Celebrating 100 Years of History:

THE ARCHIVES

at Queens Library

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INTRODUCTION

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Archives at Queens Library (formerly the Long Island Division). Located on the second floor of the Central Library on Merrick Boulevard, the Archives specializes in the history of Queens, Brooklyn and suburban Long Island. The Archives offers books, newspapers, maps, ephemera, and many historic photographs. Beginning on the next page is a brief summary of our history, followed by an overview of some of our major collections. We invite library patrons throughout Queens, Greater New York City and Long Island to visit us and join in celebrating our centennial.

Interior of the Central Library, 1913. From the Queens Borough Public Library Photograph Collection.
On October 13, 1911, the Board of Trustees of the Queens Borough Public Library established a fund of $500.00 for a collection of books and articles on local history and genealogy.

The division was established in 1912. At first, there was no assigned staff or area to house the collection. The gathering of materials for the collection was the responsibility of the Head Librarian at Colonial Hall until the Central Library moved to its new location on Parsons Boulevard.

The Long Island Division’s first recorded purchase was the Rapelje Collection. This collection dates from 1774 to 1848, and includes maps, land deeds and other documents relating to the early history of Newtown.

The new Central Library building at Parsons Boulevard and 89th Avenue was completed in 1929. In 1933 the Division officially moved to a space in the new building that had been formerly occupied by the QBPL library school.

During the Great Depression the Division had a small staff of two librarians and a curator; additional staffing came through the Works Progress Administration (WPA). WPA staff consisted of two typists and senior research assistant Richard G. DeBevoise. During its years with the division, the WPA Project staff transcribed church histories, cemetery inscriptions, and primary documents such as the Records of Jamaica Village and Historical Collections of the Borough of Queens. In all, WPA staff completed a total of 125 volumes.
• In 1935, the Division’s librarian, Alice H. Meigs, began work on the Long Island genealogy collection. Miss Meigs also helped edit the reference book Private and Family Cemeteries, compiled by Charles U. Powell, Engineer of the Topographical Bureau Queens County. These important resources continue to be used by genealogists and other researchers to this day.

• In 1936, the Division participated in “The Long Island Tercentenary,” marking the 300th anniversary of the first settlement in Brooklyn in June of 1636.

• In 1939, the Division acquired the Dongan Patent. This document, issued by the British governor Thomas Dongan in 1686, established the original colony of Jamaica. According to the Division’s annual report of 1939-1940, “The Patent was purchased by Mr. Harry Gertz on behalf of for permanent deposit in the Long Island Collection.”

• Herbert L. Ricard was appointed the Division’s curator on September 6, 1939.
• In 1943, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Larremore made the first recorded donation of money to the division, for the sum of $50.00. The money was used the following year to purchase the complete Marion Press’ complete catalog.

• During the years of World War II the Division saw an increase in the use of its census and church records. These records helped many people to establish proof-of-birth, which was needed to obtain work in war industries, and to apply for Social Security and retirement benefits.

• On January 12, 1944, Herbert L. Ricard, the Division’s Head Librarian, was appointed Queens Borough Historian by Borough President James A. Burke.

• On September 1, 1947, Mr. Ricard was promoted to Superintendent of Branch Administration, and Marguerite V. Doggett was promoted to Head Librarian of the Division.

• Also in 1947, the Division received a donation of two newspapers, the Ridgewood Times and the Record (of Richmond Hill).

• In 1947-48 the Division’s Picture Collection was used for New York City’s Golden Jubilee celebrations sponsored by the Queens Golden Anniversary Committee and the Long Island Daily Press.

• During this time the division’s staff consisted of Miss Doggett and a clerk, Miss Andrew. This is the first time the word “clerk” was used to describe this position. Before, the official title was “typist.”
• Mr. Vincent Seyfried, a well-known local historian and author, donated copies of his books New York and Queens County Railway and Steinway Lines, 1867-1939. This donation began a 50-year relationship with Long Island’s most prolific historian.

• During this time the telephone company referred customers to the division for use of our collection of back issues of the telephone directories. We continue to provide the same services for genealogists and other researchers today.

