

# Revolution to Republic

Philadelphia's Place in Early America  
June 5-11 and June 12-18, 2011



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES

A Landmarks in American History and Culture Workshop for Community College Faculty  
funded by the *We the People* Program and the National Endowment for the Humanities



SHEAR NEH Landmarks Workshop  
MCEAS  
3355 Woodland Walk  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-4531  
[nehlandmarks@shear.org](mailto:nehlandmarks@shear.org)  
<http://www.shear.org/nehlandmarks>

Dear Colleague:

Philadelphia's history encapsulates the American national narrative from its origins as William Penn's seventeenth-century "green country town," its eighteenth-century rise to the largest port in the British North American colonies, its ten years as the nation's new capital, and its nineteenth-century transformation into an industrial metropolis. To explore these developments and more, I invite you to apply for:

## *Revolution to Republic: Philadelphia's Place in Early America*

You will explore the city's rich history, learn how to incorporate historic landmarks into classroom teaching, and initiate or further your personal research interests. Two dates are available: June 5-11, 2011, and June 12-18, 2011. There is no fee for this program, and all participants receive a \$1,200 stipend to help defray expenses.

### **Structure, Content and Faculty**

Your NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop will involve five-and-a-half days of activities. Morning sessions feature guest scholars leading seminars on different aspects of American history using Philadelphia as a starting point for addressing larger historical themes.

In Monday morning's presentation, **Daniel K. Richter** considers the wars for independence fought by Native Americans and Pennsylvanians. Dr. Richter is Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania and Richard S. Dunn Director of the McNeil Center for Early American Studies. His research and teaching focus on colonial America and Native Americans before 1800. This session reintegrates Indians into American colonial history and discusses the Seven Years' War and its contributions to the tensions in the pre-Revolutionary mid-Atlantic region, before concluding with a consideration of how these events shaped Revolutionary-era Philadelphia.

On Tuesday, **Michelle Craig McDonald** of Stockton College and the Project Co-Director uses goods such as coffee to explore U.S. trade patterns in the early republic and ask how "independent" America was from the Revolution up to the 1820s. Dr. Craig McDonald will be paying particular attention to the social, political, and economic relationships Philadelphia formed with the Caribbean.

Wednesday morning features **C. Dallett Hemphill** from Ursinus University. Dr. Hemphill is currently completing a study of sibling relations in early America and her research and teaching focus on women's history, family history, and the history of Philadelphia. Her presentation uses the city's urban landscape to understand the impact of immigration and early industrial development from the 1780s through the early nineteenth century.

On Thursday, **Michael Zuckerman**, Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania, concludes the week's seminars with a capstone discussion that examines the experiences of various groups of people among Philadelphia's population to discuss just how revolutionary the American Revolution was and how republican we can consider the early republic.

The fifth day of the workshop, led by myself, **Tamara Gaskell**, Editor of the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, and Assistant Project Director, **Laura Keenan Spero**, Interim Director of Scholarly Programs at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, whose research explores the history of the Shawnees, focuses on researching and writing for presentation and publication. The afternoon is set aside for research, after which we will reconvene for dinner and a continuation of the publication discussion at City Tavern, a restored colonial restaurant in Old City Philadelphia.

Workshop readings include a variety of both primary and secondary sources, some written by guest faculty presenters; many will be posted on the project website under "Readings," while others will be mailed to workshop participants in advance of the program.

Because community college teachers bring a wide range of interests and needs to the program—some attracted to specific historical topics or questions while others seek to enhance classroom performance through new teaching resources—the workshop offers a range of afternoon options that take advantage of Philadelphia's historic sites, archives, and libraries. Scheduled site visits include the National Constitution Center, Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Elfreth's Alley, Franklin Court, the Independence Seaport Museum, and Eastern State Penitentiary.

Significant portions of other afternoons are reserved for archival research and writing to take advantage of four key Philadelphia repositories—the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, founded in 1824 and one of the oldest historical societies in the United States; the Library Company of Philadelphia, founded in 1731 by Benjamin Franklin as North America's first subscription library; the American Philosophical Society, founded in 1769 as the first scholarly society for scientific study in North America; and Independence Seaport Museum, one of the region's best maritime research centers. A more detailed description of workshop activities can be found on the program website schedule of events at <http://www.shear.org/nehlandmarks>.

