

American Connections

With Howard Simmons



Joseph Brant by Gilbert Stuart 1786

Follow an exciting story from the discussions in the 1580's about the founding of the colony of Virginia – named after the Virgin Queen Elizabeth I – on the East coast of America to the actual settlement of Jamestown – named after King James I – as the first permanent English-speaking settlement in America in 1607.

Discover how King Charles II planned the creation of the city of New York and the establishment of the great Hudson's Bay Company in 1678 and Rupert's Land to be governed by his uncle Prince Rupert – the basis of much of modern Canada.

Hear how the 2nd Duke of Northumberland fought as a British commander in the American War of Independence and formed lasting links with great Native American Warrior Chieftains such as Thayendanegea – known to us as Joseph Brant

Discover Syon's role in the War of 1812 when the USA declared war on Britain and attempted to capture Canada and how the Duke's friend John Norton led a fierce resistance by Canadian militia, Free Men of Colour and Native American Warriors.

Find out about the visit by the President of the United States to Syon and how the Duke's illegitimate son James founded the Smithsonian Institution – now one of the greatest centres for research and learning in the world.

