Bringing the

AMERICAN REVOLUTION HOME

Founding Campaign for the Museum of the American Revolution

"With change accelerating all around, more and more we need understanding and appreciation of those principles upon which the republic was founded. What were those 'self-evident' truths that so many risked all for, fought for, suffered and died for? What was the source of their courage? I don't think we can ever know enough about them."

- David McCullough

Bringing the

AMERICAN REVOLUTION HOME

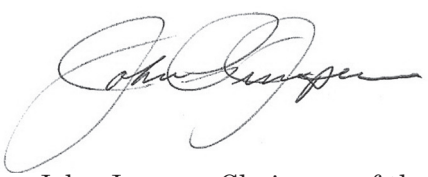
Founding Campaign for the
Museum of the American Revolution
2010 - 2017

IN 1907, IN VALLEY FORGE, PA, an Episcopal Priest, the Rev. Herbert Burk, launched a two-year fundraising effort to acquire George Washington's War Tent. Even then he dreamed of the tent becoming the centerpiece of a future national museum devoted to America's Founding. Burk created a small museum within his church, Washington Memorial Chapel, and in 1918, established the Valley Forge Historical Society.

In 2000, the Society took steps to realize Burk's dream by establishing the Museum of the American Revolution. Through a historic land exchange with the National Park Service in 2010, the Museum acquired the site of the former Independence National Historical Park Visitors Center — just steps away from Independence Hall — in exchange for land held in Valley Forge. With the ideal location secured, the Museum began a $150 million capital campaign to build, open, and endow the Museum.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Chairman Emeritus Gerry Lenfest and his wife Marguerite; leadership gifts from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Diane Lenfest Myer, the Oneida Indian Nation, and Alan B. and Jill Miller; and corporate, foundation, and 19,000 individual donations from all fifty states; the Museum opened on time and, remarkably, without any debt. The Campaign raised $173 million, exceeding the campaign goal by over 15%. As a result, our endowment fund will ultimately total $48 million. Our success is due to the tireless efforts of Capital Campaign Chair Governor Edward G. Rendell, our Board of Directors, and Michael C. Quinn, the President and CEO, who led us to opening day under budget and on schedule. Since our opening on April 19, we have served over 325,000 visitors, 40,000 of them school children. Our reputation continues to grow with favorable reviews from visitors and media outlets around the world.

Thank you for believing in this cause and supporting its mission. Together, we built a museum that commemorates the enduring legacy of our nation's founding and allows Washington's War Tent to continue to bear witness, reminding present and rising generations of the fragile American experiment that empowers the people to secure their own freedoms.



John Jumper, Chairman of the Board

THE MAKING OF A MUSEUM

ON APRIL 19, 2017, the 242nd anniversary of the "shot heard 'round the world," the Museum of the American Revolution officially opened to the public. The new landmark, designed by Robert A.M. Stern Architects and located in the heart of historic Philadelphia, provides a permanent home for the Museum's rich collection of Revolutionary-era weapons, personal items, letters, diaries and works of art. Immersive galleries, theater experiences, and recreated historical environments bring to life the events, people, and ideals of our nation's founding and engage people in the history and continuing relevance of the American Revolution. The journey to opening day had many milestones.

MOBILIZATION

September 2010

LAND EXCHANGE CEREMONY

Secretary of the Interior **Ken Salazar** joined Museum Board Member Governor **Edward Rendell**, Mayor **Michael Nutter** and Museum Chair **Gerry Lenfest** to announce an extraordinary land exchange: the Museum's 78 acres adjoining Valley Forge National Historical Park for National Park Service land just steps from Independence Hall.

June 2012

DESIGN UNVEILING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF $40 MILLION LENFEST CHALLENGE GRANT

Mayor **Michael Nutter**, **Gerry Lenfest**, Pennsylvania First Lady **Susan Corbett**, President and CEO **Michael Quinn** and architect **Robert A.M. Stern** were among the speakers at the design unveiling ceremony. **Gerry Lenfest** announced a $40 million challenge grant, launching the Museum's $150 million fundraising campaign.

✶ *"Perseverence and spirit have done wonders in all ages."* ✶

- George Washington

July 2012

ONEIDA INDIAN NATION ANNOUNCE $10 MILLION GIFT

The **Oneida Indian Nation**, our Nation's first ally, awarded a $10 million gift on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol Building. Pictured here, from left to right: Oneida Nation Council member **Clint Hill**, U.S. Sen. **Pat Toomey**, U.S. Sen. **Bob Casey**, Oneida Nation Council member **Chuck Fougnier**, Oneida Indian Nation Representative **Ray Halbritter**, Museum Chair **Gerry Lenfest**, U.S. Rep. **Jim Gerlach**, and Museum President and CEO **Michael Quinn**.

CONSTRUCTION

March 2014

DEMOLITION BEGINS

A robust crowd of supporters joined **Governor Rendell** and **Gerry Lenfest** in an "opening salvo" celebrating the beginning of demolition of the building that was on the site of the future Museum. Event highlights included booming cannons, Revolutionary War reenactors, and hundreds of cheering spectators.

