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THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

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

today

December 1, 2023

[Calendar of Events](#)

250  Celebrating the
250th Anniversary
of the American Revolution

This Month in Revolutionary History - The Boston Tea Party at 250



This December will see the 250th anniversary of one of the most notable moments in America's Revolution. On December 16, 1773, protesters, several of whom dressed as Native Americans, boarded three vessels docked in the harbor of Boston, Massachusetts, and proceeded to throw overboard more than three hundred crates of tea—worth around one million dollars in today's value. The anger that led to this act stemmed from taxation: who can enact it and who it should affect.

In May 1773, the British Parliament had passed the Tea Act, a piece of legislation which provided a tax break on tea sold by the British East India Company in the thirteen American colonies. By this time the East India Company was in financial turmoil and the main aim of the Tea Act was to rescue the company from likely ruin. With the company solvent, it was

hoped a second outcome of the Tea Act would see an end to American smuggling by undercutting the price of tea sold by the smugglers. What should, for those partial to drinking tea, have been a joyous turn of events instead was seen by many as an overreach of British Parliamentary authority—the taxation of the colonies without colonial representation in Parliament.

The fallout of what became known as the Boston Tea Party came in March 1774. Parliament passed the Boston Port Act legislating that the port of Boston be closed to trade until the British East India Company was paid back for the value of the destroyed tea. The other American colonies, rather than carry on as normal, decided to support Massachusetts by sending gifts of food stuffs in addition to the suggestion for a gathering of representatives of the aggrieved colonies. In September 1774 in Philadelphia they did gather, at a meeting that came to be known as the First Continental Congress.

Join us on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. for a lecture featuring Benjamin Carp, a professor of

history at Brooklyn College, discussing the Boston Tea Party in the context of the global story of British interests in India, North America, and the Caribbean. The talk will be held in person at Anderson House. Registration is requested.

[Learn more and register](#)

Our Featured Story - Affairs of State Exhibition Closes December 31



Join Winston Churchill, Thurgood Marshall, Charles de Gaulle, Marjorie Merriweather Post, Jacqueline Kennedy, nine American presidents, and many more who have visited our headquarters ... There's just one more month to see our current exhibition, *Affairs of State: 118 Years of Diplomacy and Entertaining at Anderson House*, before it closes on December 31!

Diplomacy and entertaining have always gone hand in hand in the nation's capital. Our headquarters, Anderson House, has played a historic role in that story during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries—but one that has largely gone untold. Since its completion in 1905, the mansion has been the site of hundreds of diplomatic, patriotic, philanthropic, and cultural events—establishing Anderson House as a uniquely sought-

after destination in Washington, D.C., for heads of state, government officials, diplomats, and society leaders wanting a place to form relationships, consider challenges, and share common values. *Affairs of State* draws on our rich collections and those of several generous lenders to chronicle more than a century of the people and events that have given Anderson House its place in the diplomatic and cultural history of the American republic and its capital city.

Visit our website to learn more about the exhibition, watch a video tour of the gallery, download the catalog, view recordings of lectures and other programs that have explored the exhibition's themes, and explore a related lesson plan for students.

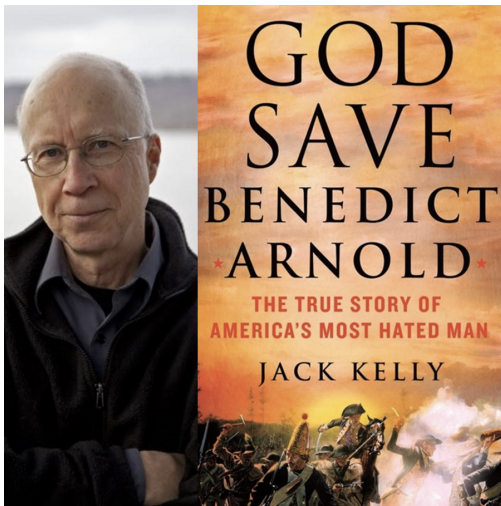
[Learn more](#)

EVENTS

A Reexamination of an American Traitor

Join us on Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. for an author's talk featuring historian Jack Kelly discussing his new book, *God Save Benedict Arnold: The True Story of America's Most Hated Man*, published by St. Martin's Press.

