

THE BRONX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
3309 BAINBRIDGE AVENUE
THE BRONX, NEW YORK 10467
PHONE: (718) 881-8900
FAX: (718) 881-4827
www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org

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documentation and interpretation of the history and heritage of The Bronx and its people from its earliest historical references in the 17th century to the present.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.

The headquarters of The Society is located at 3309 Bainbridge Avenue, The Bronx, New York 10467. 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 NYS Library, 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 Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund, the Susan Tane Foundation, the New York Public Library, and The Bronx Chamber of Commerce.

FOREFATHER OF THE BRONX

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Bronx County, 2014 is also the 375th anniversary of the arrival of Jonas Bronck.

In June 1639, Swedish sea captain Jonas Bronck arrived on the southern shores of what is now the area of E. 132nd Street and Lincoln Avenue in the Mott Haven section of the South Bronx. Within a month, he had settled his farm with the help of his wife Teuntie Jeuriaens, and a diverse group of Germans, Danes, and Dutch. Jonas Bronck was an interesting man. He possessed one of the largest book collections in New Netherland, taught himself navigation, and knew more than three languages.

Bronck's home, which he named Emmaus, had fieldstone walls and a tiled roof. On his farm, he grew wheat, tobacco, barely, rye and there is evidence that Bronck might have brewed his own beer. There were horses and cattle that grazed the land, while cows provided milk.

Life in New Netherland was not easy. Living on the frontier and the work involved with clearing land for settlement was arduous. Relations between the Dutch and natives were tempestuous. However, there is no record of Bronck having any altercations with the natives. His own home was used as a site for a 1642 peace treaty signing (pictured above).



A 1908 painting done by John Ward Dunsmore depicts a treaty between the Weckquaesgeek natives and the Dutch at the home of Jonas Bronck in 1642. The Bronx County Historical Society Collections.

Unfortunately, Jonas Bronck lived at Emmaus for only four years. He died in 1643 due to unknown circumstances and the widow Teuntie remarried. She, along with the rest of the farmhands, left the farm for good and it was transferred to different owners for several years. However, the land was soon referred to as "Broncksland" and the river that marked the easternmost boundary of it was called the "Broncks River" - from which we received the name of our borough today, with a slight change of spelling. Although Bronx County turns 100 this year, let's not forget the man who started it all 375 years ago - Jonas Bronck, the first European settler.



This 1639 map of New Netherland by Johannes Vingboom shows Bronck's farm on the southern tip of today's Bronx, located on the far right center. The Bronx County Historical Society Collections.

To learn more about Jonas Bronck, read *The Bronx in the Frontier Era: From the Beginning to 1698* and *The Northern Borough: A History of The Bronx*, both written by Lloyd Ultan. Also, you can consult an article published in the latest annual *BCHS Journal* titled "The Origin and Genealogy of Jonas Bronck" by Shelly L. Olson and Dilip K. Kondepudi.

PURE GOLD

Schools, businesses, institutions, and associations in The Bronx are noted.

Baychester Locksmiths
3531 Boston Road
Est. 1974

Corner Furniture
Discount Center, Inc.
2916 White Plains Road
Est. 1964

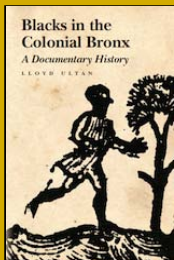
Scaglione Bakery
1078 Morris Park Avenue
Est. 1950

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Andrea Stone
Bernard Cylich
Jack Kleinfeld
Jean Kivlehan
John N. Herring
Joseph Brogan III
Marilyn Wegh
Michael Knobbe
Sidney & Janice Brown
Susan Schulman

NEW SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS:

Autographed copy, add \$10



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

**The Bronx: Then & Now
\$21.99**

**The Northern Borough:
A History of The Bronx
\$28.00**

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):

A. Attura: Book, *Guide to Historical Resources in Bronx County New York Repositories*, 1988.

Anonymous: Pocket knife; 3 pocket watches; tire pressure gauge; man's wristwatch; travel clock with light; coffee grinder; Canada Dry ginger ale advertising mirror, 1940s-1980s.

Barry Banks: Sheet music for trumpet, "Ne Cede Malis (The Bronx Battle Cry)" composed by donor.

Martin Diamond: New York City, Bronx history and Bronx Zoo books and publications, various school programs, autograph books, and badges, as well as correspondence and other ephemera (1860s-1990s).

Nicholas DiBrino: Shoeshine kit and a World War II-era Civil Defense helmet and gas mask.

Caridad De La Luz: Book, *The Poetician* and music CD, "Brujalicious."

William Putnam Dunham, Jr.: Bronx photograph and January 2013 issue of Westchester Magazine.

Frank Fasolino: Newspaper articles and clippings on the Belmont/Arthur Avenue community, 1980-2009.

Kate Feighery: Various Bronx church journals.

Glenn Fleischman: Books, *Popular Official Guide to the New York Zoological Park and History of the United States*.

James C. Gilmore: A 1914 water tax bill on a Bronx property.

