

# JUST AS ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL ALL GOOD HISTORY IS PERSONAL

—MARCIA CLARK

## Priest Field and the Colonial Founding of the Catholic Church

The major events that began the Catholic Church in what is today the eastern panhandle of West Virginia were started by Bishop John Carroll when he sent Father Demetrius Gallitzin to what was then Smithfield, Virginia to investigate the situation which became known as Wizard's Clip. This paper explores the two most significant happenings in the history of the Catholic Church in America. First, the formation of the country's government under the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights, and second, John Carroll being named Bishop of all the Catholics in the thirteen original states. Enter Prince Demetrius Gallitzin (a.k.a. Fr. Smith) who became the first Catholic priest ever to be trained and ordained into the priesthood of the United States and his investigation into the events that led to Priest Field Pastoral Center.

PRESENTER

### Bob O'Connor

Bob is the author of over two-dozen books, both fiction and non-fiction, mostly about the American Civil War. The books cover topics and/or persons not well-known, yet which have a local connection. Bob has appeared at over 1,000 events in 29 states and the District of Columbia, including the U.S. Naval Academy, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, National Parks including Gettysburg National Battlefield, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and many others. For the last ten years, Bob has been a full-time author, historian, and researcher. He lives in Charles Town, WV. Bob's website is: [www.boboconnorbooks.com](http://www.boboconnorbooks.com).



WIZARD CLIP. After the 1794 Death of a stranger at Adam Livingston's farm, mysterious noises & clippings of garments frightened Smithfield, VA residents for years; the village today is Middleway, WV. When the Wizard Clip demon was finally exorcised by two priests (Fr. Denis Cahill, and Fr. Demetrius Gallitzin), Livingston donated ten-percent of his land holdings to the local Catholic Society. Today that land is Priest Field Pastoral Center.