• In 1953, the Division purchased early Prince Family’s The Linnaean Botanic Garden and Nurseries’ horticultural Catalogues. The Prince family of Flushing was well known for its work in the horticultural field, having established one of the world’s first commercial nurseries.

• In the mid-1950s, a new form of technology appeared on the horizon: microfiche (then called micro-cards) and microfilm.

• In 1954, the New York Public Library provided its services to microfilm the Jamaica-based newspaper The Long Island Democrat. This was the first newspaper from the division to be microfilmed.

• In 1955, the Division contracted University Microfilms (now known as ProQuest) of Ann Arbor, Michigan to microfilm another well-known Queens newspaper, the Newtown Register. The Division also took advantage of the new technology to microfilm three papers by graduate students: A History of Indians from Montauk, L. I. by Fisher; Colonial Long Island by Heroe; and Patchogue Village or City by Parrot.

• The Division sold reprints of two of its most popular publications: The Long Island Forum Index and Descriptions of Private and Family Cemeteries in the Borough of Queens.

• Due to staff shortages in the mid-1950s, the division was closed to the public each year during the month of July.

• In December 1956, Miss Margurite V. Doggett retired and Miss Marjorie H. Leek became Division Head. This was the first time the words “Division Head” were used to refer to the Division’s Head Librarian.
In 1961, the Division purchased 1,000 Eugene Armbruster negatives dating from the 1920s.

During this time the Division began purchasing Queens County telephone directories on microfilm from the New York Public Library.

In 1961, the addition of an Assistant Division Manager, Miss Florence Block and a part-time clerk, Mrs. Marjorie Pryce made it possible for the Division to reopen to the public during the month of July.

The Division purchased the Southside Signal 1869-1897 from the Long Island Historical Society (currently known as the Brooklyn Historical Society).

In 1963, the purchased of the Births, Marriages and Deaths from the Brooklyn Eagle, a welcome addition to our genealogy collection.

In 1964, the Division began preparing its collections for the move to the new Central Library building on Merrick Boulevard.

In 1965, Miss Marjorie H. Leek retired, and Mr. Davis Erhardt was appointed Head of the Division. Under the leadership of Mr. Erhardt the Division microfilmed the majority of its newspapers. The manuscript and photo collections received much-needed attention with the additions of an archivist, Mr. Nicholas Falco, and librarian, Mr. Robert C. Friedrich.

In April 1966, the doors opened at the new Central Library at 89-11 Merrick Boulevard. The Division was located on the main floor of the new building.

The establishment of the “Community Studies” program grew out of the need for information about neighborhoods in Queens County.
• Information from the 1970 Census was popular and in high demand for school assignments.

• The division contracted Eastman Kodak to microfilm another Jamaica newspaper, The Queens Evening News, from the years 1928 to 1939. Other Queens County community newspapers microfilmed during this time were the Ridgewood Times 1913-1984, the Rockaway News, 1910-1941 and the Long Island City-based newspaper, The Long Island Star-Journal, from 1892 to 1939.

• The division purchased the Brooklyn City Directories 1796-1933 on microfilm.

• The Queens Historical Society used the resources of the division for an Architectural Survey for presentation to the City Landmark Preservation Commission. The survey was commissioned to help preserve historic buildings throughout Queens, and to recommend selected structures for landmark status.

• During this time Mr. Falco produced the “Manual for Organization of Manuscripts,” which was published by the Library, and helped to create the Long Island Archivist Conference.

• The Division embarked on an oral history project with longtime residents of Queens County.

• In 1975 librarian Kenneth Dinin conducted the first inventory of the division’s broadside (poster) collection. This collection contained over 500 broadsides. Mr. Dinin also compiled one of the most important and frequently used resources in the division, Queens Community Boundaries, which defines historic and present-day boundaries of neighborhoods in Queens.

