Learning Places Spring 2016

LIBRARY / ARCHIVE REPORT

Brooklyn Historical Society

TROY SIEUSANKAR

05.11.2016

INTRODUCTION

There are a number of librarians who are very enthusiastic to assist you with your research, queries, and any other technical assistance that you may need. This a place that has archived materials pertaining to Brooklyn. The second floor shelves of the archive seating area are packed with throves of books that seem to create an atmosphere of academia and exude an importance towards research. The resources are well organized and kept in as immaculate a condition as possible. I was provided with many historical documents for my research that related to the time frame from the 1920s to the 1960s.

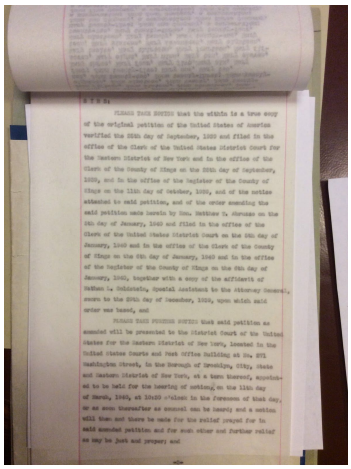
PRE-VISIT REFLECTION

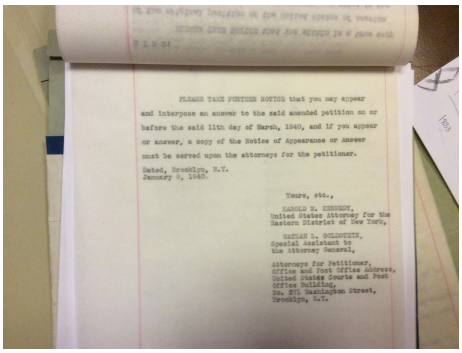
After visiting other archives such as in the Brooklyn Public Library, the New York Public Library, and the LaGuardia/Wagner Archive, I had already formed a schema for an archive. One that is employed by very enthusiastic librarians who are very enthusiastic about their work. They aim to see that you are successful in your research. They are very helpful and inspirational. These librarians have very welcoming interpersonal skills. Also, my schema consists of broad tables for placements of large documents and loads/stacks of archived materials, so the reference image in my mind had given me little to speculate about.

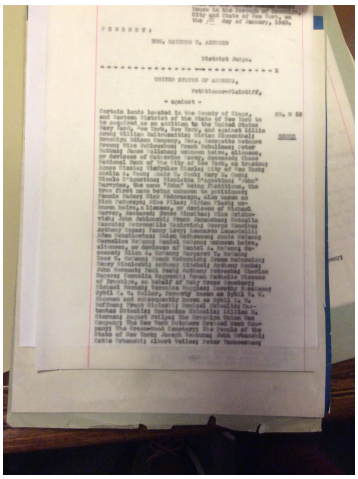
SOURCES found

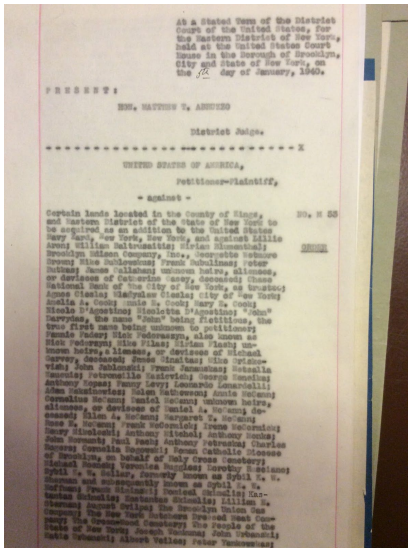
1. Harold M. Kennedy, Petition, Eastern District of NY, 01/09/1940
2. Matthew T. Abruzzo, Petition-Plaintiff, District Court of US, 01/05/1940
3. Eathan L. Goldstein, Land Acquisition, County of Kings, 12/20/1930

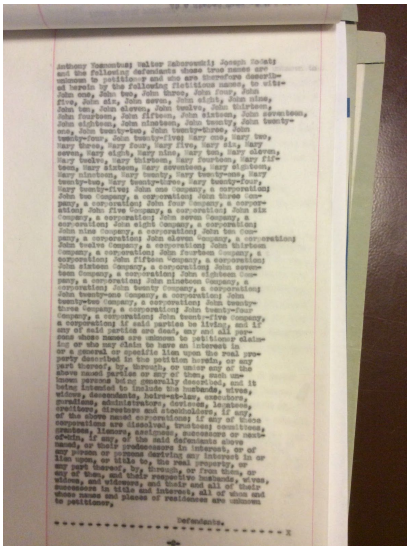
DOCUMENTATION of site & resources (maps/archival documents/photos)

