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THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

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

today

June 1, 2022

[Calendar of Events](#)

250  Celebrating the
250th Anniversary
of the American Revolution

This Month in Revolutionary History - The Gaspee Affair



On June 9, 1772, a group of prominent Rhode Islanders rowed out to the British schooner *Gaspee*, which had run aground south of Providence while on an anti-smuggling patrol. After threatening and shooting its commanding officer, the raiders looted then burned the vessel. Despite colony-wide sympathy for the raid, neither the government in Providence nor authorities in London could let this pass without a response. As a result, a Royal Commission of Inquiry headed by Rhode Island governor Joseph Wanton zealously investigated the incident. What started out as a customs battle over the seizure of a prominent citizen's rum was soon transformed into one of the sparks that ignited patriot fervor in the years leading up to the Revolutionary War.

On Thursday, June 9 at 6:30 p.m. EST, join us and historian Steven Park of Wheaton College for a lecture discussing the *Gaspee* affair on the 250th anniversary of this important event—one of the first acts of rebellion against British authority over the American colonies.

[Learn more and register](#)

Our Featured Story - The Institute Tours the Brandywine Battlefield

On May 13 and 14, the Institute held its inaugural battlefield tour experience, highlighting the Battle of Brandywine in southeastern Pennsylvania. This was the first in a new series of battlefield tour programs that will allow the Institute to engage more people with the history and enduring importance of the American Revolution and the role that battlefield preservation and interpretation plays in that mission.



The two-day experience began with a Friday evening dinner and lecture featuring historical archaeologist Wade Catts discussing recent American Battlefield Protection Program-funded studies that investigated the pre-battle movements of the British and American forces in early September 1777. This lecture prepared attendees for their guided tour of the battlefield the next day, given by Catts and the Institute's historical programs manager, Andrew Outten. Focusing on the core action of the battle, the guided tour included stops at the Old Kennett Friends Meetinghouse, Brandywine Battlefield Park, Birmingham Hill, and the 1704 Brinton home.

Stay tuned for announcements of our next tour programs exploring important—and sometimes neglected—

Revolutionary War battlefields in other parts of the country.

EVENTS

Two Unique Ways to Experience Anderson House



After a two-year hiatus, June will see the return of the Dupont Kalorama Museum Consortium's Walk Weekend. DKMC was founded in 1983 to create memorable cultural experiences in the Dupont Circle-Kalorama neighborhood while drawing attention to the fabulous "off the Mall" destinations. During Walk Weekend, Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5, each of the museum partners of DKMC is open for FREE! These include our museum at Anderson House, along with Dumbarton House, Woodrow Wilson House, the Phillips Collection, the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, and, for the first time, Dupont Underground.

[Learn more and register for free tickets](#)



Later this month, on June 13-15, experience the exquisite art and architecture of Anderson House as never before during Art in Bloom DC, which features floral sculptures inspired by the art and furnishings displayed throughout the museum. Art in Bloom DC is a unique opportunity to view interpretations of specific artworks, furnishings, and architectural details rendered in a floral medium, created by thirty of Washington's most innovative floral designers. Join us for this limited three-day event to explore the floral installations and tour the museum during public viewing hours, or to attend a special evening reception featuring the premier florists who created the displays.

[Learn more](#)

COLLECTIONS

An Artist Imagines the Battle of Bunker Hill



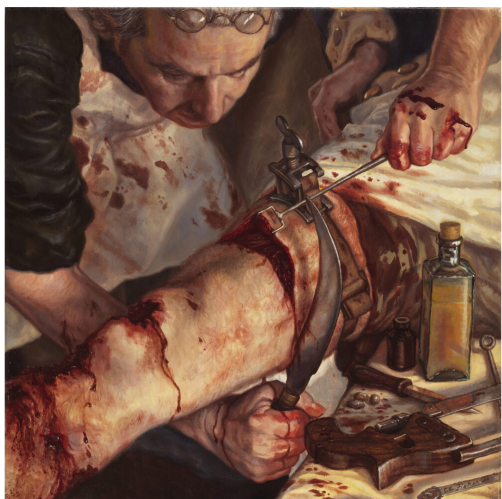
The Battle of Bunker Hill, the first major battle of the Revolutionary War, was fought on June 17, 1775—247 years ago this month. In less than two hours, three thousand British regulars succeeded in dislodging American troops from Charlestown Neck, a peninsula overlooking British-held Boston, but they paid a heavy price. More than one third of the British force was killed or wounded. Despite their defeat at Bunker Hill, most patriots regarded the battle as a success, proving that even lightly trained American soldiers could inflict heavy losses on their enemy.

