

The Patriot



Latest News from the [Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York](#)

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History Detectives host Wes Cowan and Thaw Conservation Center Director Margaret Holben-Ellis examine Fraunces Tavern Museum's George Washington miniature at the Morgan Library in New York. The miniature was featured on the PBS show which aired nationally last week.

Photo by James Reeves

Museum Discovery Makes National Debut

We were proud to have Fraunces Tavern Museum featured on the PBS program *History Detectives* on Monday, August 24, 2009. A 1790 George Washington miniature was identified as a potentially priceless piece by researchers from the Garst Museum in Greenville, Ohio earlier this year. Dave Cox, one of the researchers who was featured on the PBS show, discovered the miniature in our collection of Henry Burbeck papers. The painting is indeed valuable as it is the only known colored etching of the famous Joseph Wright image of

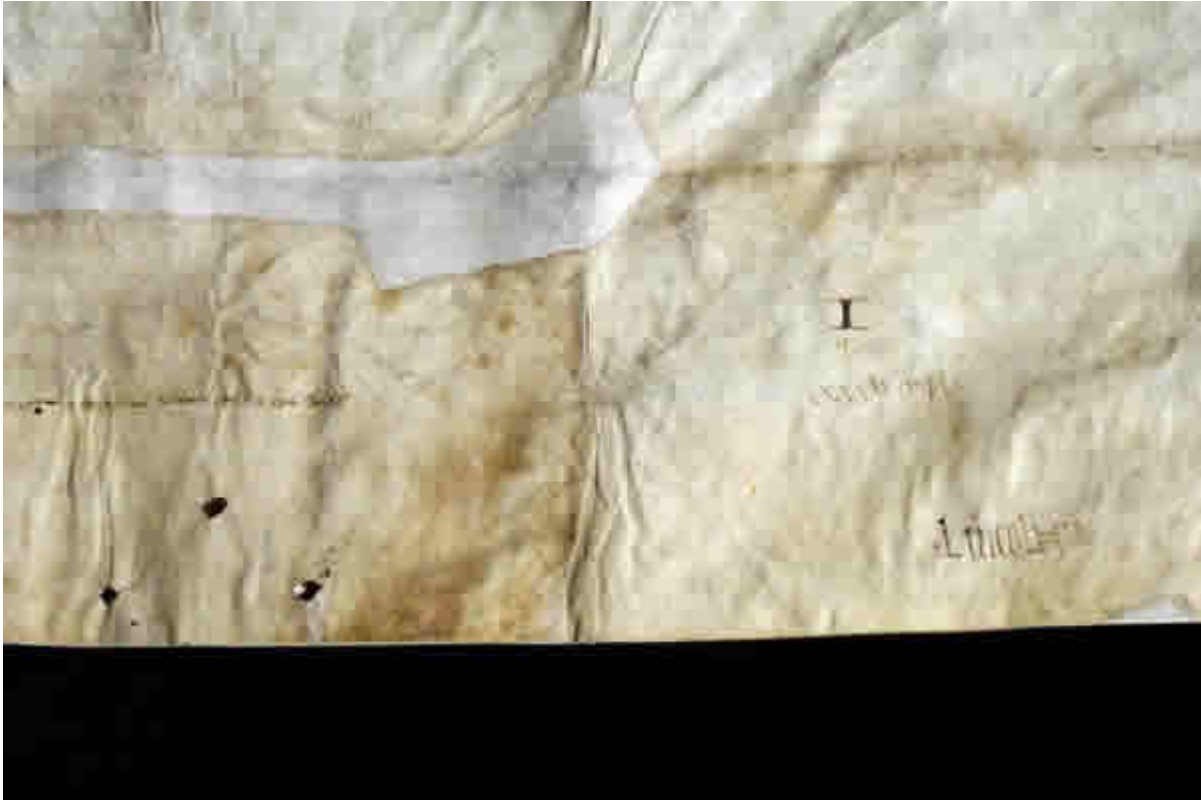
Washington. The story behind its original owner, who signed the back of the portrait, is an important piece of American history itself.

