

THE GILDER LEHRMAN INSTITUTE *of* AMERICAN HISTORY

Inside the Vault : Highlights from the Gilder Lehrman Collection

June 12, 2020

- Your camera is automatically off.
- Your microphone is muted.
- Chat has been disabled.

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.
- We provide direct access to unique primary source materials.

Gilder Lehrman Staff

Panelists

- Sandy Trenholm – Collection Director
- Gena Oppenheim - Hamilton Education Program Senior Education Fellow and educator at Saint Ann's School in Brooklyn
- Paige Smallwood - Principal Standby for the Schuyler sisters in the Angelica Company of *Hamilton*

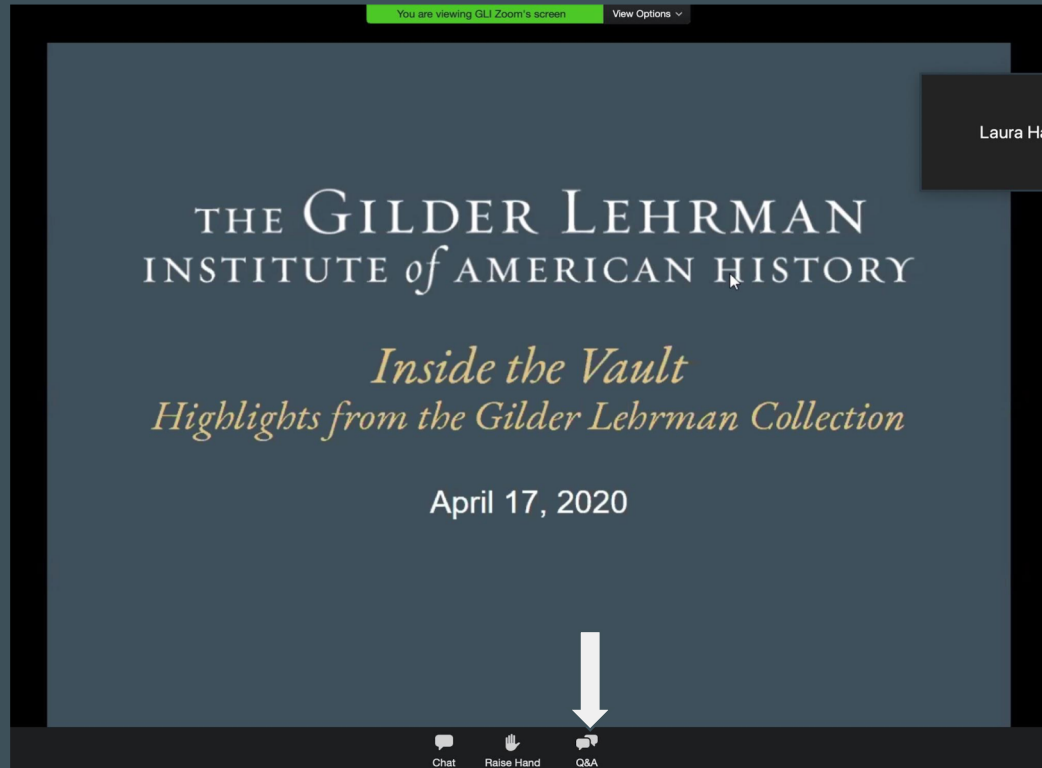
Support

- Allison Kraft – Assistant Curator

For Security

- Your microphone is muted
- Your camera is automatically off
- Chat is disabled

How to Participate on PC or Mac



- In order to keep this a safe and secure meeting, your mic is automatically muted and your camera is automatically off.
- If you would like to ask a question, **you can use the Q&A feature** which can be found along the bottom of your screen.

Today's Documents

- A love letter from Alexander Hamilton to Elizabeth Schuyler.
- Angelica Church's letter announcing Alexander Hamilton was shot by Aaron Burr.

Alexander Hamilton to Elizabeth Schuyler, 1780

I have told you, and I told you truly
that I love you too much - You engross my
thoughts too entirely to allow me to think of
any thing else - You not only employ my
mind all day; but you intrude upon my
sleep - I meet you in every dream - and
when I wake I cannot close my eyes again
for ruminating on your sweetnesses - 'Tis
a pretty story indeed that I am to be thus
monopolized, by a little nut-brown maid
like you - and from a statesman and
a soldier ~~transformed~~ ^{transformed} into a
hungry lover - I believe in my soul you
are an enchantress; but I have tried in
vain, if not to break, at least, to weaken
the charms - you maintain your empire
in spite of all my efforts - and after every
new one, I make, ^{to withdraw myself from my allegiance} my partial heart still
returns and clings to you with increased
attachment - To drop figure my
lovely girl you become dearer to me
every moment - I am more and more

Elizabeth Schuyler



Gilder Lehrman Collection

- Eliza was born August 7, 1757, in Albany, New York.
- She was the second child of Philip & Catharine Schuyler.
 - They had 15 children, 8 of whom survived to adulthood.
- The Schuyler family was one of the wealthiest and most powerful political families of the time.
- We learn about her primarily through the eyes of others.

