

## IT HAPPENED HERE COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

cultureNOW

Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society

Center for Architecture

Chinatown Partnership

Chinatown Business Improvement District

Eldridge Street Museum

Financial District Neighborhood Association

National Parks of New York Harbor Conservancy

National Park Service

*African Burial Ground National Monument*

*Castle Clinton National Monument*

*Ellis Island National Immigration Museum*

*Federal Hall National Memorial*

*Governor's Island National Monument*

*Saint Paul's National Historical Site*

*Statue of Liberty National Monument*

New York City Department of Records & Information Services

New York Historical Society

Manhattan Community Board 1

Museum of American Finance

Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

NYC & Company

Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian

Skyscraper Museum

Sons of the Revolution<sup>SM</sup> in the State of New York, Inc. and its Fraunces Tavern<sup>®</sup> Museum

South Street Seaport Museum

The Battery Conservancy

Trinity Wall Street

## ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL & PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS

Veteran Corps of Artillery State of New York

Sons of the Revolution<sup>SM</sup> in the State of New York, Inc. and its Color Guard

1<sup>st</sup> New York Continental & Battle of Brooklyn Chapters of Sons of the American Revolution

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

*Brooklyn Chapter*

*COL Benjamin Tallmadge Chapter*

*Fort Greene Chapter*

*Manhattan Chapter*

*Mary Washington Colonial Chapter*

*New York City Chapter*

*Peter Minuit Chapter*

*Richmond County Chapter*

Colonial Dames of America

Institute for History Archeology and Education

The American Legion Lt. B. R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291

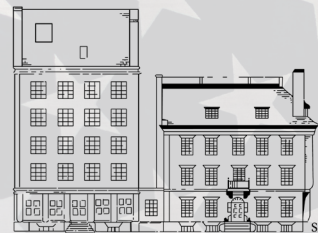
General Society of the Sons of the Revolution<sup>®</sup>

Bowling Green Association

*The 247<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of America*

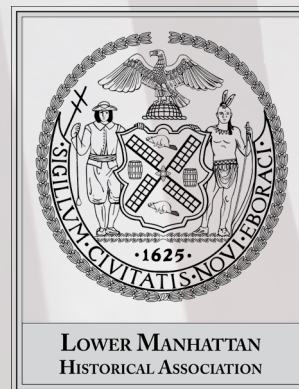
# IT HAPPENED HERE

ESTABLISHED 1907



FRAUNCES TAVERN<sup>®</sup> MUSEUM

2:00 PM July 4, 2023



**cultureNOW**  
museum without walls



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 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 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 train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces 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 has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former system of Government. 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.

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature, a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large (for their exercise) the state remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and corruptions within.

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.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of, and superior to, the civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation.

For quartering large bodies of troops among us;

For proceeding them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these States;

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world;

For imposing taxes on us without our consent;

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of trial by jury;

For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences;

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies;

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our Governments;

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his protection, and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is, at this time, transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow citizens taken captive on the high seas to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction, of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress, in the most humble terms: Our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity; we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war; in peace, friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the redress of our grievances, do, in the name and by the authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connections between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other acts and things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honours.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals, this fourth day of July, 1776.

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

NEW-YORK: PRINTED BY JOHN HOLT, IN WATER-STREET.

# PROGRAM

2:00 pm **Fraunces Tavern: Its Revolutionary Story**

Scott Dwyer

*Executive Director, Sons of the Revolution<sup>SM</sup> in the State of New York and its Fraunces Tavern<sup>®</sup> Museum*

2:15 pm **The Birch Trials**

Peter C. Hein

*President, Sons of the Revolution<sup>SM</sup> in the State of New York, Inc.*

2:30 pm **New York City Revolutionary Trail**

Ted Knudsen

*The Gotham Center for New York City History*

2:45 pm **George Washington's Disastrous First Command that Started a World War**

Dwight Jon Zimmerman

*Author, First Command: Paths to Leadership*

3:00 pm **Alexander Hamilton**

Nicole Scholet

*President, Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society*

3:15 pm **Our Revolutionary Forebears**

Melinda H. Allison

*Vice Regent, Fort Greene Chapter, New York State Daughters of the American Revolution*

Moderator: Ambrose M. Richardson

*President, Lower Manhattan Historical Association*

3:30 pm **It Happened Here**

Abby Suckle

*President, cultureNOW*

3:45 pm **The Declaration of Independence**

Scott Dwyer

*Executive Director, Sons of the Revolution<sup>SM</sup> in the State of New York and its Fraunces Tavern<sup>®</sup> Museum*

