

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

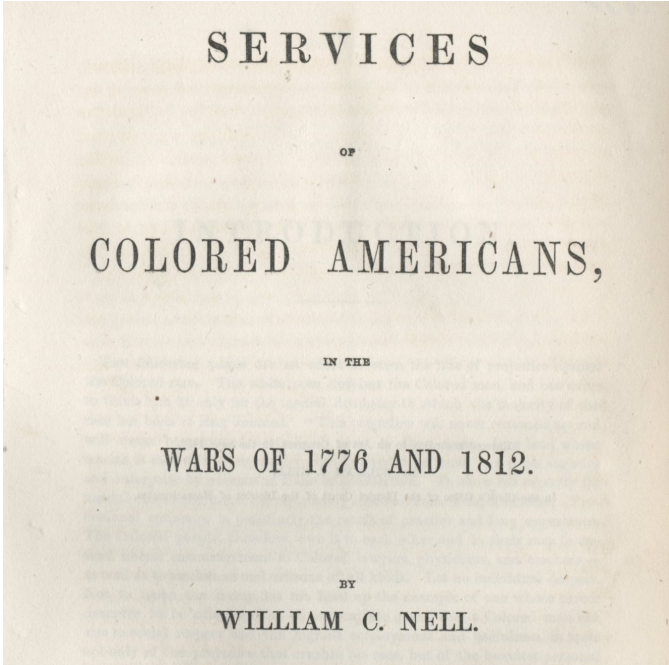
News, Events, and Commentary
from the American Revolution Institute
of the Society of the Cincinnati

today

February 1, 2021

Remembering African American Patriots

More than five thousand African Americans fought on the patriot side during the Revolutionary War. The first person to compile a state-by-state account of their service was William Cooper Nell (1816-1874), an African American writer with ties to Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison. The Institute recently acquired a rare second edition of Nell's *Services of Colored Americans in the Wars of 1776 and 1812* (Boston: Robert F. Wallcut, 1852). Expanded from Nell's original work of the same title published in 1851, this edition featured an introduction by abolitionist Wendell Phillips, with whom Nell was collaborating to promote the erection of a monument to the memory of Boston patriot Crispus Attucks. As Nell noted in his preface, he was inspired by poet John Greenleaf Whittier, who had lamented the fact that African American soldiers of the Revolution had no historian to record their services and sufferings.



The second edition of Nell's work—a modest-looking 40-page pamphlet—was the bridge to his 369-page illustrated book, *The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution*, which was published in 1855 with an introduction by Harriot Beecher Stowe. With its acquisition, the Institute now owns all three editions of Nell's pioneering work, which remain essential sources for the study of African American contributions to the achievement of American independence.

Imagery and National Identity Over Two Centuries

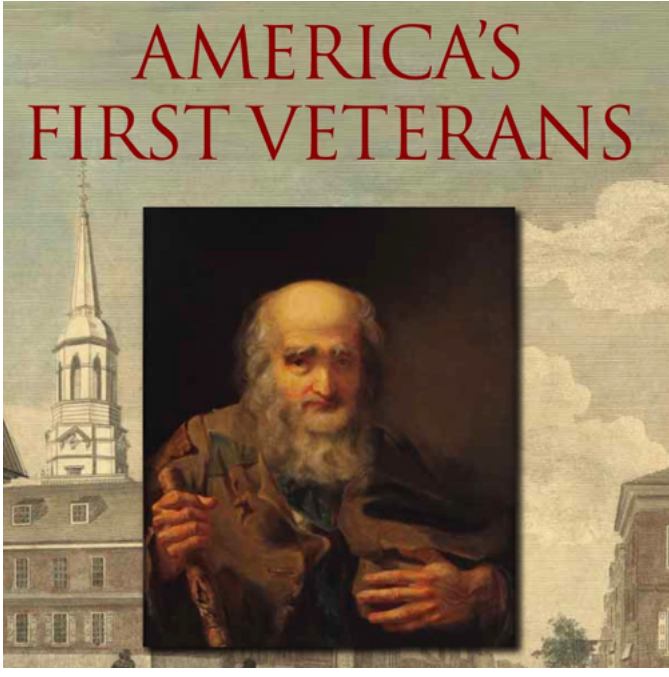
Visual images, from post-Revolutionary paintings and prints to twentieth-century newsreels, have shaped the way Americans understand our nation's history and ideals. We are pleased to announce that we will conduct a free online professional development session for K-12 teachers taking place on March 10 that will examine how visual images helped define and redefine American national identity over the past 250 years. The American Revolution Institute will join the American Antiquarian Society, The Huntington Library, and the National Portrait Gallery to discuss selected images from their collections and offer methods for using images in today's digital learning environment.



