

You and a guest are invited...

## Special Sneak Preview Movie Event

# THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

[CONSTITUTIONMOVIE.COM](http://CONSTITUTIONMOVIE.COM)

The year 1787 inescapably set the stage for America's future. Witness Washington, Madison, Hamilton, and Franklin's riveting story of compromise and triumph creating the Constitution in Philadelphia. Meanwhile in New York, Congress created the seminal Northwest Ordinance. The American Constitution film explores how these pivotal documents profoundly influence our world today.

**Friday, July 12, 2024**

**6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**Marietta College, McDonough Center Auditorium**

During this special screening event, guests will see an extended sneak-peek segment from the upcoming documentary film, The American Constitution. Following the screening, join us for an exclusive Q&A session with the film's award-winning director, David Garrigus, have an opportunity to provide him feedback, and get insights on how this seminal moment in American history was brought to life on the big screen.



**Brought to you by America 250-Ohio**

**& the Northwest Territory Ordinance of 1787 Celebration**

Please also plan to attend the Northwest Ordinance Celebration on July 13 at the Start Westward Memorial, Muskingum Park, Marietta featuring Keynote Speaker: Gleaves Whitney, Executive Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation, Presentation: "America's Refounding: The Northwest Ordinance and the Vision of a More Perfect Union"



**START WESTWARD MONUMENT  
MUSKINGUM PARK, MARIETTA, OH**

**SATURDAY  
JULY 13TH / 10:00 AM**



**237th Anniversary Celebration of the  
Northwest Territory Ordinance of 1787**

10:00 Bell ringing of the carillon

**10:30 -Speaker: Gleaves Whitney  
"America's Refounding:  
The Northwest Ordinance and the  
vision of a more perfect union"**

10:00 am- 3:00 pm History in the Park  
History displays and - reenactors



**Celebration Supporters:**



Marietta Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, City of Marietta;  
Museum of the Northwest Territory - Campus Martius; First  
Congressional Church; Washington County Public Library;  
Washington County VSO; Multi Cultural Genealogical Center;  
Marietta Chapter DAR; America 250-Ohio; Civil War Roundtable of  
the Mid Ohio Valley



**FOR MORE INFO: [WWW.MARIETTASAR.COM](http://WWW.MARIETTASAR.COM)**





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: For additional information contact,** Jean Yost, Member of the 237<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordinance of 1787 Celebration Committee  
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**237<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Northwest Territory Ordinance of 1787 Celebration  
Muskingum Park, Marietta, Washington County, Ohio**

***“Slavery Prohibited, Religion Necessary, and Education Forever Encouraged!”***

**The 237<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordinance of 1787 Celebration Committee wishes to invite the public to our ceremony on Saturday, July 13, 2024 at the Start Westward Monument in East Muskingum Park, Front Street, Marietta, Ohio, 45750.**

10:00am to 10:30am - First Congregational Church, the “Church of the Pioneers” bell ringing of the carillon will be performed with various patriotic tunes. Guests are invited to climb the steps into the bell tower to watch as Sean Lofty operates the wooden levers to engage the chimes.

10:30am – Program - 237<sup>th</sup> Northwest Ordinance of 1787 Commemoration at the “Start Westward Memorial”. **Speaker: Gleaves Whitney, Executive Director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation. Presentation: “America’s Refounding: The Northwest Ordinance and the Vision of a More Perfect Union”** Gleaves Whitney began his role as executive director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation on September 1, 2020. Since 2015 Gleaves has worked with his colleague Jon Lauck to revive Midwestern history as an academic discipline; hosted six major conferences and edited four books. He was the Director of the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies from 2003-2020. Gleaves describes “the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 is one of the world’s great state papers. Arguably the greatest achievement of the Confederation Congress, the document provided the blueprint for the growth of the new American republic and set the course for forming a more perfect union—most of all by excluding slavery from new territory.”

