

THE BRONX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

3309 BAINBRIDGE AVENUE
THE BRONX, NEW YORK 10467
PHONE: (718) 881- 8900
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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documentation and interpretation of the history and heritage of The Bronx and its people from its earliest historical references in the 17th century to the present.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, 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 New York State Library, the New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund, the Susan Tane Foundation, the New York Public Library, and the New York Community Trust.

THE BRONX HISTORIAN

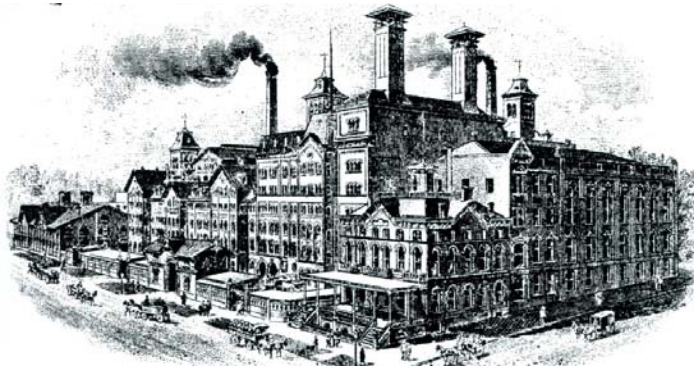
Newsletter of The Bronx County Historical Society

JUNE 2016 - SEPTEMBER 2016

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 3

A HISTORIC LEGACY STILL BREWS

Celebrating the Return of the Beer Brewing Tradition to The Bronx



Within the last two years, three craft beer breweries made The Bronx their home base for operation. The latest brewery to open in the borough was Chelsea Craft Brewing Company, which after spending over twenty years in the Chelsea Piers section of Manhattan, found more affordable space in the Tremont section of The Bronx. Although these latest breweries might have been the first since Rheingold Beer, which operated out of the historic John Eichler Brewery, closed its doors in the early 1960s, the beer brewing legacy in The Bronx dates back to the 17th century.

The Bronx received its first craft beer when the Swedish merchant Jonas Bronck brewed on his farm *Emmaus*. During the 18th century, the prominent Van Cortlandt Family had their own brewing operation on their estate (now Van Cortlandt Park.) Yet, it was not until the late 19th century that a thriving beer brewing industry began in the South Bronx. By the 1870s, old South Bronx villages such as Melrose and Woodstock received an influx of German immigrants who arrived with their customs and expertise in beer brewing and elaborate beer gardens. It is said that by 1900 there were over fifteen breweries within a 10-block radius. The Ebling Brewery took up blocks on St. Ann's Avenue to accommodate a hotel and casino. The J&M Haffen Brewing Company was another famous locale on Melrose Avenue near Third Avenue, where you would find the German *Brauerstern*, or Brewer's Star, imprinted on their beer kegs. The Bronx's very first borough president was Louis Haffen, who oversaw its incorporation into Greater New York during the turn of the 20th century.

Yet, the effects of Prohibition put a sudden end to the old German beer brewing legacy in the South Bronx. While many of the brewery buildings took on different roles such as pickle factories and mushroom farms, others sold their operations to fellow brewers. With the closing of Rheingold in 1962, The Bronx suffered a dry spell for hometown craft beer until 2014, when both the Bronx and Gun Hill breweries opened their tasting rooms. Today, The Bronx has three craft beer breweries, two distilleries, numerous draft houses selling Bronx brewed beers, and the Jonas Bronck Beer Company.



Top image: A 19th century engraving of the Ebling Brewery on St. Ann's Avenue and East 156th Street. It was the largest brewery in the South Bronx at the time.

Above: Workers of the J&M Haffen Brewing Company pose in the 1890s outside the facility, once located on Melrose Avenue.

The Bronx County Historical Society Collections.



The Society holds many artifacts from the old breweries of the South Bronx. Here, a Prohibition era book of prescription forms for medicinal liquor sits in front of a tray from the old Eichler Brewery.

The Bronx County Historical Society Collections.

