



TO THE BEAT OF THEIR OWN DRUMS

*American Regimental Flags
of the Revolutionary War*

Exhibition Media Kit

ESTABLISHED 1907



FRAUNCES TAVERN MUSEUM

Fraunces Tavern® Museum to open exhibition highlighting a selection of regimental flags from the American Revolution.

New York: On Friday, April 2, 2021, Fraunces Tavern Museum will debut its newest exhibition: To the Beat of Their Own Drums: American Regimental Flags of the Revolutionary War.

On display in the Kathryn & Shelby Cullom Davis Educational Center for American History, *To the Beat of Their Own Drums* explores the history of the flags flown by the distinct regiments which made up the Continental Army. Flags have long served as visual representations of human groups, expressing a collective experience and forming communities around a set of shared values and ideals. Before uniting around the Stars and Stripes, regimental battle flags bore special importance to their members.

“The gallery takes a closer look into the important role flags played in shaping a regiments' identity during the Revolutionary War,” says the exhibition’s Co-Curator Mary Tsaltas-Ottomanelli. “Flags depicting images from hornets to hand grenades, and even the early versions of the stars and stripes, were used to symbolize these soldiers' bravery and courage.”

Among the flags on display is the Bucks of America Flag, a bright yellow and blue flag which was carried by the only all-Black militia company during the Revolutionary War; the Third New York Regiment flag whose detailed images inspired the modern version of the New York State flag; and the Bedford Minuteman Standard flag which bears the Latin phrase “VINCE AUT MORIRE,” meaning “Conquer or Die.”

The exhibition also highlights early iterations of the American flag, including the Serapis flag, whose 13 stars and stripes would go on to solidify the standard American Flag design we know today. When viewed together, these flags tell the story of a growing national identity.

“As the country continues to recover from both the pandemic and a turbulent presidential election, this exhibition presents a timely tale of the communities that came together to fight for their independence and, ultimately, negotiate their shared values to form a unified nation,” says Co-Curator Lisa Goulet.

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Fraunces Tavern® Museum

TO THE BEAT OF THEIR OWN DRUMS

*American Regimental Flags
of the Revolutionary War*

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Flags have long served as visual representations of human groups, expressing a collective experience and forming communities around a set of shared values and ideals. Before uniting around the Stars and Stripes, regimental battle flags bore special importance to their members. In this permanent exhibition, learn about the history and iconography behind the regimental flags of the diverse groups who fought for American Independence.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

Fraunces Tavern Museum's mission is to preserve and interpret the history of the American Revolutionary era through public education. A five-building complex that includes 54 Pearl Street, a landmarked building that served as a watering hole for many of the Founding Fathers, including George Washington. The Museum offers a unique experience that allows visitors to discover the American Revolutionary Era in one of New York City's oldest standing structures.

The Museum is comprised of two period rooms and six galleries where visitors can explore a rotating collection of artifacts, artworks, and documents from or relating to the American Revolutionary Era. This unique Museum experience is bolstered by a variety of engaging educational resources, public programs and special events that serve the community throughout the year on-site and online.

HISTORY

In 1719, the building that would become Fraunces Tavern was originally constructed as a residence for merchant Stephen De Lancey. In 1762, Samuel Fraunces bought the building and transformed it into one of the most popular meeting places for political discussion and action in the City.

Once war began and the Continental Army lost possession of the City, Loyalist forces occupied the tavern until peace was declared in 1783. On December 4, 1783, nine days after the British evacuation, George Washington delivered his emotional farewell to his officers in the second floor Long Room. Between 1785 and 1788, 54 Pearl Street housed the newly formed Continental Congress Departments of War, Foreign Affairs, and Treasury. In the 1800s, it became a boarding house for young workers in the busiest port on the East Coast and underwent several structural changes after a series of fires. Sons of the RevolutionSM in the State of New York, Inc. took ownership in 1904 and completed a groundbreaking restoration, opening Fraunces Tavern Museum and Restaurant in 1907. 54 Pearl Street was designated a New York City Landmark in 1965 and the block was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Fraunces Tavern® Museum

PRESS

Fraunces Tavern is a Museum, Restaurant, and Bar all housed inside five historic buildings in Lower Manhattan. It is the only New York City museum dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of the American Revolutionary Era, and includes eight galleries, an 8,000-piece collection, and family-friendly pricing.

At Fraunces Tavern Museum, visitors can explore the history and iconography of Early American Regimental battle flags, tour the Long Room where George Washington bade farewell to his officers at the close of the American Revolution, and read the firsthand account of Washington's farewell in the handwritten Memoir of Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge. Walk the halls where history happened at Fraunces Tavern Museum.



MEDIA INQUIRIES

All inquiries for images and interviews, as well as any on-site filming or photography requests should be directed to:

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Fraunces Tavern® Museum

FAST FACTS

LOCATION

54 Pearl Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004
(Corner of Broad and Pearl Streets)
The Museum is wheelchair accessible.

CONTACT

(212) 425-1778 | www.frauncestavernmuseum.org

HOURS

Wednesday – Sunday, 12pm-5pm
Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm

GENERAL ADMISSION

Adults (18+): \$7
Seniors (65+): \$4
Students (w/ valid ID): \$4
Children (6-18): \$4
Children (under 5), Active Military (w/ ID): FREE
Federally disabled with an attendant (w/ ID): \$4

EDUCATION

For teachers interested in engaging, hands-on programs that will bring the Revolution to life, the Museum offers a variety of opportunities for students of all ages! Contact Education & Public Programs Manager Sarah Kneeshaw at skneeshaw@frauncestavernmuseum.org or call (212) 425-1778, Ext. 213.

AMENITIES

Gift Shop

The gift shop offers a variety of apparel, collectibles, books, and educational materials.

FRAUNCES TAVERN® RESTAURANT

Enjoy craft beers, a selection of whiskeys, traditional and modern tavern fare at the restaurant on the first floor. Host your private event and enjoy a unique and unforgettable dining experience in one of the oldest standing structures in New York City.

SOCIAL MEDIA



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