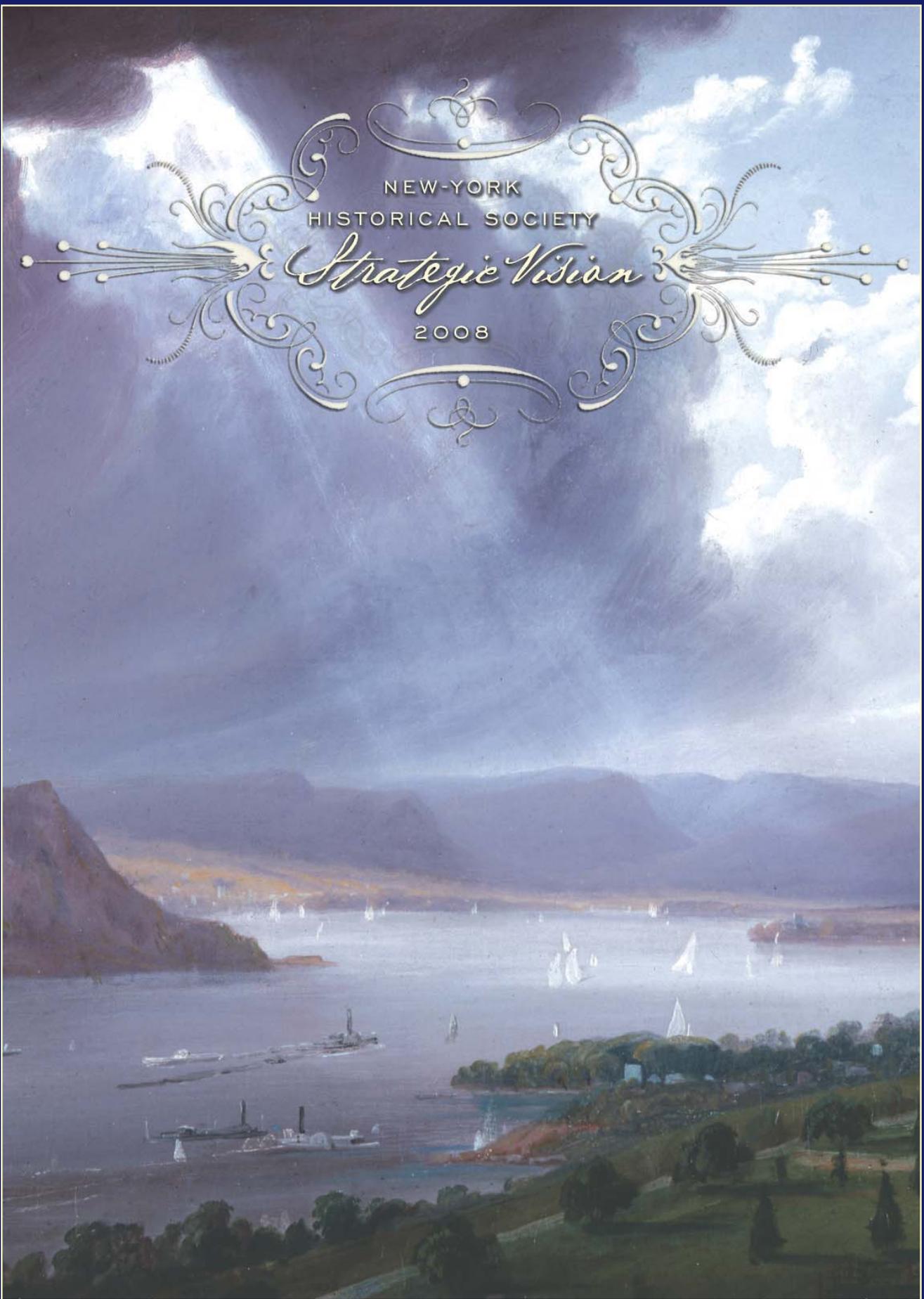


NEW-YORK  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Strategic Vision*

2008





ABRAHAM LINCOLN

1773  
Boston  
Tea Party



1776  
United States  
declares its  
independence  
from Britain

1609  
Henry Hudson, sailing  
from Amsterdam, arrives  
in New York Harbor

1775  
Battles of Lexington  
and Concord launch  
Revolutionary War



1783  
Treaty of Paris ends the war  
and U.S. is recognized as a  
sovereign nation

NEW-YORK  
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1787  
Convention  
delegates approve  
U.S. Constitution

