

Yes! I want to help ensure that the story told by the Van Rensselaer Manor papers is accessible to scholars, students, and researchers. My tax-deductible gift is enclosed for:

- \$25 \$50 \$75
 \$100 other

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Please make checks payable to Friends of the New York State Library and mail to:

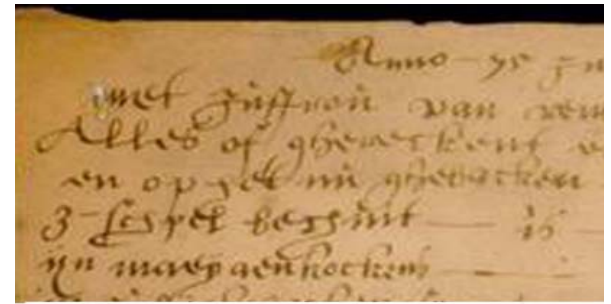
Treasurer
Friends of the New York State Library
P.O. Box 2247
Empire State Plaza Station
Albany, NY 12220

The New York State Library
www.nysl.nysed.gov

The oldest and largest State Library in the nation, the New York State Library is the only State Library to qualify for membership in the Association of Research Libraries. The New York State Library is an information powerhouse that combines knowledgeable and highly skilled staff with a research collection of more than 20 million items. The Library is charged with the stewardship of some of the nation's most important collections of records from the Colonial and other early periods of American history. The State Library meets the demands of today's environment of opportunities, challenges, and threats to keeping heritage documents safe while providing broad access to them through preservation and digitization.

***The Friends of the
New York State Library***
www.nyslfriends.org

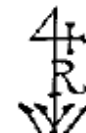
The Friends of the New York State Library is a not-for-profit group of readers, library users, scholars, historians, and others whose mission is to stimulate government and public support for our nation's greatest State Library. The Friends is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization. Gifts to the Friends are tax deductible on both US and NYS tax returns.



***The New York State
Library's Collection of
the Van Rensselaer
Manor Papers***

...provides an extraordinary and priceless archive of the growth and history of the earliest permanently settled region of the United States.

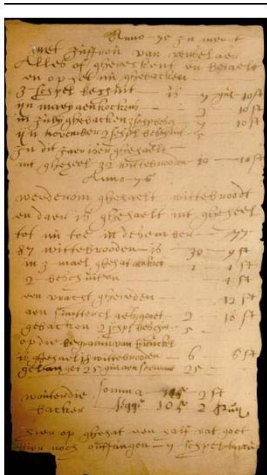
***You can help open the
book on this fascinating
story....***



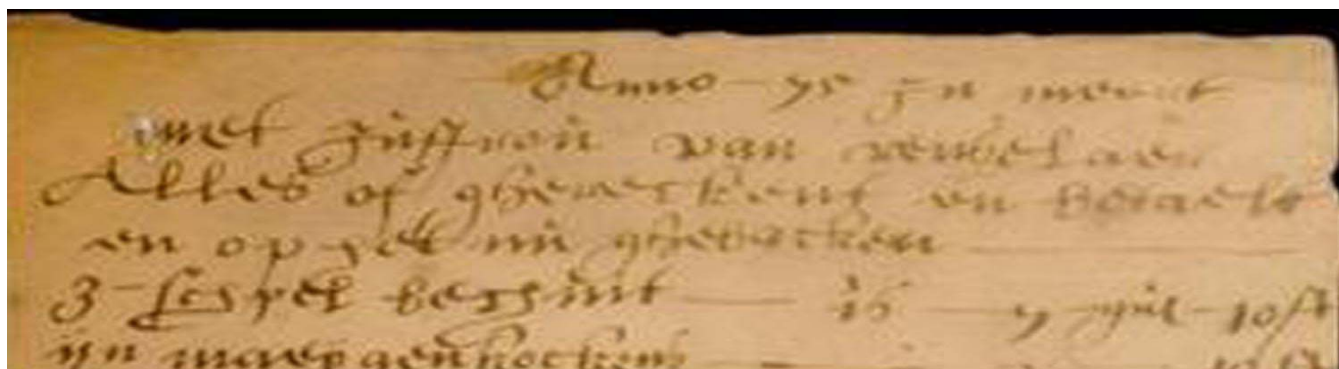
Voluminous letters, contracts, business transactions, records of material culture, personal stories, land transactions, maps, ledgers, and other papers document over two hundred years of daily life from the earliest years of New York's history until the mid-nineteenth century.

Yet scholars and researchers are denied access to these historically significant papers. Ravages of time,

including the disastrous 1911 Capitol fire, have damaged many of these important papers. Many documents in the collection are so fragile they cannot be made available for study and research.



Bakers account from Wouter de backer (Wouter Albrtsz), March 1675. This document mentions the first reference to the celebration of Sinterklaas (Saint Nicholas) in New Netherland.



Preserving these documents is a difficult, meticulous, and expensive undertaking. Matching funds to a Save America's Treasure grant awarded to The New York State Library by the National Park Service will help conserve the most endangered and at-risk portion of this historically significant collection.

Your tax-deductible gift to this matching fund will help make these extraordinary documents available to scholars and researchers and rediscover a chapter in New York's earliest history.



An invoice of goods shipped to New Netherland in 1654 provides a detailed account of books and textiles sent with Cornelis van Schel and Jeremias van Rensselaer from Amsterdam via the ship De Gelderse Blom to New Netherland.

"The Van Rensselaer Manor papers promise to open the cover of the vast and fascinating story of New York's rich cultural heritage and provide us with the opportunity to look into the daily lives and experiences of those who created the foundations of our state. Without your help, this chapter of our cultural heritage stands to be lost forever. We invite you to be part of our vision to make this valuable cultural resource accessible to all for study and illumination."

Loretta Ebert
Director, New York State Research Library