

THE BRONX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

3309 BAINBRIDGE AVENUE
THE BRONX, NEW YORK 10467
PHONE: (718) 881-8900
FAX: (718) 881-4827
www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org
Visit us on Facebook, Youtube, and Twitter.

The Bronx County Historical Society, founded in 1955, is a private, non-profit educational and cultural institution chartered by the New York State Board of Regents. The Society is dedicated to the collection, preservation, documentation and interpretation of the history and heritage of The Bronx and its people from its earliest historical references in the 17th century to the present.

The Society disseminates information by utilizing its collections in exhibitions, historical research, production of publications and documentaries, educational and cultural programming, the operation of our research library, The Bronx County Archives and two historic landmark house museums - the c.1812 Edgar Allan Poe Cottage and the c.1758 fieldstone farmhouse Valentine -Varian House/Museum of Bronx History.

This newsletter is published three times a year as a service to members and friends.

The Bronx County Historical Society is partially supported through funds and services provided by the NYC Departments of Cultural Affairs and Parks and Recreation, the Historic House Trust of New York City, The Bronx City Council Delegation, the Office of the President of the Borough of The Bronx, The Bronx Delegations of the NYS Assembly and the NYS Senate, the H.W. Wilson Foundation, the Astor Fund, the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, The New York Times Foundation, the Verizon Foundation, the New York State Library, the New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund, Susan Tane, and the New York Public Library.

THE BRONX HISTORIAN

Newsletter of The Bronx County Historical Society

FEBRUARY 2018– MAY 2018

VOLUME 41 NUMBER 2

Black Women Pioneers of The Bronx

To graduate as a nurse from the Lincoln School was a badge of honor. It meant you excelled at your job and were able to provide the best care. The School for Colored Females in Nursing Arts began in 1898 on Concord Avenue in The Bronx. The school's aim was to "provide training in the nursing arts for colored women" interested in becoming nurses at a time in which being female and professional was not common and being female and Black and a professional was even more uncommon. Not to mention, Black women were not allowed to enroll in all-white nursing schools.

The school was founded at a time when The Bronx was going through a huge population boom. The annexation of the land west of the Bronx River occurred 24 years before the school opened and the Third Avenue El had just been built in the 1880s.

Inevitably, along with all of these changes came inadequate sanitation, overcrowding and poverty and many became concerned with the living conditions of the African American community. Almshouses during the 19th century were the only places for the downtrodden, but they catered to the very poor and homeless as well as criminals, not to those who were in need of medical care.

The Society for the Relief of Worthy Aged Indigent Colored Persons decided to rent and ultimately buy buildings to house their patients. The Colored Home and Hospital finally opened on 141st Street and Concord Avenue in 1898, able to house over 200 patients. That same year, the hospital established the School for Colored Females in Nursing Arts to accommodate the growing number of Black patients who needed nursing care. Six nurses were in the first graduating class of 1900.

By 1930, The Lincoln School became one of the most popular nursing schools for Black women and the most revered overall in the country. Despite the segregation of nursing schools, the nurses of The Lincoln School were known for their superior training. Women came from all over the country to attend the school. One of our members' mothers was in the graduating class of 1958 and in their yearbook, it showed women from Delaware, Louisiana, Montana and even the Bahamas. Despite the Supreme Court ruling segregation unconstitutional in 1954, it was still quietly being enforced in 1958. Not only did these women have to face racism in their private lives, but now in their professional lives as well. These women persevered and succeeded despite the hardship.

The Lincoln School for Nursing closed its doors in 1961. Over 1,800 nurses graduated in its 63-year history. With the advent of the Supreme Court ruling in 1954, Black nurses would be able to attend any and all nursing schools in the country, so The Lincoln School was not needed anymore.

Personal accounts from graduates usually come out the same way – attending The Lincoln School was some of the best years of their lives.

To learn more about noted women in Bronx history, come visit the upcoming exhibition at the Museum of Bronx History titled "Women's Suffrage and New York City: A Centennial Celebration." See page 3 for more information.



The original Lincoln Hospital as it sat on East 141st Street and Concord Avenue at the turn of the 20th century.

The Bronx County Historical Society Collections



Graduating class of 1912, posing on the steps of the old Lincoln Hospital.

