

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

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## NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 24, 2019

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## HAMILTON DESCENDANT LENDS OBJECTS TO SCHUYLER SISTER EXHIBITION AT THE ALBANY INSTITUTE

ALBANY, NEW YORK— Douglas Hamilton, the fifth great-grandson of Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, was in Albany this week dropping off objects to be shown in *The Schuyler Sisters & Their Circle* exhibition at the Albany Institute of History & Art.

The objects, recently on view at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia as part of their “Year of Hamilton” display, include a Society of the Cincinnati Eagle insignia owned by Alexander Hamilton and a gold mourning ring belonging to Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton. Two additional items belonging to Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, a handkerchief embroidered with her name and a baby dress she is said to have made, will also be on view. They recently underwent conservation and this is only their second time on public display.

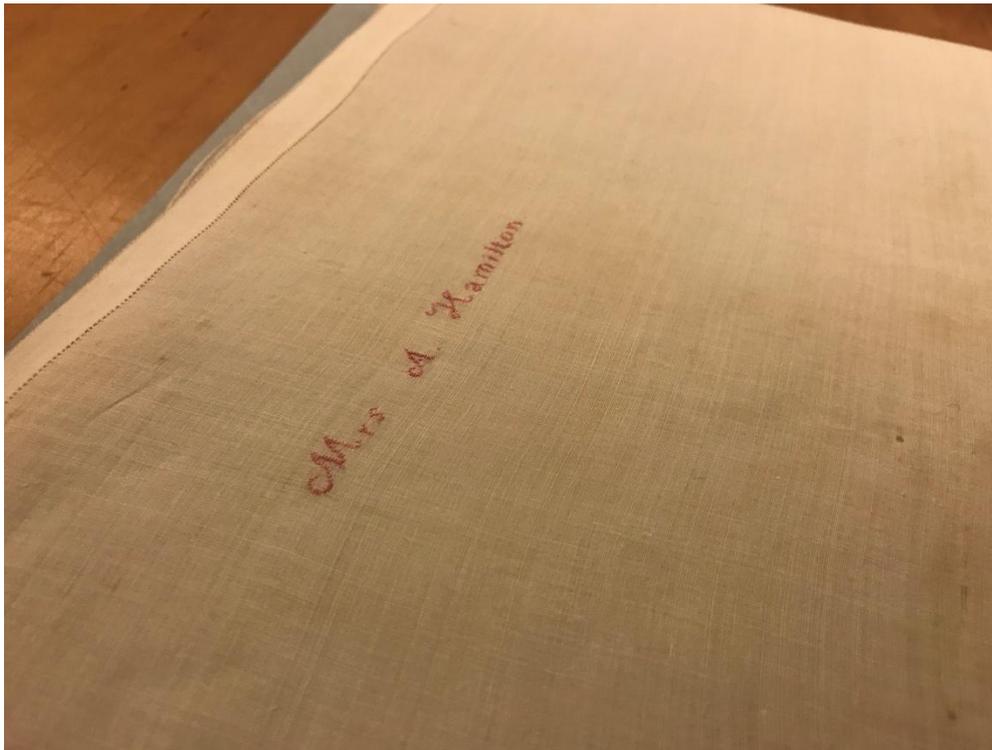
The objects will be added to the exhibition just as two other items return to Columbia University. Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton’s wedding ring, on loan to *The Schuyler Sisters & Their Circle* from the Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Columbia University, and a miniature portrait of Alexander Hamilton surrounded by a mat believed to have been embroidered by Elizabeth, on loan from Art Properties, Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library at Columbia University, will be on view through October 27, 2019. *The Schuyler Sisters & Their Circle* exhibition runs through December 29, 2019.



Exhibition curator Diane Shewchuk, Albany Institute Executive Director Tammis Groft, and Hamilton descendant Douglas Hamilton unpack Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton’s embroidered handkerchief at the Albany Institute of History & Art on Monday, October 21, 2019. The handkerchief and other objects from Hamilton’s collection will be incorporated into *The Schuyler Sisters & Their Circle* exhibition, which runs through December 29, 2019.

