Additional collections include the Antonia Kolb Papers, concerning the Leisler family in Europe; the Mary Hallenbeck Collection, relating to colonial Claverack, New York; and The Holland Society of New York Collection, containing all of that organization’s publications.

The Jacob Leisler Institute for the Study of Early New York History is located in Hudson, New York, a small historic city in the bucolic Hudson River Valley. The Institute is easily accessible from New York City, Boston, and Albany by road and rail. Hudson, with a dynamic contemporary culture, and the surrounding countryside provide a wealth of resources relating to the period, such as the Luykas Van Alen House, numerous colonial churches, and historic sites, including the former Van Rensselaer and Livingston manorial landholdings.

The Friends of The Jacob Leisler Institute support the Institute’s mission to collect, preserve, and make accessible important documents and other materials relating to a pivotal period in the development of New York and modern America.

The Jacob Leisler Institute is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Membership in the Friends is personal, renewable, and tax deductible to the full extent permitted by law. Business and corporate memberships are also welcome.

The Jacob Leisler Institute produces in partnership with the Hudson Area Library an annual lecture series on the most recent scholarship in colonial New York-New Jersey history. Recent Institute lectures have included:

- Peter Rose, “A Taste of Change: Hand-Written Cookbooks as Documents of Social and Family History.”
- David William Voorhees, “‘How Their Poor Wives Do’: The Role of Women in Colonial New York Politics.”
- Ian Stewart, “A Truly American Form: Anglo Dutch Houses, Their Roots, Form, and Legacy”
- Travis Bowman, “Slavery and Dutch-Palatine Farmers: How Did Middle-class Farmers in Colonial New York Interact with Slavery?”

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The Jacob Leisler Institute is open to the public by appointment.
The Jacob Leisler Institute for the Study of Early New York History is a research center devoted to colonial New York under English rule. From 1664 to 1773, New York Province’s diverse European settlements, American Indian, and African populations fused into a cosmopolitan colonial territory with ties throughout the Atlantic World. The Institute is unique in focusing on this underexamined 109-year period in American history.

Jacob Leisler’s ill-fated 1689–1691 administration of New York is central to understanding the Province’s political, economic, and cultural life up to the outbreak of hostilities with Great Britain in the 1770s. But numerous other changes transformed the Hudson and Mohawk River valleys, Long Island, and East Jersey as well: French, German, English, and African immigration enriched the culture and society; population expansion created new tensions and mythologies; and the Enlightenment and contrasting religious movements remade traditional ideologies. In the end, a new society had arisen by the time of the American Revolution that continues to resonate in the twenty-first century. The Jacob Leisler Institute is preserving the memory of this dynamic period, so that we may more clearly understand our own society today.

The Jacob Leisler Institute is a major repository of late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century New York and New Jersey materials. The Institute’s library contains extensive genealogical records, original manuscripts, over 4,000 document photocopies written in Dutch, German, French, English, and Latin, microfilms, rare books, prints, maps, and photographic and digital materials that cover the full extent of New York Province and go well beyond the Hudson River Valley. As new documents come to light, the Institute encourages their acquisition through the generosity of interested donors.

The Jacob Leisler Institute for the Study of Early New York History is an independent nonprofit organization. Its collections, which continue to grow, address a wide range of disciplines: history, geography, archaeology, ethnohistory, economics, political science, demography, art history, and others. We encourage the public to use these collections as an educational and archival resource and students and scholars to prepare papers, lectures, and book-length manuscripts from our holdings. Through our internship program, students of history learn the skills necessary to preserve and interpret the period’s manuscript and material resources. Through our lecture series, we introduce the latest scholarly research to the public.

The Institute’s Holdings. In addition to the library and material objects, the Institute contains a number of discrete collections relating to colonial New York and New Jersey. Among these collections are:

The Papers of Jacob Leisler: The Papers of Jacob Leisler Project began in 1988 under the auspices of the New York University Department of History. The project was endorsed by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) in 1989. Today, the Jacob Leisler Papers contain over 4,000 records relating to five generations of Leisler’s government, as well as family-related correspondence, property deeds and trade transactions, and political writings. In addition, the collection contains the papers of Leisler’s sons-in-law Jacob Milborne, Abraham Gouverneur, Robert Walter, Joachim Staats, Barent Rynders, and Thomas Lewis, and of the related Bayard, Schaats, Cuyler, Edsall, Stevens, Pasco, Noxon, Mauritz (Morris), Vaughton, Wendell, Schuyler, Kennedy, Myer, Provoost, and Richards families.

The Eric Nooter Collection. In 2000, historian Dr. Eric Nooter donated his papers relating to the colonial history of Kings County, New York, present-day New York City borough of Brooklyn, to the Jacob Leisler Papers. These materials provide a wealth of information relating to western Long Island under British rule.

The Kees-Jan Waterman Collection. In 2019, the heirs of Kees-Jan Waterman, historian and Institute Trustee, donated to the Institute his extensive collection of materials relating to the European–American Indian fur trade of the colonial Hudson and Mohawk Valleys. Included is a library of about 100 books, manuscript translations, research notes, and ephemera. This makes the Leisler Institute an essential repository of documentary sources on the early English period in New York.