



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



In September 2010, The American Revolution Center (the "Center") acquired a new site for *The Museum of the American Revolution*. As David McCullough has said, "there could not be a more appropriate or inspiring place to bring people." Since that time, we have made great progress toward opening the doors to the new museum.

Signature items from our collection have been conserved and items of great significance have been acquired. A business plan, economic impact study and facility analysis are near completion and a renowned design team has been selected for the museum. In July 2011, the United States Senate unanimously passed a resolution in support of *The Museum of the American Revolution*.

In August 2011, with the project well positioned for future success, Bruce Cole announced his decision to resign as President and CEO in order to return to his writing and research. We salute Bruce for his leadership and many accomplishments. With strong staff and Board leadership, we continue to move forward during this interim period. A national search is underway to identify a new President and CEO.

Together, we have the extraordinary opportunity to build the only museum in this Nation dedicated to telling the entire story of the American Revolution. The Museum will bring to life the stories of the founding generation and uphold the spirit of the American Revolution for generations to come. We welcome your support and involvement.

Sincerely,

Gerry

H.F. (Gerry) Lenfest

MUSEUM DESIGN TEAM SELECTED

Through a rigorous selection process, **Robert A.M. Stern Architects, LLP**, was selected to design the building and **MFM Design** to design the exhibitions for *The Museum of the American Revolution*. In their distinct disciplines, each firm has the expertise to develop a world-class museum that will inspire and engage people from around the world about the extraordinary people, places and events of the American Revolution.

Over its forty-two year history, Robert A.M. Stern Architects, LLP, has established an international reputation as a leading design firm. The firm's practice is premised on the belief that no one style is appropriate to every building and every place. The firm's commissions include: the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts; The Museum for African Art on Museum Mile in New York City; and the George W. Bush Presidential Center at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. The firm's founder and senior partner, Robert A.M. Stern, FAIA, is a practicing architect, teacher, and writer. He has been Dean of the Yale School of Architecture since 1998.



MFM Design brings over twenty-five years of experience in planning and designing interpretive exhibitions for museums and cultural institutions, such as the Museum of Natural History, the National Museum of African Art, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The firm has designed new museums in the United States and Japan, including Mount Vernon's visitor gateway facilities, the Maryland Heritage Interpretive Center at Historic St. Mary's City, the Frazier History Museum in Louisville, and Musée Tomo in Tokyo. Other clients include the Smithsonian Institution, the National Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

REVOLUTIONARY COLLECTION

First Oval Office— General George Washington’s Marquee

The American Revolution Center’s rich and diverse collection includes many significant national treasures. Among the most engaging and evocative is General Washington’s marquee—the first “oval office” of the first Commander-in-Chief of the United States.

George Washington Parke Custis, George Washington’s adopted grandson and builder of Arlington House near Washington, D.C., devoted his life to preserving and displaying his considerable inheritance of family portraits, books, objects and clothing that had been owned by George and Martha Washington. When Custis died in 1857, his daughter Mary Anna Randolph Custis



Lee (the wife of Robert E. Lee) inherited Arlington and its Washington family relics. Washington’s Revolutionary War tent was among the items confiscated by the Union forces that occupied Arlington in 1861. The marquee was eventually returned to the Custis-Lee family (in 1901), and Mary and Robert E. Lee’s daughter, Miss Mary Custis Lee, sold the tent—along with original tent poles, wooden tent pins, ropes and tensioners, as well as a leather storage case or *portmanteau*—to the Reverend Herbert Burk of the Valley Forge Historical Society in 1909.

A generous grant from the Acorn Foundation Fund for History in Memory of Alexander O. Vietor has funded conservation of the leather portmanteau to prepare it for display in the new museum. In addition, the grant is funding a research project that will gather all existing records, studies and technical information related to Washington’s field headquarters and equipages that are now scattered through museum collections including the



WASHINGTON’S TENTS IN THEIR PORTMANTEAU.

National Museum of American History, Yorktown Battlefield (NPS), Mount Vernon, the New York Historical Society, and The American Revolution Center. This information will answer the many questions that remain about construction details, the original association of different components, and the historical timeline for construction, use and descent of these various elements.



Specialists from Colonial Williamsburg’s Department of Historic Trades examine the Washington portmanteau during its recent conservation.

In the final phase of the project, an authentic, accurate copy of General Washington’s suite of tents and field equipment will be constructed. This process will inform our understanding of the surviving components, and provide an opportunity to experience (in three dimensions) an architectural space that has not existed in more than two hundred years. The reconstructed field equipment will be used to generate dynamic interactive video content for electronic fieldtrips and exhibit elements for *The Museum of the American Revolution*.

