



# INSIDE THE VAULT

*Meanwhile Back at the Branch...*  
with Professor Barbara Harris Combs

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022





# How to Participate



- If you would like to ask a question, you can use the Q&A feature.
- We will be answering audience questions throughout the session.

## For Security and Privacy

- Your microphone is automatically muted.
- Your camera is automatically turned off.



# Barbara Harris Combs



Barbara Harris Combs, J.D., Ph.D. is a professor of sociology and criminal justice and chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Kennesaw State University. Combs is a humanist and interdisciplinary scholar who received her Ph.D. in sociology with a concentration in race and urban studies from Georgia State University in 2010. She also holds a J.D. from The Ohio State University and an MA in English from Xavier University (Ohio). She brings this interdisciplinary background to her study of society.



# Today's Document

## Meanwhile back at the Branch...

*...In hundreds of cities the  
Big Protest is followed by  
local NAACP action*

*Meanwhile Back at the  
Branch..., June 1965.  
(The Gilder Lehrman  
Institute, GLC09640.161)*





## Break-through and Follow-through

*While the Big Push was on at one place (Selma, Ala.) at one time (February-March, 1965) using one method (direct confrontation with authorities) and with one objective (the right to register and vote) a lot of Other Pushes were under way all over the nation, pressed by NAACP Branches and their members.*

*A Big Break-through requires Follow-through, or the break goes for nothing.*

*NAACP units in every section of the country were busy with follow-throughs on voter registration, employment, school desegregation, public accommodations, direct action, legislation, housing, the war on poverty — you name it, they were at work upon it, adults and youth alike.*

*That is the kind of organization the NAACP is. Noisy when it has to be. Smart and soft-talking when required. Busy and determined always, whether in Alabama or Alaska. And continuous, from season to season, year to year, political administration after political administration, problem after problem.*

*Meanwhile, in the spring of 1965, back at hundreds of local NAACP branches on the civil rights front the records tell the story:*

*left: Meanwhile Back at the Branch..., June 1965.*

*(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC09640.161, page 3)*

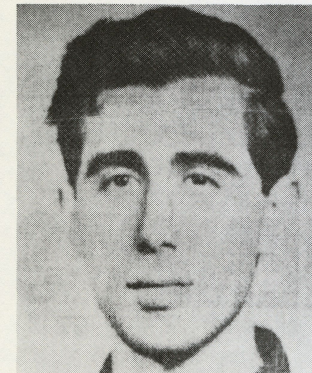
*right: Register and Vote, 1965.*

*(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC09623)*

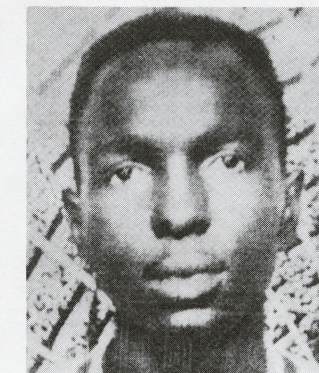


**AMERICANS** must know that the true challenge of **CIVIL RIGHTS** is a challenge of **HUMAN RIGHTS**, and the future of America rests in your **VOTING RIGHTS**

*These Men Are Martyrs  
To the Cause of FREEDOM!*



ANDREW GOODMAN



JAMES CHANEY



MICHAEL SCHWERNER

*In June, 1964 they lost their lives  
for the RIGHT to*

# REGISTER

**and VOTE**

Visit one of the convenient neighborhood stores listed on the reverse side and Register!

Special Registration Sponsored by National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