• In 1976, the Division provided information and materials to various city agencies, schools, and historical societies for the celebration of the Bicentennial of American Independence. The Division also participated in The Loyalist Studies, which was published and sponsored by the American Antiquarian Society; City University of New York; the University of London; and the University of New Brunswick. This project was responsible for the microfilming of primary documents from the Revolutionary War era. Participants were also provided with microfilmed copies for their collection. The Division submitted the Jayne Family Papers.

• In 1977 interest in genealogy surged due to the week long television mini-series “Roots.”

• The well-known daily newspaper the Long Island Press ceased publication in 1977. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Erhardt and Mr. Falco the division received a donation of the Press’ files. Mr. Erhardt and Mr. Falco also helped save the Long Island Daily Star, a 19th-century newspaper which the Press held in storage at its Long Island City warehouse.
In the early 1980s the Division actively participated in the preparations for the celebration of Queens County’s Tercentennial. Mr. Erhardt was appointed by Borough President Donald Manes to serve on the newly formed Advisory Committee on Queens History. Mr. Falco prepared a “Tercentennial packet” to answer general questions about the county’s history. At that same time local historian and author Vincent Seyfried published his book *Queens: A Pictorial History*. The division also mounted an exhibit of its materials at the Central Library.

The Division made an important acquisition in the Joseph Burt Sr. Photograph Collection, containing over 5,000 of Mr. Burt’s photographs of Long Island.

In September 1982, Mr. Erhardt retired and a year later, Mr. Falco was appointed Division Head and Mr. Kenneth Dinin was appointed Assistant Division Head.

In the mid-1980s, the Division received a grant through the Library Services and Construction Act to purchase the microfilm of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle and the Port of New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1897.

The division also acquired the 1915 and 1925 New York State Census for Queens County on microfilm.

On March 27, 1984, William Asadorian was appointed Assistant Division Head.

On October 25, 1985, Mr. Falco retired and Mr. Charles F.J. Young became Division Head. Mr. Young was active in planning for the Division’s move to its new location on the second floor at the Central Library.
• On September 14, 1990, Office Aide Helen Reder received the Library’s first Lamplighter of the Year award.

• In May 1991, local historian George Miller received a Volunteer of the Year award for his work with the Division.

• In 1994, the Division moved to its new location on the Central Library’s second floor. The following year the space formerly occupied by the Division became a gallery, which hosted many exhibits and events including the Division’s “Blueprint for Change: The Life and Time of Lewis H. Latimer.”

• In 1996, the Library celebrated its 100th Anniversary. Many of the Division’s resources were used for a centennial exhibit and the book *Lighting the Way: The Centennial History of the Queens Borough Public Library, 1896-1996*, by Jeffery A. Kroessler, Ph.D.

• In 1997, Division assisted the City of New York to prepare for its 100th birthday. The Division’s photograph collections were used for documentary research for various news and film media. The New York City Birthday Committee also called upon the Division for information about an English translation of the first charter for New Amsterdam granted by the Dutch West India Company in 1653.

• On December 31, 1997, Mr. Charles Young retired and Judith Todman became new Division Manager, and John Hyslop was promoted to Assistant Division Manager.

• On March 27, 1998, Miss Helen Reder retired.

• During the 1990s the Division embarked on a project to digitize its photographs. This new form of technology would insure wider use and better preservation of the Division’s photo collections. In February 1999, Library Director Gary E. Strong presided over the rollout ceremony for the new imaging system, which contained 44,000 digitized images.
2000-2011

- During this decade the division received a series of grants from New York State and the National Endowment of the Humanities, which helped transform the Division's staffing and improved its collections. The Division also made great strides in the use of new technologies to provide better access to its collections.

- In the early 2000s, the Division began re-evaluating its collections, accessibility, preservation, and conservation needs. As a result, the Division applied for, and was awarded, a series of grants to establish policies for preserving collections and maintaining environmental controls; to reorganize and catalog the map collections; to conserve many important photographic negatives; and to microfilm the Belcher Hyde and Sanborn Maps for Queens County, thus making it possible for customers to photocopy these valuable maps. The division produced two important brochures during this time: Belcher Hyde & Sanborn Company Maps; and Newspapers in the Long Island Division.

