

Call for Papers

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (SAR)
Annual Conference on the American Revolution

Resisting the Revolution: Militant Loyalism During the War for Independence
West Lafayette, Indiana
June 4-6, 2027

The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) invites proposals for papers to be presented at the SAR Annual Conference on the American Revolution, co-sponsored by the Department of History at Purdue University.

This conference will examine the role of the Loyalists—men and women, genteel and ordinary, White, Black, and Indigenous—in shaping the course and character of the American Revolutionary War. From covert acts of resistance to outright violence, Loyalists played an active part in every facet of the American struggle for independence. This conference will assess the state of Loyalist scholarship while opening new avenues for future research. By attending to the diversity of the Loyalist experience, this conference seeks to complicate and enrich our understanding of the Revolution and the civil war at its center.

Proposals may address any aspect of this broad subject, including but not limited to the motives and meanings of Loyalism; local and regional variations; intelligence networks; vigilantism, policing, prisoners, and the dynamics of retaliation; Loyalist military mobilization and the Provincial Corps; Black Loyalists and the politics of freedom; Indigenous Loyalists, diplomacy, tactics, and sovereignty; women, the homefront, and the management of property under occupation; neutrality and disaffection; Loyalist diasporas throughout the British Empire; the costs of Loyalism—casualties, confiscation, and compensation; and the afterlives of Loyalist resistance in memory, art, literature, and public history.

The SAR invites paper proposals from academic historians, graduate students, public history practitioners, and members of other disciplines who wish to contribute to the scholarship on Loyalism. Proposals should include a 300-word abstract and a concise (maximum 2-page) CV. Proposals should be submitted to Dr. T. Cole Jones by September 1, 2026 to colejones@purdue.edu, with the subject line “2027 SAR Annual Conference Proposal.”

Publication of accepted papers, following revisions, in an edited volume with a major university press is anticipated after the conference. It is therefore required that participants submit their full-length, relatively polished papers (approximately 6,000-8,000 words) for pre-circulation by April 15, 2027. The SAR will cover presenters’ travel and lodging expenses, as well as provide a \$500 honorarium to presenters.