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## THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

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

today

July 1, 2022

[Calendar of Events](#)

### *This Month in Revolutionary History - The United States Declares Independence*



Happy Second of July! On July 2, 1776, the United States of America became independent from Great Britain when the Continental Congress approved a resolution declaring “That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.” The resolution had been introduced almost a month earlier by Richard Henry Lee, a delegate from Virginia. When the vote was held on July 2, twelve of the colonies voted in favor; New York abstained. John Adams expected that “the Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival ... It ought to be solemnized with Pomp

and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.”

Adams accurately predicted *how* future Americans would celebrate their nation’s independence, but not *when*. Thomas Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence, the public announcement and explanation of America’s separation from Great Britain adopted by Congress on July 4, came to overshadow Lee’s resolution and the official vote for independence that occurred two days earlier. Learn more about Richard Henry Lee and his revolutionary resolution in a recent blog post on our website.

[Read more](#)

### *Our Featured Story - Collections Corner*

Explore treasures of our museum and library collections in our new video series, [Collections Corner](#). In each video—only a few minutes long—a member of our staff highlights rare items in our collections, from



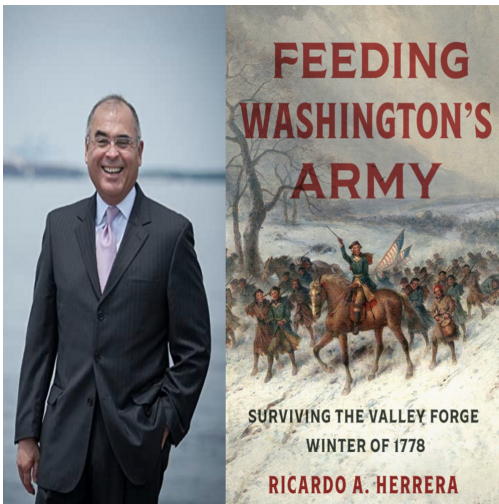
prints and manuscripts to weapons and portraits. A new video is released each month on our website, [YouTube channel](#), and social media. You can now preview our July Collections Corner, featuring a watercolor portrait miniature of Maryland officer William Truman Stoddert painted during the Revolution by Charles Willson Peale. Just two inches tall, this portrait miniature displays incredible detail in Stoddert's face and uniform, and remains a treasured likeness of one of the men who fought for American independence.

[Watch the video](#)

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## EVENTS

### *From Fellow to Featured Author*



In 2015, Ricardo A. Herrera, professor of military history at the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies, was awarded a Society of the Cincinnati Scholars' Grant to conduct research in our library, where he examined the largely unknown foraging expedition of Gen. George Washington's Continental Army during the Valley Forge encampment. Nearly seven years later, Dr. Herrera's research has culminated in the publication of his latest book, *Feeding Washington's Army: Surviving the Valley Forge Winter of 1778*. On July 6, Dr. Herrera returns to Anderson House to present an author's talk on his work.

At Valley Forge, the Continental Army launched its largest and riskiest operation—a campaign to feed itself and prevent starvation or dispersal during the long encampment. In this new history of the Continental Army's Grand Forage of 1778,

Dr. Herrera uncovers what daily life was like for soldiers during that winter encampment and brings to light the army's Herculean efforts to feed itself, support local and Continental governments, and challenge the British army. Highlighting the missteps and triumphs of both Gen. George Washington and his officers, as well as ordinary soldiers, sailors, and militiamen, *Feeding Washington's Army* moves beyond the oft-told heroic and mythical tales of Valley Forge and digs deeply into its daily reality, revealing how close the Continental Army came to succumbing to starvation and how strong and resourceful its soldiers and leaders were.

This author's talk will be held in person at Anderson House, with virtual options available. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

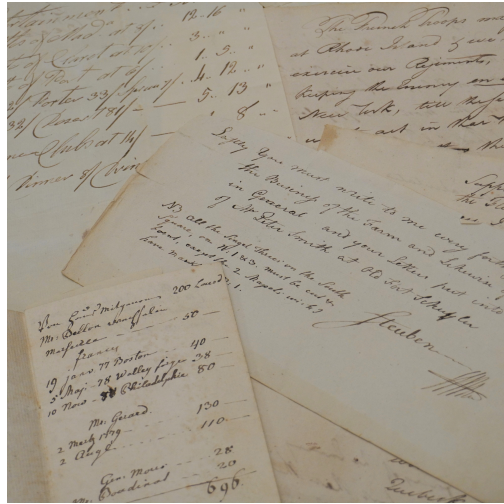
[Learn more about Dr. Herrera and register for this author's talk](#)

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## COLLECTIONS

### *Steuben Manuscripts Acquired*

At auction in April 2022, the Institute purchased eleven unpublished manuscripts through the generosity of a private foundation. The manuscripts relate to Gen.