The reverse side of the small portrait, which reads "Property of White Matlack, 1790," sparked an investigation by the program to find out who Matlack was. As it turns out, he was a member of the Manumission Society, an early abolitionist group in America whose members included other influential New Yorkers such as John Jay. In 1787, Matlack started a school for emancipated slaves in New York City, and it is very possible that one of his students made this etching. Notable graduates from the New York African Free School were prominent abolitionists Alexander Crummell and Henry Highland Garnet and actor Ira Aldridge.

In case you missed the episode which aired last week, we hope you will watch this incredible story online. You can follow the link below (our segment starts at Chapter 4 on the video). Keep an eye out for Fraunces Tavern Museum's curator, Suzanne Prabucki, who was interviewed for the show. We're glad to own such an important link to history in our collection, and we'll be displaying the portrait in the Museum's McEntee Gallery later this month for all to see.

[Click here to watch this episode of History Detectives at PBS.org.](#)

September 15 Is Almost Here! New, Rare Artifacts Scheduled to Appear!



A small portion of the 1215 Magna Carta shows the spot where King John affixed his seal.
Photo Courtesy of Lincoln Cathedral

September is finally here which means that our exhibition *Magna Carta and the Foundations of Freedom* opens on the 15th. Please don't forget to buy your tickets ahead of time online at www.TicketWeb.com. You can type in "Fraunces Tavern Museum" or "Magna Carta" in the search box and the available dates and times for tickets will pop up. If you would like to buy tickets for a larger group tour, please note that 30 guests will be admitted every half hour.

We're happy to announce that early American artifacts will be on loan from Kaller's America Gallery, Inc. such as a soldier's diary from Bunker Hill, a first printing of the Bill of Rights and a letter signed by John Hancock regarding no taxation without representation. Also on display will be an early printing of Emma Lazarus' poem, *The Great Colossus*, loaned from the American Jewish Historical Society. A very rare, anastatic version (read: early "Xerox" process) of the Declaration of Independence, on loan from Heritage Collectors' Society, Inc. is scheduled to appear. Only two anastatic version's of the Declaration are known to exist, the other belonging to Independence Hall National Park in Philadelphia, PA. It is currently under debate by archivist experts whether this process is what made the original Declaration, on display in Washington, DC, so faded, and not the 1776 Dunlap or 19th Century Stone versions.

Looking to schedule an after-hours private viewing or evening event for your business or special group? Please contact Visitor Services at 212-425-1776, ext. 18 or SpecialAssistant@sonsoftherevolution.org. Dinner and/or a cocktail hour can be arranged to coincide with the event.