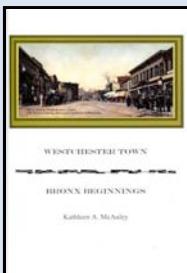
Photo courtesy of the New York Public Library

**WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS**
(PARTIAL LIST)

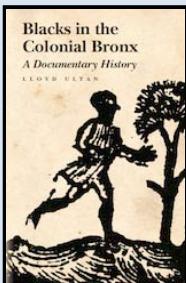
Susan Altman
Beverly Ruth Bader
Paul Beckerman
Mary Jo Ginese
Megan Joskow
Tiago Kaviski
Martin Lev
Anthony Pedatella
Stefan Pedatella

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS:
Autographed copy, add \$10

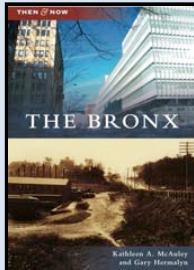
Westchester
Town: Bronx
Beginnings
\$15.00



Blacks in the
Colonial Bronx:
A Documentary History
\$18.00



The Bronx:
Then & Now
\$21.99



BEQUESTS

You can support The Society's work by means of a bequest. The following paragraph is suggested for your convenience, for insertion in your will: "I give and devise and bequeath, to The Bronx County Historical Society, located at 3309 Bainbridge Avenue, The Bronx, New York 10467, incorporated with the New York State Board of Regents, [insert the amount of money or describe the personal property or real estate, to be used for the general purposes of The Society.]"

COLLECTIONS DONATIONS

The Society's research library, object, and archival collections are a great resource. We thank those who recently made the following donations (partial list):

Fred Cantor: Gold DeWitt Clinton High School class charm (1941), a gold P.S. 70 medal for baseball, given to donor's father, Sidney Cantor in 1939, [10.25.2017] booklet edited by donor: "The Graduates – They Came Out of New York's Public High Schools." (11.15.2017); 1940 DeWitt Clinton High School photograph of donor's father, Sidney Cantor as a staff writer.

Jacqueline Kutner: Telechron electric alarm clock (1940s) and record albums (1950s).

Arlene Ortiz-Allende, SBH Health System: Materials relating to the Home for Incurables/St. Barnabas Hospital for Chronic Diseases: bound volumes of board minutes, reports and annual reports (1867-1991); photographs of buildings, staff, patients, aerial views of hospital complex and surrounding neighborhood, etc. (c. 19th century - 1989) and editions of the hospital newsletter (1951-1999).

Sarah Gund: nine 1 cu.ft. archival boxes of documents compiled by donor's father Gilbert Kerlin, an attorney, environmental conservator and founder of the Riverdale Community Planning Association with accompanying digital copy of the documentation (1930s-1994).

Fernando Ferrer: Photographs and election certificates related to your Bronx borough presidency.

Larry Whitler: Commemorative plate for St. Luke's Methodist Church, Woodlawn Heights, NY, mid-20th century.

Andrew Swartz: DeWitt Clinton High School swimming sweater, 1939-1942.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Cash donations help The Society fund programming, publications, equipment purchases, and build endowments. To double your donation, check with your employer for any available matching gift programs. We are grateful for the following contributions (partial list):

\$10 - \$99	\$10 - \$99 (continued)	\$100 - \$999	\$1,000 - \$4,999
Albert Friess	Joseph Gannon	Aflac	Exclusive Energy
Arthur Kahn	Lynn Leissler	Anthony Paolercio	Gilston Electrical Corp.
Charles Bayor	Marian Swerdlow	Cedric Fergus	Gregory Gonzalez
David R. Heerwagen	Maureen O'Connell	Century 21	Mercy College
Donald J. Petersen	Michael B. Collins	Diamond Property Group	Schur Management
Edward McLoughlin	Michael P. Speciale	EarthShare NYC Gives	The Malkin Fund
Eric Ponce	Polly Bookhout	Fernando Ferrer	Thomas X. Casey
Gregory J. Christiano	Rabine & Nickelsberg	George & Annabelle Anderson	Townhouse Management
Hertz, Cherson & Rosenthal PC	Robert A. Burke	Henry G. Stroobants	S&T Auto Body
Jack Eichenbaum	Sandra E. Halpryn	Kammon Industries	
Janet Norquist-Gonzalez	Sara Bong	Larry Schliessmann	
Joanne Mastropolo	Shelley K. Rondon	Lemle & Wolff Inc	
Johanna Odrich	Steve Bornemann	Mary Elizabeth Wendt	
John Calvelli	The John C. Sauter	Nicholas DiBrino	
John Jordan	Irrevocable Family Trust	Patrick Pizzella	
Joseph G. O'Brien	Tim Gehan for Nancy Vaccaro	Roger Wines	The New Yankee Stadium
		Roy Vollmer	Community Benefits Fund
		Tami Luhby	