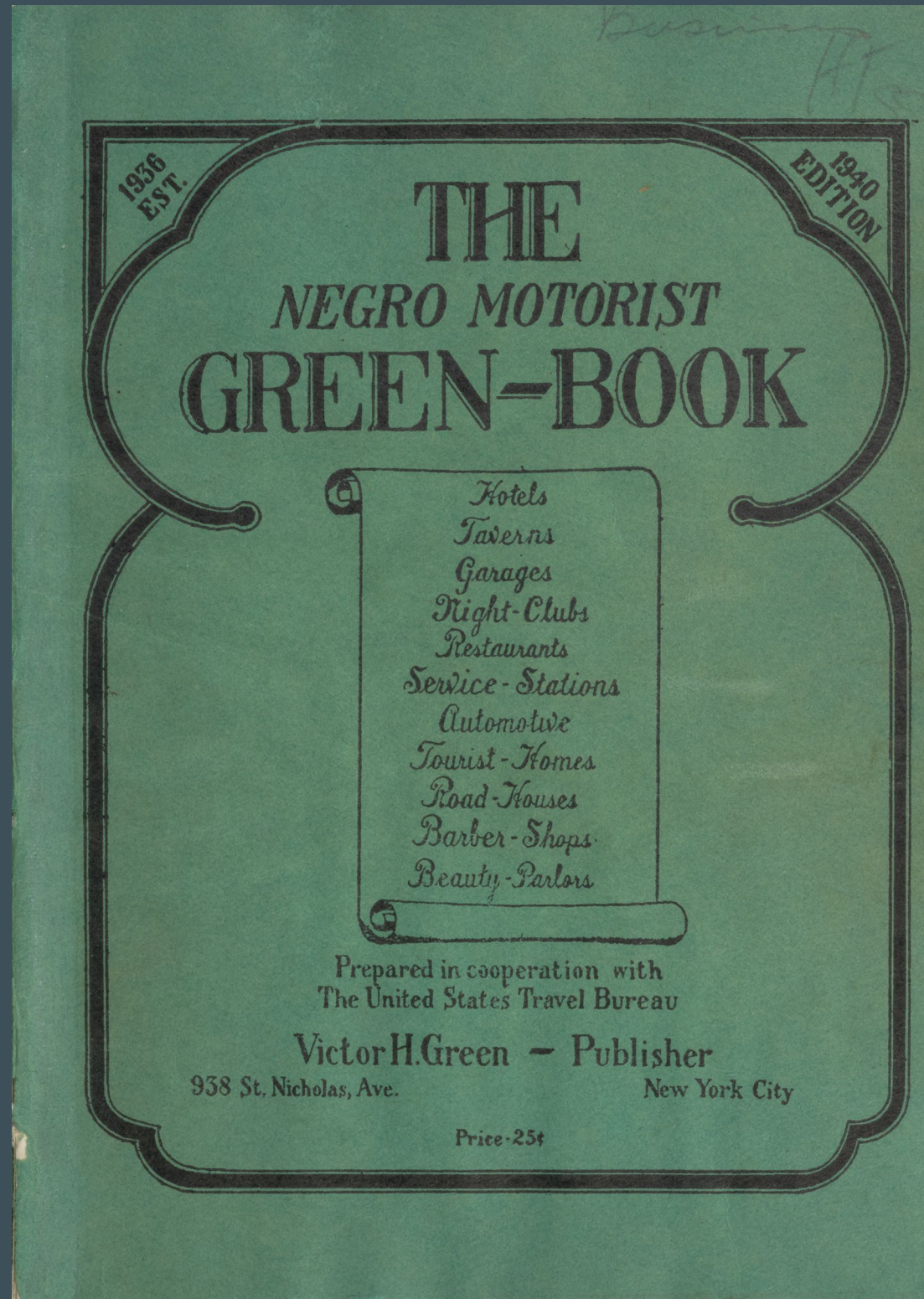


*NAACP units in every section of the country were busy with follow-throughs on voter registration, employment, school desegregation, public accommodations, direct action, legislation, housing, the war on poverty — you name it, they were at work upon it, adults and youth alike.*

*Meanwhile Back at the  
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(The Gilder Lehrman Institute,  
GLC09640.161, page 3)

# Public Accommodations



Victor H. Green & Co., *The Negro Motorist Green-Book*, 1940.  
(Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library Digital Collections)

## Public Accommodations

Armed with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, NAACP branches and youth units made tests for compliance in places of public accommodations. Many hotels, motels, restaurants, recreation facilities, etc., voluntarily obeyed the new law. When resistance was encountered, the NAACP withdrew and instituted legal action as outlined in the Act.

1. After being refused service in a local all-white cafe, two members of the *Little Rock Branch* (Ark.) filed a suit against the owner.

*Meanwhile Back at the Branch...*, June 1965.

(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC09640.161, page 5)





# Jimmie Lee Jackson

- Jackson was born in Marion, Alabama, on December 16, 1938.
- He was a deacon and civil rights activist, and he participated in a march on February 18, 1965, in Marion to protest the arrest of a fellow activist.
- Police officers dispersed the march and followed participants to a café, where they began beating them.
- While trying to protect his mother, Jackson was shot in the stomach by the police.
- He died from his injuries 8 days later on February 26, 1965.

13. The NAACP in *Florida* and *Georgia* is seeking to have the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare cut off Federal funds to area hospitals that continue to discriminate against Negroes.

14. NAACP and NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund joined in filing the first complaints under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act against 12 hospitals in seven southern states, calling for an immediate investigation into the discriminatory practices of the federally-aided or administered institutions.

15. In a suit brought by the NAACP, a Federal District Court in February ordered the *Orangeburg* (S. C.) Regional Hospital to integrate its facilities completely.

16. Prompted by complaints of Negroes, the NAACP in March demanded that the YMCA National Council eliminate "a policy of racial exclusion" practiced by its local branches in some southern cities, or face the possibility of direct action protests.

17. In April, NAACP foiled the scheme of a *Little Rock*, Ark., American Legion post to reopen the city's swimming pools on a segregated basis.

18. NAACP in *Ft. Lauderdale*, Fla., is preparing a suit aimed at remedying the deplorable segregated hospital, jail and school facilities uncovered by an investigation.

