



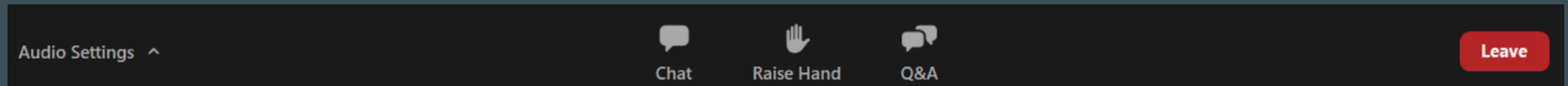
INSIDE THE VAULT

The Reynolds Pamphlet
with Joanne Freeman

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023



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.
- The views expressed here are those of the historian.

For Security and Privacy

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



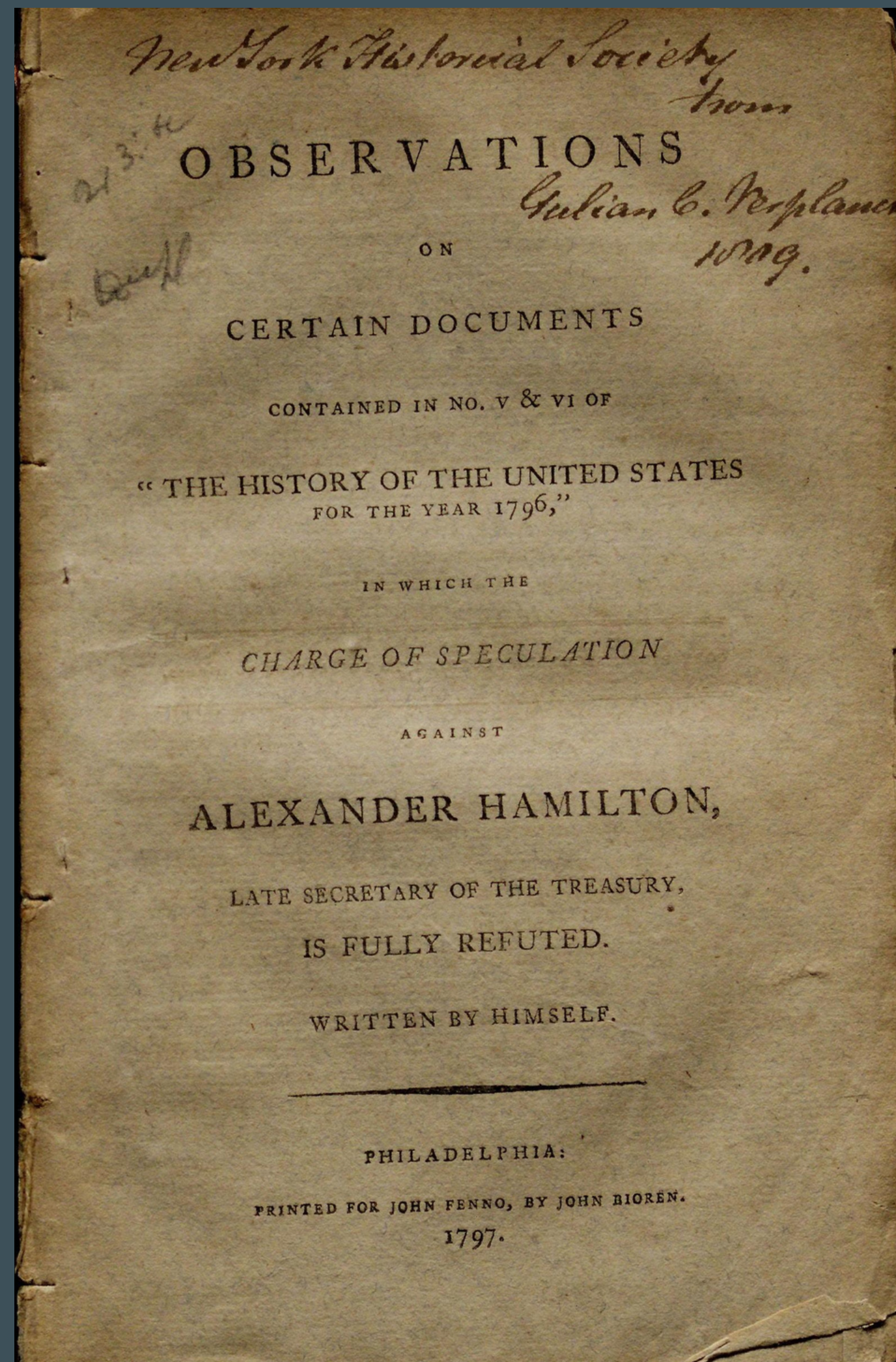
Joanne Freeman



Joanne B. Freeman, professor of history and American studies at Yale University, specializes in the politics and political culture of the revolutionary and early national periods. She is the author of *Affairs of Honor: National Politics in the New Republic*, recipient of the Best Book award from the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic, and *The Field of Blood: Violence in Congress and the Road to Civil War*, as well as two edited volumes, *The Essential Hamilton* and *Alexander Hamilton: Writings*. Freeman has extensively practiced public-minded history through her work as a historical consultant, public speaker, and commentator, and her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and *Atlantic Magazine*, among others. She is also the host of *History Matters*, a weekly Friday webcast sponsored by the National Council for History Education.



