As we approach the 58th quadrennial United States presidential election, let us take a quick look back in Bronx history which includes a legacy of our nation’s founding. Although he was not our first president at the time, General George Washington used the Van Cortlandt Mansion as headquarters during the American Revolution. After the war, Lewis Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and one of our nation’s forefathers, proposed his country estate of Morrisania as the new site of the young republic’s capital.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s motorcade traveling through the South Bronx via East 138th Street in 1940.

The Bronx County Historical Society Collections.

President John Adams governed the new republic for two weeks from his daughter Abigail’s home in The Bronx in October 1797, to avoid a yellow fever outbreak in Philadelphia. Abigail’s home was situated at the intersection of Boston Road and Conners Street. President Ulysses S. Grant marched in the funeral procession of Civil War hero Admiral David Farragut in 1870 as they laid him to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery. The initial process of an armistice with Germany during WWI started at the Riverdale residence of Cleveland Dodge when his friend, President Woodrow Wilson, used Dodge’s library to respond to peace-seeking telegrams from the German government. Just north of Dodge’s estate, a young John F. Kennedy would spend some of his childhood at a mansion that still stands at West 252nd Street and Independence Avenue. During his 1960 presidential campaign in The Bronx, he declared to a crowd on the Grand Concourse and Fordham Road that “I come to the Bronx as an old Bronx boy. I used to live in the Bronx… I agree it was the Riverdale end of the Bronx, but it was the Bronx, and therefore I come back here to this part of New York City, to New York, and ask your support in this campaign.”

In the second half of the 20th century, more U.S. Presidents visited The Bronx during its trying times. President Jimmy Carter made an unexpected stop along devastated Charlotte Street in 1977, bringing the nation the televised example of urban decay. Later on, presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton would visit the same area as federal assistance helped its revitalization. President George W. Bush threw out the first pitch at Yankee Stadium in the wake of the 9/11 terrorists attacks in October 2001, and President Barack Obama visited Lehman College last year. To learn more about presidential history in The Bronx, visit the exhibition The American Presidency: Politics and The Bronx at the Museum of Bronx History opening on October 13th. Please see page 3 for more details.

Senator John F. Kennedy campaigned in The Bronx before the 1960 U.S. Presidential election. One of his stops was the Hotel Concourse Plaza.

The Bronx County Historical Society Collections.
The Society’s research library, object, and archival collections are a great resource. We thank those who recently made the following donations (partial list):

- Herb Barret: Pair of fireplace andirons, two meat grinders, glass lantern, tin milk can (19th – early 20th centuries)
- Dr. Elizabeth Beirne: Poster and 7 books on the Hudson River (20th century).
- Sidney Horenstein: Photograph of U Thant’s former Riverdale home (1970s); information on the Bronx Greenbelt District; booklet, “Parks and Parkways in the Borough of The Bronx” (1914).
- Russell F. Ryer: Two student handbooks from Frank D. Whalen Junior High School 135 (c. 1977).
- Blanche Zimmerman: Melrose Shamrocks team baseball uniform with accompanying photograph showing Bertrum Zimmerman wearing the uniform, c. 1932.

**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:

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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. 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.

**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, 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.”
The Bronx County Historical Society and the Bronx Council on the Arts are extending a special invite to you and your guests to a new social justice-driven poetry reading and workshop series at the landmark Edgar Allan Poe Cottage and the Poe Park Visitor Center in Poe Park.

*From Poe’s Porch* features poets who will read from the Cottage’s porch from 12:00-1:10 P.M. This will be followed by special workshops and panel discussions in the adjacent Poe Park Visitor Center, from 1:30-3:00 P.M., just steps away from the historic house landmark. Tours of the Cottage will be available and both programs are free. *From Poe's Porch* was designed to create greater awareness of local history, by drawing parallels to the issues addressed by Bronx poets today.

**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)

**FALL EXHIBITIONS – OPENING OCTOBER 13TH**
**RECEPTION 4:30PM – 7:00PM**

**THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY**

**POLITICS & THE BRONX**

**REMEMBRANCE OF PEARL HARBOR**

**THE BRONX GOES TO WAR**

For further information, and to RSVP, please contact The Society
(718) 881-8900
ADMINISTRATION@BRONXHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

Openhouseny will be the weekend of October 15th and 16th. Both the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage and the Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine-Varian House will participate and offer free admission throughout the weekend. Make sure you stop by.
EXPLORING VAN CORTLANDT PARK: 2-PART WALK TOUR SERIES

The Old Getty Square Branch Saturday, October 22, 2016 - 10:00 AM
Nestor Danyluk, BCHS tour guide, will lead a tour along the old Putnam railroad line route in Van Cortlandt Park, then proceed on the now-defunct Getty Square branch that leads into Yonkers.

Both walking tours will meet at Burger King, 6077 Broadway near West 242nd Street. Take the #1 train to 242nd Street/Van Cortlandt Park or Bronx buses #9, BxM3 or the Westchester Bee-Line #1 or #2. Please call (718) 881-8900 for more information.

Please wear comfortable shoes and bring water.

WWI Camp at Van Cortlandt Park Saturday, November 19, 2016 - 11:00 AM
BCHS Educator Vivian Davis will lead a tour around the Van Cortlandt Park parade ground, covering topics such as the forgotten mobilization railways and the sites of the sham battles and company streets.

The following lectures will be held at The Bronx County Archives located at 3313 Bainbridge Avenue, The Bronx, New York 10467. For directions, please (718) 881-8900.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

History of The Bronx Latino Saturday, October 15, 2016 -1:00 PM
National Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15th to October 15th.
Angel Hernandez, BCHS Director of Programs and The Bronx Latino Project, will give an illustrated presentation on the history of our borough’s largest ethnic group.

Grand Concourse Reminiscence Saturday, November 12, 2016 - 1:00PM
Historic preservation consultant Hansel Hernandez discusses the history of the famous roadway, and its present historic buildings, monuments, and architectural heritage.

This presentation will be illustrated.

Celebrating 175 Years of St. Ann’s Church Saturday, December 17, 2016 - 1:00PM
St. Ann’s Episcopal Church, built and donated by Gouverneur Morris Jr. in 1840, has stood the test of time. St. Ann’s, once a modest community church, is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is designated as a New York City historic landmark. In honor of St. Ann's Church’s 175th birthday, BCHS Educator Vivian Davis will chronicle the Morris family's history and activism in The Bronx and the surviving legacy St. Ann’s Church.

Edgar Allan Poe at Fordham Saturday, January 21, 2017 - 2:30 PM
Dr. Gary Hermalyn, CEO of The Bronx County Historical Society, will provide an illustrated presentation about one of America’s gifted writers and his experience living in The Bronx. This free lecture will be given at The Bronx Library Center, 301 E. Kingsbridge Road.

For more information, please call (718) 579-4257.