

NEW YORK STATE  
FREEDOM TRAIN



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12224

JOHN G. BROUGHTON  
ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER  
FOR CULTURAL EDUCATION

February 2, 1976

TO: Historians; Historical Societies; Chairmen of Academic  
History Departments

County Executives; Fiscal Officers; City, Village, Town  
and County Clerks

Because of your involvement in New York State historical activities, I am writing to acquaint you with the current circumstances relating to the Office of State History.

Unfortunately, because of recent fiscal restraints dictated by the economy and implemented by Governor Carey, we have been required to reduce staff in the State Education Department. The reduction has had a major impact on the Office of State History. Four professional positions and one support position have been eliminated. These include Dr. Louis L. Tucker, Assistant Commissioner for State History; Dr. Thomas E. Felt, Principal Historian; and Dr. William Polf, Senior Historian. Dr. Tucker has also held the Regents-designated title of State Historian.

The functions of the Office will be reorganized as of February 27, 1976 so that the History Curatorial activities and the responsibility for relations with public historians and local historical associations (including chartering) will be transferred to the direction of Noel C. Fritzinger, Assistant Commissioner for State Museum and Science Service. These groups have a community of interest and have been working together regularly in the past. This unit will be headed by Dr. John S. Still, a historian and Chief Curator of the historical collections. Dr. Still also represents the Commissioner on the State Board for Historic Preservation's Committee on the Registers.

The functions of the Public Records section will be affiliated with the State Archives, which is directed by Dr. Edward Weldon, also a historian and former Editor of the American Archivist.

Property of  
Town and Village  
Historian Collection

Because of the reductions, the Department's activities in historical research will be restricted, for the time being, although we are firmly committed to the principle that this is an appropriate role to be carried on by this Department. The elimination of the positions of outstanding historians who have performed with distinction in this Department and in Statewide and national roles is particularly distressing. The reduction in staff and reorganization do not in any way reflect any change in our high opinion of these professionals. As a partially mitigating factor, present plans indicate that Drs. Tucker, Felt and Polf will continue their work as executive staff of the New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission as they have for the past five years.

The Education Department plans to continue the responsibilities of the Office of State History, other than those of the research historians. We look to the future after the major staff work of the Bicentennial Commission is done, when it may be possible to merge the resources of the Commission and the Department in a unified State program.

If you have questions about specific problems that this change may cause for your organization, please write us.

With appreciation of your interest and support, I am

Very sincerely yours,



John G. Broughton

NEW YORK STATE  
FREEDOM TRAIN COMMISSION

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OFFICIAL  
*Document Book*

NEW YORK STATE  
FREEDOM TRAIN

NEW YORK STATE  
FREEDOM TRAIN COMMISSION

1 9 4 9

ALBANY, NEW YORK

## TO THE READER . . .

It is fitting for us, in this day of many 'isms, to open a book which re-prints the precious documents that tell the March of Freedom in New York State.

The story these pages unfold is simple and sincere. The documents have been arranged so that you, the reader, may see how freedom — sometimes through trial and error, in violence and in peace — comes down to us as a living force in our everyday life.

The objective of the New York State Freedom Train is to provide a "university on wheels," which as it tours the State will give every student, and adult person, the opportunity to see and study firsthand the original documents of his heritage.

This official book is designed as a "primer" to aid this study; it reproduces faithfully the documents — some yellowed with age; others scarred by fire — as they are shown on the train, and identifies them with a few salient facts and dates. No effort has been made to editorialize or to give opinion. This right is reserved for the reader.



