

Join us on Giving Tuesday—December 1

We need your help. A year ago we bought Samuel F.B. Morse's portrait of Thomas Pinckney, a hero of the Revolution from South Carolina and later president general of the Society of the Cincinnati, diplomat, and candidate for president of the United States. It's a masterpiece that will be a focal point of our collections for generations. But first it needs serious conservation work to put it in the best possible condition. Olin Conservation, which restored the Gettysburg Cyclorama and has conserved scores of major works, is going to do the work—as soon as we raise the money to pay for it.

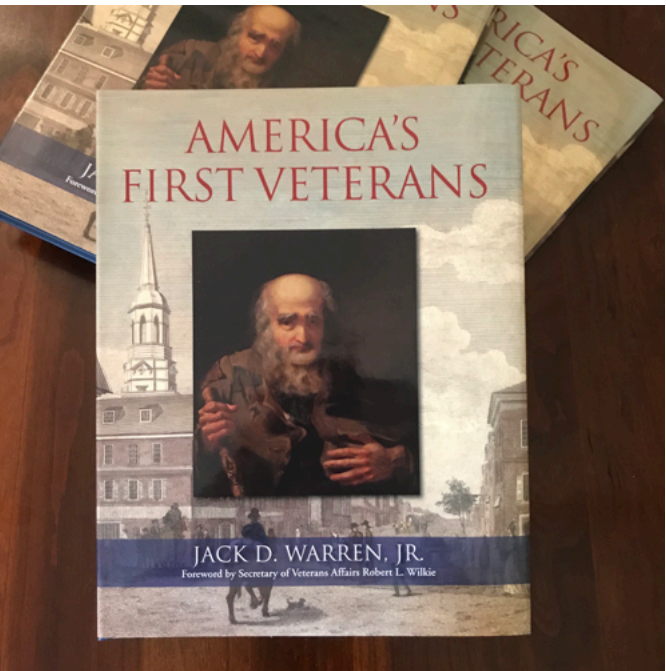
This conservation work is our Giving Tuesday project. Won't you go online and make a contribution to this work? *We have a generous challenge match that will double the value of your gift.* Giving Tuesday is December 1—but why wait? You can go to our Giving Tuesday page right now! With your help, the portrait will be conserved and go on display at Anderson House in late 2021, will travel to South Carolina in 2022, and will be enjoyed for centuries.



[Donate Today](#)

America's First Veterans Author's Talk

Join us online on January 13 for an author's talk with Executive Director Jack Warren on *America's First Veterans*, just published by the Institute. Using eighty-five manuscripts, rare books, prints, broadsides, paintings, and other artifacts, *America's First Veterans* introduces the stories of the men—and some women—who bore arms in the Revolutionary War. The book follows their fate in the seventy years after the war's end and traces the development of public sentiment that led to the first comprehensive military pensions in our history.

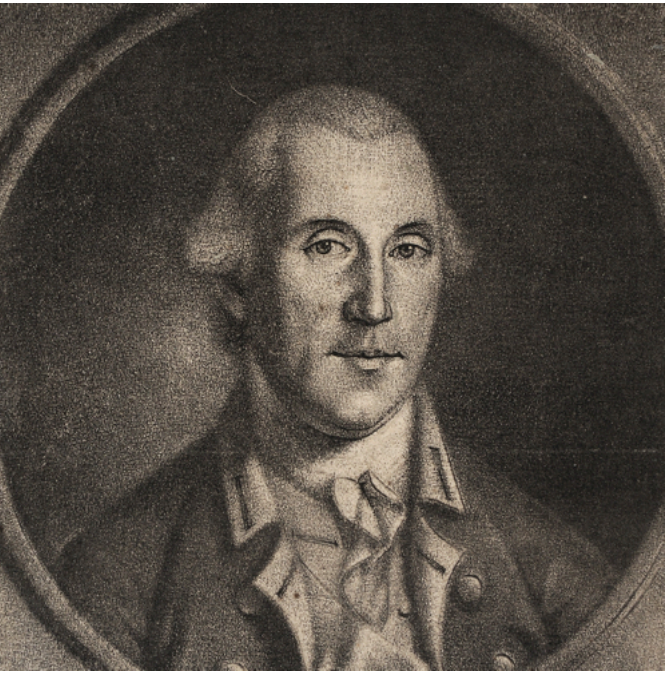


[Register for the Free Event](#)

[Order a Copy of "America's First Veterans"](#)