19. The *Kentucky State Conference* conducted a mammoth, one-day blanket attack on discrimination in places of public accommodation in the City of Madisonville, on June 12, by sending interracial teams to test hotels, motels, restaurants and other public establishments.

*Meanwhile Back at the  
Branch...*, June 1965.

(The Gilder Lehrman Institute,  
GLC09640.161, page 6)





# Deficit Framing Model

“New York,” United Press International, February 3, 1964. (The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC09733.03)

NXP1411480-2/3/64-NEW YORK: School boycott pickets march across Brooklyn Bridge en route from City Hall to the Board of Education in Brooklyn 2/3 to continue demonstration against de facto segregation in the city's school system. More than one-third of the city's public school children boycotted the schools. UPI TELEPHOTO 1d



## School Desegregation

The NAACP's battle against segregation in the public schools of the North and South continues across the nation. And, in order that all children may learn of the Negro's contribution to American culture, branches have been waging a successful campaign to have Negro History taught in the public schools.

*Meanwhile Back at the Branch...*, June 1965.  
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC09640.161, page 7)



# The Birth of a Nation

"The Clansman did us much injury as a book, but most of its readers were those already prejudiced against us. It did us more injury as a play, but a great deal of what it attempted to tell could not be represented on the stage. Made into a moving picture play it can do us incalculable harm."

- James Weldon Johnson, 1915



Jack Edwards, *Instructions for house managers for the showing of David W. Griffith's The Birth of a Nation, 1915.*  
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC05091)

ADVICE SHEET

D. W. GRIFFITH'S

## "THE BIRTH OF A NATION"

The following information is for House Managers, and should be carefully observed:

Play date -----  
Company arrives ----- from ----- via ----- Ry.  
Company leaves ----- for -----  
Manager with company is -----  
Musical Director is -----  
Chief Operator is -----

We carry Musical Director, Violin, Cornet, Drums.

It is very important that your projection machines are well oiled and thoroughly cleaned, in order that best results be attained.

It is vitally important that you have PIANO in tune (International Pitch) and three music stands with lights attached for our musicians, as well as shaded lamp atop piano.

Have all cuts, slides, photographs and clippings of newspaper advertisements ready for our manager on his arrival.

Please bear in mind that NEGROES MUST NOT BE ADMITTED TO "THE BIRTH OF A NATION" under any circumstance.

If by any chance you have any paper left over please deliver it to company manager. Paper costs money and can be used in other towns.

Where possible it is advisable to have reserved seats for the night performance, at least. Tickets should be placed on sale some days in advance of play date, and the public acquainted with the fact that reserved seat tickets are procurable.

Yours very truly,

JACK EDWARDS,  
Southern Representative.

Permanent address  
Box 1294  
Atlanta, Ga.



# The Birth of a Nation

8. In a nationwide effort urged by the *New York State Conference* and the National Office in February, NAACP units voiced their opposition to the film industry's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the release of the notorious anti-Negro movie, "The Birth of a Nation."

9. Following three days of picketing by the *South Middlesex Branch* in near zero weather in February, management of the Brattle Street Theatre in Cambridge, Mass., discontinued the scheduled run of "Birth of a Nation."

10. After a meeting with representatives of *Greenwich, Conn.*, NAACP, the manager of a local theatre cancelled a scheduled showing of "Birth of a Nation."

11. All theatres and drive-in movies in *Dodge City, Kans.*, upon the request of the NAACP, promised not to show "Birth of a Nation."

*Meanwhile Back at the Branch...*, June 1965.