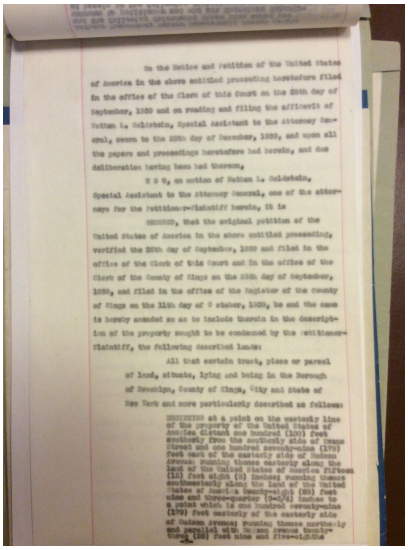












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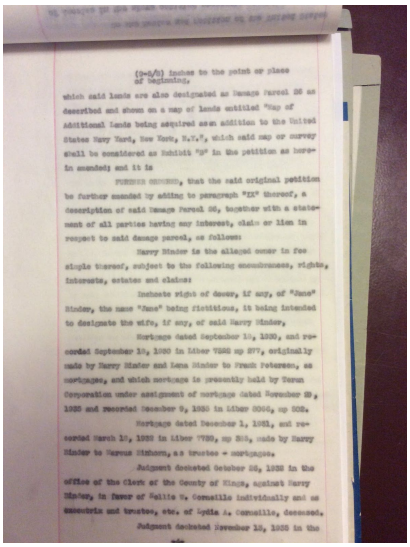
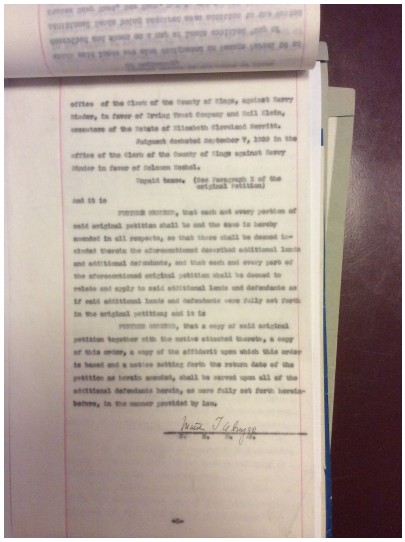
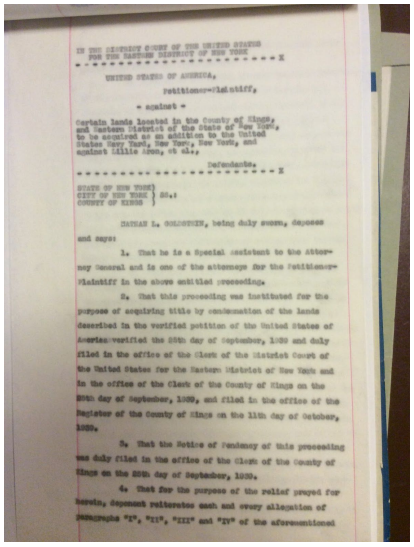
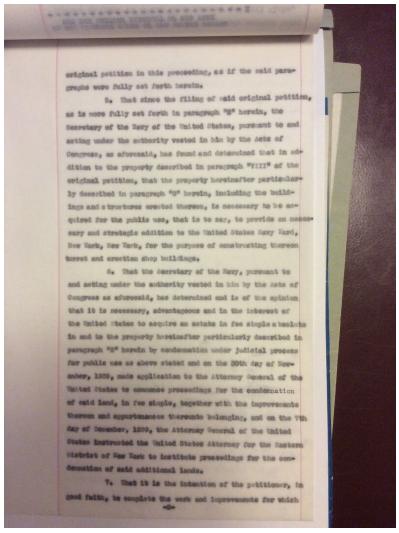
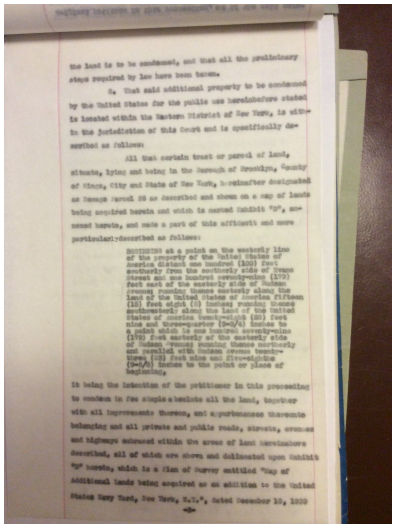
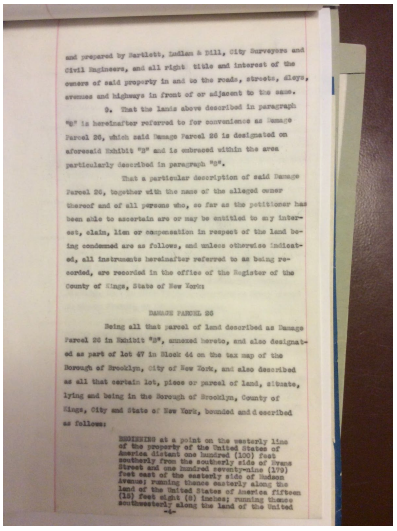