PURE GOLD

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

Getz & Braverman, P.C.
Law Offices
172 East 161st Street
Est. 1968

Palomba Academy
974 East Gun Hill Road
Est. 1955

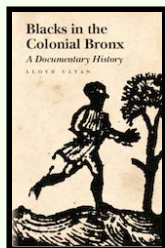
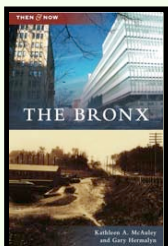
Sal & Dom's Pastry Shop
1108 Allerton Avenue
Est. 1964

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS
(partial list)**

- Michael Anderson
- Susan B. Atkin
- Edward Behringer
- Michael Collins
- Peter Doherty
- Dell Duffy
- Jennifer Duffy
- Gregory Felix
- John Gavin
- Sandra Halpryn
- Catharine Ivins
- Robert Johnson
- Lynn Leissler
- Lorraine Martinez
- Cindy McKenna
- George Meyers
- Liene Bosque Muller
- Kelly Murphy
- Frances Pandolfi
- Leatha Recio
- Josephine V. Rizzo
- John Savarese
- Mary Zehnter

**SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS:
Autographed copy, add \$10**

*The Bronx:
Then & Now*
\$21.99



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

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):

Anonymous: Timetable for the New York, Westchester & Boston Railway, 1924.

G. Hermalyn: Sol Hermalyn stamp collection.

Arthur Hochberg (donated in memory of original owner, George Elliot Porcell): Book - *Riverdale, Kingsbridge, Spuyten Duyvil, New York City*, by William A. Tieck.

Kathleen MacMurraray: Photograph of Edward Rais at Bronx Park (Bronx Zoo), 1929.

Janet Norquist-Gonzalez: 24 Spanish LP records, a Hagstrom map, poster, and architectural designs from the Mosholu Preservation Corp. on the renovation of the Reservoir Keeper's House.

Lynne K. Ranieri: P.S. 54 Program of graduation exercises program, 1911.

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:

\$10 - \$99

- Archie Arpiarian
- Robert A. Burke
- Selig Eisenberg
- John Fox
- EarthShare NYC Gives
- William Heyman
- Anne Payne
- Donald J. Petersen
- Roland Riopelle
- Linda Nelin Sacewicz
- Karl Stricker

\$100 - \$999

- Nicholas DiBrino
- Hutchinson Metro Center
- Monroe College
- Crowley for Congress
- Sandra Erickson
- O'Connor Institute Fund
- Susan Goldy
- Jacqueline Kutner
- Michael O'Neill
- Joseph Rachlin
- Arnaldo Velez
- Mary Elizabeth Wendt

\$1,000 - \$4,999

- Herbert H. Lehman College
- Robert Esnard
- CPJ Quality Foods
- Steven Heining
- James G. Houlihan Family Second

\$5,000 - and over

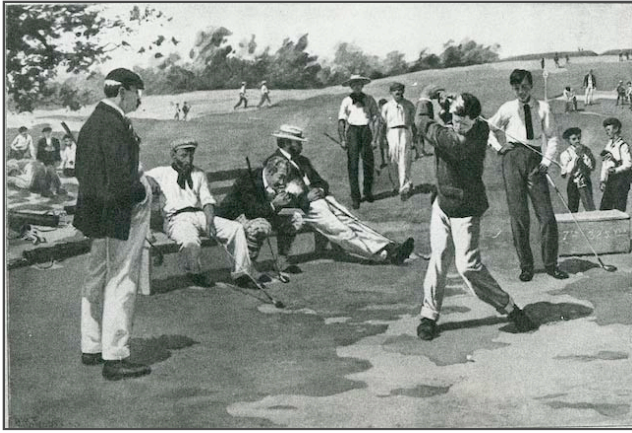
- Fordham Associates
- The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation
- Lloyd Ultan



The Bronx County Historical Society would like to thank the New York Community Trust and the New York City Department of Education's *Teen Thursdays* program for supporting our education department's endeavors. With the funds awarded, BCHS was able to offer two exciting programs, *Map It!: Exploring Your School's Neighborhood* and *Know Your Roots: Bronx Genealogy* at no cost to six schools during the 2015-2016 year.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE BRONX COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL JOURNAL

Since 1964, *The Bronx County Historical Society Journal* has been one of the premier history journals in the tri-state region. Its 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. For Bronxites to share their personal experiences, The Society is accepting articles for its *Journal*. Do you have a Bronx story you want told? Send an email to administration@bronxhistoricalsociety.org and attach your article in Microsoft Word format along with 2-4 images or illustrations (300dpi resolution). Please be sure to include your contact information.



16th Annual BCHS Golf Tournament

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Pelham Split Rock Golf Course/Pelham Bay Park

Co-Chairs: Mr. Mark Engel & Mr. Greg Gonzalez

Congratulations to our honorees:

Mr. Ignacio Castillo - Exclusive Realty

Mr. Billy Schur - Schur Management

10 AM Registration & Breakfast

11 AM Shotgun Start

4 PM Cocktail Reception & Awards Dinner

\$1,500 Per Foursome

\$400 Individual Player

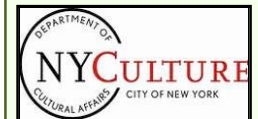
\$175 for dinner only

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.
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.
The operation of both
museums is made possible in
part by public funds
provided through the New
York City Department of
Cultural Affairs.

