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THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

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

today
September 1, 2024

[Calendar of Events](#)

***Our Featured Story:
Short-Term Research Fellowship Applications are Open***



We're excited to announce that applications are open for our 2025 short-term research fellowships! Our fellowship program was founded in 2007 and boasts nearly ninety alumni from both domestic and international institutions.

Each year our library offers numerous fellowship opportunities to provide support to graduate students and advanced scholars studying the colonial and revolutionary era in America within our library and museum collections. Our library collections include books, manuscripts, maps, and prints which support the in-depth study of eighteenth-century politics, culture, naval and military history, and the art of war in the age of the American Revolution.

The application deadline is **November 8, 2024**.

[Learn more and apply](#)

250  Celebrating the
250th Anniversary
of the American Revolution

This Month in Revolutionary History: Congress is in Session

“The good people of the several colonies...justly alarmed at these arbitrary proceedings of parliament and administration, have severally elected, constituted, and appointed deputies to meet and sit in general congress in the city of Philadelphia, in order to obtain such establishment, as that their religion, laws, and liberties may not be subverted.”

It was 250 years ago, on September 5, 1774, that the First Continental Congress met in Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia. Prompted by the passing of the Boston Port Bill and other Intolerable Acts in the spring of 1774, Congress was made up of fifty-six delegates from all the colonies, except Georgia, to meet and



discuss the rights of Americans under an oppressive British government and how to defend against increasingly aggressive acts of Parliament. With Peyton Randolph, a Virginia delegate, as president, Congress was in session for fifty-one days during which delegates debated and agreed upon a Bill of Rights, the Articles of Association, a statement to both the “People of Great Britain” and to the “Inhabitants of the Colonies” to explain the current American position against Parliament, a statement to the “Inhabitants of the Province of Quebec,” and a drafted petition outlining the colonies’ grievances to King George III. Extracts from the proceedings were published by order of Congress on October 24, 1774, and subsequently printed in major cities in the colonies and abroad including London, Albany, Boston, Hartford, New York, Newport, and Providence.

On Saturday, October 22, Congress, recognizing that all their demands may not be met, resolved that “it will be necessary that a congress should be held on the 10th day of May next, unless the redress of grievances, which have desired be obtained before that time.” The Continental Congress would meet regularly through 1781, when the Articles of Confederation were passed.

EVENTS

Announcing our Fall Historical Programs



Our upcoming historical program calendar begins on September 3! Highlights from our fall programs include an author's talk given by historian Michael Hattem discussing his new book, *Memory of '76: The Revolution in American History*, on September 3; a special reception on October 13 commemorating the marquis de Lafayette's first arrival to Washington, D.C., in 1824; a Lunch Bite object talk featuring the Institute's museum collections and operations manager, Paul Newman, discussing a 1780s Chinese export porcelain punch bowl depicting the British naval victory at the Battle of the Saintes on November 8; and a lecture given by Justin Cherry, resident baker at George Washington's Mount Vernon and a 2024 research fellow, exploring the Continental Army's Baking Department from 1778-1781, on December 17.

Most programs are held in-person, but virtual options are available unless otherwise specified. To view and register for our fall historical programs visit the [Events page](#) of our website.

[Explore our fall historical programs](#)

EDUCATION

It's Back to School Season!

September signals the time to head back to school, and we would like to take this opportunity to wish teachers everywhere—especially all our alumni master teachers and teaching associates—a successful 2024-2025 academic year! Further, to celebrate the U.S. Constitution's 237th birthday this month, we invite you to an exclusive professional learning webinar presented by our team and the education staff at the Center for Civic Education on September 24, 2024, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. EST. Delve into the heart of American democracy as the Institute unveils a thoughtfully curated selection of rare treasures from our library and museum collections related to the founding of our republic and the Center's *We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution* program.



[Register for “Revolutionary Revelations: Unveiling America’s Founding Treasures”](#)

COLLECTIONS

Representation du Feu Terrible a Nouvelle Yorck



The Great Fire of New York was a destructive blaze that burned through the night of September 20, 1776, and destroyed a fifth of the buildings in New York City. The fire resulted in food and housing shortages for a population already torn between loyalists, patriots, and more moderate citizens. The cause of the fire was contested, as British leaders such as Sir William Howe believed it arson, while city residents accused either British forces or their revolutionary adversaries for the inferno.

Prints and engravings such as this ca. 1777 French etching, *Representation du Feu Terrible a Nouvelle Yorck*, by André Basset served as international news of shocking events as they unfolded in the American colonies. The image depicts New York burning while people evacuate and loot buildings, and red-coated soldiers accost citizenry. The description under the image, written in French, mentions locations such as King's College (Columbia University), the Bourse (Exchange), and the Lutheran Chapel, however the depictions were imagined by the engraver. Though the origin of the fire has never been determined, the description blames the Americans for the conflagration: “Représentation du feu terrible à nouvelle Yorck, que les Américains on allumé pendant la nuit.” The fire resulted in military occupation of New York City under martial law, and power was not returned to civilian authorities until the evacuation of the British in November of 1783.

[View the full image on our Digital Library](#)

EVENTS

Welcome to Washington, Lafayette!

Save the date and join us for a special reception on Sunday, October 13 at 5:30 p.m., as we collaborate with the American Friends of Lafayette to commemorate the marquis de Lafayette’s first arrival to the capital city of Washington.

Upon his arrival to the federal city on October 12, 1824, Lafayette was honored with a parade, welcomed by the mayor in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol, and feted with fireworks throughout the city. During this special event, guests can greet Lafayette himself, learn about his farewell tour of 1824 and 1825 in our current exhibition, and enjoy hors d’oeuvres and refreshments while toasting the Frenchman’s



momentous first visit to the nation's capital.

This reception accompanies our current exhibition, *Fete Lafayette: A French Hero's Tour of the American Republic*, on view through December 31, 2024.

Registration is required for the reception, and tickets are \$75.00 per guest.

[Learn more and purchase your ticket](#)

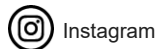


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The American Revolution secured our independence, created our republic, established our national identity, and expressed ideals of liberty, equality, natural and civil rights, and responsible citizenship that have defined our history and will define 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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