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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, 2023

[Calendar of Events](#)

***This Month in Revolutionary History -
The French Camp in "Georges Town"***

On October 19, 1781, Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown. After this French-American victory, where did the troops go? The French remained in and around Williamsburg, Virginia, throughout the winter of 1781 and spring of 1782 with the orders to march north given on June 24, 1782. The soldiers marched from Williamsburg, camping in places such as Baltimore, Maryland, and Crompond (Yorktown Heights), New York, in four divisions of about one thousand men each, departing on subsequent days beginning on the first of July. They finally sailed out from Boston Harbor on December 25, 1782.

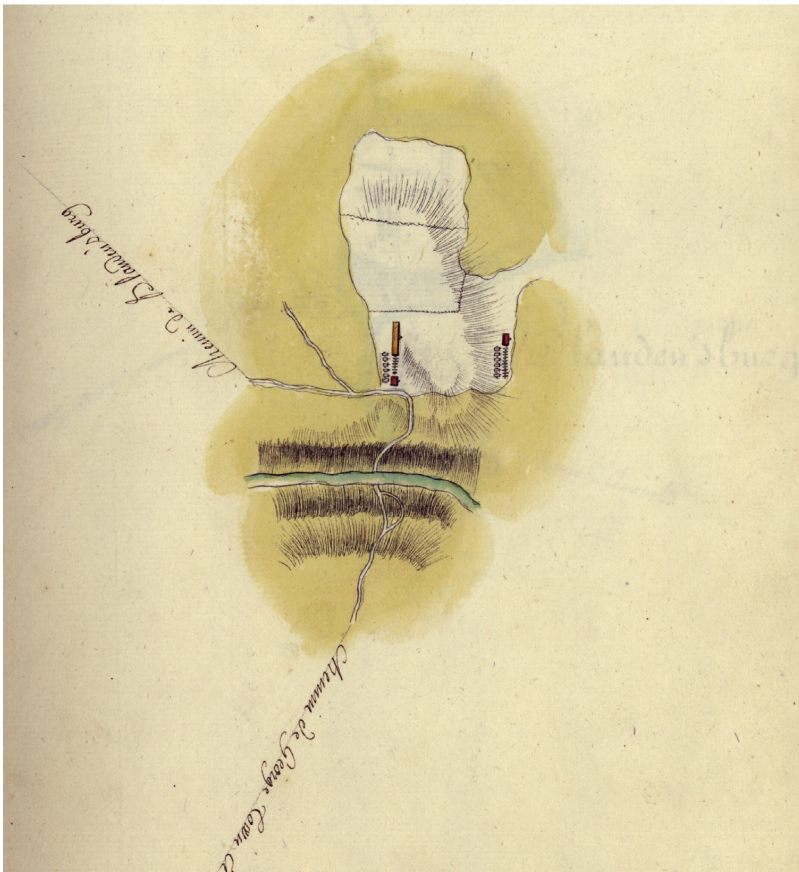
Henri-Dominique, chevalier de Palys de Montrepos came to America as part of Rochambeau's expeditionary force and marched with the third division back to Boston after Yorktown. Palys de Montrepos kept a journal (now held in our library collections) documenting his voyage across the Atlantic from France to America, the army's arrival and residency in Newport, Rhode Island, and their subsequent march to Yorktown in 1781. The journal is silent on the details of the Yorktown siege but picks up again as the French troops marched north. Palys de Montrepos noted in the journal that the third division crossed the Potomac River at Georgetown, then part of the state of Maryland, on July 20. The division camped about a mile to the east of Rock Creek in the vicinity where the American Revolution Institute's headquarters, Anderson House, now stands.

Images:

Top – Detail from "Journal tenu par Henri Dque. de Palys, Chevalier d'Montrepos pendant son voyage en mer, pour aller en Amerique, 1780-1783," by Henri-Dominique, chevalier de Palys de Montrepos, covering the period 1780-1783. The Society of the Cincinnati, Purchased with a gift from a private foundation, 2014.

Bottom – Detail of plate from "Amérique campagne 1782: Plans des different camps occupés par l'armée aux orders de Mr. le Comte de Rochambeau" by Louis-Alexandre Berthier. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.

de la première espèce,
 de 10, à Georges Town, à 8 miles d'Alexandrie
 le chemin est beau, mais le vent d'ouest
 est dangereux lorsque l'amarée est haute,
 nous avons passé le patorvuahe qui est cette
 ville au-dessus de l'île de mafous island. George
 Town est bâtie sur un penchant de montagne
 elle commence à former le camp ^{est} à un mile de



Our Featured Story - Portrait of a French Naval Officer Acquired



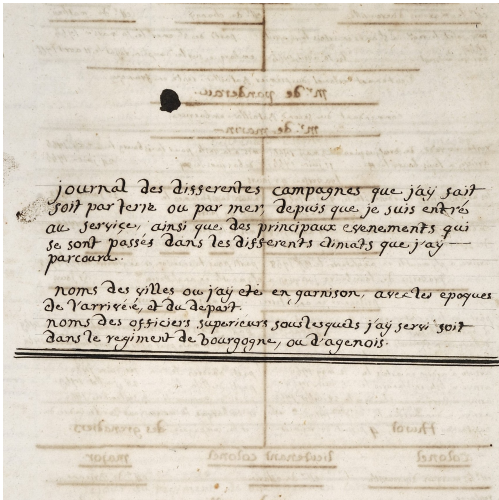
Recently we acquired for our museum collections a portrait of Claude, comte de Mithon de Genouilly, a French naval officer during the American Revolution and an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati. The small watercolor portrait—probably painted in the late eighteenth century by a French artist, who has not yet been identified—depicts the comte de Mithon de Genouilly in uniform wearing the Eagle of the Society of the Cincinnati alongside the insignias of the orders of Saint Louis and Saint Lazare, both Catholic orders in France. The Institute was able to purchase the portrait at auction in France thanks to generous unrestricted support for the 2023 Annual Giving Campaign. If anyone wishes to discuss a designated gift for this acquisition, please contact Emily Parsons, deputy director and curator, at eparsons@societyofthecincinnati.org.