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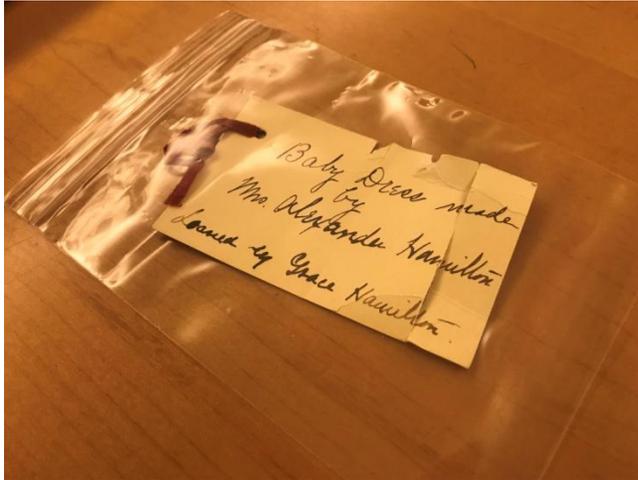


Detail of Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton's embroidered handkerchief, collection of Douglas Hamilton.



Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton's mourning ring, worn by Elizabeth following the death of her husband Alexander Hamilton in 1804. The gold ring includes a piece of his hair and the small gold loop allowed the ring to be worn as a pendant. Collection of Douglas Hamilton.

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Tag identifying a baby dress as being made by Mrs. Alexander Hamilton [Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton], dated to about 1810-1840, collection of Douglas Hamilton.



Detail of a white cotton infant's gown made by Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, dated around 1810-1840, collection of Douglas Hamilton.

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Society of the Cincinnati Eagle insignia owned and worn by Alexander Hamilton, collection of Douglas Hamilton.

**More about the exhibition *The Schuyler Sisters & Their Circle*** Sparked by the phenomenal success of *Hamilton: An American Musical*, the Albany Institute of History & Art has organized the exhibition *The Schuyler Sisters and Their Circle* (July 20 – December 29, 2019). There is no better place than the Albany Institute to develop and mount this exhibition. After all, the Institute was founded in 1791, when their dear friend and house guest, George Washington was President. The Albany Institute is also partnering with Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site, which is presenting a Women of Schuyler Mansion tour.

Interest in the Schuyler family has increased in recent years because of the Tony Award-winning Broadway show. The Schuylers were a prominent Dutch family in New York in the 18th and 19th centuries, who played a central role in the formation of the United States. Renowned Revolutionary War general Philip Schuyler (1733-1804) and his wife Catharine Van Rensselaer (1734-1803) raised eight children in their Albany home. *Hamilton: An American Musical* prominently features the three eldest Schuyler daughters: Angelica Schuyler Church, Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, and Margaret (Peggy) Schuyler Van Rensselaer.

Catharine Schuyler was the great-great-granddaughter of Killian Van Rensselaer, the original founder of the Dutch colony of Rensselaerswyck. Catharine's marriage to Philip Schuyler linked two of New York's great

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Portrait of Angelica Schuyler Church with her child and servant by John Trumbull, 1784, oil on canvas, private collection

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landholding families. Philip Schuyler was known to care about the education of his daughters and paid for lessons in French, geography, history, writing, arithmetic, music, and dancing. Catharine Schuyler raised their daughters with an awareness of their colonial Dutch New York heritage and their connections to members of the prominent Ten Broeck, Livingston, Bayard, Van Rensselaer, and Van Cortlandt families.

The exhibition discusses the wide-ranging interests of Catharine and her three eldest daughters Angelica, Elizabeth, and Margaret (Peggy)— sisters who witnessed history unfold in Albany, New York, Philadelphia, Paris, and London. As the wife of Alexander Hamilton, Eliza had a front row seat to events that shaped this country in the years immediately following the Revolution. For many years, Angelica lived abroad where she entertained royalty, diplomats, and artists in Paris and London. She maintained life-long friendships with the prominent figures she met, like Thomas Jefferson, and patronized artist John Trumbull. Peggy married Stephen Van Rensselaer III who ranks 10th on Business Insider’s list of wealthiest Americans of all time.

