



GOMEZ MILL HOUSE c.1714



The History of Our Nation is Embedded in These Walls

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GOMEZ MILL HOUSE CELEBRATES 300TH ANNIVERSARY NEW EXHIBIT AND KEYNOTE PROGRAM

LUIS MOSES GOMEZ; PIONEER MERCHANT OF NEW YORK
At Center for Jewish Heritage – Benefit Opening June 19

***LUIS MOSES GOMEZ AND JEWISH CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE FOUNDING OF AMERICA***

Dr. Michael Feldberg, George Washington Institute for Religious Freedom

CONVERSATIONS WITH GOMEZ DESCENDANTS

**Julian Boyden, Ainsley Henriques, Robert Jacobs, Frederic S. Nathan, and
Lynn Rosenberg**

New York, NY (June 5, 2014) As the Gomez Mill House, the oldest Jewish dwelling in North America, celebrates its 300th Anniversary in 2014, this Celebration exhibit, *Luis Moses Gomez: Pioneer Merchant of New York* and *Keynote Program* reveal new facets of the landmarked site's history and the story of Jewish pioneers in America.

The new exhibit presented by the Gomez Foundation for Mill House in partnership with The American Sephardi Federation and The American Jewish Historical Society includes rare 18th and 19th Century artifacts and documents in a fascinating and enlightening portrait of Luis Moses Gomez, a pioneer Jewish merchant in New York and patriarch of the what has been described as the most influential and important Jewish family of Early America.

The Exhibit opens with a Benefit on Thursday evening June 19. Tickets are \$125 and \$75 at www.gomez.org. Proceeds support the programs, preservation, and collection of the Gomez Mill House. The exhibit is open to the public free of charge from Friday, June 20-Friday October 31 at the Center for Jewish History, 15 W. 16th Street, NYC.

On the Keynote Program on June 22nd, Tickets at \$35 and \$25 for morning program, \$80 and \$65 for full day. Dr. Michael Feldberg, Executive Director of the George Washington Institute for Religious Freedom, offers new insights into the world of Jewish America in the 18th Century and of the life and contributions of Luis Moses Gomez and his family to the founding and development of America.

Dr. Feldberg will then moderate a Conversations exchange among five descendants of Gomez each representing a line of the Gomez family:

Continued

-*Julian Boyden*, whose ancestor Rachel Gomez (Luis Moses Gomez's granddaughter) and her Loyalist husband, Abraham Waag, a signer of the Declaration of Independence (image in exhibit), returned to England in 1776.

- *Ainsley Henriques* of Jamaica, W.I., a genealogist, historian, and leader of the Jamaica's Jewish community traces his ancestry to Luis Moses Gomez's son Mordecai.

-*Robert Jacobs* of Connecticut, of the Cullman family in New York, direct descendants of Luis Gomez through the marriage of his granddaughter Eve Esther Gomez to Uriah Hendricks.

-*Frederic S. Nathan*, descendant of Luis Gomez through the marriage of his granddaughter Eve Esther Gomez to Uriah Hendricks.

-*Lynn Groner Rosenberg*, Cleveland, OH, traces her ancestry to LMG great-granddaughter Richa who returned to France to marry Andre Gomez. This is the only line that still retains the Gomez surname.

Dr. Abrahams, Executive Director of the Gomez Foundation for Mill House states, "The story of the Gomez Mill House and of Luis Moses Gomez reminds us of the contributions of the early Jewish settlers to the founding and development of America to contemporary times." She notes that, "The history of the Gomez Mill House is unique among house museums, in that following Gomez, four other truly significant owners lived and worked from the site including 18th C entrepreneur and civic leader, Wolfert Acker, an American Renaissance family, The Armstrongs, paper historian and Arts and Crafts artisan, Dard Hunter, and social activist, Martha Gruening.

The 300th Anniversary of the Gomez Mill House is a celebration of America and its promise of Freedom, Tolerance and Opportunity.

The mission of the Gomez Foundation for Mill House is to preserve the 300 year old Gomez Mill House—the oldest standing Jewish dwelling in North America and home to Patriots, Preservationists, Artisans and Social Activists—as a significant regional- and national-ranked museum, and to educate the public about the contributions of its former owners to the multicultural history of the Hudson River Valley. For more information contact: GFMH at 212-294-8239 or via Email: gomez@cjh.org.

The Gomez Mill House and Historic Site is located at 11 Mill House Road off 9W, in Marlboro, NY. For more information contact: Gomez Mill House and Historic Site at (845)236-3126 or via Email: gomezmillhouse@juno.org.

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