1789  
George Washington  
becomes first  
U.S. president



1803  
Marbury v. Madison  
establishes Supreme Court's  
power of judicial review

1788  
New York becomes  
nation's capital  
(until 1790)

1791  
Bill of Rights  
ratified and  
becomes part of  
U.S. Constitution



1803  
President Jefferson  
purchases  
Louisiana Territory



Founded in 1804 by distinguished citizens of New York, the New-York Historical Society is dedicated to increasing worldwide understanding of American history through exhibitions, public programs, online outreach, and research that reveal the dynamism of history and its influence on the world of today. Our holdings cover four centuries of American history and comprise one of the world's greatest collections of historical artifacts, American art, and other materials documenting the history of the United States as seen through the prism of New York City and State. Forty thousand of the Historical Society's most treasured works are permanently held on our premises in the Henry Luce III Center for the Study of American Culture. Our collections provide the foundation for exploration of the nation's richly layered past and support the Society's mission to provide a forum for debate and examination of issues surrounding the making and meaning of history.

*American Flag*, U.S.A. ca. 1830–1880  
(66.7 x 87 cm) Wool, cotton  
1939.559

# Dear Friends,

As Chairman of the Board and President of the New-York Historical Society, we're happy to share with you the Board's new strategic vision and our plan to build a preeminent institution of American history. We're engaging crowds in the thrilling chronicle of New York and the nation by capitalizing on our unparalleled Museum and Library holdings, which together represent one of the world's premier collections of documents, art, and artifacts relating to American history. Our ambitious agenda includes creating a twenty-first century building, educating students, engaging the public, and promoting scholarship.

Groundbreaking exhibitions are the cornerstone of our efforts to engage more people in the past, as we bring history to life through paintings, prints, photographs, and audio and interactive components.

Our exhibitions on Alexander Hamilton, on New York's seminal role in American slavery from the Colonial Era through the Civil War, on Asher B. Durand, on the Hudson River School, on the September 11th attacks, and on Washington and Lafayette have attracted universal critical praise. We draw more than 250,000 people each year to our historic building, where they find an increasingly invigorating experience.

The New-York Historical Society – New York's first museum – sits on Central Park West at 77<sup>th</sup> Street, next door to the American Museum of Natural History, a few blocks north of Lincoln Center, and a short walk across Central Park from The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Construction beginning in January 2008 will create a dynamic, user-friendly space to better showcase exceptional



1805  
Lewis and Clark  
reach the  
Pacific Ocean



1820  
Missouri Compromise  
regulates slavery in  
western territories

1849  
California  
Gold Rush



1863  
Battle of Gettysburg  
followed by  
Lincoln's address

1814  
Francis Scott Key  
writes the  
*Star Spangled Banner*  
poem that later  
becomes the official  
national anthem



1836  
Santa Anna  
victorious at the Alamo



1862  
Abraham Lincoln issues the  
Emancipation Proclamation



The Society, founded in 1804, had its first home in New York's City Hall, which was then located at Wall and Nassau Streets.



The Historical Society's building on Central Park West was erected in 1906.



collections and exhibitions, while housing history education programs that already reach more than 3,000 history teachers and more than 150,000 New York schoolchildren each year.

Our renovated building will include a modern auditorium featuring a multimedia orientation film to convey dramatically the excitement of history. Through creative use of digital technology, a state-of-the-art website, and effective curricular materials for history teachers, we'll reach people across the world who will experience and use our collections, programs, and exhibitions from their

homes and schools. If you want to learn about history, the New-York Historical Society will provide what you need.

Looking beyond the traditional model of historical societies, we're also launching a Graduate Institute to promote scholarship and teaching on the Constitution and the Founding Era. As the primary repository of historical materials related to the history of New York and the early nation, our Library will be able to fulfill its destiny as a leading center of research and scholarship for the study of North American and regional history.