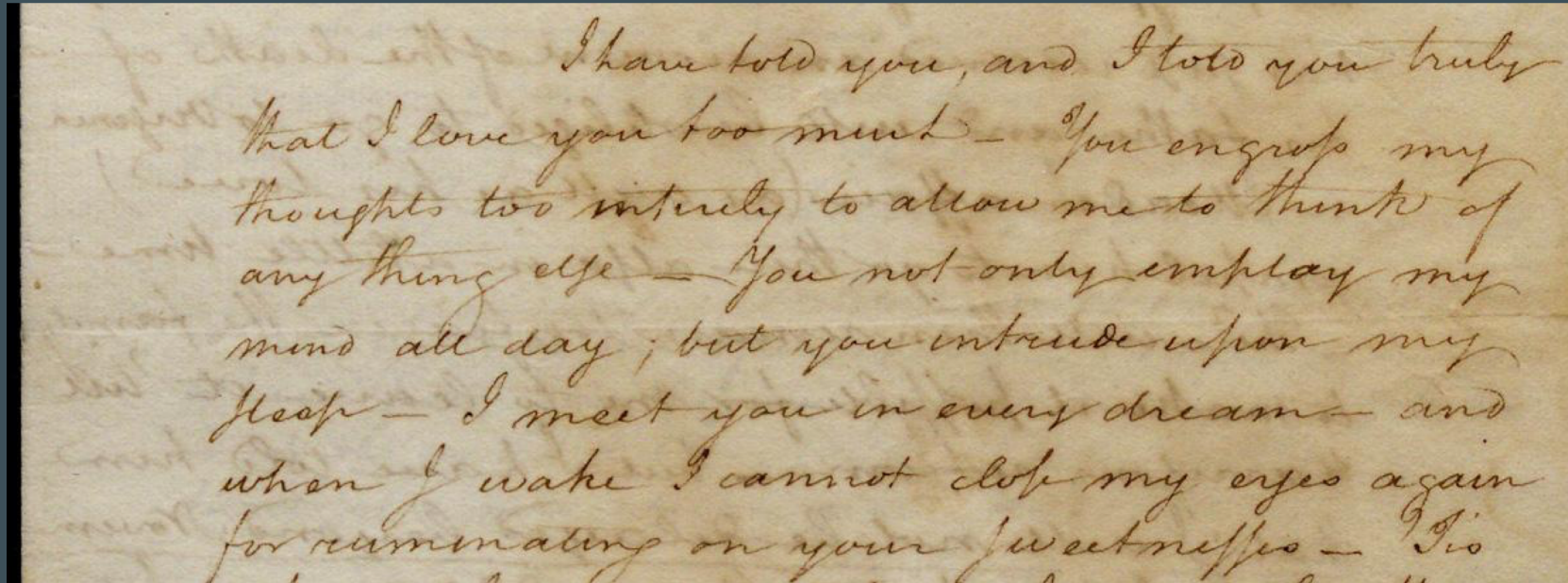
Elizabeth Schuyler & Alexander Hamilton

- Eliza met Alexander at a ball in February 1780.
- Within two months they decided to marry.
 - On April 14, Alexander wrote to Eliza's mother to convince her that he would be a good husband for Eliza.
- They were married ten months later on December 14, 1780.
- Their first child, Philip, born in 1782.
- Alexander and Eliza would have a total of eight children and raised Fanny Antil, an orphaned daughter of a friend.

Alexander Hamilton to Elizabeth Schuyler, 1780

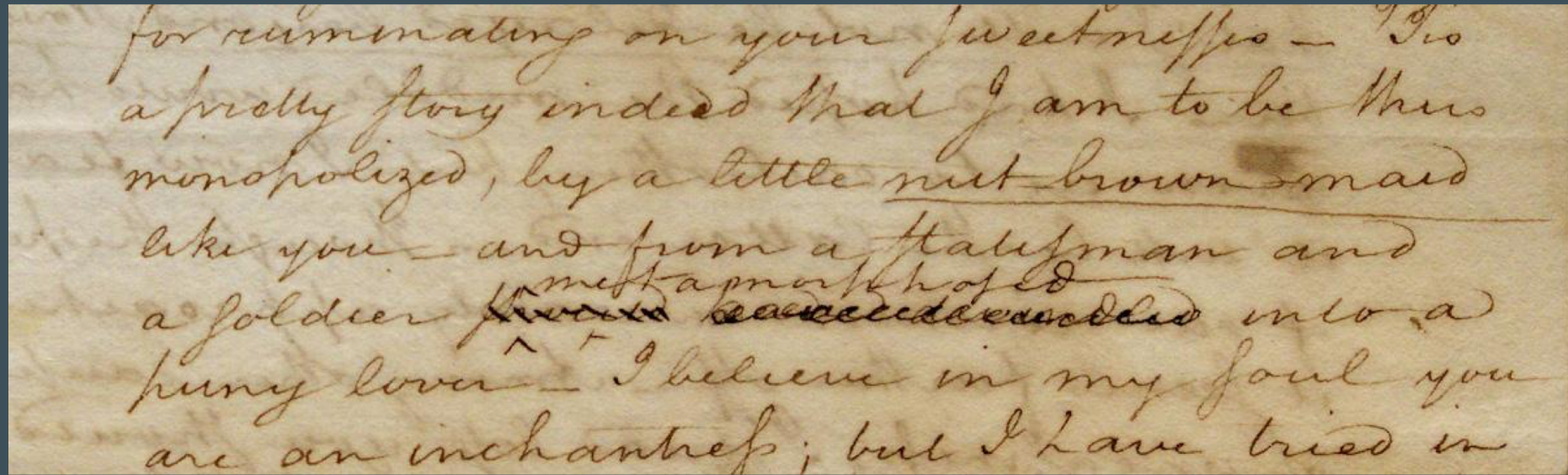
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Alexander Hamilton to Elizabeth Schuyler, 1780



