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# Synoptical History of the Towns of Kings County from 1525 to Modern Times

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Containing the origin of the names of the Streets,  
Avenues and Lanes

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Collected from the manuscripts of Stiles, Ostrander, Furnam,  
and other historians

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by

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## ORIGIN OF STREET NAMES—THE PERSONS, OR FAMILIES, AFTER WHOM THE STREETS OF BROOKLYN WERE NAMED.

As many of the streets, lanes, avenues and alleys have been made from paths, roads, and highways since 1860, it is not possible, in a work of this size and object to fully explain the origin of all the later named streets, etc.

Many of the new streets were named by aldermanic vote, after prominent (but otherwise unimportant) property-holders, real-estate speculators, minerals, points of the compass, cities in Europe, and other countries from which the ancestor of holders of large property interests had emigrated.

These emigrants not having been prominent in the annals of the city except as thrifty holders, or accumulators of land, and as they are not historical personages except as purchasers of cheap land, now immensely valuable, we have omitted mentioning them. These land-holders were only, if at all, conspicuous as the progenitors of large families, whose descendants now take much pride, and derive great satisfaction in the mere fact of natural descent from their plebian, economical, and domestic ancestors.

As in other large cities, the names of some of the older streets have been changed at the demand of inhabitants on said streets. We do not have space to give the history of these changes, their cause (often based on snobbishness, race prejudice, or family pride), or a list of the earlier names, and their present substitutes. A description of the causes, or objects in the background, that brought enough influence to bear to effect the changes, would make very humorous and entertaining literature.

We have omitted any reference to streets bearing baptismal names such as Alice, Christopher; natural history, as Garden, Laurel, Rose, Ruby, Cypress, Emerald; inanimate objects, such as Quay, Cross, Gem, Vine, etc.

- Ainslie street—After James Ainslie, a judge.
- Lorimer street—From the middle name of John Lorimer Graham.
- Amerman—After Kirck Amerman.
- Baisleys lane—After Thomas Baisley.
- Bedford avenue—From the tract of land known by that name.
- Bennett—From the Bennett and Bentyne purchase in 1636.
- Berger—From Hans Hansen Berger, a pioneer in the "Wool-Bogt."
- Boerum—After the Boerum family, especially J. Boerum, farmer.
- Bogart—After Tennis Gybertsen Bogart, an early settler of the Wallabout.
- Brevoort—After J. Carson Brevoort.
- Burnet—After Martin Burnet, a wheelwright of Fulton street.
- Bushwick—From the old district in Dutch times, known as "Boswyck."
- Canarsie avenue—Was formerly called "Clove Road."
- Chauncey—After Commodore Chauncey.
- Cheever—After Land Commissioner Samuel Cheever.
- Clarkson avenue—After Matthew Clarkson.
- Coney Island avenue—Formerly Coney Island Road, and in the 40's as Coney Island Plank Road.
- Clinton avenue—After Governor Clinton.
- Conover—After John Conover.
- Conselyea—After Lieutenant Joseph Conselyea.
- Cooper—After John Cooper.
- Cortelyou—From Jaques Cortelyou of the "Vechte House."
- Crooke avenue—After General P. S. Crooke.
- Dahlgren—After Commodore Dahlgren.
- Debevoise—After the early family of same name, especially Charles Debevoise.
- Decatur—After Commodore Decatur.

Degraw—After James De Graw.  
 De Kalb—After the German General Baron De Kalb.  
 De'aplaine—After the De Laplaine family.  
 Denton—From Denton's Mill in Gowanus.  
 Denyse lane—After Denyses Ferry.  
 Ditmas avenue—So named from the H. S. Ditmas Farm.  
 De Voe street—After the De Voës of Bushwick.  
 Division avenue—From the boundary between the cities of  
     Williamsburgh and Brooklyn.  
 Doughty—After Lieutenant C. J. Doughty.  
 Duryea—After J. R. Duryea.  
 East Broadway—Was formerly "Cow Lane."  
 Erasmus street—So named by Gerit L. Maitense in 1834,  
     after Erasmus Hall property.  
 Farragut—After Admiral Farragut.  
 Fellows—After Brigadier General Fellows.  
 Fillmore—After President Millard Fillmore.  
 Flatbush avenue—After "t Vlaacke Bosch," or flat bush, or  
     woods.  
 Flatlands, after the Flatlands Plains known to the Dutch as  
     "t Vlaacke Landt."  
 Flushing—After the town of same name.  
 Foster—After James Foster.  
 Frost street—After Edmund Frost, real estate dealer.  
 Fulton—After Robert Fulton; formerly "the king's high-  
     way."  
 Freeman—After Hon. Gabriel Freeman.  
 Garden—After the Military Garden.  
 Gerritsen—From the Gerritsen estate in that portion of city  
     included between Fulton avenue, Smith and Nevins  
     streets.  
 Graham—After Augustus Graham.  
 Gravesend avenue—So named in 1875.  
 Gowanus—From the tribe of that name (Gowanis).  
 Greene—After General Greene.

