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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, 2024

[Calendar of Events](#)

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### ***Our Featured Story: 2024 Master Teachers in Residence at Anderson House this Month***



Our staff is busy preparing for our twelfth annual residential Master Teachers Seminar on July 7-13. We are excited to welcome seven new teachers to our Master Teacher alumni ranks from the states of Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, South Carolina, and Wisconsin! This year's week of collections research, scholarly lectures, and fellowship will produce new online lesson content about colonial protests and the Stamp Act, John Laurens, and the foundational ideas of the American republic—including freedom of religion and the creation of the American legislative process.

Follow us on social media to learn more about the 2024 Master Teachers and their research throughout July.

[View the work of our alumni Master Teachers](#)

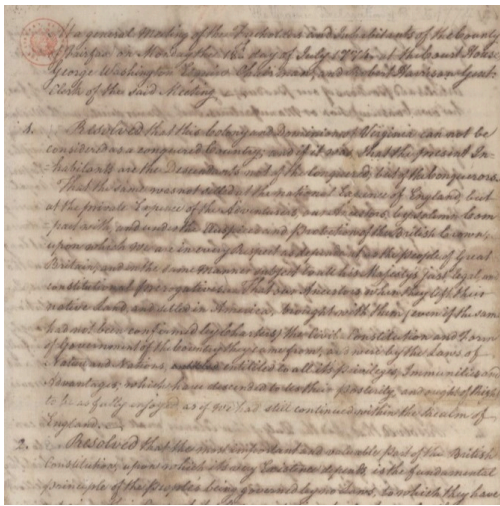
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250

Celebrating the  
250th Anniversary  
of the American Revolution

### ***This Month in Revolutionary History: The Fairfax Resolves***

250 years ago, on July 18, 1774, a group of “Freeholders and Inhabitants” of Fairfax County gathered in a courthouse in Alexandria, Virginia, to protest Great Britain’s anti-American policies. Overseen by future commander-in-chief George Washington, this meeting approved twenty-six resolutions later known as the Fairfax Resolves. Drafted by Washington and George Mason, the Fairfax Resolves are a rational and measured critique of London in response, in large part, to Parliament’s passing of the Coercive (Intolerable) Acts, the collective name for the group of four bills passed beginning on March 31, 1774, in



response to the Boston Tea Party. Several of the resolutions confidently declare the status of Virginians as British subjects no different from those living in Great Britain and, as such, they argue that they should fall “under the Auspices and Protections of the British Crown” and are “in the same manner subject to all his Majesty’s just, legal and constitutional Prerogatives.”

Far from being a list of complaints, the twenty-six resolutions provide a plan for political recourse should the British administration fail to hear the “american Grievances.” Actions include an embargo on the importation of select British goods into the thirteen colonies, the halting of American exports to Great Britain, and the cessation of the commerce in enslaved human beings—“for ever put to such a wicked cruel and

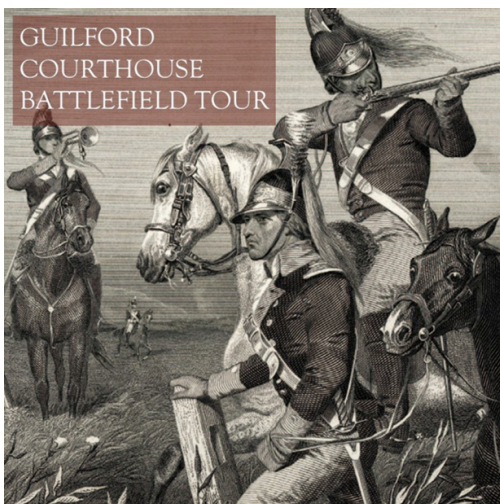
unnatural Trade.” Several mentions are made to the creation of a colonial congress, to consist of deputies from each of the thirteen American colonies with the purpose of solving the many issues in concert with Great Britain. The twenty-fifth resolution established a Fairfax County committee of safety. Here, tentatively laid out, are the first steps for a local organization to solve the political crises with Britain, as well as a plan for a cross-American colonial meeting—the building blocks that would form an independent nation.

The ideas put forth in the Fairfax Resolves are largely from the mind of Virginia planter George Mason. He would further develop these ideas when drafting the Virginia State Constitution and Declaration of Rights, two documents that would inspire the creation of the Declaration of Independence. In the 1780s and 1790s, Mason’s work would help stir the development of the first ten amendments to the Constitution, known together as the Bill of Rights, that guarantee central civil rights for Americans to this day.

