

Gabriel Neville

WRITER • RESEARCHER • SPEAKER

The 8th Virginia Regiment (1775-1778)

Virginia and the Frontier in the Revolutionary War Era



Gabe Neville has been researching the history of the Revolutionary War's 8th Virginia Regiment and related topics for more than 20 years. He gives speeches, maintains a website at 8thVirginia.com, and writes essays on the 8th Virginia, the Revolutionary War, the early frontier, and the founding era. He also writes occasionally on public policy issues. A former journalist and congressional staffer, he is a Senior Advisor at Covington & Burling, a Washington-based international law firm. He was raised in Chester County, Pennsylvania and now lives with his family in Fairfax County, Virginia. He can be reached at GabeNeville@8thVirginia.com.

Published Essays

- “Grave Errors.” *Journal of the American Revolution*, February 16, 2023.
- “The Fort Gower Resolves.” *American Battlefield Trust*, August 3, 2022.
- “Virginia’s Independent Frontier Companies, Part One: 1775-1776.” *Journal of the American Revolution*, March 17, 2021.
- “Virginia’s Independent Frontier Companies, Part Two: 1776-1778.” *Journal of the American Revolution*, March 18, 2021.
- “Stolen Valor in Georgia.” *Emerging Revolutionary War Era*, May 25, 2020.
- “A Portrait of John Cuppy.” *Emerging Revolutionary War Era*, January 15, 2020.
- “Shenandoah Martyr: Richard Campbell at War.” *Journal of the American Revolution*, December 3, 2019.
- “The Tragedy of Henry Laurens.” *Journal of the American Revolution*, August 1, 2019.
- “The Last Vestige of the Clove Road.” *Journal of the American Revolution*, July 16, 2019.*
- “A Forty Year Bond: William Darke and George Washington in Politics, Business and War.” *Magazine of the Jefferson County Historical Society*, 84 (2018): 23-38.
- “The B Team of 1777: Maxwell’s Light Infantry.” *Journal of the American Revolution*, April 10, 2018.
- “He’s the Lee in Ft. Lee.” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 2, 2014.

Introduction to Bruce Mowday, *September 11, 1777: Washington's Defeat at Brandywine Dooms Philadelphia* (Shippensburg, Pa: White Mane Publishing, 2002). (Ghost written for Congressman Joe Pitts.)

"History of the Diagonothian Literary Society of Franklin & Marshall College." *Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society*, 93 (1991): 94-111.

*Selected for annual best-of volume.

Book Reviews

(Titles as given at 8thVirginia.com.)

"Root Hog or Die!" *The Battle of Musgrove's Mill* by John Buchanan (Yardley, Pa: Westholme, 2022). *Journal of the American Revolution*, April 17, 2023.

"What Are Unalienable Rights?" *Religious Liberty and the American Founding* by Vincent Phillip Muñoz (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2022). *Journal of the American Revolution*, January 23, 2023.

"Catholics and the Founding." *Our Dear-Bought Liberty: Catholics and Religious Toleration in Early America* by Michael D. Breidenbach (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2022). *Journal of the American Revolution*, June 27, 2022.

"Disestablishment: The Separation of Faith from Government Power." *Religion and the American Revolution: An Imperial History* by Katherine Carté. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press/Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, 2021). *Journal of the American Revolution*, February 14, 2022.

"Three Centuries of Violence." *Anatomy of a Massacre: The Destruction of Gnadenhutzen, 1782* by Eric Sterner. (Yardley, Pa: Westholme, 2020). *Emerging Revolutionary War Era*, March 9, 2021.

"Greene Eludes Cornwallis." *To the End of the World: Nathanael Greene, Charles Cornwallis, and the Race to the Dan* by Andrew Waters. (Yardley, Pa: Westholme, 2020). *Journal of the American Revolution*, January 25, 2021.

"A Revolutionary War Dream Team." *The 10 Key Campaigns of the American Revolution*, Edward G. Lengel, ed. (Washington, D.C: Regnery, 2020). *Journal of the American Revolution*, October 19, 2020.

"Mounting the Soldier Second." *General Peter Muhlenberg: A Virginia Officer of the Continental Line* by Michael Cecere. (Yardley, Pa: Westholme, 2020). *Journal of the American Revolution*, August 10, 2020.

"The Mighty Oaks of the Forest: George Rogers Clark and William Croghan." *George Rogers Clark and William Croghan: A Story of the Revolution, Settlement, and Early Life at Locust Grove* by Gwynne Tuell Potts (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2020). *Journal of the American Revolution*, June 3, 2020.

Selected Blog Posts

"A Little Help for Jacob Parrot." *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, April 5, 2023.

"The Stamp Act and Captain Berry." *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, November 14, 2022.

"The 'Grand Division Standard' of the 8th Virginia." *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, June 20, 2022.

"The Battle of Drake's Farm." *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, February 1, 2022.