Beginning just a few months after the battle, Bunker Hill has inspired artists to depict aspects of this early Revolutionary War fight. Around the turn of the twentieth century, American sculptor Paul Wayland Bartlett created a bronze plaque of the death of General Joseph Warren during the battle. While Warren's death was a popular subject for depictions of the Battle of Bunker Hill, Bartlett's version was distinctive and departed from the crowded, dramatic composition of John Trumbull and others. Bartlett's sculpture is more minimalist and restrained, while still conveying the emotion of the loss of the American general. The scene shows Warren lying on the ground after having been killed (rather than in the moment of his death as Trumbull painted it), with his American compatriots in mourning to either side. Only two other examples of this sculpture are known. While it remains a mystery why Bartlett created it, he may have composed the plaque while working on a monument to Joseph Warren that he completed in 1904 for Warren Square in Boston.

[View the sculpture in our museum database](#)

EVENTS

Explore the Field of Medicine During the Revolutionary War



Join us and Ronald S. Gibbs, MD, of Stanford University on Thursday, June 16 at 6:30 p.m. EST, for a lecture discussing medicine in the Revolutionary War.

Disease was a major part of everyday life in the American colonies, especially during the Revolutionary War. For every soldier dying of wounds in the war, seven died of infections including smallpox, malaria, and typhus. Doctors were influenced by ancient medical thought, and with the best intentions, treated diseases with bleedings, leeches, and purges. Dr. Gibbs explores the world of medical practice in the Revolutionary War by discussing the common diseases, forms of treatments, and other procedures that soldiers endured through the conflict.

This program accompanies the exhibition [Saving Soldiers: Medical Practice in the Revolutionary War](#), now on display through November 27, 2022.

LIBRARY

Meet Riley and Jonathan!



Our class of 2022 fellows have begun to arrive at Anderson House to conduct their one (or two!) weeks of research. In May we had the pleasure to work with Riley Sutherland, a graduate student at the University of South Carolina (the 2022 Nicholas Sellers Fellow) and Jonathan Den Hartog, a professor at Samford University (the 2022 Society of the Cincinnati of Maryland Fellow) as they dove into our collections to support their research. We asked Riley and Jonathan a few questions to learn more about their time in the reading room.

What is your research on?

Riley: I study the six to ten thousand women who worked for the Continental Army as laundresses, nurses, cooks, spies, sex workers, and merchants (or sutlers), as well as soldiers' wives who did not travel with the army but sometimes visited

military camps. My research focuses on strategies the women used to take care of themselves during and after the Revolutionary War, especially their social networks. I also study how the women deliberately depicted themselves in diverse (and contradictory) ways to support themselves.

Jonathan: Generally, I am researching the life of John Jay: American founder, diplomat, jurist, chief justice of the Supreme Court, and governor of New York. I came to this topic when I realized, researching for my previous book, how much material he had left behind and how little attention had been paid to it.

What has your experience in the library been like?

Riley: The library is a true wellspring of revolutionary history, and it is so easy to become immersed in the stacks and archival documents. Ellen Clark and Rachel Nellis have helped me uncover pieces of the army women's experiences in the orderly books I came to the library to study, but also in documents I did not expect to find so useful, like regimental account books.

Jonathan: The experience at the library was fantastic! It's a beautiful setting, and the staff were extremely helpful. Reading and researching in the collection was a great way to inspire my summer writing.

What is the most compelling item you found in the library?

Riley: Women appear in many of the library's orderly books in brief but revealing fragments. For instance, in his orderly book, John Davis exasperatedly describes how "suffering" women requested permission to visit their husbands in camp. Officers pitied the women and complied, only to find that many of the women had actually entered camp to convince their husbands to desert. Davis responded by "forbidding the Soldiers . . . from having any Communications with" the women. Instances like these reveal how women underscored their helplessness to advance their own interests.

Jonathan: I enjoyed tracing several images of John Jay. The original was drawn by a Genevan in Philadelphia. That image was subsequently engraved and published in Paris. Two years later, it was reprinted (but reversed!) in London. Three years after that, the image appeared woven on a textile produced in England for sale in the American market. Both Americans and Europeans were eager for images of the American leaders they had read about but never seen.

Join our Museum Docent Team



Do you have a passion for American history, historic sites, or the decorative arts? Would you like to share your passion with others? The American Revolution Institute is currently recruiting history lovers to join our volunteer docent team. Our museum docents create a memorable and enlightening experience for visitors of all ages by leading guided tours of the Institute's headquarters, Anderson House, and assisting with visitor services.

No previous tour experience is necessary. Training is provided, as well as continuing education and fellowship events for the entire docent team. Once active, docents serve at least two weekday shifts or one weekend shift per month.

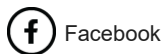
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The American Revolution secured our independence, created our republic, established our national identity, and expressed ideals of liberty, equality, natural and civil rights, and responsible citizenship that have defined our history and will define 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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