



BROOKLYN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **New Neighborhood History Guides Published**

The Brooklyn Historical Society is proud to announce the publication of a new and updated edition of the Neighborhood History Guides. Written by Marcia Reiss and illustrated with historic images from the BHS collection, the guides can be purchased for \$8 (only \$6 for members) plus shipping and handling by calling 718.222.4111 x225.

These guides, supported by the Independence Community Foundation, address Williamsburg's and Greenpoint's history and vibrant contemporary scene. It includes a walking tour and map to encourage students, teachers, Brooklynites and visitors to explore these intriguing neighborhoods.

Williamsburg became a thriving manufacturing center in the 1800s and still contains three institutions, which are quite well known-Pfizer pharmaceuticals, Domino Sugar and Peter Luger's Steakhouse, which dates back to 1877. The area used to be a center for brewing and even now contains a working brewery-Brooklyn Beers' brewery on North 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Williamsburg was chartered as a city in 1852 but was swiftly annexed by the city of Brooklyn in 1855. The "manifest destiny" on the part of Brooklyn's leaders about doubled the size of Brooklyn at that time, since the city also included Greenpoint and Bushwick.

Peel away the layers of history that formed Greenpoint, the peninsula neighborhood at Brooklyn's northernmost tip. The Greenpoint Neighborhood History Guide takes you on a fascinating trip through three centuries of development. The guide reveals a rich mix of historic characters and events, from Native Americans and English Puritans along Newtown Creek to the "five black arts" of industrialization and waves of immigration that gave Greenpoint the largest concentration of Polish Americans in the country today. Illustrated with historic photos, the guide also includes a map and walking tour of this

bustling ethnic village. Follow the tour through a landmark district of 19th century rowhouses and churches, to the East River site where the ironclad battleship, the Monitor, was launched during the Civil War, to places to enjoy delicious Polish food.

*The Brooklyn Historical Society is a nationally renowned urban history center committed to offering free and low-cost education, library, and museum programming that encourages Brooklynites of all ages to develop pride in their own cultural traditions and to understand their neighbors' similarities and differences. **Hours, Admission, and Directions:** The Brooklyn Historical Society is open, Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5pm. Admission is free to members. Non-member admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors. The Brooklyn Historical Society is located on the corner of Pierrepont and Clinton Streets in Brooklyn Heights. Subway: R, 2, 3, 4, 5, to Court Street/Borough Hall. For more information, please call 718-222-4111 or visit [www.brooklynhistory.org](http://www.brooklynhistory.org).*