



OI 29th Annual Conference

“Revolutionary Orbits, Revolutionary Arcs”

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

All sessions take place in the Main Library, 419 21st Ave. South

June 11-13, 2026

With the support of the Vanderbilt University Library system and Department of History. Special thanks to Susan Grider, Vanderbilt University Law Library.

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Registration opens at NOON in the LOBBY.

Sessions

2:00-3:30 pm

SESSION 1: “Resonances of Violence in Revolutionary America”

Room 800B

Camden Elliott (Auburn University)

Donovan Fifield (University of South Carolina)

Phoebe Labat (Brown University)

Eva Landsberg (Library Company Of Philadelphia)

Sarah Pearlman Shapiro (American Philosophical Society)

SESSION 2: “Individual Lenses on the American Revolution”

Room 614-A

Chair: Eric Hinderaker (University of Utah)

Thomas Luckett (Portland State University), “From Senegal to Yorktown to Paris: The Revolutionary Trajectory of Christophe Pâris, a West African Orderly to General La Fayette”

Roy Finkenbine (University of Detroit Mercy), "Caesar: Freedom Seeking as a Revolutionary Act"

Marília Moreira (SAS, University of London), “Warfare and opportunity amidst imperial competition for the South Atlantic – mapping the global networks behind Antoine René Larcher’s plot for a Bahian Conspiracy (1797)”

SESSION 3: “Gendered Diplomacy”

Room 211

Chair/Comment: Brooke Bauer (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

K. Rogan (Rutgers University – Newark), “Red Jacket in Hell: Economic Proscription in Seneca Religious Revolution”

James Hill (University of Pittsburgh), “Artful Females’: Mashpee Wampanoag Women and the Revolutionary Potential of Female Proprietorship, 1746-1834”

Aaron Hoggle (University of Alabama), “The Goose Creek Women: Parties, Politics, and Patriotism in the Colonial South Carolina Lowcountry”

SESSION 4 – “Public Memory”

Community Room

A session with Vanderbilt University Librarian Jon Shaw

Memory is less an act of recall than a condition of access. What we know depends on systems that determine what can be found, used, and trusted. Public memory names that infrastructure. The problem has shifted from preservation to navigation: in an environment of abundance, the question is not what exists, but what can be located and made legible. Archives are not neutral; they encode decisions about what counts and how it can be known.

Four initiatives make this visible in practice. The Slave Societies Digital Archive reconfigures dispersed records of the slave trade into usable knowledge. The Biodiversity Heritage Library aggregates natural history at scale, revealing both depth and imbalance. The Vanderbilt Television News Archive preserves a continuous record of broadcast journalism, making visible how events are framed and reframed over time. The uOttawa Mobile History Lab documents oral histories and living knowledge that might otherwise remain ephemeral, extending their reach while maintaining connection to the communities from which they emerge. Public memory remains constructed, uneven, and increasingly fragile, shaped as much by economic pressure and platform dependence as by institutional intent.

Break

3:30-4:00 pm

Keynote Roundtable

4:00-5:30 pm

Community Room

“Engaging Treasures: Archives, Libraries, and National Narratives in the 21st Century’s Revolutions”

Moderator: Jessica Roney (Director Designate, Library Company of Philadelphia and Associate Professor, Temple University)

Participants:

- Kevin Butterfield (Acting Chief, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress)
- Paul Erickson (Director, Clements Library)
- Miranda Fraley Rhodes (Assistant Chief Curator, Tennessee State Museum)
- Susan Juster (Director of Research, Huntington Library)
- Rose Miron (Senior Director, Minnesota Historical Society)
- Karin Wulf (Beatrice and Julio Mario Santo Domingo Director and Librarian, John Carter Brown Library, and Professor of History, Brown University)

Prompted by the 250th anniversary of the United States and the reflections this invites not only on the American Revolution but also on the age of revolutions around the Atlantic, this plenary considers the significance of libraries and archives to both generating and challenging national narratives. Libraries and archives are essential civic and community spaces and yet have faced serious headwinds in the current global and political climate. This plenary brings together individuals who are stewarding multi-faceted, multi-lingual archives that provide the bedrock for

scholarship in early American history to reflect on how and why these spaces are more necessary than ever and how they might help to secure change.