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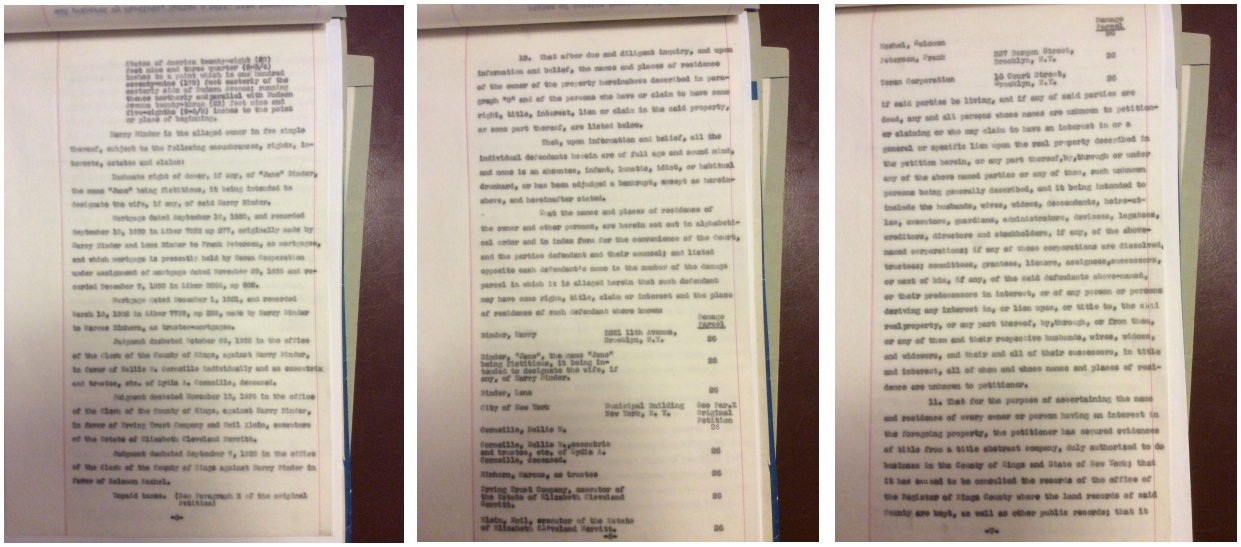

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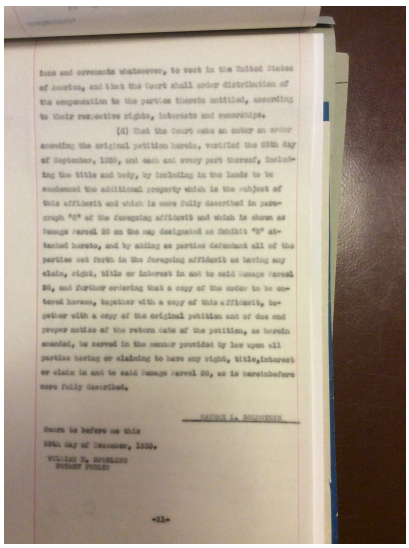