“I have told you, and I told you truly that I love you too much – You engross my thoughts too entirely to allow me to think of any thing else – You not only employ my mind all day; but you intrude upon my sleep – I meet you in every dream – and when I wake I cannot close my eyes again for ruminating on your sweetnesses –”

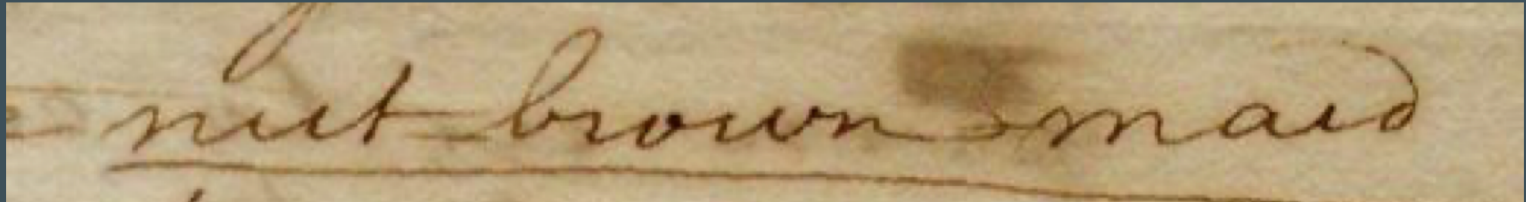
Alexander Hamilton to Elizabeth Schuyler, 1780

A photograph of a handwritten letter on aged, yellowed paper. The handwriting is in cursive, written in dark ink. The text is a letter from Alexander Hamilton to Elizabeth Schuyler, dated 1780. The letter is partially visible, showing the beginning of a paragraph. The paper has some staining and wear, particularly a large brown stain in the middle. The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

for ruminating on your sweetnesses — 'Tis
a pretty story indeed that I am to be thus
monopolized, by a little nut-brown maid
like you — and from a statesman and
a soldier ~~metamorphosed~~ ^{metamorphosed} into a
puny lover — I believe in my soul you
are an enchantress; but I have tried in

“Tis a pretty story indeed that I am to be thus monopolized, by a little nut-brown maid like you — and from a statesman and a soldier metamorphosed into a puny lover — I believe in my soul you are an enchantress;”

The Nut-Brown Maid



- The *Nut-Brown Maid* is a poem that was first published in the late 15th Century.
- It was published in poetry compilations up until the early 20th Century.
- It takes on the style of a conversation between a man and a woman.

Alexander Hamilton to Elizabeth Schuyler, 1780

unhappy and impatient under the hard
necessity that keeps me from you and yet
the prospect lengthens as I advance - Harrison
has just received an account of the death of
his father and will be obliged to go to Virginia
- Meade's affairs (as well as his love) ^{will}
compel him to go there also in a little time -
There will then remain too few in the family
to make it possible for me to leave it till
Harrison's return - but I have told him
that I will not be delayed beyond Novem-
ber - I had hoped the middle would have
given us to each other; but I now fear
it will be the latter end - Though the period
of our reunion in reality approaches
it seems further off - Among other causes
of uneasiness, I dread lest you should
imagine, I yield too easily to the cares,
that keep us asunder; but if you have
such an idea you ought to banish it
and upbraid yourself with injustice -
I spend entire ^{faculties} ~~hours~~ into bliss, heaven opening
upon all its ~~possibilities~~, cannot long more
ardently for the enjoyment, than I do
my darling Betsey, to taste the heaven that

awaits me in your bosom. Is my language
too strong? it is a feeble picture of my feelings -
- now words can tell you how much I love
and how much I long - you will only know
it when wrapped in each others arms we
give and take those delicious caresses which
love inspires and marriage sanctifies -

Indeed my Dear Betsey, you
do not write to me often enough - I ought at least
to hear from you by every post and your last letter
is as old as the middle of Sept^r - I have written you
twice since my return from Hartford -

You will laugh at me for
consulting you about such a trifle; but I want
to know, whether you would prefer my receiving
the nuptial benediction in my uniform or in a
different habit - It will be just as you please;
so consult your whim and what you think
most consistent with propriety -

If you mean to follow our
plan of being secretly married, the simplest ought
to appear entirely your own and you should begin
to give hints of it -

Tell my Peggy I will shortly
open a correspondence with her - I am ~~certainly~~
composing a piece, of which, from the opinion
I have of her qualifications, I shall endeavor
to prevail upon her to act the principal

Alexander Hamilton to Elizabeth Schuyler, 1780

unhappy and impatient under the hard
necessity that keeps me from you and yet
the prospect lengthens as I advance - Harrison
has just received an account of the death of
his father and will be obliged to go to Virginia
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There will then remain too few in the family
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it will be the latter end - Though the period
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I spend entire ^{faculties} into bliss, heaven opening
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my darling Betsey, to taste the heaven that

awaits me in your bosom. Is my language
too strong? it is a feeble picture of my feelings -
- now words can tell you how much I love
and how much I long - you will only know
it when united in each others arms we
give and take those delicious caresses which
love inspires and marriage sanctifies -

