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

# ARI today

MAY 2026

250 Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Events

### FREE RevWar Family Day Saturday, May 9, 10:00 to 4:00



Join us for a free Revolutionary War themed Family Day at our headquarters, Anderson House, from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm on Saturday, May 9.

This event includes:

- Admission to our *Voices of Revolution* exhibition, featuring a 1776 Dunlap Broadside;
- Maryland Continental Line historic interpreters;
- reproduction Continental Army uniforms for kids to try on and replica camp gear; and
- a giant Declaration of Independence for visitors to add their own *John Hancock* to with an ostrich-plume quill!

We hope to see you at headquarters!

**Free tickets for Family Day**



## Announcing our Summer Programs!

Our summer historical programs begin on May 7 with an author's talk featuring Paul Staiti on his recent book *The Killing of Jane McCrea: An American Tragedy on the Revolutionary Frontier*.

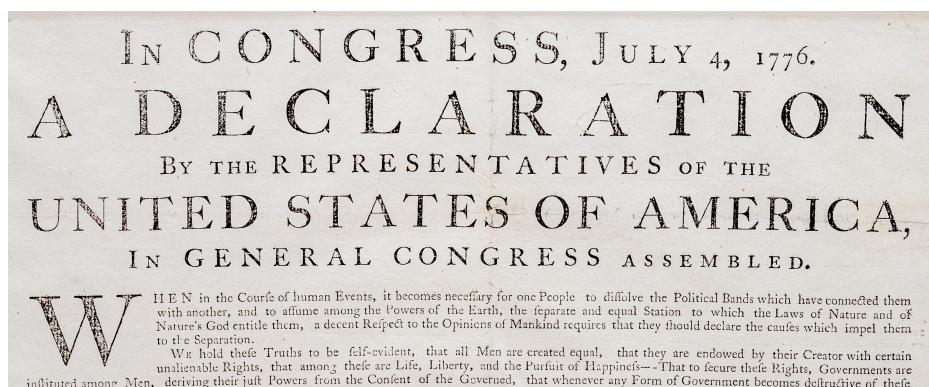
Other highlights include:

- German soldiers, families, and community in the Revolution, a lecture by Friederike Baer
- *National Treasure: How the Declaration of Independence Made America*, an author's talk by Michael Auslin
- *Suffering for the Crown: The Hudson Valley Loyalists and the Violence of Revolution*, an author's talk by Kieran O'Keefe
- Music of the American Revolution, a concert featuring David and Ginger Hildebrand
- Soldiers of Saint-Domingue in the American Revolution, a lecture by Ronald Angelo Johnson

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

[Explore and register for our summer programs](#)

## Museum



## See a Rare Copy of the Declaration of Independence through May 12

Visit the museum through May 12 to see a rare copy of the Declaration of Independence printed the night of July 4-5, 1776, by John Dunlap in Philadelphia. Known as the Dunlap Broadside, this copy is on loan from the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire for display in our exhibition *Voices of Revolution*.

The Dunlap Broadside was the first printed version of the Declaration of Independence. John Dunlap, a twenty-nine-year-old from Ireland, was the official printer to Congress in Philadelphia. On the night of July 4, 1776, he hastily printed two hundred copies of the Declaration using handwritten text delivered from Congress. Copies were sent to the thirteen states, the Continental Army, and other officials. The copy on display arrived in Exeter, New Hampshire, on July 16, 1776, when it was read in public by twenty-two-year-old John Taylor Gilman (who would go on to become a U.S. congressman and governor of the state).

[Learn more about the exhibition](#)

## Library

## The Field: Using Transcripts with Digital Images

In *The Field*, digital images can be displayed side by side with a transcript of the text, aiding in reading difficult handwriting, worn pages, or in this example, eighteenth-century rebus letters. A rebus puzzle is one of the oldest forms of satirical art where images replace letters and words. Two prints in our collection are by the London husband and wife printing team, Matthew and Mary Darly. The prints playfully imagine a letter from “Britannia to America,” with a response from “America to her Mistaken Mother.” The prints were created to reflect the tensions around the 1778 Carlisle Peace Commission, the last British effort to negotiate peace until the end of the war.

You can read the Darly's rebus letters on The Field and find the transcript on the "more information" menu. Common symbols included:

An eye – for the letter I

A toe – for the word to

A yew tree – for the word you and letter "u"

### Rebus letters

## Education



### Upcoming *Year in Revolution* Videos to be Released in May

Debuting this month, our *Year In Revolution* six-part classroom video series for the year 1781! The new titles chronicling this pivotal year of the war include Black Americans in the Revolution, the ideal of unity, the Battle of Eutaw Springs, fighting in the state of Virginia (highlighting the critical siege of Yorktown), and the strategic importance of Spanish Louisiana and British West Florida.

Visit our website to view and share [Year In Revolution](#) videos currently spanning the years 1775-1780!

## This Month in Revolutionary History

### A British Light Dragoon Carbine and Supplying the American Troops May 1776

In May 1776, a Massachusetts privateer captured an armed British transport ship, the *Hope*, near Boston Harbor. This enemy ship was carrying arms and equipment meant for the king's troops, including one thousand carbines, several cannon, and nearly fifteen hundred barrels of gunpowder. The Continental Army, struggling to supply its troops with weapons, ammunition, and essential supplies, was in need of reinforcement, especially in the lead up to the defense of New York, where the bulk of the main army was lying in wait.

The *Hope*, separated from its convoy of transport ships during a storm, appeared off a channel leading to Boston Harbor and on May 17, 1776, was captured by American privateer, the *Franklin*. The same day the *Hope* was captured, Maj. Gen. Artemas Ward, commander of the Continental



Army's Eastern Department, wrote to George Washington to report on the "very valuable Prize...laden with provisions and warlike stores for the Kings troops." Ward divided the captured cargo for storage in Boston.

Due to the supply shortage, Continental Army leadership began fighting over the captured cargo, leaving George Washington to assert his authority as commander in chief over the matter of captured arms.

One of the captured arms, a British light dragoon carbine, is now held in our collection. This carbine, made in 1762 for British light dragoons, was altered in 1775 for use by Crown forces in America, captured from the *Hope* in May 1776, issued to Continental Army troops, and altered by American armors for use against the British.

[Read more about this 1776 event and the captured carbine](#)

## 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

*The Killing of Jane McCrea*  
*An American Tragedy on the Revolutionary Frontier*

Paul Staiti

Thursday, May 7, 2026  
6:30 P.M.  
Anderson House

### Author's Talk

*The Cherokee War of 1776:*  
*Native Destruction at the Dawn of American Independence*

Kevin Kokomoor, Ph.D.

Tuesday, May 20, 2026  
6:30 P.M.  
Anderson House

## Author's Talk

*Washington's One-Man Army:  
The Life, Legends, and Battles of Peter Francisco*

Adm. John Palmer, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Tuesday, May 27, 2026  
6:30 P.M.  
Anderson House

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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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