The Return of Bronx Ferry Service

On the morning of August 15, 2018 curious Bronx commuters used the newly established ferry line operated by NYC Ferry. The ferry line runs from the Clason Point community in Soundview to Pier 11 at Wall Street, with two stops in between: East 90th and East 34th streets. The ride from The Bronx to lower Manhattan takes a little over 45 minutes. The ferries are equipped with restrooms, a concession stand and bar, free WiFi service, and enough space for bicycles to be stored for the ride. The commute is actually a breath of fresh air for the usual subway rider, as travel south on the East River offers breathtaking views of Manhattan's skyline, overwhelming bridge passes, and the busy waterfronts of the city. The Bronx ferry service to Manhattan seems to be a pleasant substitute for subway and bus transportation. For today's Bronx commuters, ferry service is an unconventional commute. Yet, ferry service from The Bronx dates back hundreds of years.

Ferries carried colonists from the village of Westchester to Whitestone, now part of Queens. Operated from properties owned by notable families in Bronx antiquity such as the Ferris, Hunt, di Zerega, and Lorillard, this section of the borough is now appropriately called Ferry Point Park and also serves as the Bronx anchor for the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge. As outdoor excursions became more commonplace during the 19th century, New Yorkers from all over the city traveled to and fro by ferry to amusement venues along the Harlem River such as Kyle's Park near High Bridge. When Yankee team owner Col. Jacob Ruppert purchased land on South Brother Island in the 1890s, he advertised 25-cent ferry service from East 138th Street in Mott Haven to see the New York Cuban Giants play on the island. During the same time, beer-brewing magnate George Ehret ran a ferry service from his Hell Gate Brewery Company on East 92nd Street in Manhattan to transport goods and passengers to The Bronx. One of the stops was East 134th Street in Port Morris, where two defunct landmark ferry gantries stand today.

By the early 1950s, ferry service was no longer an option forBronxites. Yet, as the gripes of subway service continue to mount and local bus travel still struggles through thick city traffic, today's ferry service from Clason Point to Manhattan may be just what's needed to ease rush-hour Bronx commute. Once again Bronxites have a another option to travel.
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):


James Cashel: Miscellaneous objects, photographs of family houses and journals on Westchester Methodist Episcopal Church.


Mary Ann Fitzgerald, Saratoga Springs Historian: 1880s sketch of the Brennan Farm, home in 1844-1845 of Edgar Allan Poe.

Joseph Camilletti: Photographs and slides documenting Rogers Department Store; construction of the Southern Boulevard-Fordham Road underpass and the Third Avenue Elevated and surrounding areas at Fordham Road and Third Avenue, 1920s-1964.


Paul Engeldrum: 8mm film documenting an Edgewater Park Volunteer Fire Department parade (c. 1946), hurricane (c. 1943) and cargo ship grounded off Locust Point (c. late 1940s-early 1950s).


Melanie Hulse: Bronx County Golden Jubilee flag and a dedication program for P.S. 111 - The Seton School, both from 1964.

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
Denis J. Boyle
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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 1-2 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, The 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.”
New Publication!

*Digging The Bronx: Recent Archaeology in the Borough* explores the archaeology of New York City’s borough of The Bronx by describing several recent projects that exemplify the range of current practice. Readers will find a short history of archaeological research in The Bronx and illustrates some of the ways archaeology has been conducted: field schools, public archaeology, cultural resource management, technical examination of recovered finds, and ethnohistory. This book also contains information about discoveries that have been made during the last decades, and the scope of their subject matter is wide-ranging, covering periods from the first colonial contact with Native Americans in the 1600s to the early 20th century.

Each copy is $25 plus tax. To order yours, simply call us at (718) 881-8900 or visit our online Museum Store at www.shop.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)

**Women's Suffrage and New York City: A Centennial Celebration**

Opening reception — October 4th

4:30 PM – 7:00 PM

**His muse: the women of Edgar Allan Poe's life**

October 4, 2018 – April 7, 2019

**Junior Bronx Historians Summer Camp Update**

From July 30 – August 3, 2018, ten students from around The Bronx joined BCHS’s second annual Junior Bronx Historians Summer Academy. Students explored the borough through the lens of the American Revolution and Edgar Allan Poe’s New York. Field trips included the Van Cortlandt House to learn how to cook over an open fire, Fordham University to see where Poe spent his free time, and to the oldest bridge in New York City, the High Bridge. While it was a critical thinking and walking-intensive program, students had a blast exploring the county’s rich history.
New Trolley Tours!