Friedrich Wilhelm Steuben during and after the Revolutionary War. The documents range in date from 1780—around the time the French fleet arrived in Newport—to 1792, reflecting some of Steuben’s activities after the war. Of special interest in the collection is Benjamin Walker’s copy in English of Steuben’s analysis and recommendations to General Washington about possible allied operations against the British in New York or Canada in 1780 (Walker was one of Steuben’s aides-de-camp). Noting the arrival of the French expeditionary forces, Steuben observed: “The French Troops may refresh at Rhode Island... the superiority of the Enemy’s fleet is of less consequence in this Expedition than in any other....”

Library staff are looking forward to delving into this extraordinary collection to create an item-level inventory and images for the Digital Library. Stay tuned!

[Read more about this new acquisition](#)

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## EDUCATION

### ***Our Residential Master Teacher Seminar Returns This Month!***



On July 10 the Institute staff along with host Hardwick S. Johnson, Jr., Ed.D., a member of the Society of the Cincinnati’s Education Committee, will welcome six teachers from six different states to Anderson House for our first in-person Master Teachers Seminar since 2019. This summer’s week of scholarly lectures, research, and fellowship marks the program’s tenth year, and the new educators from Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, and Tennessee build our alumni roster to 101 master teachers from thirty-five states and the District of Columbia. Be sure to check out our social media posts beginning on July 11 to learn more about each teacher and their topic of study in our library and museum collections.

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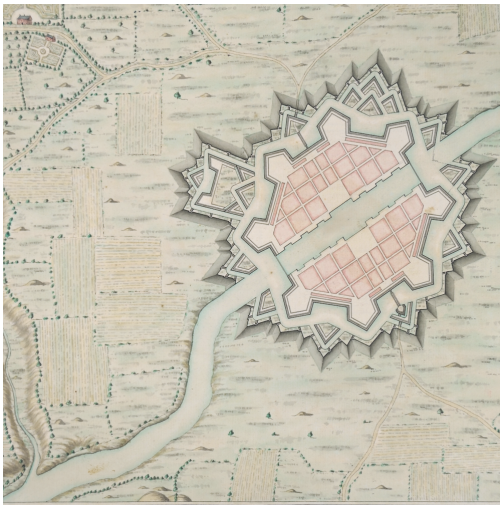
## EVENTS

### ***July Lecture Highlights - Siege Warfare and Marine Archaeology***

This month, the Institute will host two thought-provoking lectures at Anderson House discussing siege warfare and an archaeological study of Arnold’s Bay in Lake Champlain. These lectures will be held in-person at Anderson House, with virtual options available. To learn more and register for these lectures, click the appropriate links below.

On Thursday, July 14 at 6:30 p.m. EST, Glenn F. Williams of the U.S. Army Center of Military History will discuss the art and science of siege warfare in the American Revolution. Fortification and siege doctrine were a critical component of any eighteenth-century military. Dr. Williams explores the intricacies and technical expertise required to carry out an effective and successful siege in the Revolutionary War. The talk will center on eighteenth-century field fortification design and construction and methods for successfully reducing them. This lecture will follow a discussion of a rare American six-





pounder owned by the South Carolina Society of the Cincinnati with the Institute's historical programs manager, Andrew Outten, at 5:45 p.m.