*Left: On loan in the Davis Educational Center and Loeb Gallery at Fraunces Tavern<sup>®</sup> Museum through July 10th, is a very rare printing of the Declaration of Independence in The New-York Journal or The General Advertiser, printed by John Holt on Water Street on July 11, 1776 as well as an official facsimile of the Declaration of Independence, made from a copperplate engraving printed by William J. Stone, circa 1833.*

# INTRODUCTION

It is a truism that Lower Manhattan has been America's town square since its founding in 1524, even though its history is much deeper. Virtually every aspect of global, local and national significance can be in some manner traced to this Downtown stage. Some have been forgotten and some have been transformative in our culture and many have fallen between. This is both a project in urban archeology and a way of describing the city over time. It Happened Here captures the multiple and overlapping stories that are woven throughout our city's life. It embraces America's history as the museums, monuments and memorials that dot its streetscape do. It highlights many of the concerns, events and places that the people who lived, fought, worked and visited here thought were important at their moment in time.

It takes another look at the issues that they were preoccupied with and how they solved them: their politics, religion, social protest, health and safety, commerce, disasters and defense, scandals and crime, education, publications, art and culture, parades and celebrations, architecture and engineering. It encapsulates the events that shaped the physical and cultural landscape within the changing geography at the water's edge. And it raises questions that need to be considered as we plan a more resilient city in our future.

It Happened Here seeks to excavate its many historical layers: from its inception as the precolonial Lenapehoking territory (once inhabited by the Munsee Lenape and Wappinger tribes), to the creation of New Amsterdam by the Dutch, to the establishment of the first free African settlement in North America, to the establishment of British control, to the gateway for immigration, to being the site of the American Revolution, to its present-day significance as the nation's cultural and financial nerve-center.

To kick off the United States' upcoming 250th birthday It Happened Here will be a weekend on July 4, 2025 which will compress our 400 years into 4 days with each day being devoted to a century. The program will feature multiple types of activations, including tours, panels, and special events that will take place in many of the sites downtown where highlighted historical events occurred supplemented with our digital museum without walls app.

July 4th 2023 is the first of the many prequels where we will share some of the significant events in a series of special programs in the places where they took place.

## With Thanks to

**Howard Hughes Corporation**

**Humanities New York**

**Alliance for Downtown New York**

*This program was funded in part by Humanities New York with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.*

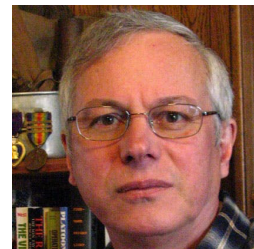


**Scott Dwyer** manages the staff and operations of Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York (SRNY) and its Fraunces Tavern Museum. Scott has over 18 years of experience in the asset management industry and not-for-profit sector. Prior to joining the Museum in 2020, he was a relationship manager with Cohen & Steers and a product marketing associate and RFP writer with J.P. Morgan Asset Management. Scott also held leadership positions with 501(c)(3) organizations including the NYU Alumni Association, 6th & B Community Garden, and The Present Theatre Company, producer of FringeNYC. He has a BS in Business Administration from NYU Stern.

His passion for history and historic preservation was instilled at an early age growing up in 19th century houses in Pennsylvania and Connecticut and as a junior docent at the Square House Museum in Rye, New York. Scott lives in Manhattan's East Village, a block from St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery, New York's oldest site of continuous religious practice where you can find a stained glass window dedicated to the memory of SRNY founding member Frederick S. Tallmadge.



**Peter Hein** is the President of Sons of the Revolution<sup>SM</sup> in the State of New York, Inc., owner and operator of Fraunces Tavern<sup>®</sup> Museum. Mr. Hein worked closely with SRNY Museum & Art Committee Co-Chairmen Ambrose Richardson and Craig Weaver, and Scott Dwyer, Executive Director of SRNY and its Fraunces Tavern<sup>®</sup> Museum, in the research for and development of the Museum's latest permanent exhibition, "The Birch Trials at Fraunces Tavern<sup>®</sup>." Mr. Hein is also the Secretary and a member of the Board of the Lower Manhattan Historical Association, among other affiliations. Mr. Hein grew up in Wisconsin, but has resided in Manhattan for over 50 years. He received his J.D. degree from Columbia University School of Law and a B.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



**Dwight Jon Zimmerman** is an award-winning #1 New York Times bestselling author. In a career spanning more than forty-six years in the publishing industry he has written everything from comic books (for Marvel Comics, DC Comics, and Topps Comics) to hundreds of military history articles and almost two dozen books. Zimmerman wrote the #1 New York Times bestselling *Lincoln's Last Days*, the young adult adaptation of *Killing Lincoln* written by Bill O'Reilly. His book *First Command*, about the first commands of famous generals, was an award-winning documentary aired on the Military Channel. He co-authored *Uncommon Valor The Medal of Honor* and the *Warriors Who Earned it in Afghanistan and Iraq* which won the Military Writer Society's Founder's Award, the organization's highest honor, and was the first book to contain the complete history of the Medal of Honor. A former president of the Military Writers Society of America, he lives in Brooklyn, NY.



