Inside the Vault:
Highlights from the Gilder Lehrman Collection

July 1, 2021

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 collectionprograms@gilderlehrman.org so we can assist you.
Our Team

- Allison Kraft - Assistant Curator
- Stacie Christensen - Educator at Horizon Elementary School and 2020 Idaho History Teacher of the Year
- Simon Longnight - Lafayette/Jefferson in the LA Company of Hamilton
- Junious Whitaker IV - Collection Management Intern
- Zoya Siddiqui - Curatorial Intern
During the Session

- If you would like to ask a question, you can use the Q&A feature.
- We will be answering audience questions throughout the session.

For Security and Privacy
- Your microphone is automatically muted.
- Your camera is automatically turned off.
Today’s Documents

- William J. Stone’s printing of the Declaration of Independence
- A letter describing the reception of the Declaration in New York
- A German interpretation of the events in New York
- A British response to the Declaration of Independence
William J. Stone’s
Printing of the
Declaration of
Independence, 1823
William J. Stone’s Facsimile

- William J. Stone’s facsimile of the Declaration took three years to complete.
- The facsimile was commissioned by John Quincy Adams, who was Secretary of State at the time.
  - The original was already fading.
- It is the closest copy of the original document.
- Copies were given to the president, vice president, original signers, and families of the signers.
- Only about thirty printings of the facsimile exist today.
Making the Facsimile

- Stone created a copperplate engraving of the original Declaration, which he used to make subsequent copies.
- The copies were printed on vellum.
  - The original Declaration was written on parchment, which is less durable than vellum.
- Copperplate engravings are made by copying the original document in reverse onto a sheet of copper. Ink was then applied to the copper, and transferred onto paper.
- Stone’s original copies included the statement “ENGRAVED by W. J. Stone for the Dept. of State, by order”
“I do myself the Honour to enclose, in Obedience to the Commands of Congress, a copy of the Declaration of Independence, which you will please to have proclaimed in your Colony, in such Way and Manner as you shall judge best. The important Consequences to the American States from this Declaration of Independence, considered as the Ground & Foundation of a future Government, will naturally suggest the Propriety of proclaiming it in such a Mode, as that the People may be universally informed of it.”
Your favor I must come duly to hand.
There can be no objection to your contracting for guns
wherever they are to be had, I find it hard to look
upon the nearer ones to sell them.
I wrote last night, I think, so you may be
apprised of the contract, if you think the same
may serve, as they may make more
by the time their ships are ready for them.

You may depend the officers will be appointed
agreeable to your recommendations, their commissions
not being near need be no hindrance to you in
commencing your mode. However I wrote you
about this last night, I agree with you that the matter
have not been properly attended to, but I hope some
will take some of the charge of neglect to my self
for my poor voice every body for all work more
encouraging than I have to get them an officer for
the determination of presidents to have every thing
safely before I leave this.

The ships were launched here last weak viz. the Maryland
and Delaware, but when they will get to sea is un
ertain as they have no anchors yet.

Independence was proclaimed in the army
of New York last Monday, when the Lord was
kind in sending gun was dispatched, it is by the
time safe into Bulletin, for the destruction of the

Gilder Lehrman Collection

William Whipple’s Letter to Continental Congress, July 16, 1776
“We are dayly in expectation of some grand Military operations at New-York, the Militia are all marching from this Colony, the associators all mostly gone from this City. Col: Dickerson Cadwaleder &c all the head of these Regiments, no doubt in a very few days 20,000 men if not more will be embodied at New-Jersey besides the army at York, this Declaration has had a Glorious effect has made these Colonies all alive, all the Colonies forming Governments as you’ll see by the papers-”
“Independence was proclaim’d in the army at New-York last Wednesday, when the Leaden King in the Bowling Green was dismounted & is by this time cast into Bullits for the destruction of this Tools of Tyranny may every one of them be properly Commission’d”
La Destruction de la Statue Royale à Nouvelle Yorck, François Xaver Habermann, 1776
- Created by painter François Xaver Habermann who did a series of prints on the Revolution
- Vue d’optique
  - Projected onto a screen or wall with a candle and mirror
- Imagined image of the New York Sons of Liberty tearing down a statue of King George
  - Actual statue was torn down on July 9, 1776
- Image also depicts enslaved people who helped the Sons of Liberty

La Destruction de la Statue Royale à Nouvelle Yorck

Gilder Lehrman Collection
American Depiction, 1875

Engraving by John C. McRae, 1875. Based off 1859 painting by Johannes A. Oertel
Library of Congress

New-York Historical Society
An Answer to the Declaration of the American Congress

- Written by John Lind in response to the Declaration of Independence
- Provides a response to each article of the Declaration
  - 132 pages
His Majesty the King

The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.
Article VII: He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.
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.
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

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 an 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 purposes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by那么容易 and dangerous Means. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Invasions, all in one tendency proceeding to justify and sustain existing Government.

Therefore, We, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, do hereby publish and declare, That these United States are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that We are absolved from all allegiance to the Crown of Great Britain; and that We are now wholly, totally and completely Free and Independent Nations, that We are Free and Independent States.
Registration open now until July 12
Classes for students grades K-12
  - Hamilton Cast Read Along (elementary-age students and families)
  - History Camp: Life in Colonial Times (3rd-5th grade)
  - Immigration and the American Story (6th-12th grade)
  - History in the Making (6th-12th grade)
  - The Global Cold War (6th-12th grade)
  - APUSH: The Remix (9th-12th grade)
  - AP US Government and Politics: Foundational Documents (9th-12th grade)
Declaration 250

This project is a multi-year, broad-based initiative by the Gilder Lehrman Institute to recognize the importance of the Declaration in the history of America, and of the world. The initiative will produce resources and programs that explore themes such as the intellectual and cultural origins of the Declaration, its unprecedented nature among traditional forms of government, the Declaration and the genesis of the African American civil rights movement, the influence of the Declaration on the formation of other countries, and the impact of the Declaration on later generations of Americans, from the Civil War to the twenty-first century. For its launch in July 2021, it will feature highlights from the Institute's work on the Declaration in recent years.

- Inside the Vaults and Spotlights on Primary Source Documents
- Essays from History Now
- Images from the Gilder Lehrman Collection
- Video clips from Hamilton cast members
- Online and traveling exhibitions
- Scholar lectures
- Self-Paced Courses
- Lesson Plans
- And more!
Upcoming Programs

● *Inside the Vault*, Thursday, July 15 at 7 p.m. ET (4 p.m. PT)
  ○ We will be discussing the Massachusetts 54th Infantry.

● *Book Breaks*, July 4 at 2 p.m. ET (11 a.m. PT)

● *History Now*
  ○ “Black Lives in the Founding Era,” the sixtieth issue of *History Now*, is available to subscribers (Affiliate School teachers can get a subscription for free). This landmark issue includes sixteen essays by leading historians. The essays focus on the lives and achievements of African American founders such as Phillis Wheatley, Richard Allen, Jarena Lee, and James Forten, among others.