The Bronx County Historical Society and The Woodlawn Conservancy are happy to announce a new partnership featuring two popular trolley tour series: The Beautiful Bronx and Bronx Breweries Legacy. As before, BCHS’ Angel Hernandez will lead the tours. Tours run from 12PM-5PM and the start/finish location is the Jerome Avenue entrance of The Woodlawn Cemetery. Tours are rain or shine and ticket sales are final, so no refunds will be forthcoming. Also, lunch is not included in the sales price for any of the tours. There are only 30 seats on the trolley, therefore tickets must be purchased in advance. For more information, please call The Woodlawn Conservancy at (718) 920-1469.

The Beautiful Bronx Trolley Tour Series

Southwest Bronx
Saturday, September 22, 2018
The southwest section of The Bronx holds some of the most historic neighborhoods in the borough. This tour takes you to notable places in Mott Haven, Port Morris, The Hub, Longwood, Hunts Point, and more. There will be a one-hour lunch break in Mott Haven, where a variety of restaurants and other businesses are located.

Southeast Bronx
Saturday, October 13, 2018
Just east of The Bronx River you will find communities that hold a rich and historic legacy. Take a tour on Woodlawn Cemetery’s Trolley and experience the history this part of The Bronx has to offer in Soundview, Clason Point, Parkchester, Castle Hill, Westchester Square, Throggs Neck and more. There will be a one-hour lunch break in Westchester Square, where a variety of restaurants and other businesses are located.

Northeast Bronx
Saturday, November 17, 2018
The northeast section of The Bronx was underdeveloped for many years. It was not until the annexation of The Bronx, east of The Bronx River in 1895, that a new age of development and urbanization occurred. This trip takes you through neighborhoods such as Pelham Parkway, Country Club, Pelham Bay Park, Co-Op City, Orchard Beach, City Island, and more. There will be a one-hour lunch break on City Island.

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Bronx Breweries Legacy Trolley Tours

Continuing the beer brewing industry in The Bronx, these tours will take participants on The Woodlawn Conservancy Trolley to the borough’s newest breweries and beer halls. The Bronx County Historical Society will lead the tour. There will be a one-hour lunch break in Little Italy (Arthur Avenue). Here are the following dates:

Saturday, September 8, 2018
&
Saturday, November 10, 2018

World War I in The Bronx: Van Cortlandt Park
Saturday October 13, 2018 at 2pm

In 1917, soldiers, sailors and Marines departed New York City for France to fight in World War I. Before they deployed, some participated in training exercises at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, with patriotic New Yorkers gathering at the Parade Ground to observe the activities. Explore key World War I sites in Van Cortlandt Park with historian Vivian Davis of The Bronx County Historical Society, and learn more about New York City’s role. The tour will be meeting at the bottom of the southern steps of the 1 train at the Van Cortlandt Park/242nd Street station. Presented in partnership with the New York Transit Museum.

Tickets can be purchased at https://www.nytransitmuseum.org/program/wwi-1013/ or call (718) 694-1600. Tickets are $40 each.

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

The following free lecture will be held at the Museum of Bronx History/Valentine-Varian House
3266 Bainbridge Avenue, The Bronx, New York 10467
For directions, please call (718) 881-8900

Emilia Casanova’s New York World
Saturday, December 1, 2018 at 1pm

Dr. Virginia Sanchez Korrol, notable historian and author, will present an illustrated presentation based on her book, Feminist and Abolitionist: The Story of Emilia Casanova. The presentation captures the legacy of a fascinating woman, a cause, a culture, and an intriguing glimpse of the Latino American community in New York City during the 19th century. From her baronial mansion in The Bronx, Emilia Casanova set out to secure Cuban independence and almost changed the course of American history. Dr. Korrol will also have copies of her book available for sale.