Hanson—After Kans Hansen.  
Hegeman—After Adrian Hegeman, third constable of  
“Breuckelen.”  
Hendrix—From the Ephriam Hendricks family.  
Hubert—After Captain Joseph Hubert.  
Hicks—After George Hicks of Doughty street.  
Howard—After Joseph Howard.  
Humboldt—After Alexander Humboldt.  
Jackson—After Samuel Jackson.  
Johnson street—After General Jeremiah Johnson.  
Joralemon—After Dennis Joralemon.  
Irving—After Judge Irving.  
Kosciusko—After the great liberator, Thaddeus Kosciusko.  
Kossuth—After the great patriot and statesman of Hungary.  
Lefferts avenue—After Leffert Lefferts, Royalist.  
Lawrence street—So named by Dr. Ad. Vanderveer.  
Livingston—After P. Livingston, who lived opposite Coenties  
Slip on the river shore, at the foot of present Joralemon  
street.  
Lott—After Abraham Lott.  
Ludlam—After Silas Ludlam.  
Laquer—After the Laquer family.  
Marsh—After John Marsh.  
Martense—After Jooris Martense.  
McDougal—After General McDougal.  
Meserole—After Abraham Meserole.  
Melrose street—After “Melrose Hall,” built prior to the  
Revolution.  
Middagh—After the family of Aert Anthonissen Middagh, a  
Dutch settler of Wallabout.  
Montauk—From the Indian tribe of that name.  
Maujer street—After Daniel Maujer, Alderman.  
Moultrie—After General Moultrie.  
Patchen—After Ralph Patchen.

Nassau avenue—After the city of the same name in Germany.

Nichols avenue—After Governor Richard Nicolls.

Pierrepont—After Hez. B. Pierrepont.

Putnam—After General Putnam.

Polhemus—After the family of Rev. Theodorus Polhemus.

Pulaski—After the Polish Count Casimir Pulaski.

Prospect avenue—So named by Dr. Adrian Vanderveer.

Provost—After David Provoost, first constable of "Breuckelen."

Rapelye—From John Rapalje, owner of the largest estate in Brooklyn, previous to the Revolution.

Red Hook—From "Roode Hoek," from the color of soil at what is about Hicks and Huntington streets.

Remsen—From the Remsen family, probably Jous Remsen.

Richardson street—Was named after Lemuel Richardson, a pioneer.

Ryerson—From Adriaen Ryerson.

Sackett—After Samuel Sackett.

Sands street—After Joshua Sands.

Sanford street—Was named after Edward Sanford, a lawyer.

Schenck—After Martin Schenck, a farmer, at the Wallabout.

Seigel street—Named after General Siegel.

Seabring—From I. Seabring's Mill, at the present Hicks and Huntington streets, about 1766.

Skillman street—After John Skillman, Sr.

Smith—Named after Benjamin Smith, a tavern keeper.

Stillwell—After Richard Stillwell, Royalist.

Stryker street—After Cornelius Stryker estate.

Stuyvesant—From Governor Stuyvesant.

Suydam street—After Cornelius Suydam property.

Union street—So named by T. J. Bergen, 1868.

Vanbrunt—After Rutgert Van Brunt, Royalist.

Vanderbilt street—After John Vanderbilt.

Vandyke—From the family of Claes Thomas Van Dyck.

Vannostrand—After Losee Van Nostrand.

Vanderveer street—Named after Dr. A. Vanderveer.

Van Sicklen—After Court Van Sicklen.

Varet street—Was named after Lewis F. Varette, a land speculator.

Wallabout—From "Wool-Bogt," or "Bay of the Foreigners," or Walloons.

Windsor place—After "Windsor Terrace," so named by Robert Bell.

Withers street—After Reuben Withers, who owned the Houston Street Ferry.

Wyckoff street—After N. Wyckoff, banker.

1524—It is claimed by some that Captain Giovanna de Veue-  
zane, a Florentine in the employ of the King of  
France, was the first European to set foot on Long  
Island. The claim is disputed and the evidence pre-  
sented is not sufficient to sustain the assertion.

1609, Sept. 3—Hendrick Hudson, a Dutch navigator, an-  
chored in Gravesend Bay, and doubtless found the  
bivalves a rare treat. Afterwards, with his vessel the  
Half Moon, he sailed up the Hudson.

1621—On the 3d of June, 1621, the Dutch West India Com-  
pany received its charter from the States General.

1623—A company of settlers was sent out from Holland in  
1623 under the auspices of Peter Minuet, Director  
General of the Colony, some of whom settled at the  
Wallabout. They were the first actual settlers within  
the limits of the present city of Brooklyn.

1625—The first public official ever holding office either in  
Kings County or Brooklyn, was appointed in 1625.  
His title was Superintendent, his jurisdiction within  
the limits of Brooklyn, and his duties were to con-  
trol the police and keep the peace within the town.

The town of Brooklyn was named after a village  
in Holland. It was spelt in many ways, to wit:  
Breucklyn, Breuckland, Broucklyn, Brooklyn, Brook-  
land and Brookline, signifying marshy land. The  
title as given to our city was very appropriate, as our  
older citizens remember its marshy character in for-  
mer years.

1636—The first grant of land on Long Island, of which there is any record, was to Jacob Van Corlear, in 1636. It was located in the present town of Flatlands, then called Amersfoordt.

In the same year Jansen de Rapelye purchased a tract at the Wallabout from the Indians. It was in the neighborhood of Hewes street, as at present laid out.

1637—William Adriance Bennett purchased about 900 acres in this year at Gowanus.

1642—Ferry established by Cornelius Dickson between Brooklyn and New York.

1643—At the time of the settlement of Kings County, Gravesend was looked upon as a suitable location for a city. Courts were only constituted. The records show that on the 1st of January, 1643, at a Court of Sessions held at Gravesend, a soldier was convicted for having left his station while on duty. Gravesend was not settled by the English. A settlement was formed with the consent of the Dutch General by Lady Deborah Moody, who called it Gravenzande, after a city in Holland.

