Forten Family Bible

This stop is one of our object highlights!

The historic Bible on display here is a Forten family treasure. It has been in the possession of six generations of the family and is currently owned by Atwood “Kip” Forten Jacobs, James Forten's great-great-great-great-grandson. This is the first time it has ever been displayed in public. Kip Forten Jacobs talks about what this family heirloom means to him in a nearby video.

The first owner of this Bible was Jane Vogelsang Forten, who married James Forten’s son and received this volume in 1839. Over the generations, the Fortens used it as a genealogical document, linking generations together. Descendants of Forten added birth, marriage, and death dates for their family members. At the bottom of the family record page, Kip Forten Jacobs has added himself and his daughter to this living record of the Forten family.