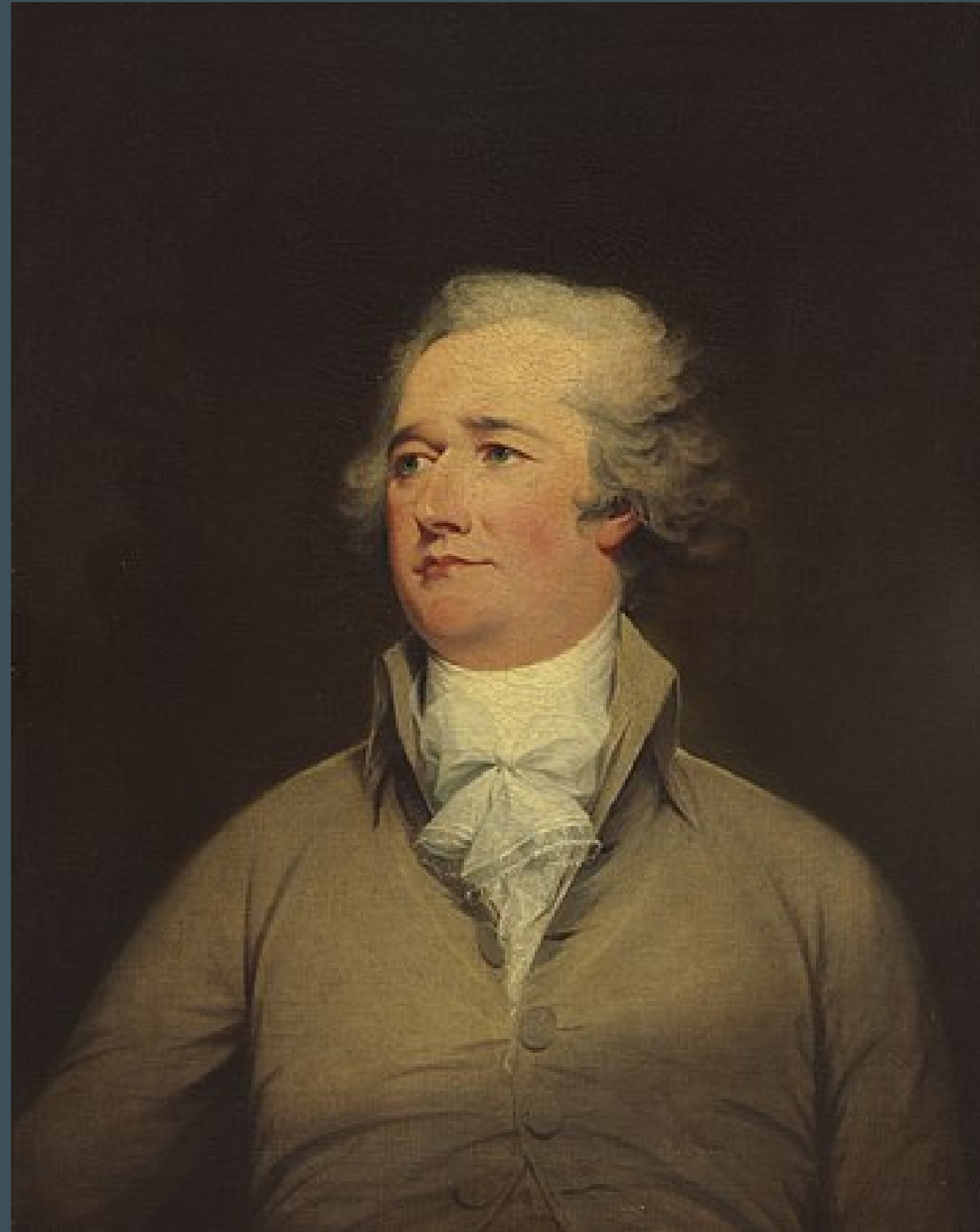
Today's Document



Observations on Certain Documents Contained in No. V & VI of "The History of the United States for the Year 1796," in Which the Charges of Speculation against Alexander Hamilton, late Secretary of the Treasury, Is Fully Refuted, Philadelphia, 1797. (The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC05649.01)



Alexander Hamilton



John Trumbull, *Alexander Hamilton*, c.1892 (National Gallery).

“Congressional Pugilists”

1798



Congressional Pugilists, 1798.
(Library of Congress)

Alexander Hamilton, Reynolds Pamphlet

1797

“And if truly this be, as every appearance indicates, a conspiracy of vice against virtue, ought I not rather to be flattered, that I have been so long and so peculiarly an object of persecution? Ought I to