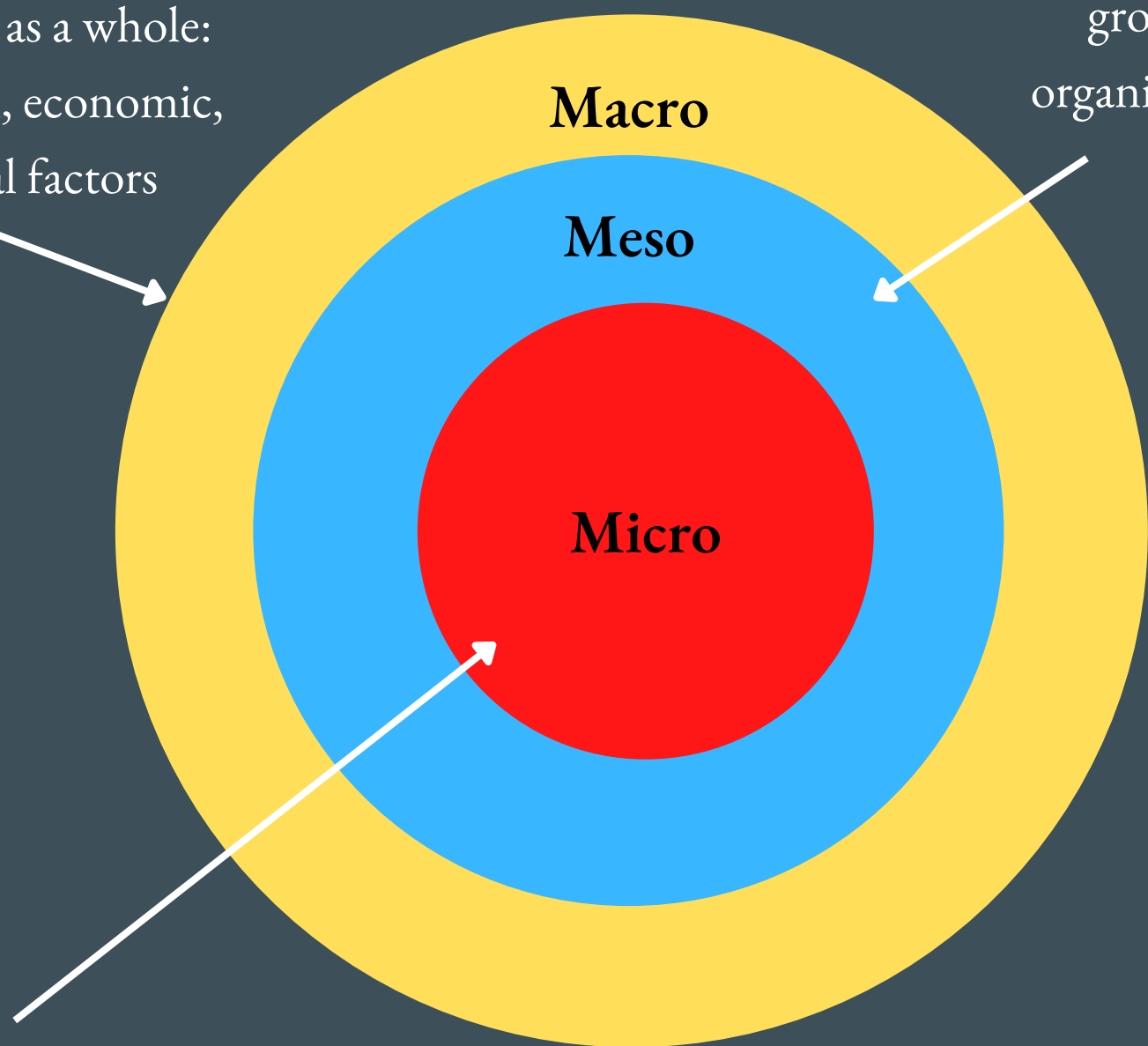
(The Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC09640.161, page 13)



# Law Enforcement & Police Brutality

Society as a whole:  
political, economic,  
social factors

Parts of society:  
groups,  
organizations



Actions of  
individuals

*Meanwhile Back at the  
Branch...*, June 1965.

(The Gilder Lehrman Institute,  
GLC09640.161, page 24)

## Law Enforcement and Police Brutality

NAACP branches throughout the country continued to press for equal treatment before the law for Negroes. In the South, these efforts have been extended to include white civil rights workers also.

1. NAACP protests over the shooting of 18-year-old Ollie W. Shelby of *Jackson*, Mississippi, while in the custody of authorities in January was followed by the firing of 21 Hinds County deputy sheriffs, including the chief criminal deputy, and a grand jury probe of the young Negro's death.

2. Branches in *Florida* wired state and Federal officials demanding an investigation into the police shooting of 17-year-old Tommy Wilson of Tampa and the suspension of the police chief.

3. National Office and units throughout the nation angrily denounced Judge W. Harold Cox's dismissal of felony indictments against 16 of 18 white men arrested in connection with the murder of the three civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Mississippi.

4. In February, *New York City* branches staged mass rallies to protest senseless killing of Ollie W. Shelby in Mississippi and scandalous handling of George Whitmore, Jr., case in *Brooklyn*, N. Y. Similar rallies protesting police brutality were conducted





# Conclusion

## **Meanwhile back at the Branch...**

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# Upcoming Programs

## INSIDE THE VAULT:

December 1 at 7 p.m. ET (4 p.m. PT)

- We will be joined by Charles Dew (Williams College) to discuss the South Carolina Ordinance of Secession.

January 5 at 7 p.m. ET (4 p.m. PT)

- We will be joined by Jesse Erickson (The Morgan Library and Museum) to discuss documents in the current exhibition: *Fighting to Learn: Black Enfranchisement and Education in the Gilder Lehrman Collection.*



**CHARLESTON**

**MERCURY**

**EXTRA:**

*Passed unanimously at 1.15 o'clock, P. M., December 20th, 1860.*

**AN ORDINANCE**

*To dissolve the Union between the State of South Carolina and other States united with her under the compact entitled "The Constitution of the United States of America."*

*We, the People of the State of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, do declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained,*

