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

ARI today

JANUARY 2025

250 Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution

[CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

Featured Story



New Museum Winter Hours Start January 1

Starting today, January 1, and running through March 15, our museum at Anderson House will be closed to the public for an additional day each week—Tuesdays. This new winter schedule will allow extra time for staff to conduct curatorial housekeeping of our historic headquarters and collections, allowing us to better preserve and present the museum.

Museum winter hours, January 1 – March 15, 2025 are:

Wednesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday, 12 – 4 p.m.

Plan your visit

This Month in Revolutionary History



The Crisis Across the Atlantic

“It is in your Defence, and in Defence of the Liberties of my Country, that I now stand forth, with a fixed Resolution to oppose, and shew to the World, unawed by Fear the dangerous Tendency of every Act of *lawless Power*, whether it shall proceed from the King, the Lords, or the Commons.” It may surprise the reader that this impassioned prose was not printed in America, but in London. These words were printed 250 years ago on January 20, 1775, in the first edition of *The Crisis*—not to be confused with the later work by Thomas Paine. This weekly pamphlet would run a further ninety-one issues before ceasing publication on October 12, 1776.

The Crisis offered a voice—one that was both frank and pithy—that was unapologetically critical of the Lord North administration as the “most *sanguinary*, and *despotic* Court that ever disgraced a *free* Country.” The author appealed for their British readers to “stand ... equal with their brave and virtuous Brethren in *America*,” exclaiming that “*their* Cause, is *our* Cause” and that should their plight be ignored and an “Altar of Despotism is erected in *America*, ... we shall be the next Victims to lawless Power.”

The Crisis is a curiosity amongst the literature of the American Revolution for its message to bring together the critics of the North administration in both Great Britain and the American colonies.

Many of the arguments about the abuses of power by both the king and the North administration follow a similar vein to those used by the Americans but are given a British spin in *The Crisis* to appeal to their readers' patriotic fervor. The author uses emotive nationalistic language that plays on the history of British political reform, offering a perhaps surprising window into the complexity and variety of thought that existed on both sides of the Atlantic during the era of the American Revolution.

Programming and Events



Announcing our Winter 2025 Programs

Our winter calendar of historical programs kicks off on January 6! Highlights from our programs include an author's talk by Vaughn Scribner discussing his new book, *Under Alien Skies: Environment, Suffering, and the Defeat of the British Military in Revolutionary America*, on January 16; a lecture by historian Thomas Chavez discussing Benjamin Franklin, Francisco Saavedra de Sangronis, and Spain's Grand Strategy in the American Revolution, on February 5; a unique opportunity to view and learn about treasures from our library collections to commemorate George Washington's birthday on February 18; a lecture featuring Wayne E. Lee highlighting indigenous warfare in the Revolution on March 13; a Lunch Bite given by the Institute's deputy director and curator, Emily Parsons, discussing a hanger sword owned by Massachusetts minute man James Taylor on April 18; and a panel discussion highlighting various aspects of the Battles of Lexington and Concord to kickoff our eight-year-long 250th anniversary celebrations of the American Revolution.

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

[View our winter programs brochure](#)



Art in Bloom DC Ticket Sales Begin January 15!

Art in Bloom DC returns to Anderson House for a fifth time on March 20-23! This popular event fills our historic headquarters with more than thirty floral arrangements inspired by the art and architecture of Anderson House. Art in Bloom provides a unique opportunity in the nation's capital to stroll through the museum at your own pace, viewing interpretations of specific artworks, furnishings, and architectural details rendered in a floral medium by some of Washington's most creative and innovative floral designs.

Visit during regular viewing hours to explore the floral arrangements, tour the museum, and participate in special demo sessions with featured floral designers. And join us and the premier local florists who created the displays for an evening reception exploring these floral artworks and the collections that inspired them, catered by Spilled Milk Catering.