July - October 2014

ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

After the building on the site was cleared, archaeologists conducted fieldwork uncovering evidence of occupation from the earliest European settlement of Philadelphia through the mid-20th century. A total of 82,000 artifact pieces were found, most of them coming from brick-lined privy and well shafts that were sealed beneath a later generation of buildings removed from this site.

October 2014

GROUNDBREAKING

More than 300 supporters, benefactors, and honored guests gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking and beginning of construction. National and local dignitaries, politicians, and Museum leadership marked the occasion with the ceremonial dedication of America's Liberty Tree, symbolizing the Museum's goal of preserving the ideas and ideals of the American Revolution for future generations.

Speakers at the Groundbreaking Ceremony gathered under the Liberty Tree included (left to right), **Gerry Lenfest**, **Cokie Roberts**, Rear Admiral **Thomas C. Lynch**, USN, Retired, Senator **Pat Toomey**, Senator **Robert P. Casey, Jr.**, and Governor **Tom Corbett**. President and CEO **Michael Quinn** is in the second row.

July 2015

TOPPING OFF

Dignitaries, supporters, community members and friends joined together to celebrate the time-honored tradition of "Topping Off." Participants signed their "John Hancock" on a 40-foot steel beam that was then lifted into place in the highest level of the new building. **Governor Rendell** signed the beam with a note saying, "Thank you, Gerry!"

PREVIEWS

September 2016

PLAZA OPENING AND BUILDING DEDICATION

Hundreds of friends and neighbors gathered to celebrate the opening of the Museum's outdoor plaza and dedicate its recently completed building to **Gerry and Marguerite Lenfest** (left). An engraved stone was unveiled to honor the Lenfests. Gerry Lenfest was Chairman of the Museum's Board of Directors from 2005 - 2016, and he and Marguerite contributed $50 million in matching grants toward the Museum's $150 million campaign.

September 2016

INAUGURAL LENFEST SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AWARD

The first event held in the new Museum was a dinner on September 20, 2016 to honor **Gerry and Marguerite Lenfest**. They shared the spotlight that evening with Pulitzer Prize-winning author **David McCullough,** the recipient of the inaugural Gerry Lenfest Spirit of the American Revolution Award. Lenfest created the award to celebrate the importance of public knowledge of American history, especially history related to the creation, evolution, and preservation of the core ideas of American democracy that were established during American Revolution.

The award includes a monetary prize of $25,000, which Lenfest endowed with a gift of $500,000. Pictured here are **Gerry Lenfest**, **David McCullough** and Board member **David Acton**.

April 8, 2017

A GLITTERING OPENING GALA

An eleven-day preview period began with a glittering gala attended by over 800 supporters. The event featuring **Tom Brokaw** interviewing George Washington (**Dean Malissa**) and Professor **Gordon S. Wood**. A number of toasts were offered throughout the evening including one by Comcast Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer **David Cohen** and Governor **Edward Rendell**. **Sydney James Harcourt** performed two numbers from the Broadway hit *Hamilton* and is pictured (L - R) with Museum President and CEO **Michael Quinn**, Board members **Martha McGeary Snider** and **Susan Corbett** with her husband Pennsylvania Governor **Tom Corbett**. A total of $1.6 million was raised that evening. Over the next few days, thousands of stakeholders previewed the Museum, including teachers, cultural colleagues, the hospitality industry, members, lenders, and cab, bus and Uber drivers.

✶ *"We have it in our power to begin the world over again…*
The birthday of a new world is at hand." ✶

- Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*, 1776

OPENING DAY

April 19, 2017

GRAND OPENING FESTIVITIES

The grand opening festivities started with a reflective and reverential tribute at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution at Washington Square, continued with patriotic fanfare at Independence Hall, and culminated with the official dedication and ribbon-cutting on the Museum's outdoor plaza featuring keynote speaker Vice President **Joe Biden**.

"What is this Museum intended to stand for? Our founders — who lived the Revolution, who gave their lives to the Revolution — what were they attempting to do?" asked Biden. "I think it was about an idea…the idea that people could govern themselves... An idea that ordinary people could do extraordinary things, given half a chance. It truly was a revolutionary idea. An idea that both startled and, at the same time, gave hope to the rest of the world."

At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution, tribute was paid to the men and women who sacrificed their lives in the fight for American Independence. The service included a blessing by the **Oneida Indian Nation**, an interfaith prayer by leaders of historic and modern congregations, a spiritual sung by the **Gospel Choir of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas**, and a wreath-laying by **The U.S. Army 3rd Infantry (The Old Guard)** and Museum Chairman General **John P. Jumper**.

At Independence Hall, spectators were treated to pageantry and patriotic fanfare with The Old Guard's Revolutionary War tactical performance and 250 students from St. Mary's Interparochial School of Philadelphia creating a "living flag" representing George Washington's Standard, a highlight of the Museum's collection. Remarks were made by Pennsylvania Governor **Tom Wolf**, Governor **Edward Rendell**, Virginia Governor **Terry McAuliffe**, and representatives from many of the original 13 states.

