



INSIDE THE VAULT

Destruction of the King George Statue, 1776
with Dr. Benjamin Carp

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024



How to Participate



- If you would like to ask a question, you can use the Q&A feature.
- We will be answering audience questions throughout the session.
- The views expressed here are those of the historian.

For Security and Privacy

- Your microphone is automatically muted.
- Your camera is automatically turned off.

Today's Documents



My Dear Son
New York July 27th 1776.

Your Dear Mamma wrote me last Week, that you intended to write me last Saturday; I have been in constant Expectation of receiving it ever since but have not, but hope the Post will bring it to me this Evening; I am not very well but I have wrote your Mamma very particularly about it, the Next Morning after I got into Town, I went towards the Fort and there I saw his Majesty and his Horse, tumbled Headlong down on the Ground, and since that they are both run up into Balls, for they were both made of Lead as you was told they were, you would be surpris'd if you was here to see what a Mighty Fleet of Ships our Enemies have got; they lie down against Staten Island, more than a Mile in Length from East to West, and so thick & close together for the greatest Part of the Way, that you can't see through where they are more than if it was a thick Swamp; and the Regulars expect us many more soon and then we expect bloody Work of it; they all lie very quiet now and have done so ever since these Ships went up the River, and they are not yet got back nor have I heard any thing about them for some Days; I hope you and your Brother Wily will do every thing to make your Dear Mamma's Business light for it will be heavy, do the best you can; fear God my Dear and shed his holy Word & pray to him & he will hear & bless you I am with my Love to you your loving & affectionate Father
Gold Selleck Silliman

Philadelphia 16th July 1776
My Dear Sir

Your favor of 1st inst^o came duly to hand there can be no objection to your contracting for Gun when ever they are to be had, I find by the backwardness of the families here that they must be got somewhere else, Gov^r Hopkins has wrote agreeable to what I wrote last post, however I think it wd not be amiss for you to contract, if they won't spare you those already made, which they will if they consider the good of the service as they may make more by the time their ships are ready for them — You may depend the officers will be appointed agreeable to your recommendation, their Commissions not being sent need be no hindrance to you in engaging Batt^y Officers and men. Perision I wrote you about last post, I agree with you that these matters have not been properly attended too, but I by no means take any part of the Charge of neglect to myself for no poor Devils ever beg'd for Alms with more earnestness than I have to get these matters settled & am still determin'd if possible to have every thing compleat before I leave this — Two of the ships were launch'd here last week viz. the Randolph & Delaware, but when they will get to sea is uncertain as they have no anchors yet — Independence was proclaimed in the Army at New York last Monday, when the Lead en thing in ^{the} Bowling green was dismounted & is by this time cast into Balls for the destruction of this Tool of Tyranny may every one of them be properly ^{used}

Francois X. Habermann, *La Destruction de la Statue Royale a Nouvelle Yorck*, Augsburg, Germany, 1776. (Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC06952)

Gold Selleck Silliman to his son, July 27, 1776. (Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC07480.01)

William Whipple to John Langdon, July 16, 1776. (Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC03186)

Dr. Benjamin Carp



Benjamin L. Carp is the Daniel M. Lyons Chair in American History at Brooklyn College. He focuses on urban politics, society, and culture in eighteenth-century America. He has taught courses on American military history to 1900, colonial American history, Revolutionary American history, women in early America, and fear and violence in early America. He recently released his latest book, *The Great New York Fire of 1776: A Lost Story of the American Revolution* (Yale University Press, 2023). He is also the author of *Rebels Rising: Cities and the American Revolution* (Oxford University Press, 2007) and *Defiance of the Patriots: The Boston Tea Party and the Making of America* (Yale University Press, 2010), which won the Society of the Cincinnati Cox Book Prize in 2013. With Richard D. Brown, he co-edited *Major Problems in the Era of the American Revolution, 1760-1791: Documents and Essays*, 3rd ed. (Cengage, 2014). He has written articles for *Colonial Williamsburg*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Washington Post*. Prior to joining Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center, he taught at the University of Edinburgh and Tufts University.

