

[View this email in your browser](#)

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



[CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

## Featured Story



The American Revolution Institute Presents

# REVOLUTIONARY BEGINNINGS

War and Remembrance in the First Year of America's Fight for Independence

The image is a composite graphic for an exhibition. On the left is a historical painting of a naval battle, showing several large sailing ships with multiple masts and sails on a dark sea under a cloudy sky. On the right, there is a white text box with a dark red border. At the top of this box, it says 'The American Revolution Institute Presents'. Below that, the title 'REVOLUTIONARY BEGINNINGS' is written in large, bold, gold-colored capital letters. At the bottom of the box, the subtitle 'War and Remembrance in the First Year of America's Fight for Independence' is written in a smaller, dark red font.

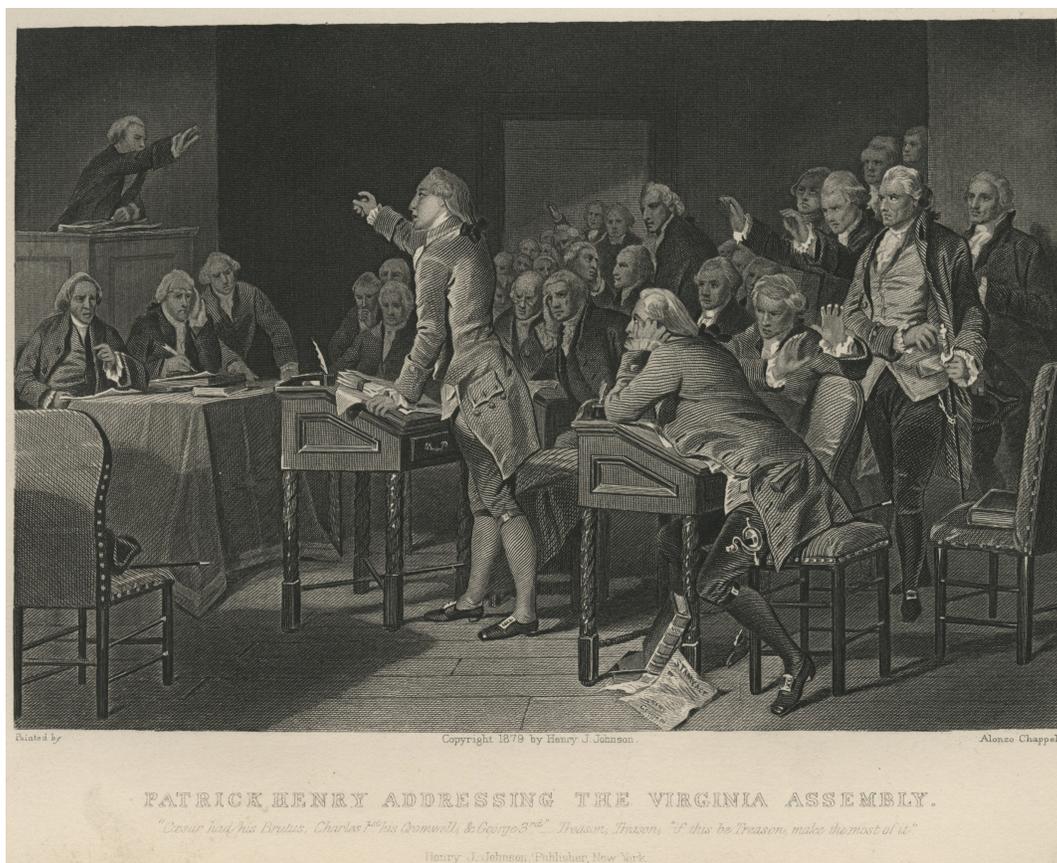
## It's Opening Day!

Our new exhibition, *Revolutionary Beginnings*, is now open. Marking the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War, the exhibition looks at three critical battles of the first year of the war—at Bunker Hill, Massachusetts; Quebec, Canada; and Sullivan's Island, South Carolina—and demonstrates how widespread the rebellion was leading up to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

The exhibition features more than forty objects, mostly drawn from the Institute’s collections. Contemporary maps and plans document the course of these battles and provide insights into why the victors prevailed. Letters and journals of participants and observers reveal the different perspectives of individuals on both sides of the battles. Prints, pamphlets, and orations produced soon after the battles mourn the losses, celebrate and defend the actions of the militaries and their leaders, and remind readers of their virtuous cause—for both the Americans and the British. And paintings, weapons, and other artifacts bring alive the world of the men and women who experienced the first year of the Revolutionary War.

