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



[CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

## Museum



### **Explore *Voices of Revolution* from Home**

If you can't visit our exhibition *Voices of Revolution* in person, or want to dive more into what you saw in the show, go to our website to explore a variety of resources on the individuals, battles, and collections covered in our latest exhibition. As we mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, *Voices of Revolution* explores the variety of people who participated in the Revolutionary War and some of the battlefields where their paths crossed, underscoring the scale and importance of this event at the heart of our national identity.

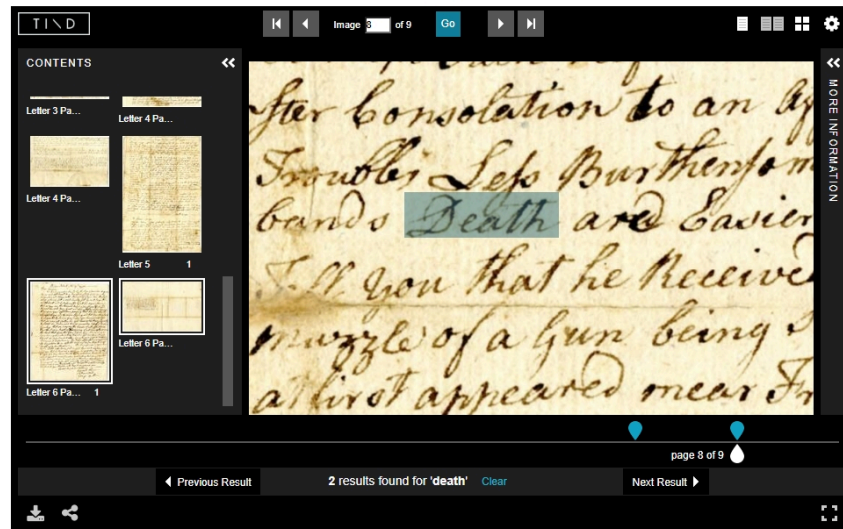
The online resources include:

- a digital interactive presenting varied accounts of 18 battles of the Revolution;

- a calendar and videos of related programs; and
- lesson plans and other classroom resources.

[Explore the exhibition](#)

## Library



### The Field: Searchability with OCR

Library staff are experimenting with OCR to make digitized materials more searchable, and The Field is helping transform how researchers access and use manuscripts. Users can now search for words, names, and phrases directly within collections, rather than simply browsing page images. With built-in OCR and HTR, the Digital Archive platform supports full-text searching and helps users locate specific terms within documents.

A strong example is the Jonathan Birge letters in The Field. Instead of encountering these manuscripts only as images, researchers can search within the digitized text itself, making it easier to trace people, places, military service, and language across the collection. That kind of searchability opens new possibilities for students, scholars, and general readers, turning manuscripts into more accessible research tools rather than simple digital surrogates.

With TIND's OCR-driven search functions, manuscript collections like the Jonathan Birge letters become easier to explore, easier to teach with, and easier to connect to the broader story of the American Revolution.

[Explore the letters](#)

[Visit The Field](#)

## Events



### Lecture—“Destruction and Wanton Waste”: The Impact of War on a Peaceful Valley

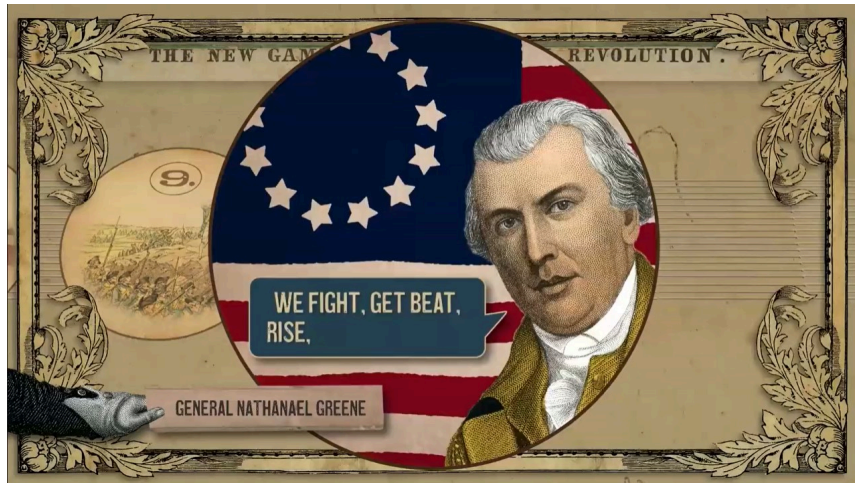
Thursday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Andrew Outten, senior manager of historical programs and marketing for the American Revolution Institute, reexamines the Battle of Brandywine from the perspective of the civilian population that experienced the engagement, especially the predominant Quaker community. Drawing from the experiences of several Quakers living on and around the battlefield—including Joseph Townsend, Gideon Gilpin, and Benjamin Ring—this talk demonstrates the devastating effect of war on a local population by exploring British logistical challenges against the backdrop of the social, economic, and religious history of eighteenth-century Chester County, Pennsylvania. This program accompanies our exhibition *Voices of Revolution*, on view through January 10, 2027.

