INTRODUCTION

The New York Public Library was founded in 1895 and is the nation's largest public library system. The one we will be visiting is the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building in Midtown Manhattan. They have a large variety of special collections material, but we will focus on maps in the Brooklyn area. The maps being viewed will range as early as 1776, to late 1980’s. I would like to find at least two primary sources that related to an early time period of Brooklyn.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I expect to see original maps of Brooklyn, made for different purposes over time. A map from an older time period will serve a different purpose than a map created at a latter time period. There should be maps with specific color codes and divisions when Brooklyn is more developed. Buildings will be more spread out in the older maps. I anticipate learning more about the differences between time periods.
and drastic changes to the landscape.

**SOURCES found**

1. Unknown, Hooker’s Map of the Village of Brooklyn, 1827
2. Map showing the original high and low grounds, salt marsh and shore lines in the city of Brooklyn, Report of the Board of Health 1875, 1776/1876

**DOCUMENTATION of site & resources (maps/archival documents/photos)**

Arriving at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, we were guided to the special collections area. On the table where maps arranged by time periods. Starting from the top right of the table and moving clockwise, the maps would range from 1776 to 1980. The maps from the 1700’s and mid 1800’s had little or no color. The main purpose was to define new settlements, farmlands, shore lines and land elevation. One of these maps called Plan des ouvrages construits pres de Brookland had blue water color to show water depth. Maps from the late 1800’s and 1900’s had much more development and a boom of population growth. The colors were used to designate fire insurance zones and outline wards for voting purposes. There was much more numberings and street names shown on these maps, along with building structure shapes.
The is the Hooker’s Map of the Village of Brooklyn in the year of 1827. We can see there is an effort to organize Brooklyn into different wards. There are indications of land elevations near the shoreline. The U.S Navy Yard is clearly labeled in blue, but separated in two parts.

In this image is section two and five, which is now called Dumbo and Vinegar Hill. Some blocks are filled in and others are left blank. The filled block show already developed and occupied land plots. The blank plots have black squares on them, which may be a house and land up for sale. The original shore line is not shown in this map, but we do see ferry routes with distance in yards to Manhattan. The Navy Yard Ferry is shown connecting to Jackson Street, which is now Hudson Ave. This may explain why we saw storefronts on the ground floor of the Vinegar Hill site visit.
This Map shows high and low ground, salt marsh, and shore lines dating back to the 1776. It also show the City of Brooklyn as it was in 1875. We can see many areas of Brooklyn were marshes that have been filled in and a large part of the shoreline have been pushed out. There is a suspended bridge on the map and lines are drawn to indicate the depth of the water. There is blue water color for waterways and green for the marsh areas.

In 1827 the Navy Yard was split in two parts and in the 1875 the Navy Yard is connected, occupying a much larger space with more building structures. There are many new streets and symbols of public transportation routes. There are more docks developed on the Vinegar Hill shoreline. There are black building structure depicted on the map to represent important buildings locations.
DISCOVERIES

1. Neighborhood History
   a. In 1827, Brooklyn consisted of five wards.
   b. In 1875, Brooklyn grew to more than Twenty wards.

2. Key Events / Historical Dates
   a. 1801- Navy Yard founded
   b. 1817- a new law passed that would free slaves born before 1799 but not until 1827
   c. 1865- City of Brooklyn relinquishes all rights from Flushing Ave. to Waterfront.
   d. 1805-1865 - Yellow Fever and Cholera outbreak. Public health became a political concern

3. Key Players
   a. Navy Yard
   b. Board of Health

4. Public Perception of Key Events
   a. 1793 - Yellow Fever sparked the first Board of Health
   b. 1875 - Board of health are given proper and efficient supervision and control of sanitary affairs.

5. Important Changes to Neighborhood
   a. 1827 - Rope walks on Concord and Gold Street
   b. 1875 - Jackson is now changed to Hudson Street on this map.
   c. 1875 - The Navy Yard is now expanded and more developed

TOPICS & KEYWORDS

Navy Yard, Rope walks, Jackson street, Yellow Fever, Cholera , Board of Health
### QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Data</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land Ownership</td>
<td>Wallabout bay owned by US Navy</td>
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| Number of Blocks         | Vinegar hill from Front street to waterfront and from Brooklyn Navy Yard to Bridge street:  
                          | 1827 - About 18 blocks  
                          | 1875 - About 11 blocks |
| # of Buildings on a Typical Block | 1827 - About 1 or 2 buildings on a block                          |
| Materials                | Wood framed and brick                                               |
| # of Stories of Buildings | Three Stories                                                       |
| Residential Bldgs        | 1827 - About 8 Buildings in Vinegar Hill                             |
| Empty Lots               | 1827 - Many empty unoccupied blocks and only parts of a blocks sold. |
| Industrial Uses          | 1827 - Rope walk                                                    |
| Private Lands            | Land near Navy yard on little street                                |
| Ferry                    | 1827 - Navy Yard Ferry                                              |
| Docks                    | 1827 Vinegar Hill - about 3  
                          | 1875 Vinegar Hill - about 5                                        |
QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. What is a Rope walk?
2. What was the cob dock used for in the Navy Yard?
3. Why was the Salt Marsh map produced, What was happening at this time?

RESEARCH METHOD/ ADDITIONAL SOURCES NEEDED TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION ABOVE:

1. Question 1
   a. The Bench and Bar of King's County, N.Y. and the Bench and Bar of the City, p 88
   b. Henry Reed Stiles, A History of the City of Brooklyn, p 98
   c. Brooklyn!: An Illustrated History, p136
2. Question 2
   b. The Brooklyn Navy Yard, p 53
   c. Our Navy, the Standard Publication of the U.S. Navy, Volume 10, Issues 1-7, p 21
3. Question 3
   a. Tenements and typhus in New York City, 1840-1875.
   b. Protecting Public Health in New York City
   c. The Birth of the New York City Department of Health

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

Visiting this New York public Library location was really helpful in finding the maps I was interested in, which were from 1770’s to 1820’s. The salt marsh map was not made in between these time periods, but the overlay of the city helped to understand what areas changed drastically from 1776. There were maps I wasn’t expecting to find like early war maps. It was interesting to see how the land changed between time periods. Looking closer at these maps helped me understand how brooklyn has changed geographically through time.