

## THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

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

# today

September 1, 2021

---

### *The Mysterious William Irvine*

Join us in thanking Richmond Viall III for presenting the Institute with an extraordinary, and mysterious, portrait of his ancestor Brigadier General William Irvine, a Pennsylvanian responsible for the defense of the Ohio frontier during the last years of the Revolutionary War. Dick Viall and his wife, Diane, delivered the portrait to Anderson House on July 8. Dick is a member of the Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati as well as a direct descendant of General Irvine. We are deeply honored that he has entrusted us with this family treasure and given us an opportunity to share the general's story.

The mystery, which we look forward to unraveling, is the identity of the artist. Robert Edge Pine painted a portrait of the general shortly after the war, then well-known portrait painters, including Bass Otis and James Reid Lambdin, painted copies of it in the nineteenth century. Distinguishing these important early copies from one another and from the original is a puzzle. Our new treasure may be the Robert Edge Pine original or one of the uncommonly good early copies painted for members of the general's family. Either way, the portrait is extremely fine and a wonderful addition to our rich and growing [collection of portraits](#) of American and French officers of the Revolutionary War—a collection built through the extraordinary generosity of our members and friends. Our organization honors their gifts and the brave men who led our war for independence, and will continue to do so for centuries to come.



---

### *Revolution in Play*

How did children in the mid-nineteenth century learn

about the American Revolution? They often learned at play. The Historiscope, an early educational toy in the Institute's collections, reflects the people and events of the American Revolution that were most remembered in the second half of the nineteenth century. The scrolling set of lithographs set into a theatrical background was made by Milton Bradley & Co. Half of the images depict scenes related to the American Revolution, from famous depictions of the Battle of Lexington and Concord and the British surrender at Yorktown, to now-obscure subjects like the siege of Quebec and Israel Putnam's escape. A feature on the Historiscope—and its view of how the American Revolution was remembered—is the newest addition to the Masterpieces in Detail section of our website.

[Read More](#)



---

## Religion in Revolution

On September 14 join Professor Katherine Carté of Southern Methodist University for a discussion of the influence of the American Revolution on religious life on both sides of the Atlantic. For most of the eighteenth century, British Protestantism was driven neither by the primacy of denominations nor by fundamental discord between them. Instead, it thrived as part of a complex transatlantic system that bound religious institutions to imperial politics. As Dr. Carté argues, British imperial Protestantism proved remarkably effective in advancing both the interests of empire and the cause of religion until the war for American independence disrupted it. The American Revolution forced a reassessment of the role of religion in public life on both sides of the Atlantic. Dr. Carté's new book *Religion and the American Revolution* demonstrates that if religion helped set the terms through which Anglo-Americans encountered the imperial crisis and the violence of war, it likewise set the terms through which both nations could imagine the possibilities of a new world. Registration is required for this free virtual lecture.

[Learn More and Register](#)



---

## Victorious News

The Institute recently had the good fortune to acquire for the Fergusson Collection a very rare French pamphlet detailing the actions of Admiral de Grasse against the British fleet at the Battle of the Chesapeake, fought two hundred forty years ago this month. The four-page document chronicles the movements of Admiral de Grasse's fleet from its departure for the West Indies the

previous spring through the dramatic battle of September 5, 1781, that left the French fleet in control of the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. It concludes, as the events concluded, with the British surrender at Yorktown the following month and the publication of the full text of the Articles of Capitulation agreed to by Washington, Rochambeau, and de Grasse on one part and “le très honorable le Comte de Cornwallis” on the other. Thought to be a contemporary issue from a French ship’s press, *Précis de la Campagne de l’Armée Navale aux Ordres du Comte de Grasse* provides insight into how the French participants viewed and celebrated their essential role in the allied victory at Yorktown. Explore this new treasure on our Digital Library.



[View on the Digital Library](#)

## *Around the Nation in 180 Days. . .*

Our education program’s traveling trunks are packed for the 2021-2022 academic year and ready to engage with over 1500 students in 100 classrooms across 30 states—including a week at Ravenwood Elementary in Eagle River, Alaska. Since the program’s inception in 2016, teachers in forty-two states and the District of Columbia have used this free resource to promote understanding of and appreciation for the achievements of the American Revolution—our independence, our republic, our national identity, and the articulation of our highest ideals—and to teach young Americans that regardless of where they live or when their family came to this country, the story of the American Revolution is their story—the common inheritance of free people.



[Learn More About our Traveling Trunks](#)



[Read Past Issues](#)

[Subscribe to Our Mailing List](#)



Facebook



Twitter



Instagram



AmericanRevolutionInstitute.org

*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.*



Share



Tweet



Forward

Copyright © 2021 The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)