



West Virginia Humanities Council celebrates

AMERICA 250

Little Lectures Series 2026

MacFarland-Hubbard House, Charleston

1310 Kanawha Blvd E.

Sundays ▪ 2pm ▪ Refreshments ▪ \$10/seat

March 29

Dr. James F. Slaughter ▪ Marshall University

*Disarming the Disaffected: The Disarming of American Civilians
by the Patriots During the American War of Independence*

April 26

Beth White ▪ West Virginia Association for Justice

*"Inherent and Invaluable:" The Forgotten History of
Trial by Jury and the American Revolution*

May 17

David Ervin ▪ Veteran, Independent Historian

"Raised to the Westward": The 13th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line

June 21

Neema Avashia ▪ Author, Teacher

Appalachian Boston: A West Virginian Reflects on "The Cradle of the Revolution"

Visit www.wvhumanities.org or call 304.346.8500 for more information

2026 Betsy K. McCreight Lecture in the Humanities

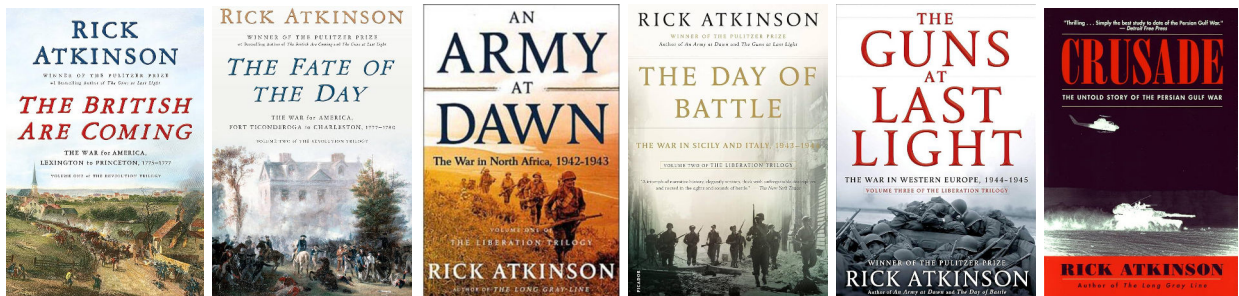
Thursday, October 15

Capitol Theater ▪ 123 Summers St. ▪ Charleston



Rick Atkinson

Rick Atkinson is a best-selling author, three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, and former *Washington Post* journalist. He is the author of the *New York Times* best-selling *The British Are Coming*, the first volume of his acclaimed Revolution Trilogy, which has earned numerous honors including the George Washington Prize and the New-York Historical Society's Zalaznick Book Prize. The second volume in the trilogy, *The Fate of the Day: The War for America, Fort Ticonderoga to Charleston, 1777-1780*, continues the sweeping narrative of the American Revolution, capturing the conflict's critical middle years with vivid storytelling and deep historical insight. Atkinson also serves as a historical advisor for Ken Burns' PBS documentary series *The American Revolution*, which commemorates the Revolution's 250th anniversary.





March 30

Dr. James F. Slaughter ▪ Marshall University

*Disarming the Disaffected: The Disarming of American Civilians
by the Patriots During the American War of Independence*

The story of the British march to Lexington and Concord to disarm the militia is well known, and oft-cited as a catalyst for triggering the American War of Independence. Present-day mythology perpetuates an image of inherently 'pro-gun' Patriots and widespread civilian possession of arms, but the facts are far more complicated. Between 1776 and 1783, the Continental Army and Patriot authorities engaged in widespread disarmament of the 'disaffected', following established prewar precedents in the colonies. This presentation will discuss the Patriot policy of civilian disarmament during the Revolution, and shed new light on the history of civilian possession of arms in the United States.

South Charleston native Jamie Slaughter is a published historian, author, and educator about military conflicts from the 1600s to World War II, whose works also cover the history of military small arms development from 1750 to present. He holds degrees from West Virginia University, Marshall University, Wheeling University, and Norwich University, and earned his PhD in history from the University of Wolverhampton.

April 26

Beth White ▪ West Virginia Association for Justice

Inherent and Invaluable: A History of Trial by Jury

"Inherent and Invaluable:" The Forgotten History of Trial by Jury and the American Revolution

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black (1886–1971) wrote that the “[denial of trial by jury] led first to the colonization of this country, later to the war that won its independence, and, finally, to the Bill of Rights.” Trial by jury was a central issue of the American Revolution, and the loss of jury trials is cited in nearly every document leading up to the Revolution, including the Declaration of Independence. Despite its foundational importance, this history is largely unknown today. This program explores the origins of the right to trial by jury, the trial that helped spark the American Revolution, and the critical role jury trials played in the founding of the United States and creation of the Bill of Rights.



Beth A. White is a published historian and lecturer focusing on U. S. history from the colonial period through the Civil War era and U. S. political history. For more than 20 years she has written on the history of trial by jury, including its role in the American Revolution, and has lectured on the subject to state and national audiences. She has been executive director of the West Virginia Association for Justice since 2005. Beth is a graduate of West Virginia State University and earned an M. S. from Syracuse University's S. I. Newhouse School of Public Communication and completed additional coursework in political communication from the university's Maxwell School.

May 24

David Ervin ▪ Veteran, Independent Historian

“Raised to the Westward”: The 13th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line

While western Virginia was the edge of the frontier during the American Revolution, its settlers were also woven into the fabric of the larger military story of the nascent United States. This lecture will examine the history of the 13th Virginia Regiment, the only Continental army unit raised entirely west of the Appalachians. Its soldiers served all over, from the hills of western Virginia to Valley Forge to the pine barrens of the Carolinas. The story of the soldiers that made up the regiment is a unique window into western Virginians’ role in establishing independence.

David P. Ervin is an infantry veteran of the Iraq War who went on to study at West Virginia University, earning a BA in early American history. He has written a war memoir and numerous other works in creative nonfiction, historical scholarship, and fiction and has edited for various publications.

June 21

Neema Avashia ▪ Author, Teacher

Appalachian Boston: A West Virginian Reflects on “The Cradle of the Revolution”

Visit www.wvhumanities.org or call 304.346.8500 for more information



From the Boston Tea Party to the Boston Massacre, from Paul Revere's ride to Bunker Hill, the city of Boston, Massachusetts, is home to many of the American Revolution's most storied events and places. What do these monuments, memorials, and sites mean to an Appalachian-born American living and working among them every day? How does Boston's revolutionary spirit speak to West Virginia heritage and values?

In this unique spin on the Little Lectures format, join renowned West Virginia author Neema Avashia for her reflections as a native Appalachian living in Boston during the nation's 250th anniversary. Avashia's memoir, *Another Appalachia* (WVU Press), was selected as New York Public Library's Best Book of 2022, and her writings have appeared in *The Guardian*, *EdWeek*, *The Bitter Southerner*, and more. She has been a Civics teacher for Boston Public Schools for nearly two decades.