**SUBMISSIONS FOR THE BRONX COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL JOURNAL**

Since 1964, the BCHS *Journal* has been one of the premier history journals in the tri-state region. The *Journal's* articles, written with clarity and scholarly substance, are of interest to all who enjoy accounts of people, business events, mercantile gain, defending the nation's interest, or the love of The Bronx. As an ongoing tradition for Bronxites to share their personal experiences, The Society is accepting articles for its *Journal*. Do you have a Bronx story to share? Kindly send in your article in Microsoft Word format along with 2-4 images or illustrations at 300dpi as email attachments to administration@bronxhistoricalsociety.org. Make sure you include your contact information.



THE BRONX HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIAN AWARDS CEREMONY

Join us in honoring the future leaders of The Bronx. The Society's 63rd anniversary program honors the valedictorians of The Bronx High Schools on Sunday, June 3, 2018.

It is only appropriate that we continue our tradition of honoring the finest students of The Bronx. This year, the event will be held in The Schiff Family Great Hall at The Bronx Zoo. The Bronx Zoo, known as The Wildlife Conservation Society, is one of the finest zoological institutions in the world.

The program begins at 1:00PM with entertainment, refreshments and view of the sea lion attraction, which is located adjacent to The Schiff Family Great Hall. At 2:00PM, the awards ceremony commences. Each honoree will receive an embossed certificate and a package of books about our historic borough and city published by The Bronx County Historical Society.

*Free parking will be made available for our guests in the Southern Boulevard parking lot.

To inquire about sponsorship opportunities or to make a donation, contact Ms. Catherine Pellicano at (718) 881-8900 ext.101 or via email at cpellicano@bronxhistoricalsociety.org.

EXHIBITIONS AT THE MUSEUM OF BRONX HISTORY

3266 BAINBRIDGE AVENUE
& EAST 208TH STREET, THE BRONX, NEW YORK 10467
(718) 881-8900

MUSEUM HOURS: SAT 10AM - 4PM / SUN 1PM - 5PM
(GROUP TOURS MON.-FRI. BY APPOINTMENT)



Women's Suffrage and New York City: A Centennial Celebration

April 12, 2018 - April 11, 2019

Left: Noted suffragist Ms. Elizabeth Freeman marching on the first Suffrage Hike to Albany, which started at the 242nd Street subway station at Van Cortlandt Park on December 16, 1912.

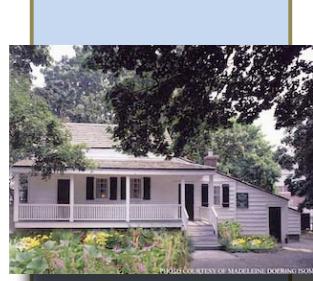
Courtesy of the Library of Congress

Bronx Expo - The Starlight Park Story

April 12, 2018 –
September 30, 2018



OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY APRIL 12, 2018, 4:30PM - 7:00PM



Edgar Allan Poe
Cottage
Poe Park
Grand Concourse & East
Kingsbridge Road

Owned by the New York City
Department of Parks, it is
operated by The Bronx County
Historical Society. The house is a
member of the Historic
House Trust.



Museum of Bronx
History/Valentine-
Varian House
3266 Bainbridge Avenue
& East 208th Street

Owned by The Bronx County
Historical Society, the house is a
member of the Historic House
Trust. Its operation is made
possible in part by public funds
provided through the New York
City Department of Cultural
Affairs.



