A New Class of Fellows

We are pleased to introduce our new class of American Revolution Institute fellows for 2021. Our annual fellowship program, launched in 2007, provides support to bring scholars from all over the world to our library to work in a concentrated way with the Institute’s extensive collections on the era of the American Revolution, the art of war in the eighteenth century, and the history of the Society of the Cincinnati. We are grateful to the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, the Society of Colonial Wars in the District of Columbia, and other donors for their generous support of this program, which furthers the Institute’s mission to deepen understanding and appreciation of the achievements of the American Revolution.

This year, our fellows hail from Scotland, Wisconsin, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. Their topics range from the cult of tyrannicide in colonial and Revolutionary America to an examination of Gen. Nathanael Greene’s transition from quartermaster general to commander of the Continental forces in the South during the critical year 1780. Because of the pandemic, we will begin our collaboration with our fellows online, but we look forward to welcoming them to the library in person when the world returns to something closer to normal.

America’s First Veterans Author’s Talk

Executive Director Jack Warren will present an author’s talk on America’s First Veterans, a newly published work by the Institute, on January 13. America’s First Veterans introduces the stories of the men—and some women—who bore arms in the Revolutionary War using eighty-five manuscripts, rare books, prints, broadsides, paintings, and other artifacts. 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.

A Revolutionary Hero in Bronze

“I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.”

The words Nathan Hale is said to have uttered just before being hanged as a spy have become among the best remembered of the Revolution. The story of the young schoolteacher-turned-officer embodied American patriotism and sacrifice for nineteenth-century Americans. But with no contemporary portrait of Hale, citizens did not know what their hero looked like. It took until the turn of the twentieth century for two American sculptors—Frederick MacMonnies and Bela Lyon Pratt—to give Hale a face. Three of their sculptures of Hale are preserved in the Institute’s collections and are the subject of the latest installment in our series Masterpieces in Detail.

Who We Are, What We Do

Sabine Fisher is the museum collections manager for the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati. A native of New York, Sabine grew up exploring museums, zoos, and science centers with her family and was drawn to the object-based learning opportunities they offered. As Museum Collections Manager Sabine works directly with objects to ensure their care and conservation, and she also works to digitize our collection. In the spring of 2020, Sabine began a project to make our museum collections available online in a searchable database. Almost one thousand objects are accessible online, and Sabine adds objects each month.