

SC 250
ANNIVERSARY

American Revolution



*Accountability
Report*

2022-2023



Dear Friends,



With over 400 battles, skirmishes, and events taking place during the American Revolution, South Carolina was the site of more Revolutionary history than almost any other state. The South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission was created by the General Assembly to properly recognize these events and the men, women and children who played pivotal roles. As we work with counties and statutory partners, it is imperative that we educate and inspire future generations.

The 2022-2023 fiscal year was marked by significant progress in our collective work. We have hired our first full-time executive director, created a statewide inventory of Revolutionary Era-related roadside historical markers in all counties, established and supported County 250 Committees and carried out countless research and educational projects.

We are particularly proud of our work creating and funding nine separate grant programs. The grants support establishing County 250 Committees, tourism development, site acquisition and renovation, research, educational materials and more. This year alone, we provided more than 70 grants worth over \$1.2 million in funding. Whether it's the historic reinterment of 14 soldiers from the Battle of Camden, the installation of new signage and markers in Laurens County, or the theatrical performance commemorating the anniversary of the Charleston Tea Party, these grants are allowing local communities to rediscover and promote their areas' unique American Revolution significance to residents and visitors alike.

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We continue to focus on amplifying the stories of disenfranchised groups that were essential to the birthing of a new nation, including enslaved and free African Americans, Native Americans, women and children. We have greenlit additional research, publication and education of groups and individuals in a concerted effort to ensure their stories are told widely and accurately.

As we look to the next fiscal year, we are excited about what lies ahead. We plan to produce battlefield guides, develop interpretation centers, create education curricula and materials, make scholarly materials available to the public, bring history to life through our Speakers Bureau and begin marketing Revolutionary War sites to drive cultural heritage tourism to every corner of our state. We plan to help discover and share the stories of South Carolina's Revolutionary peoples and our crucial role in winning independence from the English Crown, establishing our elected government and adopting the ideals which are enshrined in our founding documents: The Declaration of Independence, South Carolina's and United States' Constitutions.

The work that was undertaken and completed this year and that which follows would not have been possible without the support of many individuals, organizations and governments. We remain committed to working alongside these partners in the years to come as we celebrate and promote South Carolina's role in the American Revolution.

Sincerely,



Charles B. Baxley
Chairman

South Carolina American Revolution
Sestercentennial Commission

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About the Commission

The South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial (SC250) Commission was chartered by the SC General Assembly in 2019 to plan and execute a proper observance of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in South Carolina. The Commission aims to celebrate and promote the state's pivotal role in helping secure our freedom by educating, engaging and inspiring both South Carolinians and visitors. Through establishing County 250 Committees and awarding grants, the Commission supports public programs, research, historical preservation projects and tourism that illuminate and provide insight into South Carolina's Revolutionary Era. To broaden our perspectives on the period, the Commission seeks to discover and give voice to previously disenfranchised groups who, although often overlooked in history, were essential to the birthing of a new nation.

The Commission works in cooperation with the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism and South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

The SC250 Commission opened an office for its operations inside the SC Department of Archives and History in Columbia.

Commission Members

- » Charles B. Baxley, *Chairman*
- » Bill Davies, *Vice Chairman*
- » Duane Parrish, *Secretary*
- » Dianne T. Culbertson, *Chaplain*
- » Laurie Slade Funderburk
- » Rep. Neal Collins
- » J. Brett Bennett, *Treasurer*
- » Dr. A. V. Huff, Jr.
- » Jannie Harriot
- » Pam Melton Cazal
- » Gen. William Grimsley (R)
- » Luther Lyle
- » Sen. Darrell Jackson

Commission Staff

- » Molly Fortune
Executive Director
- » Heather Hawkins
Grants Manager
- » Mike Tyler
Site Development Manager
- » Aimeé Hood
Program Coordinator

OUR FOCUS

As we engage our state's citizens with our pivotal role in the American Revolution through the war's 250th anniversary and into the future, we are guided by three pillars:

Economic Development

We empower local communities to tell their stories in new and unique ways by giving them the tools, resources and infrastructure to reach travelers far beyond their city and town limits. This will drive tourism to every corner of our state, spurring economic growth and opening small-town Main Streets to the world like never before.