regret, if there be any thing about me, so formidable to the Faction as to have made me worthy to be distinguished by the plentitude of its rancour and venom?”



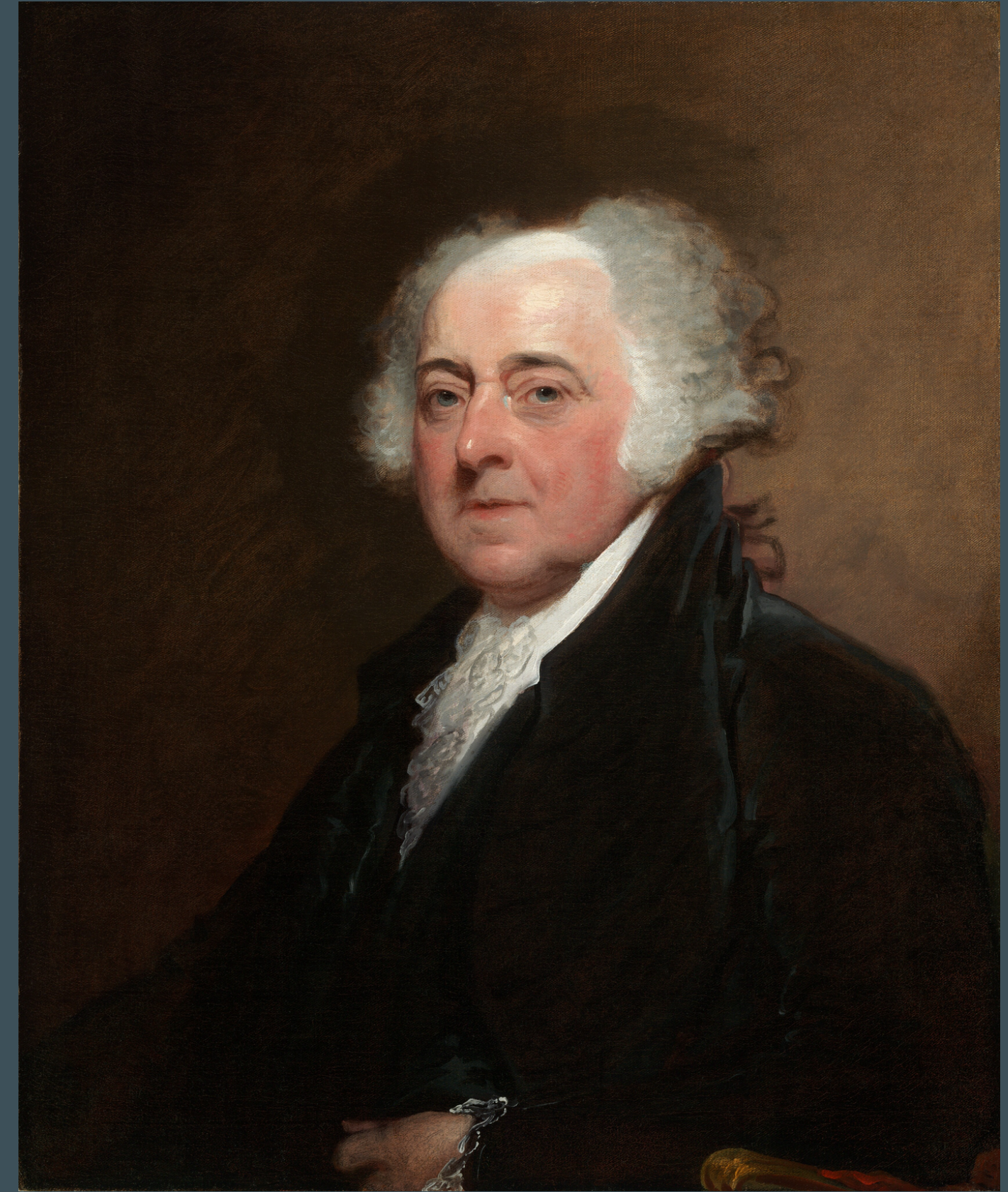
“In the gratification of this baleful spirit, we not only hear the jacobin news-papers continually ring with odious insinuations and charges against many of our most virtuous citizens; but . . . periodical pamphlets issue from the same presses, full freighted with misrepresentation and falshood, artfully calculated to hold up the opponents of the Faction to the jealousy and distrust of the present generation and if possible, to transmit their names with dishonor to posterity. Even the great and multiplied services, the tried and rarely equalled virtues of a Washington, can secure no exemption.”