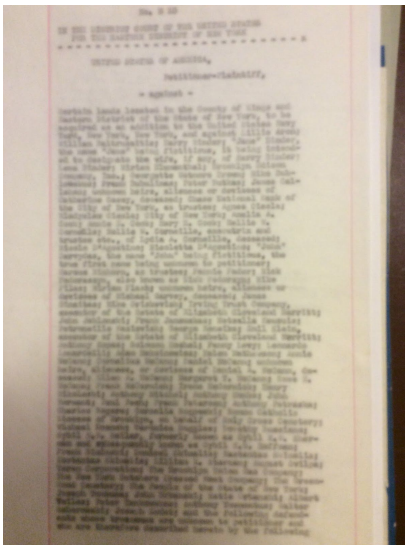

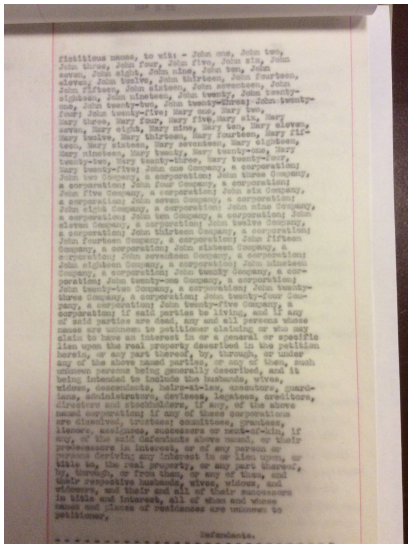

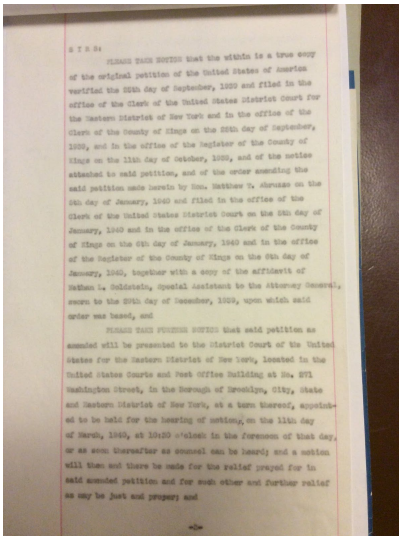

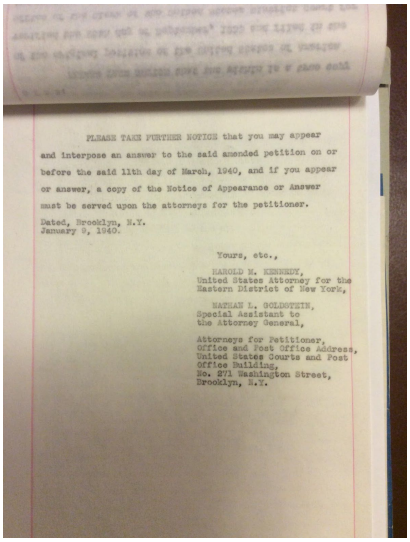

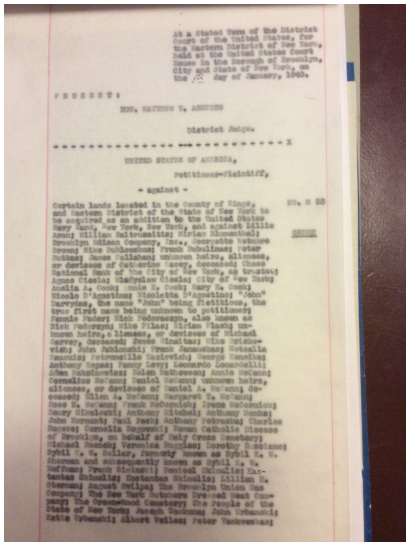

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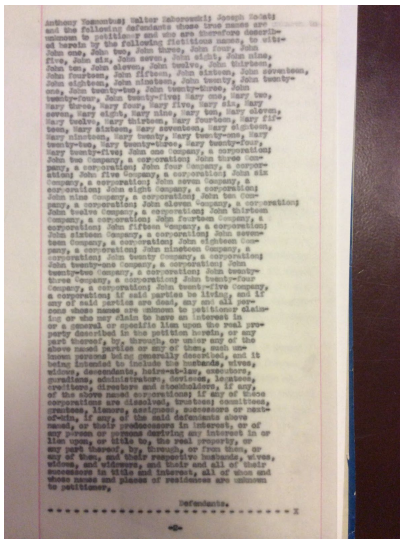

