

# Each piece tells a unique part of our national story

The Americana Collection, founded in the early 1940s, brought together rare manuscripts and imprints previously scattered among the holdings of the DAR Museum and DAR Library. Today, the collection flourishes from more than 60 years of actively seeking out and acquiring artifacts that reflect a unique image of our nation.

18th-century paper currency: half crown note issued by Virginia in 1775 and five-dollar note issued by the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia in 1776. ▶



## Sustaining the Americana Collection

Donations of original early American manuscript and imprint materials are always welcome. Please contact the DAR Archivist, Office of the Historian General, to discuss a potential gift.

You are invited to join the “Friends of the Americana Collection,” or contribute to the “Americana Room Fund” to help sustain and enhance the collection.

*Diaries & Letters*

*Military Papers*

*Governmental Papers*

*Birth, Baptismal, & Marriage Records*

*Autographs*

*Newspapers*

*Maps*

*Legal & Court Records*

*Music & Photos*



▶ *Manuscript compilation of psalm tunes, assembled in the second half of the 18th century.*

Each item, in its own way, tells a piece of our nation’s story. Among the most noteworthy items are the autographs of Signers of the Declaration of Independence, and two complete collections of signatures of the Framers of the Constitution of the United States. A membership certificate of the Society of Cincinnati bears George Washington’s signature dated Mount Vernon, October 31, 1785. In contrast, Jacob Mohr’s 1788 birth certificate, the document of a “common man,” represents a highly decorative form of calligraphy done in the Pennsylvania Dutch style. George Mason’s objections to the proposed United States Constitution are laid out in a letter he wrote in 1787, while a page of psalm tunes and the reprint of a sermon make real the tone of religion in 18th-century America.

The focus of the Americana Collection is on Colonial America, the Revolutionary War era, and the Early Republic, but the breadth of the collection spans five centuries. The earliest item, an English Bible, dates back to 1587, while the most recent material, pertaining to American presidents and first ladies, is from the late 20th century.

The DAR treasury of manuscript holdings features letters, ledgers, diaries, indentures, land deeds and grants, court records, birth, baptismal and marriage records, wills, maps, military papers, business and tax records, and the autographs of famous figures. Early American imprints include currency, newspapers, broadsides, sermons, pamphlets, school books, musical scores, and more than 80 almanacs. Lithographs, drawings, tintypes, and photographs richly illustrate our nation’s story.

The Americana Collection invites you to visit these outstanding historical exhibits to glimpse a chapter or two of our nation’s past.

▶ *The oldest item in the Americana Collection, an English-language Bible printed in England in the late 16th century. Manuscript notations on pages were apparently added in the 17th century.*





## Imprint of the Nation

▲ Letter from John Hancock to Captain Hinman c. 1779

The Americana Collection offers more than 4,000 diverse American imprints and manuscripts highlighting persons and moments of historic import. These unique documents cast light upon an array of figures who shaped our past, from George Washington and John Hancock to the common citizen going about the business of daily life.

Visitors to the Americana Room can view the collection's holdings arranged in exhibits which change periodically to reflect different themes. Past exhibit themes have captured the essence of the American Revolution, illustrated schooling in America, and showcased Signers of the United States Constitution. The breadth of these rotating exhibits infuses life into the pages of our history and give insight into the growth of our national character and culture.

The original Americana Collection, founded in the early 1940's, brought together rare manuscripts and imprints scattered among the DAR Museum and Library holdings. Today, the collection flourishes from more than 60 years of actively seeking out and acquiring artifacts that enhance this unique handprint of our nation.

▼ Boston Gazette and Country Journal from March 12, 1770, describing in detail events associated with the Boston Massacre, which occurred one week earlier, on March 5, 1770.

## Americana Collection

### Location & Hours

The Americana Collection is housed in the Americana Room, a division of the Office of the Historian General. The room is located on the second floor of the Administration Building of the DAR Headquarters complex.

The Americana Collection exhibits are available for viewing Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Collection is available for research use by appointment only. Closed weekends, federal holidays, and during the annual DAR Continental Congress. Admission is free.

### Inquiries

Requests for photocopies of material in the collection are handled by the Office of the Historian General. The office reserves the right to evaluate each request and deny permission in instances where original copies are too fragile, bound in volumes, or contain restricted material. Questions about the contents of the collection, current exhibits, potential donations, and visits to the Americana Room should be directed to the archival staff.

### Parking & Metro

Metered on-street parking is limited.

Metro stops: Red Line - Farragut North - 8 blocks  
Orange and Blue Lines - Farragut West - 7 blocks



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**Pictured on front cover:**  
An illustration from a chart showing presentation of arms for the Continental Army.

Dinner invitation from the President of the State of Pennsylvania to Jacob Broome, Philadelphia, May 20, 1787, and calling card of Jacob Broome for General Washington.

A military appointment signed by George Washington, dated 1793.



# DAR Americana Collection

American Imprints & Rare Manuscripts