

Presentations given by Jim Sly

Fairfax Resolves – After Parliament passed the Coercive Acts, also known as the Intolerable Acts, to punish Massachusetts for the Boston Tea Party, the Virginia House of Burgesses proclaimed that June 1, 1774, would be a day of "fasting, humiliation, and prayer" as a show of solidarity with Boston. In response, Lord Dunmore, the royal governor of Virginia, dissolved the House of Burgesses. The burgesses reconvened at the Raleigh Tavern on May 27 and called for Virginia's counties to elect delegates to a special convention to meet in August. George Washington and Charles Broadwater were elected as Fairfax County's representatives to the convention. This convention developed the Fairfax resolves, which served as a framework for the future Declaration of Independence. *(For adults, 45 minutes)*

Religion in the Colonies – The American Revolution, a pivotal moment in the nation's formation, was not merely a political upheaval but also a profound spiritual awakening. This book delves into the captivating world of colonial religious life, showcasing how faith played a pivotal role in shaping the social, cultural, and political landscape of the thirteen original colonies. It is a journey through the vibrant religious mosaic of the era, exploring the major Protestant denominations, the emerging presence of other faiths, and the impact of religious beliefs on the development of American identity. *(For Adults, 45 minutes)*

Bounty Land Program - Bounty land is a story of the hope of the men who enlisted for military service, convinced that they would be justly rewarded after discharge with a few acres of land. *(For Adults, 45 minutes)*

Myths about the Revolution – This presentation discusses Nine myths concerning American Revolution which are overwhelmingly believed by the public concerning the American Revolution. The truth concerning each myth is explained. *(For Adults, 45 minutes)*

Enlightenment and the Revolution – The Enlightenment in America, more moderate than in Europe, influenced both religious and political thought throughout the colonies. Many would argue that its approach to religious tolerance rose to prominence in America in large part because no single religious group could garner the necessary votes to impose themselves upon the fledgling republic. Leaders such as Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin were considered paragons of Enlightenment thought, and the freedom-loving religious rationalism of their ideas helped to lay the foundations of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States *(For Adults, 45 minutes)*

Factors Leading Up to the Revolution - The men and women who colonized the New World did so because they desired opportunity for themselves and their kids and desired a level of freedom. They were generally not the type of people who would tolerate these things being taken away from them. The formation of colonial legislatures gave the colonist a feeling of independence from British rule in that they were able to pass their own laws and muster troops. Prior to the end of the French and Indian War British pretty much did not interfere with the American colonist and were very lax with many of the regulations that were in place. This British policy was dubbed salutary neglect. This all changed after the French and Indian War and the need of the British to raise money to pay their war debts. The colonist resented this interference. A cultural movement took place in Europe in the late 1600s and 1700s called the Enlightenment. Writers involved in this movement such as John Locke wrote about such issues as limited government and consent of the governed. This movement influenced the thinking of many of the founding fathers as they began to seek liberty and freedom from the control of the British. *(For Adults, 45 minutes)*

The Colonial Wars - Several wars were fought by the colonists prior to the Revolutionary War. This presentation discusses several of the most important wars. The later of these wars provided experienced officers and enlisted personnel for the American side of the Revolutionary War. *(For Adults, 45 minutes)*

About the Speaker

Rev. James Sly, D.R.E., ThD, PhD is a historian specializing in biblical and theological history. He has been a Professor of Old Testament at two Christian institutions of higher education. His love for early American colonial history and genealogy began in the late 1990s when he was given his grandmother and mother's genealogical research. He began uncovering the truth associated with his parents' ancestry. With a background in non-fiction historical writing, he brings a unique blend of historical accuracy and narrative storytelling to this work. He has spent over 40 years researching the Sly and Ball families, poring over historical records, genealogical documents, and archival materials to bring their stories to life. His previous work has focused on non-fiction histories of the Bible, the English Bible, Baptist, and the Jewish peoples. He has published two fiction books on early US history. Rev. Dr. Sly is passionate about uncovering and sharing the stories of ordinary people who shaped the development of the United States. He currently resides in the Omaha, NE area and continues to pursue research in early American history and genealogy. He is very active in the Omaha Chapter and Nebraska Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. He has served as the Omaha Chapter Secretary, Vice-President, President, and Color Guard Captain. He has also served as the Nebraska State Society Chaplain, Vice-President, member of several committees, and State Color Guard. He has also served as a national Trustee of the National Society, Sons of the American Revolution. He is the Vice-President General of the North Central District, National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.