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

# ARI today

MAY 2025

250

Celebrating the  
250th Anniversary  
of the American Revolution

[CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

## Featured Story



[Year in Revolution Videos](#)

We are proud to present *Year in Revolution*, a landmark series of short-form animated videos exploring the American Revolution through the years 1775 to 1783. The first two defining years of the American Revolution—1775 and 1776—premiered on our website in April and tell the story of the Revolution through the lens of liberty, leadership, and lasting change.

Each year in this year-by-year journey through the Revolutionary War, from the first sparks of resistance to the eventual triumph of American independence, is represented by six themed films—focusing on people, ideals, events, places, relationships, and timelines—crafted specifically to support middle school learners and educators. Each film offers a distilled, story-driven account of a pivotal moment or theme, making complex history accessible, memorable, and meaningful. From the Liberty Tree to the Battle of Trenton, from *Common Sense* to the Declaration of Independence, this series captures the drama and urgency of a world being remade.

Drawing from the Institute’s extensive library and museum collections, each film features original animation with rich historical imagery, tactile graphic elements, and a narrative style blending clarity, energy, and the occasional flash of humor to engage young viewers. It has been a thrill to see our collections come to life in service to the Society of the Cincinnati’s two-hundred forty-two-year commitment to perpetuating the memory of the American Revolution. We hope the series inspires students of the Revolution of all ages to learn more about this critical time in our history.

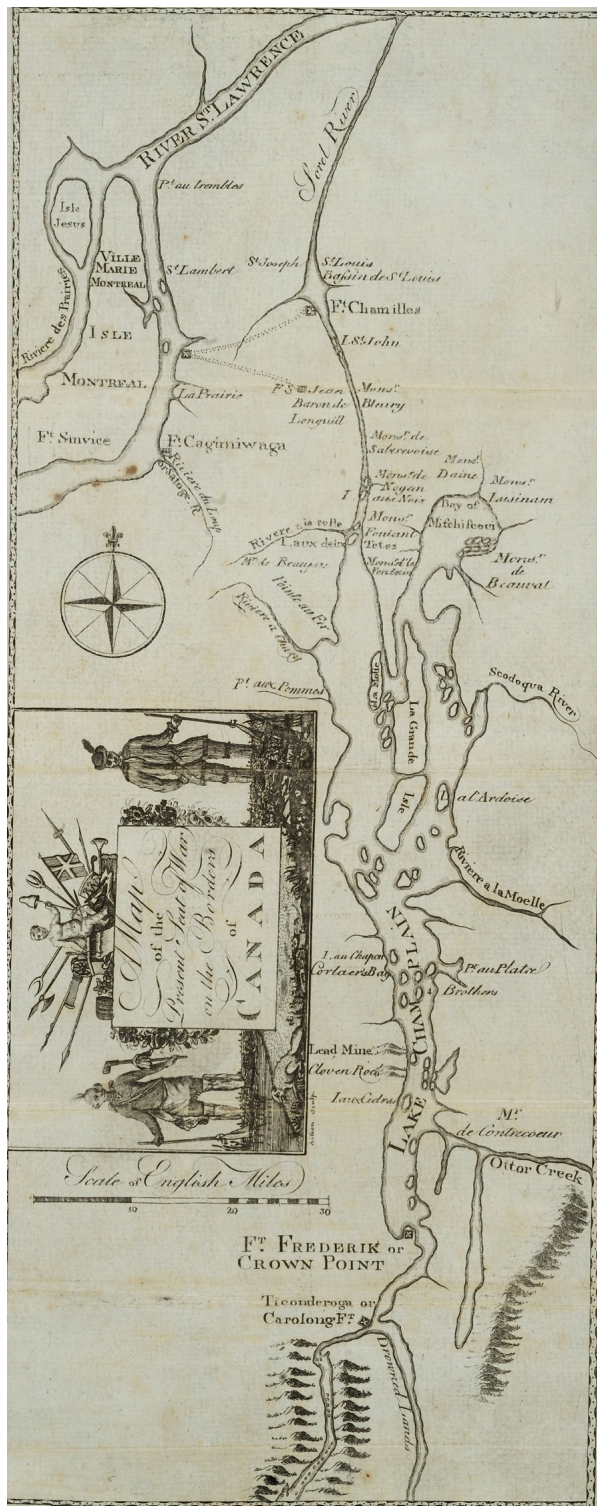
Funding for this series was made possible by a grant from the George S. Rich Family Foundation.