This event is a tribute to the Continental Congress and all Patriots of the American Revolution, and focuses on the history of the founding of the Northwest Territory under the Ordinance of 1787. Many historians describe the Ordinance as one of the top three “Human Rights” documents in the world. Author David McCullough described the Ordinance best on page 30 of his new book, *The Pioneers*; “the great Northwest Ordinance of 1787 stands alongside the Magna Carta and the Declaration of Independence as a bold assertion of the rights of the individual.”

**ADDITIONAL FRIDAY and SATURDAY PROGRAMMING:**

**FRIDAY, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm showing at the McDonough Center Auditorium at Marietta College. In David Garrigus' upcoming documentary film, THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION: 1787, leading authors and historians reveal the story of the U.S. Constitution's creation. Accomplished actors bring the words of the Framers to life—in the**

room where it happened! 1787 promises to entertain while providing a deeper understanding of America's essential history. Participants will view major sections of the film; discuss and give feedback to the filmmaker.

The project is filmmaker David Garrigus' second major historical documentary after his award-winning PBS two-hour [Kitty Hawk: The Wright Brothers' Journey of Invention](#) featuring Neil Armstrong and John Glenn. Six years in the making, Kitty Hawk is widely recognized as the best documentary to tell the story of how the airplane was invented.

**SATURDAY, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am to 5:00pm – The Museum of the Northwest Territory - Campus Martius, tour the General Rufus Putnam House, constructed in 1788 as part of the Campus Martius fortification. (Regular admission rates) Note: Territorial Governor Arthur St Clair and other officials conducted official business at the first Capital of the Northwest Territory, Campus Martius. Check out the exhibit “Celebrating the Pioneers,” based on the book *The Pioneers* by David McCullough, and explore the lives and personal objects owned by some of the individuals mentioned in the book.**

**SATURDAY, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 3pm- “HISTORY IN THE PARK” – History exhibits and Reenactors in Muskingum Park!**

DATES in HISTORY: July 13, 1787, the day the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 is adopted; July 9, 1788, the date Territorial Governor Arthur St. Clair arrived at Marietta; July 15, 1788 the day Gov. St Clair opened Territorial government for business.

*Celebration Committee Co-Chairs: Marietta Mayor, Josh Schlicher; former Ohio Governor Nancy Hollister; Dr. Sharon Barnett, Board Member of The Multicultural Genealogical Center; Lila Hill, Marietta Daughters of the American Revolution; Jean Yost, Marietta Chapter Sons of the American Revolution.*

Note: This is an outdoor event under the small temporary protective shelter covering the monument, **in case of rain** we will conduct the program in the First Congregational Church at 318 Front Street, Marietta, OH 45750 (Directly across the street from the monument.)

***Ordinance of 1787 Celebration Program Support:*** City of Marietta; Museum of the Northwest Territory - Campus Martius; First Congregational Church; Marietta Chapter Sons of the American Revolution; Washington County Public Library; Washington County Veterans Service Office; The Multicultural Genealogical Center; the Marietta Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution; Civil War Roundtable of the Mid-Ohio Valley and the America 250-Ohio Commission.

***HISTORIC BACKGROUND:*** Marietta, Washington County, Ohio, is the site of the first organized settlement and Capital of the Northwest Territory. After the Revolutionary War, many New England officers and enlisted men formed the Ohio Company and left their homes for life on the frontier. Landing at the mouth of the Muskingum (site of Fort Harmar and the 1<sup>st</sup> American Regiment of the U.S. Army) on 7 April 1788, a group of 48 patriots led by General Rufus Putnam, founded Marietta and started the western expansion of the United States. Over the next

*several years, a great many soldiers, sailors, and/or their families came to live here in a county named for their leader, General George Washington. These men who had fought for their country's independence in the American Revolution had lobbied with the new Congress for land as payment for their service. One result of the efforts of these men was the creation of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 which established territories North of the Ohio River to Canada and East of the Mississippi River, abolished slavery (Article VI) and served as the model for the Bill of Rights in the US Constitution. The Northwest Ordinance was unanimously passed on 13 July 1787 as one of the first significant pieces of legislation passed by the Continental Congress after the war. On 17 September 1787, almost 2 months to the day of the passing of the Northwest Ordinance, Congress slightly modified that Ordinance and adopted it as our U.S. Constitution.*