*That the Ordinance adopted by us in Convention, on the twenty-third day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, whereby the Constitution of the United States of America was ratified, and also, all Acts and parts of Acts of the General Assembly of this State, ratifying amendments of the said Constitution, are hereby repealed; and that the union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States, under the name of "The United States of America," is hereby dissolved.*

THE

**UNION**

IS

**DISSOLVED!**



Every Sunday at 2 p.m. ET (11 a.m. PT)

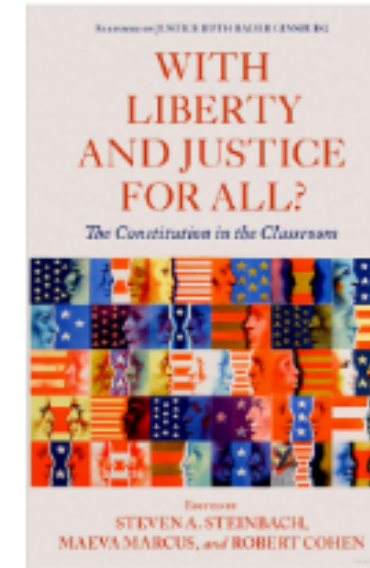
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## Upcoming *Book Breaks*

### November

November 6, 2022 - Steve A. Steinbach and Maeva Marcus on *With Liberty and Justice for All? The Constitution in the Classroom*

*With Liberty and Justice for All? The Constitution in the Classroom* is designed to help teachers and students analyze and debate an aspect of US history that has produced intense disagreements about rights and wrongs: constitutional history. For more than two centuries, Americans have argued about what the US Constitution permits or requires (or not), and what values and ideals it enshrines (or not)—indeed, who is to be included (or not) in the very definition of “We the People.” This book provides abundant resources to explore key moments of debate about the Constitution and its meaning, focusing on fundamental questions of citizenship and rights.



Steven A. Steinbach teaches US History and American Government at the Sidwell Friends School, Washington, DC. He is a three-time recipient of the US Presidential Scholars Distinguished Teacher recognition award.

Maeva Marcus is the director of the Institute for Constitutional Studies and a research professor of law at the George Washington University Law School.

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### Coming Soon

November 13 - Buzz Bissinger on *The Mosquito Bowl: A Game of Life and Death in World War II*

November 20 - Bruce Ragsdale on *Washington at the Plow: The Founding Farmer and the Question of Slavery*

November 27 - Michael Mandelbaum on *The Four Ages of American Foreign Policy: Weak Power, Great Power, Superpower, Hyperpower*

December 4 - Kermit Roosevelt on *The Nation That Never Was: Reconstructing America's Story*



# Upcoming Programs

**AFFILIATE SCHOOL PROGRAM:** Join the Gilder Lehrman Affiliate School Program and gain access to numerous classroom-ready resources today!

**MA IN AMERICAN HISTORY:** Registration for Spring 2023 MA in American History courses begins on November 26. Applications for admission to the program are open now!

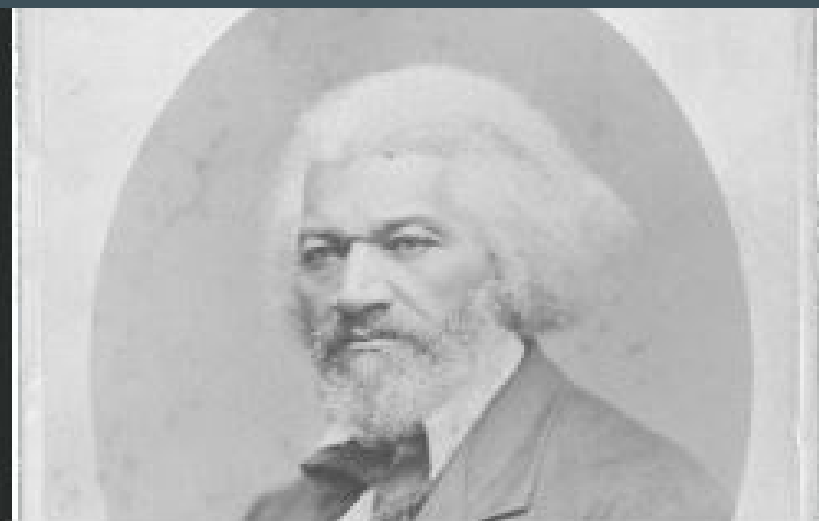
*History Now:* The new issue of the Gilder Lehrman Institute's online journal, *History Now*, is available online. It explores important aspects of the lives of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence.

**VOTING RIGHTS IN US HISTORY:** November 12 at 9 am CT

- **TEACHERS** - Join us at the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum for a free teacher workshop on Voting Rights in US History. Attendees will receive complimentary museum admission tickets. PD credits are available.



