

Learning Places Spring 2016

LIBRARY / ARCHIVE REPORT

Brooklyn Historical Society



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INTRODUCTION

The Brooklyn Historical Society has a special collections and archives library on the second floor. It is located in Brooklyn at the corner of Pierrepont Street and Clinton Street. The collection materials are related to Brooklyn's history and culture, which contains oral interviews, photographs, maps, books, paintings and more. I will focus on any material related to John Jackson and early maps of Brooklyn.

PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

I believe the Brooklyn Historical Society will have the original document I am looking for, which is the map of Brooklyn in the year of 1827. Before the archive visit I was able to search their database for maps in the collection. An image was not available, so I am interested in what condition it is in. I expect the BHS to have an extensive collection of documents on early Brooklyn development.

SOURCES found

1. William Hooker, Hooker's New Pocket Plan of the Village of Brooklyn, E.C. Ward, U.S.N.S., 1827
2. unknown, Peremptory Sale of valuable property in the City of Brooklyn near the Navy Yard belonging to the estate of John Jackson, Miller & co's Lith , 1838

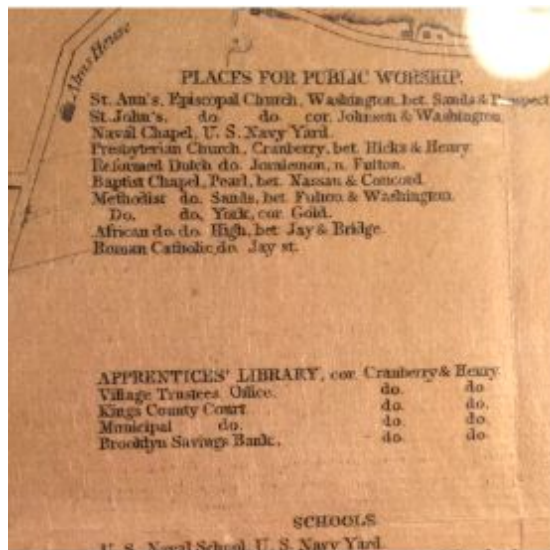
DOCUMENTATION of site & resources (maps/archival documents/photos)



When entering the BHS archive on the second floor, you can see the details in the wooden bookshelves and columns. It has an amazing look and feel, with dim lighting that adds to the aged effect. The documents that we requested ahead of time were placed on the table. Some material was encased in plastic, while others were exposed and had to be handled with care. We were not allowed to use ink pens when looking at the documents and only pencils were used for note taking. If we wanted to research further into a subject we could ask the archivist to help with subject terms and what materials were available.



This document is Hooker's New Pocket Plan of the Village of Brooklyn created in 1827. It shows the early development of Brooklyn's grid pattern and occupied land. Some shaded areas have buildings already developed on them. Others are owned, but have yet to start development. We see in other maps some years later, blocks are further divided into lots for auctions. This map labels rope walks and the first major areas being developed in Brooklyn.



I have seen this document in another archive before, but of a different version. What is interesting about this map is the addition of public places with locations. This adds another dimension of data that can be explored. There are many different churches, Gardens, Schools and insurance companies. The Apprentices Library holds many different companies all in the same location.



Here we see the Peremptory Sale of valuable property in the City of Brooklyn of 1838. We see the division on blocks into lots to sell for auction. James B Clark has purchased a large plot of land by the waterfront and along Jackson street. There is also an area labeled Ireland next to the navy yard and on the waterfront. This area was most likely populated by Irish workers. Based on my previous research, I related the names from Irish descent on the brooklyn directory to areas around Little street.



The water line in this map is clearly defined with ports. What is interesting is the subdivision of land that hasn't been filled in yet. On Marshall street, the waterfront has not been extended yet. A number of land plots are being sold with the future in mind. We see the extension of land and Little Dock Street to the west.

DISCOVERIES

1. Neighborhood History
 - a. Brooklyn Hooker's New Pocket Plan 1827
 - b. John Jackson land 1838
2. Key Events / Historical Dates
 - a. First labeling of Brooklyn Public places
 - b. John Jacksons death
 - c. blocks divided into lots
3. Key Players
 - a. Jas. Bleecker & Sons
 - b. John Jackson
 - c. Sands brothers Land
4. Relationship Key Players
 - a. Vinegar hill's land was purchased first by The Sands brothers, then it was purchased by John Jackson, and after his death the land was put to auction.
 - b. Jas. Bleecker & Sons were the main property auctioneers in Brooklyn at the time. They affected how properties were numbered and how they were subdivided.
5. Important Changes to Neighborhood
 - a. Extension of the water front was already planned as depicted in the Property auction map of 1838.
 - b. Property numbers were decided and sold off to the public.
6. Other Observations
 - a. James B. Clark owned most of vinegar hill waterfront after John Jackson.
 - b. 1827 Brooklyn Village to city of Brooklyn in 1838.

TOPICS & KEYWORDS

James B. Clark, John Jackson, Jas. Bleecker & Sons, Hooker's New Pocket Plan, Village of Brooklyn, City of Brooklyn

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Land Ownership	John Jackson property to public auction
Number of Blocks	Six blocks divided up for auction. Other block have ownership.
# of Buildings on a Typical Block	On the John Jackson auction map there are no building symbols
Materials	Wood and Brick
# of Stories of Buildings	One - Three story buildings in the area.
Residential Bldgs	Mix of residential and commercial
Empty Lots	Many empty lots up for auction. About 32 lots per block.

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. Why are there so many different churches labeled on the Hooker’s map?
2. Why is the Apprentices Library, Village trustees office, kings county court, municipal court, and Brooklyn savings bank all located in the same building on the Hooker’s map?
3. Who was James B Clark?

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

1. Question 1
 - a. Brooklyn City Directory 1832, Houses of Worship..Trustees..Pastors in charge
 - b. <http://www.plymouthchurch.org/history>
2. Question 2
 - a. www.brooklynmuseum.org
 - b. Brooklyn Preservation Council
 - c. A History of the City of Brooklyn and Kings County, Volume 2, p73
3. Question 3
 - a. Brooklyn Daily Eagle Almanac, 1886, p62
 - b. History of Long Island: From Its Discovery and Settlement to the ..., Volume 2, p66

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

At the Brooklyn Historical Society I was able to find the map of 1827 and more. I was surprised to see that the new pocket plan map had a list of public places with street addresses. This will make it much easier for me to map out the Brooklyn wards with building data. I was able to find a John Jackson Land divided up into lots for auction. This is interesting because it shows some landowners before the land auction and future land development extending into the East River. The Brooklyn Historical Society had many original documents belonging to the Sands family. Unfortunately it would have taken too much time to translate the text in the time we had. There is valuable information in the apprenticeship document that can be used for further research.