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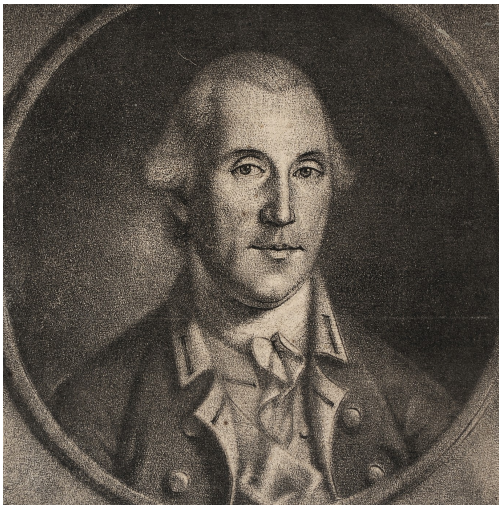
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

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

today
June 1, 2023

[Calendar of Events](#)

***This Month in Revolutionary History -
Happy Birthday to the U.S. Army***

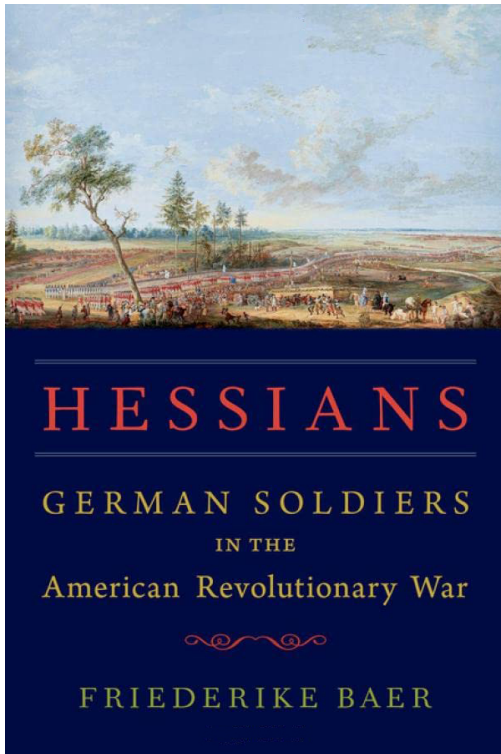


On June 14, 1775, responding to a quickly escalating series of events across the Eastern Seaboard, congressional delegates meeting in Philadelphia formed the Continental Army. The action brought under Congress' purview the New England troops besieging Boston; New York and Connecticut soldiers that had recently attacked Fort Ticonderoga; and as-yet-to-be-enlisted riflemen from the Appalachian regions of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. The goal of the legislation was to coordinate the efforts of the various groups that had responded militarily to events at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, in April of that year.

To command that force, Congress ultimately selected George Washington of Virginia. Washington was an attractive candidate because he was a native of the most populous rebelling colony, Virginia's more active involvement might persuade loyalist areas in New York and Pennsylvania to remain quiet because they would be surrounded, and he had a more varied experience in the previous major conflict, the French and Indian War, than many of his colonial-born peers.

Though ending the French and Indian War as only a colonel and commanding officer of the Virginia Regiment, Washington had undertaken general officer-level missions during the conflict. He had overseen the entire military defense of that colony and led a brigade during the Forbes Expedition in 1758. Most importantly, Washington had experience dealing with American militia, something that British army veterans like Horatio Gates and Charles Lee did not have. Congress predicted, correctly, that Washington would have a better feel for the unique political challenges of the commander in chief position as it tried to coordinate the actions of the Continental Army with thirteen separate state military forces.

***Our Featured Story - The 2023 Society of the
Cincinnati Prize Goes to...***



The Institute is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2023 Society of the Cincinnati Prize is Dr. Friederike Baer for her book *Hessians: German Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War* (Oxford University Press, 2022)! This ground-breaking work reimagines Britain's war against American independence from the perspective of the German soldiers, people uniquely positioned both in the midst of the war and at its margins. Collectively known as Hessians, the German soldiers and accompanying civilians, including hundreds of women and children, 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. Through these primary sources, Dr. Baer illuminates the struggles of the estimated thirty thousand German soldiers and officers during the war, examining their perspectives on and participation in the British strategy and their observations of America. Dr. Baer also conducted research for this book in our library as the recipient of a 2011 Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati fellowship.

Dr. Baer is an associate professor of history and the division head for arts and humanities at Penn State Abington. She earned a Ph.D. in early American history from Brown University. Her research focuses on the experiences of German-speaking people in North America from the 1770s to the late nineteenth century.

