

# THE GILDER LEHRMAN INSTITUTE *of* AMERICAN HISTORY

## *Inside the Vault : Highlights from the Gilder Lehrman Collection*

August 21, 2020

*The session will start shortly. Please note:*

- Your video and audio will automatically turn off.
- You can participate through the Q&A function.
- If you have technical difficulties, please email [firstfriday@gilderlehrman.org](mailto:firstfriday@gilderlehrman.org) so we can assist you.

## *New Day & Time!*

Thursday, September 3 from 7 to 8 pm ET (4-5 PT)

Kicking off the school year with all-time favorites!

- Two printings of the Emancipation Proclamation
- James Madison's hair
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt's advice to high school students

Thursday, September 17 from 7 to 8 pm ET (4-5 PT)  
Constitution Day!

- First draft of the US Constitution
- Final draft of the US Constitution

# *Gilder Lehrman Staff*

## Panelists

- Sandy Trenholm – Collection Director
- Chris Brick – Director, The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project
- Valerie Gilson – Educator at Xaverian High School, Brooklyn, NY

## Support

- Allison Kraft – Assistant Curator

## *During the Session*



- If you would like to ask a question, you can **use the Q&A feature**, which is at the bottom of your screen.
- **Viewing in full screen** is recommended to see the presenters and the presentation at the same time.

### **For Security**

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

*Eleanor Roosevelt  
to Addie Frizelle,  
May 13, 1944*

Ms. Frizelle had  
complained to Roosevelt  
about having to work in an  
integrated facility.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 13, 1944

Dear Miss Frizelle:

I have not advocated social equality between colored and white people. That is a personal thing which nobody can advocate. Nobody can tell me whom I shall have inside my house, any more than I can tell others.

The only things which I have advocated are four basic rights which I believe every citizen in a democracy must enjoy. These are the right for equal education, the right to work for equal pay according to ability, the right to justice under the law, the right to participate in the making of the laws by use of the ballot.

Questions beyond that are personal things and people must decide them for themselves.

I am sure it is true that here in Washington you have found some discourteous colored people. I have found colored people who were discourteous, and I have also found white people who were discourteous. As a matter of fact, I doubt if it does any people anywhere any harm to tell them that you believe they are entitled to certain rights and you are willing to see them obtain those rights.

If you have to use the same toilets and wash basins where you work, then all of you must have to take physical examinations, in which case I think you are safe as you would be in any place where a great many people are coming and going. If you are nervous, there are certain precautions which you can always take.

Sincerely yours,

Eleanor Roosevelt

## *Addie Frizelle's April 26, 1944 letter*

- She had moved to Washington DC from Oklahoma “to do a war job.”
- She was returning home “where the negroes and the white people heretofore have been friends, albeit the negroes have not been allowed to brush elbows continually with white people, use the same restrooms, etc. . . .”
- “I wonder,” she asked, “if you know just what you are doing by advocating so strongly the social equality between the negro and white people? . . .”
- “Give this some thought,” she concluded, “and try to put yourself in the other person’s place.”

## *Banning Discrimination in War-Related Industries*

“There shall be no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries and in Government, because of race, creed, color, or national origin.” (Executive Order 8802, June 25, 1941, National Archives)



- President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802 on June 25, 1941.
- It was the first presidential directive on race since Reconstruction.
- It also established the Fair Employment Practices Committee to investigate incidents of discrimination.



# Executive Order 8802



“...it is the duty of employers and labor organizers to provide for the full participation of all workers without discrimination because of race, creed, color, or national origin.”

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 13, 1944

Dear Miss Frizelle:

I have not advocated social equality between colored and white people. That is a personal thing which nobody can advocate. Nobody can tell me whom I shall have inside my house, any more than I can tell others.

The only things which I have advocated are four basic rights which I believe every citizen in a democracy must enjoy. These are the right for equal education, the right to work for equal pay according to ability, the right to justice under the law, the right to participate in the making of the laws by use of the ballot.

Questions beyond that are personal things and people must decide them for themselves.

I am sure it is true that here in Washington you have found some discourteous colored people. I have found colored people who were discourteous, and I have also found white people who were discourteous. As a matter of fact, I doubt if it does any people anywhere any harm to tell them that you believe they are entitled to certain rights and you are willing to see them obtain those rights.

If you have to use the same toilets and wash basins where you work, then all of you must have to take physical examinations, in which case I think you are safe as you would be in any place where a great many people are coming and going. If you are nervous, there are certain precautions which you can always take.

Sincerely yours,

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

*Roosevelt's response to  
Addie Frizelle*

## *Social Equality*

I have not advocated social equality between colored and white people. That is a personal thing which nobody can advocate. Nobody can tell me whom I shall have inside my house, any more than I can tell others.

Frizelle's letter:

“where the negroes and the white people heretofore have been friends, albeit the negroes have not been allowed to **brush elbows** continually with white people, use the same restrooms, etc. . . .”

- Text can be taken out of context
- Importance of going back to the original source

# *Defining rights*

The only things which I have advocated are four basic rights which I believe every citizen in a democracy must enjoy. These are the right for equal education, the right to work for equal pay according to ability, the right to justice under the law, the right to participate in the making of the laws by use of the ballot.

- Right to vote
- Equal justice
- Right to equal education
- Equal pay for equal work



## *Rebuttal to Frizelle's concerns*

I am sure it is true that here in Washington you have found some discourteous colored people. I have found colored people who were discourteous, and I have also found white people who were discourteous. As a matter of fact, I doubt if it does any people anywhere any harm to tell them that you believe they are entitled to certain rights and you are willing to see them obtain those rights.

