

Document A

LV

Source: La Destruction de la Statue Royale a Nouvelle Yorck. Reprinted by permission of Library of Congress. Print by Andre Bassett, 1770s, LC-USZ62-22023.



Die Zerstörung der Königlichen Bild Säule zu Neu Yorck | *La Destruction de la Statue royale a Nouvelle Yorck*

Document B

Source: The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America. Congress, July 4, 1776.

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...

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Document C

Source: Reverend Devereux Jarratt, 1794. Quoted in J. Franklin Jameson, *The American Revolution Considered as a Social Movement*, 1926.

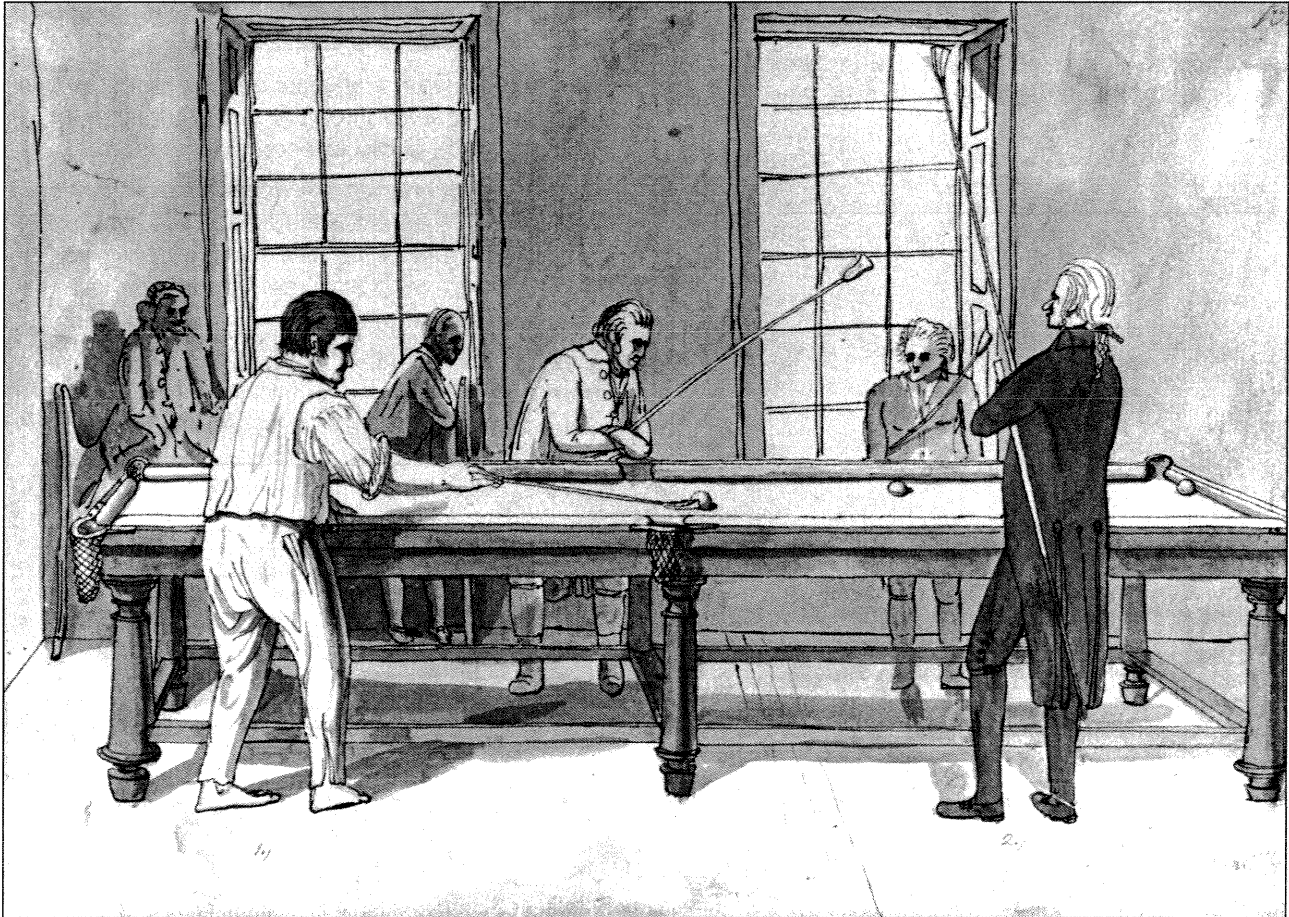
In our high republican times there is more leveling than ought to be, consistent with good government.... At present there is too little regard and reverence paid to...persons in public office.... An idea is held out to us that our present government and state are far superior to the former, when we were under the royal administration; but my age enables me to know that the people are not now by half so peacefully and quietly governed as formerly;... I know the superiority of the present government. In theory it is certainly superior; but in practice it is not so. This can arise from...want of a proper distinction between the various orders of people.

