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



[CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

## Featured Story

### A Landmark Gift to Update our Library Software

We are excited to announce that in the spring of 2025 we received a pledge of \$50,000 to help with the migration to a new catalog and digital repository for our library collections.



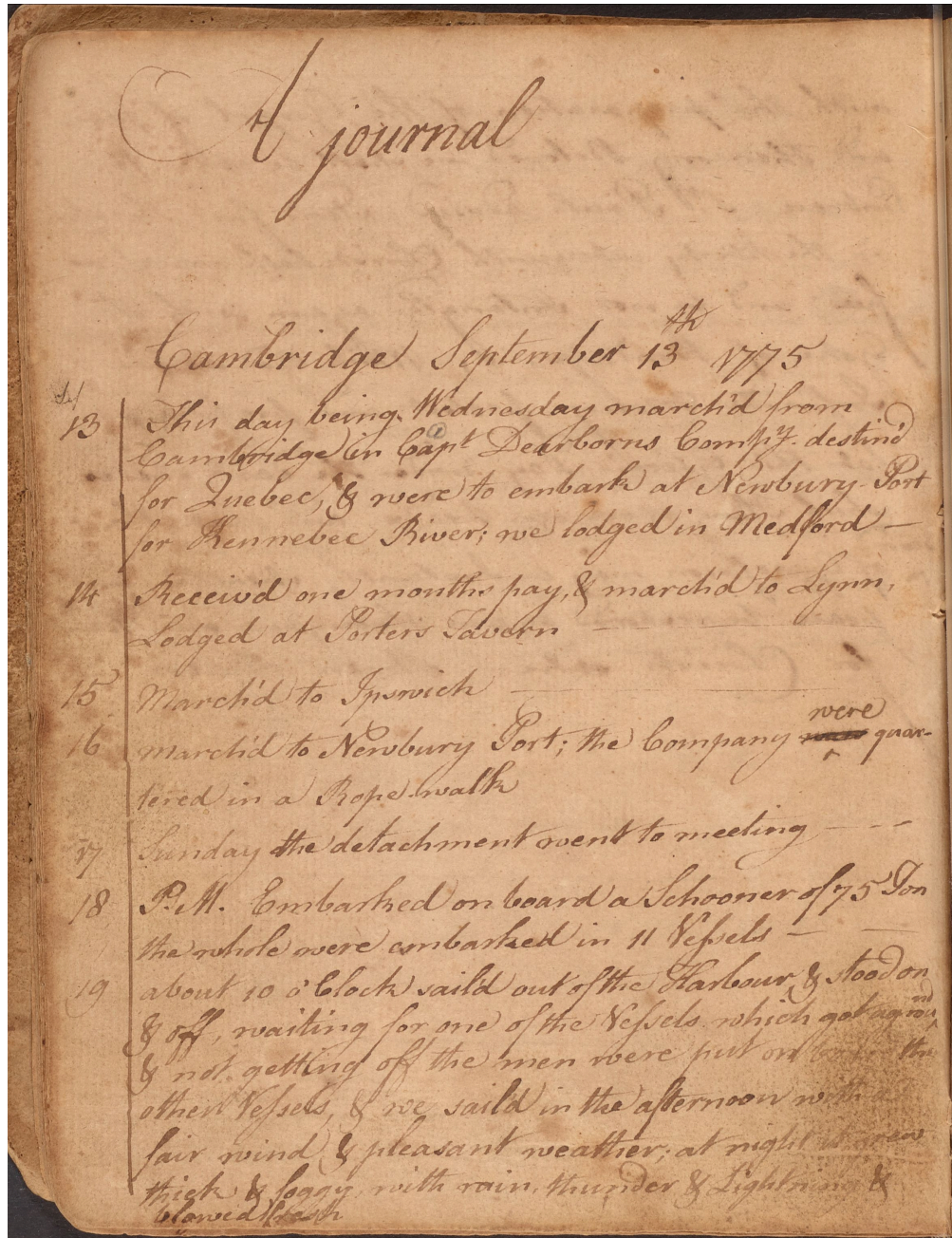
This gift was given by Thomas H. Hillery in honor of Thomas Hillery (1855-1912). Tom Hillery is an American Revolution Institute Associate from Henderson, Nev., and with this gift he becomes the first ARI Associate outside of the Society of the Cincinnati membership to make a major gift. His investment and confidence in our library is an important statement on its own.