Born in Saint-Domingue (present-day Haiti) in 1725, the comte de Mithon de Genouilly had served in the French navy for more than thirty years when the American Revolutionary War broke out. Appointed capitaine de vaisseau in 1772, he commanded the *Saint Michel* in the squadron of Admiral d'Orvilliers in 1778, and sailed to America the following year to reinforce Admiral d'Estaing's forces. The comte de Mithon de Genouilly fought in the Franco-American Siege of Savannah in the fall of 1779, then joined the French fleet in the Caribbean. He commanded the *Couronne* in the Battle of the Saintes, a decisive British victory over the French in April 1782. Two years later, the comte de Mithon de Genouilly was promoted to chef d'escadre, his final rank in the French navy.

[View the portrait in our online museum database](#)

EVENTS

The Extensive Career of a French Soldier



Join us on Thursday, July 13 at 6:30 p.m. for a lecture featuring historian Robert A. Selig, Ph.D., discussing the journal of Jean-Baptiste Dupleix de Cadignan, a French army officer, from our library collections.

Dupleix de Cadignan entered the French army's Régiment de Bourgogne-Infanterie as a lieutenant on April 15, 1754, five weeks before his sixteenth birthday. That same day, he began a diary that forms the basis for his over four-hundred page, two-volume journal. Commencing in April 1755, when he embarked for Louisbourg, Canada, Dupleix de Cadignan's journal describes his experience as a prisoner of war in July 1758, his exchange the following year and additional imprisonment in Belfast after being captured off the coast of Sweden in 1760, his experience during the campaign against Pasquale Paoli in

Corsica from 1769-1772, his expedition to Saint-Domingue (present-day Haiti) following his promotion to lieutenant colonel in the Régiment d'Agenois in August 1777, his service in America during the latter years of the American Revolution, and his return home and retirement from the French army in 1784. Dupleix de Cadignan's unique experiences combine accounts of naval and siege warfare through the eyes of a single observer, and expand the geographic boundaries of the American Revolution by serving as a vivid reminder of the crucial role played by the French forces. Dr. Selig explores Dupleix de Cadignan's illustrious military career while analyzing the causes and consequences of France's military activities in the decades before the French Revolution.

This lecture will be held in-person at Anderson House and virtual options are available. Registration is requested.

[Learn more and register](#)

EVENTS

Save the Date for our Next Battlefield Tour!

Save the date to join us on September 15 and 16 as we travel to New Jersey and explore the Battle of Monmouth. Using Morristown, N.J., as our base of operations, this experience will include a Friday evening dinner and lecture given by award-winning historian Ricardo A. Herrera, Ph.D., of the U.S. Army War College discussing the events that led to the battle. On Saturday, Dr. Herrera will lead a guided tour to explore the engagement before a visit to the Monmouth County Historical Association to view the well-known painting *Washington Rallying the Troops at Monmouth* by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze, and tour



the Covenhoven House, a private home that Gen. Sir Henry Clinton temporarily made his headquarters prior to the battle.

Can't make both days? No worries! In addition to the two-day full experience option, a dinner and lecture only ticket will also be available. Bus seating for the guided tour will be limited to fifty-three attendees and honored on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional information and registration will be made available soon. To receive updates about the tour, be sure to sign up for our [mailing list](#)!

EDUCATION

Educators Focus on the Expression of America's Highest Ideals in Our Collections



On Thursday, June 15 the Institute was pleased to host a Bill of Rights Institute workshop for thirty of the nation's teachers called "Being an American: Exploring the Ideals that Unite Us." As part of their day-long program, the teachers visited the research library at Anderson House to learn about our classroom resources and view a selection of rare items from our library and museum collections, including the furnishing textile "America presenting at the altar of Liberty, Medallions of her Illustrious Sons" (ca. 1785) and a 1713 edition of Joseph Addison's *Cato, A Tragedy: as it is acted at the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane, by Her Majesty's servants*—a favorite of Gen. George Washington's, performed at his request for the troops at Valley Forge in 1778.

MUSEUM

Walk Weekend Brings a Crowd



Last month, the Dupont Kalorama Museum Consortium's (DKMC) annual Walk Weekend event brought more than 1,500 visitors to our museum at Anderson House. Held on June 3 and 4, Walk Weekend featured DKMC's member sites—Dumbarton House, Dupont Underground, the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, the Phillips Collection, and President Wilson House, as well as our museum—open for free admission and special programs. At Anderson House, visitors toured the historic rooms of the house and took in our [current exhibition](#), *Affairs of State: 118 Years of Diplomacy and Entertaining at Anderson House*. 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. Walk Weekend is DKMC's flagship program,

which marked its thirty-eighth year in 2023.



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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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