Reception to follow immediately.

Friday, June 12, 2026

Coffee service and a book exhibit are available both Friday and Saturday in the LOBBY.

Sessions 9:00-10:30 am

SESSION 5: Geographies of Slavery
Room 614-A

Chair/Comment: Nathaniel Millett (St. Louis University)

BJ Lillis (Omohundro Institute), “‘Discoursing About Hunting and Nothing Else’: Rival Geographies of a 1749 Slave ‘Conspiracy’ in the Hudson Valley”

Jennifer Marler (University of South Carolina), “Black Emancipation and Quakerism in Early National New York”

Patrick Barker (Omohundro Institute), “‘With Provisions in Her Apron’: Sustaining Fugitivity in Nineteenth Century Trinidad”

SESSION 6: “Mapping the Dragon: An Indigenous History of Bacon’s Rebellion”
Room 211

Moderator: Michael Leroy Oberg (SUNY, College at Geneseo)

Julia A. King (St. Mary’s College of Maryland)

James D. Rice (Tufts University)

Edward Ragan (Bossier Parish Community College and Rappahannock Tribe Tribal Historian)

SESSION 7: “Oceans and Commodities”
Community Room

Chair/Comment: Fabricio Prado (William & Mary)

Gwenn Miller (College of the Holy Cross), “Oceans from Independence: John Perkins Cushing, Boston’s Opium Empire, and Masculinity in the Early Republic”

Morgan Hardy (University of Tennessee), “Tangled Nets, Tangled Rights: The Ecological Causes of the 1775 Restraining Acts”

Jennifer Motter (William & Mary), “Salt and Sovereignty: The Relationship of an Atlantic Commodity to State Formation in the Dutch Republic”

Break
10:30-11:00 am

Sessions
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

SESSION 8: “The Revolution and Europe”
Room 614-A

Chair/Comment: Catherine E. Kelly (Omohundro Institute)

Ted Hart (Independent Scholar), “Foreign Witnesses to Independence: French Artillerymen in Revolutionary America”

Nick McKenna (Johns Hopkins University), “How the World Made Revolution: Rethinking Revolutionary Origins”

Amy Watson (University of Alabama at Birmingham), “The Political Afterlife of Captain John Porteous: A Scottish Model for the American Revolution”

SESSION 9: “Slave Trading, Trans-Imperial Commerce & Mobility in Early America, Part 1”
Room 211

Chair & Comment: Jesse Cromwell (University of Mississippi)

Andrew J. B. Fagal (The Papers of Thomas Jefferson, Princeton University), “The US Consular Service and the Suppression of the Slave Trade, 1803-1809”

Fabrizio Prado (William & Mary), “Hidden Itineraries and Ghost Cargoes: US Commercial Strategies in a Spanish South American Entrepot (Rio de la Plata 1797-1807)”

Mica Miralles Bianconi (William & Mary), “Paper, Wine, and Hides: Anglo Merchants’ Networks in Revolutionary Rio de la Plata, 1806-1814”

Ernesto Bassi (Cornell University), “1779 as harbinger of local, viceregal, and imperial prosperity across the Spanish empire”

SESSION 10: “Many Revolutions in the Native South”
Community Room

Chair & Comment: Robbie Ethridge (University of Mississippi)

Brad Dixon (The University of Memphis), “Magistrate, Minister, Cacique, and Conjuror: Indigenous Peoples and the Making of Religious Liberty in the Early South”

Lucas Kelley (Valparaiso University), “Nickajack: Myth and Settler Memory in Early America”

Aubrey Lauersdorf (Florida State University), “A Revolutionary Marriage: Building Kinship & Alliance in the Seventeenth-Century Gulf South”

Jeff Washburn (University of Texas Permian Basin), “‘The Indians would take the life of one white man to atone for the blood of the deceased’: Settler Invasion and Chickasaw Justice in a Post-Revolutionary World”

LUNCH

12:30-2:00 pm

Complimentary boxed lunches will be available in the book exhibit area. (These are first-come, first-served.) Affinity tables will be organized in the reading room on the first hall. Advance registration for these is recommended. Please follow the signs.

