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THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

**News, Events, and Commentary
from the American Revolution Institute
of the Society of the Cincinnati**

today

August 1, 2024

[Calendar of Events](#)

***Our Featured Story:
Announcing the Thomas Jay McCahill III Fellowship***



We are pleased to announce the new Thomas Jay McCahill III Fellowship for the American Revolution Institute library. This new annual fellowship opportunity will commence with the 2025-2026 academic year, perfectly timed to honor the 250th anniversaries of the American Revolution in 2025 and the Declaration of Independence in 2026. The McCahill Fellowship will provide up to \$75,000 for a one-year period to support the cost of research, travel, housing, and per diem expenses for one or more scholars to undertake advanced research on a topic germane to American history in the colonial and revolutionary periods. McCahill Fellows will also participate in an activity of the ARI to share their project, work, or expertise in a public forum at Anderson House.

The ARI supports scholarship and new research through its fellowship program. This new opportunity highlights the ARI's collection of books, manuscripts, documents, and maps, while also reinforcing its commitment to excellence in advancing the study of the American Revolution's legacy and meaning.

The McCahill Fellowship is open to graduate students as well as advanced and independent scholars who are conducting research projects related to an issue of the revolutionary period, with an emphasis on British America and its colonial territories, or the early American republic.

The McCahill Fellowship has been made possible by the generosity of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire, the board members of the Thomas Jay McCahill III SOCNH Foundation, and by a substantial bequest given to the New Hampshire Society by their late member Thomas Jay McCahill III (1907-1975), a Yale alumnus who was once described as America's foremost automotive journalist.

[Learn more about our research fellowship program](#)

This Month in Revolutionary History: Lafayette's Farewell Tour



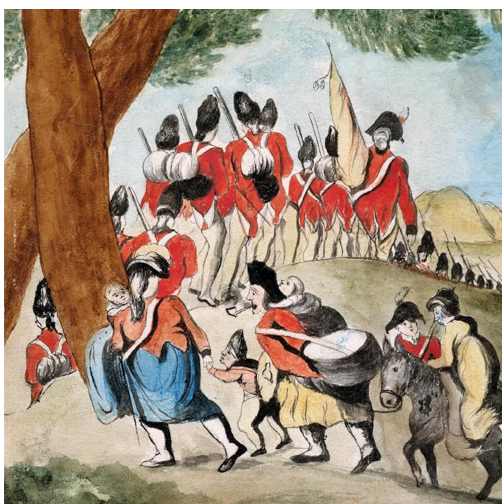
On August 16, 1824, the marquis de Lafayette made a triumphal entrance in New York to begin his farewell tour of the United States. He had landed at Staten Island the previous day, but as it was a Sunday, city officials delayed his ceremonial entrance into Manhattan until the next day. That Monday, Lafayette formally came ashore at Castle Garden, a fort built at the Battery on the southern tip of Manhattan before the War of 1812 to protect the city, that was converted into an entertainment center in the early 1820s. The spectacle portended the fanfare that would greet the Frenchman in each city and town across the country over the next thirteen months.

More than thirty thousand admirers gathered at Castle Garden to watch Lafayette come ashore. A flotilla of steamboats carried the Frenchman from his ship to American soil. A large military escort of New York militiamen—each wearing a ribbon bearing Lafayette's portrait—then led the marquis to the parade route. Lafayette rode in a carriage drawn by four white horses along Broadway to New York City Hall, where he was greeted by Mayor Stephen Allen. For the next two hours, the French hero received members of the public, from mothers asking him to bless their children to elderly veterans of the Revolution sharing war stories. After dinner he retired to the City Hotel, where he was welcomed by an American flag over the door and greetings for the "Nation's Guest."

[Learn more about Lafayette's tour in our current exhibition](#)

EVENTS

Explore the Challenges of Armies During the Revolution



Tonight at 6:30 p.m.! Join us for a panel discussion moderated by historian Don Hagist, editor of the *Journal of the American Revolution*, exploring the significant operational challenges faced by American, Loyalist, French, and German forces during the American Revolution. Drawing from their contributions to the recent anthology *Waging War in America 1775-1783*, the panelists will examine various challenges and components, ranging from recruitment and training to tactics and logistics, and how the armies adapted to the specific circumstances of the war. Panelists for this discussion include historians Todd Braisted, Alexander Burns, John Rees, and Robert Selig.

and virtual options are available.