Image: *The Looting of the Gideon Gilpin Home* painted by Adrian Martinez. Oil on canvas. Private collection.

[Learn More & Register](#)

## Education



## ***Year in Revolution, 1779-1780 Now Online!***

We are excited to announce the release of two more years of our *Year in Revolution* classroom video series highlighting the people, ideas and ideals, events, key places, relationships, and timelines for the years 1779 and 1780! The 1779 series features titles on John Paul Jones and the Continental Navy, freedom, the Siege of Gibraltar, the Revolution in Georgia, and the Franco-Spanish Alliance. 1780 film subjects include Loyalists, equality, Benedict Arnold's treason, the Revolution in South Carolina, and the fight on the frontier.

Coming soon: the years 1781-1783!

**Watch Year in Revolution**

## **This Month in Revolutionary History**

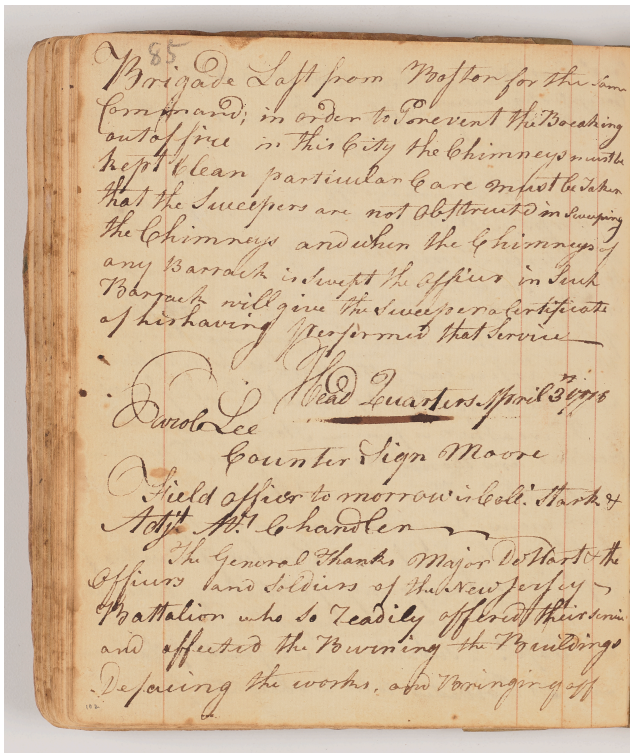
### **“preparing for the most vigorous Defence”**

April 1776

The Continental Line and local militias began their defense of New York and New Jersey in April 1776. After the British evacuation of Boston, George Washington expected New York to be the next city targeted by the British due to its strategic position. Throughout April, Americans attempted to strengthen defenses of the city by building and improving fortifications on Manhattan. General Washington arrived in New York on April 13, 1776, to begin inspection of the defenses. An orderly book in our collection of Capt. John Schenck's company records orders from February through April 1776 and details these preparations.

The entry on March 31, 1776, announces the movement to New York and the importance of preparing strong defenses:

“as the Ministiral Troops have Evacuated Boston taken shipping and the place of their Destination uncertain and in as much as there is some probility that New York may be their object the General strongly recommends to the officers of all ranks to Exert themselves in preparing for the most vigorous Defence.”



A later entry, on April 3, 1776, details work completed by a New Jersey battalion:

“The General thanks Major DeHart & the Officers and Soldiers of the New Jersey Battalion who so readily offered their service and affected the Burning the Buildings Defacing the works, and Bringing off the Intrenching Tools the Last Night on the Island under the very Guns of the Asia man of war... the General thanks the officers & soldiers of the City militia... of their assiduity and vigilance in assisting in the fortifying the City...”

[View the orderly book](#)

## 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.](#)

**Lecture**

**“Destruction and Wanton Waste”:**  
The Impact of War on a Peaceful Valley

Andrew Outten

Thursday, April 9, 2026  
6:30 P.M.  
Anderson House

**Virtual Lunch Bite** SENSE;

ADDRESS TO THE

Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*

Thomas Lannon OF

Friday, April 10, 2026  
12:30 P.M.  
Virtual on Zoom

On the following interesting

S U B J E C T S.

## Author's Talk

### *When the Declaration of Independence Was News*

Emily Sneff, Ph.D.

Tuesday, April 21, 2026  
6:30 P.M.  
Anderson House

[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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