1645—A settlement was formed in the neighborhood of Smith street, near this present building, by Jan Evertson Bout, and called Breucklin. Amongst the settlers the names of Cowenhoven and Corneillison appear.

1646—In this year the settlement was incorporated as a village and called Breucklin. Jan Evertson Bout, its founder, was elected Schepen.



1653—Governor Stuyvesant granted to the respective towns of Brecuklin, Midwout (Flatbush) and Amersfordt, a form of government suitable to the wants of the people.

1654—A church was built by the Dutch at Midwout (Flatbush). Domine Polhemus became the pastor. He was required to preach alternately in Flatbush, Breucklin and Amersfordt. He served three congregations from 1654 to 1676. Prior to his coming to Long Island, religious Dutchmen were compelled to cross the East River to attend service.

1660—A church was built in Brooklyn in 1660 and had for its first pastor Domine Silwyns. The First Reformed Church in Jerolemon street thus has been in existence as a religious society 225 years.

In this year (1660) the residents at the Wallabout petitioned the Director General for leave to form a village on the margin of the river between the lands of Bogeart & Kipp. The petition was granted on the 27th of February, 1664.

1660—The first settler on the west side of Long Island was Anthony Jansen Von Salee, an African who had been a pirate. On the 1st of August, 1639, Director General Keift gave him a lease of 200 acres for ten years on the southwest corner of Ivy place, lying over against Coney place, and having a privilege of 253 rods on the bay. He built a house, and subsequently received a patent for the tract which became known as "Anthony Jansen's bowery." In 1660 Van Salee fearing the Indians and desiring the protection secured by the palisadoes which surrounded Graven-

zande, exchanged with Nicholas Stillwell his bowery for a house in the village.

1661—The town of Breucklin contained 30 families and 134 inhabitants. In this year the first schoolmaster made his appearance in Breucklin. His duties were multi-form, as besides teaching the young ideal how to shoot, he was required to lead the singing in church, ring the bell, dig the graves, and serve legal notices. As the inhabitants could not raise sufficient for his support, upon petition of the School and Schepen of the Court of Brooklyn, the Director General and Council of the New Netherlands, voted to pay him annually \$20 in wampum. The Dutch always advocated the cause of education. It was customary with them to send a schoolmaster with the minister. Parochial schools were established in connection with each church. These schools combined secular and religious instruction. The Bible and Catechism were taught, and in order to inpress it on their minds, the minister would meet with the school and catechise the children. The drilling was severe, and much dreaded, both by boys and girls.

1664—A convention was held at Flatbush to send delegates to Holland to represent to the States General and the West India Company the distressed state of the country; a similar convention was held in New York in April following.

1664—September 8, 1664, was an eventful day in the colony of the New Netherlands, of which Kings County formed part. On that day the Dutch surrendered possession to the English. Peter Stuyvesant who had acted as Director General from May 11, 1647, was succeeded by Colonel Richard Nicholls, who proceeded

to organize a civil government, and to secure that called a convention to meet in Hempstead, Queens County, in March, 1665.

Long Island now formed a portion of the territory conveyed by Charles II. on the 12th of March, 1664, patent to his brother James, Duke of York and Albany. This patent being granted, a fleet was fitted and sailed for the New World, Accompanying the fleet were commissioners clothed with power to settle all difficulties in the New England Colonies, as well as to take possession of the Dutch province of New Amsterdam, and bring its inhabitants into subjection.

It might be well to state that the Mohawk Indians called Long Island Pan Manacke. It was sometimes called Mattanwake and Pamunke. In the patent issued to the Duke of York it is called Meitowax, signifying a good thing or place. That the Indians had a proper appreciation of Kings County, every loyal resident will bear cheerful testimony.

1665—An assembly of delegates from each town under the jurisdiction of the Duke of York convened at Hempstead, March 1.

Kings County was represented as follows: Brooklyn by Jan Evertson Bout and Frederick Lubbutzen. Bushwick by John Stealman and Gisbert Tunis. Flatbush by John Strycker and Hindrick Yorrison. Flatlands by Elbert Elbertson, and Roelofla Martens. Gravesend by John Bowne and James Hubbard. New Utrecht by Jaques Cortelleau and Younker Fosse.

A code of laws called the Duke's laws was adopted and continued in force many years. In this year Long Island, with Staten Island, was created a shire and called Yorkshire, out of respect to the Duke, the English proprietor. The shire was divided into two

districts called the East and West Riding. Kings County with Newtown was called the West Riding.

1668—A Court House was erected in the town of Gravesend upon land in the neighborhood of the present Dutch Church.

1673—On the 7th of August, 1673, a Dutch fleet of 23 vessels, under the command of Commodores Evertson and Benckes, anchored in the harbor of New York. The island was in a defenseless condition, and on the 9th the officers in command surrendered to the Dutch. The inhabitants rejoicingly accepted Captain Colve as Governor, and proceeded to restore the old official titles. Colve's authority was short lived. New Netherlands was conceded to the English by the terms of peace between England and Holland March 6, 1674, and on the 10th of November Colve formally surrendered to Governor James Edmund Andross, who took possession in behalf of his Brittannic Majesty the King of Great Britain.

1683—On November 1, 1683, Kings County was created. It was composed of the five towns of Brooklyn, Bushwick, Flatlands, Flatbush and New Utrecht.

1685—An act was passed November 7, 1685, removing the Court of Sessions of Kings County from Gravesend to Flatbush.