The panel discussion will be held in-person at Anderson House and last approximately 45 minutes. Registration is requested

[Learn more and register](#)

COLLECTIONS

A Porcelain Bowl Commemorating the British Victory at the Battle of the Saintes



The Institute recently acquired for its museum collections a porcelain punch bowl made in China for the British market to commemorate their naval victory of the Battle of the Saintes on April 12, 1782. Over half the bowl's outside surface is adorned with a hand-painted grisaille scene depicting the battle, which was one of the last engagements of the American Revolution. British vessels fight against their French adversaries as plumes of smoke add to the chaotic scene. The detail is extraordinary with sailors on deck depicted as they perform the tasks necessary to keep their ships in the fight.

The cartouche on the back of the bowl reads, "Breaking the line on the ever memorable 12th of April," in reference to the moment in battle when several British warships passed through gaps in the French formation. This maneuver by the British disrupted and created confusion in the French formation, which contributed to the British victory that day. It was also contrary to the conventional method of eighteenth-century naval warfare in which two opposing fleets formed lines—each ship in front of another—parallel to their opponent, relying on their enemy's mistakes or changes in weather to claim victory.

[Learn more and view images of the bowl](#)

EDUCATION

"the welcome news of your arrival...": New Lessons Online



Master Teacher Seminar alumnus Robert Schulte (2018), a teacher at Reynolds Middle School in Hamilton, New Jersey, has created a series of new lessons for our traveling trunks that spotlight the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route and the American alliance with France that shaped the future of global politics. The route follows the fifteen-month trail of French commander General Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, and his force of more than five thousand French soldiers, from their landing in Newport, Rhode Island, in July 1780 to their rendezvous with George Washington and the Continental Army and the two armies' combined march southward to Yorktown, Virginia, where they faced the British in the fall of 1781. These lessons provide a glimpse into late eighteenth-century America through the eyes of the French soldiers and officers engaged along the route,

showing a fascinating outside perspective on both life in the colonies as well as the diverse population of soldiers in the American army.

[This suite of lessons will be available on our website later in August](#)

EVENTS

Lafayette in the American Revolution



Having learned of the American war in the summer of 1775, the marquis de Lafayette responded to American calls for republican principles inspired by ancient Rome, the opportunity to avenge France's defeat by the British in the Seven Years' War, and the chance to further his military career. Join us on Wednesday, August 28 at 6:30 p.m. for a lecture featuring historian Iris de Rode, Ph.D., exploring General Lafayette's participation in the American Revolution.

During the war, Lafayette was wounded the first time he saw action, at Brandywine, and went on to command American troops at Barren Hill, Monmouth, Newport, and Yorktown. He also helped solidify French support for the Revolution, returning home in 1779 to lobby King Louis XVI and his ministers to send an army to aid the Americans—a successful

effort that resulted in a large expeditionary force setting sail for America the following year. For this lecture, Dr. de Rode highlights Lafayette's monumental career during the American Revolution and discusses the impact of his service on the later years of his life. This program accompanies our current exhibition, [Fete Lafayette: A French Hero's Tour of the American Republic](#), on view through December 31, 2024.

The lecture will be held in-person at Anderson House and last approximately 45 minutes. Registration is requested and virtual options are available.

[Learn more and register](#)

COLLECTIONS

Introducing our French Intern



In partnership with the Société des Cincinnati de France, the library has hosted a research intern throughout the summer months. Catherine de Chanteloup, a student of law and art history at the Sorbonne in Paris, has helped translate documents in our library related to the royal French military and navy during the war of American independence. These documents have been collected and preserved as part of our efforts to steward a unique collection of rare printed and manuscript materials that support advanced study and publication on the American Revolution.

Among the French material that Catherine has worked with are manuscripts of French officers of the American Revolution and original members of the French Society, including the journals of François-Ignace Ervoil d'Oyré, a captain in the royal corps of engineers with Rochambeau's army, and Robert Guillaume Dillon, an officer in the Légion de Lauzun, as well as the original manuscript of the comte de Rochambeau's *Mémoires*, which describes his army's march from Rhode Island to Virginia and includes the events when Rochambeau met George Washington on the Hudson River in July of 1781. Catherine reflects on her work in our library:

“By working with French officers' manuscripts and diaries, I have realized the importance and scope of the help the French gave to the American side during the War of Independence. This aid went far beyond the simple Franco-American friendship whose origin is often simplified by referring to the friendship between Lafayette and Washington. The extent of this assistance can be gauged by the large number of French officers' manuscripts and diaries to be found at in the library at Anderson House. French officers

kept journals where they regularly reported on the progress of operations and described landscapes, cities, and the way of life they discovered in North America and that's what makes them important for French history as well.”



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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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