John Adams to Benjamin Rush

January 25, 1806

“Yet I loose all Patience, when I think of a bastard brat of a Scotch Pedler . . . This Creature was in a delirium of Ambition; he had been blown up with Vanity by the Tories, had fixed his Eye on the highest station in America, and he hated every Man young or old, who stood in his Way, or could in any manner eclipse his laurells or rival his Pretentions.”



Gilbert Stuart. *John Adams*, 1800.
(National Gallery of Art)



Maria Reynolds

1768-1828

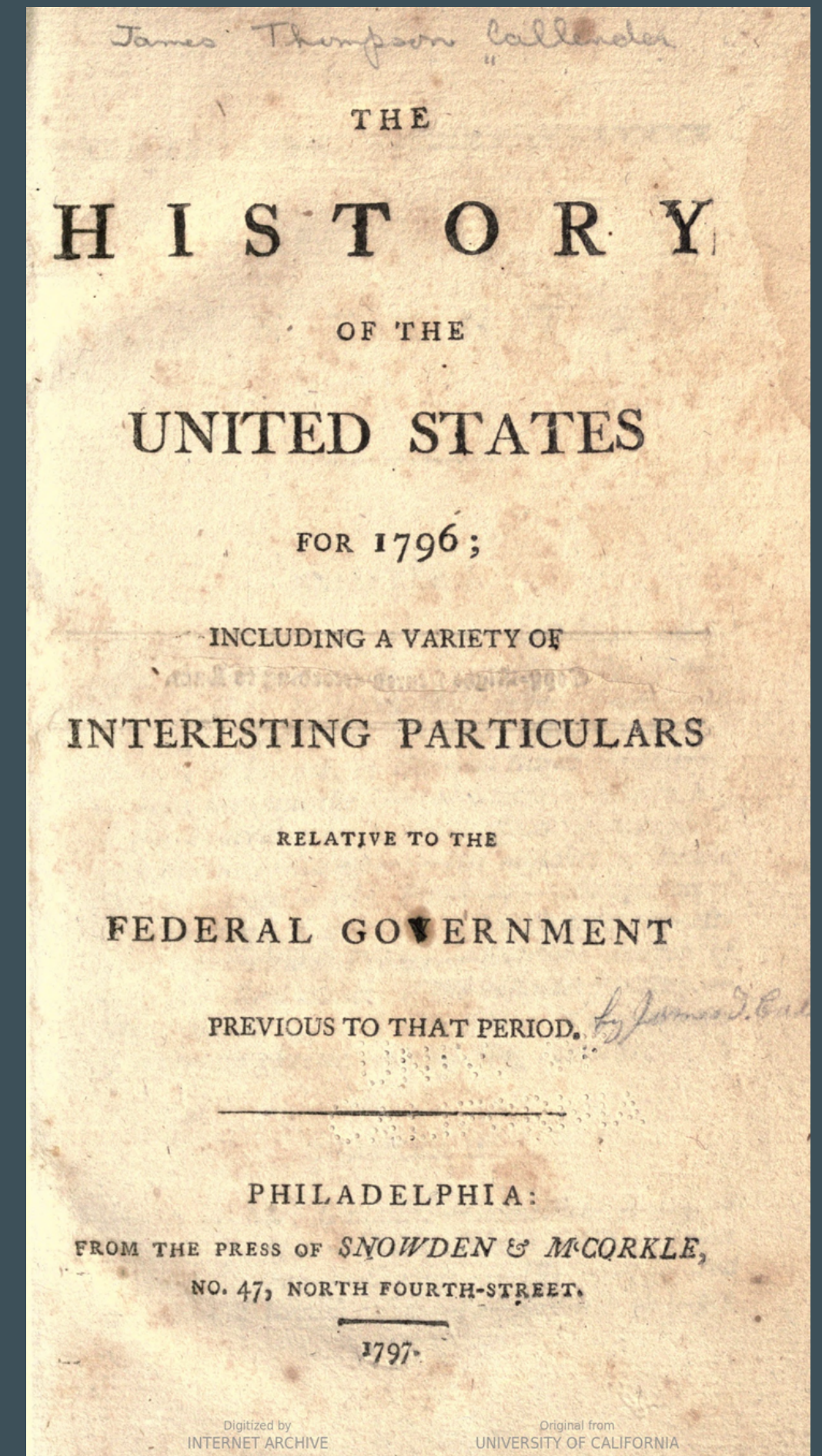
- Born into a respectable family in Dutchess County, New York
 - Daughter of Richard Lewis and Susanna Van Der Burgh
 - Sister-in-law to Gilbert Livingston
- Had one child, Susan Lewis (b. 1785), with James Reynolds
 - Susan bore at least two children, who Maria raised
 - Concealed her identity to avoid public scorn associated with her mother after the affair
- Married James Reynolds in 1783
 - Filed for divorce in 1793 with the help of Aaron Burr, her attorney
 - Divorce decree granted in February 1795
- Married to Jacob Clingman shortly after and moved to Alexandria, VA
 - Divorced again in 1800, returned to Philadelphia
- Married Joseph Mathieu, a French physician, sometime after her return to Philadelphia
- Among the first communicants of the First Reformed Dutch Church of Philadelphia in 1813



James Callender, “The History of the United States for 1796”

“The charge of Reynolds wears a more serious aspect. If he was *one* agent for the purchase of certificates, it may well be conceived, though it cannot *yet* be proved, that our secretary had twenty others. Physician! heal thyself. Before Mr. Hamilton prints any further defences of other people, before he again arraigns one-half of his fellow citizens as cut-throats, let him tell us what has become of Reynolds. Let him observe that this narrative is explicit; and that, under all the circumstances of the affair, silence will be more fatal to his character, than the most feeble vindication.”