1686—In this year a Court House was built in Flatbush, and the Court was removed to the new building. This structure remained until 1758 when it was burned and a new one erected in its place costing \$448. The money was raised by assessment. It continued until

1792 when owing to its dilapidated condition a new Court House and Jail was built, at a cost of \$2,944.71. This building stood until November 30, 1832, when it was destroyed by fire. Ever since that time the Court House and Jail has been in Brooklyn. After the fire, and until the new jail was built, the Sheriff took his prisoners to the old Bridewell in New York.

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### EARLY OFFICIALS.

Shortly after the conquest by the English, the towns of Brooklyn, Bushwyck, Midwood, Amersfordt and New Utrecht were formed into a separate district for certain purposes by the name of the "Five Dutch towns." A secretary, or clerk was especially appointed for these towns, with the limited power to take acknowledgments of transports, and manage settlements, and probate of wills. The first to fill this important office was Herr Nicasius de Silli, a resident of New Utrecht, who held the office from 1671 to 1674. He was succeeded by Michael Haindle, who continued in office until 1670. From 1676 to 1678 Tunis Guis Bergen was one of the trustees and overseers. He was the ancestor of the Bergen family. Since that date until the present time, the name appears conspicuously in the annals of the village town and city. The duty of the trustees was in conjunction with the constable to hold town courts for the trial of cases under £5. They were also required to visit the residence of persons lately deceased, and make inquiries concerning the cause of his death, and if he left a will; if no will was found, the constable in the presence of the overseers was, within 48 hours,

to send after the estate and make an inventory in writing, and deliver it to the Justice of the Peace. The overseers and constable also levied the assessments. They were elected by the voice of the people. It was a compulsory office. If any person was chosen and refused to serve he forfeited £ 10 which was appropriated to defray the expenses of the town.

1691—Jacob Vande Water became Town Clerk, holding office until 1705.

1705—Henry Filkin became clerk in 1705 and continued in office until 1714.

The succeeding town clerks were: Samuel Garretson, 1714 to 1716; I. M. Sputing, 1716 to 1727; Adrian Hegeman, 1727 to 1752; Simon Boerum, 1752 to 1761; Leffert Lefferts, 1761 to 1777.

1719, Nov. 7—Letters patent to Jacques Cortelyou and Peter Cortelyou of New Utrecht for a ferry between Nassau place and Staten place at rent of one pepper corn annually for 21 years.

The records during the Revolutionary war are lost.

1745—Smallpox raged in New York, and the Colonial Assembly held its sessions in Brooklyn, from March until October of this year. Again for the same reason the Assembly met in Brooklyn in 1752. At this session on the 4th of June, 1752, bills of credit issued by the city of New York, amounting to £ 3,602 18s. and 3d. were cancelled.

1775—A general town meeting was held in Brooklyn, May 20, 1775, whereat it was voted to join with the citizens of New York and the other colonies in holding

a Provincial Congress to take such action as might be necessary to protect and preserve their rights. Harry Williams and Jan Remsen were elected delegates to the Congress, which assembled in New York May 22, 1775.

1776—On May 27, 1776, the first battle of the Revolution after the Declaration, was fought in Brooklyn. Battle Pass, in Prospect Park, will ever be associated with the brave deeds of American's citizen soldiery.

Wallabout Bay was the anchoring place of the old Jersey and other hulks used by the British as prison pens. Language cannot express the untold sufferings of the brave men who were confined in these ships. Over 11,000 thousand of them were buried on the shores of the bay. After peace was declared John Jackson collected a large number of the bones of the martyrs, and in 1803, through his instrumentality, the Tammany Society presented a memorial to Congress on the subject. In 1808 this society appointed a committee called the Wallabout Committee, consisting of Jacob Vandervoort, John Jackson, Burdett Stryker, Issachar Cozzens, Robert Townsend, Jr., Benjamin Watson and Samuel Coudray, for the purpose of securing a suitable resting place for the heroes. The people became interested and land was given on Jackson (now Hudson avenue) street by John Jackson. The vault was completed in 1808. On the 26th of May, 1808, a grand and solemn procession escorted the sacred relics to the Martyrs' Tomb. These remains were subsequently removed to a tomb prepared by the Park Commissioners at Fort Greene.

1776—Jacob Sharpe was clerk from 1784 to 1796; John Doughty was clerk from 1796 to 1830.



1785—The first fire company was organized April 30, 1785. Firemen were granted certain privileges in 1788. In 1793 there was 75 buildings in the fire limits.

1787—The proportion of Kings County of the State tax was £4,500 or one-eleventh of the entire tax.

1788—The State of New York was admitted in the Union July 26, 1788. At this time it was suggested that it would be necessary to build a bridge across the East River.

#### INCORPORATION OF TOWNS.

1788—The first incorporation of the towns after the Revolution was March 7, 1788. The towns thus incorporated were Brooklyn, Bushwick, Flatbush, Flatlands, Gravesend and New Utrecht. Bushwick ceased to be a town when it was annexed to Brooklyn by an act of the Legislature passed April 17, 1854, and which took effect January 1, 1855. The old town became the 18th and 19th wards of the consolidated city.

Williamsburgh, which originally formed a part of Bushwick, became a village April 14, 1827, a city April 7, 1851, and was annexed to Brooklyn April 17, 1854, by act of the Legislature, which took effect January 1, 1855. Its territory is now embraced in the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th wards of Brooklyn.

The present town of New Lots was formerly a part of Flatbush and was created a town February 12, 1852.

1801, Feb. 1—John Jackson sold the land used by the Navy Yard to the government for \$40,000.

1801—On the 2d of April, 1801, Brooklyn was organized as a village.



1814—The militia of Kings County was successful at Fort Greene under command of General Johnson.

