



Fraunces Tavern® Museum

54 Pearl Street New York, NY 10004-2429 • Tel 212.425.1778 • Fax 212.509.3467 • www.FrauncesTavernMuseum.org

Evening Lectures - Winter 2009/2010

Beginning at 6:30pm*

Cost: \$8/ free for FTM members
Includes light refreshments.

Mr. Jefferson & The Giant Moose

*When History & Natural History Collide
Presented by Lee A Dugatkin†*

Thursday, December 3rd, 2009

During the Revolutionary War era, what started out as an international dispute over natural history quickly took on important political overtones and revolved around three fascinating individuals. One was the very well known Thomas Jefferson while the other two were peculiar characters indeed. The first was the French Count and world-renowned naturalist, George-Louis Leclerc Buffon, who claimed that all life in America was weak, feeble, and "degenerate." The second was a very large, dead moose. Jefferson had become obsessed over this moose which he believed could help quash the French arrogance towards a fledgling republic in America, proving that this young country was every bit the equal of a well-established Europe. Despite his passionate refutation, the theory of degeneracy far outlived Buffon and Jefferson and seemingly took on a life of its own. Continuing on for 100 years, it had scientific, economic and political implications while also working its way into notable writings such as those of Franklin, Thoreau, and Keats. Eventually the degeneracy argument died; but it certainly did not die an easy death.

**** In the Nichols Dining Room***

Located on the 2nd floor via the Fraunces Tavern® Restaurant elevator. Please note that attending a lecture does not include admission to the Museum at this time.

The Intimate Lives of the Founding Fathers

Presented by Thomas Fleming†

Thursday, January 21st, 2010

With his usual storytelling flair, Tom Fleming examines the women who were at the center of the lives of the founding fathers. In their youth, mothers powerfully shaped their visions of domestic life while lovers and wives played critical roles as friends and partners in fame throughout adulthood. From Washington's early tortured love for the coquettish Sarah Fairfax, Hamilton's adulterous betrayal of his wife and their reconciliation, and Jefferson's loss of wife and daughter from labor complications, we learn that the founding fathers strove to reconcile their private and public lives while often being harassed by a media every bit as inflammatory as ours of today.

Fatal Journey

The Final Expedition of Henry Hudson

Presented by Peter Mancall†

Wednesday*, February 10th, 2010

** Please Note Different Day*

After a year of celebrating the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's European discovery of New York, 2010 finds us remembering another one of his journeys - his final voyage. In April of 1610, Hudson set sail on the *Discovery* with a crew of 22 (including his teenaged son) on his 4th expedition in search of a shorter route to the Far East. Rather than return to England as winter approached, Hudson set anchor in the bay named for him and the *Discovery* became stuck in ice for seven months. With their provisions dwindling, the crew finally mutinied in the spring, forcing Hudson, his son, and seven other sailors in a skiff to float in the bay, and headed home to England. This story of adventure, desperation, and tragedy reveals that the resolute will which served Hudson so well in exploration also led to his demise.

Invisible Ink

Spycraft of the American Revolution

Presented by John Nagy†

Thursday, March 25th, 2010

During the American Revolution, espionage was critical to both the successes and failures of Continental and British efforts. While the most notorious episode of spying during the war (the Benedict Arnold affair) was a failure, most intelligence operations succeeded. With meticulous research, John Nagy traces the history of spy techniques from ancient China through Elizabethan England before embarking on the various techniques used during the American War for Independence. Such methods included dictionary codes, diplomatic ciphers, hidden compartments (including a hollowed-out bullet or a woman's garter), and even musical notation. Taking a close look at spy rings such as the Culper ring that provided Washington with information from inside British-controlled New York City, we learn that those employed in cloak-and-dagger operations always risked death. After nearly two decades of primary research, Nagy reveals puzzling methods, codes, and ciphers that have remained a mystery until now.

†Books will be available for purchase-discounts apply for Museum members

Fraunces Tavern Museum is located at 54 Pearl Street, at the corner of Broad Street, in Lower Manhattan. Subway: R/W to Whitehall St., 4/5 to Bowling Green, 2/3 to Wall Street, 1 to South Ferry, J/M/Z to Broad Street. Buses: M1, M6, M15.