

# INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025

On the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence



## THE MEN WHO LOST AMERICA

### EXCLUSIVE HISTORY SEMINAR

In 2026, the USA will mark the 250th anniversary of the 1776 United States Declaration of Independence.

This unique study day at Knowsley Hall will focus on three of the key men who lost America. You will hear more about George Sackville Germain, General John Burgoyne, General Charles Cornwallis and learn about their stories and their families. There will be a dinner in the State Dining Room to celebrate the Declaration signing.

The Cornwallis Sword is believed to be the sword offered by Cornwallis as a symbol of the surrender of British armed forces and during your stay at Knowsley Hall, you will have the extraordinary experience of viewing the sword close up, in a way that is not normally made available to the public.



### SPEAKERS AND TIMINGS

- 09.15am** Opening remarks by Lady Derby
- 09.30am** Professor Jeremy Black - *Why the Revolution occurred/Mapping early American history*
- 10.30am** Professor Andrew O'Shaughnessy - *The Men who Lost America*
- 11.30am** Refreshments
- 12.00pm** Professor Jeremy Black - *Could the British have won the War of Independence*
- 13.00pm** Book Signing and Lunch
- 14.00pm** Professor Norman Poser - *General Burgoyne and his long connection with the Stanley Family*
- 15:00pm** Andrew Lambert - *How America was lost in the English Channel, and the vital lessons that enabled the Royal Navy to win the next naval war*
- 16:00pm** Refreshments
- 16:30pm** Professor Andrew O'Shaughnessy - *Republic and Empire*
- 17:30pm** Closing Remarks by Lady Derby

This study day discusses the role of Lord George Germain as chief architect of the American Revolutionary war who was the youngest and favourite son of the Duke of Dorset and became Secretary of State to the Colonies in 1775 to King George III. It also discusses his life and long association with the Stanley family. General Burgoyne eloped with the youngest daughter of the 11<sup>th</sup> Earl, Lady Charlotte Stanley, when she was 23 years old. She was cut off by the family but was later reconciled and came back to live at Knowsley. They had one child, Charlotte who died in infancy.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Derby shared a love of France and the theatre with his uncle, General Burgoyne, who wrote the play 'The Maid of the Oaks' for the engagement in 1774 of Lord Stanley to Lady Elizabeth Hamilton, daughter of the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke of Hamilton.

Burgoyne had a long relationship with the actress Susan Caulfield, who was a friend of Eliza Farren, the celebrated comic actress and 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of the 12<sup>th</sup> Earl. Susan was his mistress during the last twelve years of his life from around 1780 until his death in 1792. They had four children together, a boy and three girls, who all grew up at Knowsley Hall.

Charles, Earl Cornwallis' role at the Battle of Yorktown 1781 was as the General leading the English troops. He later became Marquess and was appointed Governor-General of India and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Lady Derby is his direct descendant.