

**I'd like to help preserve  
the Van Rensselaer  
Manor Papers.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/zip \_\_\_\_\_

**The FNYSL have 501(c)(3) status. Gifts to  
the Friends are tax deductible on both US  
and NYS tax returns.**

My check is enclosed for:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check 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***

**<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov>**

With a collection of more than 20 million items, the New York State Library is the largest State Library in the nation and the only State Library to qualify for membership in the Association of Research Libraries.

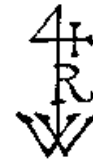
Impressive changes are underway in the New York State Library, as it continues to shape the future of the Library experience by adding new services. New York State residents, 18 years and older, now are eligible to receive a borrower's card. All New Yorkers, even those in geographically isolated communities, have Internet access to NOVEL, New York's Online Virtual Electronic Library.

***Friends of the New York  
State Library***

**<http://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 the government and public support for our nation's greatest State Library.

**Help Save Our Early  
History**



*Monogram of Rensselaerswijck*



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Library**

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Albany, NY 12220**

## A Great Collection

From 1630 until 1860, over one million acres in present-day Albany and nearby counties comprised the Patroonship of Rensselaerswijck. Records from this patroonship paint a fascinating picture of the growth of this small settlement to a full-grown society.

The New York State Library's collection includes voluminous letters, contracts, bonds, accounts, maps, and ledgers documenting over two hundred years in this extensive territory. Business transactions, records of material culture, personal stories, land transactions, and other documents all document life in this region from the earliest years of America's history until the mid nineteenth century.

### The Problem:

Ravages of time, including the disastrous 1911 Capitol fire, have damaged many of these important papers.

Some parts of the collection are so fragile that researcher access has to be denied pending restoration.

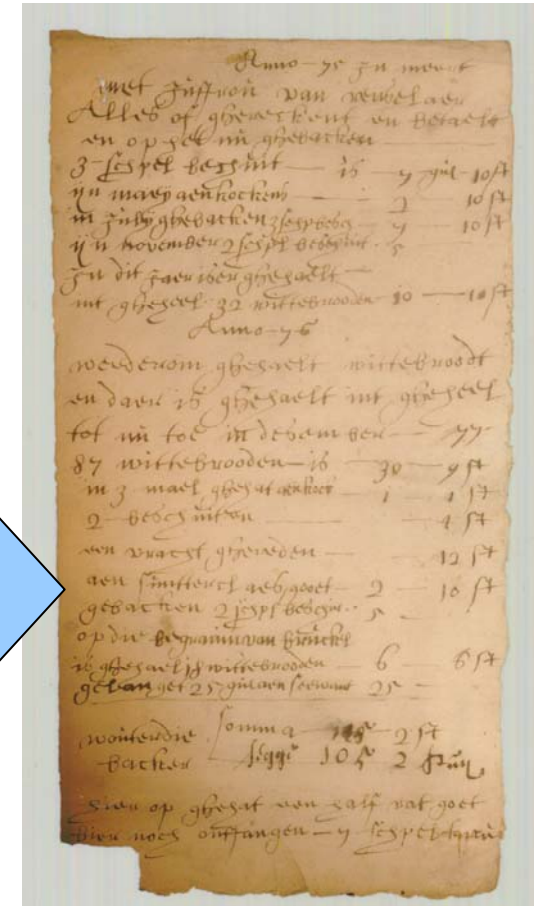
The valuable work of historians, genealogists, archaeologists, legal researchers, and other scholars is hampered by lack of access to these crucial materials.

## How you can help



The National Park Service has awarded the New York State Library a Save America's Treasures grant to conserve part of the Van Rensselaer Manor papers.

The terms of the grant award include a matching funds provision. The Friends of the New York State Library are working to raise these matching funds so that preservation of the most threatened portion of this collection can begin. If you would like to contribute to this effort, please consider making a donation.



*Baker's account from Wouter de backer (=Wouter Albertsz), March 1675*

This is the first reference to the celebration of Sinterklaas (Saint Nicholas) in New Netherland, recording that Maria van Rensselaer spent f2.10 on Sinterklaas goodies: ...aen suntterclaesgoet f2:10.