The Face of Washington

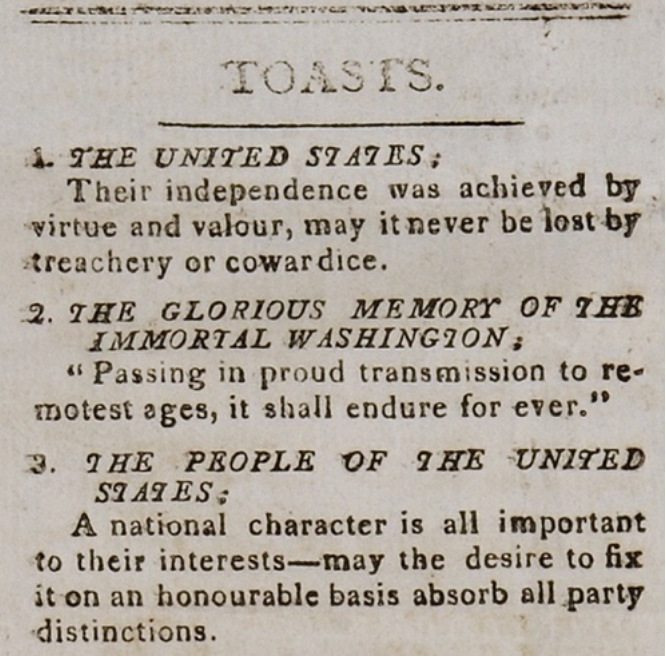
Charles Willson Peale's 1778 mezzotint of George Washington is the first authentic likeness of Washington ever published. Before it was published, few Americans knew what Washington looked like. Peale used his painted portraits of Washington to create the mezzotint—a subtle kind of engraving on a copper plate—from which he struck copies sold by printers and booksellers, which were the source of many subsequent published images of Washington. *Today only three copies of the original print are known.* The best of the three is the one we acquired for our Fergusson Collection in 2014. You can read all about in our new feature in Masterpieces in Detail.



[Learn About the Mezzotint](#)

Raise a Glass

Need inspiration for your holiday festivities? Take a look at the seventeen toasts offered at an 1811 dinner in Philadelphia in honor of Charles Cotesworth Pinckney—two-time Federalist candidate for president, diplomat, Revolutionary War hero, and president general of the Society of the Cincinnati. We recently acquired a very rare broadside with all of the toasts. The first was to the United States: “Their independence was achieved by virtue and valour, may it never be lost by treachery or cowardice.” We couldn't have said it better ourselves. See how many of the toasts could be given today (our answer—nearly all). Newspapers covered the dinner and described it as having “a profusion of the choicest viands, fruits, and wines . . . Hilarity and Happiness were the order of the day . . . toasts, interspersed with songs, and accompanied by music from an excellent Band, were drank.” Sounds like a great party.



[Read the Toasts](#)

How the American Artillery Service was Born

In December 1775 Henry Knox began an epic journey, hauling more than sixty tons of artillery and equipment from Fort Ticonderoga to the Continental Army laying siege to Boston. Knox went on to lead the American artillery in the Revolutionary War. He organized systems to manufacture and maintain guns and equipment, recruit and train men to become artilleryists, and made the artillery an invaluable part of the Continental Army. Our online exhibition [Boom! Artillery in the American Revolution](#) explores American efforts to create an effective artillery service and how it fared against the British on the battlefield.



[View the Exhibition](#)

New Education Project Takes Aim at Revolutionary War Artillery

Artillery in the eighteenth century was high-tech business. Using the original six-pounder cannon on display at Anderson House as a focus for interpretation, we are creating a hands-on, educational experience for visitors focusing on the teamwork and skill that made the Continental Artillery a success. When we reopen for educational programs, we'll be ready with a complete and highly accurate set of handmade artillery tools and ammunition to share with visitors—especially school children.



We're making every piece to the original eighteenth-century specifications. The project is led by Bill Marshall—Society member, master craftsman, and artillery chief—supported by Executive Director Jack Warren and History and Education Associate Evan Phifer. By the new year we'll be ready to work the gun with rammer, sponge, worm, linstock, barrel brush, and powder ladle, and load it with solid shot, grape, and canister. Our young visitors will learn about how brave Americans (including women, who carried water to cool the guns and sometimes assisted in loading and firing, too) made the American artillery a formidable part of the Continental Army. This project honors Lt. Col. Philip Enslow, Jr., whose commitment to educating young people about the Revolution inspires our work.

[View Photos of the Progress](#)

The Institute Online

When the pandemic forced us to suspend programming at Anderson House last spring, we shifted our efforts to building new online resources. Since April 1, daily traffic on the American Revolution Institute website is up five hundred percent. Much of the interest—especially this fall—has focused on our educational resources, especially during this period when teachers and their students are relying heavily on the internet. Among the most popular resources on the American Revolution Institute website are the essay [Why the American Revolution Matters](#) and our online lessons created by participants in our annual master teacher seminars. Interest in [Revolutionary Choices](#), our online (and now downloadable) game, is also growing.



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*The American Revolution secured our independence, created our republic, established our national identity, and expressed ideals of liberty, equality, natural and civil rights, and responsible citizenship that have defined our history and will define our future. The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati promotes knowledge and appreciation of those achievements, fulfilling the aim of the Continental Army officers who founded the Society of the Cincinnati in 1783 to perpetuate the memory of that vast event. The Institute supports advanced study, presents exhibitions and other public programs, advocates effective classroom instruction, and provides resources to teachers and students to enrich understanding of the American Revolution and the principles of the men and women who secured the liberty of the American people.*

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