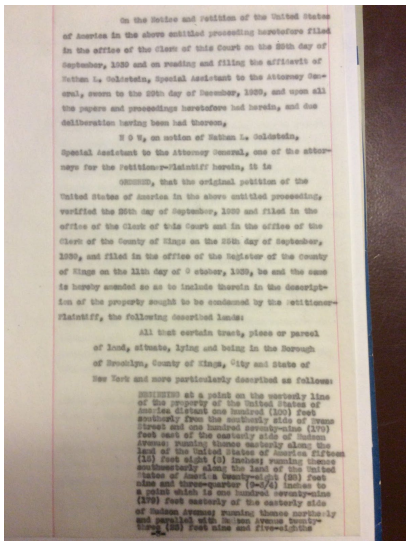

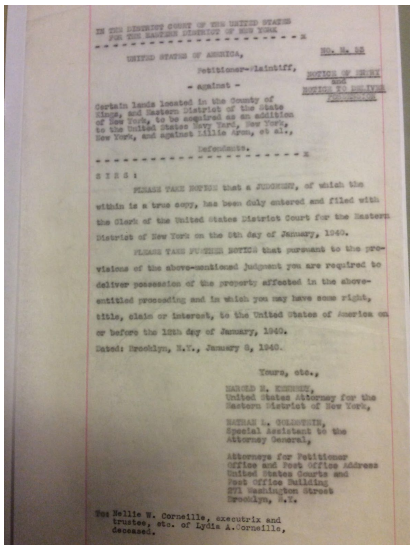

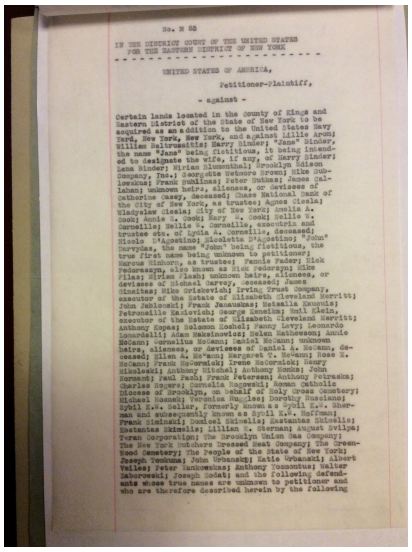

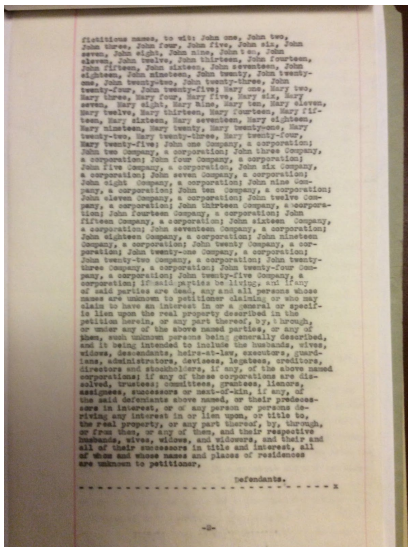

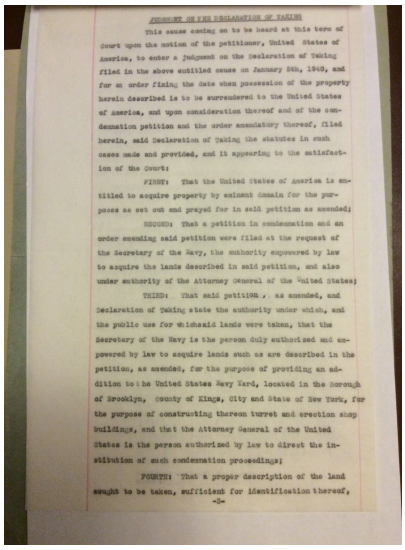

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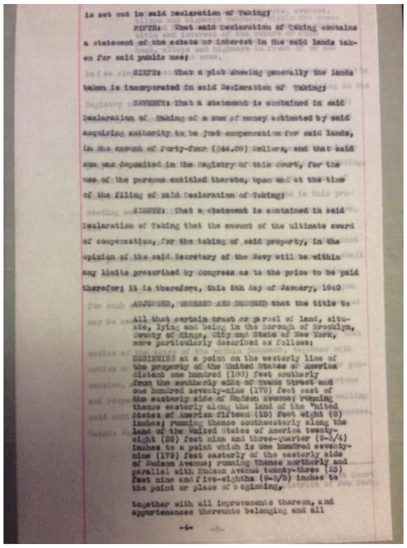

is set out in said Declaration of Taking;

FIFTH: That said Declaration of Taking contains a statement of the estate or interest in the said lands taken for said public use;

SIXTH: That a plat showing generally the lands taken is incorporated in said Declaration of Taking;

SEVENTH: That a statement is contained in said Declaration of Taking of a sum of money estimated by said acquiring authority to be just compensation for said lands, in the amount of Forty-four ($44.00) Dollars, and that said sum was deposited in the Registry of this court, for the use of the persons entitled thereto, upon and at the time of the filing of said Declaration of Taking;

EIGHTH: That a statement is contained in said Declaration of Taking that the amount of the ultimate award of compensation, for the taking of said property, in the opinion of the said Secretary of the Navy will be within any limits prescribed by Congress as to the price to be paid therefor; it is therefore, this 5th day of January, 1940

ADJUDGED, ORDERED AND DECREED that the title to

All that certain tract or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the westerly line of the property of the United States of America distant one hundred (100) feet southerly from the southerly side of Evans Street and one hundred seventy-nine (179) feet east of the easterly side of Hudson Avenue; running thence easterly along the land of the United States of America fifteen (15) feet eight (8) inches; running thence southwesterly along the land of the United States of America twenty-eight (28) feet nine and three-quarter (9-3/4) inches to a point which is one hundred seventy-nine (179) feet easterly of the easterly side of Hudson Avenue; running thence northerly and parallel with Hudson Avenue twenty-three (23) feet nine and five-eighths (9-5/8) inches to the point or place of beginning,

together with all improvements thereon, and appurtenances thereunto belonging and all

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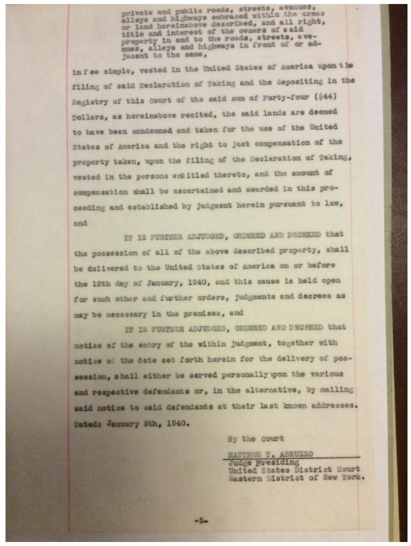

private and public roads, streets, avenues, alleys and highways embraced within the areas or land hereinabove described, and all right, title and interest of the owners of said property in and to the roads, streets, avenues, alleys and highways in front of or adjacent to the same,

in fee simple, vested in the United States of America upon the filing of said Declaration of Taking and the depositing in the Registry of this Court of the said sum of Forty-four ($44) Dollars, as hereinabove recited, the said lands are deemed to have been condemned and taken for the use of the United States of America and the right to just compensation of the property taken, upon the filing of the Declaration of Taking, vested in the persons entitled thereto, and the amount of compensation shall be ascertained and awarded in this proceeding and established by judgment herein pursuant to law, and

IT IS FURTHER ADJUDGED, ORDERED AND DECREED that the possession of all of the above described property, shall be delivered to the United States of America on or before the 12th day of January, 1940, and this cause is held open for such other and further orders, judgments and decrees as may be necessary in the premises, and

IT IS FURTHER ADJUDGED, ORDERED AND DECREED that notice of the entry of the within judgment, together with notice of the date set forth herein for the delivery of possession, shall either be served personally upon the various and respective defendants or, in the alternative, by mailing said notice to said defendants at their last known addresses.

