



SULGRAVE  
MANOR & GARDEN

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S ANCESTRAL HOME

# Continuities and Disruptions in Transatlantic Histories

Virtually at Sulgrave Manor  
Thursday 10th June 2021 from 1pm to 4pm

Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of George Washington, is an appropriately symbolic theatre for encouraging the rethinking of British and American histories in an Atlantic context.



# Format of the Day

**13:00** *Welcome by Nigel Bowles, Chairman of Sulgrave Manor Trust*

**13:10** *Virtual Tour of the Manor with Thea Young*

**13:30** *Sulgrave as House and Symbol*

Speakers: Sam Edwards (MMU) and Grace Mallon (Oxford). Chaired by Nick Way (Sulgrave Manor Trust)

Panellists will explore what the house (and its 16th-century estate) discloses and what it does not, the questions and problems to which it points, and its symbolic power.

Among the questions that arise are those of social structures and status, and of economic resources and power; the dynamic patterns of personal, familial, commercial, and political ambition and aspiration; and how those patterns of ambition and aspiration were perceived both in Tudor and Stuart England and in eighteenth-century America. In the summer of 2021, to mark the one-hundredth anniversary of Sulgrave Manor entering the public realm as a public asset, the RAI and Sulgrave propose a workshop for school students, undergraduates, and members of the public to reflect upon, and rethink, the questions that Sulgrave Manor prompts about power, ambition, and leadership within the historical arc of relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom. The object of the day is that the RAI and Sulgrave should encourage fresh thinking about these questions close to the centre of our intersecting histories.

**14:40** *Common Ground and Difference*

Speakers: Jay Sexton (Kinder Institute, Missouri), and Tom Cutterham (Birmingham). Chaired by Nigel Bowles (Sulgrave Manor Trust)

Panellists will explore the areas of common ground and the areas of difference between Britain and the United States in the long arc of transatlantic relations since 1781; what the character, purposes, and understandings of George Washington himself disclose about America's place in the late eighteenth-century world; and the points of connection, disconnection, and disruption in the structuring of relations between the United States and Britain in the succeeding centuries.

**15:40** *Concluding Remarks by Adam Smith, Director of the Rothermere American Institute*

# The Speakers



Sam Edwards is Reader in Transatlantic History at Manchester Metropolitan University. He has authored over fifteen essays and articles, edited three collections examining issues in memory, film and representation, and his book, *Allies in Memory: World War II and the Politics of Transatlantic Commemoration* (Cambridge, 2015) was shortlisted for the Royal Historical Society's Gladstone Prize. Sam is a former Fulbright Scholar, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. In 2019 Sam was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Rothermere American Institute, and in 2021-22 he will be a Fellow in Residence at the Fred W. Smith Library for the Study of George Washington.

Grace Mallon is a DPhil candidate in History at Oxford, and is the 2020-21 Rothermere American Institute Fourth-Year Scholar in American Politics. Her doctoral research explores the constitutional and administrative history of American federalism, focusing on the role that interactions between the state and federal governments played in the making of union in the early United States, c. 1789-1820. She holds a BA and a MSt in History from Oxford, and will be a member of the 2021-22 class of fellows at the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington.



Nick Way

Jay Sexton is the Rich and Nancy Kinder Chair of Constitutional Democracy and Professor of History. Sexton started in Oxford as a grad student Marshall Scholar and worked his way up to being Director of the Rothermere American Institute (RAI) and, upon his departure, being elected a Distinguished Fellow of the RAI and an Emeritus Fellow of Corpus Christi College. Sexton specializes in the political and economic history of the nineteenth century. His research situates the United States in its international context, particularly as it related to the dominant global structure of the era, the British Empire. His most recent book, *A Nation Forged by Crisis: A New American History* (Basic Books, 2018), argues that international forces have shaped the course of U.S. history during its greatest moments of transformative change.



# The Speakers

Tom Cutterham is a historian of politics, ideas, and economic life in the early United States. He is the author of *Gentlemen Revolutionaries: Power and Justice in the New American Republic* (Princeton UP, 2017), as well as essays in the *William and Mary Quarterly*, the *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, and elsewhere. A Senior Lecturer at the University of Birmingham, Tom teaches courses on the nineteenth-century west, the history of political thought, and the American Revolution. He is writing a book about Angelica Schuyler Church.



Nigel Bowles is the Chairman of the Sulgrave Manor Trust. He taught US Government at the Universities of Edinburgh and Oxford. Has particular interests in the history of the US Presidency, the US Congress, and federal bureaucracies

Adam Smith is the Edward Orsborn Professor of United States Politics & Political History and a Professorial Fellow at University College and Director of the RAI. His specialism is the political history of the United States in the nineteenth century. In 2017, the University of North Carolina Press published his latest book, *The Stormy Present: Conservatism and the Problem of Slavery in Northern Politics, 1846-1865*, which won the Jefferson Davis Award and was a finalist for the Lincoln Prize. His previous books include *No Party Now: Politics in the Civil War North* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006).



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