Indeed my Dear Betsey you
do not write to me often enough - I ought at least
to hear from you by every post and your last letter
is as old as the middle of Sept - I have written you
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You will laugh at me for
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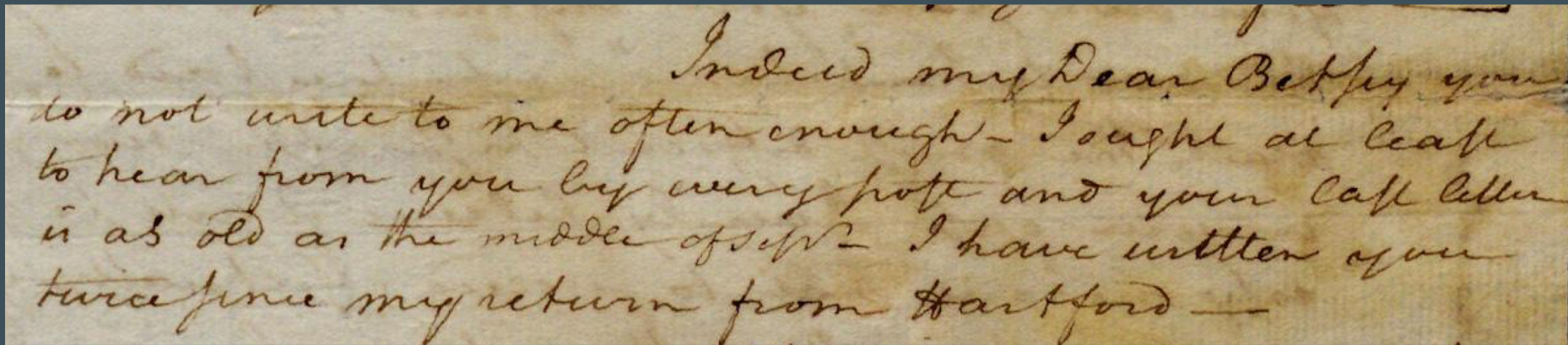
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Tell my Peggy, I will shortly
open a correspondence with her - I am ~~excited~~
composing a piece, of which, from the opinion
I have of her qualifications, I shall endeavor
to prevail upon her to act the principal

Alexander Hamilton to Elizabeth Schuyler, 1780

“A spirit entering into bliss, heaven opening upon all its faculties, cannot long more ardently for the enjoyment, than I do my darling Betsey, to taste the heaven that awaits me in your bosom. Is my language too strong? it is a feeble picture of my feelings: – no words can tell you how much I love and how much I long – you will only know it when wrapt in each others arms we give and take those delicious caresses which love inspires and marriage sanctifies”

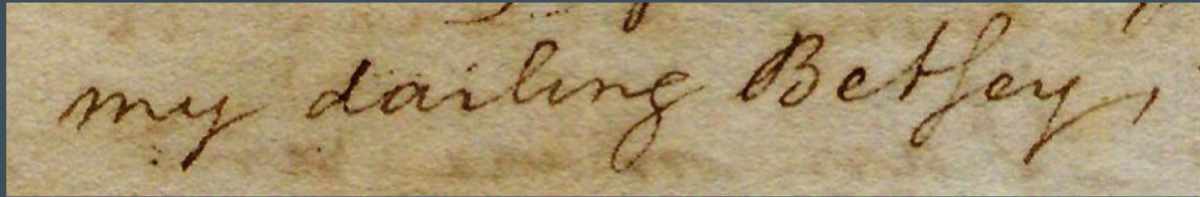
Write more

A photograph of a handwritten letter on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in a cursive script. The visible portion of the letter reads: "Indeed my Dear Betsey you do not write to me often enough - I ought at least to hear from you by every post and your last letter is as old as the middle of sept - I have written you twice since my return from Hartford -".

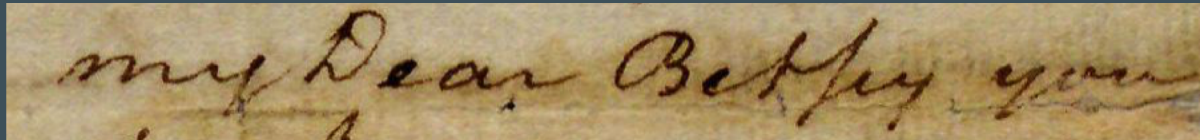
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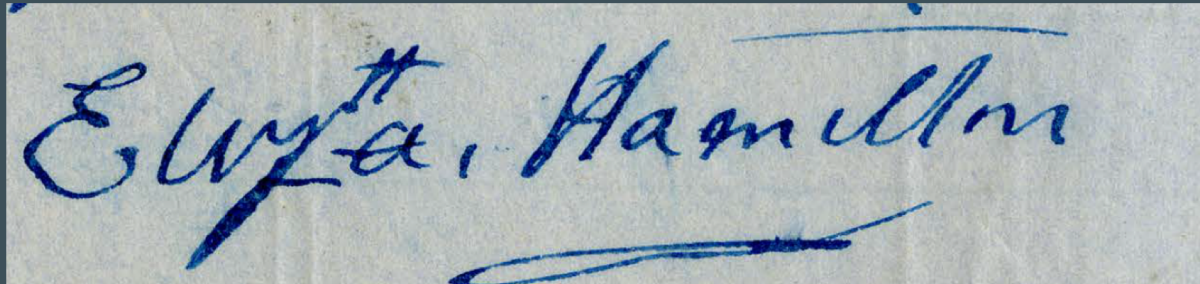
What's in a name