Table 1: Gunvor Simonsen (University of Copenhagen) and Natalie Zacek (University of Manchester), “The Landscape of Early American Studies Overseas: key institutions, fellowships, and meetings to know”

Table 2: Eric Hinderaker (University of Utah), “Searching for Vast Early America: The Challenges of Writing Hemispheric History”

Sessions

2:00-3:30 pm

SESSION 11: “Slave Trading, Trans-Imperial Commerce & Mobility in Early America, Part 2”
Room 211

Chair: Joshua Piker (Omohundro Institute and William & Mary)

Oren Okhovat (Yale University), “Iberian Jews, the Spanish Slave Asiento, and Curacao as a Regional Transit Center in the Late-Seventeenth Century”

Kai R. Werner (William & Mary), “Roads to Revolt: Indigenous Mobility and the Making of Seventeenth-Century New Mexico”

Sydney Sweat-Montoya (William & Mary), “Cross Cultural Contact in Western-Circum Caribbean, 1690-1717”

Giacomo Green (William & Mary), “The Problem of Numbers in the Seventeenth-Century English Slave Trade”

Comment: Jane Landers (Vanderbilt University)

SESSION 12: “Central Europe and Early America: A Transatlantic Conversation”
Community Room

A panel sponsored by the Botstiber Institute for Austrian-American Studies in Honor of James Van Horn (“Jamie”) Melton:

Moderator: Scott Heerman (Omohundro Institute and William & Mary)

Gary Cohen (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities), "Central European Historians' Views of the Early North American Experience: Some Context and Perspectives."

Heather Morrison (SUNY New Paltz), "The Appeal of the New: experiencing Early America as a land of contrast to Central Europe"

Csaba Levai (Debrecen University), "In between and within Great Powers — The Impact of the American Revolution in Hungary and Poland at the end of the 18th Century"

SESSION 13: “Eighteenth-Century Cherokee and Natchez Women, War, and Community”
Room 614-A

Chair & Comment: Kristofer Ray (College of the Holy Cross)

Emily Dixon Magness (William & Mary), “Crying for Blood: Cherokee Women’s Retribution at Fort Prince George”

Ryan P. Langton (Temple University), “‘To come and live amongst them’: British Forts as Cherokee Urban Spaces in the Seven Years War”

Noel E. Smyth (Vassar College), “Gender and Power in Natchez Country, 1718-1731”

Russell Arbic (McGill University), “A Tale of Two Treaties: Cherokees and the Early Revolutionary War in Eastern Tennessee”

Break

3:30-4:00 pm

Sessions

4:00-5:30 pm

SESSION 14: “Local Lenses on the Revolution”
Room 614-A

Chair: Andrew Frank (Florida State University)

James Cousins (Kentucky Wesleyan College), “Revolutionary Pedagogy on the Cumberland: Philip Lindsley, Nashville, and the Ongoing Work of the American Revolution, 1825–1850”

Rebecca Earles (Rice University), “Bernard Romans, British Florida, and the Writing of Race in the Age of Revolutions”

Zoe Waldman (University of Cincinnati), “Negotiating Nation-to-Nation Relationships at the Treaty of West Florida, 1784”

Matthew Saxton (Liberty University), “Revolutionary Orbits: Loyalty, Coercion, and Survival in Interior New England”