Education

We have a once-in-a-century opportunity to engage with our state's education system and shape what—and how—students are taught about the South Carolinian people, places and events that determined the outcome of the American Revolution. We have a once-in-a-century opportunity to engage with our state's education system and shape what—and how—students are taught about the South Carolinian people, places and events that determined the outcome of the American Revolution. We can create an educational impact that continues long after 2026.

Cultural Heritage

We are committed to telling the full story of the American Revolution, identifying the state's unsung heroes, and sharing how men, women, children, African Americans and Native Americans contributed to our victory in the war. As we uncover and share these lesser-known stories, we will work to develop the lasting infrastructure that promotes and preserves this valuable history for generations to come.



Financials Overview

2021-2022: \$1,460,000

All funds expended for staff hires and grant programs.

Awarded grants to fund projects and local County 250 Committees in 11 counties.

In an effort to ensure that all counties across SC have Sestercentennial programming highlighting their unique role in the American Revolution, the SC250 Commission issues grants to each county to aid in the formation of their own County 250 Committee and kickstart their celebration and tourism planning efforts.

Awarded a grant to the SC African American Heritage Commission to fund the Teacher Professional Development Webinar available to all teachers for professional development credit.

Awarded grants to three organizations to fund community engagement activities.

The SC250 Commission received \$400,000 in recurring funds starting in FY 22-23 to cover full-time staff salaries and benefits.

2022-2023: \$7,000,000

Encompasses all grant programs and approximately **\$200,000** set aside to hire an advertising agency to assist the Commission and local communities in raising awareness.

\$3,318,966 in grants paid, in the process of being paid or allocated by the Commission.

Total of \$3,518,966 in committed non-recurring funds has been put back into local economies of South Carolina as of January 2023.

Quarter 3 grant cycle closed February 9, 2023.

Quarter 4 grant cycle closed May 9, 2023.

The Francis Marion Symposium received funding, resulting in over 100 guests attending and staying in Clarendon County for the 2-day event—an increase from previous years' attendance of approximately 70 guests.

