

**To Begin**

The purpose of this new publication is to inform, inspire, and build our community of advocates for understanding and appreciating the American Revolution. The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati is a shared enterprise that draws strength from the thousands who are committed, with us, to promoting the memory and ideals of the greatest moment in our history.

We want you to know what we have done, are doing, will do, and what we aspire, with your encouragement, participation, and support, to do. Reaching out occasionally isn't enough. Reaching out every six months or every quarter would leave us with too much to report. Even monthly it will be a challenge to tell you about our work, our plans, and our aspirations.

We want you to be more than a spectator, a friend, or a donor. We want you to be all three, but we also want you to be a missionary. Although the Institute is as varied as the vast event we promote, our core message is simple: The American Revolution gave us our independence, established our republic, created our national identity, and committed our nation to ideals of liberty, equality, natural and civil rights, responsible citizenship, and the rule of law that have defined our history and will shape our future.

Every American should understand and appreciate these facts. Our schools should teach them. We need to help equip our schools to teach them well. We need to rally historians and writers who shape the way history is understood to our cause. We need to engage the energy and interest of the many thousands—indeed millions—of Americans who are proud of our country and its ideals and determined, in the finest spirit of our Revolution, to achieve the continuous improvement of our nation and the fulfillment of its highest ideals. We need to persuade our leaders to embrace our cause. Our purpose is not to tear down. It is to build up, and in so doing to build the more perfect union our ancestors imagined, and more perfect even than they could have imagined.

If you are not an Associate of the American Revolution Institute, we invite you to become one. If you are, reach out and tell a friend about the Institute. Forward this publication to them. Tell them about our shared enterprise. Tell them we need their commitment. Invite them to join you. Help us grow, and by growing, to succeed, as we certainly will.

Help us succeed in the spirit of cordial affection—the heartfelt spirit that motivated the founders of the Society of the Cincinnati at the end of a long and terrible war for independence. Help us meet those with whom we disagree with the grace that has shaped our nation's proudest moments, remembering that civility is not a sign of weakness, but of conviction and commitment to persuade as well as to prevail.

**Explore the American Revolution Institute Online**

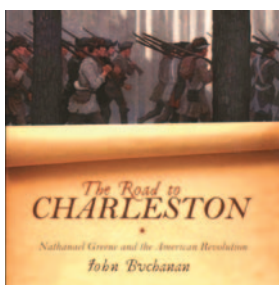
Our headquarters is temporarily closed to visitors, but we invite you to stay connected with the Institute through our website and social media channels. Explore our Classroom Resources, Videos of Historical Lectures, Virtual Exhibition Galleries, Museum and Library Collections Highlights, Downloadable Publications and much more.



[AmericanRevolutionInstitute.org](http://AmericanRevolutionInstitute.org)

**The Society of The Cincinnati Prize**

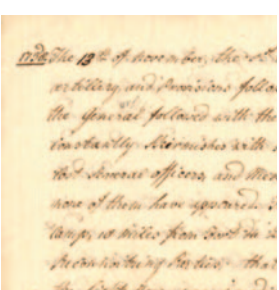
The American Revolution Institute is pleased to announce that the 2020 Society of the Cincinnati Prize will be presented to John Buchanan, for his book *The Road to Charleston: Nathanael Greene and the American Revolution* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2019), a carefully researched and skillfully written narrative of the last years of the Revolutionary War in the Carolinas. Mr. Buchanan, who lives in New York, served as the chief registrar of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and is the author *The Road to Guilford Courthouse: The American Revolution in the Carolinas* (1997), and *The Road to Valley Forge: How Washington Built the Army that Won the Revolution* (2004). The Society of the Cincinnati Prize is presented annually to an outstanding book on the American Revolution and its legacy, selected by a committee of scholars, educators, and writers. *Learn more about the prize and its distinguished recipients on the American Revolution Institute website.* We look forward to presenting the prize when the current public health crisis has passed. In the meantime, if you need a good book to read while you wait out the crisis, your time would be well spent with *The Road to Charleston*.