SESSION 15: “Looking Outward from the Caribbean”

Room 211

Chair/Comment: Gunvor Simonsen (University of Copenhagen)

Heather Freund (Independent Scholar), “The Fourteenth Lost Colony: Tobago’s Cession to the French after the American Revolution”

Andrew Maginn (Middle Tennessee State University), “From Fort Nashborough to Tennessee Capital: French Caribbean influences in the early years of Nashville, 1779-1812”

Dannie Brice (Duke University), "At the Nexus of Revolutions: How Coffee Connected North America, France, and Haiti in the Age of Transatlantic Transformations". "At the Nexus of Revolution" to "Coffee, Commerce, and Revolutionary Connections."

Anne Champlin (George Mason University), “Virgin 1776: The Danish West Indies and the American Revolution”

SESSION 16: “Disability and Care Work in Early New England”

Community Room

Chair & Comment: Jenny Shaw (University of Alabama)

Stacey Dearing (Siena University), “‘Able by Signs to Declare their Knowledge and Faith’: Disability in the Confessions of Late-Seventeenth and Early Eighteenth-Century Puritan and Indigenous Converts”

Sara Damiano (Texas State University), “‘No Sort of Pleasure at Home’: Familial Responses to Mental Illness in Eighteenth-Century Boston”

Laurel Daen (University of Notre Dame), “‘Taken Sick and Unable to Travel’: The In-Home Boarding of Poor ‘Transient’ People with Disabilities in Late Eighteenth-Century Connecticut”

Saturday, June 13, 2026

Coffee service and a book exhibit are available both Friday and Saturday in the LOBBY.

Sessions 9:00-10:30 am

SESSION 17: “*Moral Capital at 25*”
Community Room

Moderator: Scott Heerman (Omohundro Institute)
Christopher Brown (Brown University)
Kristen Block (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)
Samantha Seeley (University of Richmond)
Harvey Neptune (Temple University)
Adriana Chira (Emory University)

SESSION 18: Roundtable: “Revolutionizing Tennessee Decorative Arts Scholarship”
Room 211

Moderator: Torren Gatson (Middle Tennessee State University)
Annabeth Dooley (Tennessee State Library & Archives)
Victoria Hensley (Vanderbilt University)
Katherine Hughes (University of Texas at Austin)
Tiffany Momon (Sewanee, The University of the South)

SESSION 19: “The Vast Caribbean”
Room 614-A

Chair: Maria Alessandra Bollettino (Framingham State University)

Salomé Ketabi (EHESS), “The Revolutionary Caribbean as a ‘Testing Ground’ for Emancipation: French Travelers’ Perspectives (1800s-1848)”

April Shelford (American University), “‘We live in such an anxious time, days are like years’: A French Noble-Turned-Planter Experiences Transatlantic Revolution”

Ross Nedervelt (Florida International University), “Geopolitical Security, Atlantic Islanders, and Maritime Spheres of Influence during the American Revolution”

Break
10:30-11:00 am

Sessions
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

SESSION 20: “‘It was certain that America would sometime become religious’: Religion and the Arc of the American Revolution”
Room 211

Chair & Comment: James Byrd (Vanderbilt University)

Katherine Carté (Southern Methodist University), “Searching for Religion in Revolutionary Savannah”

Shelby M. Balik (Metropolitan State University of Denver), “Covenant of Virtue: Republican Christianity in the Early American State”

Sarah Barringer Gordon (University of Pennsylvania), “Lived Religion in Francophone Detroit, ca. 1770-1810”

SESSION 21: “Slavery and Abolition”
Room 614-A

Chair: Richard Blackett (Vanderbilt University)

David LaFevor (University of Texas at Arlington and Vanderbilt University),
“Revolutionary Abolition: Explaining the End of the Cuban Slave Trade on the Ground”

William Morgan (Indiana University), “Revolutionary Growth: Making an Abolition
Movement in New England”

