



## Gloucester Community Engagement & Public Information

6382 Main Street  
Gloucester, Va. 23061  
804.693.5730 • [www.gloucesterva.info](http://www.gloucesterva.info)

---

August 31, 2023  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: Robert Kelly,  
Museums Coordinator  
[rkelly@gloucesterva.info](mailto:rkelly@gloucesterva.info)

### Fire, Smoke & Muskets Program Scheduled for Sept. 9-10 in Gloucester

The Gloucester Museum of History will commemorate the 242<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Hook by hosting, “Fire, Smoke & Muskets: Gloucester 1781,” a living history program Saturday, September 9 and Sunday, September 10 in and around the colonial court circle. The program will be held from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Sunday - rain or shine - and is free and open to the public.

Feel the ground shake during cannon and musket firing demonstrations and meet heroes and villains from the past including a soldier from Lauzun’s Legion and British Lieutenant Colonel Banastre “Bloody Ban” Tarleton. Ask questions, engage in conversation, and take selfies with living historians. A special theatrical performance starring Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton will take place on Saturday, September 9 at 4 p.m. in the Colonial Court House. Tarleton will be portrayed by internationally acclaimed actor-interpreter Mark Schneider of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

On Sunday, September 10, at 2 p.m. local author and historian Mike Cecere will offer a lecture and book signing featuring his newest publication, *Witness to History: Growing Up in Williamsburg During the American Revolution*. The book tells the story of three children living in Williamsburg, Virginia during the Revolution (from 1771 thru 1777). They are the children of tavernkeepers, which allows them to witness many of the significant discussions and decisions that occurred in Williamsburg's taverns during the Revolution. Guests of all ages will enjoy the book and this lecture.

Over the weekend, this family-friendly program will feature dozens of reenactors and align with the Virginia Standards of Learning for students of all ages, with emphasis on Virginia studies, the Revolutionary War, and the Franco-American Alliance.

“Each year we commemorate Gloucester’s Battle of the Hook giving guests the opportunity to experience the sights and sounds of the American Revolution. I am especially excited this year as we welcome internationally acclaimed actor-interpreter Mark Schneider and local author and historian Mike Cecere who will both add to the excitement of the weekend” said Robert Kelly, Gloucester’s Museums Coordinator.

Other activities participants will be able to observe include campfire cooking, colonial-era games, and music. Special activities for children will be offered and the Gloucester Museum of History will be open.

The program is made possible in partnership with the Gloucester Historical Society, the Gloucester Museum Foundation, the 7th Virginia Regiment, and Gloucester’s Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department. For more information, contact Kelly at 804-693-1234 or [rkelly@gloucesterva.info](mailto:rkelly@gloucesterva.info).

###