Document D

Source: Drawing by Benjamin Henry Latrobe, November, 1797. Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Md.

Billiards in Hanover-Town (Virginia)

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Document E

Source: Beatrice G. Reubens, "Pre-Emptive Rights in the Disposition of a Confiscated Estate, Philipsburgh Manor, New York," *William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 22, 1965.

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The Break-up of a New York Tory Estate, 1787

The Sale of Philipsburgh Manor

Note: The Philips family had their estate confiscated by the state of New York because they supported Great Britain during the war.

Purchaser	Number	Number using pre-emption rights*	Acreage bought
Farmers	231	180	38,954 acres
Trades people	17	7	1,346 acres
Local gentry	13	7	2,961 acres
Church	1	0	102 acres
Upper class, outsiders	18	0	5,805 acres
Unidentified	7	0	776 acres
Totals	287	194	49,943 acres

Note: *Pre-emption rights are when previous tenants are given first right of purchase at fair market value. Most of these pre-emption purchasers had been tenants on the Philips' estate before the Revolutionary War began.

Document F

Source: Beatrice G. Reubens, "Pre-Emptive Rights in the Disposition of a Confiscated Estate: Philipsburgh Manor, New York." *William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 22, 1965.

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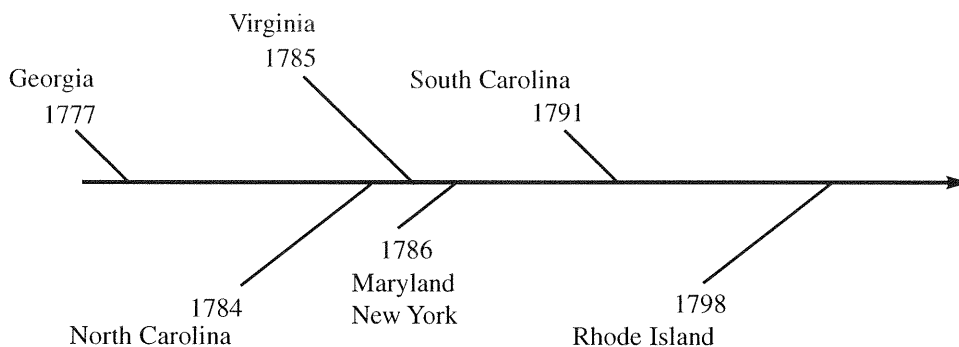
If one had any lingering doubts about the the benefits of pre-emption to Philipsburgh’s tenants and to New York as a whole, he would have only to contrast the history of New York’s patriot manors after the Revolution. Maintaining their estates in tact, the descendants of the Livingstons and Van Renssalaers and others prolonged...leasehold tenures affecting 260,000 persons and 1,800,000 acres as late as 1846.

...It might (be interesting to wonder what would have happened) if the patriot manor lords had been Tories and their tenants had gained the pre-emption right during the Revolution.

Document G

Source: Harry M. Ward, *The American Revolution*, 1995.

Dates Primogeniture* Was Prohibited By States Still Allowing This Inheritance Practice after 1776



* Primogeniture refers to when the father and owner of an estate dies, the landed property goes to the first born son. This was done to keep family estates intact and landed families powerful.

Document H

Source: Charles A. Beard, *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States*, 1913.

