



BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY 150 YEARS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jeanne Hodesh

347-381-3712

jhodesh@brooklynhistory.org

PACKER COLLEGIATE STUDENTS TRAVEL BACK IN TIME VIA BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES

May 23, 2016 Brooklyn, NY— In 2014 Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) received a generous grant from the Leon Levy Foundation to transfer to its care the institutional archive of The Packer Collegiate Institute, the PreK – 12 independent school on Joralemon Street, founded in 1845 as the Brooklyn Female Academy. The Packer Archives, which date back to 1864, are historically significant, providing great insight into 19th century Brooklyn, the history of education, and the history of women in Brooklyn.

Throughout this school year, an advanced research-based history class of Packer students visited BHS to work with the collection, conducting self-guided primary source research on subjects of personal interest. The students have drawn connections between their experiences today and those of their predecessors, specifically delving into themes like race, gender, sexuality, and women in society.

On May 17, Packer students presented their research on panels at BHS moderated by Jared Farmer, associate professor of history at Stony Brook University, and Lara Vapnek, assistant professor of history at St. John's University. Each student traveled back in time, and their insights about the changes between then and now, between their lives and those who walked the Packer halls up to 150 years before them, made for colorful and moving stories.

About Brooklyn Historical Society

Founded in 1863, Brooklyn Historical Society is a nationally recognized urban history center dedicated to preserving and encouraging the study of Brooklyn's extraordinary 400-year history. Located in Brooklyn Heights and housed in a magnificent landmark building designed by George Post and opened in 1881, today's BHS is a cultural hub for civic dialogue, thoughtful engagement and community outreach.

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