my darling Betsey,



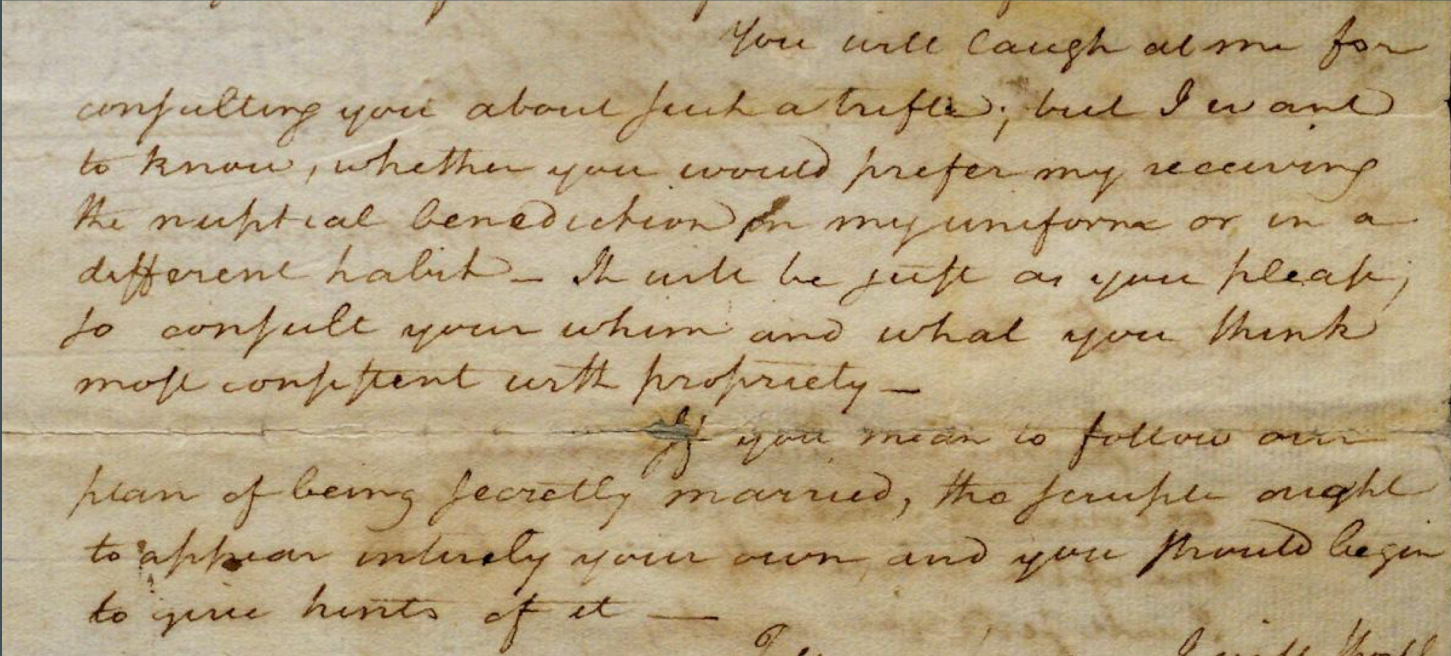
my Dear Betsey you



Eliza Hamilton

- Elizabeth
- Betsy
- Eliza

Marriage



You will laugh at me for consulting you about just a trifle; but I want to know, whether you would prefer my receiving the nuptial benediction in my uniform or in a different habit – It will be just as you please; so consult your whim and what you think most consistent with propriety –

If you mean to follow our plan of being secretly married, the scruple ought to appear entirely your own, and you should begin to give hints of it –

“You will laugh at me for consulting you about just a trifle; but I want to know, whether you would prefer my receiving the nuptial benediction in my uniform or in a different habit – It will be just as you please; so consult your whim and what you think most consistent with propriety –

If you mean to follow our plan of being secretly married, the scruple ought to appear entirely your own, and you should begin to give hints of it -”

How?

Why?

Q&A

**Did you
know?**

Who?

Angelica Church to
Philip Schuyler,
July 11, 1804

St. W. Bayard General
my dear Brother Wednesday morn

I have the painful task to inform
you that General Hamilton was this
morning wounded by that lucky Burr
but we have every reason to hope that
he will recover. May I advise that you
express immediately to my father, as perhaps
he may wish to come down - My dear sister
bear with sweet & brave fortitude this affliction;
The Town is in consternation, and there
exists only the expression of just indignation.
Adieu my dear Brother remember me
to all, ever yours Angelica

Angelica Schuyler Church

- “Engeltje” born February 20, 1756 in Albany, New York.
- She eloped with John Barker Church in 1777.
 - They had 8 children together.
 - The family lived in Europe, including Paris and London, from 1783-1797.



Angelica Schuyler Church, Child and Servant
John Trumbull (1756-1843)
1784, Oil on canvas
Private Collection

The Schuyler Sisters

- Their father had an extensive library and the sisters were very well-read.
- They were exposed to a lot of famous and influential people.
- The sisters were very close.

