Remembering Fallen Revolutionaries

The Museum tells the stories of many of our nation’s first fallen soldiers and honors those whose names we don’t know. The Museum’s artifacts and exhibits explore these stories and include the sword of fallen Revolutionary General Hugh Mercer and the gravestone of Maryland Captain Michael Cresap, among many others.

See how many of these highlights you can find in the exhibits.

The original gravestone of Captain Michael Cresap, which is on loan from the New-York Historical Society. Cresap led a rifle battalion from Maryland in 1775. He fell ill and died shortly after in New York City. A reproduction of the tombstone now stands at the Trinity Churchyard on Wall Street, where he is buried.

Join or Die

A cannon ball from the site of Fort Washington, New York, where Margaret Corbin’s husband lost his life while fighting as part of the American artillery in 1776. Corbin took over her husband’s cannon duties and was badly wounded herself.

New York, 1776

See reverse for more!
A portrait of Philadelphian Benjamin Flower, painted by brothers James and Charles Willson Peale. Flower was an early supporter of the Revolutionary cause, joining the Philadelphia Associates and marching to support Washington’s army near New York in July 1776. Flower died in 1781 in Philadelphia while serving as the Commissary General of Military Stores. The Darkest Hour

A silver-hilted sword, which belonged to Lieutenant-Colonel George Wilson of the 8th Pennsylvania Regiment. In December 1776, Lt. Col. Wilson and his men marched from Western Pennsylvania to the banks of the Delaware to reinforce Washington’s Army. When he died in February 1777, his fellow soldiers returned the sword to his family, who passed it down through the generations until donating it to the museum. Trenton and Princeton

A sword that belonged to General Hugh Mercer, a fallen hero of the American Revolution and a close friend of George Washington, which is on loan to the Museum from the St. Andrew’s Society of Philadelphia. General Mercer was mortally wounded at the Battle of Princeton, January 3, 1777. Trenton and Princeton

A fowling piece made by Seth Pomeroy of Massachusetts, who died while leading troops south to reinforce Washington’s army in 1777. The gun is displayed alongside nearly 50 Revolutionary-era weapons and artifacts. Arms of Independence

A saber used by a member of Casimir Pulaski’s Legion of Dragoons, an American cavalry unit. Pulaski, a Polish officer in the Continental Army, fought and died at the Siege of Savannah, Georgia, in 1779. Trenton and Princeton

An interactive flip-door feature spotlights the role of the Oneida Indians at the Battle of Barren Hill (northwest of Philadelphia) on May 20, 1778. A plaque at St. Peter’s Church Cemetery in Barren Hill, Pennsylvania, memorializes six of the Oneida fighters thought to have fallen in the battle. Winter Patriots, 1777-1778

The Revolution Generation in Photographs features 70 men and women who lived through the American Revolution and survived into the age of photography. Many of those pictured lost loved ones in the struggle and were charged with carrying forward the ideals upon which the new nation was founded. Revolution Generation in Photographs