

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

As America Marks Its 250th Anniversary, Meet the Forgotten Founder Who Held the Key to Victory

Congress's Cryptographer: A Novel of James Lovell and the American Revolution
Brings to Life the Man Who Kept America's Secrets, Broke Britain's Codes, and
Helped Win the Revolutionary War — Recognized by the National Security
Agency's Center for Cryptologic History

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Title: Congress's Cryptographer: A Novel of James Lovell and the American Revolution
Author: Jean C. O'Connor
Genre: Historical Fiction / Revolutionary War / Cryptography History
Format: Available on Amazon in Paperback and Kindle
Publication: April 2024
Rating: 4.89-star average — 75 verified reader ratings on Goodreads
Recognition: NSA Center for Cryptologic History — National Security Agency
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WASHINGTON, D.C. — As the United States prepares to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of its founding, a new historical novel is bringing to light one of the most consequential and least-known figures of the American Revolution: James Lovell, the man who served as Secretary of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, designed the ciphers that protected America's most sensitive diplomatic communications, and broke the British codes that helped seal victory at Yorktown. Congress's Cryptographer: A Novel of James Lovell and the American Revolution, written by Jean C. O'Connor and recognized by the National Security Agency's Center for Cryptologic History, is the first novel to tell James Lovell's complete story — and it arrives at precisely the moment America most needs to hear it.

With a 4.89-star average from 75 verified readers and formal recognition from the institution that carries on Lovell's legacy today, Congress's Cryptographer has already demonstrated the power of its story on every reader who has found it. The 250th Anniversary creates a once-in-a-generation opportunity to bring this extraordinary story to the wider audience it deserves.

THE STORY AMERICA HAS BEEN WAITING TO TELL

The 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution will generate an unprecedented wave of public interest in the founding era — in the battles, the diplomacy, the secret history, and the forgotten figures who made victory possible. Congress's Cryptographer speaks to every dimension of that interest.

James Lovell was, in the most literal sense, the man who kept America's secrets and worked to uncover Britain's. As Secretary of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, he was responsible for all diplomatic correspondence between the Continental Congress and Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Silas Deane, and other American representatives in Europe. He interviewed the Marquis de Lafayette and other French officers seeking to join the American cause. He was a close friend and trusted correspondent of Abigail Adams. And he was the cryptographer — the only member of Congress with the training and expertise to design the ciphers to protect America's most sensitive communications and to break the codes used by the British.

The climax of the novel — and the most dramatic moment in James Lovell's remarkable life — comes in 1781, as American and French forces surround General Cornwallis and the British forces at Yorktown. A captured, soiled letter arrives at the Continental Congress. The numbers in the ciphered message might hold the key to understanding British weakness and vulnerabilities. James Lovell, expert in encryption, takes the letter. The answer could lie in his hands. And it does.

"James Lovell is a landmark figure in the history of American cryptanalysis and cryptography, and a model for present and future generations."

— NSA Center for Cryptologic History, National Security Agency

A NOVEL GROUNDED IN PRIMARY SOURCES

What distinguishes Congress's Cryptographer from every other Revolutionary War novel is the depth and rigor of Jean C. O'Connor's primary source research. The novel was written using the actual records of the Continental Congress, the real letters and documents written by James Lovell and his contemporaries, and the genuine correspondence between Lovell and figures including Abigail Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and General Washington.

Most remarkably, the novel includes images of actual historical ciphers — the real codes and cipher keys created by James Lovell for the diplomats in his charge, sourced from the American Philosophical Society, the Clements Library at the University of Michigan, and FOLD3's collection of the Papers of the Continental Congress. These images, displayed with full scholarly attribution, offer readers a direct, tangible connection

to the world of 18th-century secret communications.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jean C. O'Connor is a historian, educator, and author, and a recipient of the NCTE High School Teacher of Excellence award. She spent years working with primary sources — the actual records, letters, and documents of the founding era — to bring James Lovell's story to life with authenticity and precision. She is the author of two novels in the James Lovell series, including *Congress's Cryptographer* and its companion volume, *The Remarkable: A Novel of James Lovell and the Crucible of the Revolution*.

