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THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

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

today
August 1, 2023

[Calendar of Events](#)

This Month in Revolutionary History - When Washington met Lafayette



On August 5, 1777, a nineteen-year-old Frenchman by the name of Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, marquis de Lafayette, was set to meet the acclaimed forty-five-year-old commander in chief of the Continental Army, George Washington. To get to this day, Lafayette had traveled fifty-six days by ship to reach Charleston, South Carolina. A horse ride of some nine hundred miles followed for the Frenchman to reach the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, where he hoped to join the fight for American independence.

The meeting was to happen at a tavern one week after Congress had appointed Lafayette a volunteer major general on Washington's staff. Whatever his preconceived ideas of the young Frenchman, Washington was apparently impressed by the marquis's zeal for the rebel cause—so much so that

Washington invited Lafayette to join him as the commander inspected the city's defenses.

A month after the Philadelphia meeting, the Continental Army fought the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777. Lafayette's actions that day were lauded, with Washington particularly impressed by the young Frenchman. From that first meeting developed one of most iconic relationships of the American Revolution, some say, not unlike that of father and son.

Our Featured Story - The Legacy of the Fighting Sullivans

Join us on Wednesday, August 9 at 6:30 p.m. ET for a lecture featuring Kelly Sullivan, the granddaughter of Purple Heart recipient Albert Sullivan, discussing the legacy of her grandfather and his four brothers.

On November 13, 1942, the American cruiser USS *Juneau* was torpedoed and sunk by a Japanese submarine during the Battle of Guadalcanal. Serving on the destroyer were George, Francis, Joseph, Madison, and Albert Sullivan, five brothers from Waterloo, Iowa, who were all tragically killed in the attack. In 1944, their parents, Thomas and Alleta Sullivan, were presented with five Purple Heart medals



by Rear Admiral Clark H. Woodward in the Key Room at Anderson House, where several U.S. Navy departments were headquartered during World War II. Of the five Purple Heart medals presented at Anderson House, two are currently featured in our current exhibition, [*Affairs of State: 118 Years of Diplomacy and Entertaining at Anderson House*](#), on view through December 31, 2023.

This lecture will be held in-person at Anderson House and last approximately 45 minutes, with virtual options available.

[Learn more and register for the lecture](#)

EDUCATION

Meet our Class of 2023 Master Teachers!



On July 10-14, our Institute staff, along with Society of the Cincinnati host Hardwick S. Johnson, Jr., Ed.D., welcomed seven teachers to our eleventh annual residential Master Teachers Seminar. The week of scholarly lectures and fellowship culminated with the creation of new online lesson content about the Revolution and its legacy based upon the teachers' individual research using our library and museum collections.

Our Class of 2023 included educators from Alabama, Florida, New Jersey, New York, Wisconsin, Utah, and Virginia, and the topics of their lessons range from the Oneida Indian nation to Benedict Arnold, the Constitution, our alliance with France, and America's national identity—from what it meant to be an American in the early republic to what it means today.

[View these new lessons in detail](#)

EVENTS

A View from Abroad

Join us on Tuesday, August 29, at 6:30 p.m. ET for a virtual lecture featuring Jeanne E. Abrams, Ph.D., discussing the story of John and Abigail Adams' diplomatic journey in Europe.

From 1778 to 1788, future president John Adams lived in Europe as an American diplomat. Joined by his wife, Abigail, in 1784, the two shared rich encounters with famous heads of the European royal courts. Dr. Abrams, professor of history at the University of Denver, shows that the Adams' journey not only changed the course of their intellectual, political, and cultural development, but served to strengthen their loyalty to America, and highlights how the Adamses and their American contemporaries set about supplanting their British origins with a new American identity.

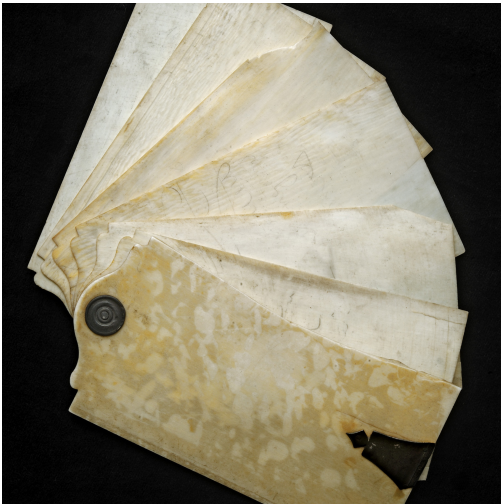


This virtual program accompanies our current exhibition, [*Affairs of State: 118 Years of Diplomacy and Entertaining at Anderson House*](#), on view through December 31, 2023. The program will be held virtually on Zoom and last approximately 45 minutes.

[Learn more and register for this virtual lecture](#)

COLLECTIONS

Back to School Supplies, 18th-Century Style



What would educated Americans in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries use to jot down notes? Small fan-like ivory notebooks were a popular way to record observations, expenses, and thoughts, especially while away from home. Benjamin Franklin sold imported versions from his print shop by the 1740s, and Thomas Jefferson owned examples made in Philadelphia and France. The individual sheets of the notebook were made of thin ivory, and the writing could be rubbed off so the pages could be reused. At just a few inches wide, these pocket notebooks or memorandum books were easily portable. Our collections include one example, probably made in America, owned by Charles Fanning, a Revolutionary War veteran from New London County, Connecticut. Serving for nearly the entire war, Fanning participated in the Siege of Boston, the New York campaign, and the battles of

Germantown and Monmouth, rising from sergeant to first lieutenant in the Connecticut Continental Line and becoming an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati. He may have acquired his ivory pocket notebook after the Revolution, when he helped establish the town of Jewett City and became involved in local politics.

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

In Tribute to Marko Zlatich

With sadness we note the death of our longtime friend and advisor Marko Zlatich on July 26, 2023. An internationally known expert on the military uniforms of the Revolutionary era, Marko was associated with the Institute's museum and library as a researcher and volunteer for more than three decades. He traced his interest in uniforms back to the miniature soldiers he played with as a child, but his scholarly pursuit of the subject became a second career upon his retirement as an archivist at the World Bank in 1989.

Marko was a regular presence in our library's reading room ("If it's Thursday, it must be Marko"). He



mined our collections for every nugget of evidence about how each of the original states clothed and equipped their Continental lines. Our staff benefited greatly from his knowledge and insights that helped us identify and better understand items in our collections and those on the market that we might (or might not) want to pursue. Our library catalog lists forty-eight works under Marko's name, including several original research studies he undertook at our request. He was the author, most notably, of the two-volume work *George Washington's Army* (London: Osprey, 1994-1995), which remains a mainstay for anyone researching the uniforms and accoutrements of the Continental Army.

Marko was a mentor to many rising military historians and was always extremely generous in sharing his research. He was an Honored Fellow of the Company of Military Historians and a regular contributor to its journal and conferences. Last fall, he gave the library his collection of research papers—104 binders meticulously organized by subject. He is survived by his beloved wife, Nancy Aherne, who is one of the founding Associates of the American Revolution Institute.



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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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