Port Morris and Randall’s Island

Port Morris in The Bronx and Randall’s Island in Manhattan each occupy a land mass larger than what they did originally. In the 20th century, Randall’s Island was joined with its smaller southern neighbor, Ward’s Island, by the filling in of the narrow waterway that separated them. Port Morris was originally an island as well, known in the colonial period as Stony Island. It became part of the mainland by having the narrow waterway separating them filled in the mid-19th century.

He filled in the waterway to attach the island to the mainland, built a railroad line to it, touted it as a deep water port, renamed it Port Morris and encouraged industrial firms to establish factories there. Scattered among the factories, a number of dwellings arose.

Randall’s Island, on the other hand, was acquired by New York City and became the anchor of the Triborough Bridge (now known as the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge) in the 1930s. Robert Moses developed it into a major park and recreation facility with the walkway of the bridge providing pedestrian access to it from The Bronx. Now a pedestrian bridge connecting Willow Avenue in Port Morris to the northeast corner of Randall’s Island will provide a more direct access to this major park for mainland residents.

Through the centuries, both islands were part of the rural landscape near them. Randall’s Island was a farm taking its name from whoever owned it at the time. Stony Island was sometimes used to graze sheep, but Gouverneur Morris, a nationally known statesman who owned it at the beginning of the 19th century, liked to relax there by casting his fishing rod into the East River. It was his son, Gouverneur Morris II (pictured above) who realized that gaining wealth in the 19th century no longer came from owning land but by encouraging industry.
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):

Aileen Ronner Brasko – Collection of family letters written in German; journal of St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church; 3 photographs (20th century).


Gail Fenty – Book, McNamara’s Old Bronx, by John McNamara.

Helen Dunlap – Land map of The Bronx (1912).

Lilly Pappas – 4 Triborough Bridge & Tunnel Authority tokens and 1 NYC Transit Authority subway token (1990s); G.O. button, Herman Ridder JHS 98 (1945-1948).


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
Amy Dreher
Archie Arpiarian
Dara Caponigro
Donald J. Petersen
John Sauter

$100 - $999
Herbert H. Lehman College
Hutch Metro Center
James Clayton
John P. Dillon

$100 - $999 (continued)
Joseph Rachlin
Krasdale Foods, Inc.
Lottie Esteban
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Michael Dwyer

$1,000 - $4,999
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James G. Houlihan Family Second, LP

$1,000 - $4,999 (continued)
Langsam Property Services
Fordham Associates
Robert Esnard
CPJ Quality Foods

$5,000 - and over
Historic House Trust of New York City
Lloyd Uultan
Pizzagalli Foundation
Antonio and Rita Pomerleau Foundation

SIXTY YEARS OF PROGRESS
In 1955, eight people met at the dental office of Bronx Borough Historian Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff to begin The Bronx County Historical Society. Today, sixty years later, The Society maintains two landmark historic houses, a major research library, The Bronx County Archives, a large education program of lectures, tours and school visits, an extensive publications program and three Internet websites. The Society is now the most active local historical society in New York State. To celebrate this wonderful anniversary, The Society will soon announce new memberships terms.

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.

RAYMOND F. CRAPO IN MEMORIAM
Raymond F. Crapo, who was President of The Bronx County Historical Society during one of The Society’s greatest periods of growth (1976 to 1986), passed away on April 5, 2015. He was a life-long Bronx resident who became a junior high school teacher and principal. Later, he served as Educator and Training coordinator for the New York State Court Administration.

The Society will miss Raymond for his leadership, his foresight, his drive and his will to make The Bronx County Historical Society a center of excellence.
15th Annual Golf Outing
To Support The Bronx County Historical Society
Split Rock Golf Course / Pelham Bay Park
Tuesday, September 29, 2015
Co-chairs: Mark Engel & Greg Gonzalez
10:00 AM Registration & Breakfast
11:00 AM Shotgun Start
4:00 PM Cocktail Reception & Awards Dinner
$1,400 Per foursome including Golf & Dinner
$375 Per Player includes Golf & Dinner
$175 Dinner Only

For golf sponsorship opportunities, please contact Tournament Coordinator, Teresa Brown at tbrown@bronxhistoricalsociety.org. To take an ad out in the Golf Journal, please contact Catherine Pellicano 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)

THE HIGH BRIDGE NEWS
A TEEN THURSDAYS PROJECT
APRIL 8 – OCTOBER 4
THIS EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS THE WORK STUDENTS HAVE DONE THROUGHOUT A PROGRAM TITLED TEEN THURSDAYS, ALONG WITH THEIR NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION, THE HIGH BRIDGE NEWS.

