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



[CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

Featured Story

2026 Research Fellowship Applications Open!

The Institute's research library offers fellowship opportunities to encourage advanced study of and publication on the importance and legacy of the American Revolution. Fellows receive support to explore our library and museum collections related to their projects. The **Thomas Jay McCahill III Fellowship** provides financial support for a one-year period for a scholar to undertake advanced research on a topic germane to American history in the colonial and revolutionary periods. **Short-Term Research Fellowships** support on-site research at our library for a minimum of five days.

The research library collections include books, manuscripts, maps, and prints which support the in-depth study of eighteenth-century politics, culture, military history, and the art of war in the age of the American Revolution.

The McCahill Fellowship application deadline is **October 31, 2025**

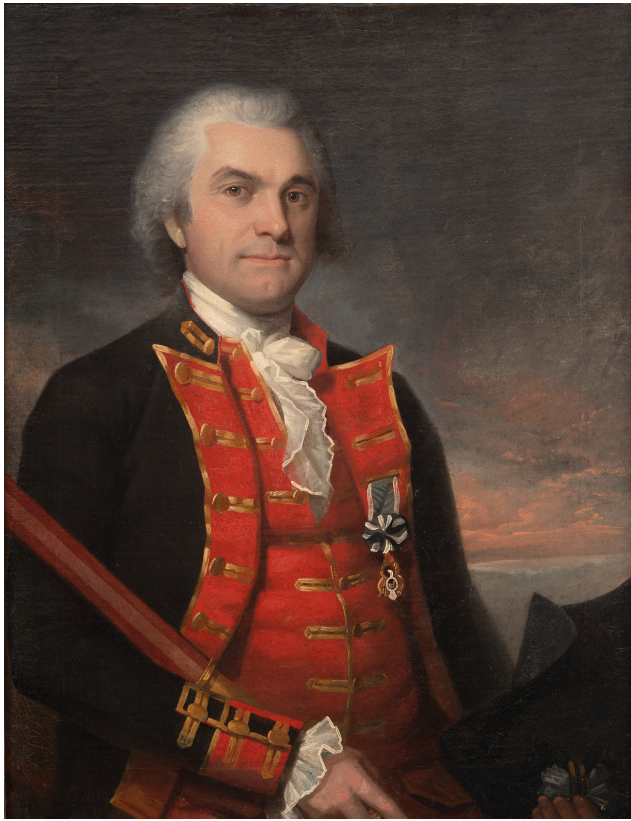
The Short-Term Research Fellowship application deadline is **November 3, 2025**

[Learn more about our fellowship opportunities and apply](#)

This Month in Revolutionary History

The Creation of an American Navy

250 years ago this month, the Continental Congress passed a resolution creating the first



American naval force. On October 13, 1775, Congress resolved “That a swift sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns, and a proportionable number of swivels, with eighty men, be fitted, with all possible despatch [sic].” Americans had great need for a naval force to protect their ports and trade. Additionally, a naval force could capture supplies from British transports heading towards the colonies. On the same day, Congress established a committee helmed by Silas Dean, John Langdon, and Christopher Gadsden, who were tasked with planning the costs of constructing a fleet of vessels.

Today, the United States Navy commemorates October 13, 1775, as the anniversary of its establishment and is celebrating its semiquincentennial birthday.

To help mark this anniversary and celebrate the contributions of the Continental Navy, Paul Newman—our museum collections and operations manager—will host a virtual Lunch Bite on October 17 at 12:30 p.m. about a recently acquired portrait of Silas Talbot. Talbot had experience in seafaring prior to the Revolution and with the outbreak of the war with Britain he served in the militia, the Continental Army, and the Continental Navy, in which he received a commission in 1779. Talbot was captured at sea and held in the infamous *Jersey* prison hulk before being transferred to Mill Prison in Great Britain.

[Learn more and register for the Lunch Bite](#)

Events



Join Us for the Society of the Cincinnati Prize Reception

The 2025 Society of the Cincinnati Prize honors Vaughn Scribner, Ph.D., for his book *Under Alien Skies: Environment, Suffering, and the Defeat of the British Military in Revolutionary America* (University of North Carolina Press, 2024), which illustrates how foreign soldiers' perceptions of the American environment during the Revolution merged with harsh wartime realities to elicit considerable physical, mental, and emotional anguish.

In this special event, Dr. Scribner will receive the 2025 Society of the Cincinnati Prize and draw from his book to discuss how America's War of Independence descended into a quagmire of anxiety, destruction, and distress for the British and German soldiers at the hands of the American environment. The lecture will be followed by a reception.

