



FESTIVAL PROGRAM & GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 24-27, 2026

ABINGDON, VIRGINIA

CELEBRATING ABINGDON'S REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT

Step into the story of America's founding. Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Abingdon invites you to explore the courageous people, historic landmarks, and pivotal frontier moments that shaped our town, our state, and our nation as part of the statewide VA250 celebration.

PRESENTED BY VISIT ABINGDON, VIRGINIA



WELCOME TO LibertyFEST!

As a signature event of the statewide VA250 commemoration, LibertyFest transforms Abingdon into an immersive living history experience. Centered at the Abingdon Muster Grounds and historic Main Street, this four-day festival brings Southwest Virginia's vital role in the fight for independence to life.

EXPLORE AT YOUR OWN PACE: THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR TRAIL MOBILE PASS

Discover Abingdon's Revolutionary past on your phone with our free, mobile-exclusive pass! This interactive digital experience connects key historic sites across town, including the Abingdon Muster Grounds, Sinking Spring Cemetery, and The Tavern. Follow the map to explore engaging stories, videos, and multimedia content at each landmark.



HOW TO USE THE FREE PASS:

STEP 1 – GET YOUR PASS:

Sign up instantly online. There are no apps to download, and the pass is delivered straight to your phone via text and email.

STEP 2 – SAVE THE LINK:

Save the pass link to your phone's home screen for easy, one-tap access while walking.

STEP 3 – CHECK IN & WIN:

When you arrive at a participating location, open your mobile pass, scan the local QR code to validate your check-in, and earn points toward exciting local prizes!



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026



4:00 PM – OPENING CEREMONY: FOUNDATIONS OF LIBERTY

LOCATION: Abingdon Muster Grounds (1780 Muster Pl)

DETAILS: Join us for the official kickoff of LibertyFest 2026! This event features the activation of the Abingdon Muster Grounds, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, opening remarks from local dignitaries, and light refreshments. Visitors can also enjoy guided tours of the newly restored historic Retirement home.



7:30 PM – 9:30 PM – THURSDAY NIGHT JAMS:
DAVE EGGAR PRESENTS "BRIDGERTON BAROQUE"

LOCATION: Abingdon Market Pavilion
(100 Remsburg Dr)

DETAILS: Pull up a chair and experience a sensational evening of live music that bridges classical elegance and modern energy.

Artist Spotlight: Cellist and string arranger Dave Eggar has earned "rock star" status in the pop music world. He is the first-call cellist for global superstars including Coldplay, Evanescence, John Legend, Lewis Capaldi, Bebe Rexha, and Foreigner. In addition to performing with jazz and pop royalty, Eggar has collaborated with the New York City Ballet, the San Francisco Ballet, and the Complexions



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

10:00 AM – LECTURE: MERCHANTS OF THE HOLSTON VALLEY

LOCATION: Abingdon Train Station (306 Depot Sq SW)

DETAILS: Discover how frontier merchants supplied remote settlements and supported the colonial economy along the Holston Valley during the Revolutionary War.



1:00 PM – LECTURE: THE FINCASTLE RESOLUTIONS

LOCATION: Abingdon Train Station (306 Depot Sq SW)

DETAILS: Step into the frontier story that helped ignite a Revolution. In January 1775, frontier leaders gathered on the rugged edge of Virginia's western border to draft a bold statement to the Continental Congress, asserting they were resolutely determined "never to surrender" their rights to any power on earth, except at the expense of their lives.

3:00 PM – HEADSTONE PRESERVATION WORKSHOP

LOCATION: Sinking Spring Cemetery (123 Russell Rd NW)

DETAILS: "Every stone tells a story—if we can still read it." Join us for a fascinating, hands-on workshop led by Laura Stotts, founder of Grave Preservation and the popular historical blog Diary of Abandonment. Learn the proper, non-invasive techniques used by professionals to clean, restore, and protect historic gravestones.



**6:00 PM – 1860 VINTAGE BASE-BALL GAME &
DEMONSTRATION**

LOCATION: Meadows Sports Complex (78 Cook St)

DETAILS: Step back in time and experience America's pastime the way it was played in the mid-19th century! Watch a full-costume demonstration match featuring vintage-style wool uniforms, original equipment, and the authentic rules of 1860.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM – LIVING HISTORY DAY I

LOCATION: Fairview Farm & Homestead (908 Hillman Hwy)

DETAILS: Step into the past with colonial encampments, historical interpreters, military drills, blacksmithing, woodworking, open-hearth cooking, and hands-on activities for the whole family.



2:00 PM - 3:00 PM – SPECIAL LECTURE:

VIRGINIA'S CONFLICT WITH THE CHEROKEE (1776)

LOCATION: Abingdon Train Station (306 Depot Sq SW)

DETAILS: Historian Walter Bailey, M.A., explores the 1776 conflict between Virginia settlers and the Cherokee, including frontier life around present-day Abingdon, military campaigns, the impact on pioneer families, and westward migration. Bailey is Registrar of the New River Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and a descendant of early Abingdon-area pioneer John Bailey.