A survey of the economic interests of the (55) members of the (1787 Constitutional) Convention presents certain conclusions:

- A majority of the members were lawyers by profession.
- Most of the members came from towns, on or near the coast...regions in which personalty (any personal property other than land) was largely concentrated.
- Not one member represented in his...economic interests the small farming or mechanic (working) classes.
- The overwhelming majority of members, at least five-sixths, were...to a greater or less extent economic beneficiaries from the adoption of the Constitution...
- Personalty invested in lands for speculation was represented by at least fourteen members...
- Personalty in the form of money loaned at interest was represented by at least twenty-four members...
- Personalty in mercantile (trade), manufacturing, and shipping lines was represented by at least eleven members...
- Personalty in slaves was represented by at least fifteen members...

It cannot be said, therefore, that the members of the Convention were “disinterested.”...(A)s practical men they were able to build the new government upon the only foundations which could be stable: fundamental economic interests.

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Document I

Source: Adapted from Jackson Turner Main, "Government by the People: The American Revolution and the Democratization of the Legislatures." *William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 23, 1966.

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Economic Status of the Representatives in Six Colonial/State Legislatures

N.H., N.Y., and N.J.	1765	1785
WEALTHY	36%	12%
WELL-TO-DO	47%	26%
MODERATE	17%	62%
POOR	0%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%

MD., VA., AND S.C.	1765	1785
WEALTHY	52%	28%
WELL-TO-DO	36%	42%
MODERATE	12%	30%
POOR	0%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%

KEY: Wealthy.....over £5000
 Well-to-do.....£2000 - £5000
 Moderate.....£500 - £2000
 Poor.....£0 - £500
 £ = British Pound

Document L

Source: Andrews, *History of the New York African Free-Schools*. As reprinted in Leon Litwack, *North of Slavery*, 1961.

Speech made by a young African American in 1819. He was the valedictorian of his New York free school.

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Why should I strive hard and acquire all the constituents of a man if the prevailing genius of the land admit me not as such, or but in an inferior degree! Pardon me if I feel insignificant and weak.... Where are my prospects? To what shall I turn my hand? Shall I be a mechanic? No one will employ me; white boys won't work with me. Shall I be a merchant? No one will have me in his office; white clerks won't associate with me. Drudgery and servitude, then, are my prospective portion. Can you be surprised at my discouragement?

Document M

Source: *The Book of Abigail and John: Selected Letters of the Adams Family, 1762-1784*.

Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *The Adams Family Correspondence, Volume I*, Edited by L.A. Butterfield, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, Copyright (c) 1963 by the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Abigail Adams' letter to her husband John Adams, March 31, 1776

...in the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you Remember the ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice or Representation.

Document N

Source: United States Constitution, Amendment 19 (1920).

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

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Document O

Source: Nancy F. Cott, "Divorce and the Changing Status of Women in Eighteenth Century Massachusetts," *William and Mary Quarterly*, October 1976.

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	1765 -1774	1775 - 1786
Male Petitioners	94%	91%
Female Petitioners	50%	79%

	1765 -1774	1775 - 1786
Male Petitioners	18 / 11	33 / 24
Female Petitioners	29 / 13	53 / 37

Document P

Source: Northwest Ordinance, 1787.

“Utmost Good Faith” Clause from the Northwest Ordinance (1787)

The utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians; their land and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and, in their property, rights, and liberty, they shall never be invaded or disturbed, unless in just and lawful wars authorized by Congress, but laws founded in justice and humanity, shall from time to time be made for preventing wrongs being done to them, and for preserving peace and friendship with them.

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Document Q

Source: *Great Documents in American Indian History*. Wayne Maquin and Charles Van Doren, editors, 1973.

Letter from three Seneca Indian leaders – Big Tree, Cornplanter, and Half-Town – to President of the United States, George Washington, 1790.

When your army entered the country of the Six (Iroquois) Nations, we called you the town destroyer; to this day, when your name is heard, our women look behind them and turn pale, and our children cling to the necks of their mothers....

You told us you could crush us to nothing; and you demanded from us a great country, as the price of that peace which you had offered to us: as if our want of strength had destroyed our rights. Our chiefs had felt your power, and we were unable to contend against you, and they therefore gave up that country. What they agreed to has bound our nation, but your anger against us must by this time be cooled, and although our strength is not increased, nor your power become less, we ask you to consider calmly – Were the terms dictated to us by your commissioners reasonable and just?...

All the land we have been speaking of belonged to the Six Nations. No part of it ever belonged to the king of England, and he could not give it to you.”

Note: The Seneca along with the other Iroquois nations fought on the British side during the Revolution.