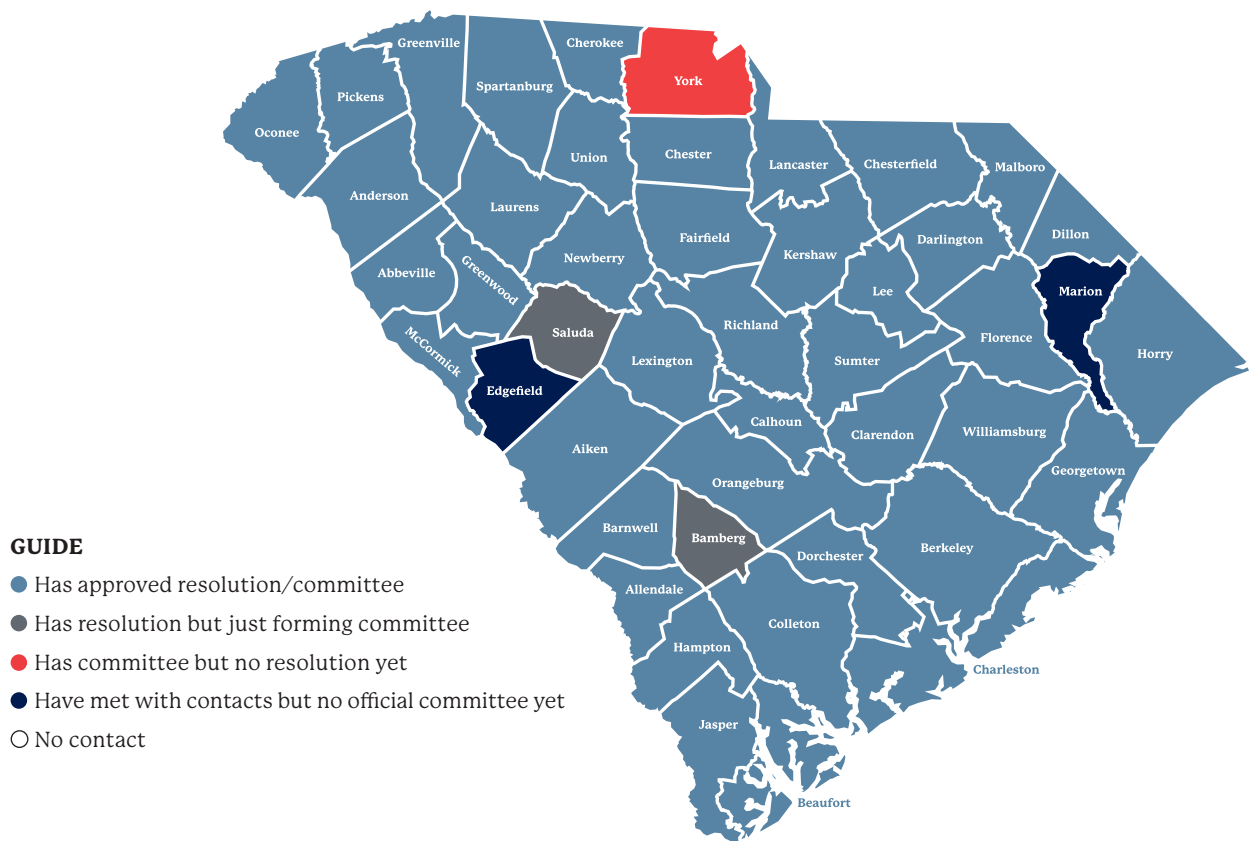


Highlights of Fiscal Year

2022-2023

County 250 Committees Update

All 46 SC counties have started the process to form a County 250 Committee. 34 of 46 counties have a fully established Committee and an approved resolution. The map is accurate as of August 2023 and is subject to change as counties establish and approve resolutions.



Committees follow the newly developed and implemented [County 250 Guidance Handbook](#).

Grant Programs

SC250 grants fund local Sestercentennial publications, signage, activities, educational workshops, tourism plans, research, organization and planning. These local efforts are key to showcasing our state's crucial contributions to forming the United States of America, as well as our direct economic impact and infusion of rural South Carolina.



SC American Revolution Site Grants: Planning, Acquisition, Development, Renovations

Acquire and/or develop new American Revolution sites, help upgrade current sites.

Amount Based on Merit | Competitive

Quarterly Deadlines

Q1: September 16, 2022
Q2: November 9, 2022
Q3: February 9, 2023
Q4: May 9, 2023
(all 3:00 P.M. Eastern)

Match or Cost Share Required

Yes. 80% SC250 / 20% Grantee

Grant Distribution

80% upfront with 20% appropriated upon receipt of complete final report



Local Activity Grants

Provide seed money for local 250th celebrations.

Amount Up to \$25,000 | Competitive

Quarterly Deadlines

Q1: September 16, 2022
Q2: November 9, 2022
Q3: February 9, 2023
Q4: May 9, 2023
(all 3:00 P.M. Eastern)

Match or Cost Share Required

Yes.
80% SC250 / 20% Grantee

Grant Distribution

80% upfront with 20% appropriated upon receipt of complete final report



County Asset Assessment & Historic Tourism Plan Grants

Assist a county in paying for an expert to analyze the Revolutionary War assets in the county, their condition, and a plan for monetizing these assets for ongoing Historic Tourism.

Eligibility Only Official County 250 Committees or their County Government on their behalf

Amount Up to \$10,000 | Competitive

Quarterly Deadlines

Q1: September 16, 2022
Q2: November 9, 2022
Q3: February 9, 2023
Q4: May 9, 2023
(all 3:00 P.M. Eastern)

Match or Cost Share Required

Yes. 50/50 match (up to \$10,000 from SC250, up to \$10,000 from grantee)

Grant Distribution

80% upfront with 20% appropriated upon receipt of complete final report



Signage Grants

Aid in placing or replacing American Revolution in SC signage from interpretive signs to labeling 18th century roads to funding for state markers.

