

# Monthly Mansion Minute

News from the Morris-Jumel Mansion



What's New at the Mansion



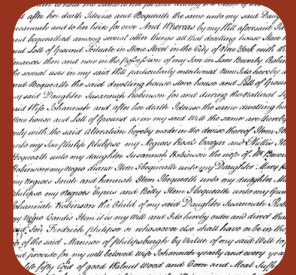
Restoration Report



Education Station



Calendar



Spotlight On Slavery at MJM

# Mansion Minute

## Letter from the Executive Director

Happy February everyone,

This month is an opportunity to celebrate Black history in all its complexity and grandeur. Here at Morris-Jumel Mansion, we continue to work to uncover the evidence and stories of people of color connected to the house's history. This commitment compelled the creation of "Life Below Stairs," our new permanent exhibition in the 18th-century kitchen focusing on the cook and other staff.

There is still much more to discover about those often overlooked individuals who were crucial to the successful running of the home and to the care of its occupants, but we were excited to be able to share what is known so far. I invite you to come and visit the exhibition and consider a day in the life of a cook in an 18th-century grand house like Morris-Jumel. Plus, in the following pages of this newsletter you will find links to upcoming and past programming celebrating Black History.



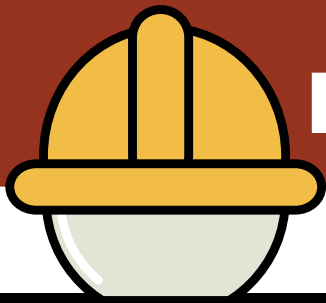
Stay warm and stay curious!

Yours,  
*Catherine Hughes*

## What's New at the Mansion

Save the date! This year's **George Washington Dinner** will be **July 14, 2024**. In July of 1790, George Washington held a dinner at Morris-Jumel Mansion to celebrate his first victory of the war in the Battle of Harlem Heights while headquartered at the Mansion. Guests included Alexander Hamilton, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and more. Join us this July in commemorating the 234th anniversary of the event! Details to come.





# Mansion Minute

## Restoration Report



Click here to watch the Virtual Parlor Chat about the restoration.

We're excited to announce that we have entered the next phase of the capital exterior restoration project as of the last week of January! New York City Historic House Trust (HHT) Architectural Conservator and Project Manager, Danielle Monopoli, has drafted the Request for Proposals (RFP) based on materials developed by the design subconsultant, Page Ayres Cowley Architects.

The RFP was released by HHT for bidding by contractors on January 31st. As we continue to move toward the start of construction, the Historic House Trust is working with engineers to address the urgent installation of additional shoring on the south porch while a plan for column replacement and long-term conservation is finalized. See



the recording of our Virtual Parlor Chat with HHT for further details on the overall plan and progress on the link above.

# Calendar



## **Virtual Parlor Chat**

### **The Bitter History of Chocolate with Lavada Nahon**

February 21 7:00-8:00PM

[Register Here](#)



## **ConEd Family and Community Day**

### **Victorian Valentines**

February 10 1:00-3:00PM

No Registration Required



## **Paranormal Investigation**

February 10 & 24 7:00-9:30PM

[Register Here](#)

# Mansion Minute

## Education Station

The MJM Education Department will be honoring Black History Month with a Valentine's Day twist. On Saturday, February 10th from 1 PM - 3 PM, guests are welcome to create their own Victorian-era Valentines. Participants can be inspired by our multi-media presentations of famous Black women and couples in history. This program is free and open to the public. All supplies will be provided and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Masks are optional inside the museum.



## Virtual Parlor Chats on Black History

February's Virtual Parlor Chat is with culinary historian Lavada Nahon, who will discuss the history of chocolate and its connection with enslavement. [Register on Eventbrite](#) to join this free discussion on Wednesday, February 21 at 7:00PM! We invite you to check out our previous virtual programs on many diverse aspects of Black History below.



Uncovering Black Histories at Morris-Jumel Mansion: The Enslaved People of Early Manhattan



Virtual Parlor Chat: The Black Loyalist Experience in New York



Virtual Parlor Chat: While We Are Still Here with Karen Taylor



Uncovering Black Histories at Morris-Jumel Mansion: Anne Hampton Northup



Virtual Parlor Chat: History of the New York 'Colored' Orphan Asylum



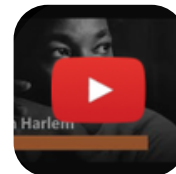
Virtual Parlor Chat: NORTHUP by Black Gotham Experience



Uncovering Black Histories at Morris-Jumel Mansion: William Lee - Fidelity and Freedom