O'Connor's work has been recognized by the National Security Agency's Center for Cryptologic History, whose Chief described James Lovell as 'a landmark figure in the history of American cryptanalysis and cryptography, and a model for present and future generations.' She has been invited to speak at the National Cryptologic Museum — a testament to the historical significance and scholarly quality of her research.

WHY CONGRESS'S CRYPTOGRAPHER IS ESSENTIAL READING FOR THE 250th ANNIVERSARY

The 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution is a national reckoning with which stories we have chosen to tell — and which we have left in the footnotes. James Lovell is a story from the footnotes. His name is not on the monuments. And yet without him — without his persistent insistence on the use of cipher in diplomatic communications, without his code-breaking revealing Britain's vulnerabilities at critical moments — the story of the Revolution might have unfolded very differently.

Congress's Cryptographer is the ideal anniversary read for:

Revolutionary War Enthusiasts: Readers who have devoured every biography of Washington, Adams, and Franklin and are hungry for the deeper cuts — the forgotten figures who made victory possible.

Cryptography and Intelligence Readers: Readers fascinated by the long lineage of code-breaking from James Lovell through the NSA today — captivated by the primary source cipher images and the technical authenticity.

Historical Fiction Devotees: Readers who demand authentic, primary-source-grounded fiction — who want their novels to feel like time travel, not guesswork.

Abigail Adams Readers: Readers who came to the founding era through Abigail Adams and will be moved to discover her correspondence with James Lovell woven throughout the novel.

Educators and Librarians: Teachers, professors, and library professionals curating reading lists for the 250th Anniversary who need a novel combining narrative power with scholarly authenticity.

General History Readers: Any reader who wants to understand what the American Revolution actually felt like — the anxiety, the hope, the daily struggle of a small group of people holding a new nation together.

READER RESPONSE

With a 4.89-star average from 75 verified reader ratings, Congress's Cryptographer generates consistent, powerful reader response:

"I thought I knew the key players of the American Revolution. Washington, Adams, Franklin, Lafayette — the usual suspects. James Lovell was not on my radar. He should be."

— Goodreads Reviewer, 5 Stars

"The meticulous research and compelling storytelling bring this forgotten founder to life. The images of actual ciphers are extraordinary — I felt like I was holding history in my hands."

— Goodreads Reviewer, 5 Stars

"This is the book the 250th Anniversary was made for. A spy, a code, and a secret that changed everything — told with the authenticity of a historian and the narrative power of a novelist."

— Goodreads Reviewer, 5 Stars

AVAILABILITY, REVIEW COPIES & SPEAKING INQUIRIES

Congress's Cryptographer is available now in paperback and Kindle formats through Amazon. All review copy requests, speaking engagement inquiries, and interview requests should be directed to the author directly.

Author:	Jean C. O'Connor
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Speaking / Media:	Direct all speaking, interview, and review copy requests to Jean C. O'Connor at contact@jeanoconnor.com
Book Purchase:	Available on Amazon — search 'Congress's Cryptographer Jean O'Connor'

ABOUT THE BOOK

Congress's Cryptographer: A Novel of James Lovell and the American Revolution is a work of historical fiction based on meticulous primary source research. The novel brings to life James Lovell — America's first de facto Foreign Affairs Secretary, expert cryptographer, and the man whose persistent advocacy for cipher in diplomatic communications, and whose code-breaking, helped shape the course of the Revolution and contributed to the victory at Yorktown. The novel includes images of real historical ciphers, used with permission from the American Philosophical Society, the Clements Library at the University of Michigan, and FOLD3. It has been recognized by the NSA's Center for Cryptologic History

and carries a 4.89-star average from 75 verified reader ratings.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

High-resolution cover images, additional reader testimonials, primary source cipher images (with attribution documentation), and full author biography are available upon request from Jean C. O'Connor at contact@jeanoconnor.com. Jean C. O'Connor is available for interviews, podcast appearances, and speaking engagements related to the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, Revolutionary War cryptography, the Continental Congress, and the founding era. All speaking and media inquiries should be directed to the author directly at contact@jeanoconnor.com.

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