## Workshop Institution and Staff

The Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), based at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies on the campus of University of Pennsylvania, is the program's intellectual home. Established in 1977, SHEAR is an association of scholars dedicated to exploring the events and the meaning of United States history between 1776 and 1861. Its principal outreach efforts include an annual conference and the sponsorship of research fellowships, as well as publication of the *Journal of the Early Republic (JER)*, the quarterly journal of which I am Editor Emeritus, which is committed to publishing the best scholarship on the history and culture of the early United States.

I will be leading the workshop along with Michelle Craig McDonald of Richard Stockton College and Laura Keenan Spero of the University of Pennsylvania.

**Roderick A. McDonald**, Project Director, is Professor of History at Rider University and Editor Emeritus of the *Journal of the Early Republic*. He is the author of several books on African American and Afro-Caribbean history.

**Michelle Craig McDonald**, Project Co-Director, is Assistant Professor of History at Richard Stockton College and studies early American trade and consumer behavior. She also worked in museum and public education for eight years.

**Laura Keenan Spero**, Assistant Project Director, is Interim Director of Scholarly Programs at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies. She recently completed a dissertation at the University of Pennsylvania on the history of the Shawnees.

### **Eligibility**

The NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops are designed for faculty members at American community colleges. Adjunct and part-time lecturers as well as full-time faculty in English, history, philosophy, anthropology, political science, government, and other humanities-related disciplines are encouraged to apply, as are librarians and other community college staff members. Vocational faculty who might encourage their students to take humanities courses are also welcome to apply.

Perhaps the most important part of the completed application is an essay up to two double-spaced pages. This essay should include information about your professional background and interest in the subject of the workshop; your special perspectives, skills, or experiences that would contribute to the workshop; and how the experience would enhance your teaching or professional service.

Additionally, applicants should submit a letter of recommendation from their department/division chair, or another professional reference (such as a colleague or dissertation advisor) in support of their application. Your completed application should be postmarked **no later than March 1, 2011**, and should be addressed as follows:

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For complete application information, go to our website at <http://www.shear.org/nehlandmarks> and click on "[Application](#)"

### **Facilities**

The Cassatt House, home to SHEAR's *JER* office, serves as the workshop headquarters. A historic structure in its own right, the Cassatt House at 1320 Locust Street was designed by Furness & Evans in 1883-84 for J. Gardner Cassatt, brother of painter Mary Cassatt and Alexander J. Cassatt, a longtime

executive of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and its president from 1899 to 1906. In 2004, the Library Company completed a multi-million dollar renovation and reopened the building as a place of public scholarship. The three-storey building includes state-of-the-art lecture and seminar rooms equipped with wireless internet access, projectors, and full-service audio-visual presentation equipment.

The Cassatt House is conveniently located next door to the Library Company of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and within easy walking distance of most historic sites and archives you will visit. Public bus service can take participants to the American Philosophical Society and the University of Pennsylvania within ten minutes.

We have arranged for NEH Summer Scholars to be housed at Club Quarters, a private hotel located four blocks from the Cassatt House in the heart of Center City Philadelphia's restaurant and shopping district. Single and double rooms are available as are a limited number of larger suites for those traveling with families. Additional hotel amenities include: a private concierge, and fitness room, 24-hour coffee service, wi-fi internet service as well as several computer facilities with printing capability, all at no additional cost.

This is a membership facility offering discounted rates through the workshop's affiliation with the University of Pennsylvania. Rates will be: \$99/single, \$114/standard (can be shared by 2), and \$176/family suite per night. The workshop will assist in matching participants interested in sharing a room to defray costs. More information about Club Quarters is at <http://www.clubquarters.com>.

### Stipend

NEH Summer Scholars will receive a stipend of \$1,200 at the end of the workshop session. Stipends are intended to help cover housing, living and travel expenses and workshop materials. Stipends are taxable. Please note, there are no longer travel supplements separate from the stipend in this program. For more information about stipend, accommodations and travel arrangements, please visit the website at <http://www.shear.org/nehlandmarks>.

Just a reminder, your completed application should be postmarked **no later than March 1, 2011**. Successful applicants will be notified of their selection by April 1, 2011, and will have until April 5, 2011, to accept or decline the offer.

Thank you for your interest. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information at [nehlandmarks@shear.org](mailto:nehlandmarks@shear.org) or (609) 895-5456. I anticipate an engaging, enlightening, and enjoyable week in historic Philadelphia and look forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely,



Roderick A. McDonald  
*R2A* Project Director