The Duel



View of the spot where Gen. Hamilton fell, at Weehawk. Jacob C. Ward, 1830. New York Public Library

- On the morning of July 11, 1804, Burr and Hamilton met in Weehawken, New Jersey, to duel.
- Hamilton was mortally wounded. Burr was unharmed.
- The duel was the same location that Hamilton's son Philip had been killed three years earlier.

Bayard House - where Hamilton died



Bayard House. G. Hayward, 1888. New York Public Library.

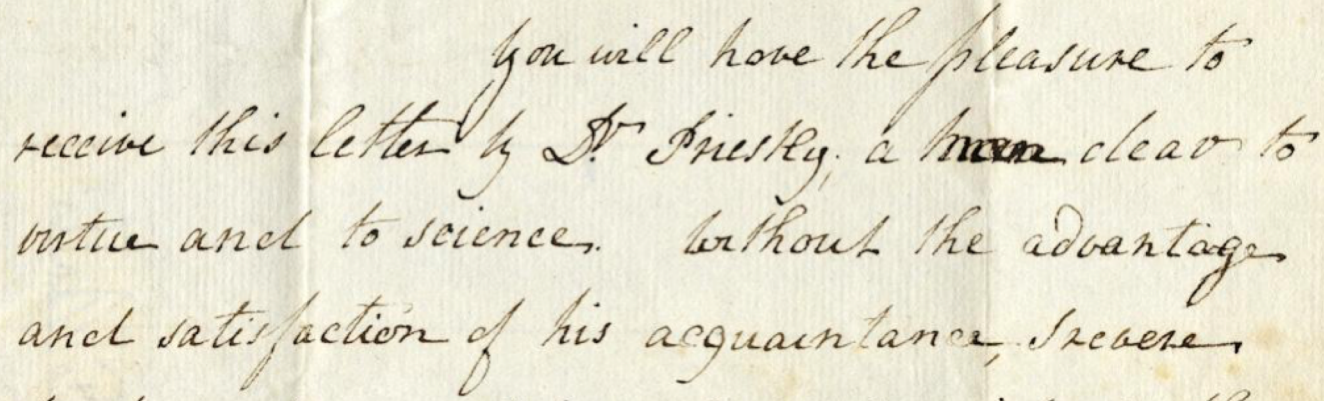
- Friends rowed Hamilton across the river to Manhattan.
- William Bayard met the boat and took Hamilton to the Bayard home.
- Doctor David Hosack treated Hamilton.
- Hamilton died on July 12th - 31 hours after the duel.

Angelica Church
to Philip Schuyler,
July 11, 1804

St. W. Bayard General
my dear Brother Wednesday Morn

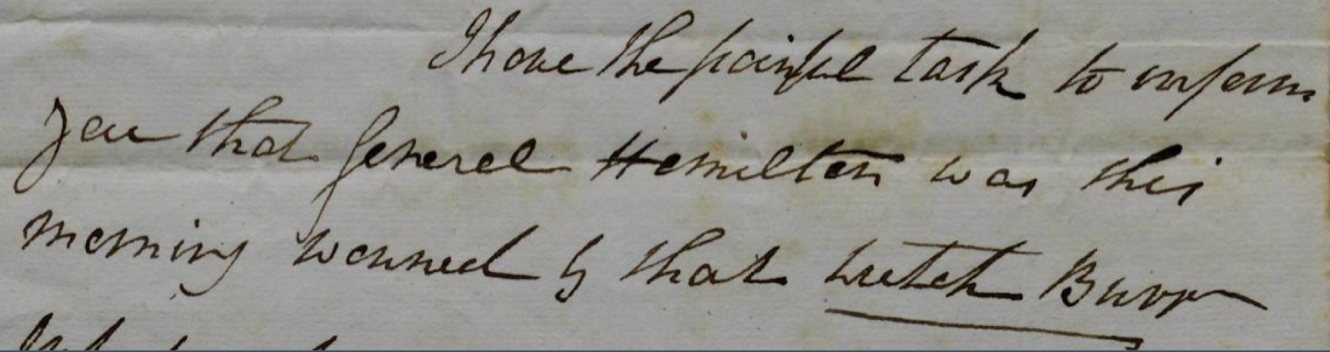
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bear with sweet & brave fortitude this affliction;
The town is in consternation, and there
exists only the expression of grief & indignation.
Adieu my dear Brother remember me
to all, ever yours Angelica

Handwriting shows one's emotional state



You will have the pleasure to
receive this letter by St. Priestly, a ~~man~~ cleave to
virtue and to science. without the advantage
and satisfaction of his acquaintance, I receive

Angelica's handwriting, 1794



I have the painful task to inform
you that General Hamilton was this
morning wounded by that lutch Burr

