

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Dot Voorhees, Friends of John Jay Homestead; (914) 232-8119;
friends@johnjayhomestead.org

On Thursday, February 18th, Friends of John Jay Homestead will continue their 2016 John Jay Scholars Lecture Series, *Telling Stories of War*, when Kevin M. Murphy will present *American Encounters: Anglo-American Portraiture in an Era of Revolution*.

When we look at the art in the Homestead collection - works by Gilbert Stuart, Benjamin West, Jean-Antoine Houdon, John Trumbull - we might not see the signs of growing Revolutionary fervor. *American Encounters* shows us how to look for them. Kevin Murphy's book grew out of a series of exhibit collaborations including The Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, The High Museum, Musee du Louvre, and Terra Foundation for American Art. Mr. Murphy was the exhibit curator at Crystal Bridges, and is now the Eugenie Pendergast Curator of American Art at the Williams College Museum of Art.

The Scholars Lecture Series will conclude on Tuesday, March 15th, when Nicholas A. Robinson will present *The Forest Charter and Magna Carta: Evolving Human Rights in Nature*.

The *Telling Stories of War* theme came from a growing focus on John Jay's role in the adoption of the U.S. Constitution. Jay was motivated at least in part by his dismay (shared by Washington and other Federalists) at the shabby treatment of soldiers in the Continental Army in the War for Independence; under the Articles of Confederation, states paid taxes on a voluntary basis, and the Treasury was starved for funds.

The 2016 John Jay Lecture Series is organized by the Scholars Committee of Friends of John Jay Homestead, whose members include Sheila and John Bernson, Cynthia and Steven Brill, Joyce and Gary Corrigan, Vanessa Diebold, John M. Greenwood, Donald P. Gregg, Susan Allport Howell, Gary S. Jacobson and Bridget C. Thorne, Brian Kelly, Migs and Brian Landry, Heather G. Langham, Bonnie and Piers MacDonald, Holly Ann Maggio, Silvia and Steve Ohler, George Hunter Roberts, Martin J. Rosen, Esq., Linda A. Mahon and Robert H. Saunders, Timothy P. Schieffelin, Janet K. Schloat, Jennifer and Roger Schwartz, Norman Selby, John J. Stockbridge, Kate and Tom Terry, Marilen G. Tilt, Frances Train, Melissa Vail (Chair), and Caroline and John Walker.

The February 18th lecture will be held in the Ballroom at John Jay Homestead State Historic Site at 7:00 P.M., registration beginning at 6:15 P.M. with light refreshments. A book signing will follow the lecture. Tickets are \$20 for Members of Friends of John Jay Homestead and \$25 for non-members. Reservations are recommended.

For more information, or to reserve tickets or books, please contact the Friends of John Jay Homestead office at (914) 232-8119; email friends@johnjayhomestead.org; or visit www.johnjayhomestead.org.