

A photograph of the Morris-Jumel Mansion, a large white neoclassical building with a portico supported by four columns and a balcony on the second floor. The building is surrounded by green trees.

Monthly Mansion Minute

News from the Morris-Jumel Mansion



What's New at
the Mansion



Restoration
Report



Education
Station



Calendar



Spotlight On
Kady Brownell

Mansion Minute

Letter from the Executive Director

Hello everyone

It's March, which has two key meanings here at MJM. Nationally, it is Women's History Month and we have included content in this newsletter and have programs during the month to reflect on the role of women at MJM. And for those in the philanthropy and nonprofit world, this time of year is when we are busy with grant proposals.

One way a museum like Morris-Jumel Mansion secures funds to operate is through grants from public and private sources. It is the way of the non-profit world. We are thankful for the generosity of these philanthropic supporters. Without them, we would have a diminished cultural landscape here in NY City. Culture has been key to the City's economic recovery post-pandemic and is also the number one driver of tourism. Data also shows that cultural assets in neighborhoods lead to positive outcomes in safety, better education, improve aging and mental health, and the wellbeing of youth. We at MJM are pleased to be part of this NYC cultural eco-system that benefits the city and our community.

Yours,
Catherine Hughes



What's New at the Mansion

We had a productive all-staff and all-volunteer meeting in February! While we like to meet every year regardless, with so many new faces around the Mansion, this year it was especially important to get together. We discussed everything from handbooks to the exterior restoration, and enjoyed a delicious breakfast courtesy of the board. Thank you to all of those who came out, both in-person and virtually. If you would like to volunteer, contact Maddie at mungo@morrisjumel.org.



Mansion Minute



Restoration Report



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

The Exterior Restoration of the MJM building is proceeding. The Request for Proposals (RFP) is finished and has been publicized to all qualifying contractors, who now have until March 18 to submit a bid. Any contractor wishing to inspect the Mansion can schedule an appointment now with Danielle Monopoly from the Historic House Trust, who is managing the the project.

Requests for additional capital funding for Phase 2 of the Exterior Restoration and Accessibility Project have been submitted to Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine's office, and New York City Council through Council Member Carmen de la Rosa's office.

Meet MJM's new intern

Meet Callie Morris, our new intern here at the Mansion! Callie is a current Museum Studies graduate student at NYU and holds a bachelor's degree in History with a minor in Law from Marymount Manhattan College. Callie has an interest in the curatorial and archival work that museums and other historic institutions undertake. She has a passion for learning about history and solving the mysteries that come with working closely with museum collections. Outside of school and work, Callie loves visiting other museums, settling down with a good book, and enjoying quality time with friends and family.



Calendar



Virtual Parlor Chat

Women's Rights in New Amsterdam and New York

March 20 7:00-8:00PM

[Register Here](#)



ConEd Family and Community Day

Quilting and International Women's Day

March 9 1:00-3:00PM

No Registration Required



Paranormal Investigation

March 9 & 23 7:00-9:30PM

[Register Here](#) [or here](#)



Easter Egg Hunt

Co-Sponsored by Columbia University Irving Medical Center and Assemblyman Al Taylor

March 23 12:00-3:00PM

No Registration Required

Mansion Minute

Education Station

The MJM Education Department is excited to announce its partnership with PS 4, the Duke Ellington School for our Cultural Immigrant Initiative! We are thankful for funding from the office of City Council Member Carmen de la Rosa. MJM and PS4 will wrestle with the question, "What Does It Mean to Be an American?" Students will use historic biographies, MJM history and archives, and their lived experiences to build an evidence-based response to this question. The project will culminate in a final exhibition displayed at the Mansion. Keep an eye out and please attend to see these students present their research findings!



Save the Date for the George Washington Dinner 2024

July 14, 2024 6:00-9:00pm

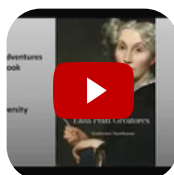


Virtual Parlor Chats in recognition of Women's History month

March's Virtual Parlor Chat is with Jean Zimmerman, author of *Women of the House*, who will discuss the shift in women's power and rights that ensued after the original Dutch colony of New Netherland became an English colony renamed New York. [Register on Eventbrite](#) to join this free discussion on Wednesday, March 20th at 7:00PM! We invite you to check out our previous virtual programs on Women's History below.



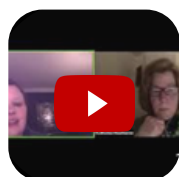
Virtual Parlor Chat: Espionage and Enslavement with Claire Bellerjeau



Two Elizas in Old New York | Virtual Parlor Chat with Morris-Jumel Mansion



A Virtual Feminist Walk Through Harlem: Celebrating Remarkable Women with Leigh Hallingby



Sitting for a Female Photographer in Old New York with Katherine Manthorne



Who was the Real Mary Philipse Morris? | Virtual Parlor Chats at Morris-Jumel Mansion



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

Mansion Minute

Spotlight On Kady Brownell

War veteran, nurse, vivandière, and custodian of the Morris-Jumel Mansion. Who was Kady Brownell? Known as the only woman to be active on the battlefield during the Civil War, and one of the first women to receive a military pension, Kady Brownell challenged the boundaries of gender structures during the nineteenth century. In honor of Women's History month, we have put the spotlight on her story.

Born in 1842 as the daughter of British Colonel George Southwell on a British army camp in South Africa, Kady Brownell was introduced to the intricacies of war at a young age. Almost 20 years later, Kady would make history as the only woman to fight for the Union Army during the Civil War. The outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 called for men to enlist in the Union Army, a call that was not only heard by Kady's husband, Robert, but Kady as well. Refusing to accept that war was, "no place for a woman," Kady convinced the Governor of Rhode Island to let her follow Robert onto the battlefield. She became a part of the 1st Rhode Island Infantry as a color bearer. She was present during the Battle of Bull Run (1861) and was said to have brazenly held the flag while Confederate bullets and cannons whizzed by. Newspaper articles state that upon being injured at the Battle of Bull Run, "...she dressed the wound herself, mounted a horse, and rode 34 miles to a small town near Washington." During her second enlistment for the 5th Rhode Island Infantry, Kady demonstrated another act of bravery at the Battle of New Bern (1862), in which she faced the might of heavy artillery to wave the flag, saving many lives.

The Battle of New Bern was the last battle in Kady's military career. After Robert Brownell became injured in the War, Kady became a nurse to him as well as other wounded soldiers. After the Civil War, both Kady and Robert moved to New York. Kady would go on to be one of the first women to receive a military pension for her time served in the Union Army at a salary totaling \$8.00 a month. In 1895 Kady passed the Civil Service exam and became a custodian, alongside her husband, of the Morris-Jumel Mansion. Kady continued to enhance what would be her legacy as a Civil War veteran by participating in the veteran memorial walk along Riverside Drive. Newspapers raved about her, saying, "Kady Brownell was not the traditional Amazon, the fierce-fighting female who disguises herself in a man's costume... She wore her own woman's uniform of blue flannel blouse, fluff short skirt and boots. She went armed and was a crack shot. It stands to her record that she was the only woman member of the Grand Army of the Republic." As a testament to her life and legacy, the *New York World* commented, "Kady Brownell stood the test that the army required of its men in years of hard campaigning."



Postcard of Kady Brownell
from MJM's archives, ca. 1910

Mansion Minute

Thank you to our members and new donors

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

Have a question? Want to know more?
Email info@morrisjumel.org

Donate