William Faden, *A Plan of New York Island with Part of Long Island...* [first issue], London, England, 1776. (Library of Congress)





John Kirk, *Bronze medal of George III, British Isles*, 1760. (British Museum)

Joseph Wilton, *William Pitt, the Elder,
First Earl of Chatham (1708-1778)*, circa
1770. (New-York Historical Society)





H. Finkelstein & Son, *Bowling Green, New York City*, American Art Publishing Co., 1916. (New York Public Library)



Arturo Di Modica, *Charging Bull*, New York, NY, 1989.
(Photograph by Andrew Henkelman, 2020)

William Faden, *A Plan of New York Island with Part of Long Island... [first issue]*, London, England, 1776. (Library of Congress)





I swear its plaguy Gold Jonathan; I dont think They'll Attack us, Now You.

I dont feel bold to say I fear they'll Shoot Again

How, Borgeine & Clinton let us keep a good spirit on if they come here I fear they'll warm us

Their Eyes have no Excise

Gen. is still a Labourer in Vain This Old Olivers Cause is no monarchy nor Laws I fear Our

The spirit moves us in Sun-dry places &c. I fear the Lord is not With us yet

Behold the Yankees in there Ditch's
Whose Conscience gives such griping twitch's
They'r ready to Be S-t their Brech's, Yankee Doodle
Next see the Hypocritic parson
Who'thay all wish to turn on H-s on
Altho' the Devil keeps the farce on. Yankee &c

The
Yankee Doodle's
Intrenchments
Near Boston 1776
Publish'd as the Act
Directs

See Putnam that Commands in. Chief Sir
Who looks & Labours like a thief sir
To get them daily Bread & Beef sir. Yankee &c
Their Congress now is quite disjoint'd
Since Gibbit's for them appointed
For fighting gainst y' Lords Anointed. Yankee Doodle

The Yankee Doodles Intrenchments near Boston 1776, 1776. (British Museum)

William Faden, *A Plan of New York Island with Part of Long Island...[first issue]*, London, England, 1776.
(Library of Congress)





James Earle Fraser, *Equestrian Statue of Theodore Roosevelt*, New York, NY, 1939. (Photograph by Edward Blake, 2015)

Johannes Adam Simon Oertel, *Pulling
Down the Statue of King George III*,
1852–53. (New-York Historical Society)



*La Destruction de
la Statue Royale a
Nouvelle Yorck*



Francois X. Habermann, *La Destruction
de la Statue Royale a Nouvelle Yorck*,
Augsburg, Germany, 1776.
(Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC06952)

LA DESTRUCTION DE LA STATUE ROYALE A NOUVELLE YORCK

*Pulling Down the
Statue of George
III by the "Sons of
Freedom," at the
Bowling Green,
City of New York,
July 1776*

John C McRae, *Pulling Down the
Statue of George III by the "Sons of
Freedom," at the Bowling Green,
City of New York, 1859.*
(New York Public Library)



PULLING DOWN THE STATUE OF GEORGE III
BY THE SONS OF FREEDOM

William Whipple to John Langdon

“Independence was proclaim’d in the army at New-York last Wendsday, when the Leaden King in the Bowling Green was dismounted & is by this time cast into Bullets for the destruction of this Tools of Tyranny may every one of them be properly commission’d”

William Whipple to John Langdon, July 16, 1776.
(Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC03186)

Phila^a 16th July 1776

My Dear Sir

Your favor of 1st inst came duly to hand there can be no objection to your contracting for Gun where ever they are to be had, I find by the backwardness of the furnies here that they must be got somewhere else, Gov^r Hopkins has wrote agreeable to what I wrote last post, however I think it wd not be amiss for you to contract, if they won't spare you those already made, which they will if they consider the good of the service as they may make more by the time their ships are ready for them —