**Learn more and plan your visit**

## This Month in Revolutionary History



**“Give me liberty, or give me death!”**

Out of the many orations left to us from the period of the American Revolutionary War, the seven words, “give me liberty, or give me death!” proclaimed by Patrick Henry 250 years ago on March 23, 1775, have become especially renowned. Born in 1736, Henry hailed from Hanover County, Virginia, and after several unsuccessful business ventures, the then twenty-four-year-old pursued a career in the law. Politics soon followed and in 1764, Henry was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses where his vehement argument against the Stamp Act provoked John Robinson, the Speaker of the House, to rebuke the young Virginian for having “spoken treason.”

On March 20, 1775, the Second Virginia Convention—convening to elect Virginia’s delegates for the Second Continental Congress—met at St. John’s Church in Richmond, Virginia. On the convention’s fourth day, Henry proposed three resolutions to put the colony on a militarily defensive posture. In defense of these resolutions, Henry addressed the Convention and expressed what he believed to be the misplaced hope that talk would prevail in the face of repeated inaction by London:

*“There is no longer any room for hope. If we wish to be free—if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending—if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained—we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! ... Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”*

Henry’s last seven words proclaimed on that day have been repeated many times over the intervening 250 years. And, when considering the context in which they were spoken—as Britain and her thirteen North American colonies stood on the precipice of world conflict—their meaning becomes profound.

## Library



### **The 2025 Class of Short-Term Research Fellows**

We are excited to announce our 2025 class of short-term research fellows. Our short-term fellowships support onsite research at our library, making possible the advanced study of the colonial and revolutionary eras through our extensive special collections. This year’s scholars will be studying a variety of themes including: Jewish participation in the Revolutionary War, loyalists in Savannah, the Penobscot Expedition, cavalry uniforms, Shays’ Rebellion, and American diplomacy.

Stay tuned to learn more about what the fellows get up to in the library this year.

**Learn more about our fellows and their projects**

## Events



### **Don't Miss Art in Bloom DC This Month!**

Art in Bloom DC returns to Anderson House 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 and tour the museum. Or attend special ticketed demo sessions with featured floral designers.

And we invite you to join us along with the premier local florists who create the displays for an opening reception exploring their floral artworks and the collections that inspired them. This reception will be catered by Spilled Milk Catering.

[Learn more and purchase tickets](#)

## Collections



### **An Officer's Hat**

We recently acquired the cocked hat of General William Shepard (1737-1817), an officer in the Massachusetts Line during the Revolutionary War and an original member of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati. The hat is of the style that came into fashion beginning in the 1780s and resembles those worn by Continental Army officers during the Revolutionary War.

Shepard, a native of Westfield, Massachusetts, and a veteran of the French and Indian War, began his Revolutionary War service in May of 1775 as lieutenant colonel of Danielson's Massachusetts Regiment. Shepard served in a variety of regiments and positions in the Continental Army through January 1783, and sustained a wound at the Battle of Brooklyn. After the war, Shepard was made a major general of militia and played a prominent part in suppressing Shays' Rebellion before serving three terms in the United States House of Representatives from 1797-1803. This simple, well-worn hat helps bring an American story to life.

[Learn more and see the hat in more detail](#)

## Historical Programs This Month

All programs are held in-person at Anderson House unless otherwise specified. Virtual options are available. Admission is free unless otherwise specified and registration is requested. Click the

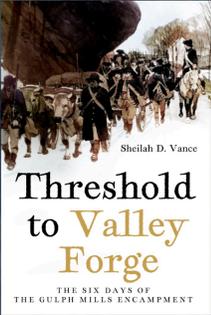
images below to learn more and register for each upcoming program, or [click here to view our full calendar of upcoming programs.](#)

**Author's Talk**

*Threshold to Valley Forge: The Six Days of the Gulph Mills Encampment*

Sheilah Vance

Tuesday, March 4, 2025  
6:30 P.M.  
Anderson House



**Lecture**

**The Cutting Off Way:  
Indigenous Warfare in the American Revolution**

Wayne Lee, Ph.D.

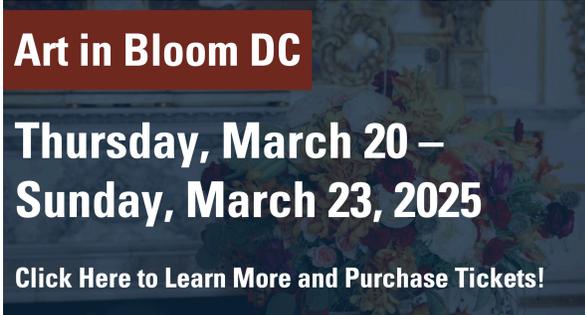
Thursday, March 13, 2025  
6:30 P.M.  
Anderson House



**Art in Bloom DC**

**Thursday, March 20 –  
Sunday, March 23, 2025**

**Click Here to Learn More and Purchase Tickets!**



**Click Here to Explore All Our  
Upcoming Historical Programs**



***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 (C) 2025 The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, Inc. All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)