



## Rare Surviving Revolutionary War Uniform of Tench Tilghman on Display

*See the uniform at the State House in Annapolis, March 23-April 4*

**BALTIMORE, Md. (March 21, 2022)** – To commemorate Maryland Day and the anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of Maryland’s State House, the Maryland Center for History and Culture is displaying Tench Tilghman’s original Revolutionary War uniform in the Senate Committee Room at the State House from Wednesday, March 23 to Monday, April 4, in partnership with the Maryland State Archives.

Maryland-born Tench Tilghman (1744-1786) was George Washington’s longest-serving aide-de-camp and his uniform is only one of two officers’ uniforms known to still exist from the American Revolution. This rare surviving garment is possibly the only one that includes the original jacket and breeches. The only other known uniform belongs to Colonel Peter Gansevoort Jr. and is housed at the National Museum of American History.

Tilghman's original uniform is rarely on view due to conservation concerns, making this a special opportunity to see this survivor of the Revolutionary War firsthand. The uniform will be on display in the Senate Committee Room in Annapolis, adjacent to a [Charles Willson Peale portrait](#) of Washington, Lafayette, and Tilghman at Yorktown. [Download images](#) of the uniform.

An expert reproduction of Tilghman's uniform, created by Neal Hurst, historic tailor and Associate Curator of Costume & Textiles at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, will also be displayed through June 21. [Listen to a virtual program with Hurst](#) about the work that went into reproducing the uniform (originally aired in November 2021).

“We are pleased to bring one of our most important collection items to Annapolis for a wider audience to enjoy. Tench Tilghman’s uniform is an incredible surviving artifact from our nation’s early history that visitors will be able to view up close in all its detail,” said Mark Letzer, MCHC President & CEO. “This event is one of many MCHC will be participating in as part of Maryland’s Semiquincentennial Commission alongside other cultural, state, and business leaders planning Maryland’s commemoration of the American Revolution and the birth of the nation. At MCHC, we are digging deeper into the collections to tell a fuller, more complete story at our Museum and Library and throughout the state about the United States’ fight for freedom and independence.”

Tilghman’s uniform is part of a larger collection of Revolutionary War documents and objects in MCHC’s Museum and Library collection. Also to commemorate Maryland Day, MCHC is holding its annual [Maryland Day of Giving](#) on March 25 to raise funds to preserve and digitize 250 of its Revolutionary War collection items in celebration of the nation’s upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2026.

MCHC’s current exhibition, [The Unfinished Revolution: Maryland in the Wars for Independence](#), provides additional opportunities to engage in Revolutionary War history.

Check out <https://www.marylandday.org> for a full listing of Maryland Day events taking place in Annapolis.

### **More About Tench Tilghman**

Tench Tilghman, George Washington's longest-serving aide-de-camp, began his military career in 1775 as a lieutenant in a Pennsylvania light infantry company. That same year, the Continental Congress appointed him as a secretary of a commission to form a treaty with the Six Nations Confederacy. When Congress declared independence in 1776, Tilghman, now a captain, and his regiment joined the Continental Army. In August of 1776, he volunteered to be George Washington's aide-de-camp and served in that role from 1776 until 1781.

Tilghman's fluency in French was invaluable to Washington as he could interpret written commands between US and French commanders. Following the Battle of Yorktown, Washington selected Tilghman, now a lieutenant colonel, to carry the British Articles of Capitulation to Philadelphia. Tench Tilghman died in Baltimore in 1786.

### **State House Visitation Information**

The Maryland State House is located at 100 State Circle in Annapolis, Maryland and is open to the public from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. A photo ID is required to enter.

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**The Maryland Center for History and Culture (MCHC)** collects, preserves, and interprets the history, art, and culture of Maryland. Originally founded as the Maryland Historical Society in 1844, MCHC offers a Museum, Library, and education programs to inspire critical thinking, creativity, and community.

The Museum and H. Furlong Baldwin Library are currently open Wednesday-Saturday. Museum hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Library hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Learn more at [mdhistory.org](http://mdhistory.org).

### **Media Contact:**

Jennifer Michael

[jmichael@mdhistory.org](mailto:jmichael@mdhistory.org)

443-851-0568