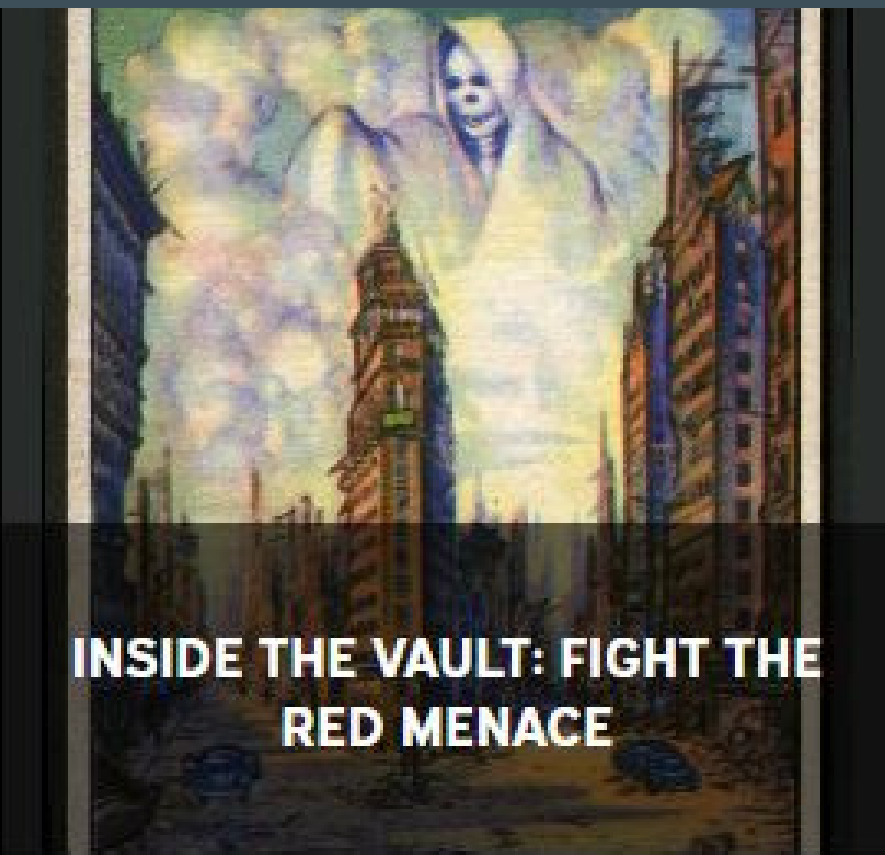




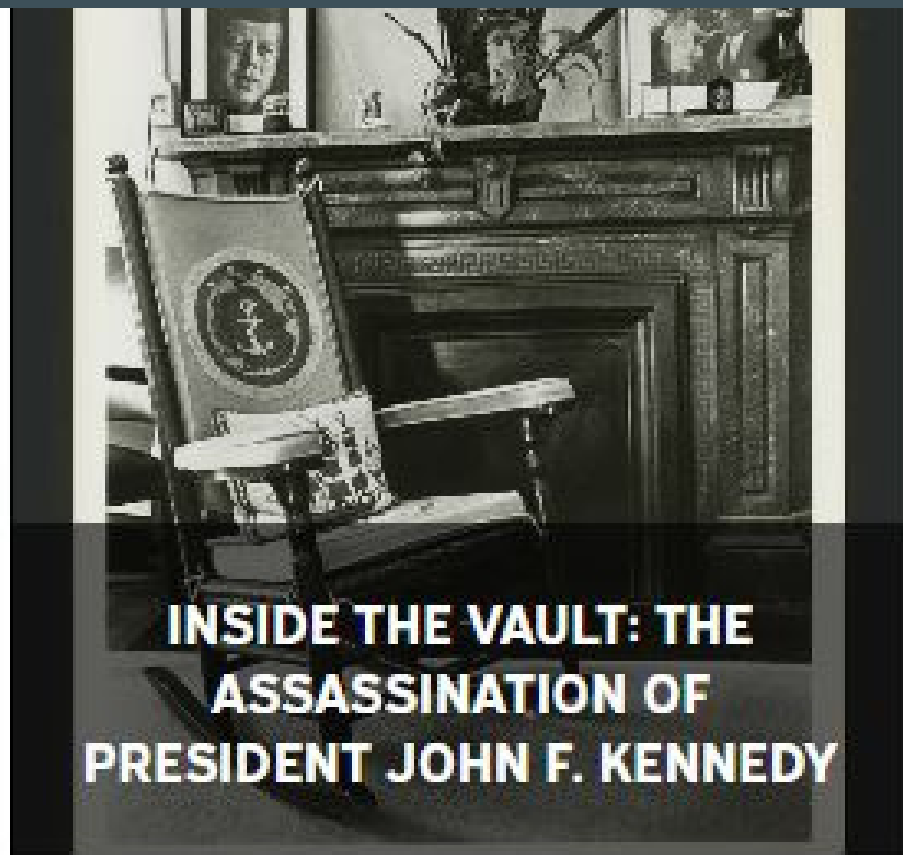
**INSIDE THE VAULT: DAVID BLIGHT DISCUSSES FREDERICK DOUGLASS DOCUMENTS**



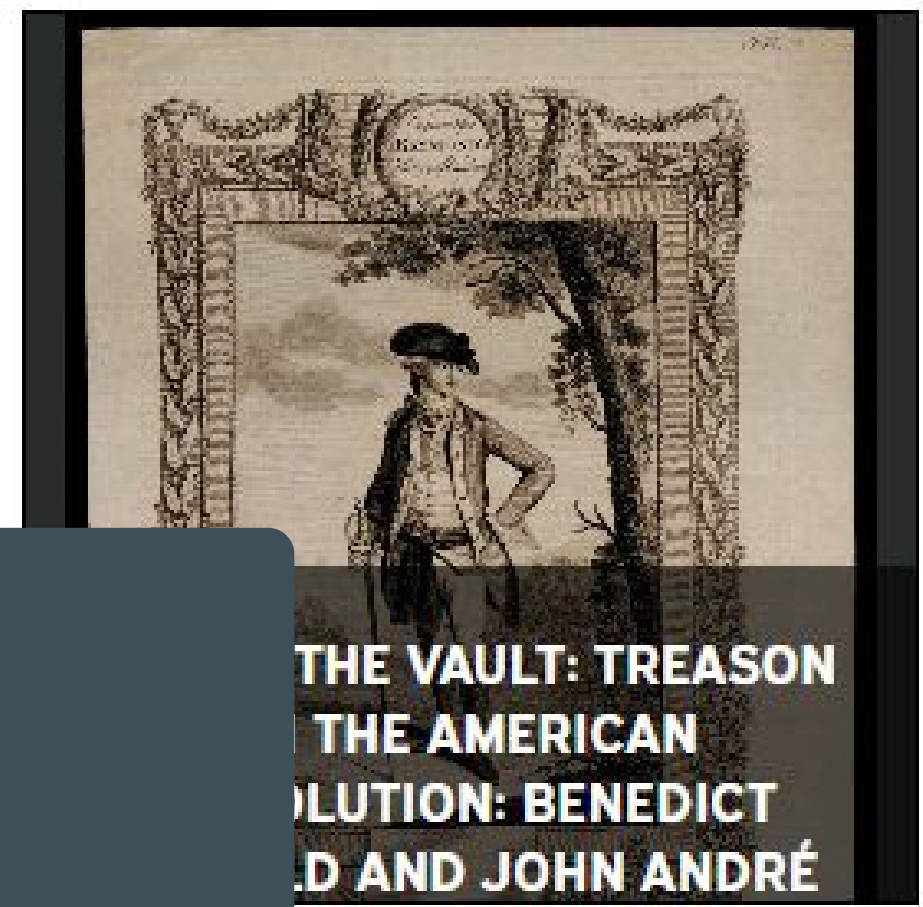