*Chairman*

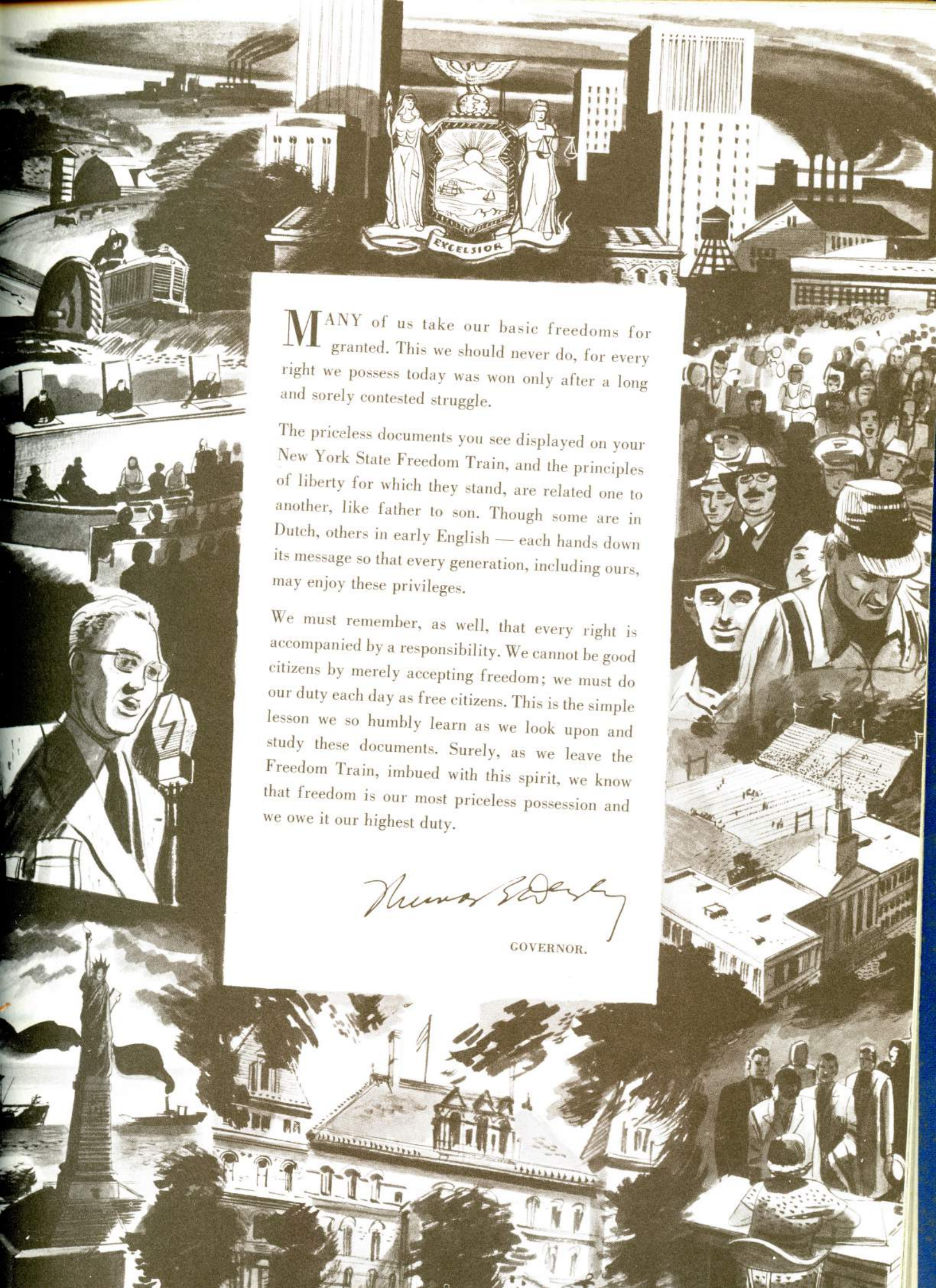
NEW YORK STATE FREEDOM TRAIN COMMISSION

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

All documents reproduced here are from the archives of the New York State Library in Albany, except the ten listed below which were among those lent for exhibit on the New York State Freedom Train.

Those lent and reproduced are: *Coxsackie Declaration of Independence* — from the Albany Institute of History and Art, Albany; *Pledge of Allegiance* — from David Bellamy, Rochester; *Charter of Liberties and Privileges* — from Town of North Hempstead; *Account Book, Southfield Town, Richmond County* — from the Staten Island Historical Society, New York; *Letter of Thomas Jefferson* — from Washington Headquarters Commission, Newburgh; *Antidiscrimination Law, 1948* — from Secretary of State, Albany; *Duke's Laws* — from Town of North Hempstead; *Antidiscrimination Law, 1945* — from Secretary of State, Albany; *John Secures Loan of 20 Cannon* — from Washington Headquarters Commission, Newburgh; *The New Colonist* by Emma Lazarus — from American-Jewish Historical Society, New York.





**M**ANY of us take our basic freedoms for granted. This we should never do, for every right we possess today was won only after a long and sorely contested struggle.

The priceless documents you see displayed on your New York State Freedom Train, and the principles of liberty for which they stand, are related one to another, like father to son. Though some are in Dutch, others in early English — each hands down its message so that every generation, including ours, may enjoy these privileges.

We must remember, as well, that every right is accompanied by a responsibility. We cannot be good citizens by merely accepting freedom; we must do our duty each day as free citizens. This is the simple lesson we so humbly learn as we look upon and study these documents. Surely, as we leave the Freedom Train, imbued with this spirit, we know that freedom is our most priceless possession and we owe it our highest duty.

GOVERNOR.






THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY  
AND COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION  
ALBANY

Because New York State has pioneered in the cause of freedom, it is especially fitting that it has its own freedom train. The documents on that train serve as timely reminders that our precious liberties are something that people had to fight for. It is fortunate that so many of these original papers have been preserved in the State Library, and that they can be seen by all today.

The New York State Education Department is glad to have had an opportunity to assist the freedom train effort, for education is a vital force in keeping the eyes of our people not only on the forms of their freedoms but on the substance as well. Let us never forget that freedom must be a living, real thing to all our people, and, if it ceases to be that, it is in danger and in the end can not survive. New Yorkers in education, then, like New Yorkers in all fields, should dedicate their efforts to making our freedom a thing of meaning and priceless value to all.

*Francis T. Spaulding*

THE NEW COLOSSUS \* By EMMA LAZARUS



Not like the giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command

"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

\* Original manuscript displayed on



# CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
<b>GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE</b>		<b>FREEDOM OF EDUCATION</b>	
Charter of Liberties and Privileges .....	8	Emancipation Proclamation .....	41
Remonstrance, Delegates from New Amsterdam .....	10	Letters, on Aid to Poles; to Jews .....	42
Minutes, First Colonial Legislature .....	11	Charter, Mohawk and Hudson Railroad .....	43
Order, House of Representatives .....	11	First Locomotive and Train Run in New York .....	43
Coxsackie, Declaration of Independence .....	12	Memorial on Canal, N. Y. City Council .....	43
Minutes, Committee of Correspondence .....	13		
Early Assessment Rolls .....	14	<b>FREEDOM OF EDUCATION</b>	
A Bill to Prevent Oppression .....	15	Council Minutes, Appointment of Beecker .....	44
Letter, on Civil Power .....	16	Daniel D. Tompkins on Education .....	44
New York State Constitution, 1821 .....	17	De Witt Clinton on Free Schools .....	45
Federal Constitution Ratified .....	18	Act for Free Education, 1804 .....	45
Journal, Poughkeepsie Convention .....	20	Economical School .....	46
The Federalist .....	20	Letter of Thomas Jefferson .....	46
The Constitution in German .....	20	Charter Cornell University .....	47
The Constitution in French .....	20	Society for Promotion of Agriculture .....	48
Letter, President Theodore Roosevelt .....	21	Regent's Report on Columbia College .....	49
Pledge of Allegiance .....	21	Correspondence of Stephen Van Rensselaer .....	49
		Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute .....	50
		Antidiscrimination Law, 1948 .....	51
<b>FREEDOM OF RELIGION</b>			
Free Exercise of Religion Granted Englishmen .....	22	<b>FREEDOM OF LABOR</b>	
Flushing Remonstrance .....	22	Duke's Laws .....	52
Censure of Governor Stuyvesant .....	23	Rules and Regulations, Lansingburgh Carpenters .....	52
Governor Colve Grants Free Exercise of Religion .....	23	Petition, Coopers of South and East Hampton .....	52
New York State Constitution, 1777 .....	24	Incorporation, Albany Mechanics' Society .....	53
Charter of Liberties and Privileges .....	25	Address, Martin I. Townsend .....	53
		Diploma, Utica Mechanics' Association .....	53
		Address, Carl Schurz .....	54
<b>FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS</b>		Civil Service Law, 1883 .....	54
New York State Constitution, 1846 .....	27	Memorandum, Franklin D. Roosevelt .....	54
New York Weekly Journal .....	28	Unemployment Insurance Law, 1935 .....	55
Arrest of Peter Zenger .....	28	Antidiscrimination Law, 1945 .....	55
Complaint, Zenger's Counsel .....	29		
Trial Papers, Peter Zenger .....	30	<b>FREEDOM PROTECTED</b>	
		Albany Plan of Union .....	56
<b>RIGHT TO VOTE</b>		Orderly Book .....	57
New York State Constitution, 1846 .....	32	Plan of Position, Saratoga .....	57
The Lily .....	33	Surrender of Burgoyne, Picture .....	57
Minutes, Political Equity Club .....	34	Letter, General Washington to Governor Clinton .....	58
Petition, "Votes for Women" .....	34	Broadside, Welcome to General Washington .....	58
Speech, Dr. Mary E. Walker .....	35	Household Expenses, President Washington .....	58
		Treason Papers, Major Andre .....	59
<b>FREEDOM OF PERSON</b>		John Jay Secures Loan of 20 Cannon .....	59
Order Freeing Indians .....	36	Westchester County Committee of Safety .....	59
Essay on Slavery, Daniel D. Tompkins .....	37	Washington's Farewell Address .....	60
Act for Gradual Abolition of Slavery .....	38	Plattsburgh Cantonment .....	62
Account Book, Southfield Town, Richmond County .....	38	Contract, Arsenal in Albany .....	62
Letter on Slavery, Governor Daniel D. Tompkins .....	40	Broadside, Battle of Plattsburgh .....	63



# CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
<b>GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE</b>		Emancipation Proclamation .....	41
Charter of Liberties and Privileges .....	8	Letters, on Aid to Poles; to Jews .....	42
Remonstrance, Delegates from New Amsterdam .....	10	Charter, Mohawk and Hudson Railroad .....	43
Minutes, First Colonial Legislature .....	11	First Locomotive and Train Run in New York .....	43
Order, House of Representatives .....	11	Memorial on Canal, N. Y. City Council .....	43
Coxsackie, Declaration of Independence .....	12	<b>FREEDOM OF EDUCATION</b>	
Minutes, Committee of Correspondence .....	13	Council Minutes, Appointment of Beecker .....	44
Early Assessment Rolls .....	14	Daniel D. Tompkins on Education .....	44
A Bill to Prevent Oppression .....	15	De Witt Clinton on Free Schools .....	45
Letter, on Civil Power .....	16	Act for Free Education, 1804 .....	45
New York State Constitution, 1821 .....	17	Economical School .....	46
Federal Constitution Ratified .....	18	Letter of Thomas Jefferson .....	46
Journal, Poughkeepsie Convention .....	20	Charter Cornell University .....	47
The Federalist .....	20	Society for Promotion of Agriculture .....	48
The Constitution in German .....	20	Regent's Report on Columbia College .....	49
The Constitution in French .....	20	Correspondence of Stephen Van Rensselaer .....	49
Letter, President Theodore Roosevelt .....	21	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute .....	50
Pledge of Allegiance .....	21	Antidiscrimination Law, 1948 .....	51
<b>FREEDOM OF RELIGION</b>		<b>FREEDOM OF LABOR</b>	
Free Exercise of Religion Granted Englishmen .....	22	Duke's Laws .....	52
Flushing Remonstrance .....	22	Rules and Regulations, Lansingburgh Carpenters .....	52
Censure of Governor Stuyvesant .....	23	Petition, Coopers of South and East Hampton .....	52
Governor Colve Grants Free Exercise of Religion .....	23	Incorporation, Albany Mechanics' Society .....	53
New York State Constitution, 1777 .....	24	Address, Martin I. Townsend .....	53
Charter of Liberties and Privileges .....	25	Diploma, Utica Mechanics' Association .....	53
<b>FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND PRESS</b>		Address, Carl Schurz .....	54
New York State Constitution, 1846 .....	27	Civil Service Law, 1883 .....	54
New York Weekly Journal .....	28	Memorandum, Franklin D. Roosevelt .....	54
Arrest of Peter Zenger .....	28	Unemployment Insurance Law, 1935 .....	55
Complaint, Zenger's Counsel .....	29	Antidiscrimination Law, 1945 .....	55
Trial Papers, Peter Zenger .....	30	<b>FREEDOM PROTECTED</b>	
<b>RIGHT TO VOTE</b>		Albany Plan of Union .....	56
New York State Constitution, 1846 .....	32	Orderly Book .....	57
The Lily .....	33	Plan of Position, Saratoga .....	57
Minutes, Political Equity Club .....	34	Surrender of Burgoyne, Picture .....	57
Petition, "Votes for Women" .....	34	Letter, General Washington to Governor Clinton .....	58
Speech, Dr. Mary E. Walker .....	35	Broadside, Welcome to General Washington .....	58
<b>FREEDOM OF PERSON</b>		Household Expenses, President Washington .....	58
Order Freeing Indians .....	36	Treason Papers, Major Andre .....	59
Essay on Slavery, Daniel D. Tompkins .....	37	John Jay Secures Loan of 20 Cannon .....	59
Act for Gradual Abolition of Slavery .....	38	Westchester County Committee of Safety .....	59
Account Book, Southfield Town, Richmond County .....	38	Washington's Farewell Address .....	60
Letter on Slavery, Governor Daniel D. Tompkins .....	40	Plattsburgh Cantonment .....	62
		Contract, Arsenal in Albany .....	62
		Broadside, Battle of Plattsburgh .....	63



# Government By The People...

Itt General Assenblye begun and holden at the City  
of New York in the Province of New York the 14<sup>th</sup>  
of the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October Anno Domini 1683 And  
in the 12<sup>th</sup> Year of the Reign of our  
Sovereign Lord King Charles the 2<sup>d</sup>  
Over England etc and their continuance  
by the Special Authority of His Majesty  
until the 14<sup>th</sup> day of November  
following for the better  
Sole of the said  
Province it was  
Enacted at  
New York

To give the people a voice in the government, James, Duke of York, proclaimed in his famous CHARTER OF LIBERTIES AND PRIVILEGES, 1683, that . . . "the supreme legislative authority shall reside in a Governor, Council and the people met in General Assembly."



# The Charter of Liberties and Privileges granted by His Majesty King Charles the Second to the Inhabitants of New York and their Descendants.

**For** the better Establishing the Government of this Province of New York  
and that Justice and Right may be Equally done to all persons within the same  
**Be it** Enacted by the Governor Council and Representatives now in General  
Assembly met and assembled and by the authority of the same,

**That** the Supreme Legislative Authority under His Majesty and Royal  
Signatures James Duke of York Albany or his Proprietor of the said Province  
shall forever be and reside in a Governor, Council, and the People met in  
General Assembly.

