

[View this email in your browser](#)

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

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

today
November 1, 2024

[Calendar of Events](#)

Our Featured Story: Honoring America's First Veterans



Although Veterans Day wasn't formally established in the United States until 1954, our nation's commitment to honor and care for those who have served in the U.S. military is a legacy of the American Revolution and the hundreds of thousands of Americans who fought in the war that won our nation's independence. Those who survived the Revolutionary War became America's first veterans, but most of them returned home with nothing more than the personal satisfaction of duty faithfully performed, as full federal pension benefits for veterans would not come until the 1830s.

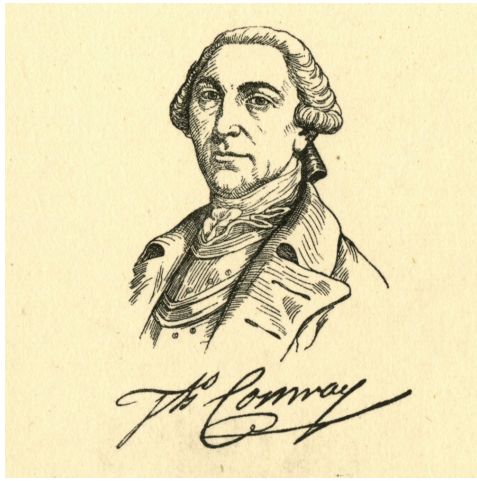
Most portraits of soldiers who fought for American independence depict elegant, attractive men in the prime of life. But this portrait in the Institute's museum collections of a veteran of the Revolutionary War is something different—a somber and arresting view of a poor man that hints at the financial struggles many soldiers of the Revolution faced in old age. John Neagle painted *A Pensioner of the Revolution* in 1830, in the midst of the fight for federal pension benefits for the remaining Revolutionary War veterans. Neagle identified his subject as Joseph Winter, a German-born soldier of the Continental Army who had lost his home, family, and livelihood and was living on the streets of Philadelphia. It is the earliest-known portrait of a homeless American veteran.

[Learn more about the portrait](#)

This Month in Revolutionary History: Overthrowing George Washington

Today, in the American imagination, George Washington is highly regarded as the “father of his country.” It might be surprising that not everyone in the Continental Army always held this general in such high esteem. In fact, several people expressed their discontent in his leadership during the Revolutionary War.

In November 1777, word reached Washington that a scheme was afoot to replace him as head of the Continental Army with Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates. Gates earned great acclaim after his victory at the Battle of Saratoga in October and was considered by some—including Irishman and Continental Army

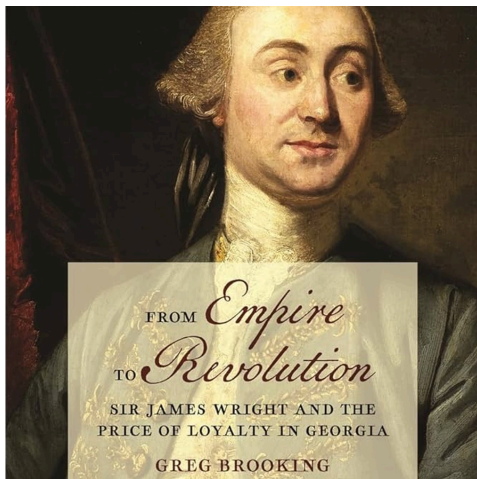


volunteer Thomas Conway—as the better general. Conway wrote to Gates in October 1777: “Heaven has been determined to save your Country, or a weak General and bad Councillors would have ruined it”—indirectly condemning Washington’s leadership.

In response, Washington wrote to Conway making him aware that he knew of his letter to Gates. On November 14, Conway offered his resignation to Congress, but rather than accept it or throw it out, Conway was given the position of inspector general and promoted to the rank of major general. Nothing further came of the so called “Conway Cabal,” both Gates and Conway apologized to Washington, and never again during the war would such frustration be voiced from within the American forces.

EVENTS

The Price of Loyalty in Georgia During the American Revolution



Join us on Tuesday, November 12 at 6:30 p.m. for an author’s talk featuring historian Greg Brooking, Ph.D., recipient of the Institute’s 2024 Society of the Cincinnati of the State of South Carolina Fellowship, discussing his new book, *From Empire to Revolution: Sir James Wright and the Price of Loyalty in Georgia*, published by the University of Georgia Press.

