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.

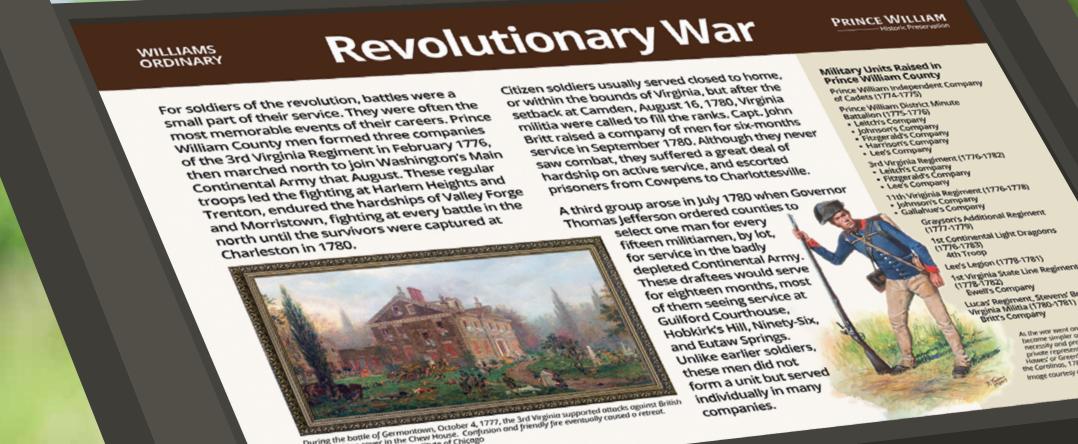
It is time to honor and tell the story of those that led Prince William County during the founding of our country.





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.





### 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

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





Lighthorse Harry Lee George Washington



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 or cell 571-330-2745.

PRINCE WILLIAM Historic Preservation Donations are welcome at preservepw.org



**Prince William Historic Preservation Foundation** 

250th Anniversary.

# Prince William County Revolutionary War Memorial

AT WILLIAMS ORDINARY \* IN DUMFRIES, VIRGINIA