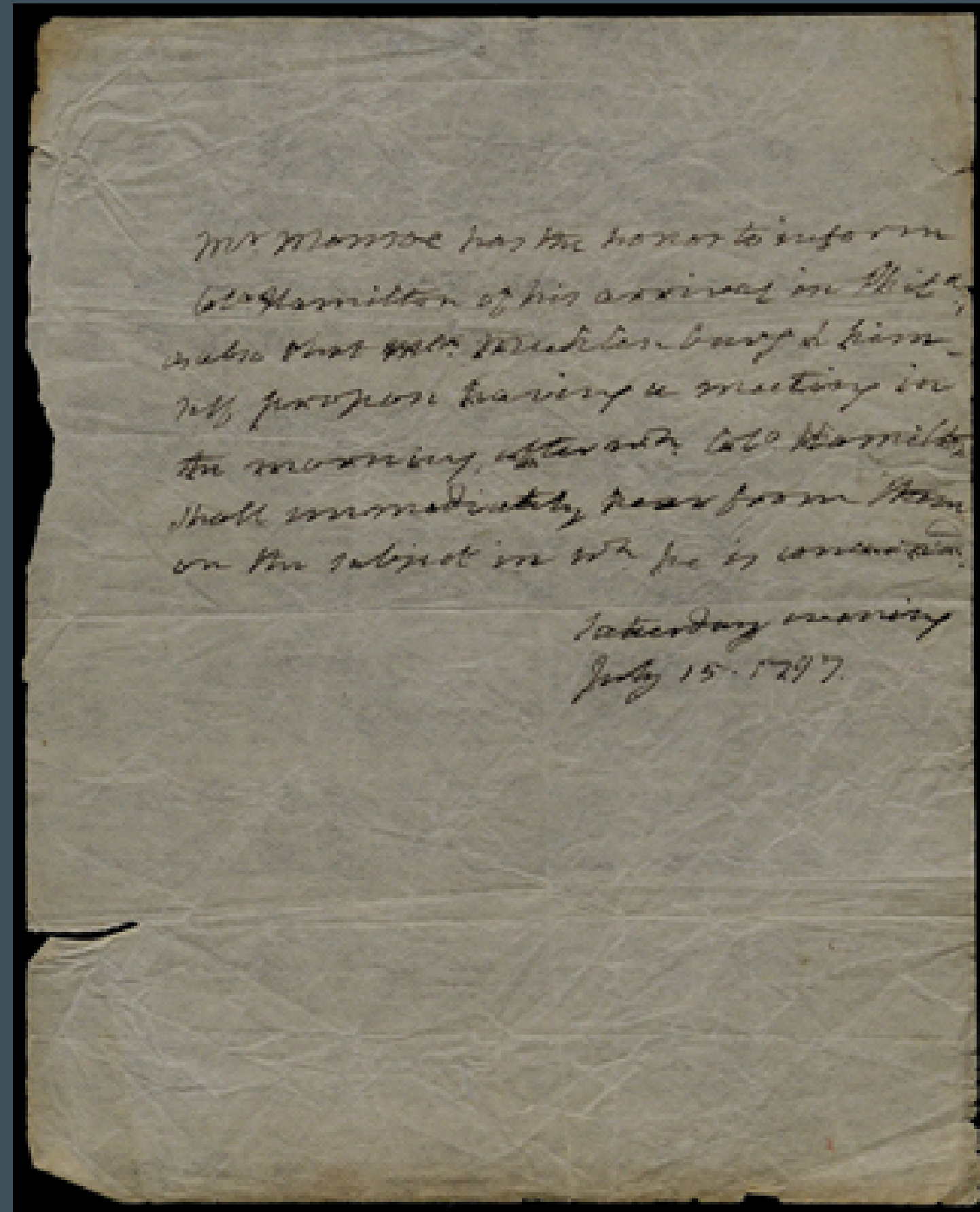
James Callender, *The History of the United States for 1796 . . .*, Philadelphia, 1797. (HathiTrust Digital Library)



James Monroe to Alexander Hamilton

July 15, 1797

Monroe asks to meet with Hamilton to discuss the fallout from the affair -- before the pamphlet is published.



"Letter from James Monroe to Alexander Hamilton, July 15, 1797 (Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLCo8097

Alexander Hamilton on Maria Reynolds

1797

“The variety of shapes
which this woman could
assume was endless.”