Dated: January 5th, 1940.

By the Court

MATTHEW T. ABRUZZO
Judge Presiding
United States District Court
Eastern District of New York.

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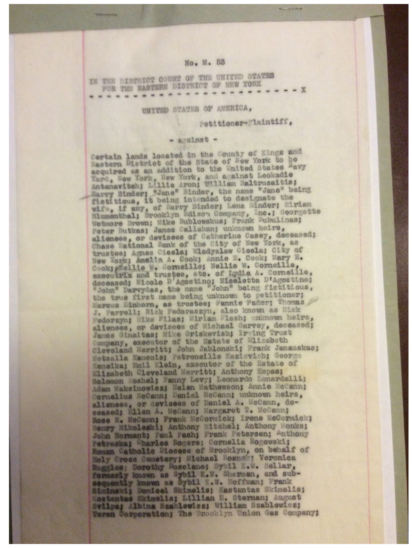


No. M. 53

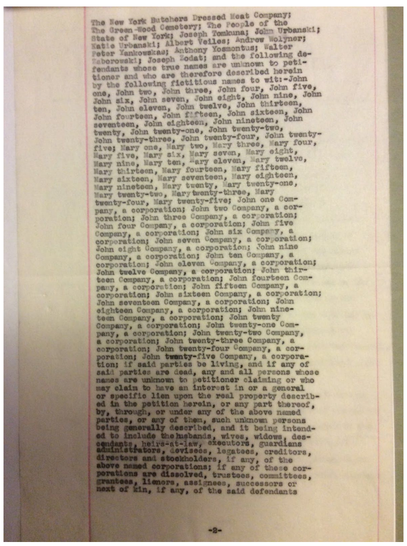
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
- X

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Petitioner-Plaintiff,

- against -

Certain lands located in the County of Kings and Eastern District of the State of New York to be acquired as an addition to the United States Navy Yard, New York, New York, and against Lookadie Antanavitch; Lillie Aron; William Baltrusaitis; Harry Binder; "Jane" Binder, the name "Jane" being fictitious, it being intended to designate the wife, if any, of Harry Binder; Lena Binder; Miriam Blumenthal; Brooklyn Edison Company, Inc.; Georgette Wetmore Brown; Mike Bublowskus; Frank Dubulinas; Peter Butkas; James Callahan; unknown heirs, alienees, or devisees of Catherine Casey, deceased; Chase National Bank of the City of New York, as trustee; Agnes Ciesla; Wladyslaw Ciesla; City of New York; Amelia A. Cook; Annie E. Cook; Mary E. Cook; Nellie W. Corneille; Nellie W. Corneille, executrix and trustee, etc. of Lydia A. Corneille, deceased; Nicolo D'Agostino; Nicoletta D'Agostino; "John" Darvydas, the name "John" being fictitious, the true first name being unknown to petitioner; Marcus Einhorn, as trustee; Fannie Fader; Thomas J. Farrell; Nick Fedorassyn, also known as Nick Fedorzyn; Mike Filas; Miriam Flash; unknown heirs, alienees, or devisees of Michael Garvey, deceased; James Ginaitas; Mike Griskevish; Irving Trust Company, executor of the Estate of Elizabeth Cleveland Merritt; John Jablonski; Frank Janauskas; Metealla Kaucuis; Petroneille Kazievich; George Keneika; Emil Klein, executor of the Estate of Elizabeth Cleveland Merritt; Anthony Kopas; Solomon Koshel; Fanny Levy; Leonardo Lonardelli; Adam Maksinowicz; Helen Mathewson; Annie McCann; Cornelius McCann; Daniel McCann; unknown heirs, alienees, or devisees of Daniel A. McCann, deceased; Ellen A. McCann; Margaret T. McCann; Rose E. McCann; Frank McCormick; Irene McCormick; Henry Mikoleski; Anthony Mitchel; Anthony Monks; John Normant; Paul Pach; Frank Petersen; Anthony Petraska; Charles Rogers; Cornelia Rogowski; Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, on behalf of Holy Cross Cemetery; Michael Rosnok; Veronica Ruggles; Dorothy Rusciano; Sybil K.W. Sellar, formerly known as Sybil K.W. Sherman, and subsequently known as Sybil K.W. Hoffman; Frank Siminski; Domicel Skimelis; Kastantas Skimelis; Kostantas Skimelis; Lillian E. Sternan; August Svilpa; Albina Szablewicz; William Szablewicz; Teran Corporation; The Brooklyn Union Gas Company;



