

The *Chesapeake Chapter* had the opportunity to attend a special event at the Fort Belvoir Museum on Sunday, December 14th, and the debut of the new Revolutionary War displays was truly impressive. The new exhibits are thoughtfully done and immediately draw you in. It's clear a great deal of care went into both the historical accuracy and the overall presentation. The displays are informative without feeling overwhelming, making them enjoyable for serious students of history as well as those simply looking to learn more about the Revolutionary era. Some of the most memorable pieces on display are artifacts directly connected to the closing moments of the war and to George Washington himself. Seeing General Cornwallis's surrender sword in person was impressive...it serves as a powerful reminder of the British surrender at Yorktown and the significance of that moment in American history. Equally compelling are George Washington's pistols and his sword. These objects create a very personal connection to Washington, reminding visitors that beyond the legend was a working military commander who carried these arms throughout the war. Displayed together, they help tell a fuller and more human story of Washington's leadership and the responsibilities he carried.

The supporting text, maps, and timelines are clear and well written, helping place each artifact in context and making the story of the Revolution easy to follow. The layout and lighting are also well done, allowing visitors to take their time with the objects while still preserving them appropriately. A special thank-you goes to docent John Dowdle, who guided us through the museum. His knowledge and easygoing manner added a great deal to the experience and helped bring the exhibits to life. The visit was made even more meaningful by Company member John Thillmann, who has a Revolutionary War saddle currently on display at the museum. Mr. Thillmann spoke with members about the saddle, its history, and why it matters, offering a personal perspective that was greatly appreciated.

Overall, the new Revolutionary War displays at the Fort Belvoir Museum are exceptionally well done. They combine important artifacts, clear interpretation, and knowledgeable guidance to create an experience that is both educational and genuinely enjoyable. Anyone with an interest in early American history should make time to see them.



*George Washington and his This cuttose was made by John Bailey and is noted for it's portrayal in several paintings. Warn by Washington from 1779-1783*

## Bailey Cuttoe

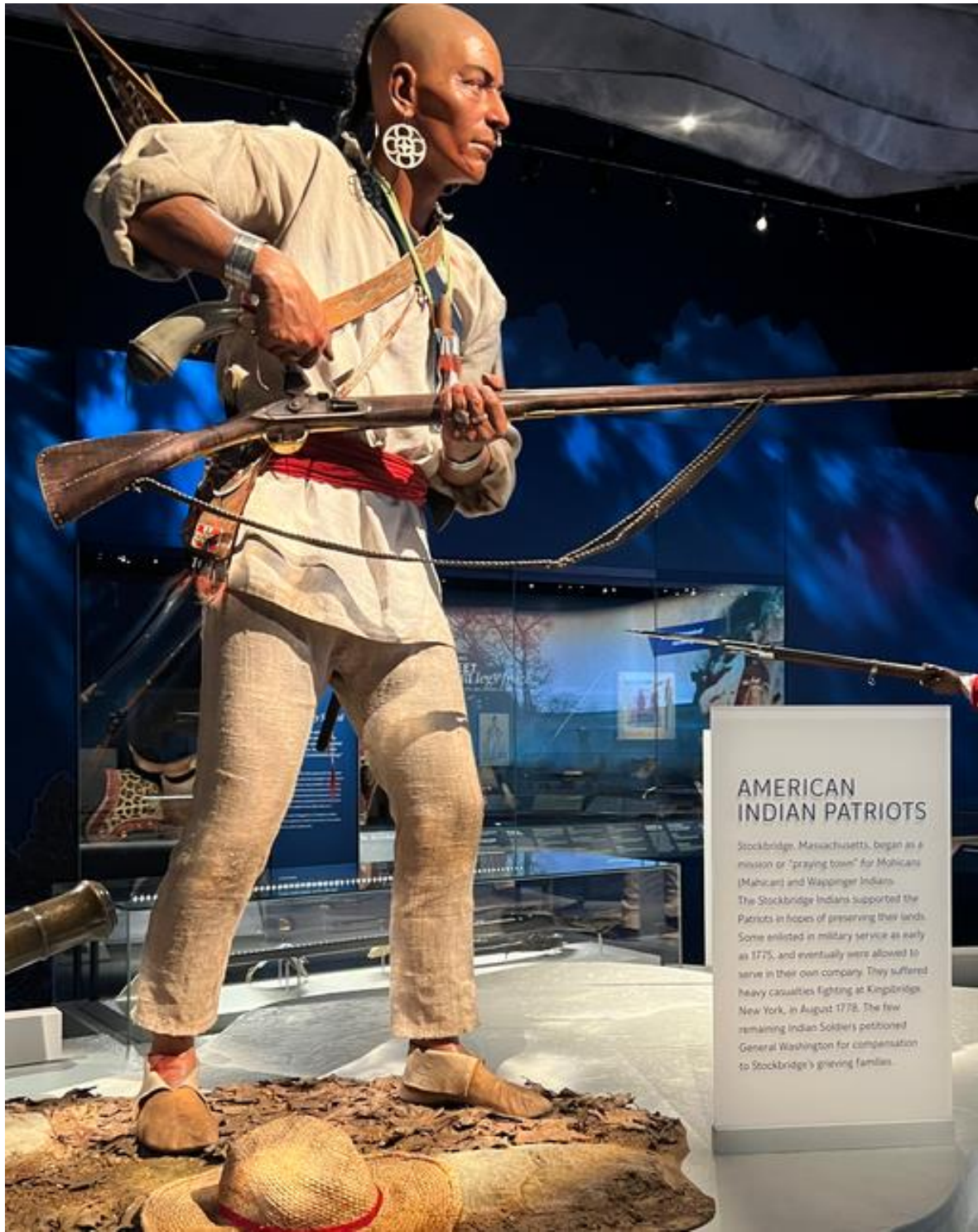
This cuttue was made by John Bailey and is noted for its portrayal in several paintings. It was worn by General Washington from 1779-1783. The grip is green-stained ivory with silver tape. It is widely recognized as his most identifiable sword used during the Revolutionary War.