- During this time the Division had three librarians and one Customer Service Representative. In September 2001 Erik Huber joined the staff, assuming responsibility for the Division's Photograph collections. After the retirement of George Miller in 2007, Ms. Samantha Dyer became the division's new Customer Service Representative. In March 2008, Mary Grace DeSagun became the division's full-time Imaging Technician, and in July 2009, Ian Lewis joined the staff as Manuscript Archivist.

- In the mid 2000s, the Division began working with other departments to build an online presence and to provide customers with greater access to its collections. The first of these projects was to make the Division's manuscript collection finding aids accessible through the Library's website. The Division also produced a regular feature on the history of Brooklyn Queens Day for the website, and helped curate the Library's exhibit “Burgh to Borough: Queens Enters the Twentieth Century.” An online version of this exhibit was later featured on the Library's webpage.

- In December 2007, the Division began to display selections from its photographic collections on the website Flickr. The Division also displayed a collage of rotating images on the Library's website, and featured images of its maps collection on the Division's own webpage.

- In 2010, the Library created the Archives’ Digital Assets Management Initiative to provide our customers with digital access to the Archives’ material. After 100 years of providing reference one way, the Archives is using new media to engage and interact with Archives users. For the next 100 years, we will ensure our customers have the reference tools to explore the rich history of Queens and Long Island.

- In February 2010, the Division changed to its name to The Archives at Queens Library. Our mission is still the same, but with a greater emphasis on Queens County and its history. We trust the next hundred years will see the continued growth of our collections and the enrichment of the lives of those who use our facility.
Eugene L. Armbruster Image Collection

Eugene L. Armbruster (1865-1943) was an amateur historian who lived in Brooklyn. Upon his retirement in 1920 he began to devote himself to historical research on a full-time basis, contributing a regular column on antiquarian matters to the Brooklyn Daily Eagle. Though his primary interest was in the history of Brooklyn, Mr. Armbruster's research took him all over Long Island, where he sketched and photographed numerous historic buildings, roads and other sites. Many of these landmarks were demolished soon after Mr. Armbruster photographed them, and in many cases Armbruster's photographs and drawings are the only remaining records of what some of these places looked like. The Armbruster Collection contains almost 7,000 of Mr. Armbruster's drawings and photographs.

See: Eugene L. Armbruster Drawings and Photographs, MS # A-8

Beachside Bungalow Preservation Association of Far Rockaway Records

The Rockaways is an 11-mile peninsula located off the Southeastern corner of Queens. During the early years of the twentieth century the area's beaches made it an ideal destination for tourists and vacationers from the other boroughs. Small houses called bungalows were the homes of choice for many Far Rockaway residents. After World War Two the Rockaways declined in popularity as a vacation
spot, and many bungalows were demolished or destroyed by fires. The 1950s and 1960s saw the construction of many public housing developments, and in the 1970s New York City’s budget crisis devastated social services in the community. The Beachside Bungalow Preservation Association was created by Betzie Parker White, Roger White, and Carole Lewis in September 1984. Its mission was to improve the quality of the Far Rockaway community through preservation, education, and cultural programs. Fellow community resident Richard George became a board member in 1985 and became organization chairman in 1990. He continues the mission of the founders with a special emphasis placed on the preservation of the bungalows “because they are a piece of the city’s history and a reminder of what the Rockaways was.” This collection contains 11 boxes of materials that highlight the organization’s history, correspondence, and activities related to the preservation and upkeep of the Far Rockaway community and bungalows.

See: Beachside Bungalow Preservation Association of Far Rockaway, Inc. Records

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**Ephemera Collection**

Archivist Maurice Rickards defined “ephemera” as “minor transient documents of everyday life.” The Archives at Queens Library’s Ephemera collection began in 1911. These documents were created by various organizations and people within the many communities of Queens. They include posters, flyers, advertisements, and brochures collected during the many years of the Archives’ existence. Such “minor” documents give insight into the activities, interests, and nationalities of Queens’ residents. The collection is organized by Library of Congress subject headings and arranged in alphabetical order by location. Documents include material from churches, sport teams, businesses, museums, political rallies, and community organizations. The original collection consisted of 27 boxes, and has since been updated with an additional box of material. The entire collection covers the years 1830 to the present.