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FACILITIES:

Research Library
3309 Bainbridge Avenue
By Appointment

The Bronx County Archives
3313 Bainbridge Avenue
By Appointment

Museum of Bronx History/
Valentine-Varian House
3266 Bainbridge Avenue
and East 208th Street
Museum hours:
Saturdays 10AM-4PM and
Sundays 1PM-5PM.

Edgar Allan Poe Cottage
Poe Park
2640 Grand Concourse and
East Kingsbridge Road
Museum hours:
Thursdays and Fridays
10AM-3PM
Saturdays 10AM-4PM and
Sundays 1PM-5PM.

Call The Society to arrange
group tours during the week.

ENDOWED FUNDS
The Bronx County Historical Society encourages the establishment of named endowment funds. Funds may be created to support many Society programs, or may be established for restricted use. The funds appear permanently on the financial records of The Society in recognition of their ongoing support of its work.

For further details, contact:
Mr. Joel Podgor, CPA
Treasurer (718) 881-8900

The Bronx County Historical Society and The Woodlawn Cemetery have partnered to offer the exciting programs below. All trolley tours start at The Woodlawn Cemetery Jerome, Avenue entrance (opposite end of #4 train station). For more information, please contact The Society at (718) 881-8900.

The Bronx Brewery Legacy Trolley Tours

Woodlawn Cemetery is home to several families that contributed to the beer brewing legacy in The Bronx dating back to the 1850s. Buried in a section on their grounds nicknamed "Brewer's Row," these mostly German families have made their impact in communities such as Melrose, Morrisania, Mott Haven, and other areas in the South Bronx. To celebrate this legacy, a special trolley tour from Woodlawn Cemetery's Brewer's Row to the borough's new breweries and beer halls is an ideal start to a wonderful program series. These tours will be led by BCHS Programs Director Angel Hernandez.

\$40 per tour, 12PM-5PM

Tour dates:

Saturday, April 7, 2018
Saturday, May 5, 2018
Saturday, June 9, 2018

History Comes Alive at Bronx Cemeteries Trolley Tours

Explore the "sleeping places" of those who have come before us. Some burial grounds are long since vanished; others survive into the 21st century. Learn what burial secrets your neighborhood may hold. Learn too about burial practices and mourning rituals of Victorians, graveside symbolism and the famous who still dwell among us. These tours will be led by BCHS Programs Director Angel Hernandez.

\$40 per tour, 12PM-5PM

Tour dates:

Saturday, April 28, 2018
Saturday, May 19, 2018 **Bronx Week Event led by Bronx Borough Historian Lloyd Ultan**
Saturday, June 23, 2018

Women's Suffrage and New York City: A Centennial Celebration Symposium

Bronx Week Event - Sunday, May 20, 2018, 8AM-3:30PM

Registration and breakfast from 8AM-9AM, \$30 per person

In honor of the anniversaries of the passage of Women's suffrage in New York State and the 19th Amendment, The Bronx County Historical Society honors New York's women of the past and present with a symposium. This event, moderated by BCHS Educator Vivian Davis, will showcase the efforts of women throughout the 19th - 21st centuries. Panel discussions will explore these experiences and define how the legacies of women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Nellie Bly paved the way for the opportunities women have today. This event will take place at the Woodlawn Chapel, The Woodlawn Cemetery, Jerome Avenue. For questions or to purchase tickets, please contact The Society at 718-881-8900 or email at education@bronxhistoricalsociety.org. Check Eventbrite for online sales. Breakfast and lunch are included.

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

The following free programs will be held at the Museum of Bronx History

3266 Bainbridge Avenue & East 208th Street

The Bronx, New York 10467.

For directions, please call (718) 881 - 8900

Slave Stories, Our Stories

Friday, February 23, 2018, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Join BCHS Educator Vivian Davis and living historian Cheyney McKnight on this special evening of discussion and conversation with one of the house slaves who worked in the Valentine-Varian House and receive a deeper understanding of slavery in 18th century New York. In honor of Black History Month, we pay tribute to those unheard voices.

Dress and Undress: Women's Clothing during the American Revolution

Friday, March 16, 2018, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Like today, clothing of the 18th century reflected the social status of those wearing it. Join BCHS Educator Vivian Davis for a special program as she explores how women dressed the part in the 18th century and illustrates the differences in clothing between the upper, middle, and lower classes.