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

Alexander Dunkel
Archie Arpiarian
Bernadette Meyer
Ed McLoughlin
Gerald Hobbins
John McHale
Karl Stricker
Marie King
Maryann C. Cassidy
Mutual Fund Investment
Richard Karman
Robert Burke
Selig Eisenberg

\$100 - \$999

Hutch Metro Center
John P. Dillon
Joseph Rachlin
Lehman College
Lottie Esteban
Mary Elizabeth Wendt
Sindey Horenstein
Yelena Novitskaya

\$1,000 - \$4,999

CPJ Quality Foods
Fordham Associates
Gail Perlee
James G. Houlihan Family Second, LP
Mr & Mrs Robert Esnard
The History Channel

\$5,000 - and over

The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation
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, 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 accepting articles for its *Journal*. 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.

14th Annual Golf Outing

To Support The Bronx County Historical Society

Split Rock Golf Course / Pelham Bay Park
Wednesday, September 17, 2014
Co-chairs: Katherine Gleeson & Mark Engel

2014 Co-Honorees:
Anthony Ross - CHILDREN'S CORNER LEARNING CENTER
The Singer Family - ORIGINAL ENERGY

10:00 AM Registration & Breakfast
11:00 AM Shotgun Start
4:00 PM Cocktail Reception & Awards Dinner

\$375 Per Player includes Golf & Dinner
\$150 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.



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 since 1976. The house is a member of the Historic House Trust.



Valentine-Varian
House/Museum
of Bronx History
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.

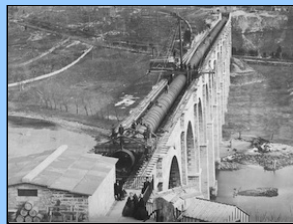
CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS MUSEUM OF BRONX HISTORY

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)



Bronx County - 100 Years Now through October 19, 2014

The Bronx County Historical Society documents the 100 years of Bronx County with a collection of historic photographs, books, documents, and artifacts.



High Bridge, c. 1862. The Bronx County Historical Society Collections.

Upcoming Fall Exhibitions

High Bridge
New York City's Oldest Bridge &
Newest Greenway

Bronx-Whitestone Bridge
Celebrating its 75th Anniversary

Opening reception:
Wednesday, October 22nd - 4:30PM-7:00PM.

Exhibitions will run from October 22, 2014 through April 12, 2015



Bronx-Whitestone Bridge on opening day, April 29, 1939. The Bronx County Historical Society Collections.

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/poecottagepaver>

Save the date! The Bronx County Historical Society will host an event at the Museum of Bronx History to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month on Saturday, October 11, 2014, from 10AM-4PM. This event will coincide with the 12th annual openhousenewyork weekend, in which both the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage and the Museum of Bronx History offer free admission for the weekend.

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FACILITIES:

Research Library
3309 Bainbridge Avenue
By Appointment

The Bronx County Archives
3313 Bainbridge Avenue
By Appointment

**Valentine-Varian House/
Museum of Bronx History**
3266 Bainbridge Avenue
and East 208th Street
&
Edgar Allan Poe Cottage
Poe Park
2640 Grand Concourse and
East Kingsbridge Road

Visiting hours for both
historic house museums:
Saturdays 10AM-4PM and
Sundays 1PM-5PM

Call The Society to
arrange group tours
during the week.

VISIT US ON
FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE
AND TWITTER.



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.

Historic Pathway II: Valentine-Varian House to the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage

Saturday, August 23, 2014 - 11:00 AM

Join BCHS Educator Angel Hernandez on this 2-mile walk along a major historical corridor of The Bronx. This tour begins at the Valentine-Varian House, located at 3266 Bainbridge Avenue. For early arrivals, the Valentine-Varian House will be open for tours at 10AM. On the tour, sites along the Grand Concourse, Bedford Park, Jerome Avenue, and Kingsbridge Road will be noted. To get to the Valentine-Varian House, take the Lexington Avenue #4 to Mosholu Parkway and walk up to Bainbridge Avenue or take the D train to Norwood/E.205th Street. For Bronx buses, please take the #10, #16, #28, #30, #34 or the #38.

Old Mott Haven

Saturday, September 13, 2014 - 11:00 AM

Jordan L. Mott bought this portion of The Bronx in 1841 and transformed it into an industrial community where innovations such as the coal-burning stove first came into existence. Although the area has changed, there remain portions of the old neighborhood such as brownstones and old factories buildings that reflect The Bronx as one of the country's oldest industrial empires. In celebration of the Bronx County centennial, BCHS Educator Angel Hernandez leads this exciting tour through Old Mott Haven with his extensive knowledge of the neighborhood as well as the 1840s Bronx industrial boom. This tour begins at the southeast corner of E. 138th Street and Third Avenue, outside the #6 train station.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

The following public lectures will be held at the Bronx County Archives Building, located at 3313 Bainbridge Avenue, The Bronx, New York.
For directions, please call (718) 881- 8900

My Old Neighborhood Remembered Saturday, June 7, 2014 – 1:00 PM

Join Avery Corman, author of *Kramer vs. Kramer* and *The Old Neighborhood*, as he showcases his film documentary based on his new upcoming memoir *My Old Neighborhood Remembered*. The film documentary remembers The Bronx of the 1940s and 1950s and will run for approximately 37 minutes, followed by a brief discussion with the audience.

Alexander Hamilton and the Creation of the United States Saturday, July 19, 2014 - 1:00 PM

Ed Schneider, former educator for The Bronx County Historical Society, will share his research and knowledge about Alexander Hamilton, one of our nation's founding fathers and creator of its financial system.

The Bronx County at 100 Saturday, September 27, 2014 - 1:00 PM

The year 2014 marks the centennial of the creation of Bronx County. It is 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.