George Clay (Georgetown University), “American Slavery, American Freedom, and
English Slavery, English Liberty: The Liberty and Slavery Paradox in the Seventeenth
Century”

SESSION 22: “Revolutionary Stories”

Room 800B

Chair: ~~Lori Daggar (Ursinus College)~~

Olivia Bloechl (University of Pittsburgh), “Afterlives of Seven Years’ War Songs: Joseph
Marin de la Malgue’s Chants de guerre”

Alexander Boulton (Independent Scholar), “The American Revolution of Language”

Stephen Kochersperger (USPS), “Revolutionary Communications in the Old Dominion”

Amanda Rumba (Independent Scholar), “Revolutionary Stories: The Emergence of a
National Narrative”

SESSION 23: “The American Revolution in History and Memory”

Community Room

Anne Evans (New American History project, University of Richmond)

Shannon Salter Burghardt (Bridgeview Academy, Allentown, PA and Educating for
American Democracy)

This session will focus on how to integrate primary and secondary sources, including
digital archives, into ongoing instructional levels at the K-12 and higher education levels.

LUNCH

12:30-2:00 pm

Complimentary boxed lunches will be available in the book exhibit area. (These are first-come, first-served.) Affinity tables will be organized in the reading room on the first hall. Advance registration is recommended for these. Please follow the signs.

Table 3: Jane Landers (Vanderbilt University), “20 Years of the Slave Societies Digital Archive: How to Create Digital Projects for Archival Preservation”

Table 4: Maria Alessandra Bollettino (Framingham State University), “Thriving as a Teacher-Scholar at a Teaching Intensive Institution”

Sessions

2:00-3:30 pm

SESSION 24: “Contesting the Reaches of Revolution and Empire”
Community Room

Chair: Jane Landers (Vanderbilt University)

Jessica Fletcher (Fisk University), “Courts of Revolution: Slavery, Freedom, and Legal Battles in the Gulf World”

Justin Jones (Vanderbilt University), “Warfare on the Waves: The Oceanic Environment and American Naval Suppression of Piracy in the Age of Revolutions”

Frances Turnbull (University of North Alabama), “Contesting Imperial Belonging: The Natchez Rebellion of 1781 and Loyalist Attacks on Spanish Shipping”

Comment: Susan Gaunt Stearns (University of Mississippi)

SESSION 25: “The Revolutionary War and the South”
Room 211

Chair & Comment: Christopher Magra (University of Tennessee)

Greg Brooking (Independent Scholar), “‘The powers of government are wrested out of my hands’: Governor James Wright and the Collapse of Royal Government in Georgia, 1774-1776”

Michael Lynch (Abraham Lincoln Library & Museum and Lincoln Memorial University), “‘No Safety for a Body’s Family’: Frontier Households in the Revolutionary South”

Travis C. Perusich (University of Arkansas), “The Swamp Fox’s Shadow: Race in South Carolina’s Irregular Warfare”

SESSION 26: “Everything Has Changed: Reevaluating Entangled Perspectives of Space, Place, and Sovereignty in Early America”

Room 614-A

Chair & Comment: Mark Thompson (University of Groningen)

Agnes Trouillet (Université Paris Nanterre), “Gansho-Wanne, ‘The Roaring River’: The Schuylkill as a Crucible for Resistance and Change in Seventeenth-Century Delaware Valley”

Elizabeth Hines (Johns Hopkins University), “What Price for a Patent in the Early Hudson Valley?”

Casey Price (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), “A Cartographic Revolution: Decolonizing the 1785 Cherokee Map”

Break

3:30-4:00 pm

Plenary Session

4:00-5:30 pm

Community Room

“From the Global to the Micro: Telling Stories about and beyond the American Revolution”

A conversation with Richard Bell (University of Maryland) and
Katherine Grandjean (Wellesley College)

Moderator: Kate Carté (Southern Methodist University)

Closing reception to follow immediately.