

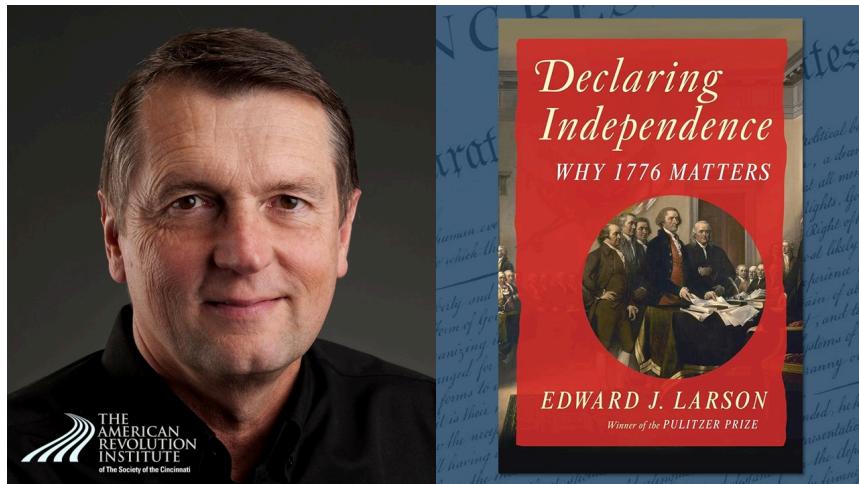
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News from the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events



Author's Talk—*Declaring Independence: Why 1776 Matters* Thursday, February 5, 2026, 6:30 P.M.

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Edward Larson discusses his new book that explores the ideas and battlefield sacrifices of 1776 to remind us why the year matters to all of us. At the beginning of 1776, virtually no one in the colonies was advocating independence. By the end of 1776, independence was on every patriot's lips. The many tyrannies of a king had made an independent republic necessary. In this talk, Larson gives us a compact, insightful history of that pivotal year by tracing a narrative arc that runs from the inspiring appeals of Paine's *Common Sense*; through the soaring ideals of midsummer, when the Continental Congress grounded independence in the self-evident truths of human equality and individual rights; to Paine's urgent pleas of December, when "the times that try men's souls" required Americans not "to shrink from the service of their country."

Library

Announcing the 2026-2027 Thomas Jay McCahill III Fellow



We are pleased to announce that the 2026-2027 Thomas Jay McCahill III Fellowship has been awarded to Iris de Rode, Ph.D. The fellowship supports Dr. de Rode's research on the Franco-American alliance during the American Revolution. Her project shows how the alliance succeeded not simply because treaties were signed or because the Comte de Grasse arrived at a decisive moment, but because, by 1780, a small circle of Franco-American officers had learned to think and plan together in ways that made coalition warfare workable.

"The American Revolution Institute is delighted to congratulate Dr. de Rode as the 2026–2027 Thomas Jay McCahill III Fellow," said Andy Morse, executive director of the Society of the Cincinnati and the American Revolution Institute. "We look forward to seeing how our rich library collection will further inform her study of the Franco-American alliance and illuminate an international and vital dimension of the American Revolution."

The fellowship is made possible by a grant from the Thomas Jay McCahill III SOCNH Foundation, the support organization for the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire, and is offered in collaboration with the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, Inc.

[Read the press release](#)

Museum



Voices of Revolution Opens on February 28!

Our new exhibition, *Voices of Revolution*, opens later this month! As we mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, this exhibition and a companion digital interactive will explore the variety of people who participated in the Revolutionary War, from a range of backgrounds and on both sides of the conflict, and some of the battlefields where their paths crossed.

From well-known battles at Yorktown and Brandywine to lesser-known engagements like Young's House, New York, and Pensacola, Florida, the exhibition 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.

Voices of Revolution will tell their stories through more than forty portraits, letters and journals, weapons, and other artifacts drawn from the collections of the American Revolution Institute and numerous lenders. Throughout the run of the exhibition, we will continue to explore its themes in a lecture series with some of today's leading historians of the American Revolution.

[Plan your visit](#)

This Month in Revolutionary History

Battle of Moores Creek Bridge

February 27, 1776



February 27 marks the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge in North Carolina, near Wilmington. There, more than 1,000 North Carolina militiamen led by Col. Richard Caswell intercepted a force of 1,400 Loyalists, who were marching towards the coast where they expected to meet a British army under General Sir Henry Clinton. Caswell's militiamen defeated the Loyalists and captured more than half their force, along with much-needed weapons and supplies.

The Loyalist force was raised by Donald MacDonald, a major in the Royal Highland Emigrants, whom Governor Josiah Martin appointed brigadier general and commander of all Loyalist forces in North Carolina. MacDonald was captured with many of his men and held in Halifax, North Carolina before being moved to

Philadelphia. He was released in a prisoner exchange in the fall of 1776 and remained in North America for the rest of the war.

A 1786 pastel portrait of Donald MacDonald—recently acquired for the Institute's collections—will be featured in our upcoming exhibition [*Voices of Revolution*](#). MacDonald is dressed in an officer

uniform of the Loyalist regiment the Royal Highland Emigrants.

Year in Revolution Video Series



Year in Revolution, the Institute's new, short-form educational videos, is a nine-part series highlighting each year of the war, beginning in 1775 and ending in 1783. Each year has six three-minute videos that present a comprehensive overview, as well as a "who, what, when, where, and how" video, using archival animation that features our library and museum collections.

Check out the videos and keep an eye out for upcoming releases!

[Watch here](#)

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

Declaring Independence: Why 1776 Matters

Edward Larson, Ph.D.

Thursday, February 5, 2026

6:30 P.M.

Anderson House

Virtual Lunch Bite

An Account of the American Revolution by British Officer Thomas Musgrave

Paul Newman

Friday, February 6, 2026

12:30 P.M.

Virtual on Zoom

Author's Talk

The Home Front:

Revolutionary Households, Military Occupation, and the Making of American Independence

Lauren Duval, Ph.D.

Thursday, February 12, 2026
6:30 P.M.
Anderson House

Explore All Our
Upcoming Programs



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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