Anderson House is the exclusive venue for Art in Bloom DC and is co-produced by the Institute, Margo Fischer of Bright Occasions, and Ashley Greer of Atelier Ashley Flowers.

Learn more about this popular event

Museum



Explore the First Year of the Revolution in our Upcoming Exhibition

The War for American Independence began on April 19, 1775—250 years ago this spring—with the Battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts. Kicking off the Institute’s 250th commemorations will be the exhibition *Revolutionary Beginnings: War and Remembrance in the First Year of America’s Fight for Independence*, opening on March 1, 2025.

The first battles of the war gave way to the Patriots’ Siege of Boston, a nearly year-long effort to drive the British from the city. But the fighting during the first year of the Revolution did not just take place in Massachusetts. From April 1775 to June 1776, Patriot, Loyalist, and British forces clashed in most of the thirteen American colonies, as well as in Canada and the Caribbean. This exhibition explores three of those conflicts—the Battle of Bunker Hill, the Siege of Quebec, and the Battle of Sullivan’s Island, which took place just days before the Declaration of Independence was adopted. Through letters, maps, prints, paintings, and artifacts, the exhibition reveals the importance of these lesser-known battles and the extent of the rebellion across the American colonies in its first year. The exhibition also examines how these three battles have been remembered and commemorated, both in the immediate aftermath as well as generations later.

[Learn more](#)

Education



Programs to Celebrate South Carolina 250

Our staff travels to historic Georgetown, South Carolina, on Monday, January 6 to deliver a day-long workshop for South Carolina teachers and an evening public program collectively titled “The American Cause... is the Cause of Liberty.” Both events are generously sponsored by the Society of the Cincinnati of the State of South Carolina and the Georgetown County SC250 Committee.

The day-long professional development seminar for educators will take place at Hopsewee Plantation and feature the scholarship of 2024 library fellow Dr. Greg Brooking and four of our South Carolina master teachers.

The evening program will be a special reception and public lecture spotlighting research from our in-house program team and will be held at Winyah Indigo Society Hall. The evening program begins at 7:00 PM and will be livestreamed.

[Register for the virtual program](#)

Collections



Now Online: A Silk Pouch Made by an Officer's Wife

For soldiers at war, having an item that was made by a loved one is something that can bring joy in the darkest of times. This silk damask pouch was made by Mary Little Bailey (1749-1821) for the use of her husband, Adams Bailey (1748-1824), an officer in the Massachusetts Continental Line during the Revolutionary War. Perhaps Bailey used this pouch to carry money, spare buttons, or anything else he needed on his person as he was on campaign. In 1971, this pouch, along with several other artifacts, was donated to the museum by Dr. Adams Bailey, the great-great grandson of the original owner.

This pouch is now included in our online museum collections database.

[Learn more about the pouch and view additional images](#)

Historical Programs This Month

All programs are held in-person at Anderson House unless otherwise specified. Virtual options are available. Admission is free and registration is requested. Click the images below to learn more and register for each upcoming program. Click the last image to explore our entire calendar of upcoming historical programs.

Virtual Seminar

"The American Cause...Is the Cause of Liberty"

American Revolution Institute Staff

Monday, January 6, 2025

7:00 P.M.

Virtual on Zoom

250

THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION
INSTITUTE
of The Society of the Cincinnati

250

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Author's Talk

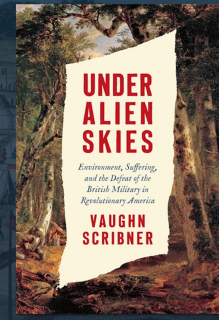
*Under Alien Skies: Environment,
Suffering, and the Defeat of the British
Military in Revolutionary America*

Vaughn Scribner, Ph.D.

Thursday, January 16, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Anderson House



Author's Talk

*Don Troiani's Black Soldiers in
America's Wars, 1754-1865*

John Rees

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Anderson House

DON TROIANI'S
BLACK SOLDIERS IN
AMERICA'S WARS
1754-1865



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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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