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In Case You Missed It

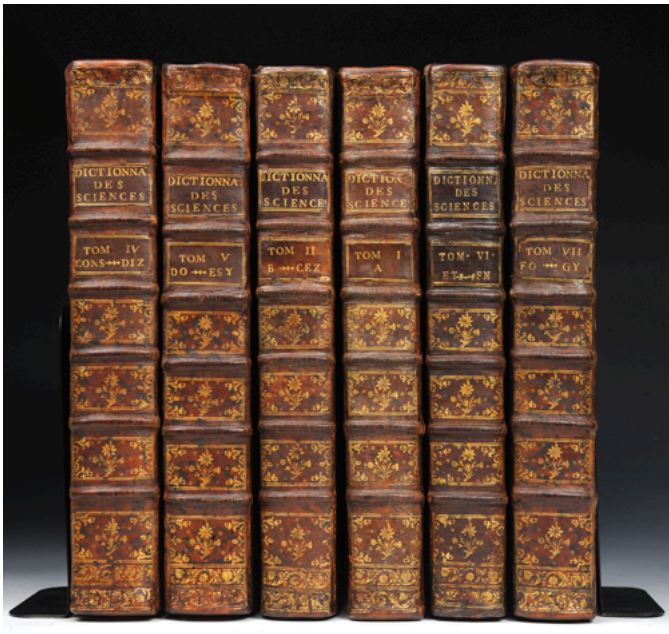
In January we hosted a virtual author's talk on *America's First Veterans* with Executive Director Jack Warren. The book follows the fate of Revolutionary War veterans in the seventy years after the war's end and traces the development of public sentiment that led to the first comprehensive military pensions in our history. A recording of this lecture is now available online. Explore this video and others on the Institute's website in the [Watch and Learn Online](#) section.



[Watch the Video](#)

The Art of War in the Age of Enlightenment

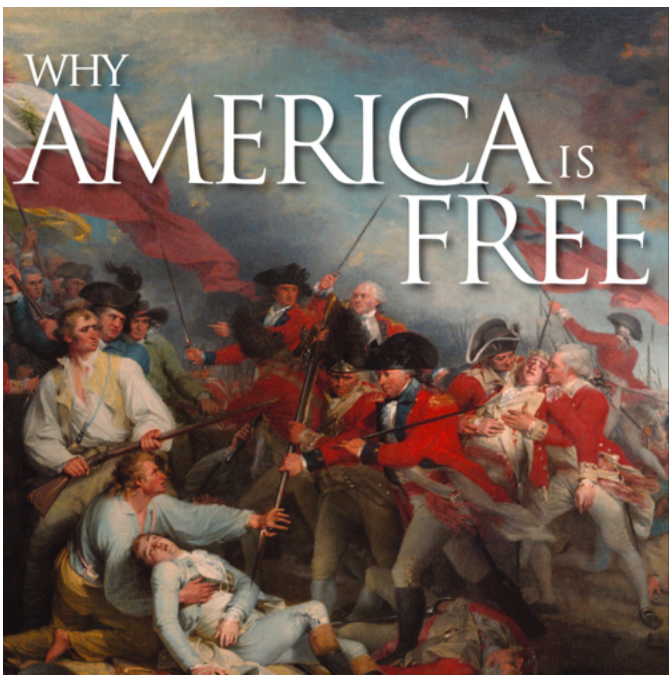
The monumental *Encyclopédie, ou Dictionnaire Raisonné des Sciences, des Arts, et des Métiers*, edited by Denis Diderot and Jean Le Rond d'Alembert, was the first methodical effort to determine and present the entire scope of human knowledge. A crowning achievement of the art of printing, the *Encyclopédie* is known for its entries on and engravings of everyday life and its presentation of complex philosophical, social, and scientific debates during the Enlightenment. The Society of the Cincinnati acquired a complete set of the *Encyclopédie* in 2004. It has since been a pillar of the collection and a treasure trove of information for scholars interested in the growing significance of the art of war in the eighteenth century. The text volumes include nearly 1,250 articles on military subjects that are illustrated within eleven volumes of engravings detailing the evolution of the art and science of war.



[Learn More and View the Engravings](#)

The Glorious Cause

In the spring of 1775 the conflict between patriots and the British ministry and military degenerated into an armed conflict outside Boston that soon spread to other colonies. Finding themselves at war with one of the world's great powers, the patriots organized the Continental Army, drove the British army and navy from Boston, declared their independence, and struggled to defend their independent states from the largest army any European nation had ever sent overseas.



Read about this critical period of the American Revolution in the latest installment of *Why America is Free*, the Institute's online book—a cornerstone of our education program.

[Read The Glorious Cause](#)

Visit Anderson House from Home

Experience the Institute's historic headquarters, Anderson House, from wherever you are through our new virtual tour video. The eighteen-minute narrated video combines sweeping views of the mansion's interiors with closeups of the collections and archival images highlighting the mansion's beauty, history, and purpose today. The video offers views and insights that will delight anyone interested in our headquarters and mission, whether you know Anderson House well or have not yet visited the mansion.



[Watch the Video](#)

Who We Are... What We Do...

What we do, and all that we seek to do, would be impossible without the kind of energy Dr. J. Phillip London brought to our cause, urging us to build an organization capable of carrying it out and advising us on how to do it. As the architect of one of the nation's most successful information technology firms, he knew a thing or two about building an effective organization.



Jack and his wife, Dr. Jennifer London, are leadership donors to the Institute whose major gifts helped finance the first phase of our operations. The Londons also personally sponsored major additions to our collection of Revolutionary War arms as well our exhibition *The American Revolution at Sea*. Jack's company, CACI, International sponsored our current exhibition, *America's First Veterans*.

Jack passed away on January 18, but he and Jennifer will always be a big part of who we are and what we do. He was proud of our ambitions, particularly in education. A member of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, he was a laureate of the Washington-Lafayette Eagle, the General Society's award for service of the highest distinction. No member has demonstrated a greater commitment to the memory and ideals of the American Revolution or recognized more fully the challenges we face, or has been more determined to see the American Revolution Institute succeed. Our future successes will be inspired by his fierce dedication, unyielding patriotism, and remarkable character.



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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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