

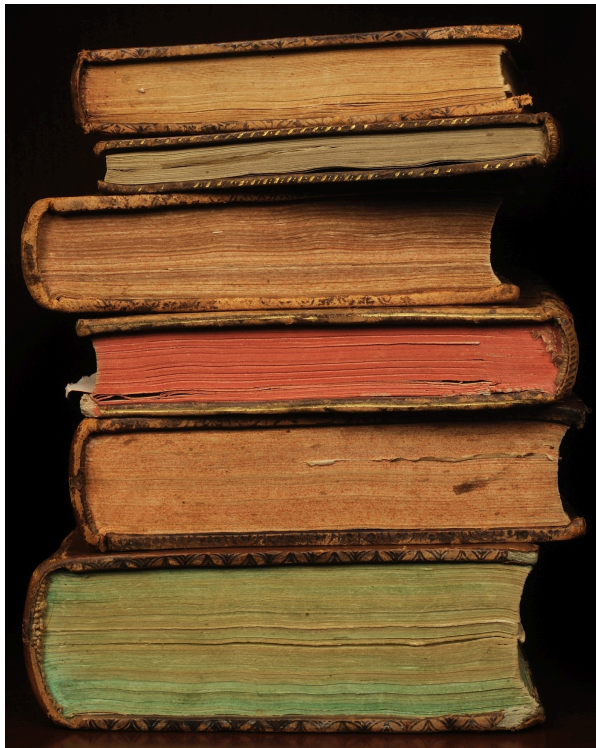
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News from the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati



[CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

Featured Story



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Announcing the 2026 Library Research Fellowships

The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati encourages advanced study of and publication on the importance and legacy of the American Revolution through its fellowship program. Each fellowship provides \$2,500 toward the cost of travel, housing, and per diem expenses to support a scholar working in the Institute's library for a minimum of five days. Fellows receive support to explore the library and museum collections related to their project. Strengths of the collections are materials relating to the art of war in the eighteenth century, documents regarding the conduct of the Revolutionary War, primary sources that provide context for the achievement of the American forces and their French allies in securing the independence of the United States, personal narratives from the war, and the archives of the Society of the Cincinnati.

This Month in Revolutionary History



The Creation of the Continental Army

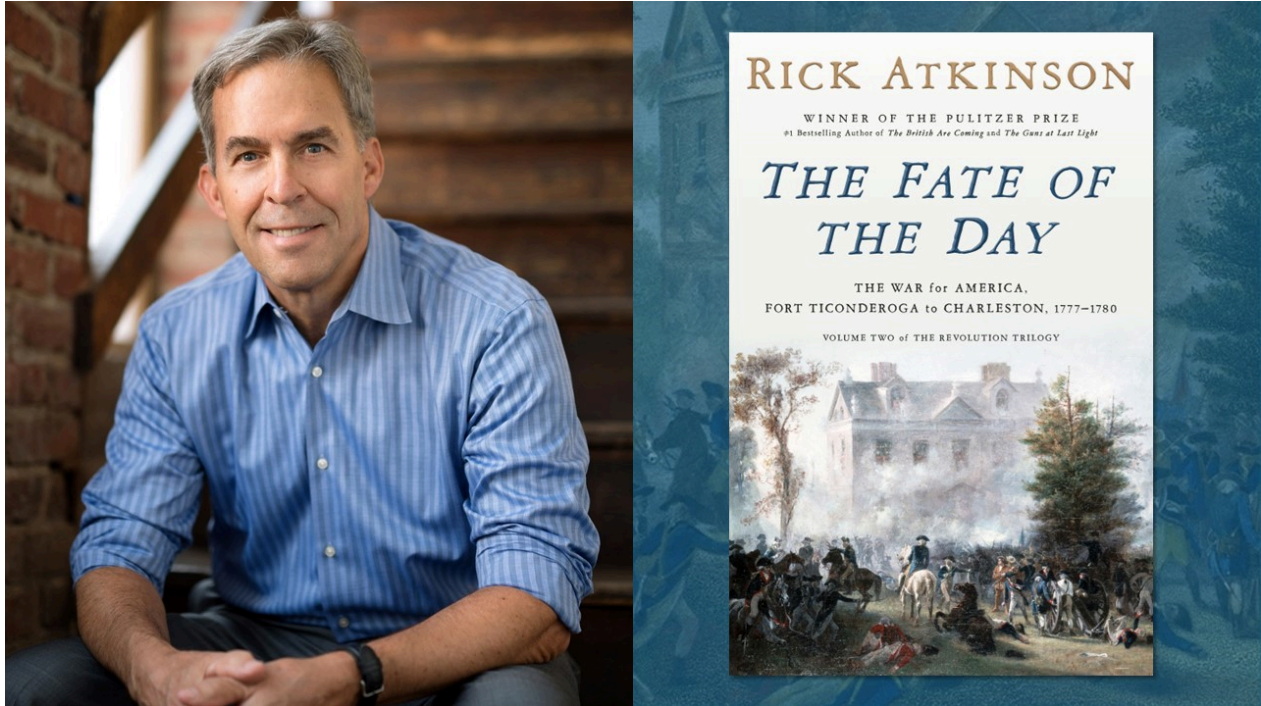
How does one go about forming an army? In June 1775, that is exactly what the Continental Congress had to figure out, as the Patriot forces were a collection of independent colonial militias and units. Over three consecutive days, Congress established the Continental Army and continued to refine its organization over the coming months.

