

Norman Desmarais, professor emeritus at Providence College, lives in Lincoln, RI and is an active re-enactor. He is a member of Le Regiment Bourbonnais, the 2nd Rhode Island Regiment and the Brigade of the American Revolution. He is editor-in-chief of *The Brigade Dispatch*, the journal the Brigade of the American Revolution and the author of *Battlegrounds of Freedom*, the 6-volume *The Guide to the American Revolutionary War*, and *The Guide to the American Revolutionary War at Sea and Overseas* which covers more than 10,500 actions. He has also translated the *Gazette Française*, the French newspaper published in Newport, RI by the French fleet that brought the Count de Rochambeau and 5800 French troops to America in July 1780. It is the first known service newspaper published by an expeditionary force.

His latest book, *America's First Ally: France in the Revolutionary War*. *Ally* is a comprehensive look at how France influenced the American War of Independence in a variety of ways; intellectually, financially, and militarily. The book begins with an overview of the intellectual and ideological contributions of the French Enlightenment thinkers, called the philosophes, to the American and French revolutions. It then moves to cover the many forms of aid provided by France to support America during the Revolutionary War. This ranged from the covert aid France supplied America, beginning two years before her official entry into the war, to financial, military and naval assistance. This book is the first attempt to quantify France's contribution to the war and it profiles 25 French outfitters and merchants who provided much-needed military supplies to the Americans.

Norman has also written a number of articles, including:

Why Newport, Rhode Island, Scorned The French. *Journal of the American Revolution*. January 2, 2020. (<https://allthingsliberty.com/2020/01/why-newport-rhode-island-scorned-the-french/>)

The First Catholic Mass in Rhode Island—Newport, 1780. *Online Journal of Rhode Island History*. February 2, 2019. <http://smallstatebighistory.com/identifying-french-landing-site-newport/>

Identifying the French Landing Site in Newport. *Online Journal of Rhode Island History*. January 21, 2017. <http://smallstatebighistory.com/identifying-french-landing-site-newport/>

A French Officer Seeks to Rebuild Aquidneck Island's Revolutionary War Fortifications. *Online Journal of Rhode Island History*. August 25, 2016. <http://smallstatebighistory.com/french-officer-seeks-rebuild-aquidneck-islands-revolutionary-war-fortifications/>

The French Soldiers Who Died at Newport During the Revolutionary War. *Online Journal of Rhode Island History*. March 4, 2016. <http://smallstatebighistory.com/french-soldiers-who-died-at-newport-during-the-revolutionary-war/>

The French Soldiers Commemorated at the North Burial Ground in Providence. *Online Journal of Rhode Island History*. Oct. 15, 2015. <http://smallstatebighistory.com/the-french-soldiers-commemorated-at-the-north-burial-ground-in-providence/>

Mapping the British and French Occupation of Newport. *The Brigade Dispatch*. 43:1 (Spring 2013) pp. 9-13.