THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

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



We Share Their Stories

Our 2020 Resources for Students and Teachers publication highlights the Institute's online educational materials and folds out to a 22"x 34" classroom poster featuring the portraits of twelve "faces of the Revolution," including Continental officer James Fairlie, poet Phillis Wheatley, and veteran John Richard Watrous, to remind everyone that the achievements of our Revolution were shaped by many thousands of Americans who collectively secured our independence, established our republic, created our national identity, and committed us to ideals of liberty, equality, natural and civil rights, and responsible citizenship. Misguided cynics say that our history is defined by oppression. We know better. Our history is defined by the diverse Americans who committed themselves to revolutionary ideals and worked to realize them. We Share Their Stories. To request a copy, send your mailing address to Education Director Stacia Smith at ssmith@societyofthecincinnati.org.



Thomas Pinckney Under a Microscope

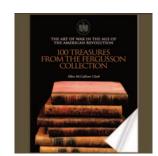
Conservation of our oil portrait of Thomas Pinckney has begun, with the first stage of testing and analysis revealing the history of the painting in microscopic layers. Experts from Olin Conservation, Inc., of Great Falls, Virginia, are using ultraviolet light, microscopic analysis, and other tools to examine and identify the artist's original paint and varnish layers, as well as the last two hundred years of damage, repaint, and restoration efforts. This first stage allows the conservators to determine the techniques and materials they will use and to develop a comprehensive plan for restoring the original appearance of the painting. The Institute purchased the portrait, painted by Samuel F. B. Morse in 1818, at auction in November 2019. Pinckney, a remarkable soldier of the Revolutionary War in the South, became the fourth president general of the Society of the Cincinnati and wears his Society insignia in this portrait.



Learn More About This Project

Treasure Hunt

We're excited to present publications online for our supporters to enjoy during this unusual time—and always. The latest is *The Art of War in the Age of the American Revolution: 100 Treasures from the Fergusson Collection* by our library director, Ellen Clark, focusing on one hundred of the most interesting books, maps, manuscripts, broadsides, art, and artifacts from the collection at the heart of the Institute. The Fergusson Collection is a major resource for advanced study of the American Revolution and for our education and exhibition programs. Carefully assembled over some thirty years, it is one of the most important collections on eighteenth-century warfare ever created. With over twelve thousand items to choose from, it was hard to select just one hundred gems.



Enjoy "The Art of War in the Age of the American Revolution"

Virginia Students Step Into History

Wearing Continental Army uniforms and other historic costumes supplied by the Institute's education program, students in Abigail Quinn's sixth-grade class at Newington Forest Elementary in Lorton, Virginia, placed themselves into iconic images chronicling events of the Revolution. The assignment, completed before Virginia schools suspended normal operations for the academic year, included writing in the voice of the figure in the photo. A student named Max, in a letter dated March 5, 1770, wrote: "Hello my wife. I write to you from the steps of the Boston State House. It is a horrible scene. There is blood on the streets... Sometimes I think that life here is going down the well." Our education program encourages creative assignments like this one to reinforce learning about the constructive achievements of the American Revolution.



"The hour is fast approaching on which the honor and success of this army and the safety of our bleeding country depends..."

Experience the New York campaign of 1776 with the First Delaware Regiment in Lt. Col. Gunning Bedford's orderly book, newly added to the Institute's Digital Library of the American Revolution. The First Delaware Regiment—with more than eight hundred men at the beginning of the campaign and reduced to one hundred by the end of the retreat across New Jersey—marched from Wilmington, Delaware, to New York in early August 1776. The regiment played a key role in the Battle of Brooklyn by creating a diversion that helped the rest of Washington's army retreat to safety. This orderly book, which provides a unique view of Delaware troops in the Revolutionary War, documents the regiment's actions from May 11, 1776, to November 6, 1776, and includes details of formation, instruction for parade of companies, rations, tables of returns, and courts martial. The Institute preserves and shares documents like this orderly book to promote understanding of the achievement of American independence.



Experience the New York Campaign

New Video Tour of Anderson House

The Society of the Cincinnati relies on income from the rental use of Anderson House to support the work of the American Revolution Institute. All events planned for April-June have been cancelled or deferred, causing a cash flow problem, but we are encouraged by interest in entertaining at Anderson House after the public health emergency ends. We just completed a short video tour of the mansion to share with potential clients who cannot visit us—a necessary marketing tool for the current emergency that will remain useful after the crisis has passed. The video was produced for us by Bowen Films of Leesburg, Virginia, which donated the entire cost of production. Take a look at our rental options online if you have an event coming up or a relative, colleague, or friend looking for a special venue. Word of mouth is our best marketing tool.



Watch the Video

Become an Associate...or Recruit One

Join the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati today and help perpetuate the memory of the people and events that secured our national independence, created our national identity, and articulated our highest ideals. If you're already an Associate, help us recruit another one...or more. That's how movements grow. Together we can ensure that Americans understand and appreciate the constructive achievements of the American Revolution—achievements that define us still. Associates join in the work of an organization as old as our republic, founded by the heroes of the Revolution. Our ambitions are large and we need you and your relatives, friends, and colleagues with us to achieve them.



Join Us

Who We Are... What We Do

The members of the American Revolution Institute Board of Overseers have all been dedicated to our unique mission, and none with more passion and personal commitment than William Henry Savage. A member of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati since 1963, Bill dove into the work of creating the American Revolution Institute and was a driving force—in some areas the driving force—in getting us organized. Bill passed away suddenly earlier this year, but he is still a big part of who we are and what we do. He was proud of our big ambitions, generous in supporting our work, and unrelenting in pushing us to organize and plan because he wanted us to succeed. Bill and his wife, Ilona, were among the first Associates of the American Revolution Institute. The victories ahead will rest on the foundation Bill helped build. We will honor his memory by achieving the goals he believed are essential for the future of our country.



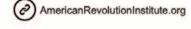


Read Past Issues









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.





