



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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More than Witnesses: Women's Critical Roles on the Frontlines of the American Revolution

Trenton, NJ (For immediate release) — The Trent House Association presents a talk by Professor Lucia McMahon on the critical roles that women played in supporting the military during the American Revolution. This talk will be held in the Trent House Visitor Center on Sunday, April 26, 2026, at 2 pm. The Museum is located at 15 Market Street in Trenton, New Jersey, across from the Hughes Justice Complex. Admission is \$10 at the door. Free parking is available off William Trent Place behind the museum property.

Women played key roles supporting military operations throughout the American Revolution. Most of us are familiar with the “legendary” figure of Molly Pitcher, inspired by Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley’s actions at the Battle of Monmouth. Molly Pitcher is perhaps best understood as a composite character representing the thousands of women who served as camp followers throughout the American Revolution. Camp followers went wherever the army did, providing meals, laundry, nursing, and other essential services, while enduring the often harsh discomforts of encampment life. While most camp followers were motivated by necessity, Martha Washington and other officers’ wives also regularly conducted visits to military encampments, helping to boost morale and provide moments of respite and hospitality. And sometimes the battlefield came directly to women, when family homes, including Trent House, were temporarily used for military headquarters and encampments. This presentation highlights how women were often in close proximity to military action throughout the war, particularly in New Jersey, the “crossroads” of the American Revolution.

Lucia McMahon is currently a Professor in the Department of History, Philosophy, and Liberal Studies at William Paterson University in Wayne, NJ, where she regularly teaches courses in historical methods, early national U.S. history, and women’s history. Her research broadly focuses on women’s intellectual and educational history, particularly on the recovery of relatively “unknown” women’s voices and experiences. She is the author of several books and articles, including *Mere Equals: The Paradox of Educated Women in the Early American Republic* (Cornell University Press), and *The Celebrated Elizabeth Smith: Crafting Genius and Transatlantic Fame in the Romantic Era* (University of Virginia Press).

The William Trent House Museum is a National Historic Landmark in the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area and on the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail. The Museum is dedicated to sharing the authentic history of the house, property, and people with our communities, connecting the past with today and tomorrow. Owned by the City of Trenton, it is operated by the Trent House Association, which is supported by the generosity of its donors; by grants from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, the New Jersey Cultural Trust, the New Jersey Historic Trust, the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission with funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission, and the Bunbury Fund and the New Jersey Arts & Culture Renewal Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation; and by contributions from NJM Insurance Group and Orion General Contractors. For more information, visit www.williamtrenthouse.org.