Amount Up to \$10,000 | Competitive

Quarterly Deadlines

Q1: September 16, 2022
Q2: November 9, 2022
Q3: February 9, 2023
Q4: May 9, 2023
(all 3:00 P.M. Eastern)

Match or Cost Share Required No

Grant Distribution

80% upfront with 20% appropriated upon receipt of complete final report



County 250 Organizing Grants

Kick-start your county's celebration and tourism planning efforts.

Eligibility Only Official County 250 Committees or a fiscal agent on their behalf

Amount \$3,000/ County | Non-Competitive

Deadline

May 9, 2023 at 3:00 P.M.

Match or Cost Share Required No

Grant Distribution

All upfront



Research Grants

Advance research in SC's role in the American Revolution.

Amount Up to \$20,000 | Competitive

Quarterly Deadlines

Q1: September 16, 2022
Q2: November 9, 2022
Q3: February 9, 2023
Q4: May 9, 2023
(all 3:00 P.M. Eastern)

Match or Cost Share Required No

Grant Distribution

80% upfront with 20% appropriated upon receipt of complete final report



Education Grants

One of the primary goals of the SC250 Commission is education.

Amount Up to \$10,000 | Competitive

Quarterly Deadlines

Q1: September 16, 2022
Q2: November 9, 2022
Q3: February 9, 2023
Q4: May 9, 2023
(all 3:00 P.M. Eastern)

Match or Cost Share Required No

Grant Distribution

80% upfront with 20% appropriated upon receipt of complete final report



Publication Grants

Ensure research and education materials including battlefield guides and digital assets are available.

Amount Up to \$30,000 | Competitive

Quarterly Deadlines

Q1: September 16, 2022
Q2: November 9, 2022
Q3: February 9, 2023
Q4: May 9, 2023
(all 3:00 P.M. Eastern)

Match or Cost Share Required No

Grant Distribution

80% upfront with 20% appropriated upon receipt of complete final report



Local Museum

Style Panel Grants

Create American Revolution indoor interpretive panels, telling local American Revolution stories.

Amount Up to \$5,000 | Competitive

Quarterly Deadlines

Q1: September 16, 2022
Q2: November 9, 2022
Q3: February 9, 2023
Q4: May 9, 2023
(all 3:00 P.M. Eastern)

Match or Cost Share Required No

Grant Distribution

80% upfront with 20% appropriated upon receipt of complete final report



Snapshot of Grants Awarded in FY22-23

Sumter County

More than 25 counties have already received a grant to kick-start their first project. Four Interpretive Centers have already received funding to expand their American Revolution displays, including the Sumter County Museum, where a new Thomas Sumter Exhibit is planned

Signage Grant for **Singleton's Mill located in Poinsett Park**. This is a joint venture with SCPRT.

York County

The Watt Site at Brattonsville: Telling the complete story of Mr. Watt, an African American slave who completed a heroic task during Huck's Defeat. Allowing the cemetery to be open to the public for free with signage and interpretation.

Jasper County – Morris Center

Signage Grant for a permanent museum panel roughly 10'x16' at the Morris Center interpreting the Revolutionary Faces and Places of the Lowcountry, which will include Purysburg, Sheldon Church, Jacksonboro, the Pon Pon Chapel of Ease, and the story of Jim Capers.

Francis Marion Papers

Publication Grant to compile the definitive collection of the Francis Marion papers from transcription of primary sources to biographies of his contemporaries. This will be born digitally and be free to the public for research and general education.

Slave Manumission Research

Research grant to support a local African American scholar in building a database of over 20,000 slaves who were granted freedom, documenting South Carolina for the first time.

Statewide Educational Programming

Several Local Activity Grants awarded in the Midlands for afterschool and in-school educational programs.