The first steam ferry boat, the Nassau, commenced running on Fulton ferry May 10, 1814.

1816—On the 12th of April, 1816, Brooklyn received a new village charter. The trustees in 1816 were John Garrison, Andrew Mercerin, John Dean, John Dougherty and John Scoman. Charles Doughy was clerk.

1816—The Sunday School Union was organized in April, 1816.

1817—James B. Clarke became clerk of the Board of Trustees of Brooklyn in 1817, and continued as such until 1821.

General Jeremiah Johnson, third Mayor of Brooklyn, was Supervisor of the County from 1800 to 1823, and again from 1825 to 1834. He also represented Kings County in the Assembly in 1808-9-10, and 1840 and 41, and was Mayor of the city from 1837 to 1839. He was a genial gentleman, a warm hearted friend, and a valued citizen. General Johnson was the best informed local historian Brooklyn ever had. The manuscripts he left behind are invaluable to local historians. He died October 20, 1852, aged 86. He was the oldest Mayor ever elected in Brooklyn.

1819—The County Clerk's office was removed from Flatbush to Brooklyn March, 1819.

1824—At a special town meeting the purchase of  $19\frac{3}{4}$  acres near Fort Greene for a hospital and burying ground was achieved at the cost of \$3,720.

1824—The taxable value of real and personal property in Brooklyn was \$2,550,080.

1824—The First Island Bank, first in Brooklyn, incorporated.

1825—On the 21st of January, 1825, a meeting was held at the Military Gardens, on the site of the present County Court House, and a committee appointed to obtain the removal of the Court House and Jail from Flatbush to Brooklyn. On the 4th of July, 1825, General Lafayette laid the cornerstone of the Apprentices Library, on the corner of Cranberry and Henry streets.

1826—An act was passed that the Courts should alternate between Flatbush and Brooklyn.

On the 3d of May the board of trustees of the village assembled for the first time in the Apprentices Library building.

1826—In this year the trustees of the village was increased to ten, making two in each of the first districts.

1829—Through the instrumentality of Joseph Sprague, a lockup was provided, and cells were built under the old market in James street. In those days prisoners were also confined in the Almshouse on the south side of Nassau street, between Ivy and Bridge streets. When the Almshouse was removed to the building on Division street, the old Almshouse was sold to Mr. Down. The old building is still standing, having been converted into a dwelling.

1830—On the 14th of January, 1830, the Supervisors purchased the Poor House Farm at Flatbush. The cornerstone of this building was laid July 9, 1831. The oration was delivered by General Johnson.

1831, Jan. 12—Application was made for a railroad between Brooklyn and Jamaica.

1833—April 25, 1833, the Legislature passed an act for the erection of a Court House and Jail in Kings County. The Supervisors were authorized to raise \$25,000 for the purpose.

1834—The city of Brooklyn was incorporated April 8, 1834. It was divided into nine wards.

George Hall was elected the first Mayor of the city by the Board of Alderman on the 20th of May, 1834. Mayor Hall had the honor of being also the first Mayor of the consolidated cities of Brooklyn and Williamsburg and town of Bushwick, January 1, 1855. He died in Brooklyn April 16, 1868. He was a man of noble and generous impulses, and during the cholera epidemic of 1832-34-49 and the yellow fever scourge of 1856, he exerted himself to the utmost to relieve the wants of the sufferers. The citizens of Brooklyn appreciated his services and presented him a house.

1833—The assessed value of Brooklyn taxable property in 1834 was \$7,829,684 and of the rest of the county \$1,600,594.

1834—An act was passed on the 27th of February, 1834, for the erection of a Court House and Jail in Kings County.

1835—On the 16th of April, 1835, an act was passed establishing the South Ferry. October 22, 1835, the cornerstone of Brooklyn Lyceum in Washington street, was laid.

1836—On the 10th of March, 1836, Samuel Cheever, Isaac Tiffany and Alonzo G. Hammond were appointed Commissioners to lay out the city of Brooklyn.

On the 17th of April, 1836, the ground was broken for the Long Island railroad at Jamaica.

On the 28th of April the cornerstone for the City Hall was laid with suitable ceremonies. Jonathan Trotter, the Mayor of the city, delivered the address on the occasion.

On the 4th of August, 1836, the Apprentices Library building having been purchased, was officially declared to be the city's building. This building stood until 1858 when it was taken down.

On the 23d of August, 1836, the cornerstone of the jail in Raymond street was laid.

The ferry from Peck Slip to Williamsburgh commenced running on September 5, 1836. In the month of May, 1836, the Atlantic Bank was incorporated.

1837—March 2, 1837, the Long Island Railroad was opened from Hicksville to Brooklyn.

The new County Clerk's office in Cranberry street was first occupied July 20 of this year.

Owing to financial crash the building of the City Hall was suspended August 7, 1837. As originally designed this building was intended to cover the entire City Hall Square. Its foundation stood for ten years, when a new plan was adopted and the present City Hall built.

1837—The construction of the Raymond street jail was commenced.

1838, April 18—Greenwood Cemetery incorporated.

1840, June 15—The Atlantic dock was commenced.

1840—The King County Court was removed from the Apprentices Library and held in Horse Exchange building on the corner of Cranberry and Fulton streets. The courtroom was on the second floor.

1843, Sept. 12—A line of omnibuses was started from Fulton Ferry to East Brooklyn.

1844—On the 27th of July the Long Island Railroad was completed to Greenpoint.

1845, May 1—Brooklyn City Hospital incorporated. In March, 1845, the judges and supervisors designated Raymond street jail as the place for holding the courts.

