The Many Faces of the American Revolution

Targeted sites for Pilot Projects – Washington’s Headquarters and Herkimer Home

Pilot Projects –

Traveling Exhibits
A 2-4 panel display with multimedia component which explores one event or series of events from multiple perspectives but focuses mainly on one of the groups most impacted.

Educational Programs
Programming to complement the traveling exhibit featuring panel discussions with experts and possibly film or first person interpretation when appropriate.

Video
A series of short videos that provide an overview of a particular event or person.

Themes – Freedom and Safety, Freedom and Power, Freedom and Home

Freedom and Safety –
Escalating hostilities between the British, their allies and Continental forces led to raids and pitched battles making once peaceful settlements on the frontier unsafe. Rumors of such incidents and troop movements fueled fears, creating an environment of constant threat on the frontier.

Freedom and Power –
The Iroquois Confederation (also known as the 6 nations) maintained a powerbase and exercised influence along the eastern shore from the southern Canadian border to the Carolinas. This powerful alliance was broken during the revolution as nations were divided by personal allegiance to individuals on both sides. Relationships between slave owners and enslaved Africans also shifted greatly during the revolution. Offers of freedom initially from the British and eventually from the Patriots, led many Africans to flee bondage and seek freedom. The war provided enslaved Africans with a form of leverage and options for eventual freedom, if they chose the correct side.

Freedom and Home –
Outright occupation and confiscation of homes and property occurred were practices by Patriot and British forces. Many families lost everything and were forced to flee while others chose to live side by side with the soldiers in their homes.

Research Needs –
Events, and individuals whose lives illustrate the lives of African Americans, Native Americans, Women and non-combatants – especially in the Hudson Valley and Mohawk Valley regions. Possible examples: the evacuation of loyalist Africans from NYC, the use of the Hasbrouck house as Washington’s Headquarters and the subsequent displacement of the family.