Cornwallis Surrender Sword

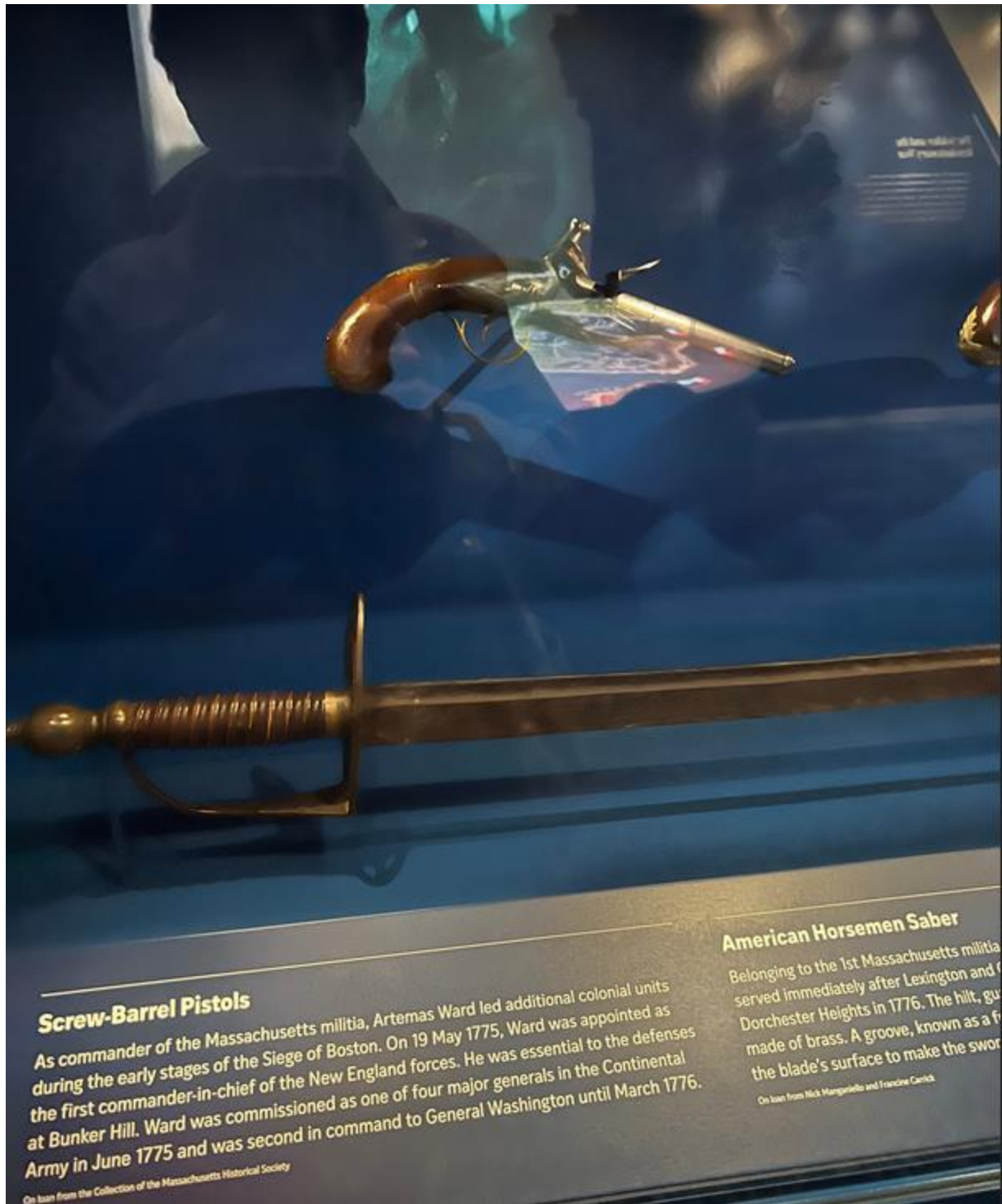






## AMERICAN INDIAN PATRIOTS

Stockbridge, Massachusetts, began as a mission or "praying town" for Mahicans (Mahicans) and Wappinger Indians. The Stockbridge Indians supported the Patriots in hopes of preserving their lands. Some enlisted in military service as early as 1775, and eventually were allowed to serve in their own company. They suffered heavy casualties fighting at Kingsbridge, New York, in August 1778. The few remaining Indian Soldiers petitioned General Washington for compensation to Stockbridge's grieving families.



**Screw-Barrel Pistols**

As commander of the Massachusetts militia, Artemas Ward led additional colonial units during the early stages of the Siege of Boston. On 19 May 1775, Ward was appointed as the first commander-in-chief of the New England forces. He was essential to the defenses at Bunker Hill. Ward was commissioned as one of four major generals in the Continental Army in June 1775 and was second in command to General Washington until March 1776.

On loan from the Collection of the Massachusetts Historical Society

**American Horsemen Saber**

Belonging to the 1st Massachusetts militia served immediately after Lexington and f Dorchester Heights in 1776. The hilt, gu made of brass. A groove, known as a f the blade's surface to make the swor

On loan from Rick Mangano and Francine Carrick



Saddle donated by J. Thillmann

Dragoons were mounted Soldiers that served in scouting detachments, foraging or raiding parties, and offered considerable advantages when employed on the battlefield. Armed with carbines, pistols, or sabers, Dragoons charged forward in mass formations. They used these weapons and their horse's speed to break opposing infantry formations and run-down retreating soldiers.