1846, May 9—The Legislature authorized the Mayor and Aldermen to create an additional loan of \$100,000 in addition to loans already authorized to build a city hall.

1847—The cornerstone of the U. S. Dry dock was laid at the Navy Yard May 12, 1847. The work when completed reflected great credit on W. I. McAlpine, the engineer. The total cost of the work was \$2,133,173.

1848—Brooklyn first lit with gas March 27, 1848. Commencing to build sewers July 1, 1848.

The great fire in Brooklyn September 9, 1848, proved a disastrous event. Five entire blocks were consumed and parts of five others. The burnt district was between Washington and Henry streets, and Pineapple and Maine. The First Presbyterian Church on Fulton street, the Universalist Church, corner of Fulton and Pineapple, the Baptist Church in Nassau street, and the Sands Street Church were destroyed. The loss by the conflagration was between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000.

1849—The cholera visited the county in May, 1849. The City Court organized November 24, 1849, with one judge. The act amended by the constitution adding two additional judges. The Common Council March 10, 1849, authorized to raise \$50,000 to finish the City Hall.

1853—By act of Legislature of April 12, 1853, Truant Home organized.

1854—July 4, 1854, horse cars commenced to run on Myrtle avenue, Fulton, Court street and Flushing avenue. On the two former the fare was 4 cents.

On the 17th of July, act passed constituting Brooklyn, Williamsburgh and Bushwick into a municipal government to take effect January 1, 1855.

September 11 the Packer College Institute for Girls as the successor of the Brooklyn Institute, opened its doors.

1854—Although steps were taken were only later to secure a penitentiary for Kings County, it was not until January, 1854, that the new building on Corn Hill

was occupied. On the 21st of April, 1846, an act was passed by the Legislature authorizing the work. In June, 1846, a resolution was adopted by the Board of Supervisors to purchase 18 acres of land at \$200 an acre. The land was purchased and bonds issued. The total amount so issued up to March 2, 1854, was \$155,000. On May 3, 1855, steps were taken to build the female wing of the penitentiary. The penitentiary was not completed until August, 1856. The total amount of bonds issued for the penitentiary was \$205,000. On the 15th of June, 1871, a portion of the lots belonging to the county was sold for \$103,525. Previous to the occupation of the present edifice, the old truant home on Clove road served for a penitentiary.

On the 4th of July, 1854, the horse cars commenced to run. The routes were Fulton and Court streets, Myrtle and Flushing avenues. The fare was 4 cents on the Myrtle and Fulton avenue routes.

On the 17th of April, 1854, the act consolidating Brooklyn, Williamsburg and Bushwick was passed to take effect January 1, 1855.

September 11, 1854, the Packer Institute for Girls as the successor of the Brooklyn Institute, opened its doors for the reception of pupils.

1855—The Fire Department of the City of Brooklyn was incorporated.

On the 12th of April the Nassau Water Works of the City of Brooklyn was incorporated.

The increase of business led the Supervisors to consider the propriety of building a new court house. Lots were proposed on Vanderbilt avenue. The site was considered unsuitable and on the 10th of October, 1855, the subject was postponed indefinitely.

1856—Ground broken July 31, 1856, for the reservoir of the Nassau Water Works.

1858, Dec. 4—Ridgewood water first introduced into the city.

1859, March 19—Academy of Music incorporated.

1859—On the 28th of April the citizens celebrated the introduction of water. The military were out in full force, and the exercises were worthy of the occasion.

After much agitation the property owners on Atlantic avenue succeeded in having steam removed from that thoroughfare. It was a very unwise measure as it diverted trade from Brooklyn.

1860—On the 17th of April, 1860, the Legislature passed an act to lay out Prospect Park.

On the 17th of April 1860, the Legislature authorized the Supervisors to build a new court house. The land was purchased in March, 1861, for \$70,000. The ground on which the court house stands is 140 feet on Fulton and Joralemon streets, by 351 feet deep. It was constructed under the direction of the Board of Supervisors of which body General Philip S. Crooke was chairman. The building committee were Samuel Booth, Charles C. Talbot, William H. Hazzard, Charles A. Carnavillo, Gilliam Schenck and George G. Herman. The entire cost of the building, land and furniture, was \$551,757.28. Not a dollar was used needlessly in its construction. It was finished in February, 1865.

1861—The War of the Rebellion aroused the patriotism of the Kings County boys. The Supervisors and Alder-



men worked earnestly. Citizens vied with each other in pledges to the families of such as volunteered. The Medical Society of Kings County resolved to render gratuitous professional services to the families of soldiers during their absence. The Union Ferry Company offered to pay their employees families their salary during their enlistment, and to employ them on their return. The city and county was a vast recruiting station, and its parks and public places were decorated with tents.

1862—Commander William L. Hudson, who laid the Atlantic cable, a well known citizen of Brooklyn, died October 15.

1863—In February, 1863, the Long Island Historical Society was organized.

1864—The Sanitary Fair was opened at the Academy of Music on Washington's Birthday. The fair closed March 8, yielding \$402,943.74, which was used by the Sanitary Commission to relieve the wants of the soldiers and their families.

Aside from private contributions the county issued bonds to the extent of \$726,000 for bounties to volunteers.

The number of men furnished by the State of New York during the war was 467,047. It is impossible to state the exact number sent from Kings County. It was in the neighborhood of 32,000. A large number of Kings County men enlisted elsewhere. The regiments from Kings rendered effective service.

1864, April 11—The Erie Basin and Dock Company was incorporated.

1866—Moses F. Odell, a well known citizen and member of Congress, died June 13.