“This is a call to renew the dedication and determination to further the American Revolution and the constitutional republic. Thanks to the indispensable George Washington and the Continental Army officers, and all of the people who made the American Revolution happen! ‘Perpetuate the remembrance of that vast event.’ Celebrate every day because every day we are the fortunate beneficiaries of their tremendous risk and sacrifice!” – Tom Hillery

The library’s new cloud-based catalog and digital repository will advance the professionalism, accessibility, discoverability, and digital display of the Institute’s library collections which provide rich historical context for the achievement of the American forces and their French allies in securing the independence of the United States.

Updates on library technology will be forthcoming in the fall season.

## This Month in Revolutionary History



### Leaving for Quebec

George Washington, still headquartered in Cambridge, Mass. with his officers, wrote his "Address to the Inhabitants of Canada" in early September 1775. The Address asked Canadians for their support and informed them that he has "detached Colonel Arnold into your Country, with a Part of the Army under my Command...I invite you therefore as Friends and Brethren, to provide him with such Supplies as your Country affords; and I pledge myself not only for your Safety and Security, but for ample Compensation...The Cause of America, and of Liberty, is the Cause of every virtuous American Citizen." Washington also wrote to Benedict Arnold about his detachment to Canada with instructions to immediately "March from Cambridge to take the Command of the Detachment from



the Continental Army against Quebec...the Success of this Enterprize depends wholly upon the Spirit with which it is pushed, & the favourable Disposition of the Canadians & Indians.”

One soldier who marched to Quebec with Col. Benedict Arnold was James Melvin from Massachusetts. Melvin kept a journal, now in our library collections, documenting his participation in the Quebec campaign. He recorded leaving Cambridge, Massachusetts, on September 13, 1775 writing, “This day being Wednesday march’d from Cambridge in Capt Dearborns Compy destin’d for Quebec, & were to embark at Newbury Port for Kennebec River; we lodged in Medford.” The journal continues to record the march to Quebec and the attack on Quebec City on December 31, when he was captured. Melvin’s journal ends on August 5, 1776, when he was released in a prisoner exchange.

You can view James Melvin’s journal and learn more about the Siege of Quebec in our exhibition, *Revolutionary Beginnings*.

**Learn more and plan a visit**

## Events



### Announcing our Fall Historical Programs!

Our fall calendar of historical programs kicks off on September 11! That evening, award-winning historian Andrew O’Shaughnessy will discuss his new book, *Republic and Empire: Crisis, Revolution, and America’s Early Independence*, in an author’s talk held at the Phillips Collection.

Other fall programs highlights include:

- A lecture given by historian Holly Mayer exploring the formation of the Continental Army

- A panel discussion featuring various contributors to a new anthology highlighting archaeology of the American Revolution
- A unique opportunity to view and learn about treasures from our library collections relating to military training in the 18th century with our library staff and historian Steven Elliot
- A lecture given by historian Mark Anderson commemorating the 250th anniversary of the failed American campaign into Canada and the Battle of Quebec

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

### Explore our Fall 2025 programs

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### 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 and closes on Tuesday, September 30. This special event will only be held in-person at Anderson House. Please register by using the link below.**