### **Experience a Year in Revolution**

## **This Month in Revolutionary History**

### **Allen and Arnold Capture Fort Ticonderoga**

The weeks following the Battles of Lexington and Concord saw a group of Americans led by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold off to capture Fort Ticonderoga. The area around Lake Champlain was the focus of heavy military action during the earliest years of the war with American and British troops trying to gain control of the area between New York and Canada. On May 10, 1775, the Americans under the direction of Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold captured British-held Fort Ticonderoga on the southern end of the lake and confiscated the valuable stores of artillery.



This October 1775 map in our collections from *The Pennsylvania Magazine* illustrates the importance of this trade route—the fastest corridor between Quebec and the colonies and the only route by water in the region. The capture of Fort Ticonderoga and its artillery stores gave the Americans a way to advance into Canada for the fall 1775 Quebec campaign.

[View the map in our Digital Library](#)

## Events





## Announcing our Summer 2025 Programs!

Our summer calendar of historical programs kicks off tonight with a lecture featuring Elizabeth Chew and Melina Testin of the South Carolina Historical Society discussing the Fourth South Carolina Regiment and the orderly book of Capt. Barnard Elliot.

Other summer program highlights include:

- May 21—another installment of *From the Vault—Prisoners of the Revolution*, a unique opportunity to view and learn about treasures from our library collections relating to prisoners of war during the American Revolution
- June 17—a lecture by historian Paul Lockhart commemorating the Battle of Bunker Hill on its 250th anniversary
- June 25—an author's talk featuring Pulitzer-Prize winning author Rick Atkinson discussing his new book, *The Fate of the Day: The War For America, From Fort Ticonderoga to Charleston, 1777-1780*
- July 1—a special program commemorating the 300th birthday of the Comte de Rochambeau
- July 9—an author's talk featuring Zara Anishanslin of the University of Delaware discussing her new book, *The Painter's Fire: A Forgotten History of the Artists who Championed the American Revolution*

Most programs are held in-person at Anderson House, but virtual options are available unless otherwise specified.

**[Download our summer 2025 programs brochure](#)**

**Library**





## French Naval Officers Visit our Library

Our research library helps tell the story of the American Revolution by preserving primary sources and welcoming new scholarship. In April, the library hosted a visit from Professor Jean-Marie Kowalski, dean of the Humanities Department at the École Navale, Brest, France, along with French naval officers and cadets to view selected manuscripts, maps, and printed works.

Earlier this year, the Society of the Cincinnati supported the acquisition of a unique French Navy manuscript maintained aboard Louis Antoine de Bougainville's flagship *Auguste* that includes accounts of the Battle of the Chesapeake and Siege of Yorktown. The manuscript was previously held in private possession and has never been seen by historians on either side of the Atlantic. French manuscripts from this period are vital to understanding the pivotal naval battles during the American Revolutionary War. Professor Kowalski, an honorary member of the Société des Cincinnati de France, will help to compare the new manuscript to documents held in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France—a step towards determining the author of the journal.

While we may think of libraries as places for quiet independent study, Library Director Thomas Lannon intends for materials in the library's care to be consulted and cited by scholars, researchers, and students. "It's not simply about possession or display; we intend for library collections to be actively consulted by researchers and to serve as evidence in new longform studies of the Revolutionary period," Lannon said.

**Learn more about the library**

## Collections



### Collecting250 Online Resource

The Decorative Arts Trust recently launched a new online resource celebrating the United States Semiquincentennial through objects—including several from our collections. The Collecting250 website features 250 historic objects from more than 140 institutions across the country. These objects represent independence, identity, and community, and highlight how material culture can tell the story of America. Among our objects included in Collecting250 are an eighteenth-century gold Society of the Cincinnati Eagle insignia owned by Revolutionary War veteran Allan McLane and Charles Willson Peale's 1778 mezzotint print of George Washington. Find our collections on the website, which you can also browse by type of object or the geographic area where the objects were made.

**Visit Collecting250**

## 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 Fourth South Carolina Regiment and the  
Orderly Book of Capt. Barnard Elliot

Elizabeth Chew & Melina Testin

Thursday, May 1, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Anderson House

## Special Program

From the Vault—Prisoners of the Revolution

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Anderson House

\$25 per person

Ages 21+



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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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