Inside the Vault
Highlights from the Gilder Lehrman Collection

April 3, 2020
The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

- We are the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to K–12 history education while also serving the general public.
- Our mission is to promote the knowledge and understanding of American history through educational programs and resources.
- The Institute provides teachers, students, and the general public with direct access to unique primary source materials.
Technical Support

Assisting with technical issues – Marissa Cheifetz, Coordinator of Publications and Multimedia – firstfriday@gilderlehrman.org

Facilitating the chat – Daniel Pecoraro, Education Program Coordinator
How to Participate

To keep background noise down, your mic is automatically muted.

If you would like to ask a question, you can:
• Click the button to raise your hand
• Put a question in the Q&A tab at the bottom of the screen

Your camera is automatically off.
How to Participate on PC or Mac

- In full screen, you will see Q&A and hand raising along the bottom.
- You receive a notification and be able to unmute yourself.
How to Participate via Zoom Phone App

Touch the “Participants” button; there you can raise your hand and participate in the chat.
We want to hear from you!

During the Q&A portion of the presentation, we would love to hear from you.
Do you have a question about the documents?
How could you use this with your students or children?
Do you have any additional information you want to share?
The Gilder Lehrman Collection

Over 70,000 documents &
500 years of American history

4,062 documents written during the month of April

4 items to share with you today
Today’s Documents

• Calling out the militia during the Battle of Lexington & Concord, presented by Laura Hapke, Curatorial Assistant
• A rare printing of Lincoln’s Second Inaugural, presented by Allison Kraft, Assistant Curator
• A survivor’s account of the sinking of the Titanic, presented by William Roka, Hamilton Education Coordinator
• The inspiration behind I AM A MAN, presented by Sandy Trenholm, Collection Director
Battle of Lexington, 1856

Gilder Lehrman Collection
Paul Revere, “A View of Part of the Town of Boston,” 1770
Detail from “Bloody Butchery” by the British Troops, 1775

Gilder Lehrman Collection
John Church, Paul Revere’s Ride, 1884.

Retrieved from the Library of Congress: https://www.loc.gov/item/sm1884.22702/
Isaac Merrill to John Currier, April 19, 1775
Essex Co To John Currier Capt of a militerry foot Company in Amesbury this Day I have received intiligence that the ministeriel troops under the Command of General Gage did Last evening march out of Boston and marched to Lexington & there Killed a Number of our American Soldiers & thence proceed to Concord Killing and Destroying our men and interest: These are therefore to order you forthwith to Notify and muster as many of your under officers and Soldiers as you can possible to meet immediatly to Some Suitable place: and then to march of forthwith to Concord or Else where as in your Descretion you Shall think best to the reliefe of our Friend[s] and Country: and also to order those who are now absent & out of the way to Follow after and join you as Soon as they shall be apprized of the Alaram and when you have marched your men to Some part of our army you are to appoint some officer to head them in case you return home your Self: till Some Further order may be taken: in this Faile Not Given under my Hand and Seal at Amesbury this Nineteenth Day of April in the Fifteenth year of the Reign of George the third Anno Domini: 1775

Isaac Merrill
Coll
These are therefore to order you forthwith to Notify and muster as many of your under officers and Soldiers as you can possible to meet immediatly to Some Suitable place: and then to march of forthwith to Concord or Else where as in your Descretion you Shall think best to the reliefe of our Friend[s] and Country: and also to order those who are now absent & out of the way to Follow after and joine you as Soon as they shall be apprized of the Alaram.
Abraham Lincoln,
Inaugural Address,
March 4, 1865

Gilder Lehrman Collection
Abraham Lincoln’s Second Inaugural
Abraham Lincoln, Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865

Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away.
Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God’s assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men’s faces; but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of both should not be answered.
Both parties deprecated war; but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let it perish, and the war came.
Abraham Lincoln, Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wound, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.
The assassination of President Lincoln
The death of President Lincoln

Retrieved from the New York Public Library,
https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e0-ff1d-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99
President Lincoln’s funeral procession in New York, 1865
The last photograph of President Lincoln, March 6, 1865

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Q&A

Why?

How?

Did you know?

