How to Use Our Collection

The Newberry is an independent research library; readers do not check books out to take home, but consult materials—mostly rare books, manuscripts, maps, and other materials with a focus on the humanities—here at the library. We welcome into our reading rooms researchers who are at least 14 years old or in the ninth grade. Creating a free reader account and requesting collection items takes just a few minutes. Begin the registration process at https://requests.newberry.org and start exploring our collection; when you arrive at the Newberry for research, a free reader card will be issued to you in our third-floor reference center. Please contact the reference desk at (312) 255-3506 or reference@newberry.org with questions on our holdings.

Leading up to the American Revolution


The Justice and Necessity of Taxing the American Colonies, Demonstrated. London: J. Almon, 1766. Deals with the Stamp Act of 1765. Call #: Case J 5456 .46

American Sermons

Adams, Zabdiel. The Evil Designs of Men Made Subservient by God to the Public Good, Particularly Illustrated in the Rise, Progress and Conclusion of the American War. Boston: Benjamin Edes & Sons, 1783. Our copy was bound by Zaehnsdorf, a well-known, 19th-century bookbinder, and previously owned by Frank C. Deering (1866-1939) of the family who own the Deering Lumber, Inc. (other items of Deering’s are also mentioned in this guide). Call #: Case 3A 1028

Duché, Jacob. The American Vine; A Sermon Preached in Christ-Church Philadelphia, before the Honourable Continental Congress, July 20th, 1775, by Jacob Duché. Philadelphia: J. Humphreys, 1775. The Newberry has the first edition first and second issues of this sermon. Call #: Case 3A 1205 (first issue) and Case 4A 1451 (second issue)

Duché, Jacob. The Duty of Standing Fast in Our Spiritual and Temporal Liberties: A Sermon, Preached in Christ-Church, July 7th, 1775, before the First Battalion of the City and Liberties of Philadelphia, and Now Published at Their Request. Philadelphia: J. Humphreys, Junior, 1775. The Newberry also has a London re-print (Call #: Case J 5831 .244). Duché acted as first chaplain to the Continental Congress and ultimately fled to England because he took a stand against the revolution. The Newberry owns a few titles by Duché, including a print copy of his famous sermon, “The American Vine” (you can find more on our copies of this in this section). Call #: Case folio E297 .D82 1775

Payson, Phillips. A Memorial of the Lexington Battle, and Some Signal Interpositions of Providence in the American Revolution. Boston: Benjamin Edes & Sons, 1782. Our copy was bound by Zaehnsdorf, a well-known, 19th-century bookbinder, and previously owned by Frank C. Deering (1866-1939) of the family who own the Deering Lumber, Inc. (other items of Deering’s are also mentioned in this guide). Call #: Case 4A 1156

The Newberry also holds many reproductions of American sermons from this time period that can be requested and viewed in the reading rooms.
The Newberry’s collections offer many examples of British perspectives on the American Revolution and British reprintings of volumes that originally came from America. Here are just a couple:


Pitt, William. *Lord Chatham’s Speech on the 20th of January 1775*. London: T. Freeman, 1775. Dealing with the motion for an address to the king on the removal of military forces from Boston. **Call #: Case J 5831 .6962**

French Materials from the Period of the American Revolution


Raynal, Abbé. *Révolution de l’Amérique*. Stockholm: Charles Stolpe, 1781. The Newberry has two other copies with the imprint information “Londres: L. Davis, 1781” (Call #: Case F 832 .735) and “London: Printed for Lockyer Davis, MDCCCLXXI” (Call #: 5456 .87502). **Call #: Wing ZP 752 .S875**

Raynal, Abbé. *Tableau et révolutions des colonies angloises dans l’Amérique septentrionale*. Amsterdam: La Campagnie des libraires, 1781. The Newberry has a few volumes by or about Raynal, a writer and intellectual very interested in the American and French Revolutions. **Call #: Case 3A 1382**

Treasures from the Vault

Crublier D’Opterre, Henry. *Siége d’York en Amérique 1781*. D’Opterre served in the French Army under the command of Comte de Rochambeau in the American Revolution, supervising the surveying and mapping of British and American fortifications. **Call #: VAULT Case MS 6A 43**

Hilliard d’Auberteuil, Michel-René. *Essais historiques et politiques sur les Anglo-Américains*. Illustrations and images, including portraits of John Hancock, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and William Pitt and hand-colored maps. **Call #: VAULT Ayer 150.3 .E7 H6 1782**

Langan, Patrick. Letter [manuscript]: Montreal, to Sir John Johnson, 1784 Nov. 15. From after the American Revolution, but this manuscript concerns important players, including Sir John Johnson (an American loyalist who organized raids and battles from Canada along the New York border) and the Marquis de Lafayette. **Call #: VAULT box Ayer MS 489**

Lewis, Lieutenant Colonel. Letter [manuscript]: Philadelphia, 1781. Letter from a Shawnee Indian to an unidentified Revolutionary War general, recommending his interpreter, Nicholas Jordan, “to attend an Indian Warrior Called Paul appointed an Indian Chief by the Count of Rouchambeau.” **Call #: VAULT box Ayer MS 513**

*An A List of All the Officers of the Army*. [London]: War-Office, 1781. Annotations from previous owner, General Alexander Leslie (1731-1794). Leslie, as an officer in the British Army, provides notes on hundreds of other British officers who served during the American Revolutionary War, including whether the officers were “dead” or “killed.” **Call #: VAULT Ruggles 438**

Looking for more? Related materials can be found using the following subject search suggestions:

- American Revolution (1775-1783)
- United States – History – Revolution, 1775-1783
- Sermons, American (you can then limit by date or date range by clicking on “Change Limits” toward the top of the results page)

For Revolutionary War pamphlets, start with Ruth Lapham’s *Check List of American Revolutionary War Pamphlets* in the Newberry Library in the checklist area of the 3rd floor Reference Room. You can then search for titles, call numbers, etc. in the Newberry’s online catalog (http://www.newberry.org/catalogs-and-guides).

This Quick Guide was created for a Meet the Author event for Tom Shactman’s book, *How the French Saved America: Soldiers, Sailors, Diplomats, Louis XVI, and the Success of a Revolution*, held at the Newberry October 17, 2017.

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