On June 14, 1775, Congress resolved that “The six companies of expert riflemen, be immediately raised in Pennsylvania, two in Maryland, and two in Virginia...That each company, as soon as completed, shall march and join the army near Boston, to be there employed as light infantry, under the command of the chief Officer in that army.”

The next day, June 15, Congress resolved “That a General be appointed to command all the continental forces, raised, or to be raised, for the defence of American liberty,” and in a unanimous decision, George Washington was appointed. And, on June 16, Congress established the army’s command and support staff by mandating its general officer ranks, pay rates, and allocation of secretaries and aides de camp, and also created a contingent of engineers.

In these tentative first steps 250 years ago, the core of the Continental Army was established. This force would be structured and trained based on European precedents that would eventually enable the Continental Army to match the British army on the battlefields in the colonies.

Events

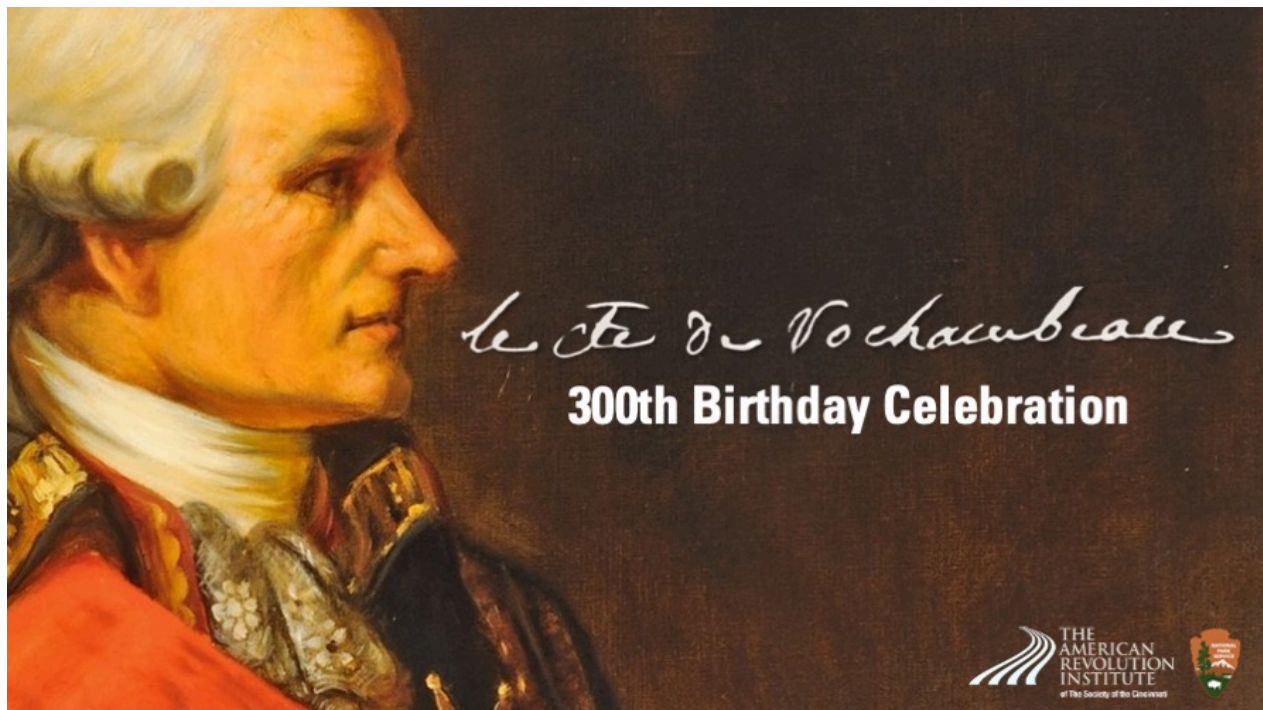


Rick Atkinson Returns to Anderson House

Join us on Wednesday, June 25 at 6:30 p.m. for an author's talk featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Rick Atkinson to discuss the second book of his Revolution trilogy.

Two years into the American Revolution, King George III was determined to bring his rebellious colonies to heel, though his task was now far too complicated. Not only was he fighting a determined enemy on the other side of the Atlantic in a conflict that was becoming ruinously expensive, but spies were telling him that the French and Spanish were threatening to join America's fight. Drawing from his new book, Atkinson provides a riveting narrative that covers the middle years of the war, from the Saratoga Campaign of 1777 through the Siege of Charleston in 1780.

[Learn more and register](#)



Celebrate Rochambeau's 300th Birthday With Us!

The comte de Rochambeau, commander in chief of France's 1780 expeditionary force sent to aid the Continental Army, played a pivotal role in helping to secure American independence. To commemorate the 300th birthday of this important figure of the American Revolution, join us and the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail at Anderson House on Tuesday, July 1 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. for an evening honoring the French commander.

To kick off the event, guests can enjoy libations and French pastries while mingling with representatives from partner historical organizations and view selections from our library collections that illustrate the art of war during the life of Rochambeau and highlight the importance of the Franco-American alliance during the Revolution. Shortly after, a performance by the French Choir of Washington will continue the celebrations before the evening's keynote lecture is delivered by historian Iris de Rode, Ph.D., who will discuss the life and legacy of Rochambeau, as well as the significance of his service during the Revolution.