See: Ephemera Collection of the Long Island Division MS# E-8; Ephemera Collection of the Long Island Division Second Addition

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**Harrison, Julia Records**

Julia Harrison was elected as a Queens Assemblywoman in 1983, after 30 years of work as a community activist. In 1986 Ms. Harrison became City Councilwoman for Flushing, remaining in that position until 2001, when she
was term-limited out of office. In 2002 Ms. Harrison donated a portion of her records, covering her years as a member of the City Council, to the Archives at Queens Library. This collection also includes the records of her Chief of Staff, John P. Watts, and her secretary and Chinese-American liaison, Cynthia Chou. Mr. Watts’ records include materials that highlight the various projects he worked on during his time as Chief of Staff, such as his work to help save the RKO theatre, the Flushing Bus terminal proposal, the Downtown Flushing Pedestrian Project, and the Master Plan for Flushing. Ms. Chou’s records include correspondence with future Flushing councilman John Liu, press clippings from a controversial New York Times interview that Councilwoman Harrison gave in 1996, and various planning projects for the Flushing community.

See: Councilwoman Julia Harrison Records, Chief of Staff John P. Watts Records MS# H-20 and Councilwoman Julia Harrison Records Secretary’s Records MS# H-21

King, Rufus Letters

Rufus King was a longtime resident of Jamaica and a noted political figure in the early history of the United States. He served as one of New York’s original U.S. senators and as ambassador to Great Britain. Mr. King was also the Federalist Party’s last candidate for president. This six-letter collection contains correspondence between Rufus King and Governor Thomas Worthington of Ohio dating from 1816.

See: The Rufus King Letters MS# K-2

Latimer Family Papers

One of the largest collections in the Archives, the Latimer Family Papers consists of 42 boxes containing correspondence, drawings, photographs, and scrapbooks. The Louis H. Latimer Papers chronicle the life of the African-American inventor and draftsmen, including his letters, medical records, visual, and printed materials. The largest portion of this sub-series is Mr. Latimer’s work records. These include his diary, in which he describes different inventions he is working on and how long he has been working on them, as well as drawings and patents for various inventions along with blueprints and sketches. The Louise Latimer series contains two documents that belonged to Mr. Latimer’s youngest daughter. The third series is the Latimer Fund, Incorporated. It focuses on the campaign to have Lewis Latimer’s home declared a national historical site.

See: Latimer Family Papers MS# L-12
Long Island Daily Press Photographs

The Long Island Daily Press began as the Long Island Farmer in 1821. In 1921 it changed its name to the Long Island Daily Press. For much of its existence it was one of two daily newspapers published in Queens (the other was the Long Island Daily Star, which was acquired by the Press in 1938). This collection consists of pictures that were taken from the Press’ photo morgue after the newspaper ceased publication in 1977. Most of the pictures were taken by Press staff photographers, but the collection also includes many images from wire services and from the public relations offices of various organizations. The photographs, most of which date from the 1940s to the 1970s, were used to illustrate news stories and feature articles about people, places and events throughout Queens and suburban Long Island. When these photographs first came to the Archives most of them were distributed throughout our Illustrations Collection, where they remained for over three decades. Within the past year, however, we have been making an effort to gather all of the Long Island Daily Press photographs together, to identify them as completely as possible, and to ensure that they are properly preserved. We expect to make this collection available to the public by the middle of 2012.