The Affair

1797

(18)

I replied, that her situation was a very interesting one—that I was disposed to afford her assistance to convey her to her friends, but this at the moment not being convenient to me (which was the fact) I must request the place of her residence, to which I should bring or send a small supply of money. She told me the street and the number of the house where she lodged. In the evening I put a bank-bill in my pocket and went to the house. I inquired for Mrs. Reynolds and was shewn up stairs, at the head of which she met me and conducted me into a bed room. I took the bill out of my pocket and gave it to her.—Some conversation ensued from which it was quickly apparent that other than pecuniary consolation would be acceptable.

After this, I had frequent meetings with her, most of them at my own house; Mrs. Hamilton with her children being absent on a visit to her father. In the course of a short time, she mentioned to me that her husband had solicited a reconciliation, and affected to consult me about it. I advised to it, and was soon after informed by her that it had taken place. She told me besides that her husband had been engaged in speculation, and she believed could give information respecting the conduct of some persons in the department which would be useful. I sent for Reynolds who came to me accordingly.

In the course of our interview, he confessed that he had obtained a list of claims from a person in my department which he had made use of in his speculations. I invited him, by the expectation of my friendship and good offices, to disclose the person. After some affectation of scruple, he pretended to yield, and ascribed the infidelity to Mr. Duer from whom he said he had obtained the list in New-York, while he (Duer) was in the department.



Aurora General Advertiser

October 10, 1797

“The women cry out against him, as if its publication was high treason against the rights of women.”

Extract of a letter from New-York, September 8.

“ I send you a pamphlet worth perusing ; it is colonel HAMILTON's, and such a one as, it would seem, he would not have written had he not previously taken leave of his senses. Messrs. MONRO, MUELENBERG and VENABLE, had given intimations that he acted, while a minister in the treasury department, as a speculator ; to get rid of this charge he comes forward, as you will see by his book, and denies the charge, but own that the appearances against him were the offspring of an amour with the wife of a man who was alledged to have been employed by him as agent in his speculation. HAMILTON's book came out here this morning ; and now, at six o'clock in the evening, the whole town rings with it. The women cry out against him, as if its publication was *high treason against the rights of women.* In publishing it at all, HAMILTON is considered as indiscreet.”



Abigail Adams to John Adams

January 13, 1799

“Yet I have been credibly informd that the Audacious publication of that Man has only renderd him more bold, and hardned in iniquity.”



Gilbert Stuart. *Abigail Smith Adams*, 1800.

(National Gallery of Art)



