

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

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

today

October 1, 2021

Join Us for the 2021 George Rogers Clark Lecture

Watch live online as Rick Atkinson delivers the annual George Rogers Clark Lecture, which explores the American Revolution and its legacy today. The Revolution informs who we are, where we came from, what our forebears believed, and what they were willing to die for. What can we learn from their struggle?

The Clark Lecture, presented annually since 1975, recognizes the scholarship of leading historians of the American Revolution. Past Clark Lecturers include Samuel Eliot Morison, Gordon Wood, Pauline Maier, and Kathleen DuVal. Mr. Atkinson, a 2003 Pulitzer Prize winner for history, is the author of *The British Are Coming: The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775-1777*—the celebrated first volume of his intended Revolution Trilogy. The lecture will be livestreamed on Friday, October 22 at 6:30 p.m. EST.



[Watch Live](#)

Celebrate the Return of Thomas Pinckney

Thanks to 195 donors—Society members, Associates, and other supporters—as well as nine constituent societies, we acquired Samuel F.B. Morse's masterful portrait of General Thomas Pinckney at auction in November 2019 and had the funds we needed to conserve it properly. In 2020 the painting went to the studios of Olin Conservation, one of the nation's leading art conservation firms, for thorough treatment. David Olin

(seen here in his studio as the project neared completion a few weeks ago) and his expert team removed layers of dirt, varnish, and old overpainting and painstakingly detached the canvas from a Masonite panel to which it had been glued several decades ago. Restored to its original beauty, the portrait of the Society's fourth president general—an authentic hero of the Revolutionary War who received a crippling wound at the Battle of Camden in 1780—returned to Anderson House on September 9, 2021, and is now on view in the East Stair Hall. Our donors made it all possible. We cannot thank our supporters enough for their generosity.



[Read the roll honoring the donors who made the Pinckney portrait project happen](#)

Perfect Focus

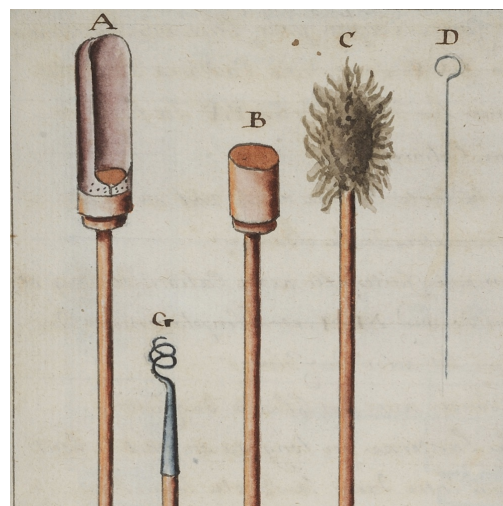
This 1932 classroom poster, *"I Have Grown Grey, and Now Find Myself Growing Blind,"* celebrates the famous moment when George Washington disarmed a threatened mutiny of his officers at Newburgh in March 1783. The Institute owns the letter Washington wrote to David Rittenhouse one month earlier thanking the Philadelphia inventor and instrument maker for the pair of reading glasses that Washington used with such a powerful effect. Given by George Miller Chester, Jr. (Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut), Washington's letter to Rittenhouse is the subject of the latest addition to the Masterpieces in Detail section on our website. A full view of the charming poster inspired by this story can be found on our [Digital Library](#).



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Bringing Artillery to Life

The creativity and generosity of our supporters bring the American Revolution Institute to life. As many of you know, an original American-made brass six-pounder cannon cast in Philadelphia in 1777 is on display in the Great Stair Hall of Anderson House thanks to the generosity of the South Carolina Society of the Cincinnati, which rescued it and brought it to Washington to share with our visitors. Now thanks to the industry and talent of Bill Marshall, a member of the South Carolina Society, we have a complete set of reproduction tools to demonstrate how Continental artillerymen swabbed, loaded, primed, and fired the gun in an elaborate, carefully orchestrated process. A skilled craftsman, Bill fabricated the tools based on eighteenth-



century documents like this rare image from our library collections. When young visitors return to Anderson House, they can take their places in our own gun crew and learn to appreciate the courage and daring of Revolutionary War artillerymen—an experience they can have, thanks to Bill, that they won't get anywhere else.

[Learn more about Revolutionary War artillery in our online feature on the exhibition “Boom!”](#)

Picturing the March to Yorktown

On the fifth anniversary of the declaration of American independence, George Washington and his Continental troops made camp at Dobbs Ferry in Westchester County, New York. It became the first camp shared by the American and French armies on the march that led to Yorktown. Washington and Rochambeau spent the six weeks at Dobbs Ferry finalizing plans for their attack on the British. There General Washington decided to meet the enemy in Virginia rather than New York, setting the stage for the Yorktown campaign.

The Institute just acquired a painting that captures the importance of the alliance between the United States and France. The watercolor-and-gouache painting depicts Washington, Rochambeau, and other generals reviewing French troops near Dobbs Ferry on July 8, 1781—an event described in the letters and journals of American and French officers who witnessed it. More than one hundred years later, illustrator Henry A. Ogden reconstructed the scene using those accounts and additional research on details like the uniforms and landscape. His painting reminds us that the story of how the American and French armies got to Yorktown is just as important to tell as what happened after they arrived.



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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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