1865 - 2015
The Civil War Comes Home
April 8 – October 4, 2015
2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War (1861-1865) as well as the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln – one of the last victims of the conflict. The Bronx contributed a number of infantry and cavalry units to the war effort under the New York State volunteer system. Learn about these men and the families and communities they left behind.

High Bridge
New York City’s Oldest Bridge & Newest Greenway
Through October 4, 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://www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org/poecottagewpaver
The Bronx County Historical Proudly Presents
Tour D’Bronx

Each tour costs $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.

The following walking tours will be led by noted BCHS tour guide Nestor Danyluk.

**Riverdale Park**
Sunday, June 7, 2015 at 10:00 AM
Take a historic stroll in one of the most exclusive neighborhoods in New York City. The tour will include marvelous views of the Hudson River, famous tales of the neighborhood’s great estates, and much more. The tour will meet at the Henry Hudson Monument inside Henry Hudson Park near Kappock & Independence avenues. Take the #1 train to West 231st Street then transfer to the #10 bus.

**Westchester Square**
Sunday, July 5, 2015 at 10:00 AM
Visit one of the oldest "villages" of The Bronx. The area we know as Westchester Square was not only a vibrant town center, but an important village in the history of both Bronx and Westchester counties. Join the BCHS as we stroll past historic churches, cemeteries and libraries in this unique neighborhood of The Bronx. Tour starts in front of McDonald’s on Williamsbridge Road. Take #6 train to Westchester Square or Bronx buses #4, #8, #21, #24, 40, and #42.

**Co-op City**
Saturday, August 8, 2015 at 10:00 AM
From the ruins of the Freedomland Amusement Park rose the nation's largest cooperative housing development. Yet in spite of its massive scale, there are some surprising secret places in this part of The Bronx. Come explore Co-op City and surrounding neighborhoods. Tour meets at the Barnes & Noble at Bay Plaza. Take Bronx buses #12, #25, #28, #29, and #38.

**Pugsley Creek/Clason Point**
Sunday, September 27, 2015 at 10:00 AM
Historically known as Cornell’s Neck, this tour will explore a southeastern Bronx community that has a local history dating back to Native Americans and their encounters with our borough’s earliest European settlers. The tour will include history on ancient estates, amusement parks, views of the Long Island Sound, and the beautiful Pugsley Creek Park. This tour will meet at the end of Castle Hill Avenue. Take the #6 train to Castle Hill Avenue and transfer to the #22 bus to Castle Hill and Norton avenues.

**AUTHORS LECTURE SERIES**

The following free lectures will be held at the Museum of Bronx History, located at 3266 Bainbridge Avenue, The Bronx, New York 10467. Authors will have extra copies of their books for purchase and signing.

**For directions, please call (718) 881-8900**

**THE BLOCK**
Saturday, June 27, 2015 - 1:00 PM
Take a walk down memory lane with Mr. Phil Coltoff as he talks about his new book, *The Block*, which covers his early years growing up in the Crotona Park section of the South Bronx.

**BRONX RIVER HISTORY AND FOLKLORE**
Saturday, July 18, 2015 - 1:00 PM
Mr. Stephen DeVillo, longtime BCHS member, has been doing research on the Bronx River for many years. Join him as he shares that research from his new book titled *Bronx River History and Folklore*.

**THE BRONX: THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO NEW YORK CITY’S BEAUTIFUL BOROUGH**
Saturday, August 15, 2015 - 1:00PM
Join the official Bronx borough historian Lloyd Ultan and Dr. Shelley Olson on a fact-filled discussion about their latest publication *The Bronx: The Ultimate Guide to New York’s City’s Beautiful Borough.*