**That** the Officers of the Kings Magistrate and Administration of the Law  
over the said Province shall be in the said Governor assisted in a Council with  
advise and Consent or with at least four of them as is to rule and  
govern the said Province according to the Lawes thereof.

**That** in case the Governor shall die or be absent out of the Province  
and that there be no person within the said Province Commissioned in  
Royal Highness his Heirs or Successors to be Governor or Commander in the  
said Province the Council for the time being or so many of them as is  
in the said Province do take upon them the Administration of the Govern-  
ment and the Execution of the Lawes thereof and powers and authorities  
belonging to the Governor and Council the first in nomination in writing  
Council is to preside until the said Governor shall return and arrive  
in the said Province again, or the pleasure of his Royal Highness his  
Heirs or Successors shall be further known.

**That** according to the usage Custom and practice of the Kingdom  
England a session of a General Assembly be held in this Province once in  
three years at least.

**That** Every freeman within this Province and his Heirs in any City  
(Corporate)



# Government By The People...

*Resolucie van de Raede van Nieuw-Nederland  
 den 11<sup>den</sup> Decembris 1653  
 In verstante van de Raede van Nieuw-Nederland  
 den 11<sup>den</sup> Decembris 1653*

*Conjunctie van Staten*

*Leide: O. E. Achtere He  
 den O. Heer. J. G. van Nieuw  
 Lande O. H. deren Raede, Hege  
 Hooft: Heeren Staten generael d.  
 provincie*

*Resolucie van de Raede van Nieuw-Nederland  
 den 11<sup>den</sup> Decembris 1653*

*Resolutie -*

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*Resolutie van de Raede van Nieuw-Nederland  
 den 11<sup>den</sup> Decembris 1653*



House of Representatives for the Province of New York

Die Jouis Aprilis 9. 1691.

(Order)

That the Speaker upon his being Approved shall Dress his Excellency in Behalf of this House and Demand that there Rights Privileges and Customs may be Confirmed to them: that is: that none of the members nor there Servants be arrested nor molested during the Session: that they may have freedom of Access to his Excellency and Council when occasion Presents: that they may have Liberty of Speech and a favorable Construction made upon all Debates that may arise among them: and for the Removal of all misunderstandings that a Committee of the Council may Joy now a Committee of this House to Confer in what matters may occur: and that this these Demands may be Approved by his Excellency and Council and Enter in there Council Books.

An Order of the Representatives Concerning In this Generalls Assembly.

James Graham

Legislative Minutes. Minutes of the Assembly 1691. Present to Excellency the Governour. The Weight of the House. The Weight of the Council. Ordered that a Warrant be issued for the arrest of all persons who are not qualified to sit in the House of Representatives.

Shown at left is the title page from the MINUTES of New York's first Colonial Legislature, which assembled April 9, 1691. This legislature was made up of a Council and a House of Representatives, which was elected by the people and is now called the Assembly.

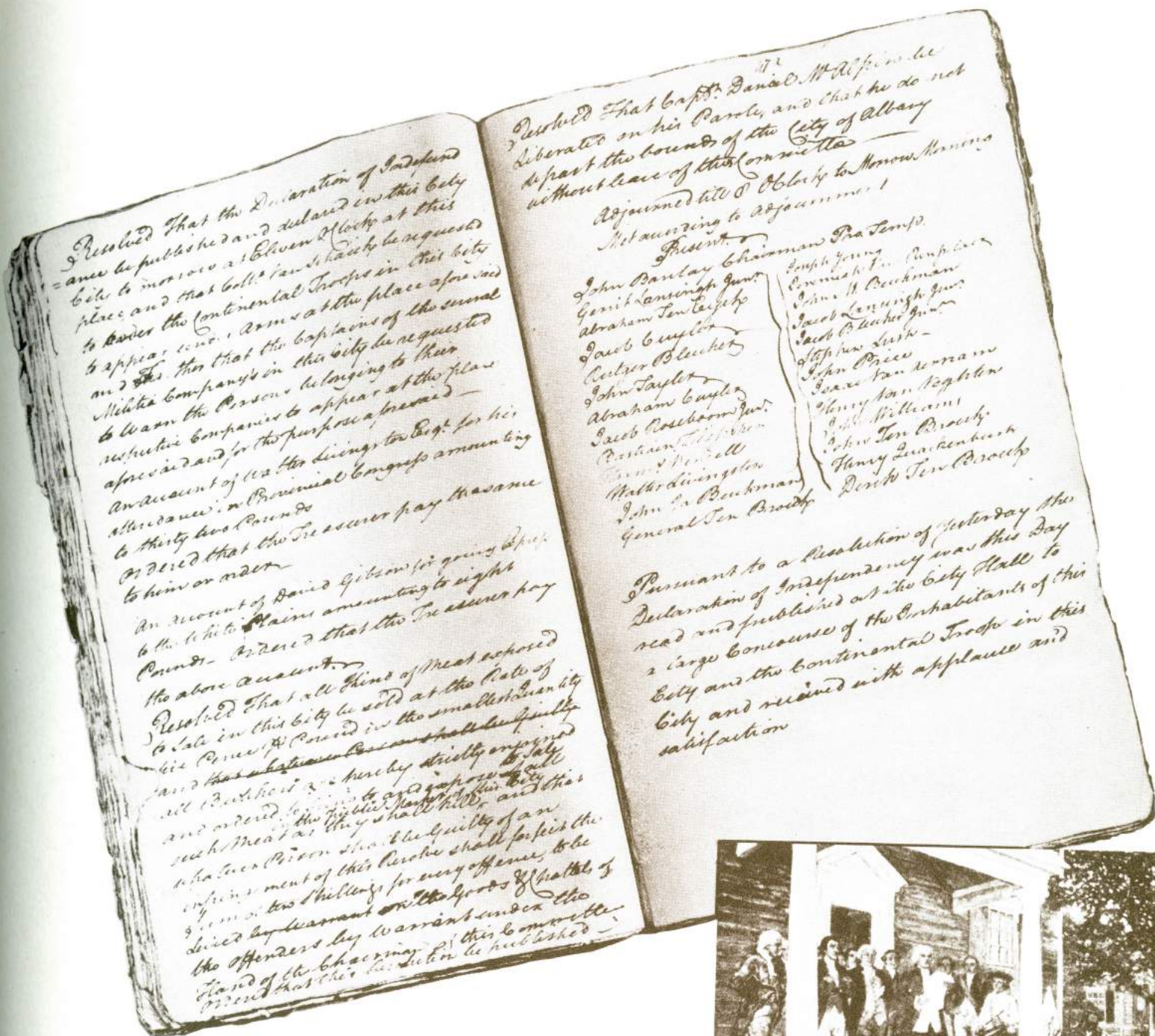
To insure that their voice be heard, and that their representatives be protected, the House in an ORDER, signed April 9, 1691, stated that Speaker James Graham . . . "address his Excellency in behalf of this house, and demand that there Rights Privileges and Customs may be Confirmed to them; that none of the members, nor there Servants; be arrested nor molested. . . ."