1865  
Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrenders to Union Gen. U.S. Grant at Appomattox



1883  
Brooklyn Bridge opens to the public



1903  
Wright Brothers fly the first successful airplane



1917  
U.S. enters WWI on the side of the Allies

1919  
Treaty of Versailles ends WWI



1929  
Black Tuesday signals the start of the Great Depression



In addition to our extraordinary collections, building, and location, our Board of Trustees makes a powerful contribution. Our Trustees are not only generous but also deeply involved in increasing our impact on historical literacy. Two Board members – Richard Gilder and Lewis Lehrman – have deposited their world-renowned collection of American historical documents at the Historical Society, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute collaborates with us on several programs and educational initiatives. We have an enthusiastic and growing cadre of donors and supporters, including members of the Chairman’s Council who convene each spring at a *Weekend with History* to talk with dozens of historians and enjoy panel discussions and a private, close-up look at our treasures and collections. The *Weekend* is the culmination of activities throughout the year – a panoply of lectures, events, private tours, and dinners with leading historians – which demonstrate the Historical Society’s stimulating manner of engaging supporters. We also award the prestigious New-York Historical Society American History Book Prize to honor the year’s best history book for a general audience.

As even the casual student knows, our democracy was founded on the belief that an informed, engaged citizenry is a country’s best ruler. History also teaches us that a nation’s stability is enhanced when its people share a collective understanding of its story. Too few Americans today grasp even the basic elements of our nation’s history, and thus are ill-prepared to carry out their roles as effective citizens who come together in a cohesive society. We aim to change that.

Along with our entire Board, Museum Director Linda S. Ferber, and Library Director Jean Ashton, we’re enthusiastically committed to providing a unique opportunity for millions of Americans, teaching them new things about their history, connecting the past to their present-day lives, and expanding their thinking. We invite you to learn more, to get involved, and, especially, to visit our wonderful institution.

Best wishes,

*Roger Hertog*      *Louise Mirrer*  
 Roger Hertog      Louise Mirrer  
 Chair of the Board      President and CEO

1941  
U.S. enters  
WWII

1954  
Brown v. Board of Education  
ruling by Supreme Court  
mandates school  
desegregation

1994  
Widespread use of  
Internet and World  
Wide Web transforms  
communications



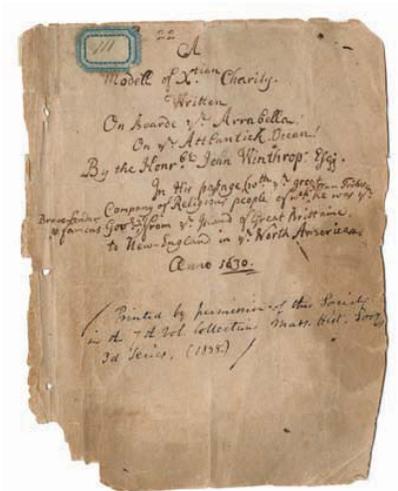
1945  
Enola Gay drops first  
atomic bomb, hastening  
the end of WWII

1969  
Apollo Moon landing,  
Neil Armstrong  
walks on moon



2001  
9/11: Terrorists  
attack World  
Trade Center and  
Pentagon

2004  
Bicentennial of  
New-York Historical Society



John Winthrop (1588-1649)  
 Contemporary Manuscript Copy of "A Modell of  
 Christian Charity written on board the Arrabella,  
 on the Atlantic Ocean," 1630



Thomas Cole (1801-1848)  
 The Course of Empire: Destruction, 1836  
 Oil on Canvas  
 Gift of the New York Gallery of Fine Arts, 1858.4

## Historic icons

Our Library's documents include:

- Maps drawn by George Washington's cartographers in the field, Robert Erskine and Simeon DeWitt (1778-1783);
- Napoleon's authorization for the Louisiana Purchase;
- U. S. Grant's handwritten terms of surrender to Robert E. Lee;
- Rufus King's notes on the Constitutional Convention which represent the only contemporary record of the activities on the Convention floor;
- 450 of Thomas Jefferson's letters;
- One of the nation's largest collections of Revolutionary Era newspapers; and
- Innumerable documents relating to slavery in the United States.

## Museum treasures

Our art and artifacts include:

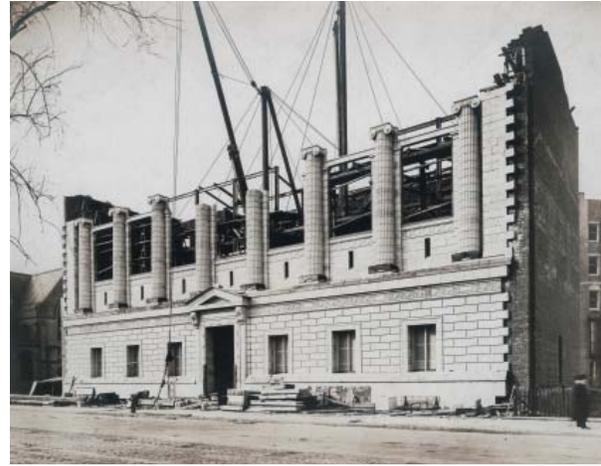
- The only confirmed portrait from life of Governor Peter Stuyvesant, Director General of New Netherland;
- Masterpieces of colonial portrait painting such as Charles Willson Peale's Family Group, 1773-1809, and Gilbert Stuart's and Rembrandt Peale's iconic portraits of George Washington;
- Thomas Cole's series of five historical masterpieces: *The Course of Empire*, 1833-6;
- Childe Hassam's Impressionist winter vision of New York City in 1918;
- John James Audubon's 435 watercolors for the seminal *Birds of America*;
- Eastman Johnson's landmark painting, *Negro Life at the South*, 1859; and
- Fascinating and powerful artifacts ranging from Washington's Valley Forge camp cot to architectural fragments from the World Trade Center salvaged after 9/11.

*Attracting People to History*

IN A TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY BUILDING



Unidentified artist  
[Laying the Cornerstone of the New-York Historical Society], 1905  
Gelatin silver print



Unidentified artist  
[Continued Construction of the New-York Historical Society], 1906  
Gelatin silver print

While the Historical Society was created 200 years ago and our building raised a century later for the benefit of a small cultural elite, our newly designed façades will strongly signal to the broad public that the New-York Historical Society now welcomes everyone.

Open, appealing spaces in our newly renovated building will draw people immediately into the

excitement of history and art. We'll combine top content with the best form as we present our extraordinary collections in a setting incorporating dramatic lighting, modern technology, and improved access for all.

The new spaces will increase access to our collections, add space for exhibitions, and expand our education facilities for teachers' workshops

Rendering of new Central Park West façade,  
Platt Byard Dovell White Architects LLP





Thomas Worthington Whittredge (1820–1910)  
*A Window, House on the Hudson River*, 1863  
Oil on canvas  
The Robert L. Stuart Collection  
S-71

and educational programs for students and teachers. We're incorporating numerous features that, together, will provide our more than 250,000 visitors a year with a dynamic and engaging experience.

A new, wider, three-door entry on Central Park West and an expansive first floor layout will open up our space so that visitors immediately get a sense of the treasures and excitement to be found throughout our five floors.

Upon entering the building, visitors will find themselves in the entry gallery, immediately viewing important items from our collections.

Visits will begin in an updated auditorium and theatre space featuring a vibrant state-of-the-art orientation film. Modern kiosks will offer touch-screen access to our galleries, exhibitions, and collections, providing the chance to design one's own tour, or to explore one area of American history in detail. A new first-floor café will offer quality snacks, lunches, and dinners in an artistic setting.

Galleries will be added and modified to present collections and exhibitions compellingly. We have one of the country's best art collections relating to American history, and to New York history, in particular, but the largest portion of the collections has rarely, if ever, been seen by the public.





Jean-Antoine Houdon (1741–1828)  
*Thomas Jefferson*, 1789  
Plaster  
Gift of Mrs. Laura Wolcott Gibbs  
1839.1

Our Library collections, extending from the 16th century to the present and numbering more than four million items, will be selectively displayed and fully available for serious study as well. And we're designing classroom spaces and a Children's Gallery devoted to children's exploration of history, along with a Children's History Library.

Finally, our entire facility will be upgraded to increase accessibility for large groups (usually student groups) and the disabled, and to ensure continued proper curatorial care of our Museum and Library treasures.

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY

THROUGH

*Art, Artifacts, and Documents*

*"The best history lessons are the ones that surprise by compelling a fresh look at what we take for granted."*

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS  
ON "SLAVERY IN NEW YORK"  
AT THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Education is at the heart of our mission. With 150,000 students participating in our programs today, a thousand-percent increase from four years ago, we're pushing toward our goal of making history a favorite subject, and giving students the knowledge and skills to be productive citizens.

Drawing on our fantastic collections relating to the founding of New Amsterdam, the Colonial Era, the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and the economic, social, cultural, political, as well as architectural evolution of New York City, our Museum educators set young minds on fire.



William Sidney Mount (1807-1868)  
*The Truant Gamblers (Undutiful Boys)*, 1835  
Oil on canvas  
Gift of the New York Gallery of Fine Arts  
1858.23



More than 150,000 schoolchildren participate in our education programs, learning about history through art, objects, and documents.

