EXPLORING THE JOURNALS OF Gabriel Furman 2013
The Exhibit

*Exploring the Journals of Gabriel Furman* tells the story of one quirky and influential Brooklynite who chronicled 19th-century Brooklyn and the nation. A municipal leader, author, historian, and collector, Furman both witnessed and participated in Brooklyn’s transformation from a quiet agricultural hamlet into one of the largest cities in America. Later in life, he succumbed to an opium addiction and died penniless and alone in 1854.

For 40 years of his life, Furman filled 13 volumes of journals with detailed notes on a variety of contemporary and historical topics. In this exhibit, the 2013 SAFA summer fellows selected and analyzed entries from Furman’s journals on gender and courtship; agriculture in Kings County; bibliomania and collecting; and urban development.

SAFA Summer Fellowship

*Students and Faculty in the Archives (SAFA)* is an innovative postsecondary education program at Brooklyn Historical Society in which local undergraduates visit the Othmer Library to use and analyze primary sources. Through this hands-on archival experience, students improve document analysis, information literacy, and critical thinking skills. Independent evaluators have shown that SAFA students are more engaged in coursework and perform better than their non-SAFA peers.

SAFA has partnered with three schools within walking distance of our building: Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus; New York City College of Technology (CUNY); and St. Francis College. Since 2011, over 1,100 students have made more than 100 class visits to the archives through courses in History, English, American Studies, Religious Studies, Art History, Photography, Public Speaking, and Architectural Technology.

Students who participated in a SAFA class during the 2012 – 2013 school year were invited to apply to the SAFA Summer Fellowship, a rigorous five-week research experience. By the end of the fellowship, fellows help curate a small exhibit, complete an individual scholarly or creative project, and deliver a public presentation.

Learn more about the fellowship, the fellows, and their projects at [http://safa.brooklynhistory.org/fellowship2013/](http://safa.brooklynhistory.org/fellowship2013/)

For information on visiting the museum, see [http://www.brooklynhistory.org/visitor/visitors.html](http://www.brooklynhistory.org/visitor/visitors.html)

To learn about conducting research at BHS, see [http://www.brooklynhistory.org/library/visit.html](http://www.brooklynhistory.org/library/visit.html)
ALICE ALBERS
St. Francis College
As an English major, I find myself constantly learning things that go beyond just literature. I value the knowledge and insight gained from my curiosity about history and culture. It’s particularly exciting to be studying Gabriel Furman’s journals because I am a native Brooklynite. My project allows me to learn about my cultural background and to explore who the Irish and Germans were in the 1800s. I plan to share what I uncover by means of an infographic and website explaining how Irish and Germans helped shape the Brooklyn that I call home today.

BRIAN BALLIE
New York City College of Technology
I am a Mechanical Engineering major. The past is something I have always been interested in and here at BHS I am able to delve into all the history I want. In the Furman journals I came across several entries pertaining to the Economic Crisis of 1837 and Furman’s thoughts on it. My project will focus on this crisis and how it relates to the recent economic struggles that have come to light.

YULIYA BAS
New York City College of Technology/City College
I majored in Art when I started college, but I’m honing in on Graphic Design at City College. I was born in Ukraine and moved to Brooklyn 15 years ago, yet I didn’t know much about the borough’s history until starting this fellowship. Art history, Europe and traveling are passions of mine, so I’ve decided that my project will be a creative study of Dutch architecture in Brooklyn.

HANNAH BROWN
St. Francis College
I am a Communication Arts major with a concentration in film and broadcasting. During my freshman year at St. Francis, I became heavily interested in religious studies. In my project website, I will explore religion in Gabriel Furman’s Brooklyn. I want to highlight his immense religiosity and his attitudes toward other religious groups. There is a great story to be told about Gabriel Furman, and I am honored to be able to share my thoughts, ideas, and research along with the other fellows.

SHAWN BRUMELL
New York City College of Technology
Despite majoring in Graphic Arts, I have always found myself interested in history, which is what attracted me to this fellowship. My project will focus on the myths and mythical creatures that Gabriel Furman seemed so interested in. Using a website, I will show how these myths have grown and evolved, to become the stories we know of today. By the end of my time at BHS, I hope to gain a better understanding of who Gabriel Furman was, and to leave behind a project that best captures him.

JACQUELINE CAMACHO
St. Francis College
I am a twenty-one year-old childhood education major. In my free time I enjoy reading, fashion, walking, watching documentaries, and volunteering. Having been allowed the pleasure of working with Gabriel Furman’s journals, I will explore and analyze various poetic entries. Although it is apparent Furman was an influential and intellectual man, I wish to explore his more sensitive side.
ALIA KASEM
St. Francis College
My academic background in English has given me the ability to design with words; to have the imagination and analytical skills to build a literary image. Being able to connect to Gabriel Furman through a close study of his journals has given me exclusive information about Brooklyn during the 19th century. For my project, I will depict scenes described by Gabriel Furman in his journals, connecting my skills as an artist with Furman’s written art.

ROBERT LIVINGSTON
New York City College of Technology
I was born and raised in Brooklyn but moved to Queens during my sophomore year of high school. My project is about strange happenings around Brooklyn in the past, such as the stories of Captain Kidd’s treasure or the alleged sightings of sea serpents in the waters of New York harbor. I will film the locations where such events allegedly took place in order to investigate the legitimacy of these hoaxes.

NICOLE MOLINELLI
St. Francis College
I am a prospective Public Relations major at St. Francis College. I have lived in Lower Manhattan, an area rich with history, all my life. I have always been interested in learning about the history of my community and the SAFA program is definitely making that possible! Gabriel Furman’s Brooklyn is very interesting to me and I will create a walking tour called “A Day in the Life of Gabriel Furman” to show people the amazing Brooklyn Gabriel Furman knew and loved.

ELIZABETH PERALTA
St. Francis College
I am a history major and I hope to one day go to graduate school. My first time at BHS really left me in wonder and now, as a summer fellow, I hope to further understand and be engaged with my major while learning more about Gabriel Furman. By studying his journals, I hope to learn more about the lives of African Americans in the 19th century.

AVA QUIGLEY
New York City College of Technology
As a transplant from Florida to Brooklyn, I am constantly impressed by the history and culture of where I now live. Currently a student with an undeclared major, I find myself drawn to the journals of Gabriel Furman, because like him, I find all things “Brooklyn” fascinating. Specifically, I will be focusing on his references to song and verse in an attempt to shed new light on an old tune.

MICHAEL TUTKO
New York City College of Technology
Drawing was originally a hobby of mine, but when I was accepted to City Tech, I decided to turn this hobby into a career path. I major in Communication/Graphic Design and continue to develop my interest in video editing, scripting, and photography. For my project, I will interpret Gabriel Furman’s depiction of the rapid growth of Brooklyn. By learning from Furman’s descriptions and doing more research, I will create a visual timeline of Brooklyn’s evolution during his life.
The SAFA summer fellowship was conceived and led by:

**ROBIN M. KATZ**  
Outreach and Public Services Archivist  
SAFA Co-Director

**JULIE GOLIA**  
Public Historian  
SAFA Co-Director

**LAUREN ONIFER**  
SAFA Fellowship Instruction Librarian

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