The New York Butchers Dressed Meat Company; The Green-Wood Cemetery; The People of the State of New York; Joseph Tomkuna; John Urbanski; Katie Urbanski; Albert Veiles; Andrew Wolyner; Peter Yankowskas; Anthony Yosmontus; Walter Zaborowski; Joseph Zodat; and the following defendants whose true names are unknown to petitioner and who are therefore described herein by the following fictitious names to wit:-John one, John two, John three, John four, John five, John six, John seven, John eight, John nine, John ten, John eleven, John twelve, John thirteen, John fourteen, John fifteen, John sixteen, John seventeen, John eighteen, John nineteen, John twenty, John twenty-one, John twenty-two, John twenty-three, John twenty-four, John twenty-five; Mary one, Mary two, Mary three, Mary four, Mary five, Mary six, Mary seven, Mary eight, Mary nine, Mary ten, Mary eleven, Mary twelve, Mary thirteen, Mary fourteen, Mary fifteen, Mary sixteen, Mary seventeen, Mary eighteen, Mary nineteen, Mary twenty, Mary twenty-one, Mary twenty-two, Mary twenty-three, Mary twenty-four, Mary twenty-five; John one Company, a corporation; John two Company, a corporation; John three Company, a corporation; John four Company, a corporation; John five Company, a corporation; John six Company, a corporation; John seven Company, a corporation; John eight Company, a corporation; John nine Company, a corporation; John ten Company, a corporation; John eleven Company, a corporation; John twelve Company, a corporation; John thirteen Company, a corporation; John fourteen Company, a corporation; John fifteen Company, a corporation; John sixteen Company, a corporation; John seventeen Company, a corporation; John eighteen Company, a corporation; John nineteen Company, a corporation; John twenty Company, a corporation; John twenty-one Company, a corporation; John twenty-two Company, a corporation; John twenty-three Company, a corporation; John twenty-four Company, a corporation; John twenty-five Company, a corporation; if said parties be living, and if any of said parties are dead, any and all persons whose names are unknown to petitioner claiming or who may claim to have an interest in or a general or specific lien upon the real property described in the petition herein, or any part thereof, by, through, or under any of the above named parties, or any of them, such unknown persons being generally described, and it being intended to include the husbands, wives, widows, descendants, heirs-at-law, executors, guardians administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, directors and stockholders, if any, of the above named corporations; if any of these corporations are dissolved, trustees, committees, grantees, lienors, assignees, successors or next of kin, if any, of the said defendants

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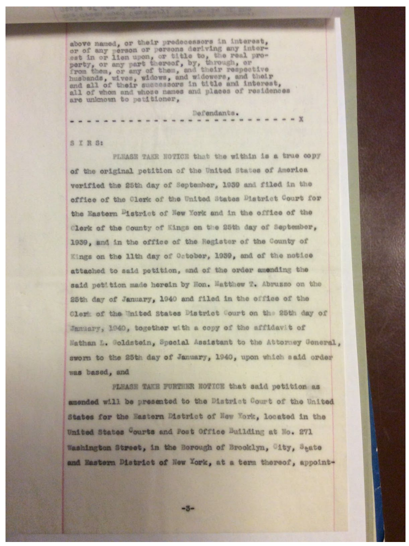

above named, or their predecessors in interest, or of any person or persons deriving any interest in or lien upon, or title to, the real property, or any part thereof, by, through, or from them, or any of them, and their respective husbands, wives, widows, and widowers, and their and all of their successors in title and interest, all of whom and whose names and places of residences are unknown to petitioner,

Defendants.
- X

S I R S:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the within is a true copy of the original petition of the United States of America verified the 25th day of September, 1939 and filed in the office of the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York and in the office of the Clerk of the County of Kings on the 25th day of September, 1939, and in the office of the Register of the County of Kings on the 11th day of October, 1939, and of the notice attached to said petition, and of the order amending the said petition made herein by Hon. Matthew T. Abruzzo on the 25th day of January, 1940 and filed in the office of the Clerk of the United States District Court on the 25th day of January, 1940, together with a copy of the affidavit of Nathan L. Goldstein, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, sworn to the 25th day of January, 1940, upon which said order was based, and

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that said petition as amended will be presented to the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of New York, located in the United States Courts and Post Office Building at No. 271 Washington Street, in the Borough of Brooklyn, City, State and Eastern District of New York, at a term thereof, appoint-

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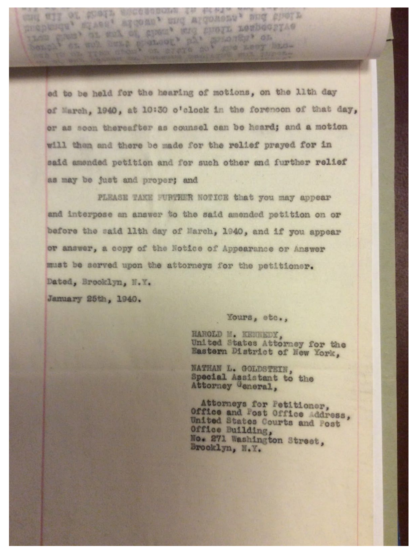

ed to be held for the hearing of motions, on the 11th day of March, 1940, at 10:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard; and a motion will then and there be made for the relief prayed for in said amended petition and for such other and further relief as may be just and proper; and

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that you may appear and interpose an answer to the said amended petition on or before the said 11th day of March, 1940, and if you appear or answer, a copy of the Notice of Appearance or Answer must be served upon the attorneys for the petitioner.

