

## THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

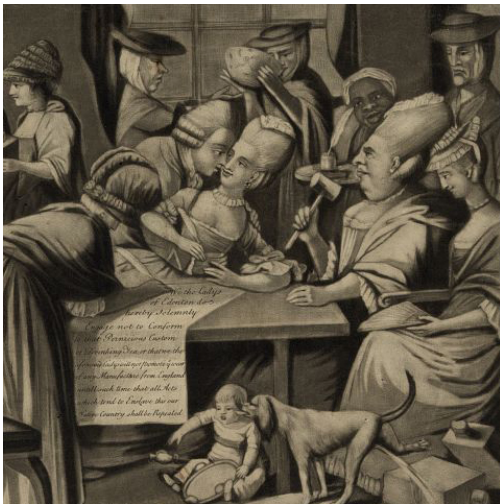
**News, Events, and Commentary  
from the American Revolution Institute  
of the Society of the Cincinnati**

today

October 1, 2022

[Calendar of Events](#)

### ***This Month in Revolutionary History - The Edenton Tea Party***



On October 25, 1774, fifty-one women gathered in Edenton, North Carolina, to protest British taxation in the American colonies—primarily the Tea Act, which Parliament passed the previous year. The Tea Act instituted a tax of three cents per pound on all British tea sold in America and effectively granted a monopoly on the sale of tea in the American colonies to the British East India Company. The act inspired protests throughout the colonies, the most famous of which is the Boston Tea Party of December 1773.

The Edenton protest, known later as the Edenton Tea Party, was one of the earliest actions by American women in support of the American Revolution and one of the earliest organized women's political actions in United States history. The meeting was organized by Penelope Barker, whose husband, Thomas

Barker, was then in London serving as a special agent representing North Carolina to the Crown.

“Determined to give memorable proof of their patriotism,” the women signed an agreement pledging to boycott British imports—especially tea and cloth—“untill such time that all Acts which tend to Enslave this our Native Country shall be Repealed.” After the British press published an account of the Edenton Tea Party in early 1775, a London engraver created a print satirizing the efforts of the “Patriotic Ladies” of North Carolina—inadvertently, perhaps, helping to ensure that their protest was remembered decades and centuries later.

### ***Our Featured Story - Annual Clark Lecture to Feature Nick Bunker***

Watch the free livestream of our 2022 George Rogers Clark Lecture, *Chinese Tea and American Rebels: The Global Origins of the Revolutionary Crisis*, featuring author Nick Bunker, on Friday, October 28, beginning at 6:30 p.m. EST. Drawing on his book *An Empire on the Edge*, a 2015 finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for History, Bunker will reexamine the Boston Tea Party and the onset of the revolution in Massachusetts in 1774, placing them in their global context. Making connections between events in China, India, London, and America, Bunker will show how in the 1770s Britain's commercial dynamism outstripped its political imagination. A banking crisis in 1772 set in motion the fateful process that would lead three years later to the outbreak of war at Lexington. The George Rogers Clark Lecture has been



presented annually since 1975, recognizing the scholarship of leading historians of the American Revolution.

[Learn more and watch the livestream](#)

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## EVENTS

### *Women at War*



Women participated in the American Revolution in complex and varied ways, and the Revolution transformed their place in the new nation. Join us on Tuesday, October 18, at 6:30 p.m. EST to explore these themes in a panel discussion, “Women at War: Confronting Challenges in the American Revolution.”

This program convenes several contributors to a new anthology, *Women Waging War in the American Revolution*, and will be moderated by Dr. Holly Mayer, professor emerita of history at Duquesne University. Panelists Benjamin L. Carp, associate professor of history at Brooklyn College; Lauren Duval, assistant professor of history at Oklahoma University; Carin Bloom, manager of programming and education at the Historic Charleston Foundation; and Don Hagist, editor of the *Journal of the American Revolution*, will discuss various challenges and hardships faced by women throughout the

Revolutionary War and will highlight their contributions to the new book, as well as answering audience questions. The panel discussion will last approximately one hour, followed by a book signing. Copies of *Women Waging War in the American Revolution* will be available for purchase. Registration is requested.