Students develop the ability to interpret works of art, historic artifacts, and documents to understand previous generations. And they awaken to the importance of history in their own lives and its value in planning for the future.

Our education programs include sessions at the Historical Society and in classrooms throughout the city. Our focus is on public schools, but we also

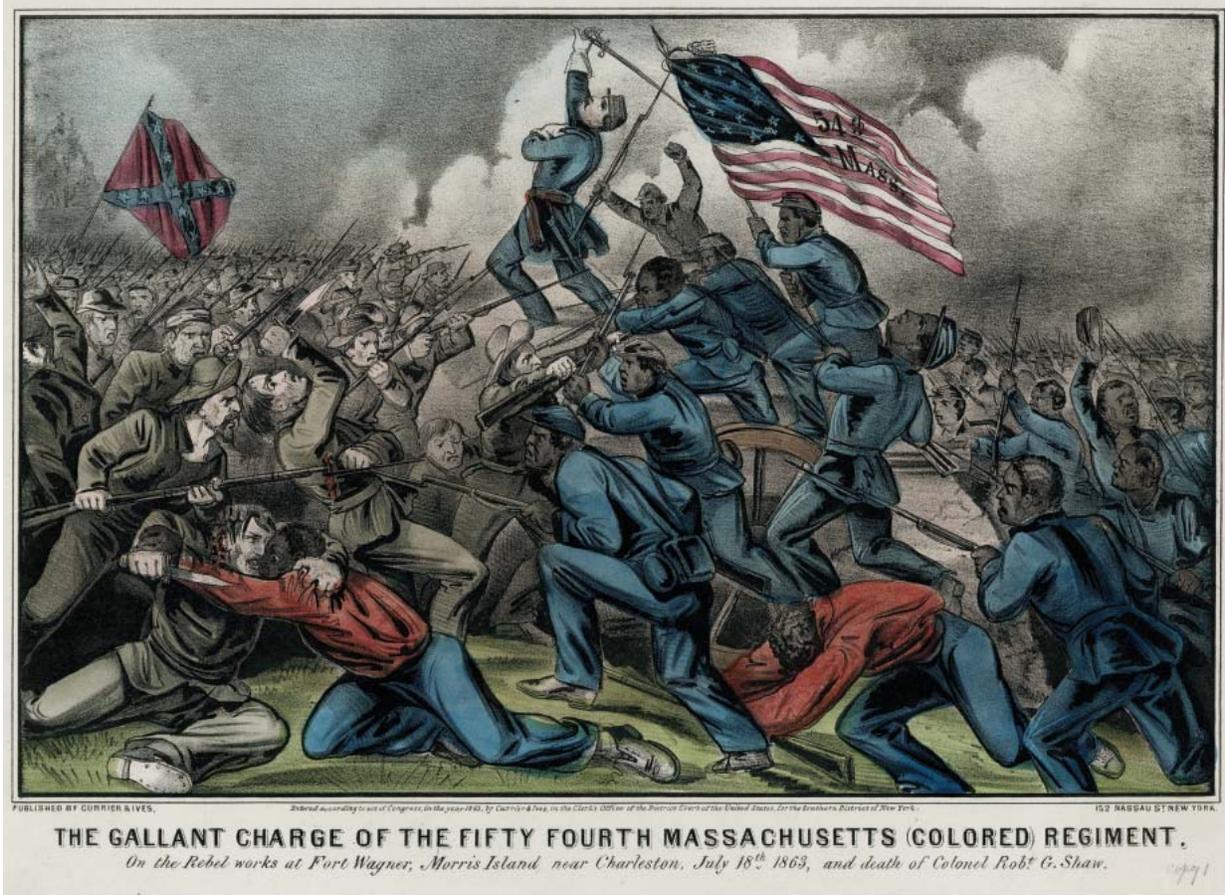
serve students and teachers at private, parochial and charter schools. Students learn to understand the early Dutch settlers of New Amsterdam by handling housekeeping and farming artifacts. George Washington comes alive when they see his military camp cot, his inaugural chair, and portraits for which he sat. Slavery is illuminated by the bill of sale for a child torn from his mother. While a teacher can talk at length about the philosophy of the Emancipation Proclamation, once students see the actual document, and walk out with their own copy in their hands, they are transported to another era and begin to feel and understand history acutely. They retain what they've learned, since it's not just their minds that have been influenced, but their hearts as well.

