



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF  
AMERICAN JEWISH  
HISTORY  
A Smithsonian Institution Affiliate

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**REVOLUTIONARY ROOTS EXPLORED THROUGH ANDREWS COLLECTION AT  
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY**

***American Roots: The Andrews Family* installation on view through February 7**

The National Museum of American Jewish History is pleased to announce the newest feature on its free first floor, *American Roots: The Andrews Family*, on view through February 7, 2016.

Few Americans trace their ancestry back to our nation's founding. *American Roots* tells the story of one that does—the Andrews family. This family traces its history in America back over 300 years and eleven generations, and the Andrews family **tree includes one of the most well-known Jewish participants in the American Revolution, Haym Salomon (1740-1785).**

Polish-born Salomon embraced the cause of liberty upon his arrival to these shores in 1775, as unrest seized the colonies and war seemed inevitable. Escaping British

occupied New York City, Salomon relocated to Philadelphia and served as a broker to the office of Finance, securing loans to help finance the American Revolution. His patriotic service earned him respect in his own time and he has been remembered with pride and admiration by generations of Americans.

Salomon is not the only patriot on the Andrews family tree. **His contemporary—Major Benjamin Nones (1740-1826)—served under George Washington and received a citation for bravery in the Battle of Charleston.** Salomon's grandson married Nones's granddaughter, and later generations spread out across the country.

Descendants of these early American heroes were among the earliest Jewish residents of far-off cities like Huntsville, Alabama, while others helped establish the Jewish community of Memphis, Tennessee and put down strong roots in cities from New Orleans to New York City. The Andrews collection is particularly strong in material related to these later generations, whose struggles and successes have impacted this nation for nearly 300 years.

“The historic material in the Andrews Family Jewish Archive is a real treasure to scholars of American Jewish history,” said Claire Pingel, the Museum’s chief registrar



Page from tribute book to New York labor leader, Lewis Lyon. Lyon's daughter married David. C. Andrews, a descendant of Haym Salomon, 1889

and associate curator. “We were honored by its donation and we are excited to introduce some highlights of the collection to the public at this time.”

The artifact installation features letters, *ketubot* (marriage certificates), prayer books, advertisements, and other artifacts from the Museum’s Andrews Family Jewish Archives. The donation of these objects was made by Joseph L. “Joel” Andrews, M.D. of Concord, Massachusetts on behalf of his family members.

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The National Museum of American Jewish History, located on historic Independence Mall in Philadelphia, brings to life the 350-year history of Jews in America. Tracing the stories of how Jewish immigrants became Jewish Americans, the Museum invites visitors of all backgrounds to share their own stories and reflect on how their histories and identities shape and are shaped by the American experience. An open door for all, NMAJH honors the past and contributes to a better future by sharing the power of imagination and ideas, culture and community, leadership and service, in ways that turn inspiration into action.

The National Museum of American Jewish History is located at 101 South Independence Mall East at the corner of Fifth and Market Streets in Philadelphia. Museum hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am - 5:30 pm. NMAJH is closed most Mondays, including federal holidays and some Jewish holidays. Museum admission is \$12.00 for adults, \$11.00 for senior citizens and youth, free for children 12 and under, Museum Members, and active military with ID. Admission after 5:00 PM is pay-what-you-wish. For more information, visit [NMAJH.org](http://NMAJH.org) or call 215.923.3811.