Gilder Lehrman Staff

Panelists

• Sandy Trenholm - Collection Director
• Mandel Holland - Educator at Woodlands Middle High School in Hartsdale, NY
• Peter Vermilyea - Educator at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, CT, and at Western Connecticut State University

Support

• Allison Kraft - Assistant Curator
During the Session

• For security purposes, microphones and cameras are off, and chat is disabled.

• 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 rare South Carolina printing of the Declaration of Independence
● A soldier’s experience at the Battle of Gettysburg

We will be focusing on the stories and experiences of the people who created these documents.
In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

A DECLARATION, BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires, that they should declare the Causes which impel them to this Resolution.

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. That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, and that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long trains of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evince a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security.

Such have been the Grants of our forefathers. Such is our inalienable Heritage. Such is the inheritance which the great American Pilgrims purchased for us, at so high a Price, on the Western Frontiers of theirinas. For us, therefore, the People of the United States, in General Congress, assembled, do hereby declare, for ourselves and our Posterity, the Independence of these States; and for the support of this Declaration, with our lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

GILDER LEHRMAN COLLECTION

THE GILDER LEHRMAN INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN HISTORY
Peter Timothy “signs” the Declaration
WHAT'S ON THE BACK?
Declaration of Independence
Lewis Timothy (? - 1738)

- Huguenots Lewis and Elizabeth Timothy came to the colonies in 1731.
- Timothy went into business with Benjamin Franklin.
- In 1733, Franklin asked Timothy to take over the publication of the South Carolina Gazette.
- In 1738, Timothy died.
According to the contract with Franklin, Timothy’s oldest son Peter would inherit the business.

Peter was only thirteen when his father died.

Elizabeth Timothy ran the paper for eight years.

By the end of 1739, she was able to purchase Franklin’s interest in the paper.

She was the first woman in the colonies to publish a newspaper.

In 1746, she established a bookstore & stationery shop.
Peter Timothy (1725-1782)

- Peter became an ardent supporter of the patriot cause.
- Fearing the British would confiscate his press, he ceased publication from 1775 to 1777.
- But when news of the Declaration of Independence reached Charleston August 2, 1776, he decided to print the Declaration.
- Supporting the Declaration was treason.
  - He was arrested in 1780 and spent time on a British prisoner-of-war ship before being sent to a prison in St. Augustine, Florida.
  - The rest of his family was exiled by the British to Philadelphia.
Declaration of Independence, August 2, 1776

Gilder Lehrman Collection
Declaration of Independence

- July 2 – Independence declared by the Continental Congress.
- July 4 – The day the Declaration of Independence was approved.
- July 5 – John Dunlap printed copies were sent to newspapers, local officials, and the commanders of the Continental troops in all 13 colonies.
- July 8 – The day of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence
- July 9 – New York approves the Declaration of Independence.
- August 2 – News of the Declaration of Independence reaches South Carolina.
Why Is the Word “Unanimous” Missing?
“WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires, that they should declare the Causes which impel them to the Separation.”
"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—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shown, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by Abu."
“That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”
Elbert Corbin to Emily Corbin, July 1863
Who wrote this letter?

- This is a letter fragment. It isn’t signed, dated, or addressed.
- We used clues in the letter to do research to determine:
  - Who wrote it & who it was written to
  - When it was written
  - What it was about
Elbert Corbin (1835-1915)

- From Liverpool, NY
- Married to Emily Noyes (1836-1866)
  - Justus, born in 1858 (5 years old)
  - Royal, born in 1860 (3 years old)
- Enlisted September 1861 in Battery B, 1st New York Light Artillery
- Discharged in September 1864
Battery B, 1st New York Light Artillery

- Mustered on August 31, 1861
- Mustered out on June 18, 1865
- Saw 78 days of battle
- Captain Rufus Pettit had been in charge of the unit since 1861.
  - Resigned May 30, 1863
- Captain James Rorty replaced Pettit.
- Casualties at Gettysburg: 10 killed, 16 wounded
Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863

At Gettysburg, approximately 25% of the US forces and 39% of Confederate forces suffered casualties.