- “The Need for Freedom: How Religious Liberty Helped Win the War.” *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, August 16, 2020.
- “Lost in the Fields: Lewis & Clark and the 8th Virginia.” *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, April 5, 2020.
- “Three Germans: The Regiment’s Field Officers.” *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, January 10, 2020.
- “The Murder of Joseph Carman.” *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, December 26, 2019.
- “From Canada to Florida? Yes, and Maybe.” *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, December 15, 2019.
- “What Were They Thinking?” *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, July 7, 2019.
- “George Slaughter: Louisville’s Forgotten Founder.” *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, September 2, 2018.
- “Winchester’s Final Home for the Brave.” *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, August 4, 2018.
- “A Frontier Cabin Restored.” *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, August 15, 2017.
- “A Tory Quotes the Bible.” *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, August 6, 2017.
- “The Fourth of July Through Soldier’s Eyes.” *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, July 3, 2016. (Regarding the first reading of the Declaration of Independence in Charleston, SC.)
- “8th Virginia Men in Maxwell’s Light Infantry.” *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, June 19, 2016. (Regarding 8th Virginia men detached to Maxwell in 1777.)
- “Pittsburgh Men at the Battle of Princeton.” *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, January 2, 2016.
- “Not So Fast, William Eagle!” *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, November 13, 2015. (Correcting a West Virginia state historic marker.)
- “Enemy Number One: The Mosquito.” *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, November 5, 2015. (Regarding the impact of malaria during the southern campaign of 1776.)
- “The Cost of Fog and Drunkenness.” *The 8th Virginia Regiment*, October 3, 2015. (Regarding the Battle of Germantown.)

Speeches, Interviews & Presentations

- “Shenandoah County Patriots NOT Names Muhlenberg.” Shenandoah County Historical Society, November 14, 2023.
- “Bowman on the Frontier.” *The Kentucky History Channel*, May 14, 2023.
- “James Knox & the 8th Virginia.” *The Kentucky History Channel*, April 23, 2023.
- “Col. Abraham Bowman of Strasburg.” Strasburg Museum Annual Dinner, April 14, 2023.
- “William Darke: 18th Century Warrior of Four Conflicts.” Shepherd’s Center of Richmond, March 23, 2023.
- The Kentucky History Podcast*. [Recorded December 30, 2022] (James Knox in Kentucky.)
- “The Amazing Life of Abraham Bowman.” Strasburg Heritage Association, June 5, 2022.
- “Virginia’s Own Revolution.” *Revolution Road with the Journal of the American Revolution* (Sirius-XM Radio), June 3, 2022.
- “Capt. William Croghan’s Detachment and the Ten Crucial Days.” George Washington Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, Alexandria, Va., April 10, 2021.
- “Peter Muhlenberg and Religious Freedom.” Plano, Texas Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, March 2, 2021.
- “Gen. Peter Muhlenberg in Painting and Sculpture.” Eleanor Wilson Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, D.C., February 20, 2021.
- “The Grim Days of 1791: Col. William Darke at Cincinnati.” Cincinnati Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, September 16, 2020.

- “From Minutemen to Mountaineers: Culpeper Soldiers in the Revolution.” Culpeper Minutemen Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. Culpeper, Va., September 14, 2020.
- “The Revolution in the West.” *Rev War Revelry*. Emerging Revolutionary War Era. Online panel discussion, August 23, 2020.
- “An Evening with General Muhlenberg.” *Rev War Revelry*. Emerging Revolutionary War Era. Online panel discussion, August 2, 2020.
- “Maj. Peter Helphenstine and the 8th Virginia.” James Wood II Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. Winchester, Va., June 27, 2020.
- “Militia and Continentals.” *Rev War Revelry*. Emerging Revolutionary War Era. Online panel discussion, May 10, 2020.
- Dispatches: The Podcast of the Journal of the American Revolution*. October 5, 2019. (The Clove Road.)
- “Germanna and the 8th Virginia Regiment.” Hitt Archeology Center. Germanna Foundation. Locust Grove Va., September 12, 2019.
- “Maxwell’s Light Infantry and the Battle of Cooch’s Bridge.” Cooch’s Bridge Chapter, Daughters of the America Revolution. Wilmington Del., November 17, 2018.
- “The 8th Virginia Regiment and the Great Wagon Road.” Public Hearing on use of Courthouse Square. Woodstock Va., September 29, 2018.
- “Jonathan Grant and the Battle of Cooch’s Bridge.” Pencader Heritage Museum. Newark Del., September 9, 2017.
- “The Tragedy of Henry Laurens.” Faith and Law. Washington D.C., May 16, 2014.
- “Peter Muhlenberg and Christian Leadership.” Lancaster County Action. Lancaster Pa., July 13, 2013.

Service, Consulting, and Media

- Randy Walker, “A Time to Pray and a Time to Fight.” *Cardinal News*, December 12, 2023.
- Journal of the American Revolution* Book Award Committee. 2021-Present.
- Hardy County, W.V. Convention and Visitors Bureau. On utilization of the Capt. Robert Higgins log house as a regional museum space. Beginning 2020. (West Virginia Humanities Council grant awarded 2021).
- Town of Woodstock, Va. On use of Court Square to memorialize the 8th Virginia Regiment. 2018-2020.

Other Biographical

- Senior Advisor, Covington & Burling LLP, 2015-Present.
- Board Member, Faith & Law, Washington, D.C., 2015-Present.
- Congressional Staffer, 1997-2015.
- Campaign Consultant, 1994-1997.
- Pennsylvania General Assembly Staffer, 1992-1994.
- Editor, *The Zephyr*, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1990-1991.
- Editor-in-Chief, *The College Reporter*, Franklin & Marshall College, 1989-1990.
- Collegiate Correspondent, *The New York Times*, 1989-1990.

Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., BA in Government, 1990.

Kimberton Farms School, Kimberton, Pa., 1985.

Descendant of Lt. Absalom Autry (Fanning's Rangers, a North Carolina Loyalist unit).

Descendant of Jonathan Grant (Croghan's Company, 8th Virginia Regiment).

Descendant of Lt. Solomon Middaugh (Sussex Co., New Jersey Militia).

Descendant of John Nevill (Maryland Flying Camp).