Image: George Mason [and George Washington?]. *Fairfax County Resolves*, July 18, 1774. Manuscript. George Washington Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress (014.01.01) [Digital ID# us0014\_01p2]

## EVENTS

### *Announcing our Next Battlefield Tour!*



“The battle was long, obstinate, and bloody. We were obliged to give up the ground, and lost our artillery, but the enemy have been so soundly beaten that they dare not move towards us since the action...they have gained no advantage, on the contrary, they are little short of being ruined.”

Gen. Nathanael Greene penned those words in his report following the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, which we are thrilled to announce is the location of our next battlefield tour! Save the date, and plan to join us on November 15-16, 2024, as we explore this important engagement of the Revolution’s Southern Campaign.

Using Greensboro, N.C., as our base of operations, the two-day experience will kick off with a Friday evening dinner and

lecture given by historian Dennis Conrad, Ph.D., editor of *The Papers of Nathanael Greene*, discussing Greene’s leadership and various events that led to the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. On Saturday, a day-long guided tour of Guilford Courthouse National Military Park and other associated locations will be led by historian John Maass, Ph.D., author of *The Battle of Guilford Courthouse: A Most Desperate*

*Engagement.* The tour will closely examine the battle and explore the various combat locations that comprised it.

[Additional information and registration](#)

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## COLLECTIONS

### *A Frenchman in Newport*



This month 244 years ago, a French expeditionary force arrived in Newport, Rhode Island—strengthening the Franco-American alliance with direct military support for George Washington’s Continental Army. On July 11, 1780, a French fleet carrying six thousand troops commanded by General Rochambeau landed at Newport. One of the French naval officers with the fleet was Hippolyte-Louis-Antoine, marquis de Fort, comte de Capellis, whose portrait is part of the Institute’s museum collections. Painted about 1785 by French artist Henri Nicolas van Gorp, the portrait depicts Capellis wearing the insignias of the Order of Saint Louis and the Society of the Cincinnati.

Capellis was a lieutenant de vaisseau and an aide to the head of the fleet, Admiral de Ternay, when they arrived in Newport. Born in Avignon, Capellis had joined the French navy in 1758 at the age of fourteen. He entered the American war with de Ternay’s fleet in 1780, making the journey on the admiral’s flagship, *Duc de Bourgogne*. After arriving in Newport, Capellis helped establish an office for the naval forces at the house of loyalist Joseph Wanton, Jr., where the Frenchman also took lodgings. In January 1781, Capellis was given command of the frigate *Ariel*. He participated in two naval campaigns to Virginia in 1781, fighting in the Battle of Cape Henry that March and the Battle of the Chesapeake in September. He patrolled the Delaware River as late as 1783, leaving America for good that May in command of a frigate carrying Lauzun’s Legion back to France.

[View the portrait online](#)



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## EVENTS

### *A 250th Anniversary Lecture: Lord Dunmore’s War*

In commemoration of the 250th anniversary of Dunmore’s War, join us on Wednesday, July 17 at 6:30 p.m. for a lecture featuring Glenn F. Williams, Ph.D., discussing the course and importance of Dunmore’s War and addressing the folklore concerning the war and frontier fighting.

Known to history as Dunmore’s War, the 1774 campaign against a Shawnee-led Indian confederacy in the Ohio country marked the final time an American colonial militia took to the field in His Majesty’s service and under royal command. Led by John Murray, the fourth Earl of Dunmore and royal governor of Virginia, a force of colonials including George Rogers Clark, Daniel Morgan, Michael Cresap, Adam





Stephen, and Andrew Lewis successfully enforced the western border established by treaties in parts of present-day West Virginia and Kentucky. As an immediate result of Dunmore's War, the frontier remained quiet for two years, which allowed colonies to debate and declare independence before Britain convinced its Native allies to resume attacks on American settlements. Although he was hailed as a hero at the end of the war, Lord Dunmore's attempt to maintain royal authority put him in direct opposition to many of his subordinates who followed him on the frontier, and he was driven from Virginia and returned to England in 1776.

This program 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](#)

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## MUSEUM

### Fete Lafayette Video Tour



If you haven't visited our current exhibition, *Fete Lafayette: A French Hero's Tour of the American Republic*, you can see a selection of the objects on display in this short video with the show's curator, and the Institute's deputy director and curator, Emily Parsons. Through more than fifty objects drawn from our collections, along with the collections of several important lenders, *Fete Lafayette* explores the Frenchman's farewell tour of the United States in 1824-1825, how it highlighted Lafayette's contributions to its creation and vision for its future, and the tour's role in highlighting the country's revolutionary ideals for a new era.

[Watch the video](#)



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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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