Similar declarations were read in other towns. In Albany, MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE show that the Declaration of Independence was read July 19, 1776 at the City Hall... "to a large concourse of the Inhabitants of the City and the Continental Troops in this City and received with applause and satisfaction."



Reading the Declaration of Independence  
White Plains, July 11, 1776.









Private property was also to be protected. The Assembly, October 24, 1700, in a BILL TO PREVENT OPPRESSION, declared null and void a New York City ordinance which would tax flour and biscuit brought into the City. This bill was not approved by Governor and Council.

The Assembly called the ordinance... "an infringing and destruction of the libertys, propertys and inheritance of His Majesty's Subjects."

*A Bill to prevent oppression*

*Where having lately been printed and published in the City of New York  
 Entituled an Ordinance Establish'd by the Mayor, Aldermen  
 and Assistants of the City of New York forvend in Great Council  
 For the laying the Duty and Impost of three shillings upon each  
 sack barrel of flour and wheate pines upon each  
 weight or bushel which was Imported within the City  
 of New York after the first day of Oct<sup>r</sup> next bearing date in  
 the City since the four and twentieth day of September  
 in the twelfth year of his Majesty's Reign Anno 1700 Did one  
 thousand seven hundred. Be it Enacted by his Excellency  
 the Gov<sup>r</sup> by and with the Consent of his Hon<sup>ble</sup> Council and  
 the Representatives met in the General Assembly, That this  
 said paper and Ordinance and every Clause matter and  
 thing therein contained is unlawful and oppressive  
 against Law and Common Right, to the manifest Infringing  
 and destruction of the Libertys propertys and inheritance  
 of his Majesty's Subjects in this Plantation and therefore  
 is hereby declared that the said Ordinance be null void and  
 of none Effect to all Intents and purposes any thing herein*

*Where having lately been printed and published in the City of New York  
 Entituled an Ordinance Establish'd by the Mayor, Aldermen  
 and Assistants of the City of New York forvend in Great Council  
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 and destruction of the Libertys propertys and inheritance  
 of his Majesty's Subjects in this Plantation and therefore  
 is hereby declared that the said Ordinance be null void and  
 of none Effect to all Intents and purposes any thing herein*

*City of New York 24<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1700  
 In the twelfth year of his Majesty's Reign  
 Presently Represented by the Mayor  
 and Council*

*This Bill having been read three times in  
 the City and Council for their Consent*

*By order of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Representatives  
 Abraham Jacobson  
 Speaker*

PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTED



# Government By The People...

Therefore be silent upon so momentous a Point, tho' we were not favour'd with your Sentiments or Instructions: nor inform'd of what, or whether any thing, had pass'd between you and the General respecting the disaffected Inhabitants. We look up the Subject on general Principles. There can be no Liberty where the military is not subordinate to the civil power, in every thing not immediately connected with their Operations your House the natural and proper Tribunal for all civil matters within the Circle of your own Jurisdiction was assembled, and Congress itself within the General's reach, ready to enforce every reasonable Proposition for the publick safety. To one or other he ought to have applied. A similar Part in Rhode Island had pass'd over unadvised; reiterated Precedents must become dangerous; we therefore conceived it to be our unquestionable Duty to exert

Independance and Superiority of the civil power, and to call the attention of Congress to this unwarrantable Invasion of the Rights, by one of their Officers. A Resolution pass'd, in consequence; on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, that no Oath by way of Test be imposed upon exacted or required of any Inhabitant of these Colonies by any military Officer - and it was ordered to be immediately published.

We flatter ourselves that our Conduct on this Occasion will meet with your Approbation. This will be presented by Brigadier General Thompson who for the present will command in your Capital; General Schuyler's Residence at Albany being deemed indispensable. General Thompson is a gallant Officer and very much respected in this Province; and we doubt not of your Endeavours to make his Command as agreeable to himself and as salutary

Suggested it is left vacant until he can have an Opportunity of being heard, of which you will be pleas'd to inform him.

We have the Honour to be with the utmost Regard

Gentlemen  
your most obedient  
humble Servants

Tal. Duane  
John Jay  
John Alsop  
Lewis Morris

Our forefathers did not believe a country could remain free if the military dominated the civil branch of government. When General Charles Lee tried to impose a loyalty test on people of New York, Duane, Jay, Alsop and Morris, as delegates to the Continental Congress, protested, warning the New York Provincial Convention... "There can be no liberty where the military is not subordinate to the civil power."

Philad. 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1776

Be pleas'd to turn over



United States, as nearly as may be. Every county heretofore established and separately organized, shall always be entitled to one member of the assembly, and no new county shall hereafter be erected, unless its population shall entitle it to a member.

Section 9. Any bill may originate in either house of the legislature and all bills passed by one house, may be amended by the other.

Section 9. The members of the legislature shall receive for their services a compensation, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the public treasury; but no increase of the compensation shall take effect during the year in which it shall have been made. And no law shall be passed increasing the compensation of the members of the legislature, beyond the sum of three dollars a day.

Section 10. No member of the legislature shall receive any civil appointment from the governor and senate, or from the legislature, during the term for which he shall have been elected.

Section 11. No person being a member of congress, or holding any judicial or military office under the United States, shall hold a seat in the legislature. And if any person shall, while a member of the legislature, be elected to congress, or appointed to any office, civil or military, under the government of the United States, his acceptance thereof shall vacate his seat.

Section 12. Every bill, which shall have passed the senate and assembly, shall, before it become a law, be presented to the governor; if he approve, he shall sign it; but if not, he shall return it with his objections to that hour in which it shall have originated; who shall enter the objections at large on their journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration, two thirds of the members present shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent together with the objections to the other house, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered; and if approved by two thirds of the members present, it shall become a law. But in all such cases, the votes of both houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against the bill, shall be entered on the journal of each house, respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the governor, within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the legislature shall by their adjournment prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law.