The presentation will be at 6:00 p.m. in the Anderson House Ballroom followed by a reception at 6:45 p.m.

Registration for this event is required. This special event will only be held in-person at Anderson House. Please register by using the link below.

[Learn more and purchase tickets](#)



Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Continental Army

Join us on Wednesday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m. for a lecture featuring historian Holly Mayer, Ph.D., discussing the origins of the Continental Army. In 1775, the rebellious Americans had to form a standing army to protect their rights and defend themselves against occupying British forces. On June 14, 1775, shortly before the Battle of Bunker Hill in Boston, the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution that authorized the creation of an army that represented unity between the thirteen colonies, called the Continental Army, and appointed Gen. George Washington as its commander in chief. To commemorate the 250th anniversary of its inception, Dr. Mayer explores the Continental Army's formation, the soldiers that made up its ranks, and the challenges experienced by the Congress, George Washington, and his generals as they strived to create an effective fighting force.

[Learn more and register](#)

Museum



A Portrait of the Marquis de Chastellux Joins the Collections

One of our newest acquisitions is now on display in our museum at Anderson House. See a previously unrecorded portrait of the marquis de Chastellux—one of only two portraits of him known to have been painted from life—for a limited time, through the end of 2025. François-Jean de Beauvoir, marquis de Chastellux, was a celebrated French soldier, writer, and philosopher and an important figure in the American Revolutionary War. Picturing Chastellux in military uniform, the pastel portrait was executed by French painter Jacques-Philippe Voiart in 1787, the year before the marquis' death. The portrait was purchased with a gift from an anonymous donor in memory of Jayne Harper Plank.

With three decades of military experience, Chastellux arrived in America in 1780 with the French expeditionary force as a major general on the staff of General Rochambeau. Fluent in English, Chastellux became the chief liaison between Rochambeau and George Washington during the Yorktown campaign. Chastellux was the third-highest-ranking French officer at the Siege of Yorktown in September and October 1781—a decisive victory for the Franco-American allies that led to the end of the war. After the American Revolution, Chastellux served as military governor of Longwy in northeastern France—the same town where the artist of this portrait was born.

[View the portrait in our museum collections database](#)

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, or [click here to view our full calendar of upcoming programs.](#)

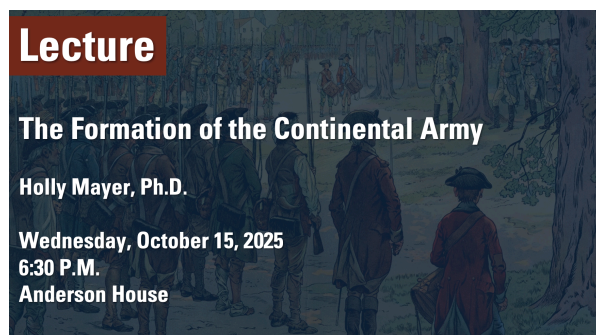


Author's Talk

*Washington's Lieutenants:
Major Versus Brigadier Generals in the Revolutionary War*

Douglas Branson, J.D.

Wednesday, October 1, 2025
6:30 P.M.
Anderson House

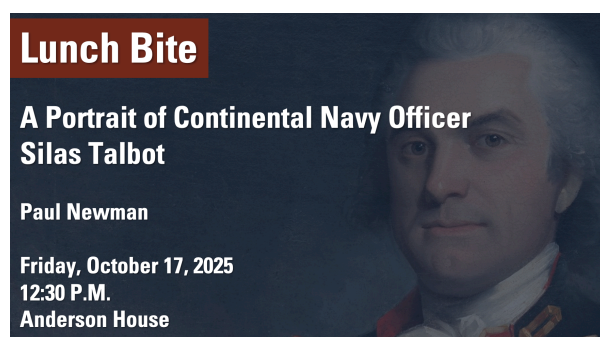


Lecture

The Formation of the Continental Army

Holly Mayer, Ph.D.

Wednesday, October 15, 2025
6:30 P.M.
Anderson House



Lunch Bite

**A Portrait of Continental Navy Officer
Silas Talbot**

Paul Newman

Friday, October 17, 2025
12:30 P.M.
Anderson House



Virtual Lecture

Bayou Patriots?
Louisiana Militia and the American Revolution

Rhett Breerwood

Tuesday, October 21, 2025
6:30 P.M.
Zoom Webinar



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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