

American Long Rifle

This American long rifle was owned by Thomas Tileston of Dorchester, Mass. He was a member of the Sons of Liberty as early as 1769. He served in the colonial militia after the Battle of Concord in 1775. Tileston guarded ships in Boston Harbor to prevent the off-loading of tea and he witnessed the "Boston Tea Party" in 1773. This artifact is the second earliest signed and dated American long rifle in existence.

Lherbette's Knapsack

Designed by John P. Lherbette, this knapsack is an early example of a patented piece of Army equipment. Adopted for its improved functionality and efficiency, this knapsack rode square upon the Soldier's back. Lherbette pattern knapsacks were generally painted Prussian blue with a large white oval on the flap containing a "U.S." stenciled in red. This artifact was owned by Nathaniel Mitchell, a corporal in the 1st U.S. Artillery.



Militia Snare Drum

Used by a Massachusetts militia unit, this pre-Revolutionary War snare drum bears a pine tree motif and the Latin motto which translates to "It is sweet and proper to die for one's Country." Drums were used for a variety of purposes by the military; they served to sound signals in battle, and told Soldiers when to wake up, fetch provisions, march, and retire.

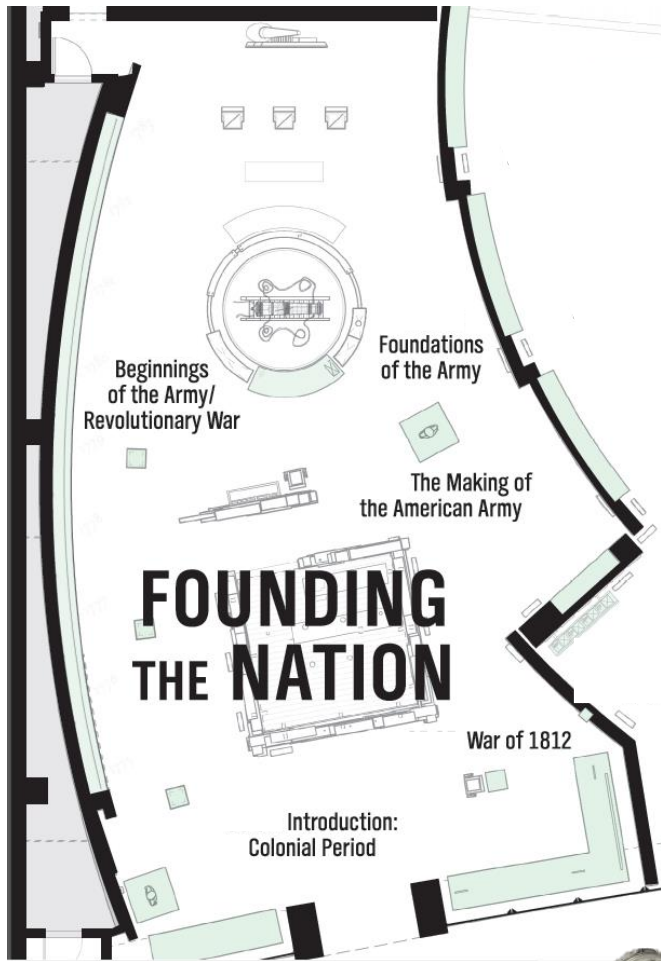
King Howitzer 3-Pounder Tube

This 3-pounder howitzer, manufactured by Daniel King, is a bronze smoothbore muzzleloading cannon that fired a 3 pound projectile. A number of these howitzers were used by Maj. Gen. Anthony Wayne at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794, and this piece may have been one of those. This artifact is one of the few American-made cannons that can be dated to this early period.



Gassett's Powder Horn

This powder horn belonged to Sgt. Levi Gassett during the Revolutionary War. Sergeant Gassett enrolled in the Northborough Minutemen in 1775. The engraving on the horn commemorates his service at Dorchester Heights during the Siege of Boston in 1775.



The Founding the Nation Gallery covers the period from 1607-1814. The gallery begins with a look at the colonial militia that was the basis of our current Army. Artifacts in this gallery date from the settlement at Jamestown, and trace the development of colonial militia through the numerous wars up to the Revolutionary War. The development of the Continental Army and its role in winning the Revolutionary War is also explored. Artifacts from the first battles at Lexington and Concord, an iconic American Long Rifle, and a cannon taken by Henry Knox from Fort Ticonderoga and used at the Siege of Boston are featured. The exhibit discusses the early defeats of the Army, the Fabian strategy employed by Gen. George Washington, the victory at Saratoga that brought in critical European aid, and the victory at Yorktown. Finally, the gallery covers the creation of a standing army and its role in the War of 1812.



6-Pounder Gun Tube

This cannon is typical of the French gun tubes used by Americans during the War of Independence. The 6-pounder gun was one of the most commonly used light artillery field pieces in the Revolutionary War.