For more than two centuries, all most Americans have ever known about Benedict Arnold is that he committed treason—yet he was more than a turncoat. He was a superb leader, a brilliant tactician, a supremely courageous soldier, and one of the most successful military officers of the early years of the Revolutionary War. His capture of Fort Ticonderoga, his Maine mountain expedition to attack Quebec, the famous artillery duel at Valcour Island, and the turning point at the Battle of Saratoga all laid the groundwork for our independence. Although his new book doesn't exonerate Arnold for his treason, Mr. Kelly forces us to reexamine our understanding of Arnold by offering a fresh new perspective on the events and decisions that led to his momentous change of heart and the permanent stain on his character.



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

[Learn more and register](#)

COLLECTIONS

A Virginian at Trenton



In the early morning hours of December 26, 1776, one of the most iconic American victories of the Revolution took place when George Washington's Continental Army defeated a force of Hessian troops occupying Trenton, New Jersey. After a nine-mile march from the Delaware River, which Washington and his army had crossed on Christmas night, the Americans surprised the smaller force of Hessians. The fighting lasted for about an hour until the Hessians surrendered the garrison, along with its valuable stores of weapons, food, and clothing. After their surrender, the sword of their mortally wounded commander, Johann Gottlieb Rall, was presented to Lt. Col. Josiah Parker of the Fifth Virginia Regiment, which had fought in the battle as part of Brig. Gen. Adam Stephen's brigade.

The Institute recently added to its collections a portrait of Josiah Parker (1751-1810) done in 1799 by French artist Charles B. J. F. de Saint-Mémin. The portrait was generously donated in honor of Dorothy Perry Kiger, a great-great-great-great granddaughter of the sitter. Josiah Parker, who grew up on his family's plantation, Macclesfield, in southeastern Virginia, joined the fight for American independence in 1775, when he joined a patriot militia unit. By February 1776 he was commissioned a major in the Fifth Virginia Regiment of the Continental Army. Aside from Trenton, Parker also fought at the battles of Princeton, Brandywine, and Germantown, and was wounded during the latter. He resigned from the army in July 1778 to tend to business matters at home but returned in 1781 to command militia troops during the British invasion of the state. His military service qualified him for membership in the Society of the Cincinnati, founded in 1783, and he joined its Virginia branch. After the war Parker served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1789 to 1801. The chalk-on-paper profile portrait was executed in Philadelphia during his last term in Congress.

EVENTS

Now Online: The 2023 George Rogers Clark Lecture

On Friday, October 27, historian Lord Andrew Roberts and Gen. David Petraeus (U.S. Army, Ret.) delivered the 2023 George Rogers Clark Lecture. A full video of the event and Q&A is now available online through our website and [YouTube page](#).



Drawing from comparisons to military conflicts spanning the late eighteenth century through the present, Lord Roberts and General Petraeus discussed how King George III and his British forces in North America could have won the American Revolution. Recently, the two have co-authored a new book, *Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine*, published by Harper Collins Publishers.

Presented annually since 1975, the Society of the Cincinnati's George Rogers Clark Lecture recognizes the scholarship of leading historians of the American Revolution. Recent Clark Lecturers include Nick Bunker, Rick Atkinson, Kathleen DuVal, and Andrew O'Shaughnessy.

[Watch the discussion](#)

Wishing You a Happy Holiday Season!



Staff at the American Revolution Institute wish you and yours a happy and peaceful holiday season!

To get into the holiday spirit, warm yourself up at Anderson House with a house tour where you can delight in the festive décor sprinkled throughout the historic interiors, and visit our shop, in person or online, for your gift giving needs to the American Revolution aficionado in your life!

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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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