Section 13. All officers holding their offices during good behavior may be removed by joint resolution of the two houses of the legislature, if two

And the voice of the people, met in Assembly, was to control even the executive branch. Article 1, Section 12 of the 1821 CONSTITUTION, abolishing an early Council of Revision, provided for a veto by the Governor, but it could be over-ridden by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature.

## LEGISLATION BY REPRESENTATION







... grant Reprieves  
 ... the previous  
 ... of the united States  
 ... of the Court out of  
 ... appellate Jurisdiction,  
 ... and Felonies committed  
 ... Court of the united  
 ... Right of Appeal to the  
 ... such Exceptions, and order  
 ... United States, and the first or senior Judge  
 ... in the respective States answering  
 ... Judge or Judges may hold their places  
 ... shall be authorized to perform  
 ... shall be requisite to constitute the said Court.  
 ... honesty and impartiality to hear and deter-  
 ... has original Jurisdiction, with such ex-  
 ... by the President of the United States to such  
 ... or any seven or more of  
 ... Principals.  
 ... Jurisdiction between States or to Citizens  
 ... without the consent of the Legislature thereof  
 ... be expunged.  
 ... Both or either shall not to infringe or violate  
 ... to be by them appointed, shall choose a Citizen of the  
 ... of his Election for one of the Representatives of such State  
 ... county of Dutchess in the State of New York  
 ... thousand seven hundred and eighty eight.  
 ... By Order of the Convention.  
 ... G. Clinton, President

# NEW YORK RATIFIES CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

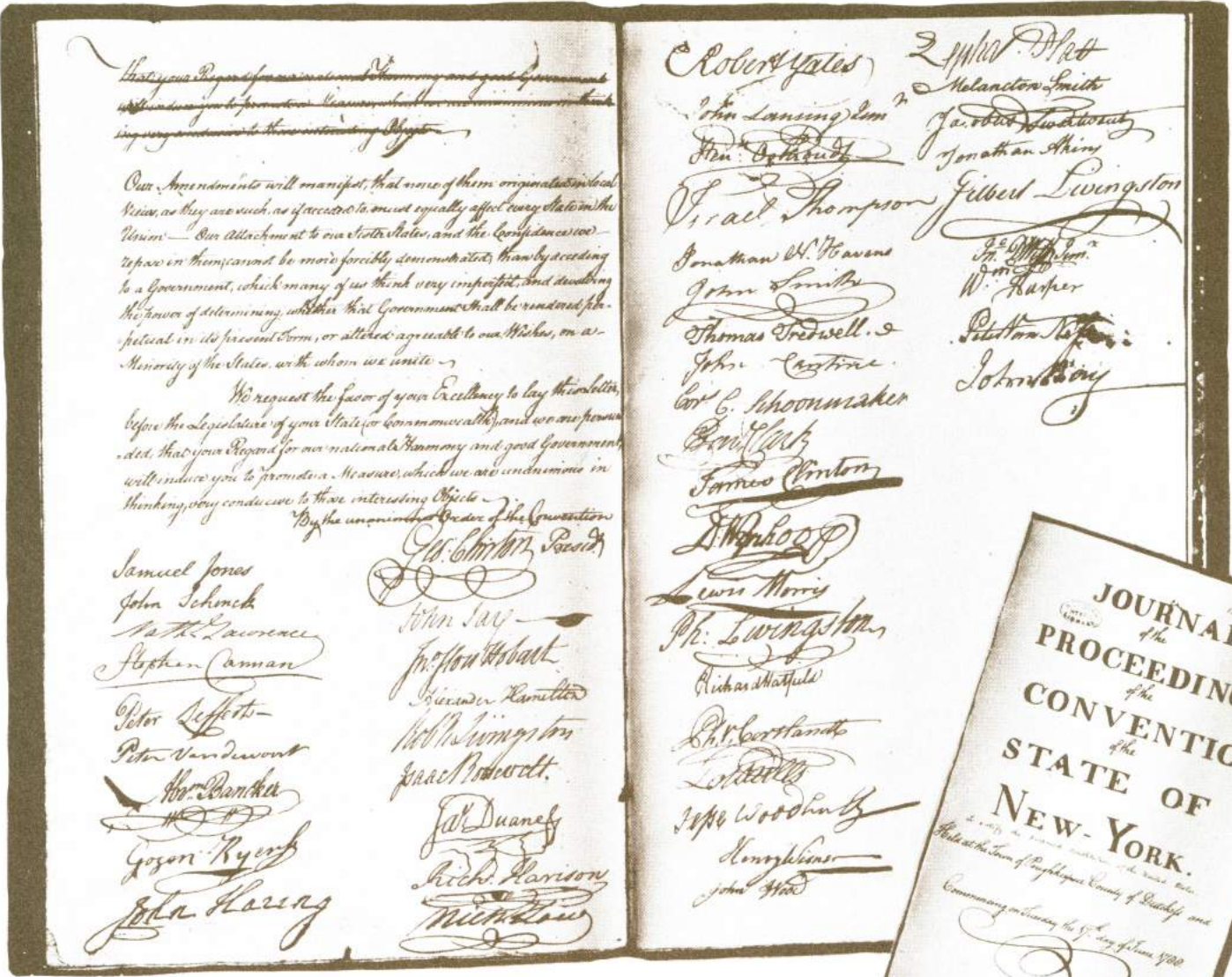
New York ratified the Federal Constitution at Poughkeepsie, July 26, 1788. Thirty-three amendments were suggested, as signed by Governor George Clinton, President of the Convention. While these were not officially accepted for inclusion in the United States Constitution, they did form the basis for the first ten amendments, adopted in 1791 and known as the Bill of Rights.

Below, reproduction of the mural painting by Gerald Foster in the post office at Poughkeepsie, depicts the closing moments of the New York State ratifying convention. The delegates are, left to right: Philip Van Cortlandt, Cornelius Schoonmaker, Peter Vrooman, John Haring, Israel Thompson, Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, Melancton Smith, Governor George Clinton, Alexander Hamilton, Abraham Bancker, John Jay, James Clinton, Isaac Roosevelt, John Sloss Hobart, Jacobus Swartout, Peter Vandervoort, James Duane, Philip Livingston, John Lansing, Lewis Morris, Richard Morris, Dirck Wyncoop, Gozen Ryerss.