**INSIDE THE VAULT: WASHINGTON'S CROSSING OF THE DELAWARE RIVER**



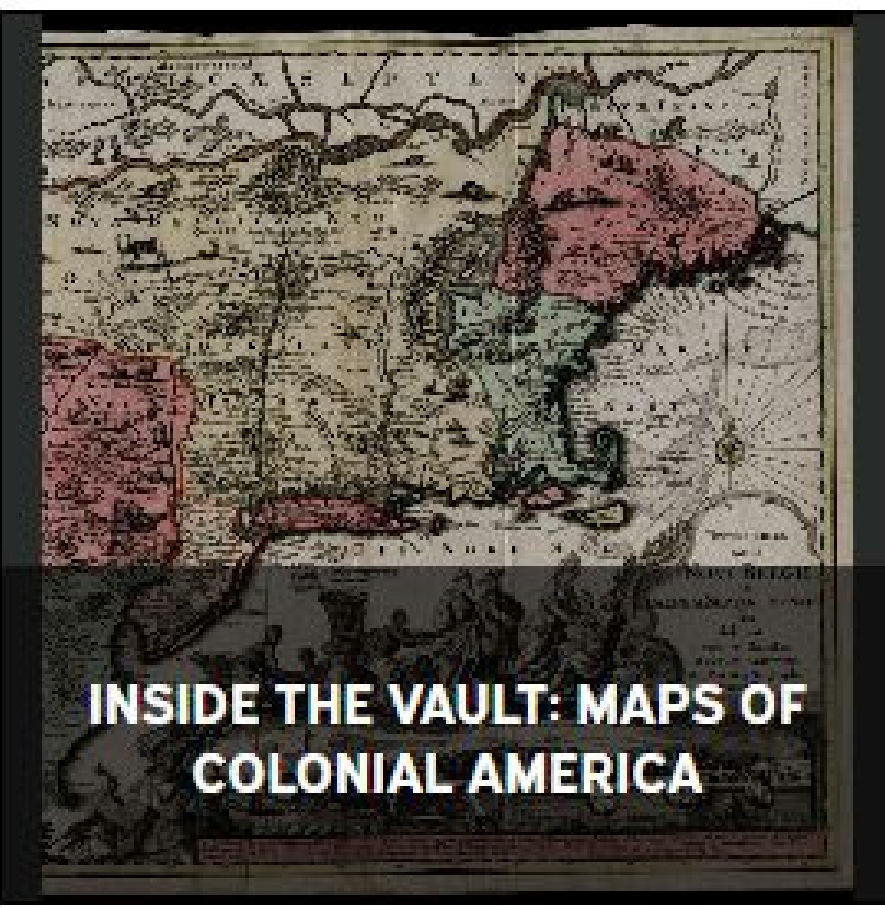
**INSIDE THE VAULT: FIGHT THE RED MENACE**