See: The Long Island Daily Press Photo Morgue Collection

Map Collection

The Archives’ Map Collection has proven to be one of the most popular and resourceful tools for researchers. The Archives has acquired many historical maps by donation and through purchase over the years. These maps cover the area of geographic Long Island from as early as 1640 to as recently as 2003. They are a great reference source, allowing users to see how the region changed from undeveloped swamp land to the modern metropolitan landscape it is today. A brief listing includes Board of Education Maps, Cemetery Maps, Census Maps, Geological and Soil Maps and Insurance Maps. The latter are some of the most popular items in the division. They were created for the use of property insurance companies. They show every structure in an area, including such data as building materials, sizes, addresses, and other pertinent information. Researchers use these maps to examine the development of an area, demography, and street changes. They can also be used to determine whether a building existed on a particular piece of property at a particular time. These maps are sometimes known as the Belcher-Hyde and Sanborn Maps, after the two companies that published them.

See: The Archives at Queens Library Map Collections Inventory
The New York State Public Service Commission was created in 1907 by the New York State Legislature and Governor “to investigate complaints, order improved service, establish rates, and supervise the issue of securities” for public utilities including public transportation. The photographs in this collection document the Commission’s work on various projects in Queens, including improvements to Little Neck Parkway, Queens Boulevard, North and South Conduit Avenues and other streets and roads; the building of the Astoria Houses public housing project; and grade-crossing eliminations and other railway improvement projects, including work on the Long Island Rail Road and New York and Rockaway Beach Railway. The Commission assisted the state in acquiring land for these projects, and documented complaints by property owners who were affected by construction work.

See: New York State Public Service Commission Photographs, MS# P-14

Parsons Family Personal and Business Papers

One of the oldest families in Flushing, the Parsons family were best known as the founders of the Parsons Nursery, one of the world’s first commercial nurseries. Being of the Quaker faith, the Parsons family was also related by marriage to another prominent Flushing family, the Bownes. This collection consists primarily
of letters and correspondence between family members and acquaintances. Contents include a diary by Samuel Parsons, pamphlets, genealogical charts, and bills of sale. The family included many members, each of whom is denoted by a series within the collection.

See: Parsons Family Miscellaneous Personal and Business Papers, MS# P-7

Rantus, Wilson and Jane Papers

Born on January 25, 1807, abolitionist and civil rights activist William Rantus was an important figure in the early history of Jamaica, Queens. Though he was not nationally known, he was very active in the abolitionist cause at the state and local level. The bulk of this collection consists of Mr. Rantus’ correspondence with Thomas Hamilton, a pioneering African-American journalist. It is believed that both men were members of the American Abolition Society. There are also documents establishing insurance for the Rantus house, a listing of family members, and bills to the Rantus family for services rendered by the town of Jamaica. Mr. Rantus’ wife, Jane, survived him by 28 years.

See: The William and Jane Rantus Papers MS# R-1

J. William Sawyer 1939 World’s Fair Photographs

The J. William Sawyer 1939 World’s Fair Photographs are a small collection of color photographs of the New York 1939-40 World’s Fair. They are 35mm glass slides that have been made into 4x5 inch prints as well as TIFF files stored on compact disks. Color slide photography from this period is rare, making this a valuable collection based on its subject matter and its medium. Highlights include photographs of the live show at the Billy Rose Aquacade and an evening fountain and firework display. Mr. Sawyer also captured indoor exhibits such as General Electric’s man-made lightning show in Steinmetz Hall. He and the two women and one man with him that day also visited the trains that were part of the track exhibits hosted by the Eastern Railroads Presidents’ Conference. Images of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Pavilion in the Government Zone, place their visit in 1939, as that pavilion was removed for the 1940 season.

See: J. William Sawyer 1939 World’s Fair Photographs, MS# S-36
### Store Front Museum Records

In February 1971 Tom Lloyd established the Store Front Museum, an institution devoted to the promotion and dissemination of African-American culture. The museum collected art, books, artifacts, photographs, and documents that pertained to the African-American experience in Queens. In 1972, a joint program with the Metropolitan Museum of Art, “Paintings and Drawings of Richard Mayhew,” brought the museum its first widespread regional attention. That same year the museum opened the Paul Robeson Theatre, a 300-seat theater which hosted many major performances. For several years the theater also hosted the African Festival on its grounds. In 1985 a major research project involving Mr. Lloyd and Queens College Professor James Rose resulted in the book “A Study in Triumph: African-Americans in Queens County, New York 1683-1983,” and the art exhibit “Early Photographs and Documents of African-Americans in Queens County, New York”. Later that year the museum received an eviction notice due to the planned expansion of York College. Mr. Lloyd temporarily moved the institution to 195-45 Jamaica Avenue in Hollis, but when a deal for another building fell through the Store Front Museum permanently shut down. Mr. Lloyd was later involved in the campaign to have the Lewis H. Latimer house landmarked. He donated his records to the Long Island Division in 1995.

