CEMETERIES OF THE BRONX

Cemeteries are always interesting to traverse. Despite the morbidity of such a location, cemeteries serve as final resting places of loved ones and notable figures who are sometimes memorialized in very artistic ways. While some grave markers serve as just mere reminders of who is buried at that location, others offer a historic account of a time long ago.

In The Bronx, there are cemeteries today dating back to the late 18th century. Some are located on land once owned by families whose names grace two of the city’s largest parks, Van Cortlandt and Pelham (Pells) while others are still attached to our borough’s oldest landmarks, such as St. Peter’s Episcopal Church at Westchester Square. Here, you will find graves of our borough’s early inhabitants, with names etched on them that define our streets today. A walk over to the old West Farms Soldiers Cemetery will show you headstones of soldiers who fought in our nation’s first four wars, while Drake Park in Hunts Point teaches you about African slavery and its roots in early landownership at that location during earlier times.

Many private and public Bronx cemeteries of yesteryear have been relocated due to Bronx urbanization and the scarcity of land. Large numbers of the buried were reinterred in some of the city’s finest cemeteries. Woodlawn Cemetery, with its sprawling hills and manicured landscape dotted with the finest headstones and mausoleums in the country, continues to be in operation. Learn more about historic Bronx cemeteries and classical styles of headstones and other memorials at the exhibition What Lies Beneath: Cemeteries of The Bronx. Learn more on page 3.
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):

Larry Barazzotto – 1880 Schuylerville map, 2 books: Westchester County During the American Revolution, by Otto Hufeland and A Short History of New York State, by Ellis, Frost, Syrett and Carman.

Danbury Museum & Historical Society Authority: Photographs and ephemeral materials relating to the McEvoy Family, burial expenses and St. Raymond's Cemetery in The Bronx (1903-1940).


William & Marian Hyman: Photographs, programs and newsletters (1931-1982) that had belonged to Evelyn Koening from various Bronx elementary, junior and senior high schools.


Monadnock Construction, via Historical Perspectives: Headstones from features and burials at the Hedger-Edwards and Dutch Reformed Church of West Farms cemeteries (18th-19th centuries).

George Ultan: Bird’s eye view designs and blueprint (copies) of The Bronx International Exposition (1916-1918); bird’s eye view photograph showing Mt. Eden Parkway tulip beds in 1937.

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
Joseph A. Barone
Denis J. Boyle
Nestor & Sheila Danyluk
Susan T. Ginsberg
“in memory of Cheryl Polydor”
Boyd Hancock
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Chatam Management
Fordham University

$5,000 and Up
Bronx Lebanon Hospital
Lloyd Ultan

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 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 at 300dpi as email attachments to administration@bronxhistoricalsociety.org. Make sure you include your contact information and a short bio.

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.]”
FALL EXHIBITION 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)

October 12, 2017 – April 8, 2018
What Lies Beneath Cemeteries of The Bronx
Opening Reception
October 12, 2017
4:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Come join us for drinks, snacks and lively conversation on the evening of October 12th at The Society’s Museum of Bronx History for the opening reception of The Bronx County Historical Society’s Fall exhibition.

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.

JUNIOR BRONX HISTORIANS SUMMER ACADEMY 2017

From July 31 to August 4, 2017, eleven middle school students joined The Bronx County Historical Society for their first annual Junior Bronx Historians Summer Academy. The weeklong camp explored The Bronx during the 18th and 19th centuries, visiting sites like Van Cortlandt House Museum and the High Bridge. They learned about why Gun Hill Road was called the Gun Hill and analyzed how Edgar Allan Poe’s life at Fordham prompted him to write “The Bells” and “The Cask of Amontillado.” Using period maps and their feet, these students traveled the historic highways and byways of The Bronx earning them the title Junior Bronx Historians.
Take A Walk Through History BRONX WALKING TOURS
Tours cost $10 for BCHS members, $20 for non-members. Contact The Society at (718) 881-8900 to reserve your spot. The tours generally run about 2 hours.

Naval Training at Pelham Bay Park
Saturday, October 28, 2017 - 11:00 AM
As an extension of the lecture on Pelham Bay Park during World War I given in August 2017, this walking tour explores the environs of the World War I Naval Training Station, now on present-day Rodman’s Neck. Since visiting the original site is prohibited to the public, Educator Vivian Davis will guide visitors around the southern end of the park, describing how it looked one hundred years ago. This walking tour is part of The Bronx during World War I Centennial series. The tour will meet at the Pelham Bay Park station, the last stop of the 6 train. Take the #6 train to Pelham Bay Park or take Bronx buses #5, #23, #24 or BxM7 or BxM8 from Manhattan.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES
The Bronx Beer Barons
Friday, November 17, 2017 - 7:00 PM
Join BCHS Program Director Angel Hernandez in a historic discussion of the rich beer brewing legacy of The Bronx. Dating back to the mid-19th century, German breweries dotted the South Bronx landscape for many years. Although Prohibition halted this operation in the 1920s, beer brewing has again become one of our borough’s staples, with the opening of three breweries within the last five years. This free lecture will be held at the Bronx Beer Hall, 2344 Arthur Avenue. For more information, please call (347) 396-0555.

Happy Birthday Poe!
Saturday, January 20, 2018 - 2:00 PM
Dr. Gary Hermalyn, CEO of The Bronx County Historical Society, will celebrate Edgar Allan Poe’s Birthday with an illustrated presentation about his famous work experience living in The Bronx. This free lecture will be given at the Poe Park Visitors Center, 2640 Grand Concourse. For more information, please call (718) 365-5516.

Special Lecture and Workshop
Early American Gravestones
Sunday, December 10, 2017 - 1:00 PM
The Society is pleased to offer a lecture and workshop at The Bronx County Archives on the study of early American gravestones and their significance to both the history of early America and the study of sculpture symbolism. This is in conjunction with The Society’s Fall Exhibition What Lies Beneath: Cemeteries of The Bronx. Participants will receive an understanding of early American gravestones and explore their own creativity in an immersive workshop.

Led by BCHS Educator Vivian Davis, topics will include the beginnings of gravestone art in European America. Popular examples include Cotton Mather and the Mather family of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 17th century. We will also discuss why motifs and epitaphs changed over the course of 200 years. Early American gravestone conservation and gravestone databases will also be discussed.

For the workshop portion, participants will break off into pairs and study photos of headstones from different colonies, noting changes, if any, from place to place. Participants will then have the chance to create their own gravestone art and epitaph. Materials for the workshop will be provided.

The Bronx County Archives is located at 3313 Bainbridge Avenue, The Bronx, New York. For directions, call (718) 881-8900. The fee for this 90-minute workshop is $25 per person. The Archives is wheelchair accessible.