

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

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

today

December 1, 2021

The Continental Army in Winter

On December 2, join Dr. Steven Elliott, unit historian for the U.S. Army Center of Military History, for an online discussion about the Continental Army's winter encampments. Eighteenth-century armies rarely campaigned in winter. The Continental Army spent the winter months in fortified encampments, where George Washington and his officers struggled to maintain discipline while keeping their men healthy and adequately supplied through some of the most severe winters of the eighteenth century. Dr. Elliott's new book, *Surviving the Winters: Housing Washington's Army during the American Revolution*, explores how their success in meeting these challenges contributed to victory.



[Learn More and Register](#)

Invest in America's Future: It's not too late to make a Giving Tuesday Gift!

Our [traveling trunk program](#)—now in its sixth year—remains one of a kind. We didn't invent the idea, but we sure made it effective. Our trunks include primary source-based lessons about the Revolutionary War and a remarkable set of reproduction uniforms and civilian costumes from the period. As you can see, one size doesn't exactly fit all, but that doesn't matter. The experience is memorable for students and that's the point. We provide the trunks free of charge to teachers and their students. The trunks reach more than five thousand students in an academic year and have been



used in forty-two states—including Alaska and Hawaii—and the District of Columbia. The trunks are so popular that we are replacing the existing shipping cases due to wear and tear. The cost to ship and maintain quality trunks and their contents approximates \$15,000 a year—an investment of just \$3 per student. Replacing the shipping cases will cost an added \$500 each, but it is money well spent to enrich a child's understanding and appreciation for the achievements and legacy of the American Revolution!

[Donate to the traveling trunk program](#)

A Mysterious French Officer

Last month the Institute purchased an eighteenth-century portrait of an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati who served in the French navy. We haven't identified him—yet. More than two hundred French veterans of the Revolutionary War were original members of the Society of the Cincinnati. The small, circular portrait painted around 1784-1786 depicts the officer in the uniform of a capitaine de vaisseau brigadier in the French navy. On the sitter's left breast is an early Eagle insignia of the Society of the Cincinnati, suspended from a blue-and-white ribbon. By January 1784, King Louis XVI had authorized his officers to wear the insignia of the Society and the first Eagles had been made. Next to the Eagle our mystery officer wears the Order of Malta on a black ribbon. A French naval officer holding this order likely indicates that he served with the Order of Malta's naval forces, which operated against pirate in the Mediterranean.



Though the piece is not signed, we believe the artist was Joseph Vallières, who was active from 1773 to 1792. He painted several profile portraits in a style strikingly similar to the style of our new portrait. We're determined to discover the identity of the sitter.

[View the portrait](#)

Enjoy the Clark Lecture Online

If you missed Rick Atkinson's George Rogers Clark Lecture in October—or would like to see it again—you can now watch it on our website. The lecture was our first live event since March 2020. We will be conducting our lecture programs exclusively online through the end of March 2022, when we expect to resume live events at Anderson House and at venues around the country. Our plan is to provide opportunities for you to watch many of those programs live online and all (or nearly all) of them

in recorded form on the American Revolution Institute website. Watch in the next month for our program calendar for January through April 2022.



[Watch the 2021 Clark Lecture online](#)

American Identity and the Legacy of the American Revolution

On November 18, two of the Institute’s talented master teachers, Robert Schulte (2018) and Laura James (2020), joined Director of Education Stacia Smith for a presentation at the 101st National Council for the Social Studies conference. The hour-long session highlighted the Institute’s resources and five of its online lesson plans exploring how the ideals articulated during the American Revolution—liberty, equality, civic responsibility, and natural and civil rights—have come to embody our national identity. Mr. Schulte, the 2020 New Jersey Council for the Social Studies Teacher of the Year, is the creator of [American “Notions of Independence”](#), a lesson plan that examines how the Declaration of Independence directly influenced the actions of citizens and soldiers of colonial America and features the letters of Captain Jonathan Birge from our Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection. A teacher at Neptune High School, Mr. Schulte also field tested the Institute’s online digital strategy game, [Revolutionary Choices](#), in his classroom. Ms. James, a teacher at Bridgewater-Raritan Regional High School in Bridgewater, N.J., is the author of [What Defined Americans After the Revolutionary War?](#), a lesson asking students to analyze the evolution of what it meant to be an American during the early republic.



[View resources related to this program](#)

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

Join us in welcoming the two newest members of the Institute staff—Andrew Outten (left) and Paul Newman

(right)—experienced eighteenth-century historians.

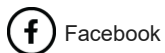
As historical programs manager, Andrew is creating and managing an expanded array of lectures and events on the American Revolution. Andrew has a passion for eighteenth-century military history. He grew up in Chester County, Pennsylvania, graduated from Bloomsburg University, and served as the director of education and museum services at Brandywine battlefield for nearly ten years. A seasoned professional on the Revolutionary War and battlefield preservation and interpretation, he brings energy and experience to the American Revolution Institute.

As our museum collections and operations manager, Paul brings a passion for the material culture of the military to the Institute. With expertise in weapons, uniforms, and other military artifacts, Paul is working to enrich understanding of our collections and present them to the public. Paul comes from Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, and holds a master's degree in museum studies from Newcastle University, which has one of the best museum studies programs in Britain. He has a lifelong interest in military history—he recalls admiring his grandfather's collection of antique swords and military art as a boy. He has worked at military museums in Britain, and more recently in the tour program at the U.S. Capitol.



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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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