Document B


'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...'
Do Not Copy: Use Transparency Only
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.

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

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.
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.

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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.
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) practical men they were able to build the new government upon the only foundations which could be stable: fundamental economic interests.

### Economic Status of the Representatives in Six Colonial/State Legislatures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1765</th>
<th>1785</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>N.H., N.Y., and N.J.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wealthy</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-to-do</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1765</th>
<th>1785</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MD., VA., AND S.C.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wealthy</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-to-do</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

£ = British Pound

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The migration of such persons (slaves) as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year 1808;

THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY
1777–1865

Note: The states displaying two dates all passed Gradual-Abolition Acts. The first date represents the year Gradual-Abolition Acts were passed. The second date indicates when the last slave died or was freed.
Document L

Source: Andrews, History of the New York African Free-Schools. As reprinted in
Leon Litwack, North of Slavery, 1981.

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

Why should I strive hard and acquire all the con-
stituents 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


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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.

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.

Document O


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| Proportion of All Massachusetts Divorce Petitions Containing Adultery Charges |
|------------------|------------------|
|                  | 1765 -1774       | 1775 - 1786     |
| Male Petitioners | 94%              | 91%             |
| Female Petitioners| 50%              | 79%             |

| Number of Petitions and Number of Favorable Decrees in Massachusetts, by Decade |
|------------------|------------------|
|                  | 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.

Document Q


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.