

**Call for Papers (CFP): Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society
2026 American Literature Association Conference**

Writing the American Revolution: Literary Representations from Sedgwick to the Present

Marking the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society invites proposals that explore how American writers have represented the Revolutionary War across time, genres, and perspectives. Sedgwick's *The Linwoods* (1835) is among the earliest works of American fiction to take the Revolutionary War as its central subject. Appearing at a moment when the cultural memory of the Revolution was still actively forming, the novel helped establish narrative ideological framework that would shape subsequent literary representations of the nation's founding conflict. Yet the American Revolution has never been a static subject in American literature. How have writers have continually reimagined the war in response to shifting historical moments, political pressures, and cultural needs?

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Early fictionalizations of the Revolution and the emergence of national historical narrative
- Shifting emphases on military campaigns, battlefield heroism, and martial sacrifice
- Representations centered on singular historical figures versus collective or communal experience
- Literary depictions of the war's impact on everyday life, including women, families, children, enslaved people, Indigenous communities, and Loyalists
- Narratives focused on the causes of the Revolution, political ideology, and revolutionary sentiment
- The Revolution in international, Atlantic, or transnational contexts
- Genre-specific treatments of the war (historical romance, domestic fiction, children's literature, popular fiction, drama, poetry)

While proposals engaging directly with Sedgwick's *The Linwoods* are encouraged, we also welcome comparative and longitudinal studies that consider other American writers—from the early republic to the present—who have reimagined the Revolutionary War for new audiences and historical moments.

Submission Guidelines:

Please submit a 250 to Maureen.Tuthill@liu.edu by **January 26**, with the subject line "CMSS ALA Proposal." Proposals for both individual papers and fully constituted panels are welcome. Include a brief biography (100 words) and specify any audio-visual or technical requirements for your presentation.

For more information about the Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society, please visit cmsedgwickociety.org