



**Exhibition Opening Sept. 10, 2021—*The Unfinished Revolution:
Maryland in the Wars for Independence***

Walk through 40 years of wars as the U.S. fought for political and economic independence

BALTIMORE, Md. (September 7, 2021) – The [Maryland Center for History and Culture](#) (MCHC) is pleased to unveil [The Unfinished Revolution: Maryland in the Wars for Independence](#), an exhibition that explores the turmoil of the United States’ emergence on the world stage between 1775 and 1815. Opening **September 10**, the exhibition highlights two points that became certain after the American Revolutionary War—the country’s revolution remained unfinished, and Marylanders of many races and creeds were at the forefront of each conflict.

The Unfinished Revolution ties together the French and Indian War, the American Revolutionary War, the Quasi-War, and the War of 1812 as one connected narrative, exploring the effects these conflicts had on Maryland, and the political and economic growth of the state and the nation thereafter. The new American ideals of free trade and republicanism had to be defended before they could take shape.

Throughout the exhibition, the concept of independence is continually dissected. What did independence mean with each passing conflict, each treaty, and to whom did it apply? Alongside the stories of the war heroes, immortalized in portraiture, are those of everyday men turned into soldiers, Black and white, free and enslaved, who may only be represented in extant archival material. *The Unfinished Revolution* also includes how the conflicts affected those who didn’t fight, of enslaved women who fled with the British Army to a new life in Canada, and of women known as “camp followers” who followed their husbands to war because they had no provisions or support at their homes.

The Unfinished Revolution opens in the museum gallery that previously featured *In Full Glory Reflected: Maryland in the War of 1812*, a popular and award-winning exhibition that was installed in 2012 for the nation’s bicentennial anniversary. Now, *The Unfinished Revolution* opens as the United States looks ahead to its 250th anniversary in 2026.

“It has been nearly a decade since the bicentennial celebration of the War of 1812 and since that time our responsibility as a museum of history and culture has continued to evolve,” said Mark Letzer, MCHC President & CEO. “As we prepare for the semiquincentennial, we are challenging ourselves to look critically at everything we do and have done, find new and inclusive perspectives, and use new objects and documents to fill in the gaps often left out of our nation’s traditional narrative.”

In addition, *The Unfinished Revolution* will serve as an educational resource to enhance and fill the gaps in social studies curriculum for students and teachers who will dive deeper into the stories of early America through visits to MCHC and Virtual Field Trips.

Notable objects on display include:

- **Doohoregan Manor Account Book** – Six pages from this book on display lists the names, ages, and family units of 330 enslaved men, women, and children on one day in 1773 at Doohoregan Manor (also known as “Doughoregan”), the home of Charles Carroll, one of the colony’s largest landowner, enslaver, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence from Maryland. The document highlights the disparity at the start of the American Revolution by those calling for their independence and freedom and those trapped by the bonds of enslavement.
- ***The Yankee Tar*** – On display for the first time will be John Hoxse’s book, *The Yankee Tar: An Authentic Narrative of the Voyages and Hardships of John Hoxse and the Cruises of the U.S. Frigate Constellation and Her Engagements with the French Frigates Le Insurgente and Le Vengeance*. First written in 1840, the memoir traces Hoxse’s life as a sailor serving on various vessels from slave trade ships to the United States Frigate *Constellation*, and details horrific moments, such as having his arm detached in conflict. Hoxse served on the *Constellation* during the Quasi-War with France.
- **Chair from Henry Fite’s House** – This object represents a special moment for Maryland in the Revolutionary War—the day Baltimore served as the capital for the United States. In December 1776, with the British Army on the shores of the Delaware River, Congress fled Philadelphia and moved to Baltimore. On December 20, they met at Henry Fite’s house in Baltimore, making the city the second capital of the United States.
- **1759 Powder Horn used by Jonas Green (1712-1767)** – This object, from the period, may have been used in the French and Indian War. Green was the printer of the *Province of Maryland*, publisher of the *Maryland Gazette*, and a fierce opponent of the Stamp Act.
- **Bullet that wounded the hand of Jesse Levering** – Levering was a merchant from Baltimore and fought at the Battle of Bladensburg in 1814.

View [selected images from the exhibition here](#).

Upcoming *Unfinished Revolution* Programming

Thursday, October 28, 7-8:30 p.m.

Colonial Market Virtual Tavern Trivia

Join in 18th-century fun as we bring you the best of our annual Colonial Market, and also celebrate the opening of *The Unfinished Revolution: Maryland in the Wars for Independence*. Trivia topics include themes from this new exhibition that explore the tension, conflict, and turmoil of America’s emergence onto the world stage between 1775 and 1815 and how Marylanders were at its forefront.

Thursday, November 4, 12-1 p.m.

Blue, Gold, and Buff: The Recreation of Tench Tilghman’s Uniform with Historic Tailor Neal Hurst

Learn how the rare surviving uniform of Revolutionary War hero, Lt. Colonel Tench Tilghman (1744-1786), was reproduced for MCHC's latest exhibition, *The Unfinished Revolution: Maryland in the Wars for Independence*. Marylander Tench Tilghman was General George Washington's longest serving aide-de-camp. Tench's uniform, one of only two surviving officer uniforms from the Revolutionary War, resides in MCHC's collection.

View MCHC's [Public Programs calendar](#).

Support for this exhibition is generously provided by The Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Maryland, The General Society, Sons of the Revolution, and The Society of the Cincinnati of Maryland.

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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 inspires critical thinking, creativity, and community through its museum, library, and education programs.

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, including MCHC's [safety procedures](#).

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