Loaned Exhibitions

The American Revolution Center has loaned over thirty firearms, edged weapons and other military equipment



from the Revolutionary War to George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens for a three-year exhibit titled *Tools of War*, shown above. An important group of historic firearms and edged weapons from the Center’s collection are on display as part of Mount Vernon’s national traveling exhibition, *Discover the Real George Washington: New Views from Mount Vernon*. In addition, the Center loaned items from its collection to support exhibitions at the National Constitution Center, the Heinz History Center, Fort Pitt Museum, the James A. Michener Art Museum, and Valley Forge National Historical Park.

REVOLUTIONARY COLLECTION

Iconic Painting Conserved

For the first time in over sixty years, through a generous grant from The Society Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge, *The March to Valley Forge* by William T. Trego (1858-1909) has been cleaned and restored to its original splendor.



The painting is on display at the Valley Forge National Historical Park Visitor's Center through the end of January 2012.

New Collection Donations Received

The Center received nearly fifty significant Revolutionary-era weapons and other items from the estate of noted collector and philanthropist Robert L. McNeil, Jr., and from The Barra Foundation, which Mr. McNeil founded in 1963.

The Barra Foundation donated an important document from the Revolution—Baron Von Steuben's Oath of Allegiance to the United States, countersigned by General Washington, on May 12, 1778 at "Camp Valley Forge." This item enhances the American Revolution Center's existing collection of Von Steuben-related items, which include an original copy of his will, a pair of his gilt brass shoe buckles, and a c.1915 historical painting by Clyde O. DeLand depicting General Washington administering the Oath of Allegiance to his senior officers (including Von Steuben) at Washington's Valley Forge headquarters.

From the McNeil Estate, the Center received an extremely rare ca. 1776 American military musket produced at the Rappahannock Forge in Virginia, and a ca. 1775 musket produced by Philadelphia gunsmith Thomas Palmer, believed to be one of a set of forty such weapons commissioned by George Washington following the First Continental Congress.



REVOLUTIONARY RESOURCES

Website Retooled

The Center has retooled its website with new features. Visitors to the site now have the opportunity to take the Center's national survey, *The American Revolution: Who Cares?* and compare their answers filtered by state, political affiliation, gender and income. The website offers a new collection gallery, a searchable database of lesson plans, and links to hundreds of organizations that offer information about the American Revolution.



Revolutionary Perspectives

Through a grant from the Earhart Foundation, the Center has invited noted scholars to offer their reflections on the American Revolution and its continuing legacy, including **Thomas Fleming**, **Ira Stoll**, **Pauline Maier**, and **Wilfred M. McClay**. These reflections explore a variety of topics, including the surprising influence of an obscure 1772 document on the

Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, the role of ordinary Americans in creating new constitutional governments, religion and the founding generation, and General George Washington's leadership in the American Revolution. Additional reflections will be posted in the coming months.

Alfred Ernest Schuyler, PhD, Curator Emeritus of Botany at The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, and **Ludovic Rassat**, President and CEO of Boiron USA, participated in a program exploring *The History of and Contemporary Advances in Botany and Herbal and Alternative Medicines*. **Kenneth R. Foster, PhD, PE**, Professor of Bioengineering, University of Pennsylvania, **Mary F. Jenkins**, Supervisory Park Ranger and Supervisor of the Dolley Todd Madison House and Visitor Center at Independence National Historical Park, **Anna Coxe Toogood**, Historian, Independence National Historical Park, and **Patrick J. Brennan, MD**, Chief Medical Officer for the Penn Health System participated in a program exploring *Comparative Responses to Outbreak of Deadly Epidemics* from the Era of the American Revolution to Today. These programs were made possible thanks to the support of the **Richard Lounsbury Foundation** and **The College of Physicians of Philadelphia**.

REVOLUTIONARY SUPPORTERS

We welcome your involvement and support as we establish a living memorial honoring the sacrifices of generations past, and engaging current and future generations in the ideas and ideals of the American Revolution.

We were honored to be recognized by actions taken by the United States House and Senate to recognize the importance of our cause. Working with Pennsylvania delegation members, Reps. Brady and Gerlach, and Senator Casey, resolutions supporting the establishment of *The Museum of the American Revolution* were introduced in both chambers. The U.S. Senate resolution was unanimously passed in July 2011, and reads as follows:

Resolved, that the Senate (1) recognizes the contribution of the American Revolution Center to the preservation of the story of the founding of the United States; and (2) expresses support for the Center's efforts to establish an appropriate museum to tell such story to future generations.

IN MEMORIAM

The Center salutes Robert (Bob) Owen Safford, who served on the Center's Board of Directors from 2007 until his untimely passing in September 2011. Bob had a great love of history, was an enthusiastic and imaginative Board member, and generously supported our cause. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, his four grown children and their families. A memorial fund has been established in his



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* As of November 30, 2011

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