Docent Program for Fort Fair Lawn

This site grant established a program for proper, accurate and educational interpretation at Fort Fair Lawn.

Laurens County

Local Activities Grant for the SC Genealogical Society program.

Florence County

Education Grant for the creation of an exhibit titled Snow Island: Frontier of Prose and Lore Exhibition.

Dorchester County

Organizing Grant to form their local committee as well as to analyze sites and document local stories associated with the Revolution.

Site Acquisition Grants

These allow battlefields and significant sites related to all in SC including women, children, Native Americans, free and enslaved Africans and Loyalists. This will allow for future grants in interpretive signage to accompany the driving tours of the Liberty Trail.

New Research, Publications & Projects Underway

Engagement of African American historian to work with the Richland County Library's expert on creating a how-to manual for African American genealogists.

At least 7 Research and Publications works undertaken and are in a stage of completion or peer review:

- » Francis Marion Papers
- » Biographies of Revolutionary Women
- » Elizabeth Jackson, Andrew Jackson's mother who served as a nurse
- » Database of Free Men of Color Who Received Veteran Pensions for Service in the American Revolution.
- » Lt. Col. James McCall, the unsung hero of Cowpens
- » SC 2nd and 3rd Regimental Histories
- » Gen. Thomas Sumter Wartime Papers
- » Col. Francis Lord Rawdon Wartime Papers, British commander
- » Slave Manumissions

Notable Women During Revolutionary Period: Several digital publications about Revolutionary Women have been completed, including those regarding Dicey Langston, Jane Black Thomas, and Catherine Moore Barry (pictured right).

Logan, Joseph T., Dec. 2001, The American Revolution - Margaret Moore, Retrieved August 18, 2023.





At least 20 projects underway with our partners at the South Carolina Battleground Trust, SCPRT and Archives that range from:

- » Research
- » Archaeology
- » Site interpretation
- » Marketing
- » Education for both children and adults
- » Educational webinars for teacher professional development credit
- » Site plans
- » Tourism plans
- » Museum interpretation
- » Digital timeline and populated bibliography for website
- » Populated “Visit Now” on SCPRT website

Completion of full statewide inventory, rudimentary digital mapping and condition analysis of **all roadside markers related to the Revolution.**

New Partnerships Driving Tourism in Rural SC

Over 16 new partnerships to promote, ignite and drive tourism and economic development across rural South Carolina related to the Revolution, from heritage groups like the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution and Children of the American Revolution, to the SC Council for Social Studies, to SC area tourism regions to SCDOT.



Planned Highlights of Fiscal Year

2023-2024

Grants

Award grants to County 250 Committees for research and tourism site development projects.

Create 12 grants to fund permanent, geographically relevant Centers for Interpretation and relevant enhancements of in person Research Libraries available to our tourists who want to explore their Revolutionary War ancestors – and then walk where they walked.

Research, Interpretation & Publications

Digital publication of Revolutionary Era papers of:

- » Francis Marion
- » Thomas Sumter
- » Francis Rawdon
- » Unit histories of the SC 2nd and 3rd Regiments (Thomson's Rangers)
- » Transcriptions of the SC Loyalists Claims
- » Biographies of little-known South Carolina heroes such as SC militia Lt. Col. James McCall (a hero of Cowpens), Revolutionary Era women and enslaved African Americans
- » Native Americans and documentation of the Cherokee Path



Research and development of safety and interpretative highway pull-offs at Fort Thicketty, Fish Dam Ford (with the SC Heritage Trust), Alexander's Old Field, Hammond's Old Store, Parker's Ferry, Commodore Alexander Gillon's (SC Navy) grave, Burdell's Plantation, Earle's Ford, Cherokee Campaign of 1776 (mainly in Oconee and Pickens Counties), and Fishing Creek.

Development and interpretation of the **Hayes' Station massacre site**.

Work with Clemson University on their Revolutionary War sites, including Andrew Pickens' home, Hopewell; the Battle of Essenecca and the death of Jewish American, Francis Salvador; and Ft. Rutledge.