We'll leverage activities like these through more professional development courses and workshops for history teachers and the development and distribution of curricular materials in "History in a Box" formats.

For families, we are developing gallery guides and maps suitable for children as well as adults. Examining works of art and documents will help them to understand the influence of George Washington on the shaping of the Presidency, the bravery of slaves who joined Union forces in the Civil War, the vision of architects who



Unidentified Maker  
*Camp cot said to have been used by General George Washington at Valley Forge, ca. 1777-1785*  
Wood, canvas, iron  
Gift of Ernest Livingston McCrackan  
1871.8



Nathaniel Currier (1813-1888) & James Merritt Ives (1824-1895), Publishers  
*The Gallant Charge of the Fifty Fourth Massachusetts (Colored) Regiment* (detail), 1863  
 Hand-colored lithograph  
 Gift of Henry O. Havemeyer, 1947

built New York, the talent of women in designing the Tiffany lamps, the beauty of the natural world surrounding New York, and the political and economic impact of western expansion. Not only will students develop deeper insights into history, they will be inspired about the opportunities they have as Americans.

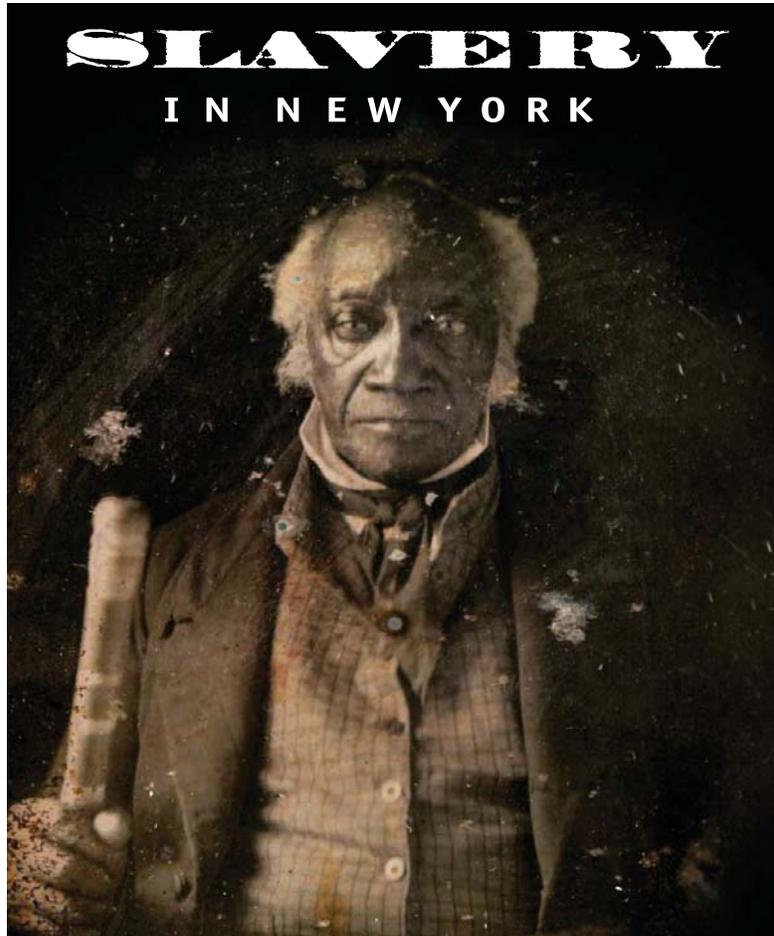
We'll continue to enhance our range of educational opportunities, including internships and a Saturday Academy for high school students who want to learn more about history, and weekend *Living History Days* designed for families to interact with reenactors and see plays, films, and other programs intended for viewers of all ages.

ENGAGING THE PUBLIC

IN

*American History*

Poster for  
*Slavery in New York*  
exhibition, 2005  
Unknown photographer,  
*Caesar, A Slave*, 1851  
Daguerreotype  
Gift of Duncan H. Sill



*"When the New-York Historical Society  
opened an extensive exploration of slavery in  
New York with an ambitious exhibition,  
it began to transform how  
New York remembers itself."*

THE NEW YORK TIMES

F. Bartoli  
*Portrait of the Seneca Chief,  
Ki-On-Twog-Ky* (1732/40–1836)  
(also known as *Cornplanter*),  
1736  
Oil on linen  
Gift of Thomas Jefferson Bryan  
1867.314



Our core audience includes New Yorkers, people who live throughout the New York metropolitan region, and visitors to New York. We'll continue to mount major new exhibitions every year like the upcoming shows *Grant and Lee*, *Lincoln in New York*, and *Nueva York*. Visitors will continue to enjoy lectures and debates by the country's top historians, scholars, and social commentators, documentary films relating to American history and the history of New York, and intellectually engaging events like the *Weekend with History*.

