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THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

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

today
October 1, 2024

[Calendar of Events](#)

Our Featured Story: Help us Welcome Lafayette on October 13



Don't forget to register and join us for a special reception on Sunday, October 13 at 5:30 p.m., as we celebrate the marquis de Lafayette's first arrival to the capital city of Washington in collaboration with the American Friends of Lafayette. Tickets are \$75 per guest and registration for the reception closes Sunday, October 6!

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, view our current exhibition to learn about his farewell tour of 1824 and 1825, 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.

[Learn more and purchase your tickets](#)

250

Celebrating the
250th Anniversary
of the American Revolution

***This Month in Revolutionary History:
"Memorable proof of their patriotism"***

This October is the 250th anniversary of an act of political protest arranged and participated in solely by women—believed to be the first such event in the history of European-settled North America. On October 25, 1774, fifty-one women gathered in Edenton, North Carolina, to protest the Tea Act, the Parliamentary bill passed the previous year which instituted a tax of three cents per pound on all British tea sold in the thirteen American colonies, whilst at the same time enabling the floundering British East India Company



Congress.

to sell its own tea direct to buyers in North America. The Act's unpopularity led to protests across the thirteen American colonies, the most famous protest being the Boston Tea Party of December 1773.

The Edenton protest, known later as the Edenton Tea Party, was organized by Penelope Barker and hosted in the home of Elizabeth King. “Determined to give memorable proof of their patriotism,” the women signed an agreement pledging to boycott British imports—especially tea and cloth—“untill such time that all Acts which tend to Enslave this our Native Country shall be Repealed.” After the British press published an account of the Edenton Tea Party in early 1775, a London engraver created a print satirizing the efforts of the “Patriotic Ladies” of North Carolina—inadvertently, perhaps, helping to ensure that their protest was remembered decades and centuries later.

Image: *A society of patriotic ladies, at Edenton in North Carolina* attributed to Philip Dawe. London: Printed for R. Sayer & J. Bennett, 1775. Library of

COLLECTIONS

Portrait of a New England Patriot Joins the Collections



The Institute recently acquired an important oil portrait of Silas Talbot (1751-1813), an officer in both the Continental Army and Navy during the Revolutionary War—the first painted portrait of an American naval officer of the Revolution to join our collections. Painted by Ralph Earl in 1785, the portrait depicts Talbot wearing an infantry uniform while holding a naval spyglass, with an Eagle insignia of the Society of the Cincinnati on his lapel. The portrait was the generous gift of William R. Talbot, Jr., a great-great-great-grandson of Silas Talbot and a member of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati.

A native of Dighton, Massachusetts, Silas Talbot was living in Providence, Rhode Island, when the war began. He joined the Continental Army as a captain and participated in the Siege of Boston, the defense of Fort Mifflin, and the Battle of Rhode Island. In October 1778, Talbot took command of the American sloop *Hawk* and captured the British ship *Picot* in Narragansett Bay—which earned him a promotion to lieutenant colonel in the army. After commanding another American sloop to capture at least seven British vessels in 1779, Talbot was commissioned an officer in the Continental Navy. While commanding the *George Washington* in 1780, Captain Talbot and his crew were captured by the British, and imprisoned first on the *Jersey* prison ship in New York Harbor and then in Mill Prison in England. He was finally released in December 1781 and returned home in the spring of 1782. The following year, the Society of the Cincinnati was formed by veteran officers of the Revolution; Talbot would join its New York branch. Talbot returned to the U.S. Navy in the 1790s, taking his final and most famous post as commander of the USS *Constitution* in 1799.

MUSEUM

Lafayette on the Road



Our *Fete Lafayette* exhibition is on the road! Traveling panels featuring highlights of the exhibition were recently spotted at the American Independence Museum in Exeter, New Hampshire, displayed by the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire. Other sets of the traveling exhibition are being displayed at the Newport Historical Society in Rhode Island and at the Harper Fowlkes House in Savannah, Georgia, operated by the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia.

