

Honoring General Philip Schuyler

Our advocacy is making a difference in Albany, New York, where the mayor recently issued an executive order to remove a century-old statue of Major General Philip Schuyler, one of the highest ranking officers in the Continental Army and an original member of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati, from outside city hall. Her reason: several city hall workers are allegedly “uncomfortable” with the statue because General Schuyler, who was one of the wealthiest landowners in the region, owned slaves—ignoring his role in the struggle to vindicate the ideal of universal liberty. The Institute immediately appealed to the mayor to rescind her order, published an appreciation of General Schuyler, and published our appeal to the mayor. Local citizens who share our position have adopted our arguments and are demanding public hearings on the issue. The editors of the Albany *Times Union*, the city’s main newspaper, have asked to publish our argument for honoring General Schuyler in their August 9 issue. This one isn’t over...



[Read "The Philip Schuyler Statue: An Appeal"](#)

Why is America Free?

That’s a question all Americans—especially today’s students—should be able to answer. Most can’t. The answer is that America is free because nearly 250 years ago, brave Americans went to war to secure their independence, and went on to create the first modern republic, establish a new nation, and dedicate it to ideals of liberty, equality, natural and civil rights, and responsible citizenship. Those ideals have defined our nation ever since, and have led to the expansion of liberty at home and have inspired billions of people abroad. That’s the answers readers learn from *Why America is Free*, the Institute’s new book and a centerpiece of the American Revolution Institute curriculum. The text of the book is now being published in serial form on our website, and will be published in a richly illustrated hardcover edition to be released this fall.



[Read "Why is America Free?"](#)

[Read "Why America is Free: British America"](#)

[Read "Why America is Free: The Shaping of the Revolution"](#)

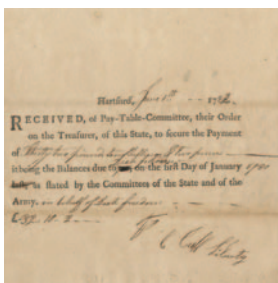
Our Master Teachers Go Online

In a normal year, the American Revolution Institute Master Teachers Seminar is a week-long residential program—teachers learn new approaches, conduct research in our library for a class lesson on an American Revolution theme, and discuss best practices for teaching students about the Revolution. This isn’t a normal year. Our ninth annual Master Teachers Seminar, July 13-17, was conducted completely online. The Institute’s digital museum and library collections were our focus. Teachers used our new online museum database and our library catalog to identify items to inspire students, then crafted asynchronous lessons—that’s teacher-speak for learning activities that students complete at different times, often remotely. With so many school systems resorting to online learning this fall, the lessons we offer online will be more important than ever.



Liberty and Freedom—in Person

Our collections include thousands of manuscript pages, each a unique record of the Revolution or its legacy. Often the simplest manuscripts invite us to explore remarkable stories—among them a simple receipt we recently acquired, acknowledging a soldier’s pay. It was signed by a soldier named Cuff Liberty, acknowledging the receipt of thirty-two pounds, ten shillings, and two pence owed to a soldier named Dick Freedom. Cuff Liberty and Dick Freedom were African-American soldiers, each almost certainly a slave before the war, and known only as Cuff and Dick. Like many enslaved people, they had no surnames. As free men, they undoubtedly chose Liberty and Freedom for their last names. They served together in the Fourth Regiment of the Connecticut Continental Line from 1778 until the end of the war. African-Americans made up something like nine percent of the total number of men who served in the armed forces during the Revolutionary War, but they typically served much longer than white soldiers, and late in the war may have made up as much as twenty percent of the men in arms.



[Look at this and Other Highlights of our Manuscript Collections](#)

[Read About African-American Soldier Peter Hunter](#)

Small Faces, Extraordinary History

Conserving our Revolutionary treasures is a critical part of good stewardship. We want Americans to be able to understand and appreciate the American Revolution for centuries, so we treat the art and artifacts, printed works and manuscripts in our collections with extraordinary care. We just finished conservation work on portrait miniatures of two Revolutionary War officers painted by Charles Willson Peale in 1778. One portrays George Baylor, who served as aide-de-camp to George Washington. He was colonel of the Third Continental Dragoons when Peale painted his portrait at Valley Forge in the spring of 1778. The second portrays William Truman Stoddert, brigade major to his uncle, General William Smallwood. He was the lieutenant colonel of the Fifth Regiment of the Maryland Line when Peale captured his likeness.



[Learn More About this Conservation Project](#)

Join us for Mapping Revolutionary New York

We’re now recording the informal lunchtime talks we call Lunch Bites and posting them on our website for you to enjoy any time. They’re a great way to learn more about our collections and the remarkable insights they offer about the American Revolution—and you don’t have to come to Anderson House at lunchtime to do it. In our next installment, Kieran O’Keefe, a young historian who specializes in Revolutionary War history, will discuss eighteenth-century mapmaking, focusing on a 1775 map of New York. The premier will be on August 15. You can pose questions for Kieran (how were maps made before aerial photographs or satellite imagery, anyway?) and he will answer them in the video. Go to the link below and pose your questions online until August 3.



[Learn More About this Event](#)

The Lively Revolution

The American Revolution began some 250 years ago, but its values—personal independence, republican institutions, American national identity, liberty, equality, natural and civil rights, and civic responsibility—define our culture and shape our public life. We discuss the living history and ideals of the Revolution in our blog posts, and invite you to subscribe for perspectives on the American Revolution you won’t find anywhere else.



Blog is an inelegant word for what we think is an elegant idea—timely essays on Revolutionary history, historical memory, and history education. We’re not afraid of controversy and public debate. You may not always agree with us, but we hope you share our conviction that the Revolution matters. The memory of the Revolution is too important for us to sit idly by while others debate what should be taught, remembered, and honored (or dishonored) in our shared past. Our post on “[The Revolutionary Dishonesty of the ‘1619 Project,’](#)” disputes the false claims of the New York Times and asks Americans to embrace the Revolution and its principles as the common inheritance of free people, to respect the men and women who secured our independence as our benefactors, and to recognize that the work they began is not yet done. What about our post [Margaret Corbin, Revolutionary](#), about the first woman wounded in combat in our nation’s history? Subscribe to our blog to read her story and stories of other remarkable Americans—women and men, rich and poor, of all backgrounds—who fought to make America free.

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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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