Angelica's handwriting after the duel, 1804

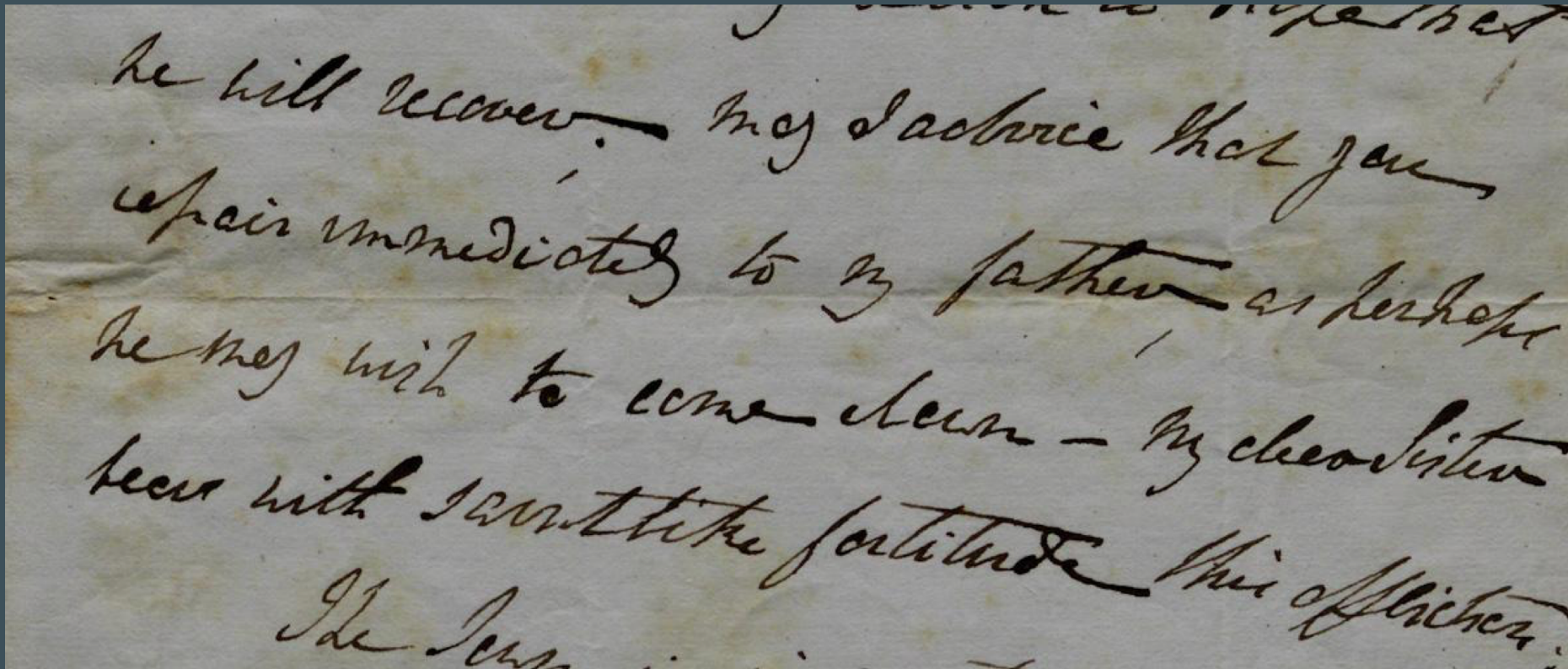
Angelica Church to Philip Schuyler, July 11, 1804

At W. Bayard General's
Wednesday Morn
My dear Brother
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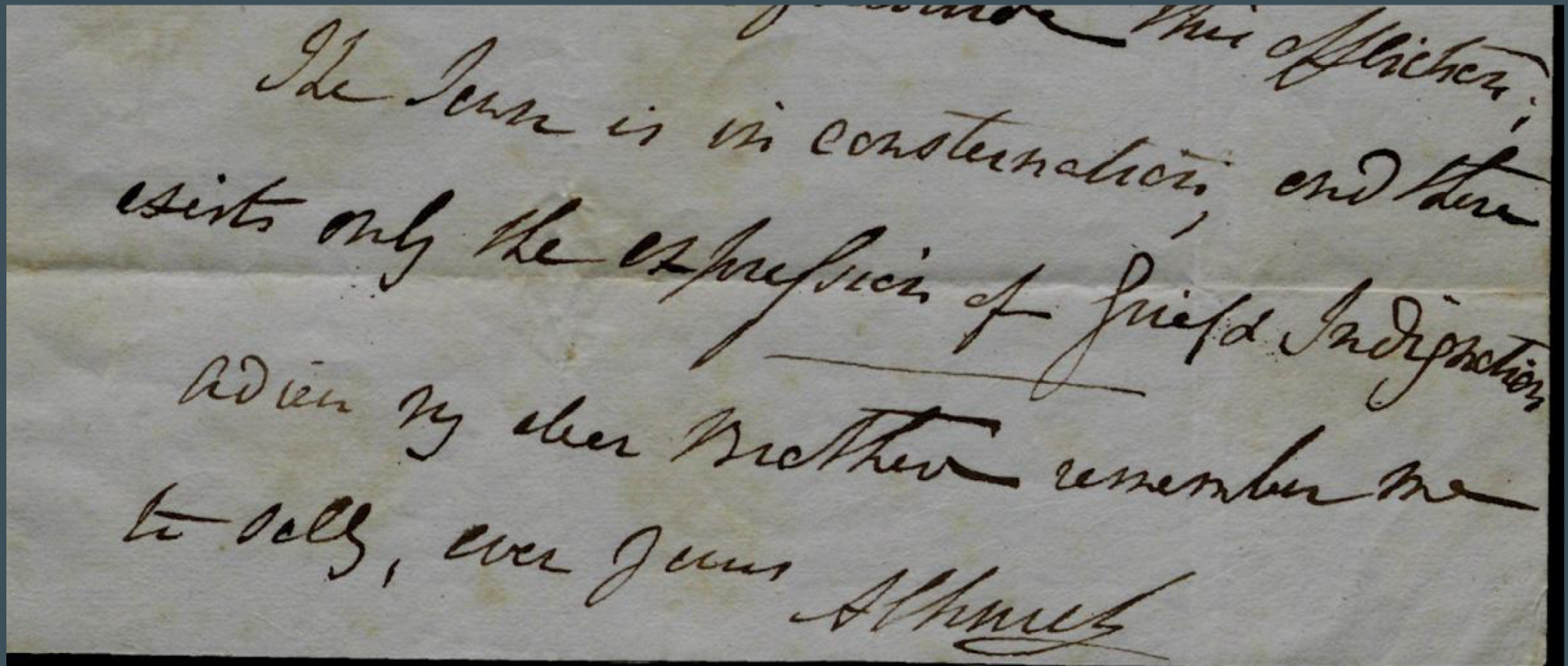
Angelica Church to Philip Schuyler, July 11, 1804



