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THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

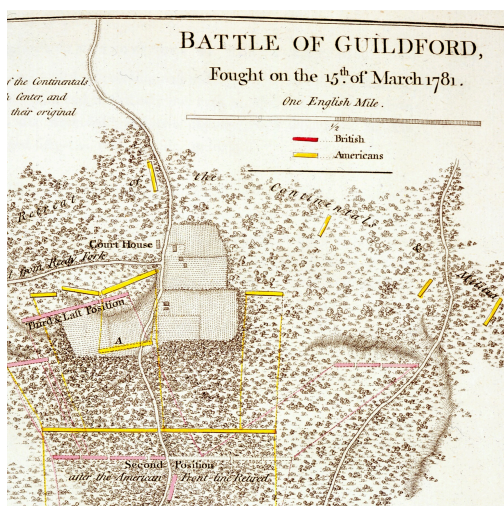
News, Events, and Commentary
from the American Revolution Institute
of the Society of the Cincinnati

today

March 1, 2024

[Calendar of Events](#)

This Month in Revolutionary History - The Battle of Guilford Courthouse



"Dreadful was the havoc on both sides" – Attributed to Sergeant Roger Lamb, Twenty-third Regiment of Foot (The Prince of Wales's Own Royal Regiment of Welch Fusiliers), present at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

In the seven weeks that preceded the battle, the British and American armies waged a game of cat and mouse across the interior of North Carolina. A British army under General Lord Cornwallis covered over 250 miles with the aim to engage and destroy the outnumbered American army under Gen. Nathanael Greene. After crossing the Dan River separating North Carolina and Virginia, Greene was able to gain breathing space before being reinforced and recrossing the border to take the fight to the British.

Finally, on March 15, both Cornwallis and Greene had the battle they desired at the small town of Guilford Courthouse. The fighting that day was of such intensity that, according to one American soldier, the opposing British and American troops "appeared so near that the blazes from the muskets of their guns seemed to meet."

The day ended with the British holding the field and both sides licking their wounds. Cornwallis' force withdrew to Wilmington to recuperate, leaving the interior open to eventual American gains while Greene's force turned its sights to ousting the British from South Carolina. Seeking a strategic victory, on April 25, Cornwallis and his men began their move north to Virginia to write the last chapter of the Revolutionary War in North America that would lead the British to the catastrophic Siege of Yorktown.

Our Featured Story - Lafayette is Back!

Two hundred years ago, on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the American Revolution, the marquis de Lafayette made a triumphant tour of the United States, returning for a final time to the country he helped establish and whose democratic experiment he saw as a model for the rest of the world. In August 1824,

FETE

A French Hero's Tour of the American Republic

LAFAYETTE

ON EXHIBIT MARCH 2 - DECEMBER 31

Institute's new exhibition, *Fete Lafayette: A French Hero's Tour of the American Republic*, opens on March 2. The show will explore how Lafayette was celebrated during the tour and how the tour highlighted the country's revolutionary ideals and origins for a new generation. Visit the exhibition—a rich display of more than forty artifacts, documents, and artworks—to learn more about Lafayette's farewell tour as well as his involvement in the American Revolution, relationships with American founders, membership in the Society of the Cincinnati, fight for universal liberty, and legacy.

[Learn more about the exhibition](#)

Lafayette sailed into New York Harbor, beginning a thirteen-month tour of the United States that took the Frenchman to all twenty-four states of the union and the federal city of Washington, where he spent much of the winter of 1824-1825. We recently spotted him in the nation's capital, commenting on how his adopted country had changed. [Watch Lafayette's Commentary.](#)

Marking the bicentennial of Lafayette's farewell tour, the American Revolution

EDUCATION

Traveling Trunk Reservations for the 2024-25 School Year Open Tuesday, March 19



Since 2016, students across the country have enjoyed using our traveling trunks to learn about the Continental Army and the Revolutionary War at sea. Each trunk set features reproduction clothing, replica artifacts, books, posters, and comprehensive lesson plans. Last year, the trunks were quickly booked for every week they were made available, so if you know a teacher who would enjoy hosting this free resource in their classroom, encourage them to reserve one online beginning March 19!