John Adams to Benjamin Rush

September 1807

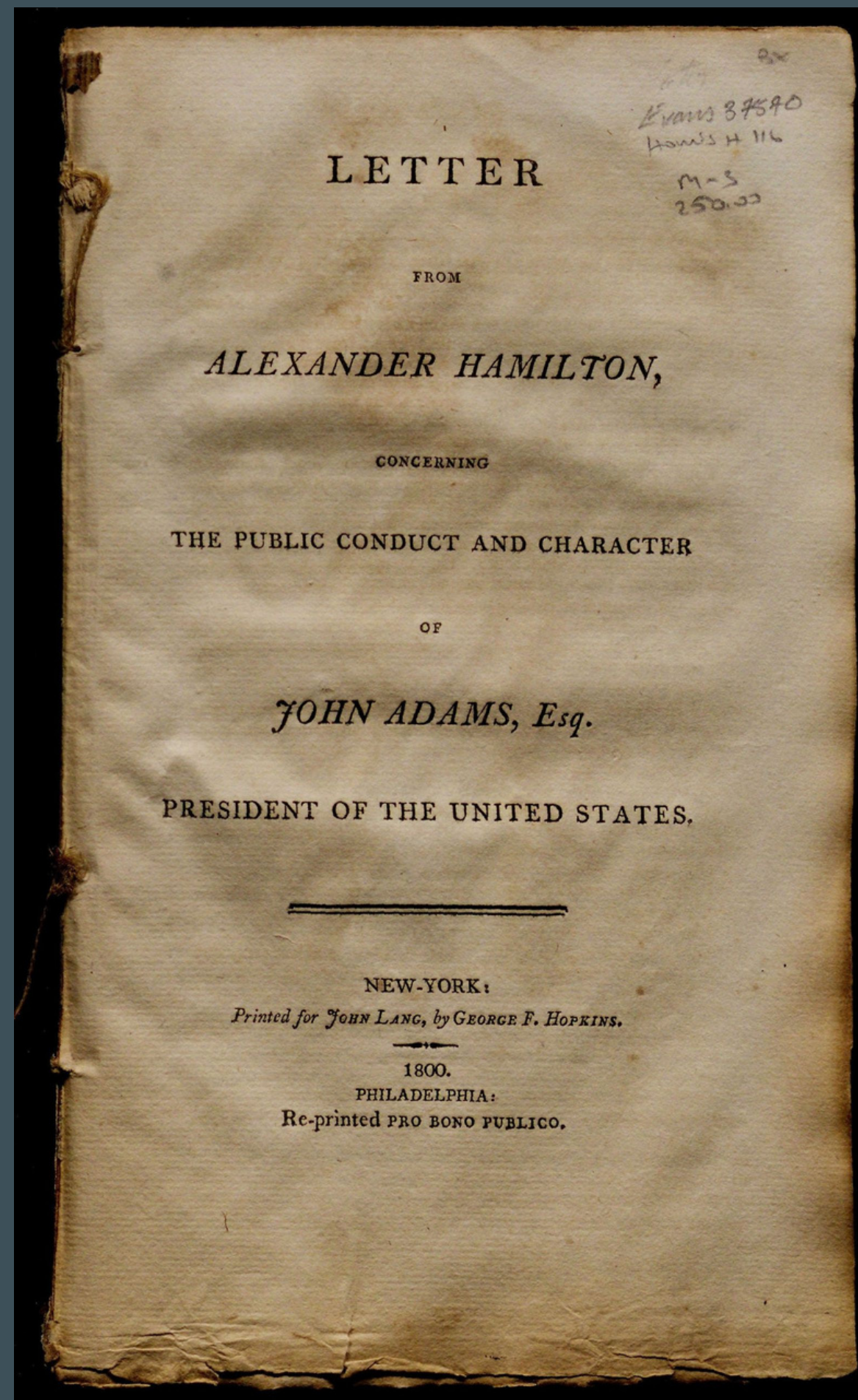
“Hamilton had great disadvantages. His original was infamous: His place of birth and education were foreign countries: His fortune was poverty itself. The profligacy of his life: his fornications adulteries and his incests were propagated far and wide.”



John Adams to Benjamin Rush, September 1807.
(National Archives)

Letter ... Concerning the Public Conduct and Character of John Adams

1800



Alexander Hamilton, *Letter...Concerning the Public Conduct and Character of John Adams*, Philadelphia, 1800. (The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC03365)



Elizabeth Schuyler



ELIZABETH HAMILTON: AGE 94

From a charcoal sketch by Martin, 1851

From Allan McLane Hamilton, *The Intimate Life of Alexander Hamilton*
(New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1911), 116.



Upcoming Programs

INSIDE THE VAULT: November 2 at 7 p.m. ET (4 p.m. PT)

- We will be joined by Holly Mayer (Duquesne University) to discuss materials related to Margaret Corbin.

BOOK BREAKS: October 8 at 2 p.m. ET (11 a.m. PT)

- Drew Gilpin Faust will discuss her book *Necessary Trouble: Growing Up at Midcentury*.



EduHam Online National Competition and Lottery

- **EduHam Online** helps students in grades 6–12 see the relevance of the founding era by using primary sources to create a performance piece (e.g., a song, rap, poem, etc.) following the model used by Lin-Manuel Miranda to create the musical *Hamilton*.
- Participating students may submit their piece for a chance to win an all-expenses-paid trip to NYC to see *Hamilton* on Broadway. Up to 60 student winners will be selected.
 - Lottery: Teachers can submit an unlimited number of student pieces for the lottery.
 - Competition: Teachers can submit up to 5 of their students' best pieces for the competition.
- Visit hamilton.gilderlehrman.org to register and learn more.