Our orientation film will recreate history and impart a sense of what it would have been like to participate in a given historical moment.

Visitors will encounter a different “Treasure from the Collection” each week as an “hors d’oeuvre” of what’s in store. One day we’ll display an annotated draft of the Constitution, and on another the oldest known map of Manhattan, dating from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

New interactive kiosks, maps, and audio guides will direct visitors and encourage exploration. Visitors will be able to search the collections and exhibitions by themes, historical figures, and periods and thus explore particular historical moments or periods in depth.



John James Audubon (1785–1851)  
*Great Egret (Casmerodius albus)*,  
ca. 1821  
Alternative study for  
Havell plate no. 386  
Watercolor on paper,  
laid on thin board  
Purchased for the Society  
by public subscription from  
Mrs. John J. Audubon  
1863.18.30

Our programs and exhibitions will blend works of art, artifacts, and documents, with scholarship-based text, and new media pieces that together will inform and influence a broad audience.

We're reaching people beyond those entering our doors through online virtual exhibitions, podcasts, and digital streaming. Items available for viewing and studying online will include masterpieces of portrait, genre, history and landscape painting; unique collections of Tiffany glass; silver, sculpture, watercolors, and drawings; and vast holdings of material culture from vehicles to household gadgets to firefighting gear.

As our collections are digitized, scholars, teachers, students, and members of the public will have

access to many unique items ranging from the original manuscript of John Jay's *Federalist Paper #64* to the 1630 sermon by John Winthrop referring to the new American settlement as a "Citty upon a Hill"; a letter written by Clara Harris, the young girl sitting in Lincoln's box during the assassination, describing the fatal attack; more than 21,000 pamphlets relating to slavery; historical maps; architectural and advertising collections; and many thousands of ephemera and images that document the social and cultural history of New York City.

Our new state-of-the-art website will create a central source of information and inspiration about American history.



*Promoting Scholarship*

THAT HIGHLIGHTS

AMERICAN HISTORY

**W**E, the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, ~~to~~ establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

William Livingston's annotated copy of the U.S. Constitution, noting passages that were deleted or added as he and his fellow convention attendees debated the document in the spring of 1787.

*"The New-York Historical Society has, under the presidency of Louise Mirrer, reinvigorated itself in ways that only a few years ago one could scarcely have imagined."*

NEW YORK SUN

We are planning a new Graduate Institute to promote scholarship on the U.S. Constitution. The Graduate Institute will highlight the importance of the Constitution, the issues surrounding its creation and its amendments, and its impact on all aspects of American life today. With fellowships, graduate courses, and seminars, we will encourage talented students, scholars, and faculty to delve more deeply into early American history and Constitutional studies.

The New-York Historical Society is an optimal site for such an institute, given our collection strengths, our location, our reputation for high standards, and our ability to provide a neutral ground to convene scholars from a wide variety of institutions. Our rich materials in both the Library and the Museum offer unparalleled opportunities for students, scholars, and authors, as James McPherson, David McCullough, Sean Wilentz, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Ron Chernow, and Simon Schama, among others, have attested time and again. As an independent research library and museum, we're



Kim Crowley  
Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton's 1804 Duel, 2004  
Bronze  
Commissioned for *Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America*, 2004  
at the New-York Historical Society.

in a strong position to conceptualize, organize, and host such activities in fields whose importance outweighs their presence today within many universities.

New fellowships are particularly important for promoting scholarship. Fellows will enjoy increased access to our collections, Library and Museum, as they spend two weeks, six months, or a year in intensive study capitalizing on all our unique resources. Their work here will result in new books and papers on American history, as well

as the development of new college courses about the Constitution and the Founding Era and its legacies.

We also will host informal gatherings of scholars and students who are interested in discussing and debating issues around the Constitution.

As we digitize our collections, historians, art historians, and other scholars and educators around the world will also be able to access our materials from a distance for teaching and research.