James Wright lived a transatlantic life, taking advantage of every imperial opportunity afforded him. He earned numerous important government posts and amassed an incredible fortune. An English-born grandson of Sir Robert Wright, James Wright was raised in Charleston, South Carolina, following his father’s appointment as the chief justice of that colony. Young James served South Carolina in several capacities, public and ecclesiastical, prior to his admittance to

London’s famed Gray’s Inn to study law. Most notably, he was appointed South Carolina’s attorney general and colonial agent to London prior to becoming the governor of Georgia in 1761. Wright’s long imperial career delicately balanced dual loyalties to Crown and colony and offers new insights into loyalism and the American Revolution. Through this lens, Dr. Brooking discusses his new in-depth biography of Wright, which explores his life in the context of imperial and Atlantic history, Indigenous borderlands, race and slavery, and popular politics.

The author’s talk 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](#)

EDUCATION

2025 Master Teachers Seminar Applications Open November 22

Attention teachers and those with teachers in their lives!

The online application link for our summer residential Master Teachers Seminar—which will be held from July 13-19, 2025—will be active starting Friday, November 22, 2024. Each July, we welcome a cadre of exceptional teachers of early American history to our Anderson House headquarters in Washington,



D.C., for a week of lectures and fellowship with our team of scholars and in-house experts, and to conduct research with our library and museum collections to create original lesson content for our website about the constructive achievements of the Revolution.

[Learn more and apply](#)

EVENTS

A British Victory at Sea



On Friday, November 8 at 12:30 p.m., join the Institute's museum collections and operations manager, Paul Newman, for a Lunch Bite object talk highlighting a recent acquisition for our museum collections: a Chinese porcelain punch bowl depicting the Battle of the Saintes.

Produced around 1783, the punch bowl was manufactured for the British market to commemorate the Royal Navy's victory over the French fleet at the Battle of the Saintes that occurred on April 9-12, 1782. The presentation will explore the bowl's richly detailed depiction of the battle, how the battle it commemorates was fought, and the impact this British naval victory had on the peace treaty that concluded the American Revolution.

The Lunch Bite will be held in-person at Anderson House and last approximately 30 minutes. Registration is requested and virtual options are available. In-person attendees will have the opportunity to view the punch bowl up close after the presentation.

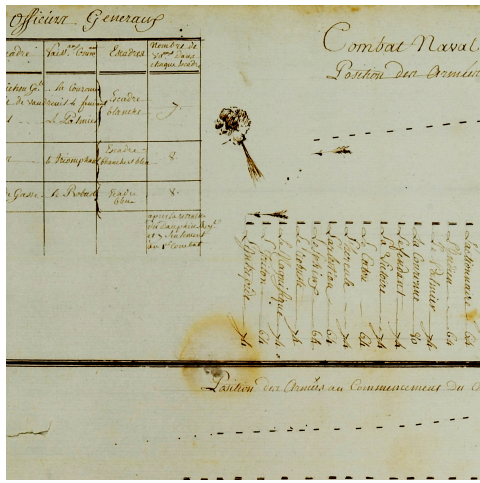
[Learn more and register](#)

COLLECTIONS

Chastellux's War in the Caribbean

Recently added to our Digital Library is a pair of illustrated charts detailing action from the Anglo-French battles at Martinique in the spring of 1780. These charts were originally the property of François-Jean de Beauvoir, marquis de Chastellux (1734-1788). The Battle of Martinique, also known as the Combat de la Dominique, between the British Royal Navy and the French Navy was part of the American Revolutionary War that took place in the Caribbean.

A Royal Navy fleet under Sir George Rodney challenged a numerically superior French fleet under the command of the comte de Guichen on April 17, 1780. The battle ended in a stalemate, the French sailed away, and Rodney chose not to pursue. However, the indecisive result may have emboldened the French fleet before the pivotal Battle of the Chesapeake.



The first chart depicts the Battle of Martinique in a series of ten illustrations, each depicting the opposing lines of ships in battle and their movement. Ten phases of the battle are shown while a chart at the top offers the names of the ships in the French fleet together with the number of guns on each. The second chart, composed in a similar manner, depicts the final encounter of May 19, 1780, in seven illustrations.

[View the charts on our Digital Library](#)

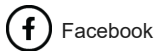


[Read Past Issues](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Subscribe to Our Mailing List](#)

[Give a Gift to the ARI](#)



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.



Copyright © 2024 The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, Inc., All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

