



## KEY ARTIFACTS

The Museum of the American Revolution has an impressive collection of several thousand Revolutionary-era artifacts, including weapons, works of art, manuscripts, personal items, and more. One of the premier collections of its kind, it began more than a century ago when a history-minded minister in Valley Forge raised funds from around the nation to purchase the original tent that George Washington used as his command center during the Revolutionary War. It was the beginning of a rich and diverse collection that continues to grow. More than 400 artifacts are currently on display in the Museum.

### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

#### ★ ITEMS OWNED OR USED BY GEORGE AND MARTHA WASHINGTON

- **George Washington's War Tent**, which served as both his office and sleeping quarters throughout much of the war
- **Original silver camp cups** from Washington's field equipment (*photo below, left*)
- **Wartime correspondence and books** from Washington's library
- The **13-star flag** known as the Commander-in-Chief's Standard, which was used to mark General Washington's headquarters. *Only displayed on special occasions due to light sensitivity.*
- A **religious book** signed by Martha Washington
- A **portmanteau**, or large leather bag, that carried Washington's tent and bedding.

#### ★ FIREARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS

- A **musket** that was one of 40 commissioned by Washington from Philadelphia gunsmith Thomas Palmer

- A **rare French presentation sword** that bears the inscription "Ex Dono Regis" (Given by the King) on its gilded blade, a design suggesting it was awarded for bravery
- **Rare American military firearms** made in Philadelphia, Connecticut, Virginia, and other locations
- A **pair of English holster pistols** carried through the Revolutionary War by German American Brigadier General Peter Muhlenberg (*photo below, right*)

#### ★ WORKS OF ART

- **"The March to Valley Forge,"** William B. T. Trego's iconic 1883 painting (*photo below, center*)
- **Xavier della Gatta's paintings** of the Battle of Paoli and Germantown
- An 1817 **terra cotta bust of George Washington** by Philadelphia sculptor William Rush
- **Portraits** of French, British, and American participants in the Revolution

*Continued*



KEY ARTIFACTS *Continued*

## ★ PRINTED WORKS AND MANUSCRIPTS

- The first newspaper printing of the Declaration of Independence, printed by the *Pennsylvania Evening Post* on July 6, 1776
- Soldiers' and officers' letters, orderly books from regiments in the Continental Army, and a variety of military documents, including troop returns, muster rolls and descriptive lists
- A small King James Bible that was carried by Francis Merrifield at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775
- Colonial newspapers bearing the segmented snake device first created by Benjamin Franklin as a call for colonial unity
- Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* (1776) which pressed Americans to declare independence.
- Colonial currency

## ★ PERSONAL ITEMS

- A soldier's wooden canteen branded "UStates" at a time when the phrase was merely an aspiration
- William Waller's Powder Horn, which bears several popular slogans of the time, including "Liberty or Death" and "Kill or be Killed" (*photo below, right*)
- Drinking vessels bearing political slogans that expressed American ideas of liberty

- A hunting shirt (circa 1780 - 1790) that is one of only a few to survive from the Revolution
- A pair of baby booties, made from the pilfered coat of a British footsoldier, which belonged to Sgt. James Davenport, a Massachusetts native who lost two brothers in the fight for independence (*photo below, center*)
- A ceramic punch bowl decorated with the phrase "Success to the Triphena." The bowl was made in England, but found during the archaeological excavation of the Museum's site.

## ★ ARTIFACTS THAT REPRESENT DIVERSE STORIES

- A pair of earrings belonging to an enslaved woman of African descent who lived at Mount Vernon
- A signed 1773 volume "Poems on Various Subjects" by Phillis Wheatley, America's first published black female poet (*photo below, left*)
- 18th century slave shackles that are small enough to fit a child
- A woman's busk (a supportive addition to a woman's corset) carved out of wood by a prisoner-of-war. The busk is dated 1782 and depicts the "chain of states"
- A muslim charm (ca. 1760) which is on loan from Juniata College
- An early 18th century war club, used by American Indian fighters, which is on loan to the Museum