On the 25th of October, of this year, by order of the Common Council, medals were presented to every Brooklyn soldier who had returned alive. Addresses were made by Mayor Samuel Booth, Governor Fenton, Rev. Dr. Storrs and ex-Mayor Alfred M. Wood (late Colonel of the 14th Regiment). Two thousand veterans and 148 officers appeared in the procession.

1869—The paid Fire Department of Brooklyn was organized by act of the Legislature passed May 22, 1869.

1870, Jan. 3—Construction of the Brooklyn Bridge commenced. The total length of the bridge is 5,989 feet. The first wire was run out May 29, 1877. Cable making commenced June 11, 1877. The ceremonies attending the completion of the bridge were held May 24, 1883. Cars commenced to run on the bridge September 24, 1883. This work, which is the greatest engineering effort of the ages, owes its success to the skill and untiring energy of John A. Roebling, Washington A. Roebling and William C. Kingsley, whose labors were ably aided by Hon. J. S. T. Stranehan, William Marshall, Thomas Kinsella, Henry C. Murphy, Henry W. Slocum, Colonel Julius N. Adams and other members of the Board of Trustees.

On the day of the opening ceremonies, prayer was offered by Right Rev. Bishop Littlejohn. The presentation address on behalf of the trustees, was delivered by William C. Kingsley. Addresses of acceptance by Mayors Low and Edson, and orations by Hon. Abram S. Hewitt and Rev. Dr. Storrs. Hon James S. T. Stranehan presided.

The cost of the work was about \$15,000,000. The money was well invested.

1876—Work upon the new municipal building was commenced in 1876, under an act passed May 1, 1876. The building was completed in 1878. The amount appropriated for its construction was \$200,000. The cost of the building was \$199,979.48, or \$20 52/100 less than the appropriation.

1877—On the 22d of August the Supervisors appropriated \$25,000 to purchase a site for the new jail. The land was purchased and on December 30, 1878, the County Treasurer was authorized to borrow \$245,000 and advertise for proposals to build the jail. On the 22d of April, 1880, the Supervisors officially visited and inspected the building. Almost immediately therefore the prisoners were transferred from the old to the new jail. The cost of the building and land was \$320,393.12.

1878—Railroad to Brighton Beach completed and commenced operations July 1, 1878.

1880, April 15—The closing services in old St. Ann's Episcopal Church, previous to its removal by the Bridge Trustees was held. Bishop Littlejohn officiating.

1884, Nov. 4—The vote of Kings County was 122,799. Cleveland's majority 15,715.

1885—On the 21st of February William C. Kingsley, the designer of the bridge, departed this life. Brooklyn and Kings County lost a valuable citizen whose place could never be filled.

On the 15th of January, 1885, ground was broken for the Federal building on Washington street.

1885—On the 13th of May, 1885, the Brooklyn Elevated Railroad commenced running its cars from York street to the corner of Broadway and Gates avenue.

1885—In December, 1885, cornerstone of the new Hall of Records laid.

The following is a list of the Mayors of Brooklyn: George Hall, elected 1834; Jonathan Trotter, elected 1835; Jeremiah Johnson, elected 1837; Cyrus P. Smith, elected 1839; Henry C. Murphy, elected 1842; Joseph Sprague, elected 1843; Thomas G. Talmage, elected 1845; Francis G. Stryker, elected 1846; Edward Copeland, elected 1849; Samuel Smith, elected 1850; Conklin Brush, elected 1851; Edward A. Lambert, elected 1853; George Hall, elected 1855; Samuel S. Powell, elected 1857; Martin Kalbfleisch, elected 1862; Alfred M. Wood, elected 1863; Samuel Booth, elected 1866; Martin Kalbfleisch, elected 1867; Samuel S. Powell, elected 1871; John W. Hunter, elected 1873; Frederick Schroeder, elected 1875; James Howell, Jr., elected 1877; Seth Low, elected 1881.

Seven ex-Mayors are still living, to wit: Stryker, Lambert, Wood, Booth, Hunter, Schroeder and Howell. Francis B. Stryker is the oldest living ex-Mayor and the oldest ex-Sheriff. John M. Hicks is the oldest living ex-County Clerk, having been elected in 1843, and Francis B. Stryker is the next oldest, having been elected in 1849.

Population of county at different periods: 1790, 4,495; 1800, 5,740; 1820, 11,187; 1830, 20,535; 1835, 32,037; 1840, 47,623; 1850, 138,882; 1860, 279,122; 1870, 419,921; 1880, 599,549; 1885, about 725,000.

## MANUFACTURES.

The census of the United States presents a very interesting exhibit of the manufactures of Brooklyn. The capital invested amounted to \$68,828,703, producing a return of \$188,573,056. There was 5,164 establishments giving employment to 45,206 hands, of whom 6,891 were females. During the year \$22,903,683 was paid for wages. The sum of \$10,946,000 was invested in the manufacture of sugar, yielding a production of \$59,711,168. The census placed Brooklyn first as a sugar refining center; third in the number of manufacturing establishments; fourth in amount of capital invested and amount of wages paid; fifth in number of hands employed; fourth in amount of products, and first in average wages. By the census of 1880 it appears that there was manufactured in Brooklyn 39,485,335 cigars, 2,396,140 cigarettes, and 3,000,000 pounds of plug and fine chewing tobacco, using 5,060,836 pounds of leaf and other material.

## COMMERCE.

More vessels load and unload in Brooklyn than in any other city in the Union.