Dated, Brooklyn, N.Y.
January 25th, 1940.

Yours, etc.,

HAROLD M. KENNEDY,
United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York,

NATHAN L. GOLDSTEIN,
Special Assistant to the Attorney General,

Attorneys for Petitioner,
Office and Post Office Address,
United States Courts and Post Office Building,
No. 271 Washington Street,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Top two images of legal documents from Honorable Matthew T. Abruzzo, Petition-Plaintiff, District Court of US, 01/05/1940 from Brooklyn Historical Society regarding land dispute. Top rightmost and bottom three images from Harold M. Kennedy, Petition, Eastern District of NY, 01/09/1940 from Brooklyn Historical Society regarding land dispute.

DISCOVERIES

1. Neighborhood History
    a. Founded in 1863
2. Key Events / Historical Dates
    a. Romanesque Revival designed by George B. Post in 1878-1881
3. Key Players
    a. Eathan L. Goldstein
    b. Harold M. Kennedy
    c. Hon. Matthew T. Abruzzo
4. Relationship Key Players
    a. Eathan L. Goldstein legal documents regarding acquisition of the land in dispute
    b. Harold M. Kennedy attorney petitioned court regarding land dispute
    c. Hon. Matthew T. Abruzzo resided during land dispute
5. Public Perception of Key Events
    a. As best of my understanding from my interpretation of the legal documents, Harold M. Kennedy acquired petitions from numerous members of the district involving the land dispute in Brooklyn. These members opposed the US Government plans.
6. Important Changes to Neighborhood
    a. Urban renewal took effect
7. Other Observations
    a. Legal documents written in legal jargon, in addition to being in an older dialect, is very challenging to decipher or interpret, especially for someone who is already unfamiliar with modern legal jargon.

TOPICS & KEYWORDS

Eminent Domain, Mayor LaGuardia, New York City Housing Authority, New York Housing Authority, Public Works Administration, United States Housing Authority, Urban Development, Urban Redevelopment, Urban Renewal, Slum Clearance, Slum Clearance Committee, Slum Development, and Wagner-Steagall Law.

QUANTITATIVE DATA for Area of Study

Subject	Data
Land Ownership	City Property
Number of Blocks	Unverified http://bklynr.com/block-by-block-brooklyns-past-and-present/
# of Buildings on a Typical Block	Eight on average http://bklynr.com/block-by-block-brooklyns-past-and-present/
Materials	Brick, steel, and stone
# of Stories of Buildings	Three to eight
Residential Bldgs	Assorted locations nearby
Empty Lots	None found
Commercial Uses	Various shops, vendors, etc.
Industrial Uses	Office spaces
Pedestrian activity	High pedestrian traffic
Vehicle activity	Very high vehicle traffic

QUESTIONS to Research Further

QUESTIONS:

1. What were the driving forces behind the urban renewal project(s)?
2. What happened to all of the people who were displaced to make room for the urban development?
3. Who, exactly, made the plans for the urban renewal development?

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

1. Question 1
    a. Wikipedia
    b. Google
    c. State documents
    d. Library
2. Question 2
    a. Wikipedia
    b. Google
    c. State documents
    d. Library
3. Question 3
    a. Wikipedia
    b. Google
    c. State documents
    d. Library

SUMMARY / POST VISIT REFLECTION

Although, I did not find any direct evidence for my research, I have “tons” of photographs of archived documents pertaining to the sociological aspect that my research is now focused on. The documents are in legal jargon and in relatively old style dialect that make them rather difficult to decipher. In addition, the quality of the photographs make viewing and reading them more challenging. To go through all of these documents and to retrieve any relevant information from them can seemingly last decades. Due to my limited skills in understanding legal jargon and considering the limits of the time scheduled for the submission of my research/final report, I may not have enough time to gather and filter out much relevant information. However, I will try my best to be as productive as possible with the time that I have remaining.

This archive visit was very interesting for me. The interior architectural/structural designs of the book shelves and loft area, along with the lamp lit “night” or “dark” scenery, gave me the sense of an old world English style era, somewhat similar to the days of Charles Dickens and Sherlock Holmes. It is quite cozy and allows for an ideal research and study environment. I would like to return to this place,

simply to research, contemplate, think, imagine, and study. Now, I feel a sense of confidence in finding my way “through” or “around” any library for my research and study needs. My visits to various libraries have also given me a new perspective in viewing libraries. Now, I can find physical artifacts, materials, and books with more ease. Also, I have a new appreciation for libraries, they are physical places for reflection, planning, and any other meaningful works of academia and exploration. I also appreciate the importance of libraries, in contrast with exclusively “outside” online endeavors.