**Register for "The Art and Science of Siege Warfare in the American Revolution"**

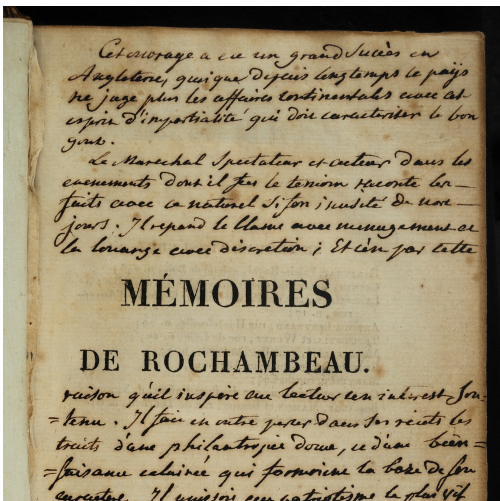


On Thursday, July 28 at 6:30 p.m. EST, historical archaeologists Cherilyn Gilligan and Christopher Sabick of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will discuss their work on a recent archaeological study, funded by the American Battlefield Protection Program, of an area of Lake Champlain known as Arnold's Bay. In late 1776, Gen. Benedict Arnold burned the remaining vessels of his American fleet in Lake Champlain to prevent capture from the British. Gilligan and Sabick will discuss their work on this study and shed light on new interpretations and understandings of the events that transpired—as well as more questions to investigate.

**Register for "The Artifacts of Arnold's Bay"**

## COLLECTIONS

### *Rochambeau's Mémoires*



On July 10, 1780, the French expeditionary force sent by Louis XVI to aid the American cause arrived at Narragansett Bay off Newport, Rhode Island. The 5,800 troops under the command of the comte de Rochambeau would remain stationed in New England for nearly a year before they began their march south with Washington's army to Yorktown. In his last years Rochambeau wrote an account of his life in which he devoted more than fifty pages to his experiences in America during the Revolutionary War. The original manuscript of Rochambeau's *Mémoires* is one of the great treasures of the Institute's collections—donated to us by the Rochambeau family in 2016. Remarkably, we had the opportunity to purchase at auction that same year a copy of the published edition of Rochambeau's *Mémoires* that bears annotations by his son Donatien.



Learn more about the reunion of the published memoir and the original manuscript upon which it was based in our latest addition to Masterpieces in Detail on our website.

### Masterpieces in Detail

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## EDUCATION

### *Institute Welcomes Local Teacher Groups*



In addition to hosting our own teacher seminars, the Institute regularly participates in other organizations' teacher programs, presenting our classroom resources and mission in education to these audiences.

On June 23 the Institute hosted thirty educators and program staff attending the George Washington at War: From Soldier to Commander in Chief residential teacher week at Mount Vernon. The group was introduced to our education resources, studied the Saving Soldiers exhibition, enjoyed a Revolutionary War-themed highlights tour of our headquarters, and viewed selected library and museum collection items illuminating George Washington's leadership during the Revolution and the founding of the Society of the Cincinnati.

Approximately seventy-five participants in the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation's summer program experienced a similar visit to Anderson House on June 30. The Madison Foundation offers one graduate fellowship per state per year to individuals desiring to become outstanding teachers of the United States Constitution at the secondary school level. Their program of study involves a deep dive into classical history relative to the Roman republic and the inspiration for and founding of the American republic—including the work of the American Cincinnatus, George Washington.

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## NEWS

### *Arlington Honors for a Revolutionary Icon*



On June 14, the 197th anniversary of the death of Maj. Pierre Charles L'Enfant, the DAR unveiled a new interpretive sign at his tomb in Arlington National Cemetery. The DAR invited French and American organizations to lay wreaths at his tomb during the ceremony, including the Society of the Cincinnati, represented on the sign by L'Enfant's Eagle insignia design. The ceremony was accompanied by "Taps." The Society's wreath was laid by its president general, Frank K. Turner, Jr., and included a ribbon declaring L'Enfant an original member. No lesser honor is due our brother from abroad, who was present at, and greatly contributed to, the creation of our republic.

Originally trained as an artist at the French Royal Academy, L'Enfant volunteered to serve in the Continental Army in 1776, was appointed an officer in the Continental Army Corps of Engineers, and later served on Gen. Washington's staff. His talents as an artist were used during his military career and in 1778 Gen. Steuben chose him to illustrate the Continental Army's official manual, *Regulations for the Order and Discipline*

of the Troops of the United States. Post-war, L'Enfant became an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati and designed the iconic Eagle insignia and membership certificate.

L'Enfant was a visionary for our nascent country and in 1791 he completed his plan for the new capital city, Washington, D.C. including the U.S. Capitol building, the Executive Mansion, and the street circles and diagonal avenues that D.C. is known for today. Up on the highest perch in Arlington Cemetery, it seems appropriate that his tomb overlooks the city and nation that he helped to create.

[Visit our 2013 exhibition, "Pierre L'Enfant's Vision for the American Republic"](#)



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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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