Valuation and taxation of Brooklyn at different periods:

Date.	Valuation.	Taxation.
1834	\$15,642,200	.....
1840	25,447,146	\$134,139.66
1850	36,665,399	411,044.78
1856	\$95,859,735	\$1,381,144.39

The foregoing did not include Williamsburgh.

1883—Valuation of real and personal property in Brooklyn, \$298,936.506.

In city towns \$12,951,657; total \$311,888,163. The aggregate amount raised in Kings County by taxation was \$7,783,062.05. In 1884 real and personal property in Brooklyn was \$317,874,350.

## SCHOOLS.

Brooklyn has a large number of excellent private schools and a medical college. Besides these she has one public central grammar school, 42 grammar schools, 9 primary schools, 3 colored schools and 2 attendance schools. Number on register last report 65,782; average attendance 56,718. The tax levy of 1884 gave the Board of Education \$1,333,945.19 for educational purposes. The county towns are abundantly supplied with public schools.

In Brooklyn there are 4 nurseries, 6 orphan asylums, over 100 benevolent societies, 19 Grand Army Posts, 74 Masonic lodges and chapters, and 54 lodges of Oddfellows. The city in its Brooklyn Library boasts of one of the best selected libraries in the United States.

Cereals raised in Kings County in 1880:

	Acres.	Bushels.
Buckwheat .....	7	142
Corn .....	1,256	52,990
Oats .....	88	2,052
Rye .....	88	2,652
Wheat .....	139	3,242

The census of 1880 shows that in Kings County 1,056 acres was appropriated to raising hay, producing 1,496 tons; that 772,246 bushels of potatoes were raised, and the value of garden products was \$842,617.

The number of farms was 486; number of acres under cultivation, 9075; value of farms and buildings, \$4,872,855; value of farming implements, \$224,550; value of live stock, \$254,728; cost of fertilizers, \$212,173; and estimated value of productions, \$1,211,000.

## CHURCHES.

There are 285 churches in the city of Brooklyn, and about 30 in the county towns. The Dutch Church was the first organized in 1660. The Episcopal Church was started in Brooklyn about 1785, and was incorporated April 23, 1787.

1794, May 19—The first Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated. They erected a church on Sands street and their successors still cling to the sacred spot.

1818, Jan. 12—The African Methodist Church was incorporated.

1822, March 13—The first Presbyterian Church was incorporated, and built an edifice in Cranberry street. In 1846 the church was sold to the Plymouth congregation.

The cornerstone of St. John's Roman Catholic Church on Jay street, was laid June 25, 1822. It is probably the oldest church edifice in the city.

The first Baptist Church was incorporated October 15, 1823.

The membership in the Protestant churches is about 77,000. With the membership of the Roman

Catholic branch of the church of Christ added to this number, it will appear that at least one-fifth of the population profess the Christian religion. A recent report gives the number of Sunday school scholars in Brooklyn as 84,570.

There are over 85,000 buildings in Brooklyn.

Brooklyn contains 13,338 acres, 546 miles of streets, of which 335 are paved. The parks and cemeteries contain 1,347 acres.

The amount earned by the Brooklyn Post Office over and above expenses for the years 1880, 1881 and 1882, was \$325,714.82. The amount turned over into the treasury last year was about \$140,000.

#### DEPARTMENT OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTION.

This excellently managed branch of county service deserves more than a passing notice.

The Commissioners made their last annual report July 31, 1884. At that time there was remaining in the Almshouse 875, in the Hospital 357, in the Insane Asylum 1,330, and in the Penitentiary 934, making a total of 8,877 inmates in these institutions. During the year the number of admissions was as follows: Into Almshouse, 3,072; Hospital, 3,313; Insane Asylum, 479; Penitentiary, 2,260; total, 9,133. The total number maintained and treated during the year was 12,373. The average number of inmates was 3,390; average cost of each person supported during year was \$80.40; average cost of each per week was \$1.55 or twenty-two cents a day. The total amount of disbursements was \$401,588.74; total



amount of receipts \$129,047,96, leaving the actual expenses \$272,540.78.

On the Almshouse Farm there was raised 1,527 bushels of potatoes, 550 bushels of turnips, 7,500 heads of cabbage, 14,675 pounds of pork, and a large quantity of vegetables.

In the Almshouse 4 males and 12 females between 85 and 95 years of age received support. Of these admitted during the year 1,534 were males and 1,538 females; 551 were children under 12 years of age; 848 were single, and 101 died.

#### KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL.

The number of patients under treatment during the year was 2,317 males and 1,344 females, total 3,661; of whom 1,580 recovered and 391 died. Thus it will appear that 43 per cent. recovered and 11 per cent. died. The principal nationalities of the patients were: Jewish, 1,284; United States, 1,190, and Germany, 385, of these admitted 3 were physicians and 3 teachers.

#### INSANE ASYLUM.

During the year there was 1,713 patients in this asylum, 47 recovered and 101 died; 225 males and 254 females were admitted during the year.

## PENITENTIARY.

The receipts from all sources during the year \$91,702.84, the expenses \$73,998.42, leaving a profit over and above the disbursements of \$ 704.42. This surplus was the largest ever realized.

Prisoners were received from the United States courts and from Kings, Queens, Westchester

Richmond counties; 1,647 of the inmates could read and write; 102 could read only, and 520 could neither read nor write; 1,246 were single and 1,496 were married; 779 were temperate and 1,496 intemperate; 329 were under 20 years.

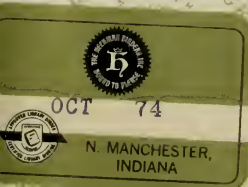






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