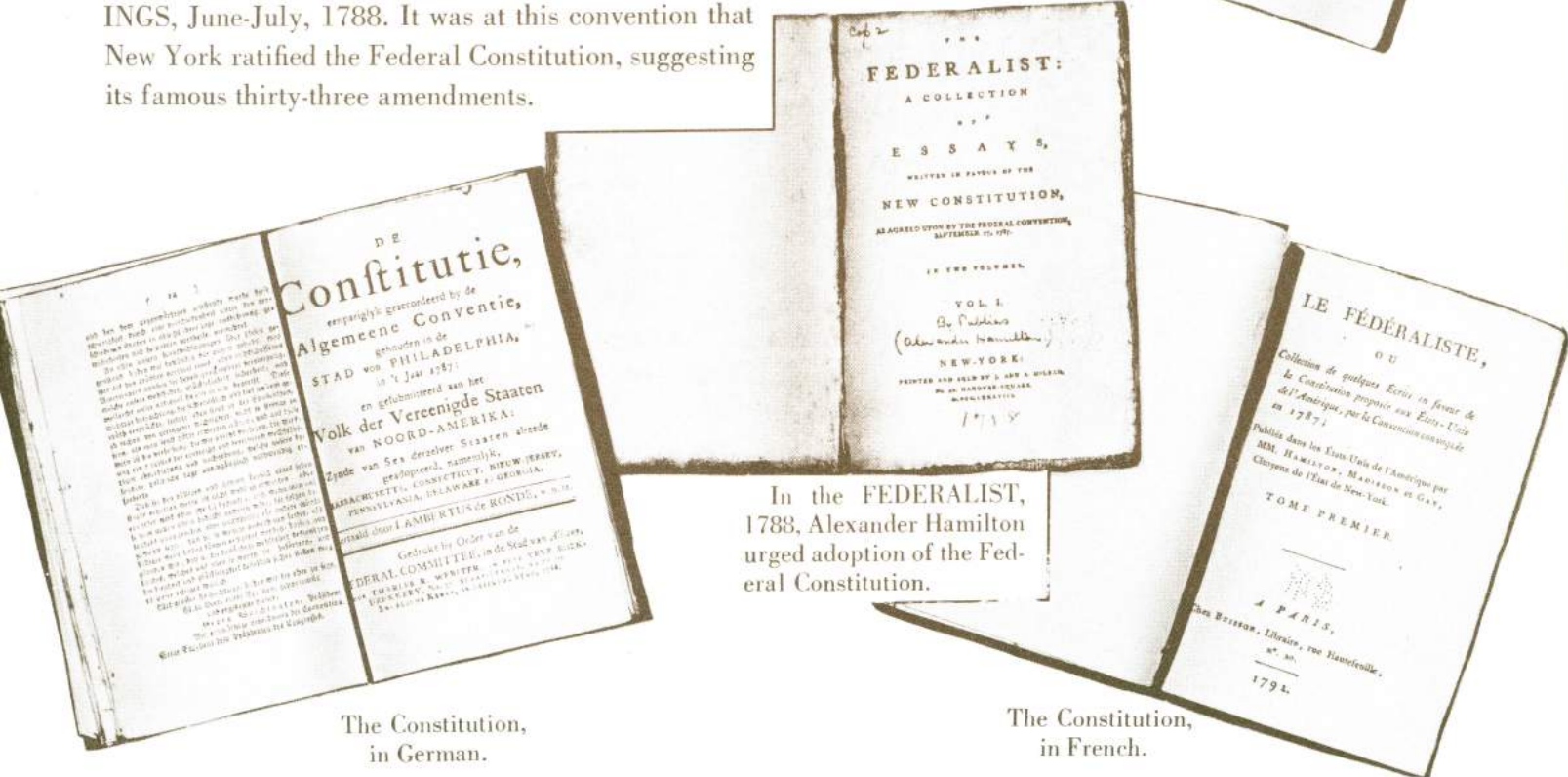




# Government By The People...



The signature page (above) from the JOURNAL OF THE POUGHKEEPSIE CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS, June-July, 1788. It was at this convention that New York ratified the Federal Constitution, suggesting its famous thirty-three amendments.



The Constitution, in German.

The Constitution, in French.



Personal.

WHITE HOUSE,  
WASHINGTON.

December 17, 1901.

My dear Mr. Hale:

I value Mr. Cummings' sermon. If you meet him I wish you would tell him so. I thank you for sending it to me.

The great difficulty that I find is not to do harm to our brother by pretending to help him. The easy thing to do in international matters, for instance, is to follow those amiable but very far from wise philanthropists who think we can help our brother by doing nothing whatever, who think, for example, that we can benefit the Filipino by getting out of the Philippines and letting him wallow back into savagery. Unfortunately, the most difficult task is that which has been so conscientiously undertaken by Root and Taft, trying to bring the Filipinos forward in the path of orderly self-governing liberty.

Again, in South America it is positively difficult

to know just how far it is best to leave the nations alone and how far there must be interference, and also how far we can with justice prevent interference by others; because in each case the equities vary.  
Faithfully yours,

Theodore Roosevelt

And the principle of government by the people was applied by President Theodore Roosevelt in a letter to Rev. Edward E. Hale, December 17, 1901, saying . . . "orderly self-governing liberty" should be given the Philippines. Forty-five years later, President Harry S. Truman by Proclamation, July 4, 1946, which included the phrase . . . "Whereas the people of the Philippines have clearly demonstrated their capacity for self-government," . . . granted the Filipinos "government by the people."

I pledge allegiance to my Flag and (to) the Republic for which it stands— one Nation indivisible— with liberty and justice for all.