**[Learn more and purchase tickets](#)**

## Museum



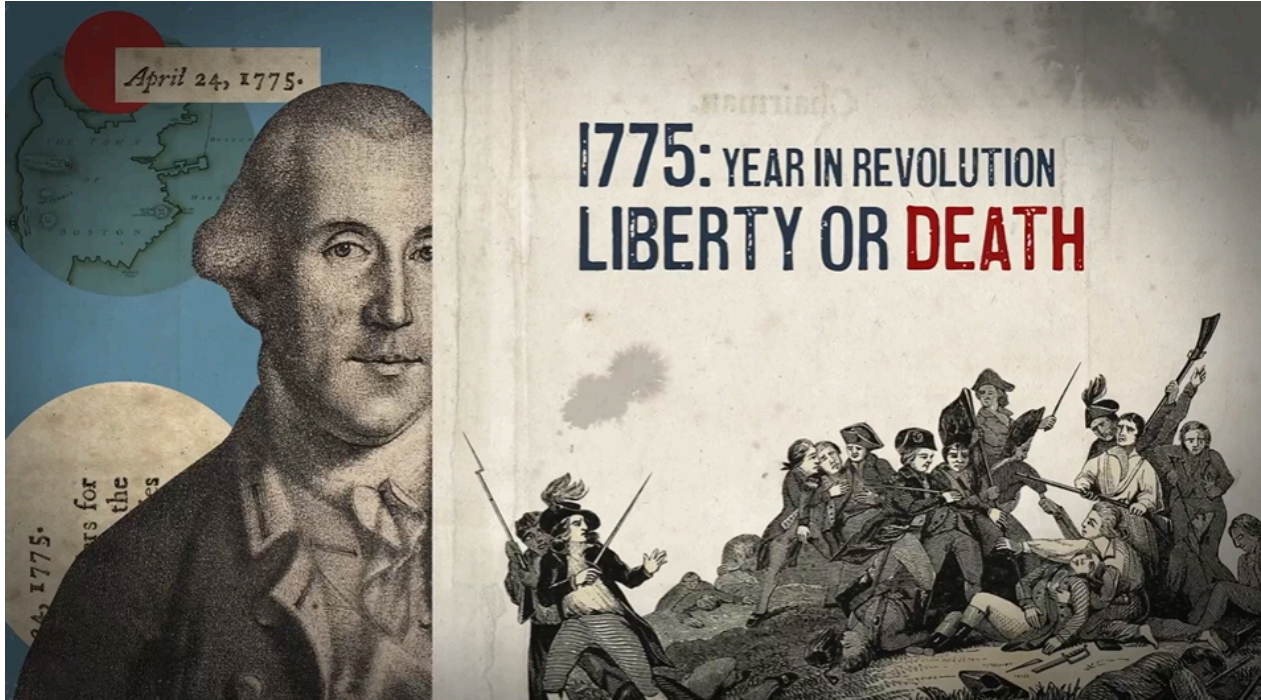
### **New in 2026 — *Voices of Revolution* 250th Exhibition**

Over eight long years, the Revolutionary War was fought across large swaths of North America and beyond, involving the militaries of at least five nations. It touched the lives and families of nearly everyone in what would become the United States, yet the full scope of who participated in our Revolution and the effects it had on those who fought in it remains less understood. In 2026, as we mark the 250th anniversary of the creation of our nation and the Declaration of Independence, the exhibition *Voices of Revolution* will highlight the variety of people who participated in the Revolutionary War and some of the battlefields where their paths crossed.

The exhibition and a companion digital interactive will use battlefields to explore the human experience—what individuals saw and did, where they came from and why, how the war impacted them, and how they impacted the war—using their words, belongings, and likenesses. The individuals featured in the exhibition participated in the Revolutionary War in different ways and on different sides of the conflict, as a soldier, sailor, laborer, or observer. Together, these stories will offer a broader picture of the kinds of people—American, French, British, Loyalist, Female, Black, Native American, German, Spanish—who took part in the American Revolution and will underscore the scale and importance of this event at the heart of our national identity.

[Learn more](#)

## Education



### Welcome Back to School!

The start of the 2025-2026 school year presents the perfect opportunity to highlight our digital resources for students and teachers!

[Year in Revolution](#) is our signature classroom video series recounting America's path to independence year by year, beginning with 1775. Check our latest additions to this series chronicling the who, what, when, where, and how of the revolution!

[Lesson plans](#) feature the work of our Master Teachers Seminar alumni and use primary sources from our library and museum collections to stimulate learning about the revolutionary generation.

Our popular [traveling trunks](#) promote hands-on learning with replica clothing and artifacts and specialized lesson content about the Continental Army and the Revolutionary War at sea.

Our [Revolutionary Choices](#) video game challenges players with the dilemmas confronted by American revolutionaries on and off the battlefield.

Finally, our workshop and conference lineup for the coming academic year can be followed the on the [professional development](#) pages of our website.

## 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

*Republic and Empire:  
Crisis, Revolution, and America's Early Independence*

Andrew O'Shaughnessy, Ph.D.

Thursday, September 11, 2025  
6:30 P.M.  
The Phillips Collection

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



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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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