[Learn more and register](#)

Collections



“one of the greatest scenes of war that can be conceived”

This rare broadside map, published in November 1775, depicts Boston and Charlestown and the positions and movements of the American and British forces on and around Breed's Hill. The Battle of Bunker Hill (mistakenly named for the larger hill in Charlestown) on June 17, 1775, was the first major engagement of the American Revolution and occurred during the Siege of Boston, when twenty thousand American militiamen contained the British troops inside the city. The two-hour battle, which saw the British taking the American redoubt on Breed's Hill, culminated in a bloody bayonet fight. Although a British victory, the British troops suffered more than 1,000 casualties and the Americans about 450.

The map includes the full text of a letter written by General John Burgoyne giving a vivid account of the battle, including following the order to set fire to Charlestown: “Howe sent us word by a boat, and desired us to set fire to the town, which was immediately done. We threw a parcel of shells, and the whole was instantly in flames...and now ensued one of the greatest scenes of war that can be conceived...to the left the enemy pouring in fresh troops by thousands, over the land; and in the arm of the sea our ships and floating batteries cannonading them: straight before us a large and a noble town in one great blaze.” These scenes of war led Burgoyne to “the reflection that perhaps a defeat was the final loss to the British empire in America, to fill the mind; made the whole a picture and a complication of horror and importance beyond any thing that ever came to my lot to be witness to.”

[View the map and read the full published letter](#)

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 British Army in 1775

Don Hagist

Thursday, June 5, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Anderson House

Lecture

The Whites of Their Eyes:

Bunker Hill, the First American Army, and the Emergence of George Washington

Paul Lockhart, Ph.D.

Tuesday, June 17, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Anderson House

Lunch Bite Object Talk

A 1773 Register of British Army Officers

Andrew Outten

Friday, June 20, 2025

12:30 P.M.

Anderson House

Author's Talk

Fate of the Day:

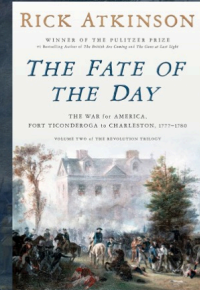
The War for America, Fort Ticonderoga to Charleston, 1777-1780

Rick Atkinson

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Anderson House



Read Past Issues

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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