



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF NEW YORK

Citation

Whereas, As the first capital of the United States, New York City has always boasted a robust spirit of patriotism and national pride. We are incredibly proud of our city's stately history and the pivotal role the five boroughs have played in the formation and foundation of our shared identity as Americans. Since 1907, the Fraunces Tavern Museum has been key in fostering a greater appreciation for and understanding of our nation's early history, and I am proud to applaud its extraordinary efforts to share its valuable resources and knowledge with all New Yorkers. In that spirit, today, it gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to the opening of The Birch Trials, the new permanent exhibition at the Fraunces Tavern Museum.

Whereas, The Birch Trials exhibition will present New Yorkers with the unique opportunity to learn more about the evacuation of Black Loyalists from New York City at the end of the Revolutionary War, the culminating event in one of the largest emancipations of Black people prior to the American Civil War. In 1783, toward the end of the Revolutionary War, a joint British and American commission met at Fraunces Tavern to review the eligibility of Black Loyalists to evacuate with the British Army, with testimony and documentary evidence provided for the commission's review. These proceedings were part of a process that saw the evacuation of more than 3,000 Black Loyalists, and are now referred to as the "Birch Trials," named after their overseer, British Brigadier General Samuel Birch, commander of the 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons and Commandant of New York.

Whereas, For more than a century, the Fraunces Tavern Museum has worked to preserve and interpret the rich history of the American revolutionary era through public education, lectures, and a wide array of collections and public events. I applaud the museum and the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York (SRNY) for all they do to celebrate the story of our country and those who helped build it. I look forward to the many ways that the great works of this time-honored institution will continue to help build a better, brighter city for all.

Now therefore, I, Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York, on Monday, June 26th, 2023, do hereby confer this citation on:

The Fraunces Tavern Museum

Eric Adams

Eric Adams
Mayor