The panels provide an overview of the marquis de Lafayette's life, his participation in the American Revolution, his membership in the Society of the Cincinnati, and the events of his 1824-1825 tour of the United States in the state where the panels are displayed. These traveling exhibitions are sharing

the history and legacy of Lafayette's life and farewell tour of the United States with school and general audiences across the East Coast. We are grateful to the New Hampshire and Georgia Societies for funding this project.

[Explore the exhibition](#)

EVENTS

Spanish Louisiana in the Revolutionary Era



On Tuesday, October 29 at 6:30 p.m., Frances Kolb Turnbull, Ph.D., of the University of North Alabama, joins us for an author's talk to discuss her recent book, *Spanish Louisiana: Contest for Borderlands, 1763-1803*, which focuses our attention to an often-overlooked region of North America that experienced significant change and conflict before, during, and after the American Revolution: the Mississippi River Valley.

The Spanish era in the Lower Mississippi Valley, a borderland contested by empires and the region's diverse inhabitants following the Seven Years' War, was characterized by tremendous transition as the colony emerged from the neglect of the French period and became slowly but increasingly centered on plantation agriculture. Dr. Turnbull's talk examines the period from 1763 through the American

Revolution, when the Mississippi River was a boundary between empires, and how the activity of borderland peoples evolved after the Revolutionary War—when the Lower Mississippi was no longer an imperial boundary. She focuses on the postwar years in Louisiana, American trade and migration, Louisiana's experience of the Age of Revolutions, and Spain's ultimate political demise in the Mississippi River Valley.

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](#)

LIBRARY

2025 Research Fellowship Applications Open!

Our library offers fellowship opportunities to encourage advanced study of and publication on the importance and legacy of the American Revolution. Fellows receive support to explore our library and



museum collections related to their projects. The new Thomas Jay McCahill III Fellowship provides financial support for a one-year period for one or more scholars to undertake advanced research on a topic germane to American history in the colonial and revolution periods. Short-Term Research Fellowships support onsite research at our library for a minimum of five days.

The McCahill Fellowship application deadline is **October 31, 2024**.

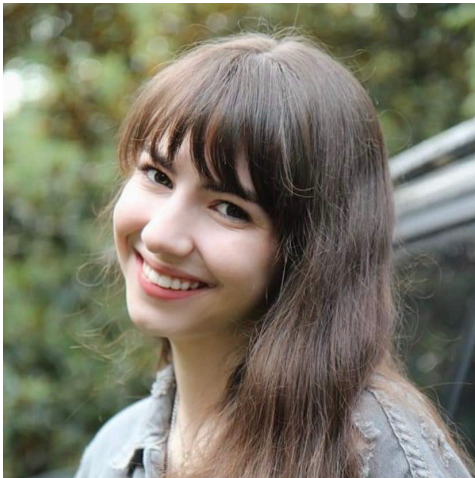
The Short-Term Research Fellowship

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

[Learn more and apply](#)

MUSEUM

Shining a Spotlight on the Volunteers Who Keep Anderson House Open for Tours



Meet Marielle Cornes, one of our newest docents who joined the team to lead tours of Anderson House in May of 2024. Marielle is a senior at George Washington University studying the history of Revolutionary America. Outside of school and volunteering at Anderson House, she participates as a member of the GWU Debate & Literary Society and enjoys researching, reading, listening to music, and exploring the city of D.C.

Marielle's interest in becoming a docent at Anderson House stemmed from her interest in and study of the American Revolution. She shared that she was "further motivated by the dedication the team at Anderson House puts into preserving their collections and promoting education about the Society of the Cincinnati and the Anderson family." On what she enjoys most about being a docent here, Marielle said, "Every time I

come to Anderson House, it amazes me, and my favorite part of being a docent is witnessing guests experience that same wonder and awe!"

[Visit Anderson House and take a tour](#)



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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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