- What does discourteous mean?
- What does that have to do with people's rights?

### Why Some Mob Victims Died:

Not turning out of road for white boy in auto  
Being a relative of a person who was lynched  
Jumping a labor contract  
Being a member of the Non-Partisan League  
"Talking back" to a white man  
"Insulting" white man

*of Lynching ? . :*

## *Sharing Restrooms*

If you have to use the same toilets and wash basins where you work, then all of you must have to take physical examinations, in which case I think you are <sup>as</sup> safe as you would be in any place where a great many people are coming and going. If you are nervous, there are certain precautions which you can always take.

- You had to take a physical to work some jobs.
- It is written during WWII, but discusses desegregation.

# *Applications in the Classroom*

Give students the document to study the night before

## Middle School

- Deduce what Frizielle's concerns are.
- Discuss the date.
- Explain the vocabulary.
- Discuss segregation.
- Examine the stationery.
- Discuss differences between FDR's four freedoms & Eleanor's four rights.

## High School

- Start with the same procedure as middle school.
- Give students the essay by Dr. Black.
- How does the essay change your interpretation of the letter?
- Deduce Eleanor's character and social activism from the letter.



**How?**

**Why?**

*Q&A*

**Did you  
know?**

**Who?**

# *Study the Founding Era with EduHam Online*

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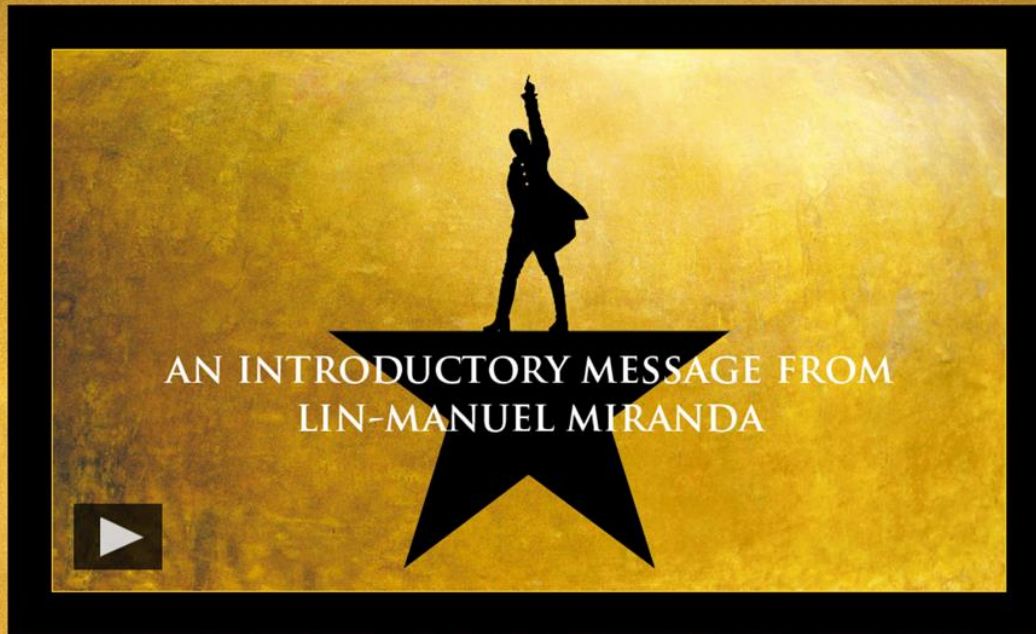
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# *New Day & Time!*

*Thursday, 7-8 pm ET (4-5 pm PT)*

September 3– Kicking off the school year with all-time favorites!

- Two printings of the Emancipation Proclamation
- James Madison's hair (why do we have it?)
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt's advice to high school students
- September 17 – Constitution Day!
- October 1 – Documents relating to John Brown
- October 15 – Women's suffrage
- October 29 – Black soldiers in the American Revolution
- November 12 – Abraham Lincoln
- December 3 – Pearl Harbor
- December 17 – Women of the American Revolution

## *Pace–Gilder Lehrman Online MA Program*

K–12 educators who are affiliated with the Gilder Lehrman Institute and possess a bachelor's degree are eligible to apply.

- Earn your master's degree in American history
- Study with award-winning historians
- Hone your research and writing skills
- Connect with teachers across the country

Register for a Program Overview and Q&A Session with Staff and Students, Thursday, August 27 at 8 pm ET (link in chat).

## *Pace–Gilder Lehrman Online MA Program*

Fall 2020, September 10–December 2

- American Indian History with Ned Blackhawk, Yale University
- The American Enlightenment with Caroline Winterer, Stanford University
- The Fight for Women's Rights: 1820–1920 with Catherine Clinton, UT San Antonio
- The Revolutionary Lives of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. with Peniel Joseph, UT Austin
- Historiography and Historical Methods with Andrew Robertson, Lehman College, CUNY

# Upcoming Programs

- *Inside the Vault*, Thursday, September 3 at 7 pm ET (4 pm PT)
  - Featuring some of our all-time favorites from the Collection
- *Book Breaks*, August 23 at 2 pm ET (11 am PT)
  - Martha Jones discusses her book *Vanguard*.
- Visit [gilderlehrman.org](https://gilderlehrman.org) for free resources for students, teachers, families, and history enthusiasts of all ages.