

## THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

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

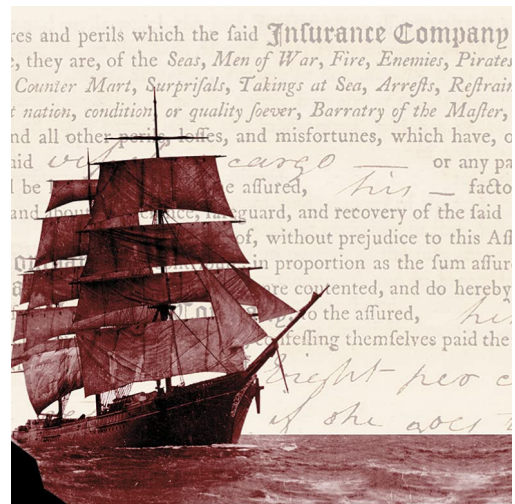
# today

January 1, 2022

### ***Nation Builders and Market Makers***

On January 13, join Dr. Hannah Farber, professor of history at Columbia University, for an online discussion about insurance and its role in the Revolutionary War and the founding of the United States. Unassuming but formidable, American maritime insurers used their position at the pinnacle of global trade to shape America. During the American Revolution, they helped the new nation negotiate foreign loans, sell state debts, and establish a single national bank. Afterward, they increased their influence by lending money to the federal government and to its citizens. Even as federal and state governments began to encroach on their domain, they adapted, preserving their autonomy and authority through extensive involvement in the formation of commercial law. Leveraging their claims to unmatched expertise, they operated free from government interference while simultaneously embedding themselves into the nation's institutional fabric. Dr. Farber's recent book, *Underwriters of the United States: How Insurance Shaped the American Founding*, asserts that these maritime insurers were instrumental nation builders and market makers.

[Learn more and register](#)

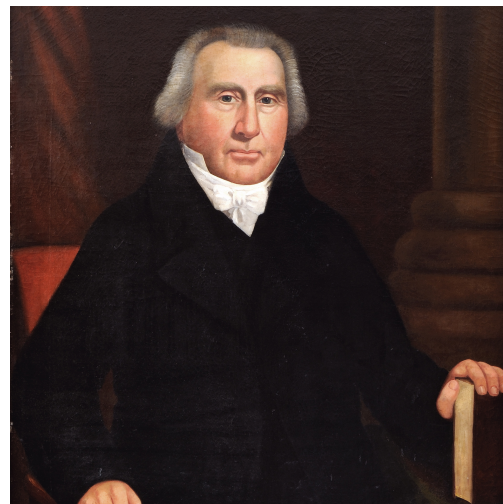


### ***Portrait of a Virginia Dragoon Donated***

We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Graham G. Lacy, Jr., for their recent donation of an oil portrait of Churchill Jones, a Virginia officer in the Continental Light Dragoons during the Revolutionary War. The portrait had been in family hands since it was painted in the early nineteenth century. Mr. Lacy, a great-great grandnephew of Churchill Jones and a member of the Virginia Society

of the Cincinnati, wanted to see his ancestor's portrait preserved by an organization that honors those who fought for American independence—which is precisely the aim of the Institute. We are honored that the Lacys have entrusted us with this rare artwork and provided us with the opportunity to share Churchill Jones' story.

Raised in a wealthy and well-connected family in Tidewater and central Virginia, Churchill Jones left his estate in 1777, at the age of twenty-eight, to join the American army. He was commissioned a captain in the Third Regiment of Continental Light Dragoons led by fellow Virginian Col. George Baylor (whose [portrait miniature](#) depicting the regiment's distinctive white coat faced blue is also in the Institute's collections). With his unit, Jones wintered at Valley Forge, survived a brutal attack by the British in New Jersey in which nearly two-thirds of the regiment was killed or captured, and fought in the southern campaign at Cowpens and Guilford Courthouse. After the war, he returned to his plantation and later bought the storied Fitzhugh house, Chatham, near Fredericksburg. Jones may have commissioned this portrait around the time of his third wedding in 1805.



[See the portrait](#)

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## *Have You Read the News?*

The Institute's library collects newspapers contemporary to the events of the American Revolution and post-war commemorations. Newspapers in the Revolutionary era served as the main source of information about the events across the states; they were so important that people would either buy the paper daily or listen to it read aloud in town. The centerpiece of the Institute's newspaper collection is the Hamilton Newspaper and Ephemera Collection of Antonia Chambers, Esq., acquired in 2018, which extensively documents the life and legacy of Alexander Hamilton. Other highlights of the collection include contemporary European newspapers reporting on the war in America, newspapers from the 1750s covering the French and Indian War, detailed first-hand accounts of battles, and coverage of Society of the Cincinnati meetings.



You can now view a selection of the hundreds of newspapers online.

[Learn more and view select newspapers](#)

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## *A New Class of Fellows*

We are pleased to introduce our new class of American

Revolution Institute fellows for 2022. 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 Maryland Society of the Cincinnati, 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 in a very tangible way the Institute's mission to deepen understanding and appreciation of the achievements of the American Revolution. This year, our seven fellows will be examining a variety of topics including John Jay's influence in the broader culture of Revolutionary America, loyalist women's allegiance during the colonial crisis, and the coordination of "bodies on the ground" to understand the theory of the art of war.



### Meet the Institute's 2022 Fellows

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

Library cataloger E.K. Hong begins her thirtieth year as a member of our staff this month. A native of Seoul, Korea, E.K. has master's degrees in library science from Ewha University, Seoul, and the University of Maryland, as well as coursework towards a doctorate in library science at Columbia University. Our [online library catalog](#) is wholly E.K.'s creation, from our earliest days of automation, through several new versions and upgrades, to the robust interactive database that makes our collections accessible to the world. Her meticulous records—with customized subject headings and extra notes—are much praised and appreciated by scholars, allowing them to dig deeply and make connections across our holdings. The noted military historian Ira Gruber, who has worked in all of the major research collections of America and Great Britain, wrote simply, "You have the best catalog I have seen anywhere."



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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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