



BROOKLYN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

**Brooklyn Historical Society To Open *Slavery in New York:
Brooklyn Stories* On February 15th
Based on the New-York Historical Society's Landmark Exhibit,
New BHS Exhibit Is Presented in Collaboration with Weeksville Heritage Center**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 2007, Brooklyn, NY –On February 15th, BHS opens the exhibition *Slavery in New York: Brooklyn Stories* in newly configured first floor gallery space.

The Brooklyn Historical Society and Weeksville Heritage Center are pleased to present *Slavery in New York: Brooklyn Stories* a traveling poster exhibition from the New-York Historical Society's (N-YHS) landmark *Slavery in New York* exhibit. First presented at N-YHS, this graphic exhibition tells the story of Dutch New Amsterdam, the commercial and economic implications of enslavement, the work of the enslaved, the American Revolution, and ultimately the organizing of African New Yorkers in search of community faith and freedom. BHS and Weeksville Heritage Center have also expanded the exhibit to include additional panels plus objects and artifacts from their collections that explore Dutch Breucklen, abolitionism, the African-American community of Weeksville, and urban development and the Brooklyn experience.

Brooklyn's complex relationship to the history of enslaved people will be the focus of programs planned in conjunction with N-YHS and Weeksville Heritage Center. Please check our website for details, www.brooklynhistory.org. Funding for this collaboration is generously provided by Independence Community Foundation.

The Brooklyn Historical Society is open Wednesday through Sunday, 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors and children and children under 12 are free.

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Founded in 1863, the Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) is a museum, library, and educational center dedicated to preserving and encouraging the study of Brooklyn's rich 400-year past, while recording and reflecting upon the future of our culturally rich borough. BHS houses a treasure trove of materials relating to the founding of our country and the history of Brooklyn and its people. We draw from all of these holdings to create interpretive exhibitions illuminating the past and informing the future. BHS hosts over 9,000 members of the general public at its exhibitions each year. In addition to our general programming, BHS serves over 70,000 public school students and teachers annually by providing exhibit tours, educational programs and curricula, and making its professional staff available for instruction and consultation. The exhibits at BHS are dynamic learning experiences for audiences of all ages.

Weeksville Heritage Center is dedicated to sharing the significant history of Weeksville, a thriving, self-sufficient 19th century African American community in Brooklyn that was home to many Black-owned and –run institutions, as well as a beacon of creativity, political activism and intellectual success. By the 1960s, historic Weeksville was all but forgotten. Its last four remaining residential structures were in danger of destruction through urban renewal. Founded in 1971, Weeksville Heritage Center helped galvanize public interest in protecting, restoring and sharing the historical significance of the Hunterfly Road Houses and the Weeksville community. Weeksville Heritage Center today celebrates their important history through tours of the houses, lectures, preservation workshops, programs for children and teens, school programs and cultural events. For more information, call 718.756.5250 or visit www.weeksvillesociety.org.

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