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News from the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati

ARI today

APRIL 2025

250

Celebrating the
250th Anniversary
of the American Revolution

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Featured Story



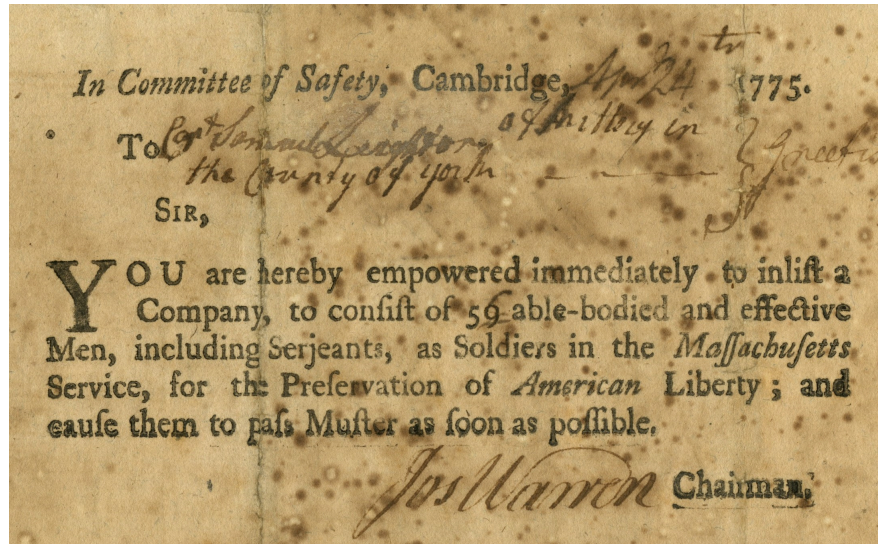
Explore the Beginning of the American Revolution!

To kick off our eight-year-long 250th anniversary celebrations of the American Revolution, join us on Tuesday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m. for a panel discussion highlighting the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Panelists will discuss the prelude of the two events of April 19, 1775, the engagements through the perspectives of the battles' participants and civilian eyewitnesses, and recent archaeological findings and how they have enhanced the interpretation of the battles.

The 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](#)

This Month in Revolutionary History



“For the preservation of American liberty.”

250 years ago, on April 19, 1775, the Battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts marked the beginning of the American war for independence. What followed was an eight year conflict and the creation of the United States of America.

Recognizing the importance of the two engagements, the Massachusetts Committee of Safety met in Cambridge within a week of the battles, on April 24, 1775, to deliberate and begin mustering additional companies of men. This document in our library collections authorized Samuel Leighton from Kittery in York County to “inlist a company, to consist of 59 [56] able-bodied and effective men, including serjeants, as soldiers in the Massachusetts service, for the preservation of American liberty.” The document is signed twice by Dr. Joseph Warren, the president of the Provincial Congress, who would be killed in action at the Battle of Bunker Hill several months later on June 17, 1775. As a reward for his successful recruitment of soldiers, Samuel Leighton was given the position of captain in Col. James Scammon’s Massachusetts Battalion, which served until December 1775; he would later serve as a captain in the Massachusetts Militia from 1776 to 1780.

[View the document](#)

Education



Now Online: *Revolutionary Beginnings* Classroom Resources

The War for American Independence began 250 years ago on April 19, 1775, with the Battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts. From April 1775 to June 1776, Patriot, Loyalist, and British forces clashed in most of the thirteen American colonies, as well as in Canada and the Caribbean. To commemorate the semiquincentennial anniversaries of these “Revolutionary Beginnings,” we are pleased to share a suite of classroom resources featuring Lexington, Bunker Hill, Washington’s early challenges as commander in chief, and the plight of southern Loyalists. Later this month we will release six short videos made for the classroom focused on 1775’s essential “who, what, when, where, and how” in the first installment of a series named *Year in Revolution*.

Visit “Revolutionary Beginnings” for the classroom

Collections



Portrait of a Massachusetts Minute Man

William Thompson (1748-1816)—a native of Middleboro, Massachusetts, about forty miles south of Boston—was an ensign in the town's First Company of Minute Men at the outbreak of the revolution. Middleboro's minute men assembled when word reached them on April 19 of the fighting in Lexington and Concord, but they were too far away to join the battles that day. Instead, they joined other minute men from the area to march on the Loyalist stronghold on the farm of Nathaniel Ray Thomas in Marshfield, where a Loyalist militia had been training for several months under the protection of British soldiers commanded by Capt. Nisbet Balfour. The leaders of the Patriot force ultimately decided not to attack the Thomas farm, allowing the British regulars to escape on two Royal Navy vessels.

By May 1775, William Thompson had joined the Siege of Boston, stationed in Roxbury with Col. Theophilus Cotton's Massachusetts Regiment. The next month, Thompson fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill. During the battle, William's wife, Deborah, was pregnant with their second child, who was born on July 1, 1775. Cephas Thompson (1775-1856) would become an artist and painted this oil portrait of his father later in life. Cephas' prolific career included painting portraits of prominent early Americans like John Marshall, David Ramsay, Stephen Decatur, Jr., and George Washington Parke Custis.

The portrait of William Thompson, acquired for the Institute's collections in 2019, is on display in our current exhibition, *Revolutionary Beginnings: War and Remembrance in the First Year of*

America's Fight for Independence, through January 4, 2026.

[View the painting](#)

Historical Programs This Month

All programs are held in-person at Anderson House unless otherwise specified. Virtual options are available. Admission is free unless otherwise specified and registration is requested. Click the images below to learn more and register for each upcoming program, or [click here to view our full calendar of upcoming programs](#).

Lecture

The Realities of Infantry in Combat During the American Revolution

Alexander Burns, Ph.D.

Tuesday, April 8, 2025
6:30 P.M.
Anderson House

Lunch Bite Object Talk

A Hanger Sword Owned by a Massachusetts Minute Man

Emily Parsons

Friday, April 18, 2025
12:30 P.M.
Anderson House

Panel Discussion

The Battles of Lexington and Concord

Tuesday, April 29, 2025
6:30 P.M.
Anderson House

**Click Here to Explore All Our
Upcoming Historical Programs**



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Calendar of Events

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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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