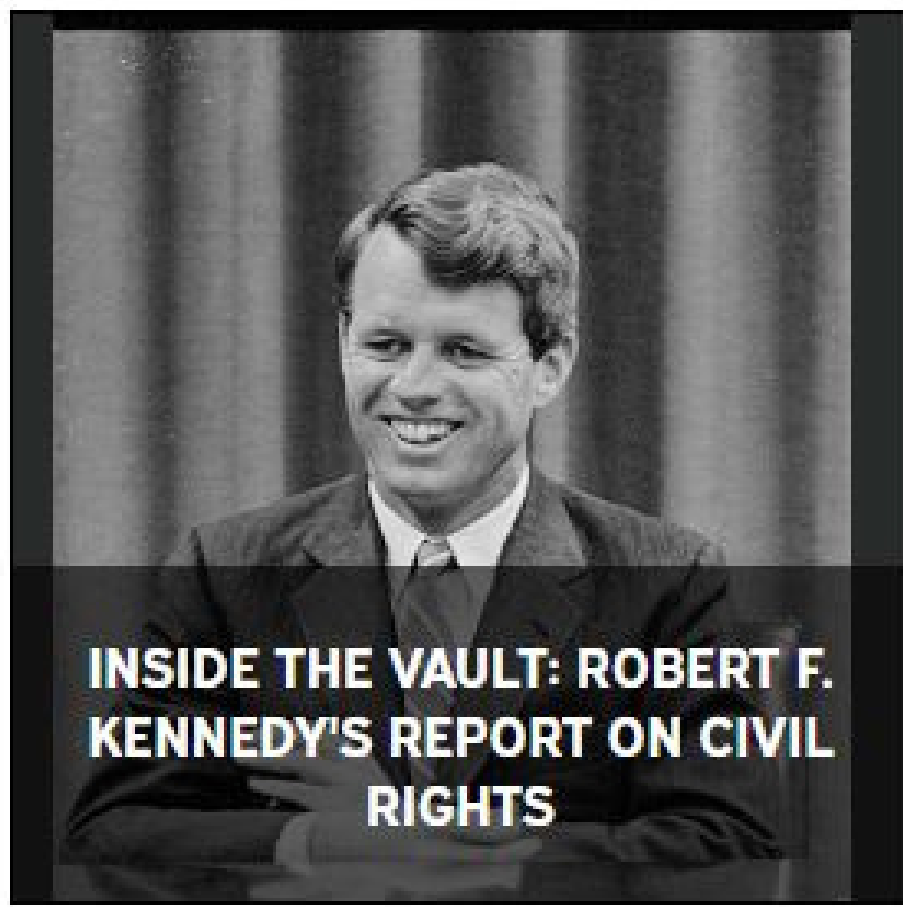
**INSIDE THE VAULT: THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY**



**THE VAULT: TREASON IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: BENEDICT ARNOLD AND JOHN ANDRÉ**

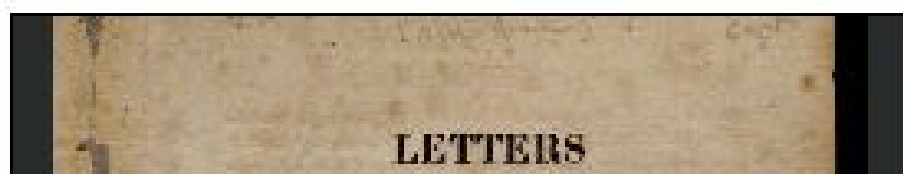
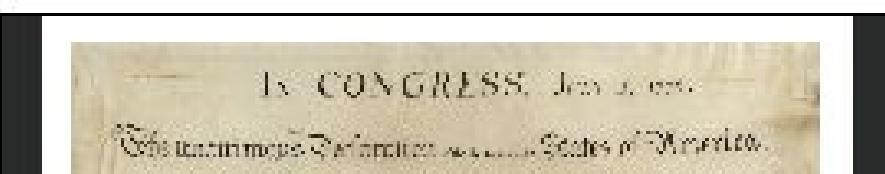


**INSIDE THE VAULT: MAPS OF COLONIAL AMERICA**



**INSIDE THE VAULT: ROBERT F. KENNEDY'S REPORT ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

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