3:30 PM – MARCH TO THE MUSTER

LOCATION: Abingdon Market Pavilion
to Abingdon Muster Grounds

DETAILS: Join a participatory historical march inspired by the frontier men and women who left their homes and livelihoods to defend their freedom during the American Revolution. Upon arrival, experience historical interpreters, demonstrations, living-history activities, guest speakers, and stories reflecting on the sacrifices of those who answered the call.



7:00 PM – STEW AND BREW SQUARE DANCE

LOCATION: Abingdon Market Pavilion (100 Remsburg Dr)

DETAILS: Enjoy an evening of Appalachian food, local beverages, live music, dancing, and history in a period-inspired atmosphere. Learn about Sol's Tavern, sample locally prepared stew and specialty beverages, and join a traditional square dance. Beginners are welcome—no experience or partner required, with instruction and calling provided. Period attire encouraged.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

10:00 AM – LIVING HISTORY DAY 2

LOCATION: Abingdon Muster Grounds (1780 Muster Pl)

DETAILS: Continue the living-history experience with historical interpreters, demonstrations, period activities, family-friendly programming, and stories from the Revolutionary era.



10:30 AM – FIGHTING PARSON CONVENTICLE

LOCATION: Abingdon Muster Grounds (1780 Muster Pl)

DETAILS: Explore the role of faith on the frontier through a historical presentation about unauthorized religious gatherings, religious persecution, and the hardships faced by early Southwest Virginia communities.



11:00 AM – COLONIAL PICNIC & APPLE FEST

LOCATION: Abingdon Muster Grounds (1780 Muster Pl)

DETAILS: LibertyFest Closing Event. Bring a picnic and spend the afternoon at the Abingdon Muster Grounds enjoying historical interpreters, Revolutionary-era games, demonstrations, storytelling, family activities, colonial-themed experiences, and Apple Fest activities.

ALL WEEKEND:

COLONIAL FOOD, DRINK, AND FAMILY FUN

Look out for historic recipes, specialty colonial-style brews, cider, and hands-on colonial games and crafts for children at both the Abingdon Muster Grounds and Main Street venues.

ADDITIONAL EVENT EXPERIENCES:

Barter Theatre seasonal productions &

VA250 Mobile Museum Experience (10 am-4 pm throughout the weekend)

FEATURED ATTRACTION

KINGS MOUNTAIN PLAY

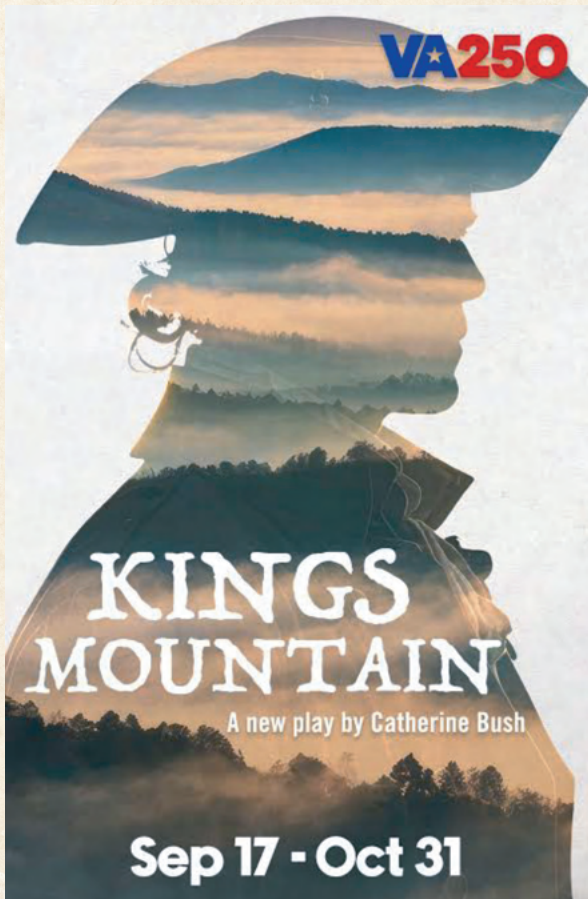
LOCATION: Barter Theatre - Smith Theatre

DATES: September 17 - October 31, 2026

DETAILS: Complete your festival experience with this powerful theatrical tour-de-force commissioned by VA250. Witness the world of the Overmountain Men, the British soldiers who crossed oceans to fight them, and the voices of enslaved Americans contemplating what "liberty" truly meant.

LibertyFEST SHOWTIMES:

Friday 9/25: 7:30 PM | Saturday 9/26: 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM



PURCHASE TICKETS AT BARTERTHEATRE.COM



PLAN YOUR ADVENTURE!

The Abingdon Visitor Center is here to help you "find your way to play" during LibertyFest and beyond! Reach out to us for lodging, dining, and historical itineraries.

ABINGDON VISITOR CENTER

ADDRESS: 208 W. Main St., Abingdon, VA 24210

PHONE: (276) 676-2282

EMAIL: acvb@abingdon-va.gov

WEBSITE: VisitAbingdonVirginia.com

STAY CONNECTED:

Sign up for updates on our website to receive local history stories, travel news, and upcoming event announcements!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

@AbingdonMusicAndEvents

@VisitAbingdonVa



BARTER
THEATRE

VA250

