AN ENGINEERING MARVEL

High Bridge

With a burgeoning population of 30,000, at the end of the 18\textsuperscript{th} century, New York City needed a source of fresh water. It had no sewage system and most of its wells were polluted. Outbreaks of cholera, typhoid and yellow fever were commonplace. Water supplies for fire fighting were inadequate and fires raged unchecked, destroying entire city blocks.

New York City built the Croton Aqueduct to bring water from the Croton River in upper Westchester County across the farms in the modern western Bronx to the High Bridge spanning the Harlem River into Manhattan. In 1842, water flowed into above ground reservoirs located at the present sites of the New York Public Library and the Great Lawn of Central Park. Throngs of people attended the formal celebration held October 14\textsuperscript{th} celebrating with “Croton cocktails,” a mix of Croton water and lemonade.

The High Bridge, officially the Aqueduct Bridge, was one of the most impressive parts of the system. Constructed high above the Harlem River between 1837 and 1848, the bridge connected the underground aqueducts from Westchester all the way to Manhattan, carrying water to downtown reservoirs.

Originally designed as a stone arch bridge resembling a Roman aqueduct, its center arches were replaced in 1928 by a single steel arch to aid ship navigation on the Harlem River.

Considered an engineering marvel of its day, High Bridge is the oldest surviving bridge in New York City. As part of a major restoration, its pedestrian walkway is to reopen to the public in 2015.
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):

- Bill Twomey: 50th anniversary commemorative pin, Church of the Immaculate Conception, Melrose (1903); Borden’s Condensed Milk Company invoice (1912).
- Bob Paoli: Volume of reprinted news bulletins created during World War II by the
- Brendan Nolan: Stainless steel dinner knife engraved “Montefiore Hospital,” c.1930s-1950s.
- Brian Withers: World War II-era personal correspondence written by donor’s in-laws, Frank and Mary Tobitsch.
- Carol Gabrielson Fine: Public School 90 graduation pin, 1939.
- Carol R. Zanfardino: Photograph of Carmine Sarra’s farm, Williamsbridge Road and Morris Park Avenue, c. 1890s-1911.
- Deby Sencer – Photograph of Shield of David Orphanage, 1936.
- Edward Pinky - Photographs of William Taft High School.
- Guthrie Alberts: Scientific American issue with an illustrated article on the moving of the Mott Haven Railroad Station, 1894.
- Jane R. Snyder: Castle Hill Beach Pool diving award bracelet, 1938
- Jerry Rubackin: English ironstone Columbia pattern cabinet plate, 1848.
- Jon Allen: Real estate prospectus for the Netherland Gardens apartment complex (1949) and a Bronx Zoo farm dictionary (c. 1944-1945).

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):

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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. The Society is now accepting articles for its *Journal*. Kindly send 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.
UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Museum of Bronx History
3266 Bainbridge Avenue & East 208th Street
The Bronx, New York 10467
Museum Hours: Sat 10am - 4pm / Sun 1pm - 5pm
(Group tours Mon.-Fri. by appointment)

Save the Date!
Opening reception:
Wednesday, October 22nd - 4:30PM-7:00PM

High Bridge
New York City’s Oldest Bridge & Newest Greenway
October 22, 2014 – October 4, 2015

Edgar Allan Poe Cottage
Poe Park
Grand Concourse & East Kingsbridge Road
October 22, 2014 - April 5, 2015

BE A PART OF BRONX HISTORY
Buy a Poe Paver to Support the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage!
To learn more about it, please call (718) 881-8900 or visit http://bronxhistoricalsociety.org/poeattachment
Take A Walk Through History

BRONX WALKING TOURS

Each tour costs $10 for BCHS members, $15 for non-members. Please make reservations as these programs are quite popular and sell out quickly. Contact The Society (718) 881-8900 to reserve your spot. The tours generally run for 75 minutes.

Port Morris
Sunday, October 26, 2014 - 11:00 AM

This extreme southeastern corner of The Bronx was originally advanced by Gouverneur Morris as a seaport. Today, the Port Morris neighborhood is an up and coming section of the South Bronx where former factory buildings are being converted to new commercial and residential space. Although one may think this industrial enclave may not have any historic interest, the story of Port Morris is one that explains a pivotal era in Bronx history in which rapid development and urbanization played crucial roles. Join BCHS tour guide Nestor Danylyk on a historic stroll through Port Morris as he points out old breweries, the old ferry terminal, and other historic sites. This tour starts outside of the Cypress Avenue #6 train station on East 138th Street (in front of Iglesias de Dios). Bronx buses #17 and #33 can also be used.

Marble Hill
Saturday, November 15, 2014 - 11:00 AM

Marble Hill, a fifty-two acre community, has been a part of both Manhattan and The Bronx at different times and for different reasons, according to the shifting sands of time and landfill. Then the United States Ship Canal, locally called the Harlem Ship Canal, was cut through just below the village. Although the construction project joined the Harlem and Hudson rivers, it severed Marble Hill from Manhattan in the process. Once virtually an island, when the Spuyten Duyvil creek was filled in Marble Hill became part of The Bronx, and thus, attached to the mainland United States. BCHS Educator Angel Hernandez will lead a historic tour through Marble Hill and discuss its history and the age-old debate regarding its geography. This tour will start on the southeast corner of Broadway and West 225th Street, outside Chase Bank. Take the #1 train to West 225th Street or take Bronx bus #9 or Manhattan buses #7 or #20.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

Edgar Allan Poe at Fordham
Wednesday, October 29, 2014 – 6:00 PM

BCHS educator Angel Hernandez will provide an illustrated presentation about one of America’s gifted writers and his experience living in The Bronx. This lecture will be given at The Bronx Library Center, located at 301 E. Kingsbridge Road. For more information, please call (718) 579-4257.

Poe and The Big Read
Saturday, November 8, 2014 - 3:00 PM

As part of the literary Big Read program, noted author and historian Doc Hermaly will talk about Poe Cottage and its relevance in New York City society. This presentation will be held at The Poe Park Visitor Center, located at 2640 Grand Concourse, inside Poe Park. For more information, please call (718) 365-5516.

The Bronx County at 100
Saturday, December 20, 2014 - 1:00 PM

The year 2014 marks the centennial of the creation of Bronx County, the 62nd and last named county of New York State. Join BCHS Educator Angel Hernandez in a discussion about this important milestone in Bronx history, accompanied by an illustrated presentation. This lecture will be given at The Bronx County Archives, located at 3313 Bainbridge Avenue. For more information, please call (718) 881-8900.