



## David Library hosting author Oct. 2

Rich Cuccagna

September 15, 2016

The David Library of the American Revolution will present a lecture on Thomas Jefferson given by Robert M. S. McDonald, a member of the faculty at the United States Military Academy at West Point, on Sunday, October 2 at 3 p.m. The public is invited to the admission-free event, which will be held at the David Library, 1201 River Road, Washington Crossing. Reservations are required.

Professor McDonald's lecture is titled, "Confounding Father: Thomas Jefferson, Revered and Reviled," and is based on McDonald's new book, *Confounding Father, Thomas Jefferson's Image in His Own Time*.

Robert M. S. McDonald is adjunct scholar of the Cato Institute. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia, Oxford University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he earned his Ph.D. A specialist on Thomas Jefferson and the early American republic, he is editor of *Thomas Jefferson's Military Academy: Founding West Point*, and author of *Light & Liberty: Thomas Jefferson and the Power of Knowledge*, and *Sons of the Father: George Washington and His Protégés*. He is completing an edited volume to be titled *Thomas Jefferson's Lives: Biographers and the Battle for History*. He lives in Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York, with his wife, Christine, and their children Jefferson and Grace.

"Few figures in American history provoke as much of a division in public opinion as Thomas Jefferson," says McDonald, who serves on the David Library's Academic Advisory Council. His lecture at the David Library will explore how Jefferson emerged as such a divisive figure, noting that "Jefferson's bifurcated image took shape both as a product of his own creation and in response to factors beyond his control." It's a story of disagreements over issues and ideology and the rules of politics, he explains, adding, "In the first fifty years of Independence, Americans' views of Jefferson revealed much about their conflicting views about the promise and purpose of America."