You may depend the officers will be appointed agreeable to your recommendation, their commissions not being sent need be no hindrance to you in engaging Petty Officers and men. Provision I wrote you about last post, I agree with you that these matters have not been properly attended too, but I by no means take any part of the charge of neglect to myself for no poor Devils ever begin for Alms with more earnestness than I have to get these matters settled & am still determin'd if possible to have every thing compleat before I leave this. — Two of the ships were launch here last week, viz. the Randolph, & Delaware, but when they will get to sea is uncertain as they have no anchors yet —

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William Whipple

we are daily in expectation of some great Military operations at New-York the Militia are all marching from this Colony. The Associates all mostly gone from this City. Col. Dickinson (advised) &c at the head of these Regiments, no doubt in a very few days 20,000 ^{if not more} men will be embodied at New-Jersey beside the Army at York, this Declaration has had a glorious effect has since then Colonies all alike, all the Colonies forming Governments as you'll see by the papers —

I Expect there will be some interruptions in the Communication but hope it won't last long

in very Great haste Yours,

W. Whipple

Please to send the under paper to the north end

I have sent the play you mention to Mr. Breacher

*

Gold Selleck Silliman to his son

“The Next Morning after I got into Town, I went toward the Fort and there I saw his Majesty and his Horse, tumbled Headlong down on the Ground, and since that they are both run up into Bullets; for they were both made of Lead.”

Gold Selleck Silliman to his son, July 27, 1776.
(Gilder Lehrman Institute, GLC07480.01)

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G. Selleck Silliman

Representation du feu
terrible a Nouvelle
Yorck

Francois X. Habermann, *La Representation
du feu terrible a Nouvelle Yorck*, Augsburg,
Germany, 1778. (Library of Congress)



Schröckenvolle Feuersbrunst welche zu Neu Yorck von denen Americanern in
der Nacht vom 19. Herbst Monath 1776. angeleget worden, wodurch alle
Gebäude auf der West Seite der neuen Börse, längst der Broockstrent bis an
das Königl. Kollegiu mehr als 1600. Häuser, die Dreifaltigkeits Kirche, die
Lutherische Kappelle u. die Armen Schule in Asche verwandelt worden.

Repräsentation du Feu terrible a Nouvelle Yorck, que les Americains ont al-
lume, pendant la Nuit du 19. Septembre 1776. par le quel ont été brulés, tous
les Batiments du Côté de Vest, a droite de Börse dans la Rue de
Broock jusqu'au College du Roi et plus que 1600. Maisons avec L'Eglise
de la S.^{te} Trinité la Chapelle Lutherienne et L'Ecole des pauvres.

Se vend à Augsbury au Négocié commun de l'Académie Imperiale d'Empire des Arts liberaux avec Privilège de Sa Majesté Imperiale et avec Defense ni d'en faire ni de vendre les Copies.

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No. 1007
Hess & C.

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- Courses are offered during the fall, spring, and summer terms. Apply for admission and begin during any term.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- gilderlehrman.org/ma

WHERE ELSE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- At our upcoming open house, on Wednesday, July 24, at 8 p.m. ET.



Upcoming Programs

INSIDE THE VAULT: August 1 at 7 p.m. ET (4 p.m. PT)

- We will be joined by Dr. Allen Guelzo (Princeton University) to discuss materials related to the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, 1858.

BOOK BREAKS: July 14 at 2 p.m. ET (11 a.m. PT)

- Fareed Zakaria will discuss his book *Age of Revolutions: Progress and Backlash from 1600 to the Present*.

TEACHER SEMINARS ONLINE June 24-August 8

- Sign up for upcoming Teacher Seminars Online! Visit gilderlehrman.org/teacherseminars to learn more and register for our seven upcoming seminars.



Upcoming Programs

TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

- The highly popular *Who Can Vote?* traveling exhibition is now available for rent or purchase to the general public! Reach out to exhibitions@gilderlehrman.org or visit our webpage for more information on bringing history right to your organization!

HOW TO RESEARCH A WWII VETERAN

- Learn about the historical research process in this step-by-step guide focused on WWII Veterans. As you progress, you will have opportunities to apply what you are learning: <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/veterans-legacy-program/wwii-veteran-research-guide>

