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THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

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

today
November 1, 2022

[Calendar of Events](#)

250

Celebrating the
250th Anniversary
of the American Revolution

This Month in Revolutionary History - The First Committee of Correspondence



On November 2, 1772, the first Committee of Correspondence of the Revolution was established in Boston, charged with gauging the sentiments of other communities in Massachusetts about British colonial policies. The Bostonians were specifically concerned about recent news from Britain that Parliament proposed for Massachusetts judges' salaries to be paid by the Crown using American customs revenue, instead of the colony's General Court—raising questions about where those judges' loyalties would lie. In late October 1772, after royal governor Thomas Hutchinson refused to convene the legislature to discuss the matter, more than one hundred Bostonians petitioned their selectmen requesting a town meeting.

The meeting was ultimately held on November 2, when the selectmen approved a proposal from Samuel Adams to establish a twenty-one-man Committee of Correspondence in Boston. Convening its first meeting the next day, the Boston Committee of Correspondence used the issue of judicial salaries as a springboard to highlight the broader issue of colonial rights. The committee members prepared statements and lists of perceived infringements and violations of colonists' rights by Parliament, published later that year in a single document known as the "Boston Pamphlet," which was circulated to every town in Massachusetts. Within six months, 118 other towns in the colony created committees of correspondence and reported back to Boston, establishing lines of communication that Massachusetts patriots would use for years. During the Revolutionary era, committees of correspondence evolved to include colony-wide committees communicating with other North American colonies and, ultimately in September 1774, the first Continental Congress that formalized the colonies' desires for a more coordinated approach to the increasingly troubling British colonial policies.

Our Featured Story - Saving Soldiers to Close at the End of November



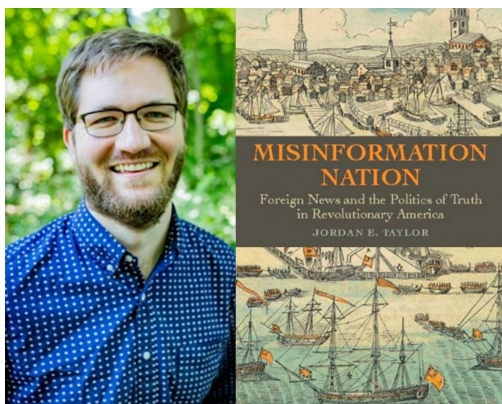
Have you seen our exhibition *Saving Soldiers: Medical Practice in the Revolutionary War* yet? The exhibition displays the Institute's collections of medical treatises, portraits, Continental Army hospital registers, and medical instruments used during the war to illustrate the experiences of surgeons and patients, and how medical practice evolved during and after the war. Explore the scourge of smallpox and biological warfare, the treatment of wounds from musket balls, shipboard medicine, the evolution of preventive care in the camps, and the rituals of death.

Plan your visit! *Saving Soldiers* is free and open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10:00 to 4:00, and Sundays, 12:00 to 4:00.

[Learn more about Saving Soldiers](#)

EVENTS

The Impact of Foreign News on the Revolutionary War



Join us on Tuesday, November 10, at 6:30 p.m. EST, for our next author's talk featuring Jordan E. Taylor, associate professor of history at Indiana University-Bloomington, discussing his new book, *Misinformation Nation: Foreign News and the Politics of Truth in Revolutionary America*.

"Fake news" is nothing new. Just like millions of Americans today, the revolutionaries of the eighteenth century worried that they were entering a "post-truth" era. Their fears, however, were not fixated on social media or clickbait, but rather on peoples' increasing reliance on reading news gathered from foreign newspapers. News was the lifeblood of

early American politics, but newspaper printers had few reliable sources to report on events from abroad. Accounts of battles and beheadings, as well as declarations and constitutions, often arrived alongside contradictory intelligence. Though frequently false, the information that Americans encountered in newspapers, letters, and conversations framed their sense of reality, leading them to respond with protests, boycotts, and violence. In his new book, Taylor reveals how foreign news defined the boundaries of American politics and argues that the American Revolution was plagued by misperceptions, misunderstandings, and uninformed overreactions.

The talk will last approximately 45 minutes, followed by a book signing. Copies of the book will be available to purchase at the event. Registration is requested. Virtual access is available.

[Learn more and register](#)

EDUCATION

Applications for the Eleventh Annual Master Teachers Seminar Open November 22!



On November 22, the application period for our Eleventh Annual Master Teachers Seminar opens! This summer's residential Master Teachers Seminar will be held July 9-16, 2023, at the Institute's headquarters, Anderson House, in Washington, D.C. Online applications will be accepted through February 22, 2023. Seminar participants will discuss best practices, participate in lectures with our team of scholars, and conduct research in our world-class library to develop lessons for their classrooms and for peers across the country about our independence, our republic, our national identity, and our highest ideals. Alumni of our seminar form the basis of our national network of talented master teachers who we engage to help us preserve the memory of that vast event—the American Revolution—and promote the appreciation and understanding for its constructive achievements and legacy. Help us spread

the word about this unique opportunity!

[Learn more and apply](#)

EVENTS

French Military Reforms During the Revolutionary War



Join us on Tuesday, November 15, at 6:30 p.m. EST, as we welcome Matthew Keagle, curator at the Fort Ticonderoga Museum, to Anderson House for a lecture entitled “The Other 1776: Reform and French Military Dress in the Late Ancien Regime.”

Following its catastrophic defeat in the Seven Years' War, the French military undertook a comprehensive series of reforms affecting everything from warship design to soldiers' uniforms, which dramatically altered the army's appearance. This uniform provided unheard-of amenities for French soldiers but was widely disliked and quickly replaced. The fallout surrounding the 1776 uniform reflects the most consequential moment of the eighteenth century for the material culture of the French military. Far from being an emblem of a staid or

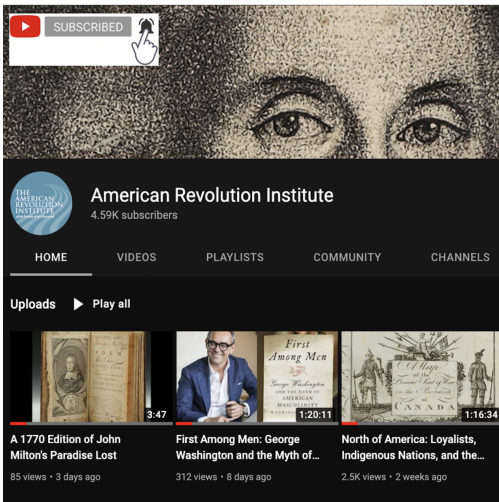
conservative past, military dress in France in the last decades of the Ancien Regime was a dynamic representation of the stakes of reform and the character of the nation. Keagle discusses the 1776 reforms on French military dress during the Revolutionary War and their subsequent reactions.

The lecture will be held in-person at Anderson House and will last approximately 45 minutes. Registration is requested. Virtual options are available.

[Learn more and register](#)

Watch and Learn by Subscribing to our YouTube Channel!

When it comes to our lectures, author's talks, Lunch Bite object talks, and panel discussions, one of the most frequently asked questions we receive is, “Can I watch a recording of this later?” The answer is YES!



We record all our historical programs for you to watch and enjoy later. One of the two locations we upload our program recordings to—along with all our other video content—is our YouTube channel. There you will find over five hundred videos from over the last decade that range from historical programs to our new Collections Corner video series. As we upload a new video almost every week, subscribe to our YouTube channel today by clicking the link below to ensure you don't miss out on one of our uploaded videos again!

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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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