

On a recent Saturday afternoon, around 50 people braved the cold to follow tour guide Annalinne Dinkelmann through the narrow streets of the Financial District in search of the places where Alexander Hamilton lived and worked.

The man who Ms. Dinkelmann considers "the smartest of the founding fathers" haunts this neighborhood. An illegitimate orphan and an immigrant, he arrived in New York City as a teenager in search of an education and opportunities. His brilliance and courage brought him to the attention of George Washington, who was like a father to him. After the American Revolution ended, Washington appointed Hamilton to his cabinet as Secretary of the Treasury.

At the time, New York City was the nation's capital. George Washington lived first at One Cherry St. in a handsome house that was torn down in the 1850's, and then at 39 Broadway. Thomas Jefferson lived on Maiden Lane and Hamilton and his large family lived at various times on Wall Street and at 26 Broadway almost across from the Washingtons.

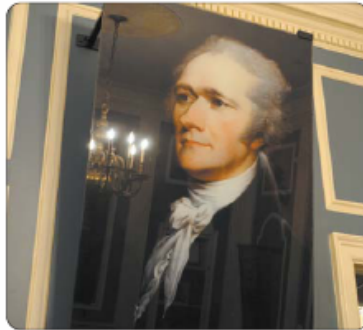
Hamilton, then in his early 30's, saw that the young nation couldn't long endure without the ability to repay debts incurred during the war.

This idea met with huge resistance. One day in June 1790, Hamilton and Jefferson ran into each other on the street here in our neighborhood. Ms. Dinkelmann recounted, and Jefferson invited Hamilton to dinner. James Madison was also invited. At that dinner, they brokered an arrangement whereby the Virginians would support Hamilton's plan to consolidate the war debt if he would agree to back moving the capital from New York to

DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR: HAMILTON'S HAUNTS

WHEN WASHINGTON, HAMILTON
AND JEFFERSON WERE
DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORS

By Terese Loeb Kreuzer



Founding Father: A portrait of Alexander Hamilton hangs in the Museum of American Finance, which is housed in the former headquarters of the Bank of New York, founded by Alexander Hamilton in 1784, just a few months after defeated British troops left New York. Hamilton would have been either 27 or 29 years old when he founded the bank. (The year of his birth is uncertain.) In 1792, stock in the Bank of New York became the first corporate shares to be traded on the newly formed New York Stock Exchange, which Hamilton also helped to found.

Philadelphia on an interim basis and then to a new city to be built on the Potomac.

Ms. Dinkelmann led the group down Pine and William Streets, and then paused at Wall and Water Streets. The southeast corner was once the location of the Merchants' Coffee House, with the Tontine Coffee House diagonally across the street. "The coffee houses were very important in the 17th and 18th centuries," she said, as a place for people to meet and transact business.

The coffee houses were strategically situ-

ated on what was then the waterfront so that the businessmen could see ships going in and out with their cargos of goods and slaves. Hamilton, who was unequivocally opposed to slavery, used to attend meetings at the Merchants' Coffee House for the Manumission Society that was formed to free the slaves in New York. And when he was shot in the duel with Aaron Burr on July 11, 1804, a notice about the duel and his mortal wound went up in the Tontine Coffee House and the news spread "like wildfire."

"As we continue on the rest of the tour, we will be walking along part of the funeral procession," said Ms. Dinkelmann. "It came down Beekman Street where Hamilton's in-laws, John and Angelica Church lived, down Pearl Street, around Whitehall and then up Broadway to Trinity Church."

Hamilton is buried on the south flank of Trinity Church.

The walking tour was sponsored by the Museum of American Finance, which has a collection of Hamilton artifacts and is located in the former headquarters of the Bank of New York, which Hamilton founded.



Annalinne Dinkelmann of Wall Street Walks leading a walking tour of the Financial District focusing on Alexander Hamilton. The tour, sponsored by the Museum of American Finance, is standing in front of 40 Wall St., formerly the home of the Manhattan Co., which was founded by Aaron Burr with Hamilton's assistance. Burr's stated purpose in founding the company was to provide New York City with fresh, clean water. His real aim was to secure capital with which to open a bank, which eventually became JP Morgan Chase. Hamilton was duped by Burr, but by the time he realized what the man who would someday kill him in a duel was up to, it was too late to change the company's charter.

The Museum of American Finance, at 48 Wall St., is open Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission: Adults, \$8; Students/Seniors, \$5; Museum members and kids (6 and under), free. Phone: 212-908-4110. Web site: www.moaf.org. Next walking tour, Feb. 21: Revolutionary New York, 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m. \$15