[Learn more about the prize](#)

[Watch Dr. Baer's presentation on her book](#)

EVENTS

Walk Weekend Returns this Month



The Dupont Kalorama Museum Consortium's (DKMC) annual Walk Weekend event returns on Saturday, June 3 and Sunday, June 4, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. DKMC was founded in 1983 to create memorable cultural experiences in the Dupont Circle-Kalorama neighborhood while drawing attention to its fabulous "off the Mall" destinations. During Walk Weekend, 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 Dupont Underground.

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

COLLECTIONS

A Nation Divided Looks to its Past for Inspiration



The museum recently acquired a copper medal commemorating George Washington as “the Cincinnatus of America.” Designed by New York-based die engraver George Hampden Lovett and cast in 1861, the medal features on its obverse a bust-length profile of George Washington in Continental Army uniform. The reverse of the medal features in the center an emitting all-seeing eye, surrounded with the text, “The Union must and shall be preserved.” This pro-Union stance on the back of the medal suggests the medal’s purpose. Either shortly before or during the early months of the nation’s Civil War, as turmoil gripped the land, the nation could turn to the memory of its first commander in chief, George Washington, who like Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus (and inspiration behind the Society of the Cincinnati) in 458 BC, walked away from power at the peak of his achievements in service to his country.

EDUCATION

Revolutionary War at Sea Traveling Trunk Lessons Now Online



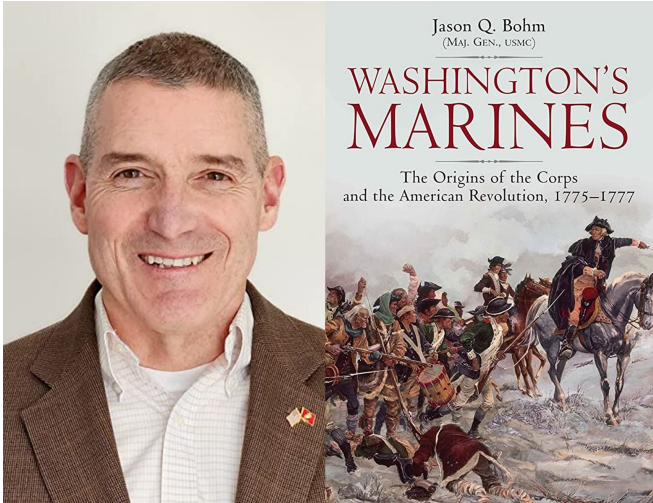
The lesson content of our free Revolutionary War at Sea traveling trunks for classrooms—created to highlight the importance of the war as a maritime conflict pitting Britain and France against one another for dominance of the seas—is now accessible online. These digital resources include introductions to key commanders of each navy, summaries of important naval battles of the Revolutionary War, and items related to the comparatively smaller Continental Navy and American privateers—including the sextant, used to measure the horizon, pictured here. Also featured is content portraying life at sea, including materials about sleeping and eating conditions on ships, a reproduced copy of the first clinical trials testing treatments for scurvy, and primary source images and descriptions of naval uniforms that illustrate the divide between officers and the common seamen who performed

daily chores aboard ship. Also included are lessons about the size and power of eighteenth-century navies, the story of John Paul Jones, and how sailors used math and science at sea.

[Visit our website to interact with these online resources!](#)

EVENTS

The Few, The Proud, The Brave: Washington's Marines



Join us on Tuesday, June 27 at 6:30 p.m. for an author's talk featuring Maj. Gen. Jason Bohm of the United States Marine Corps discussing his new book, *Washington's Marines: The Origins of the Corps and the American Revolution, 1775-1777*.

In the early days of the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress rushed to form an army but soon realized that, to win its freedom, America would need men who could fight both on land and sea. Enter the Marines. As Washington struggled to preserve his command after defeats in New York and New Jersey in 1776, the nascent U.S. Navy and Marines deployed the first American fleet, conducted their first amphibious operation, and

waged a war on the rivers and seas to block British reinforcements and capture critically needed supplies.

Desperate times forced Congress to detach the Continental Marines from the Navy to join the embattled army as Washington sought an "important stroke" to defeat his adversary. Soon after, Washington's Marines joined a protracted land campaign that culminated in turning-point victories at Trenton, Assunpink Creek, and Princeton, before Washington granted Gen. Henry Knox's request to leverage the Marines' expertise with naval guns to fill the depleted ranks of the army's artillery during the "Forage War." Drawing on his research in primary sources as well as his own military knowledge and experiences, Maj. Gen. Jason Bohm examines the Corps' humble beginnings and what it achieved during the early years of the American Revolution, through successes and failures at Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill, Canada, Boston, Charleston, and more.

This author's talk will be held in-person at Anderson House and last approximately 45 minutes. Registration is requested. Virtual options are available.

[Learn more and register](#)



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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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