*See:* Store Front Museum/Paul Robeson Theatre Collection MS# S-29

### Joseph A. Ullman Photographs

A longtime resident of Rego Park, photojournalist Joseph A. Ullman spent more than 20 years working for the Queens Tribune. During this time he covered news events throughout the borough of Queens, photographing testimonial dinners, political rallies, community board meetings, fires, funerals and street fairs, as well as policemen, politicians, neighborhood activists, and many others. His photographs frequently accompanied stories on neighborhood concerns like graffiti, broken sidewalks, and abandoned buildings, but he also reported on events which resonated beyond the borough of Queens, such as the battle over public housing in Forest Hills and the demolition of the Jamaica Avenue El. Occasionally he covered stories with national and even worldwide interest, such as Pope John Paul’s appearance at Shea Stadium in 1979. Also included are photographs documenting the early political careers of Governor Mario Cuomo, Mayor Ed Koch, and Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro, as well as many other lesser-known figures in Queens and New York City politics.

*See:* Joseph A. Ullman Photographs, MS # U-3
Jacob F. Wieners Jr. was a professional photographer who lived in College Point, New York. He first took up photography as a hobby, only going into business as a professional photographer around the mid-1880s, when he was in his early twenties. He established his first studio in his home, at the corner of 14th and High Streets in College Point. In 1897 he moved his studio to a new location at 87 Main Street in the main business district of Flushing. He remained there until June of 1902, when he moved back to College Point. While Wieners did probably the majority of his business as a photographer of studio portraits, he was also commissioned to photograph the homes of many of College Point’s well-to-do residents. The Wieners Photographs also contain pictures of businesses, organizations and events in College Point, Whitestone and Flushing. Many of the businesses are hotels and resorts, as College Point was a popular destination for vacationers around the turn of the twentieth century. Among the organizations that Wieners photographed were sports teams, bands, choirs, fire companies, police forces and civic groups. Events include parades, picnics and other group outings. There is also a large subgroup of studio portraits of individual members of fire companies, police and veterans organizations.

See: The Jacob F. Wieners Jr. Photographs, MS# W-12
Professional photographer Frederick J. Weber (1881-1966) was born in Austria, and came to New York in 1899. He settled first in the Rockaways and then in Manhattan, where he did freelance photography for local newspapers. In 1903 he moved to Jamaica, Queens, where he established a photography business in partnership with Peter Nybo. A few years later Mr. Weber opened his own studio, on Fulton Street (later Jamaica Avenue). While the studio changed locations three times, Mr. Weber would remain in business in Jamaica for the next 50 years. Among his clients were the Long Island Rail Road (whose legal department employed him as its official photographer), Jamaica High School, several trolley and bus companies, and numerous schools, churches and other institutions throughout Queens, Brooklyn and suburban Long Island. Mr. Weber retired from the photography business in 1959. In 1966 he sold the bulk of his railroad photographs to historian Ron Ziel, and a large selection of his other work to the Queens Borough Public Library. The library later acquired Weber’s railroad photographs along with the rest of Mr. Ziel’s collection. At present the Weber collection contains over 7,500 photographs and documents a broad range of life on Long Island in the first half of the twentieth century. It is one of the largest and most widely used photographic collections in the Archives.

