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, which includes those that are generously loaned to us from other individuals and institutions.

**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
• 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

• 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,” which was made in England, but found during the archaeological excavation of the Museum’s site

• An archive of nearly 200 documents related to Black and Native American soldiers in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War
• A 1774 newspaper printing of a letter written by Phillis Wheatley to Presbyterian Minister and Mohegan Indian Samson Occom
• A discharge for Black soldier Cash Pallentine signed by General George Washington
• 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 shackles that are small enough to fit a child
• 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