he will recover. May I advise that you
repair immediately to my father, as perhaps
he may wish to come down - My dear Sister
bears with saintlike fortitude this affliction.
I am

“May I advise that you repair immediately to my father, as perhaps he may wish to come down – My dear Sister bears with saintlike fortitude this affliction;”

Angelica Church to Philip Schuyler, July 11, 1804



The Town is in consternation, and there
exists only the expression of Grief & Indignation.
Adieu my dear Brother remember me
to Sally, ever yours
Angelica

“The Town is in consternation, and there exists only the expression
of Grief & Indignation.

Adieu my dear Brother remember me to Sally, ever yours

A Church”

Eliza after Hamilton



Gilder Lehrman Collection

- Eliza suffered a tremendous amount of loss in a few short years.
- Hamilton's death left her in financial duress.
- She contributed to numerous charitable works including
 - Establishing an orphanage
 - Building the Washington Monument
- She never remarried

How?

Why?

Q&A

**Did you
know?**

Who?

Study the Founding Era with EduHam at Home

★ EDUHAM AT HOME

DASHBOARD

RESEARCH

VIDEOS

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Recursos en Español



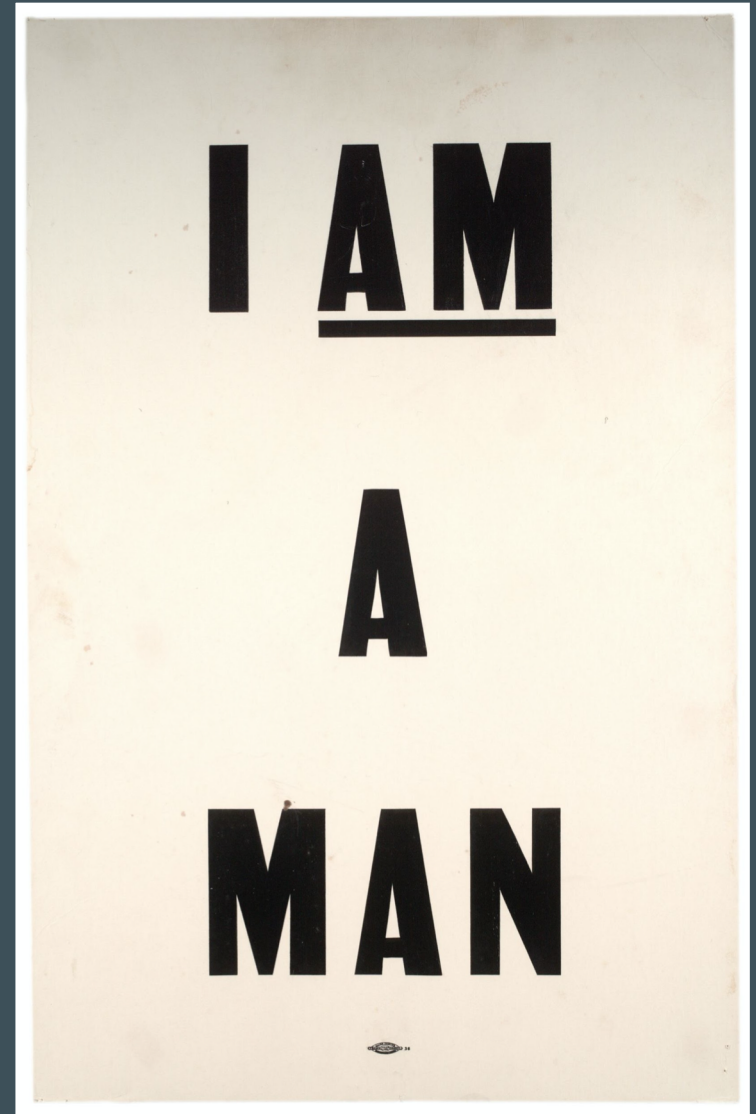
Getting Started / Empezar



New Online Course: The History of American Protest

This course examines the rich tradition of protest literature in the United States from the American Revolution to the present.

This course led by Professor John Stauffer.



Thank you!

- We will send you a packet with the documents we talked about today.
- Please complete a 2-minute feedback survey:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ITV_June12
- Book Breaks with Elizabeth Varon and her book *Armies of Deliverance*, Sunday, June 14 at 2pm ET.
- Our next Inside the Vault will be Friday, June 26 at 2pm ET and will feature the Declaration of Independence and a soldier's experience at Gettysburg.
- Visit gilderlehrman.org for free resources for students, teachers, families, and history enthusiasts of all ages.