Who?
Washington Dodge, April 1912

ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP "CARRATHIA"

I retired at 10.30. She continued about 11 to 12 a violent jar. Had the impression that the Steamer had been struck on her side with sufficient force to move her bodily in a lateral direction. I hastily threw on a long overcoat and left my cabin to find a number of passengers in the companion way, all anxiously enquiring what had happened. No one appeared to have any information. A few moments later an officer passed hurriedly assuring by gesture by the
RMS Carpathia

RMS Carpathia Retrieved from: http://amhistory.si.edu/cgmp/images/upload/titanic_group/CarpathiaLangdonColl55.jpg
“...by a violent jar. I had the impression that the steamer had been struck on her side”

“and soon learned that we had run into ice”
“I heard a passenger state that he saw the ice berg pass...”

“the order has just come down for all passengers to put on life preservers. Rushing to my cabin I got my wife and 4 yr old son”

“rushed them up on the boat deck”
“...as the next boat no 3 was loaded I placed them aboard, and stood back, while women and children were under command of an officer placed aboard. I watched this boat safely lowered to the water 70 or 80 ft below...”

Washington Dodge, April 1912

Gilder Lehrman Collection
“...our boat was being lowered directly into the immense volume of water thrown out from the ships side by the condenser pump...”

“It would instantly have swamped our boat”
Titanic life boats on way to Carpathia, 1912.

Titanic survivors aboard the Carpathia, 1912

Group of survivors of the Titanic disaster aboard the Carpathia after being rescued. Retrieved from the Library of Congress: [https://www.loc.gov/item/90707557/](https://www.loc.gov/item/90707557/)
Titanic Statistics:

Of the 2,224 people on board, less than 1/3 survived.
“I AM A MAN,”
Allied Printing,
1968
The Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike

- The movement combined a labor dispute and civil rights
- Sanitation workers had been trying to form a union for years but fear of being fired kept them from taking action. Among their complaints were:
  - Low pay, long hours and not being paid overtime
  - No benefits, no vacation, no workers compensation. You could be fired for getting hurt on the job.
  - Dangerous working conditions
  - Malfunctioning equipment that was not being repaired
The Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike

In February 1968, Echol Cole and Robert Walker were killed when an electrical short caused them to be crushed in a truck’s trash compactor.

It was the final straw. 1,300 black men from the Memphis Department of Public Works went on strike. Memphis Mayor Henry Loeb vehemently refused to negotiate with them.
“I AM A MAN,”
Allied Printing,
1968
Am I Not A Man
And A Brother,
1838

Am I Not A Woman
& A Sister,
1838
We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.
I Am A Man

[Excerpt]

But to me this was my greatest hour,
With chin thrust out and head up proud,
I stood up straight and I said out loud,
I am a man!
And I shall always defy
the oppression of mankind
until the day I die.

“"I Am A Man,"”
Poem by Robert Worsham,
1962

Printed in The Memphis Flyer, February 22, 2002
And I've looked over, and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land. And so I'm happy tonight; I'm not worried about anything; I'm not fearing any man.”
“Honor King, End Racism,” April 8, 1968

HONOR KING: END RACISM!

Gilder Lehrman Collection
“I AM A MAN,”
Emerson Graphics,
1968

Gilder Lehrman Collection
What is the Civil Rights history of your community?

Our 2021 calendar will focus on the struggle for civil rights across 500 years of American/US history. **We want to include events from your local history.**

- We want to feature events and people who are not nationally known.
- It is a great opportunity to research your local, state, or regional history.
- We want all people to be represented in the calendar.
- We need:
  - A description of the event
  - The Month, Day, and Year it happened
  - Citations for the information for further research.
- Deadline for submission is May 1, 2020

Submit your entry here: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GLU_Calendar](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GLU_Calendar)
National History Teacher of the Year

Each year the History Teacher of the Year award honors an exceptional K-12 teacher in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Department of Defense Schools, and US Territories. These winners are then entered into a pool for the National History Teacher of the Year award.

State History Teachers of the Year receive a $1,000 prize, an archive of materials for their classroom, and a ceremony in their state.

The National History Teacher of the Year receives a $10,000 prize, and a ceremony in their honor in NYC.

In order to be considered for the award, teachers must first be nominated and then will receive a link to submit their materials.

If you know an outstanding teacher, please visit gilderlehrman.org/nominate to nominate them today!
What’s next?

1. We will send you a packet with the documents we talked about today.

2. Please complete a 2-minute feedback survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/InsideVault

3. Visit gilderlehrman.org for
   ● Documents
   ● Essays
   ● Digital Exhibitions
   ● Videos
   ● Lesson Plans
   ● Hamilton Education Program

Thank you!