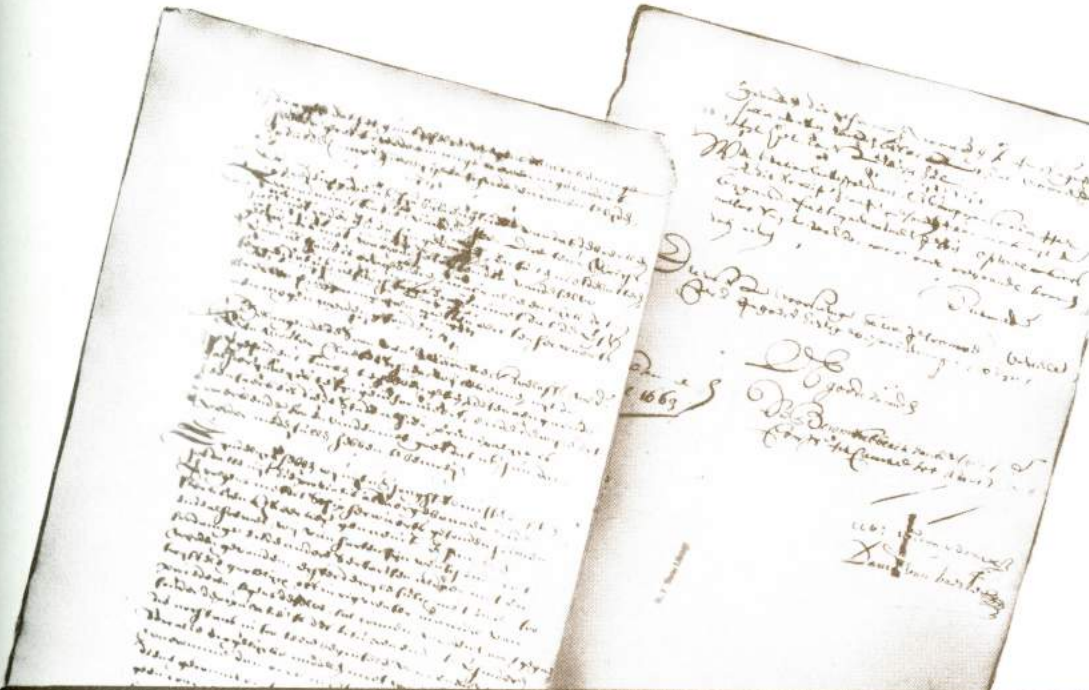
Original draft of the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE to the Flag, written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy. The Pledge was used for the first time, Columbus Day, 1892.







# Religion...



The Quakers suffered for 6 years under Stuyvesant until John Bowne—who had been jailed for holding religious services in his home—was banished to Holland. There, the Directors of the West India Company released Bowne, telling Stuyvesant in the above CENSURE, April 16, 1663 to . . . "at least not force people's consciences, but allow everyone to have his own belief, as long as he behaves quietly and legally, gives no offence to his neighbor and does not oppose the government."

*[Handwritten Dutch text, likely a legal document or decree, partially obscured by the caption box.]*

87

*[Handwritten Dutch text, likely a legal document or decree, partially obscured by the caption box.]*

Governor Anthony Colve granted the Lutheran congregation in Albany free exercise of their religion, September 26, 1673.







And every such person or persons may from time to time and at all times freely have and fully enjoy his or their judgments or Consensus in matters of Religion throughout all the province, they behaving themselves peaceably and quietly, and not using this Liberty to Licentiousness, nor to the Civil injury or outward disturbance of others. Provided always that this Liberty or any thing contained herein to the contrary shall never be construed or improved to make void the Settlement of any publick Minister on Long-Island, whether such Settlement be by two-thirds of the voice in any Towne thereon which shall always include the Minor part or by Subscriptions of particular Inhabitants in said Townes, Provided they are the two thirds thereof, But that all such Agreements, covenants and Subscriptions that are there already made and had, that hereafter shall be in this manner, consented to agreed and subscribed, shall at all times and times hereafter be firm and stable, and in confirmation hereof it is enacted by the Governour Councell and Representatives, That all such Sums of money so agreed on, consented to or subscribed as aforesaid for maintenance of said publick Ministers, by the two thirds of any Towne on Long-Island, shall always include the Minor part who shall be regulated thereby And



# Freedom of

Section 10. No tax shall be imposed upon the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government thereof, nor shall any license be granted, otherwise than by due judicial proceedings, nor shall any lottery hereafter be authorized or any lottery tickets retained within this State.

Section 11. The people of this State, in their right of sovereignty, are deemed to possess the original and ultimate property to all lands within the jurisdiction of the State: and all lands the title to which shall fail, from a defect of heirs, shall revert, or escheat to the people.

Section 12. All feudal tenures of every description, with all their incidents are declared to be abolished, saving however and services certain which at any time heretofore have been lawfully created or reserved.

Section 13. All lands within this State, are declared to be allodial, so that, subject only to the liability to escheat, the entire and sole property is vested in the owners, according to the nature of their respective estates.

Section 14. No lease or grant of agricultural land, for a longer period than twelve years, hereafter made, in which is reserved any rent or service of any kind, shall be valid.

Section 15. All fines, quotas, sales, or other like restraints upon alienation shall be void.

Section 16. No punishment shall be inflicted upon any person for any crime or offence, which may be committed, and seventy five; or which may be committed.

Section 17. No law shall be passed in this State, which shall suspend the operation of any law of the said Colony, or the constitution of the State of New York, or be repealed or altered; and such alterations as the Legislature shall deem repugnant to this constitution, are void. No law shall be passed, which shall suspend the operation of any law of the said Colony, or the constitution of the State of New York, or be repealed or altered; and such alterations as the Legislature shall deem repugnant to this constitution, are void.

Section 18. All grants of land within this State, made by the King of Great Britain, or persons acting under his authority, on or before the tenth day of October, One thousand seven hundred and seventy five, shall be null and void; but nothing contained in this Constitution shall annul any grants of land within this State, made by the authority of the said King or his predecessors, or shall annul any charters to bodies politic and corporate, or charters made, before that day; or shall affect any such grants or charters since made by this State, or by persons acting under its authority, or shall impair the obligation of any debts contracted by the State, or individuals, or bodies corporate, or any other rights of property, or any suits, or actions, or other proceedings in Courts of justice.

Section 8. Every citizen may freely speak, write and publish his sentiments on all subjects, which shall not be liable to censure or punishment, except for abuse of that right; and no law shall be passed to restrain or punish any citizen for any speech or writing, or publication, published with good motives, and for justifiable ends, the party being first proved to be guilty of the fact.

## Article II.

Section 1. Every male citizen of the age of twenty one years who shall have been a citizen for ten days, and an inhabitant of this State one year next preceding any election and for the last four months a resident of the County where he may offer his vote shall be entitled to vote at such election, in the election district of which he shall at the time be a resident, and not elsewhere, for all officers to be elected hereafter may be elective by the people; but such citizen shall have been for thirty days next preceding the election a resident of the County where he may offer his vote.











