

# WOLLY MAMMOTH RACISM

## Eurocentric Standards

The founding social constructs were byproducts of imperialism creating concepts of class based on ownership exercised through dominance. Colonialism claimed Caucasians were the aptest to make ethical decisions and that their discernment was inherently divine. Warping spiritual systems and capitalizing on existing narratives within theology, influence purchased the conscience of humanity. Perceptions of cultured acuity became shallow ideologies based on acquisition instead of maintaining quality relationships.

William Floyd, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris and Philip Livingston were the four men who represented the state of New York when signing the Declaration of Independence. Each one of these men owned slaves when they celebrated in triumph their formal defiance against tyranny. The erasure of the Black experience from New York's history is the elephant in the room of equity, an unspoken wound festering instead of healing.

## Hegemony[

Understanding that the seed of freedom planted in the United States was sown with self-serving intentions, not true liberation is important. The Hudson Valley clings to the rhetoric of patriotism and an association of being those "Yankees of the North" to avoid discussing how it directly prospered as a state from enslaved labor. The illusion of time provides the solace in the arrogant belief that there is no need for continued acknowledgment of New York's complicity in systemic oppression.

## Cognitive Dissonance

There are records and documentation regarding the lives of enslaved people in the Hudson Valley. A variety of evidence is available that shows it was a source of pride to participate in American slavery. That the disciplined practice of degradation was woven into the structures of the community including trade, commerce, social status, and public safety. Requests to honor these facts and how they aided in the development of New York are often met with denial or dismissal out of entitlement. Many have shaped their identity based on the insinuated benevolence of the American Dream and do not possess the tools of accountability for processing pain empathetically.