia (1780-1781)
  - Britt's Company

As the war went on, became simpler or necessary and private represent the Carolinas, 1780 image courtesy of

## THEMES WILL INCLUDE:

### Prince William County in 1774

Describes PWC in the 1770s leading up to the war focusing on the land before European habitation.

### Prince William County Leading the Way

Explores Patriot leaders from PWC including Grayson, Leitch, Henry Lee III, Blackburn and more.

### Critical Support from Home

Describes the homefront and what was happening here during the war.

### Unknown Heroes to Include Dumfries as a Hessian POW Site

Highlights Free Black continentals, enslaved who supported the war effort, Indigenous people that joined the Revolution, and women.

### Fighting on the Front Line

Describes the units from PWC who fought including the 3rd Virginia, militia, and more.



*American Soldiers - The two soldiers on the left, drawn in 1781 by French Sublieutenant Jean-Baptiste-Antoine de Verger, Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment, are a private of the 2nd Rhode Island Regiment, and a soldier of Hazen's Canadian Regiment. The next in line is a Virginia rifleman, while the last man is a Continental artilleryman.*

*Courtesy Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University*

### Hesitant Rebels

Explores loyalists, enslaved, and Indigenous people that went to the British.

### Establishing a New Nation

Highlights veterans returning home, new government, and moving forward.

Working with local, regional, and national partners, the memorial will honor veterans and civilians alike. The Dumfries area is the ideal location for the memorial as it was the county seat during the American Revolution. It was at the county courthouse in Dumfries, that the Prince William Resolves were passed in 1774 in response to the Boston Tea Party. As the county seat, most militia units and companies were mustered into service here. Dumfries was the last view of home many of them had before marching into combat, some never returning.

The memorial will serve as a place to honor the founding generation, educate people today of their sacrifice and serve as a local tourist attraction. The memorial will be part of the Prince William County Revolutionary War Trail, a new trail linking



William Grayson



Lighthorse Harry Lee



George Washington

sites with Revolutionary War history for the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

<https://www.visitpwc.com/history/revolutionary-war-trail/>

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), has commenced organizing a citizen committee to aid the Prince William County Office of Historic Preservation in planning, designing, fundraising, and construction of a memorial. Communication for assistance has also begun with the four Prince William County based Daughters of the

American Revolution (DAR) chapters in Woodbridge, Dale City, Manassas, and Haymarket along with the Colonel William Grayson Chapter of the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.). Additionally, we have started communication with additional SAR and DAR chapters in Virginia to aid in this effort. We have also started coordination with Prince William County Historical Commission, Prince William County Veterans Commission, Historic Dumfries Virginia, Historic Prince William, and the Prince William County Historic Preservation Foundation as partners in this project.

Citizen Point of Contact is Ross H. Schwalm, past President, Colonel William Grayson Chapter, at [pahessian@gmail.com](mailto:pahessian@gmail.com) or cell 571-330-2745.

**PRINCE WILLIAM**  
Historic Preservation

Donations are welcome at  
[preservepw.org](http://preservepw.org)

 Prince William Historic  
Preservation Foundation

# Prince William County Revolutionary War Memorial

AT WILLIAMS ORDINARY ★ IN DUMFRIES, VIRGINIA



Your help is needed  
to make this happen.

**PLEASE  
DONATE!**



Prince William County does not have a memorial to the people of our community who lived through and made contributions during the American Revolution.

A citizen initiative has begun to build a memorial for the 250th Anniversary.