*The Schuyler Sisters and Their Circle* also explores the men the Schuyler sisters married, hosted, and befriended. Military, political, and intellectual luminaries of the day including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and the Marquis de Lafayette visited the Schuyler home in Albany.

The exhibition uses clothing, decorative arts, portraits, and manuscripts from the Revolutionary Period to the Federal Period to tell the stories of the Schuyler women. Twenty-four public and private institutions and individuals have lent their treasures for display. A rarely exhibited John Trumbull portrait of Angelica Schuyler Church with her child and servant is on loan to the exhibition from a private collection, and there are additional significant loans from Columbia University (including Eliza Hamilton's wedding ring from the Rare Book and Manuscripts Library), Fort Ticonderoga, Seth Kaller, Inc., New-York Historical Society, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of the City of New York among many others. The Albany Institute is thrilled to bring these objects associated with the Schuyler sisters together in their hometown and showcase them in a special exhibition sure to thrill visitors- from history buffs to Hamifans!

Leading exhibition support is provided by Lois and I. David Swawite, Omni Development Company, Inc., and the Cornelia Cogswell Rossi Foundation. Major support is provided by the Arnold & Jessie B. Cogswell Fund, Cooper Erving & Savage LLP, Dahl Taylor, Discover Albany, Times Union, Daughters of the American Revolution, Fan Association of North America, Deborah Groesbeck Bennett & John Bennett, Lawrence & Louise Marwill, and Douglas L. Cohn, D.V.M. This project is supported as part of the Dutch Culture USA program by the Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York. M&T Bank is the season sponsor of *The Schuyler Sisters & Their Circle* programs.

Season exhibition support is provided by Phoebe Powell Bender, Mr. and Mrs. George R. Hearst III, Charles M. Liddle III, and Lois and David Swawite. Programmatic and exhibition support is made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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The Albany Institute of History & Art is located at 125 Washington Avenue in Albany, New York. Free parking is available in the museum’s lot at the corner of Elk and Dove Streets.

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The exhibition galleries and the Museum Shop are open Wednesday 10am-5pm, Thursday 10am-8pm, Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sunday noon-5pm. The Research Library is open on Thursdays from 1pm-4:30pm and by appointment. The Museum Café is open Wednesday through Saturday 10am-3pm and Sunday noon-5pm.

Admission rates are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (62+) and students with ID, \$6 for children aged 6-12, and free for children under 6. Albany Institute members are admitted for free. There is no charge to visit the Museum Café or Museum Shop. The museum offers \$5 per person admission to the galleries on Thursdays from 5pm-8pm and free admission on the First Fridays of the month from 5pm-8pm. To learn about discounts and free admission days, please refer to the Visit section of [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org).

For more information, visit [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org) or call (518) 463-4478.

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Founded in 1791, the Albany Institute of History & Art is New York's oldest museum. Its collections document the Hudson Valley as a crossroads of culture, influencing the art and history of the region, the state, and the nation. With more than 35,000 objects and one million documents in the library, it is an important resource for the region, giving our community a sense of the part the Hudson Valley played in the American story, and our own place in history. Permanent and temporary exhibitions are open year-round and create a sense of place, allowing visitors to meet the people who helped shape this region. Among the museum's best-known and most-loved collections are the 19<sup>th</sup> century Hudson River School landscape paintings by artists like Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, the 19<sup>th</sup> century sculpture collections, and, of course, the famous Albany Mummies that came to the museum in 1909 and have been on view ever since. For more information, please visit [www.albanyinstitute.org](http://www.albanyinstitute.org) and be sure to follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute](https://www.facebook.com/albanyinstitute)), Twitter (@AlbanyInstitute), and Instagram (albanyinstitute).

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