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)

WESTCHESTER TOWN *** BRONX BEGINNINGS

April 14 – October 9, 2016



FALL EXHIBITIONS – OPENING OCTOBER 13TH



REMEMBRANCE
OF PEARL
HARBOR

THE BRONX
GOES
TO WAR

THE
AMERICAN
PRESIDENCY

POLITICS
&
THE
BRONX



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, AND TO RSVP,
PLEASE CONTACT THE SOCIETY
(718) 881-8900

ADMINISTRATION@BRONXHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG



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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
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
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

Take A Walk Through History BRONX WALKING TOURS

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.

In the Footsteps of Edgar Allan Poe: A Walk from Poe Cottage to High Bridge

Saturday, June 25, 2016 at 11:00 AM

Although the American poet Edgar Allan Poe has been gone for many years now, his home and High Bridge continue to serve as remnants of his beloved walks in The Bronx. Join BCHS educator Angel Hernandez on a 3-mile walk from Poe Cottage to High Bridge via Aqueduct Avenue. The tour will meet at the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage in Poe Park on the Grand Concourse and E. Kingsbridge Road. Take the D or #4 train to Kingsbridge Road or take Bronx buses #1, #2, #9, #22, #28, #34, and MTA express bus BxM4 from Manhattan.

The Catholic Protectory - Parkchester

Saturday, July 16, 2016 at 10:30 AM

Visit historic Parkchester, once the country's largest housing development, with an eye to the colorful history of its predecessor the New York Catholic Protectory. Established through the efforts of legendary Fordham University founder, Archbishop "Dagger John" Hughes, and directed by the intriguing Dr. L. Silliman Ives, this picturesque mix of farmland and Victorian architecture served as a combination orphanage/reform school until it was sold in the late 1930s. Nestor Danyluk, BCHS tour guide, will start this tour at Virginia Park, one block south from the #6 train Parkchester station. Take Bronx buses #4, #4A, BxM6, #36, #39, and Q44.

Old Village of Melrose

Saturday, August 27, 2016 at 11:00 AM

Originally part of the property owned by the Morris Family since the 17th century, what we now know as the community of Melrose was laid out in 1850 by surveyor Andrew Findlay. It was then incorporated as a village in 1851 and supposedly earned its name from Sir Walter Scott's Melrose Abbey. Join BCHS educator Angel Hernandez on a walking tour through this very historic district in the South Bronx. The tour will meet at the northern intersection of Melrose and Third Avenue, on E. 149th Street. Take #2 and #5 trains to Third Avenue/East 149th Street.

Westchester Square

Saturday, September 17, 2016 at 10:30 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 BCHS tour guide Nestor Danyluk on a stroll past historic churches, cemeteries, and libraries in this unique neighborhood of The Bronx. Tour starts in front of McDonald's on the corner of Lane Avenue and Benson Street. Take #6 train to Westchester Square or Bronx buses #4, #8, #21, #24, 40, and #42.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

The following lectures will be held at the Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine-Varian House, located at 3266 Bainbridge Avenue.

Bedford Park in the 1950s

Saturday, July 23, 2016 at 1:00 PM

Join past BCHS educator Ed Schneider on a stroll down Bronx memory lane. Originally from the Bedford Park section, Ed will discuss his fond childhood memories growing up and his experience watching the borough go through changes during the 1960s.

The Bronx During WWI: The Story of Camp Van Cortlandt Park

Saturday, August 20, 2016 at 1:00 PM

World War I is veiled in mystery for many Americans as our involvement in Europe lasted a mere 19 months before the Armistice was signed. That was not so for the citizens of The Bronx. Join BCHS educator Vivian Davis as she talks about the role Van Cortlandt Park played as a bustling training facility for the New York National Guard and the United States Army leading up to America's entry into The Great War.

How The Bronx Happened: An Examination into the Historical Context of Bronx Development

Saturday, September 3, 2016 at 1:00 PM

How did The Bronx develop from a collection of small communities into the second most densely populated area of the United States within a few decades and then become synonymous with urban blight only a few decades later? Teacher and historian Matthew Foglino will examine the history of urban development, focusing on how The Bronx was in exactly the right place at exactly the right and wrong times in the early and mid-twentieth century.