[Learn more and register](#)

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## EDUCATION

### *Free Workshop for Virginia and North Carolina Teachers!*

Calling all Virginia and North Carolina teachers—join the Institute for a free workshop on Saturday, November 5, at the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History. Participants will be given inquiry-based lesson materials drawing from the American Revolution Institute’s collections of rare books, manuscripts, portraits, and artifacts to teach their students about the war in the South, medical practice during the war, and the Revolution’s southern heroines. This day-long event will focus on the History and Social Science Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools (VS.5, VUS.4 and USI.6) and North Carolina’s fifth grade, eighth grade, and American History I essential standards. The resources of the





Danville Museum and the Halifax County Historical Society will also be featured. Funding for this program has been generously provided by the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia and the North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati. Space is limited.

[Register here](#)

## COLLECTIONS

### *The Ghost of Byng*



*The Ghost of Byng*. London: Published by S.W. Jones, 50 Piccadilly, March 23, 1808. The Society of the Cincinnati, The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection.

With Halloween at the end of the month, here is a spooky item from our library collections! This hand-colored engraving, *The Ghost of Byng*, depicts John Byng, a British naval officer, in an admiral's uniform haunting a terrified army officer. Byng's ghost warns, "Mark!!! If those who have caused the death of thousands are suffered to escape, I am a murdered man." His left hand holds a paper with the words,

“Guilty of error of Judgement.” In the upper left of the engraving appears a map of Minorca, the death sentence for Byng. Of course, every ghost story has a tragedy behind it.

The real Admiral Byng entered the Royal Navy in 1718 and spent his career climbing the ranks to admiral. In 1756, right before the outbreak of the Seven Years’ War, the British, worried that their base at Minorca would be attacked, sent Byng with an inadequate force to the island. The French had already besieged Port Mahon when Byng arrived and after an unevenly matched engagement Byng and his miniscule fleet returned to Gibraltar—the whole of the island was lost to the French a month later. After this incident, it was deemed that Byng and his fleet did not do enough to stop the French siege. Byng was arrested, tried, and sentenced to death by firing squad for not doing his utmost to destroy the French fleet. The execution was denounced by many and remains deplored. In 1759 his death was satirized by Voltaire in *Candide*—“In this country, it is wise to kill an admiral from time to time to encourage the others.”

[View on the Digital Library](#)

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## EDUCATION

### *Now Online: The 2022 Master Teacher Lesson Plans*



Original lesson plans from the Institute’s newest master teachers who attended our 2022 residential summer Master Teachers Seminar are now available for synchronous and asynchronous learning in the Classroom section of our website. Two of these works, inspired by our library and museum collections, highlight the genesis of our unique republic—one of the enduring achievements of the American Revolution.

View the two lesson plans by following the links below.

[Visit "Why the American Revolutionaries Chose to Establish a Republic"](#)

[Visit "He Did It His Way: How George Washington Shaped the American Presidency"](#)

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## MUSEUM

### *Meet a Docent: Shining a Spotlight on the Volunteers Who Keep Anderson House Open for Tours*

Bill DeCosta joined the docent team to lead tours of Anderson House in 2011. After a break of seven years, Bill returned where he left off in Spring 2022. He currently gives tours at least two weekday afternoons a month. Learn more about Bill:

#### **Tell us a bit about yourself.**

I am a retired librarian from the D.C. Public Library. I enjoy pen and ink drawing, walking and hiking, writing articles on local D.C. history, and of course, reading.





**What attracted you to volunteer as a docent with Anderson House?**

I was motivated to become a docent because Anderson House promotes an interest in the American Revolution, the Society of the Cincinnati, and the Anderson family.

**What do you most enjoy about being a docent here?**

I most enjoy meeting the visitors.

[Take a tour today!](#)

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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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