Clara Driscoll (1861–1944)  
Tiffany Studios (1902–1932)  
*Wisteria Lamp*, ca. 1901  
Glass, bronze  
Gift of Dr. Egon Neustadt  
N84.130

## *The Museum*

AT THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Dr. Linda S. Ferber is Executive Vice President of the New-York Historical Society and Director of the Museum. The collections are a treasure trove of materials relating to the founding of our country, the history of art in America, and the history of New York and its people. More than 60,000 objects and works of art may be viewed online at [eMuseum.nyhistory.org](http://eMuseum.nyhistory.org), and in the Luce Center, an innovative “visible storage” installation. Fine art holdings comprise 2,500 oil paintings, including renowned Hudson River School landscapes; masterpieces of Colonial, Federal, and 19th-century portraiture; 8,500 works on paper including John James Audubon’s 435 unique watercolors for *The Birds of America*; 221 outline

drawings of North American Indians by George Catlin; an encyclopedic collection of more than 800 works of sculpture in all mediums; and much more. Great achievements in the making of silver, ceramics, and furniture, along with one of the world’s largest and most important Tiffany lamp collections are among the stars of our decorative arts holdings. Artifacts and material culture relating to New York’s participation in local and global events – among them the slave trade, the American Revolution, and the 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center – chronicle the history of New York and the nation from New Amsterdam’s founding through the present.



The Peter Jay Sharp Reading Room at the Library of the New-York Historical Society

## *The Library*

### AT THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Dr. Jean Ashton is Executive Vice President of the New-York Historical Society and Director of the Library. One of the oldest independent research libraries in the United States, its collections are used annually by more than 10,000 scholars, students, and interested members of the public. Collection strengths include: local history of New York City and State; colonial history; the Revolutionary War; American military and naval history; religions and religious movements of the 18th and 19th centuries; the Anglo-American slave trade and conditions of slavery in the United States; the Civil War; American biography and genealogy; American art and art patronage; the development of American architecture; and 19th- and 20th-century portrait photography as well as

an unparalleled collection of documentary photographs of New York City. The collections include two million manuscripts, 500,000 photographs, 275,000 prints, more than 350,000 books and pamphlets, 200,000 architectural drawings, 20,000 broadsides, 10,000 printed maps and atlases, one million newspapers and 10,000 dining menus. These rich resources complement our art and artifact collections, and are accessible at [eMuseum.nyhistory.org](http://eMuseum.nyhistory.org) through a link to the Library's online catalog. Also accessible online is the exceptional Gilder Lehrman Collection, the largest private collection of important documents related to American history, which Trustees Richard Gilder and Lewis Lehrman have placed on deposit at the Historical Society.

# *President's Scholarly Advisors*

The following historians are advisors for the  
New-York Historical Society.

Akhil Reed Amar, Yale University

Joyce Appleby  
University of California, Los Angeles

David Armitage, Harvard University

James Basker, Barnard College,  
Columbia University and  
President, Gilder Lehrman Institute

Sven Beckert, Harvard University

Thomas Bender, New York University

Carol Berkin, Baruch College and  
CUNY Graduate Center

Ira Berlin, University of Maryland

Barbara Black, Columbia University

David Blight, Yale University

Alan Brinkley, Columbia University

Richard Brookhiser, Author and Journalist

Alexander Byrd, Rice University

Ron Chernow, Author

Eugene Dattel, Independent Scholar

John Davis, Smith College

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Howard Dodson, NYPL Schomburg Center for  
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James Grossman, Newberry Library

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Leslie Harris, Emory University

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Thomas Crawford (1813-1857)  
*The Indian: The Dying Chief Contemplating the Progress of Civilization*  
1856  
White marble  
Gift of Mr. Frederic De Peyster  
1875.4

For more information, please call 212-485-9266.  
The full text of the New-York Historical Society's Strategic Plan  
is accessible on our website at [www.nyhistory.org](http://www.nyhistory.org).

*History  
is a guide to navigation  
in perilous times.*

*History  
is who we are  
and why we are  
the way we are.*

DAVID MCCULLOUGH



HISTORY  
MATTERS

*New-York Historical Society*

170 CENTRAL PARK WEST

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10024

212.873.3400 [WWW.NYHISTORY.ORG](http://WWW.NYHISTORY.ORG)

*Chairman's Council*  
OF THE  
NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# *Chairman's Council*

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