**Nicole Scholet** is the President of the Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society and has an educational background in Political Science and Economics. In addition to her work with the AHA Society since 2011, Nicole has worked for other history-focused entities, including the Historical Society of Newburgh Bay and the Highlands and Herzog and Co., and serves as the Executive Director of The Colonial Dames of America. Nicole also researches and speaks on the life of Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton



**Ambrose M. Richardson III** was born in Chicago, grew up in Illinois, and graduated from Harvard College and Law School. He finished reading all 166 Landmark Books before the age of 12, and later learned that some of his ancestors took part in the events he read about it. He is a past president of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, past president of the Waterside Tenants Association, currently president of the Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York and General Secretary of the General Society of the Sons of the Revolution, and a former Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 7 in Champaign, IL. He began practicing law in 1969 next door to the NYSE, and currently practices law on Wall St. in the areas of business, property, and estates, and related litigation.

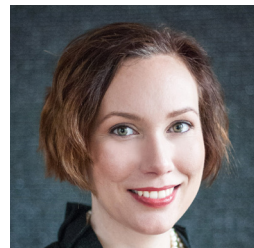


**Abby Suckle** is President of cultureNOW which is dedicated to arts education and cultural tourism. Its Lower Manhattan Then and NOW Map was completed in 2016. She is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and has an architectural practice in New York. Her most recent book is Cocktails & Conversations: Dialogues on Architectural Design, published in 2018. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and her Masters in Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design.



**Seth Kaller** is a leading agent, dealer, and collection builder specializing in important American historic documents. Within a year of entering the field in 1988, Seth started acquiring documents for Lewis Lehrman and Richard Gilder, forming the basis of the Gilder Lehrman Collection on deposit at the New-York Historical Society, now recognized as one of the most important American history collections ever privately assembled. Seth's other clients include the National Constitution Center, multiple Smithsonian Museums, the Library of Congress, other museums, libraries and private collectors.

Treasures Seth has acquired for clients include John Hancock's letters announcing independence and the majority of rare copies of the Declaration of Independence that have appeared on the market in the last half-century, a Benjamin Franklin signed copy and working drafts of the U.S. Constitution, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson letters on religion, the press, and government, Abraham Lincoln signed copies of the Emancipation Proclamation and 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Robert E. Lee's farewell to his troops, Albert Einstein's first scientific paper, Clement C. Moore's autograph manuscript of *The Night Before Christmas*, and key documents on women's suffrage and civil rights, plus historic maps, prints, photographs, sculpture and paintings.



**Melinda H. Allison's** interest in American genealogy began as a child when her grandmother showed her newspaper obituary clippings from early Missouri settler ancestors. After years of researching her family tree, she used her findings to join the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in 2020 and the National Society of Colonial Dames in New York (NSCDNY) in 2022. So far, she has identified 44 Revolutionary War patriot ancestors, including 29 who served in the Militia or Continental Line.

Her genealogical training includes all DAR Genealogy Education Program courses, the Midwest African American Genealogy Institute (MAAGI) Methods and Strategies three-day course, and two days of African American lineage research training at the Sons and Daughters of the United States Middle Passage (SDUSMP) Annual Conferences in 2021 and 2023. Originally from the Washington, DC area, she has worked as a bid/proposal manager in the federal defense contracting industry for the past 15 years. She received an MBA with a concentration in Marketing from the University of Scranton and a BS in Economics from George Mason University.



**Ted Knudsen** is the Co-Founder of the NYC Revolutionary Trail at the Gotham Center for New York City History. After a 15-year career on Wall Street, Ted is completing his PHD in American History at the CUNY Graduate Center, teaching undergrads at Queens College and working with the Gotham Center. Ted is passionate about New York's history and sharing it with the general public.



Join us this afternoon at Federal Hall National Memorial via Zoom:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87271584117?pwd=WTBhdDIld1dMSU1iemxsMlZwU1dqUT09>  
 Passcode: 1776

For more information check out the:

cultureNOW  
Website



cultureNOW  
Android App



cultureNOW  
iOS App



LMHA  
website



IT HAPPENED HERE

July 4th 2023