[Watch His Presentation on the Book](#)

**"too brave to skulk behind trees"**

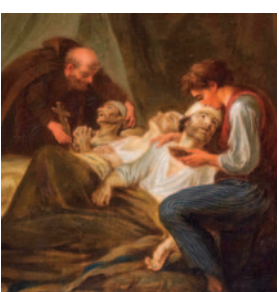
The brutality of warfare in the North American wilderness during the French and Indian War comes through vividly in a unique British officer's manuscript journal recently acquired for our library. The author, Rudolph Bentinck, was a Dutch-born lieutenant in the Royal American Regiment assigned to Gen. John Forbes' expedition to drive the French out of the Ohio River Valley. Describing a violent ambush by French troops and their Indians allies on a force led by Maj. James Grant near Fort Duquesne on September 14, 1758, Bentinck wrote that the British troops were "not much acquainted with the Indian way of fighting, and too brave to skulk behind trees." The journal goes on to record the appointment the following November of Col. George Washington as a brigadier in command of one of three divisions to mount a final assault on the fort. Bentinck's thirty-page journal is a landmark acquisition for the Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection, which focuses on the theory and practice of warfare in the age of the American Revolution. The purchase was supported by an anonymous donor—and we are always looking for donors interested in helping us build our collections.



[Learn More About its Rich Content](#)

**Lessons from a Revolutionary Epidemic**

George Washington's aggressive response to epidemic disease during the Revolutionary War offers lessons for today. That war was fought not just against British forces, but against an enemy far more dangerous: smallpox, one of the most dreaded diseases of the eighteenth century. Washington and his senior officers worked ceaselessly to prevent the spread of disease among their troops. There was no glory in it, but it saved lives, and ultimately saved the Revolution.



[Read the Blog](#)

**Our Largest Class of Fellows Ever**

We recently named six scholars of the Revolutionary era as our latest and largest class of American Revolution Institute fellows. Our research fellowships, made possible through the generous support of donors including the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati and the Society of Colonial Wars of the District of Columbia, support the fellow's work in our library, and expose them to the Institute and its aims. The program is an important way to influence constructive scholarship on the Revolution and build awareness of the Institute and its aims among the rising generation of historians. Their topics range from colonial borderland disputes with native populations to French impressions of America during and after the Revolutionary War. They will join an alumni of more than fifty scholars—from universities across the United States, as well as from Great Britain, France and even New Zealand—who have been fellows of the Institute since our program began in 2007. Congratulations to our fellowship class of 2020!



[Meet the Institute's 2020 Fellows](#)

**Teachers Moved by Stories of America's First Veterans**

In teacher workshops at Anderson House this winter, we've been sharing the stories of Joseph Winter, Deborah Sampson and other Revolutionary War veterans with educators from eighteen states visiting Washington with their classes. While their students tour familiar landmarks with an educational tour operator, their teachers have chosen to spend half a day at Anderson House learning about the Institute's curriculum goals, collections and resources for the classroom. We are sending them home with model lesson plans. While they are with us, we take the teachers to visit our library and our current exhibition and we share a curated selection of works from our museum and library for up close examination. They go home as recruits to our cause.



[Explore America's First Veterans Collection for the Classroom](#)

**Our Revolution Spreads to Hawaii**

A core idea of our curriculum is that independence was just an aspiration on July 4, 1776. American independence was achieved when victory was secured and the British evacuated the United States more than seven years later. That's a simple idea, but one that's slipped out of the curriculum of many school systems in recent years along with class time devoted to the Revolutionary War. Our traveling trunk program aims to help correct that by offering teachers an irresistible collection of hands-on materials at no charge to teach their students about the War for Independence. We're delighted to report that our trunks are in Hawaii—the first time the trunks have ever been used there. What caught their attention? The fact that two of our four trunks focus on the American Revolution at sea—maritime themes are an important part of history education in Hawaii. Despite the shutdown of schools across the country, we're actively booking the trunks for the next school year, including one heading to Alaska.



[Learn More About our Traveling Trunks](#)

**Who We Are, What We Do**

Kelsey Atwood, a native of Bentonville, Arkansas, is the tour and public program manager for the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati. Kelsey develops and executes educational events and lectures that take place at the Institute's headquarters, Anderson House, and recruits, trains, and manages the passionate volunteer docents who lead our tours. With our headquarters closed to visitors, Kelsey is scrambling to reschedule events we canceled this spring, develop new ways for visitors to engage with the Institute online, and create a robust lineup of events to start the moment the crisis ends. Despite the fact that we're closed to visitors, this is a very busy time for the professional who manages visitor programs. Her work is critical to the Institute. Public programs attract new supporters and are often our first contact with scholars we recruit to join our movement.