1975 FALN Bombing Victims Remembered by SRNY

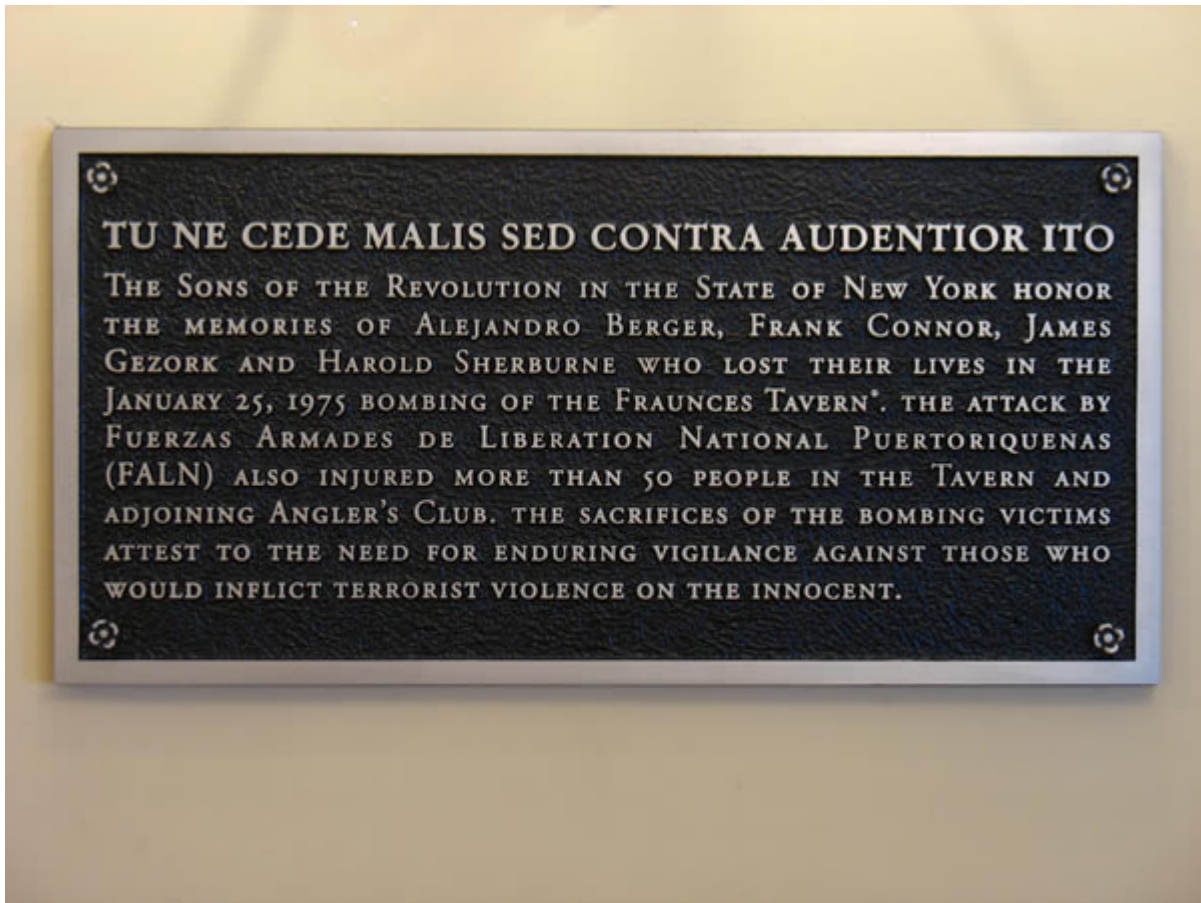


Photo by Dominic Quintana

Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York are grateful to Amb. Philip Hughes for sponsoring the placement of a plaque at Fraunces Tavern remembering the victims of the 1975 FALN Bombing. Four people lost their lives and more than 50 were injured at Fraunces Tavern on January 25, 1975 when FALN, a radical political group, detonated the bomb during the busy lunchtime hour. The plaque is now located in the Bissell Room at the restaurant and stands as a memorial for those who died or were injured.

September Lecture: New Book Talk with Ray Raphael

NOTE: The September lecture will take place in the Nichols Dining Room located on the 2nd floor via the elevator in Fraunces Tavern Restaurant. Because of security regulations after 6pm, admission to the lecture does not include admission to the Museum or Magna Carta exhibit.

Taking Power

How the Founders, All of Them, Redefined the Polity Presented by Ray Raphael †

Thursday, September 24th at 6:30PM

“Taxation without representation!” It is a familiar phrase that is certainly part of the story for

American independence, but scarcely all of it. The American Revolution addressed the simultaneous issues of home rule and who should rule at home. Tens of thousands of patriots engaged forcefully to further their own agendas, each feeding into the collective resistance. George Washington wanted to develop the West. Robert Morris (“THE Financier”) favored unrestricted trade. Mercy Otis Warren promoted pure republican virtue. Timothy Bigelow, a village blacksmith-turned-soldier, fought to preserve local democracy. Dr. Thomas Young, a community organizer, sought to extend the franchise. These people’s stories both compliment and compete with each other. In the end, the Revolutionary generation accomplished two things: national independence and creating a polity in which diverse interests can compete freely in the public arena – thereby empowering those who participate in the process.

Join us as best-selling author of *A People's History of the American Revolution*, Ray Raphael, discusses his new book, *Taking Power*. Mr. Raphael is the author of several books focusing on the American Revolution and was featured on the History Channel's 2006 documentary series *The Revolution*.

Tickets are \$8 (members are free) and can be purchased at the door only. We recommend arriving 15 minutes early to guarantee a seat. Light refreshments will be available.

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

The SRNY Patriot

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