Negotiations are underway for public access and interpretation of about a **dozen additional Revolutionary War sites in SC** now privately owned, including those where Sumter, Marion, and Pickens fought.



Producing battlefield guides to major South Carolina Revolutionary War battlefields, such as Eutaw Springs, Hobkirk Hill, Blackstock's Plantation, Camden and Musgrove Mill.

Research and documentation of Cherokee and Catawba Paths across South Carolina.

Research, documentation, and **marking of our still-used Colonial Roads** throughout South Carolina with partner organization including SCDOT (preliminary discussions) and Local 250 groups.

Develop Interpretation Centers in existing SC museums on: Francis Marion, Thomas Sumter, Andrew Pickens, John Rutledge, the SC Declaration of Independence signers, women and children of the Revolutionary Era, as well as African Americans, Loyalists and Native Americans.

Local Community Projects, Events & Education

Fully operational Speakers Bureau available to all. Including on-site demonstrations/reenactment for events and schools.

Social Studies Curriculum Development with partners for Primary and Secondary School; 18th century demonstrators in schools.

Engagement with South Carolina college history department chairs for curriculum enhancement to students.

New publicly accessible Revolutionary Era Genealogy Research Centers, manned and helpful, enhancement and promotional project for white, African American, Catawba, and Cherokee.

New interpretation, wall board signage and possible electronic display on local Revolutionaries and activities for 6 State Parks in partnership with SCPRT.

Working with SCATR regional tourism organizations, supporting docent and tourist advisors training on the visitable American Revolution sites in South Carolina, and their projects and opportunities for tourism and economic development around the Revolutionary period in South Carolina.

And more! All the infrastructure the Commission is planning is for a 50-year life span.





FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 NON-RECURRING BUDGET REQUEST

This coming year is pivotal for preparing for the tourists who will come to our state in 2026. We are working with legislators on this budget. Under the grants program the Commission desires to do the following to drive South Carolinians and visitors to sites, experiences and family history:

The Commission would like to assist in enhancing existing interpretations of the Revolutionary War in South Carolina at state parks, museums, history centers, schools, government buildings, and state welcome centers among other places. These enhancements would utilize current technology along with static displays to

further tell the story of the campaigns in SC directly related to the area in which the site is located. These enhancements would encourage tourists and residents to further explore Revolutionary War sites and to visit places their ancestors walked.

Yearly conferences for docents across the state to include state tourism officials, marketing professionals, regional tourism professionals, local history museums, or any interested parties to learn and tell the accurate history of the role of SC in our fight for liberty. This will lead all to accurately speak with one voice. Educational experiences and curriculum are paramount to speaking with one voice across South

Carolina starting with kindergarten going all through college and even to adulthood with programs and resources.

Assist in the development of **ten permanent interpretation centers across the state.**

These would include presentations on Revolutionary War heroes including Patriots, Loyalists, women, children, Native Americans, free and enslaved African Americans. The use of existing local entities to permanently enhance the story from a local level and to bolster their collections and narratives. Many of the museums and sites are open to the public free of charge.

Partnership with historians, reenactors, and educators related to the Southern Campaigns in SC. Speakers are available for civic meetings, school programs, individual and private programming.

Many of the currently driven roads are based on either Native American paths or colonial roads such as the Great Wagon Road which connected Philadelphia, Augusta, and Charleston, and spurs along the way. Documentation and marking of these roads would increase awareness to the public on the connections to our past and how we are still traveling historic pathways. This program would **partner with the Catawba and Cherokee Paths and the Scenic Pathway programs** – a program that highlights the past while participating in the present and free to all.

South Carolina is rich in family history and learning history most times begins with finding our ancestors. Filling out collections across the state for smaller genealogical centers is key in bringing people to SC to find their relatives. The desire is to make the collections robust and easy to access at already available facilities. The same is true for books on the Southern Campaigns. Many of the libraries offer their research resources free of charge.





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