[Reserve your traveling trunk today](#)

EVENTS

Art in Bloom Returns this Month

We are two weeks away from the fourth year of Art in Bloom DC! From March 14-17, our historic headquarters will be filled with dozens of floral installations inspired by the art and architecture of Anderson House and created by Washington's most creative and innovative designers.

During this limited four-day event, visitors can tour the museum headquarters and view the floral installations during special public viewing hours. Our expert museum docents will be on hand to discuss



the history of Anderson House, the collections, and the Society of the Cincinnati and its American Revolution Institute. Guests will also have special access to the garden, which is not normally open to the public.

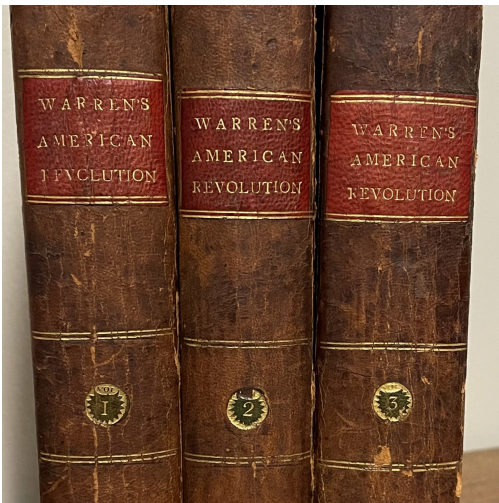
Art in Bloom DC also features several special ticketed demo sessions with some of our featured floral designers. Held at various times from March 15-17, these demo sessions include floral smudge stick making, a discussion of meanings and healing powers of flowers in everyday life, and various methods of Hanakubari.

Anderson House is the exclusive venue for Art in Bloom DC and is co-produced by the Institute, Margo Fischer of Bright Occasions, and Ashley Greer of Atelier Ashley Flowers.

[Learn more and purchase tickets](#)

COLLECTIONS

Celebrating the Women of the American Revolution



For Women's History Month, who better to highlight from our library collection than Mercy Otis Warren and her three-volume publication *History of the Rise, Progress and Termination of the American Revolution*, published in 1805. Today, this work is regarded as an essential contemporary account of the Revolutionary War.

At the age of seventy-five, Mercy Otis Warren published her *History*, cementing her status as one of the first American women to publish a non-fiction work. This history had been a work in progress since the start of the American Revolution and begins with the Stamp Act and ends with "General Washington's second Retreat from public Life." In all, Mercy wrote a comprehensive history that analyzed and assessed the war and included character pieces that shed light on the main

characters of the Revolution. She was unafraid to criticize those in power (often her friends)—including John Adams and George Washington, with whom she experienced ideological rifts in post-war America.

Mercy Otis Warren—historian, writer, poet, friend to liberty—was featured in *The Women of the Revolution*, first published in 1848 and written by Elizabeth Ellet, one of the first American historians of women. Ellet wrote, "The name Mercy Warren belongs to American history. In the influence she exercised, she was perhaps the most remarkable woman who lived at the Revolutionary period."

Stay tuned on social media for staff picks highlighting other women in our library and museum collections.

[Learn more about Mercy Otis Warren](#)

EVENTS

Explore the Legacy of a Free Black Revolutionary War Veteran



In February 2023, the Museum of the American Revolution opened the acclaimed special exhibition *Black Founders: The Forten Family of Philadelphia*. The exhibition introduced visitors to three generations of the family of James Forten (1766-1842), a free Black Revolutionary War veteran and sailmaker, as they battled slavery and defended freedom in the early United States. Join us on Tuesday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. for a lecture by Matthew Skic, curator of exhibitions at the Museum of the American Revolution, discussing the research behind Black Founders. He will highlight the effort to bring together objects and documents relating to James Forten's wartime experience as a teenaged sailor aboard the American privateer vessel and a prisoner of war held by the British, as well as the relationships he built with living descendants of James Forten around the United States in preparation for the

exhibition.

This lecture will be held in-person at Anderson House and last approximately 45 minutes. Registration is requested and virtual options are available. A recording of this program will be made available at a later date.

Image credit: Collection of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania

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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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