

**America 250 - Revolutionary Connecticut**  
**OSA / FOSA Research Program**  
**Shared Research Platform / Data Collection**

The OSA / FOSA America 250 research program is focused on identifying archaeological and historical data, from the collections of the Office of State Archaeology as well as other sources, holding relevance to Connecticut's Revolution Period (ca. 1768 – 1786), with the ultimate objectives of compiling general interest visual and written presentations for public outreach / school programs.

Research is directed towards specific topics, as listed below (feel free to propose additional topics).

Volunteer researchers are asked to focus on one or two of the topics, and pursue research in local historical societies, libraries, museums. It is hoped that teams of researchers may work an issue, providing input and perspectives from their locale within the state. Logistically it is best if the person or team researching a topic live in proximity to the subject. For example, researching Fort Stamford is easiest for those living in southwest Connecticut.

Once data and materials are gathered, a team effort will be directed to creatively formulate, outline and illustrate stories suitable for general audiences.

**Research Topics**

1. Beneath our Feet: The Odessey of the King George III Statue
2. No Need to Dig: Remnant 18<sup>th</sup> Century Features on the Landscape
3. Deciphering Ruins: Architectural 18<sup>th</sup> c. Domestic Styles and Archaeological Signatures
4. Making Musket Balls – Girl's Work??? [King George Statue Fragment & Diary in Greenwich Historical Society Exhibit]
5. Vauban military design evidenced in Connecticut's Revolution War Military Fortifications [Fort Griswold; Black Rock, East Haven; Fort Stamford]
6. Extrapolating Archaeological Features from *Shadow Evidence* [Cruson's definition of Putnam Encampment Cabin walls from trash distribution; Lee House: 18<sup>th</sup> century lighting evidenced by Candle burn marks]]
7. Tool Repurposing [Flute from a Musket Barrel; Field Tools from Musket Barrel]
8. Revolutionary Cannon Balls: [State Survey, OSA collection]
9. Musket Balls & Shot: A Survey
10. Musket Paper Cartridge [Description, Backstory, Chemical analysis of gunpowder]
11. British Burning of New London
12. British Burning of New Haven
13. British Burning of Fairfield [Archaeological Evidence – Sun Tavern; Other Data?]

14. British Burning of Norwalk
15. Unmarked Soldier Burials: [Remote sensing in the Norwichtown Cemetery]
16. Archaeological Assemblage Patterns:
  - 18<sup>th</sup> century domestic sites pre-1750, 1750-1770, 1770-1790, post 1790
  - French Encampment sites ca.1780-82
  - Fort Stamford
  - Fort Griswold
  - Winter Encampment 1778-79
17. Pitkin Gun Powder Works [Historical Research]
18. Identifying Artifacts?
  - Lead item from Putnam Winter Encampment
  - Portable anvil / Scythe Blade Peening
  - Sugar snipper
  - Spirit Doll

### **Proposed Technical Research Topics**

- 1) Chemical analysis of 18<sup>th</sup> century gunpowder: FHS specimen
- 2) Non-destructive testing of King George III Statue, correlation of metal to Colonial Musket Balls recovered from battlefields?
- 3) Specific Gravity Determination or X-Ray of Port Chester Cannon Balls in OSA Collections
- 4) Public Artifact Identification Day – target artifacts picked up from the Ridgefield CT battlefield

### **Story Themes**

What's Buried beneath our feet

Artifacts Evident Above Ground: Vestige 18<sup>th</sup> Century Elements of Connecticut's Landscape (houses (extent & ruins), stone walls, roads, landscapes, town pounds, town commons, etc.)

Archaeological Evidence of Revolutionary Events

How did the object get there?

What is it? – Interpreting Unique Artifacts

The Story Behind the Object

Importance of Maintaining Artifact Provenience

Methods of Archaeological Analysis & Interpretation

Timeline: April 2025 Thru February 2026

### **Tasks in need of Volunteers**

- Continue Researching Topics
- Develop Story(ies)
- Design Posters
- Finalize Written Drafts
- Preparing Illustrations
- Fact Checking
- Editing
- Printing / Publication