

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

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

today
May 1, 2022

[Calendar of Events](#)

This Month in Revolutionary History

In May 1783 the Society of the Cincinnati was founded by officers at the Continental Army encampment at Newburgh, New York. The organization took its name from ancient Roman hero Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus, an embodiment of civic virtue—something members of the Society then and now strive towards. On May 13, the Society formally adopted its founding document, [the Institution](#), which remains the principle guiding document of the organization.

[Read more about the history of the Society of the Cincinnati](#)

Our Featured Story - A Newly Acquired French Naval Engraving



Our library recently acquired a 1790 engraving of two famed French frigates, the *Astrée* and the *Hermione*, engaged in battle against a convoy of six British warships off Cape Breton Island on July 21, 1781. This engraving is remarkable not only for the record of this historic moment, but for the printing history of the piece. Engraved by François Dequevauviller, after the painting by Auguste-Louis de Rossel de Cercy, the print was a collaboration of the two artists, who planned a series of eighteen engravings of French naval engagements during the Revolutionary War to be dedicated to the king. Our library has two of the planned eighteen engravings from the series, out of three that are known to have been printed.

You can learn more about this lively engraving on our second monthly installment of Collections Corner, a video series in which Institute staff discuss and share treasures from our museum and library collections.

[Watch the video](#)

The Revolutionary War through German Eyes



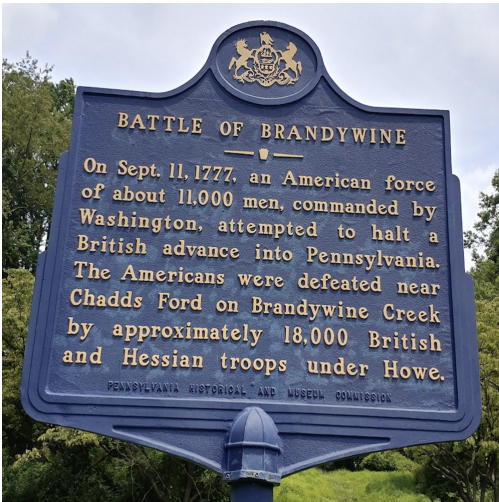
On Thursday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m., join us and Frederike Baer, an associate professor of history at Penn State Abington, at Anderson House for a discussion of the German soldiers and civilians who supported Great Britain during the Revolutionary War. Between 1776 and 1783, the British hired an estimated thirty thousand German soldiers to fight in its war against the American rebels. Collectively known as Hessians, the soldiers and accompanying civilians penned a large body of private and official records that provide detailed accounts of the American war as well as descriptions of the built and natural environment, local customs and manners, the prevalence of slavery, and encounters with Native Americans. In her new book, *Hessians: German Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War*, Friederike Baer, a 2011 research fellow in our library, offers a ground-breaking reimagining of Britain's

war against American independence from the perspective of the German soldiers, a people uniquely positioned both in the midst of the war and at its margins.

[Learn more and register](#)

EVENTS

Explore the Battle of Brandywine with Us!



Join us May 13 and 14 for a weekend excursion to southeastern Pennsylvania to explore the largest single-day land battle of the Revolutionary War: the Battle of Brandywine. This experience begins with a Friday evening dinner at Radley Run Country Club, located in the same area where General William Howe launched his attack in the afternoon hours of the engagement, and featuring a lecture by historical archaeologist Wade P. Catts, RPA, on recent studies of the American and British movements that led to the battle. On Saturday, a guided day-long bus tour of the various combat locations that comprised this important battle will be led by the American Revolution Institute's historical programs manager, Andrew Outten.

[Learn more and reserve your seat](#)

COLLECTIONS

An Important American Officer's Cuttlee

The Adams Bailey sword, one of the finest weapons in our museum collections, is the focus of our newest online feature in Masterpieces in Detail. The sword was made by famed cutler John Bailey in Fredericksburgh (now Patterson), New York, ca. 1778, and owned by Adams Bailey (1749-1824), a captain in the Second Massachusetts Regiment and an original member of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati. The sword is a fine example of the cuttlee style popular in the late eighteenth century and features a silver pommel in the shape of a dog, an ivory grip stained green, and the original leather

scabbard.



[Read about the Adams Bailey sword](#)

CLASSROOM

A Lesson about Saving Soldiers



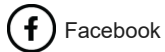
“If any one of you, by observing the following rules, should save the life, or even limb of but one citizen, who has bravely exposed himself in defense of his country, I shall think myself richly rewarded for my labor.” Our new exhibition, *Saving Soldiers*, teaches its audience that the majority of the medical practitioners who served in the Continental Army learned their discipline through apprenticeship, with few having prior experience of war. Our newest online lesson plan asks students to analyze the [primary sources featured in *Saving Soldiers*](#) and to write in the voice of one of these eighteenth-century healers, creating a field manual compiling best practices for treating soldiers for the review and endorsement of Gen. George Washington and the Continental Army’s Hospital Department.

[View the lesson plan](#)

CLASSROOM

American Revolution Institute Named an Educating for American Democracy Champion

The Educating for American Democracy (EAD) initiative, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the U.S. Department of Education through a grant to iCivics, was formed to gather and market civic education resources from trusted museums and cultural institutions at a dedicated website for educators and students. Our digital strategy game, [Revolutionary Choices](#), was chosen for inclusion as part of their 2021 online launch. Earlier this year we were invited to join EAD’s network of [Champions](#)—a collaborative of over 187 organizations offering teacher professional development opportunities that demonstrate how civics education goes beyond basic civic knowledge to include understanding history, thinking critically, and taking informed action. This mission serves the Institute’s belief that the future of our republic depends on the character of our citizens and their dedication to the Revolution’s ideals of universal liberty and responsible citizenship.

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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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