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The Brooklyn Historical Society Awarded \$440,000 grant from Council on Library and Information Resources

Brooklyn, NY – The Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) has recently been awarded a \$440,000 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to undertake a project which will significantly increase access to materials in the BHS library and archives focusing on the period of Brooklyn's 19th Century history from 1834 – when Brooklyn was first incorporated as a City – to its consolidation with New York City in 1898.

As a part of this project, 2000 maps and the entirety of the BHS 19th Century archival and photographic holdings will be surveyed and cataloged. These catalog records will be available on the internet through the BHS website, library catalog and in national bibliographic catalogs. Internet access to this information will enable students, scholars, teachers, genealogists, history enthusiasts and Brooklynites to gain access to important research resources, which might have previously been overlooked. These rich research materials include rare photographic materials: glass negatives, slides, tintypes, stereographic prints, and daguerreotypes; political, topographical, demographic, and transit maps; local business records and the personal papers of notable individuals, plus critical municipal records. This collection of 19th Century materials document the significance of Brooklyn's progressive and colorful past as well as its key role as 19th Century America's third largest city.

With funding from [The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#), the Council on Library and Information Resources administers this national program to identify and catalog hidden special collections and archives.

"Brooklyn Historical Society is grateful to the Council on Library and Information Resources and to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their recognition of the significance of Brooklyn Historical Society's holdings in the history of 19th Century Brooklyn and of its key role in the development and expansion of New York City. Thanks to this funding, Brooklyn Historical Society looks forward to preserving and sharing the borough's unique contribution to the building of the New York metropolitan area for generations to come," said BHS President, Deborah Schwartz.

The Brooklyn Historical Society has the most comprehensive collection of Brooklyn-related materials in existence. In 1993, the U.S. Department of Education designated its library as a "major research library" under the Higher Education Act. As one in seven Americans can trace their family roots to Brooklyn, the institution's collections represent an important national resource. In 2007, the Brooklyn Historical Society completed a full-scale restoration of its National Historic Landmark building on Pierrepont Street in Brooklyn Heights.

The Brooklyn Historical Society connects the past to the present and makes Brooklyn's vibrant history tangible, relevant, and meaningful for today's diverse communities, and for generations to come. Founded in 1863, Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) functions as a library, museum, and urban education center dedicated to the people of Brooklyn, providing opportunities for civic dialogue and thoughtful engagement.
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