US
- 23,049 Casualties
- 93,921 Total forces

Confederate
- 28,063 Casualties
- 71,699 Total forces

US Casualties
- 3155 Killed
- 14529 Wounded
- 5365 Missing & Captured

Confederate Casualties
- 3903 Killed
- 18735 Wounded
- 5425 Missing & Captured
Battery B’s Position at Gettysburg

- Corbin’s Unit
- Codori Farm
- Confederates
- Town of “Gettysburg”
Battery B, 1st New York Light Artillery

Position near the center of the US line during Pickett’s Charge
List of Wounded

3) Corp H, S, Stone - wounded, both arms.

- Lie - A. S. Stone. Rt + Lt. from

- Sherman, 2nd. Lt. 1st. arm.

- Asst. Rogers, 3rd. Lt. 1st. arm.

- Stewart, H. W. 1st. arm.

- Waller, H. N. 1st. arm.

- Hess, H. N. 1st. arm.

- C. A. States 1st. arm. Amput.

- Say, Child B. L. 1st. arm.

- John B. C. 1st. arm. In amput.


- St. Helier Sun. St.
List of Wounded

Corp W. F. Thorn – wounded both Feet
  " Hooker                        " Run over Rt  "
John M Scovil                   " Rt arm & sides Minnie B.
Lt. – A.S. Shelden               Rt. & Lt Groin "
S. Sherman Gun Shot Lt Arm
August Rogers, Rt Leg amput’d upper leg & gun shot in Rt arm
Coraden Wallace Lt Foot Gun Shot
A.B. Mallery Shell, Head
Geo Rabb                        "      "
Theod Deneyer                    "      "
O.S. states Lt. Arm gun shot
Sarg Childs Bruised leg
John Buckley Rt up’r leg slight
Pat Mc Gowan Lt Sholder Gun Shot
“89 Horses killed – 3 wheels smashed 3 Cassions smashed – nearly all our clothing – this is all I can say this sabbath Eve – I want to rest A kiss love. Kiss our Darlings. God Bless us –
Monday Eve July 6th. 10.0’Clock – Em I have passed another busily day”
"I was sent to work assisting to cut out Balls and dress the wounded Rebels and we now have an quantity of them and I shall have to help tomorrow I can do up wounds from shot or shell or Bullits quite like an M.D. – I have had quite a Dicipline I do it for that – I can see an Arm or Leg taken off and it has no more affect on my feelings, than cutting so much Beef “
"Dead men and plenty here – and I saw plenty of them in all shapes on the field. Help to wound & Kill men then Patch them up I could show more suffering here in one second than you will see in a Life– at home It is strange how I have disciplined my feelings to see Dying and suffering men and have no feelings only a passing thought, I have some [illegible] that were cut out of men I have had quite a chat to day with Rebels"
“Such a 4th of July. Such a Sabbath I shall long remember and three day’s work here among the wounded & dying. But I have learned much. I must say a little why we suffered so much in this battle and I think if Capt. Pettit had been here instead of this fool of a Rorty, we should have lost far less.”
Join us for History Camp!

Students can participate in:

- “History Camp: History Outdoors” for grades 3-5
- “History Camp: History’s Treasures” for grades 3-5

**THEME FOR WEEK 1:**
Significant Street Signs Scavenger Hunt

- Why are street signs important?
- How are they used?
- Review difficult words: theme, significant, scavenger hunt, symbols
Study the Founding Era with EduHam at Home

Welcome to EduHam at Home

Getting Started / Empezar
What’s next?

● 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/Vault_June26

● Our next *Inside the Vault* will be Friday, July 10 at 2pm ET and will feature documents related to the election of 1800.

● Book Breaks with Leslie Harris and Daina Ramey Berry and their book *Sexuality and Slavery*, this Sunday, July 28 at 2pm ET

● Visit gilderlehrman.org for free resources for students, teachers, families, and history enthusiasts of all ages.