Virtual Parlor Chat: Espionage and Enslavement with Claire Bellerjeau



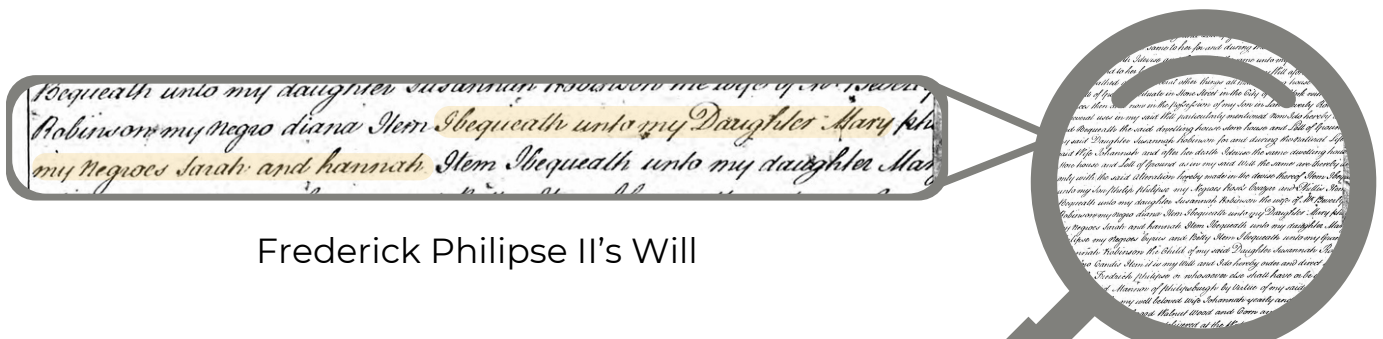
Virtual Parlor Chat: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Harlem

## Spotlight On Slavery at MJM

“Life Below Stairs,” the new permanent exhibition in the basement kitchen of Morris-Jumel Mansion, is one part of our renewed focus on the life and work of those who served in the Mansion, including enslaved individuals, and the contributions they made to American cuisine and foodways.

One of the exhibition’s text panels highlights the connection between slavery and chocolate, which grew in popularity in the colonies and Europe when this house was built for Roger Morris. Another panel focuses on slavery in New York, and the acknowledgment that enslaved people served the Morris family. Part of the evidence comes to us from the will of Frederick Philipse, father of Mary Philipse Morris, in which he bequeathed “unto my Daughter Mary Philipse my Negroes Sarah and hannah [sic].”

We can also see archival evidence in Roger Morris’s letters to his wife Mary. After escaping to England because of his loyalty to the Crown, Roger wrote to Mary about the enslaved persons and servants who were part of the household. In 1776 he wrote: “I am very glad your Disposition of Jack has answered so well. I most Heartily wish you the same Success when you supply the places of Laba & Martha,” and “... you allude, to your having parted with your worst Cuban, altho’ in these unhappy times, it is difficult to know, what to do. I am perfectly satisfied, you have done what you thought for the best, but if it is not impracticable, perhaps you may either get her back again, or supply yourself with another.” These references to enslaved people are a painful reminder of the history of the Mansion, our city, and our country, and we will continue to investigate and share our findings with candor and honesty.



Frederick Philipse II's Will

# Mansion Minute

## Thank you to our members and new donors

Beth Alberty	Erik Fiks	Patricia McMaster
Robert Arnot	Ruth Fischbach	Tracy McNeil
Susan Arnot Heaney	Molly Ginty	John Munoz
Joachim Auer	Paul Glassman	Jennifer Nassau
Veronica Bainbridge	Robert Gregg	Robert Newman
Jonathan Bassett	Marissa Guijarro	Guillaume Nicoud
Priscilla Bassett	Jeffrey C. Hahn	Sara Parrott
Wayne Benjamin	Susan Hesse	Lori Perkins
Sean Benum	Elizabeth Hipp	Sherri Phillips
Marion Bochner	Nelda Hirsch	Stephen Pickover
Stuart Braman	Dana Hockenbury	Joanna Piucci
Robert Burke	Lucille Horkan	Adam Pollack
Antonio Burr	Joseph Hummel	Afua Preston
Glenorchy Campbell	Laura Jacobs	Zead Ramadan
Jane Campbell	Howard Johnson	Bruce Robertson
Alexander Campos	Jim Kerr	Camilla Saly
Steven Cappel	Barbara Kiviat	Brenda Scott
Jon Carver	Knickerbocker Chapter of NSDAR	Steve Simon
Leslie Casey	Lisa Koenigsberg	Matthew Spady
Katherine Chen	Kerry Vera Lea	Kevin Stayton
Alan Cohen	Jill LeLand	Lisa Stock
Karen Compton	Suzanne Lemakis	Jerry Thomas
Fred Cookinham	Lynn Leopold	John Thomas
Rose Deler	Curtis LeRoy Archer	Deborah Trupin
Vincent DeLuca	Maria Luna	Michael Unthank
John Doherty	Xavier Mandeng	Thai-Son Vu
Jamie Drake	Robert Mariani	Isabelle Wedemeyer
Suzanne Ducat	Karen Mason	Warren Whitlock
Tessa Dunning	Berta Matos	Jason Wilcox
Sehra Eusufzai		Suzanne Wray
		Elizabeth Yockey

Have a question? Want to know more?  
Email [info@morrisjumel.org](mailto:info@morrisjumel.org)

**Donate**