See: The Frederick J. Weber Photographs, MS# W-14
Ron Ziel Photograph Collection

Railway historian Ron Ziel was born in Manhattan in 1939. His family moved to eastern Queens in 1942, and eventually settled in Melville in 1949. Mr. Ziel first became interested in railroads as a small child, when his mother would take him to watch the trains at the Long Island Rail Road stations at Queens Village and Bellerose. He first began photographing steam locomotives at Brooklyn’s Eastern District Terminal in the fall of 1960. Throughout his life Mr. Ziel traveled to over fifty countries and, by his own estimate, took over 25,000 photographs of steam locomotives in regular service. In 2005, Mr. Ziel sold his Long Island photographs to the Queens Borough Public Library. This collection consists of over 6,000 photographs of the Long Island Rail Road, taken by Mr. Ziel and others, as well as photographs Mr. Ziel took as a student at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, and as a newspaper photographer on Long Island.

See: The Ron Ziel Photograph Collection, MS# Z-1
Annotated Bibliography of Selected Reference Works from the Archives at Queens Library

The Archives contains many books, periodicals and other reference works that focus on Queens’ past and present. Although these materials do not circulate, customers can take notes and make photocopies. Some suggested sources for further research on the history of Queens and Long Island are listed below.

Antos, Jason D. Queens: Then and Now
A chronicle of the borough in words and images

Archives at Queens Library Bound Biographies
Collection of periodical articles relating to various people who have played significant roles in Queens’ history, compiled by the Archives at Queens Library

Archives at Queens Library Family Genealogies
Profiles of prominent families in Queens and on Long Island, through written documents and news articles, compiled by the Archives at Queens Library

Bjarkman, Peter C. The New York Mets Encyclopedia
Book for Mets’ enthusiasts, or anyone interested in the history of the Queens-based baseball franchise. Includes profiles of prominent Mets’ players, statistics, and team history

Copquin, Claudia Gryvatz The Neighborhoods of Queens
This book discusses the prominent neighborhoods of Queens with insight into background history and population shifts.

Frost, Josephine C. Cemetery Inscriptions
Inscriptions taken from historic cemeteries in Long Island

Gallagher, John J. The Battle of Brooklyn
This book focuses on a very important but often neglected battle that took place in Kings County during the Revolutionary War.

Hoff, Henry B. Genealogies of Long Island Families from the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record
Alphabetical listings of various families in Long Island collected in two volumes

King, Charles R., ed. The Life and Correspondence of Rufus King
This six volume set of books chronicles the life of the American politician who served as one of New York’s original U.S. senators. He worked on anti-slavery legislation and was one of the original signers of the United States Constitution. Mr. King resided in Jamaica, Queens for several years until his death in 1827.
Lehrer, Warren and Judith Sloan *Crossing the Blvd: Strangers, Neighbors, Aliens in a New America*
First person accounts of life in Queens by a diverse group of residents, including both natives and recent arrivals to the borough

Munsell, W.W. and Company *History of Queens County*
This 11-volume set focuses on the history of Queens County from its beginnings through the end of the 19th century. Included are volumes on Jamaica, Flushing, Long Island City, Oyster Bay, and Hempstead. The last two volumes contain portraits and illustrations.

Robertson, Purcell B. *Profiles of the Signers of the Flushing Remonstrance*
Biographies of the various signers of the Flushing Remonstrance, which established freedom of worship for Flushing’s Quaker community

Sanjek, Roger *The Future of Us All: Race and Neighborhood Politics in New York City*
A discussion of race and its effect on neighborhoods, education, crime, and politics in New York

Seyfried, Vincent *The Long Island Rail Road: A Comprehensive History*
This seven-volume work recounts the formation and early operations of the Long Island Railroad Company

Topographic Bureau of the Borough of Queens *Historical Collections of the Borough of Queens*
Historical facts for the different community areas of Queens, including a chronicle of important people, places, and events

Wissler, Clark *Indians of Greater New York*
A chronicle of the various Indian tribes in Greater New York

FRONT COVER IMAGE:
*Long Island Room, 1940. From the Queens Borough Public Library Photograph Collection.*

BACK COVER IMAGE:
*Detail of the stacks in the Long Island Room, December 29, 1939. From the Queens Borough Public Library Photograph Collection.*
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