✶ *"The Revolution was in the hearts and minds of the people."* ✶

- John Adams, 1818

On the Museum's plaza, more than 1,200 people witnessed the official dedication at the Museum, which featured keynote speaker Vice President **Joe Biden**; Pulitzer Prize-winning author **David McCullough**; and best-selling author, journalist, and political commentator **Cokie Roberts**; along with **Dr. Vincent Brown**, Charles Warren Professor of American History and Professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. Other luminaries included **Ray Halbritter**, Oneida Nation Representative and Nation Enterprises CEO, and a Museum Board Member; Pennsylvania Governor **Tom Wolf**; Philadelphia Mayor **Jim Kenney**; and Colonel **John E. Bircher III**, representing the Military Order of the Purple Heart. **Sydney James Harcourt** and students from Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts returned for an encore performance of selections from *Hamilton*.

The Alan B. Miller Theater houses General Washington's War Tent — one of the most iconic surviving artifacts of the Revolution — which served as both his office and his sleeping quarters throughout much of the war.

The Oneida Indian Nation Atrium leads to the Museum's core exhibition galleries and features artwork depicting key moments in the Revolutionary War.

Immersive experiences include a gallery featuring a full-scale replica of Boston's Liberty Tree, where the first stirrings of revolt were discussed and debated.

FULLFILLING OUR PROMISE AS AN OPERATING MUSEUM

The core exhibition invites visitors to live the dramatic story of our nation's founding through the perspectives of the men and women who made it happen. Through the Museum's collection of authentic historic artifacts, visitors experience the remarkable story of the American Revolution from its origins to ultimate victory and its continuing relevance. The collection includes several thousand objects that span the Revolutionary era. In addition to original artifacts, the Museum uses immersive galleries, dynamic theaters, and re-created historic environments to bring to life the events, people, and ideals of the founding of the United States and inspire a deep appreciation of the importance of the struggle that created the American Republic. The Museum experience is enriched with many docent-led programs, special exhibitions, the popular *Read the Revolution* lecture series, family offerings, and holiday programming.

School groups have a dedicated entrance to the **John M. Templeton, Jr. Education Center** in the Museum's lower level. Students enjoy docent-led programs in the two large classrooms and will soon be enjoying Revolution Place, a family discovery center made possible through the generous support of **Family Search**. New curatorial storage facilities and exhibition prep spaces are also housed in the lower level.

In addition to **Lenfest Myer Theater**, where the Museum's orientation film, *Revolution*, is shown, the first floor includes a special exhibition space, a large retail facility and a café. The **Robert A.M. Stern Rotunda** is a spacious, welcoming gathering space. The Museum's program and event spaces have made it a highly desirable location for after-hours functions,

continued

"The immersive exhibits infuse 18th-century history with distinctly 21st-century theatrical shock and awe… But there are constant invitations to dig deeper into objects, documents and complex ideas."

- New York Times

Dr. R. Scott Stephenson, Vice President of Collections, Exhibitions, and Programming, and **Dr. Philip Mead**, Chief Historian and Director of Curatorial Affairs, examine a rare, 235-year-old, seven-foot panoramic painting depicting the Continental Army's 1782 encampment at Verplanck's Point in New York's Hudson Valley. Stephenson and Mead discovered the painting and the Museum was able to acquire it thanks to a gift from the Landenberger Family Foundation. The painting was the centerpiece of the Museum's first special exhibition: *Among His Troops: Washington's War Tent in a Newly Discovered Watercolor.*

enhancing the Museum's ability to generate earned revenue to support ongoing operations.

The Museum's inviting courtyards and plazas enable visitors and passersby to explore our nation's history at any time, day or night. Exterior relief murals depict iconic paintings representing the pen (Trumbell's *Signing of the Declaration* in the **Marjorie and Lewis Katz Courtyard**), and the sword (Leutze's *Crossing the Delaware* in the **Bill and Laura Buck Courtyard**). Powerful words from the Declaration of Independence are emblazoned in limestone on one of the plaza's flanking walls, supported by funding from **Martha McGeary Snider**. Throughout the day, visitors enjoy the dramatic display of Revolutionary War-era cannons on long-term loan from the **Girard Estate** in Philadelphia. The creation of the cannon display and the adjoining seating area was supported by the **William B. Dietrich Foundation**.

The Museum has quickly become a top destination for people seeking to learn more about our nation's founding. Favorable reviews have earned high rankings on travel sites, and on-site and online visitor reviews enhance the Museum's credibility and visibility.

Daily programs take place on a replica privateer ship like the one on which 14-year-old free African-American James Forten volunteered.

Adjacent to a wall of photographs of men and women who lived through the Revolutionary-era, visitors see themselves as the future of the American Revolution.

THANK YOU

The Museum of the American Revolution gratefully acknowledges gifts from the following generous donors to its campaign to establish the Museum. These committed donors provided the support needed from 2010 through 2017 to plan, construct, open, and endow the Museum; and through their investment in the vision of a Museum of the American Revolution, each has played an invaluable role in bringing the American Revolution home.

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The Old Guard leads more than 120 members of militias from the 13 original states from Independence Hall to the Museum's plaza on Opening Day.

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- Benjamin Rush, 1787

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