



BROOKLYN CONNECTIONS

*Riverside Bldg - the White improved tenement, Furman st
and Red. Place Brooklyn*

EAST FLATBUSH PRIMARY SOURCE PACKET

Student Name

INTRODUCTORY READING

Jackson, Kenneth. "East Flatbush." *The Encyclopedia of New York City*. New Haven: Yale University Press. 2010. Print.

Adaptation

Neighborhood in northeastern Brooklyn, bounded to the north by East New York Avenue, to the east and south by Kings Highway, and to the west by Nostrand Avenue; it was once called Rugby. Development began in the 1920s after the Interborough Rapid Transit extended its subway to Utica Avenue and to Flatbush Avenue along Nostrand Avenue.

Modest one- and two- family attached brick houses were built, and most of the residents were middle-class Jews and Italians. During the late 1960s white families were replaced by African-Americans and immigrants from the Caribbean. East Flatbush in the 1980s drew immigrants from Jamaica, Haiti, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Panama. A medical complex stands on Clarkson Avenue that includes the Kings County Hospital (1831), Brooklyn State Hospital (1895), and the New York Downstate Medical Center (1950). In 2006 a portion of Church Avenue was renamed Bob Marley Boulevard. Today, the neighborhood is **predominantly** West Indian.



Document 1 : Manbeck, John. *Neighborhoods of Brooklyn*. 2008.

1. What are the names of the neighborhoods that make up East Flatbush (notice the words that are bolded and in caps)?

2. What are some landmarks in East Flatbush?

3. How do you think East Flatbush got its name?

4. Are there any buildings on this map that you know do not exist anymore? Explain.

NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION					EDUCATION			PLACE OF BIRTH		OCCUPATION Trade, profession, or particular kind of work, as— frame spinner sawyer laborer rivet heater music teacher	INDUSTRY Industry or business, as— cotton mill retail grocery farm shippard public school
		Sex—Male (M), Female (F)	Color or race	Age at last birthday	Marital status— Single (S), Married (M), Widowed (W), Divorced (D)	Attended school or college any time since March 1, 1947 (Yes or No)	Highest grade of school completed	CODE (Leave blank)	If born in the United States, give State, Territory, or possession.	If foreign born, give country in which birthplace was situated on January 1, 1927.	Distinguish Canadian-English and Irish Free State (Ire) from Northern Ireland.		
7	8	A	9	10	11	12	13	14	B	15	C	28	29
Gebers, Ernst	Head	M	W	32	M	No	5			Germany		Mechanic	auto repair shop
— Anna Marie	wife	F	W	26	M	No	6			New York			
Lisby, Christiane	Head	M	W	48	M	No	8			Ireland		contractor	stair building
— Olga	wife	F	W	45	M	No	8			Norway			
— Ethel	daughter	F	W	10	S	Yes	4			New York			
— Edith	daughter	F	W	6	S	Yes	4			New York			
McManus, James	Head	M	W	59	M	No	8			Ireland		Office	Railroad

Transcription:

Name	Relation	Personal Description*	Education: Highest Grade of school completed	Place of Birth	Occupation	Industry
Gebers, Everst	Head	M/W/32/ M	5	Germany	Mechanic	Auto repair shop
-, Anna, Marie	Wife	F/W/26/M	6	New York		
Lisby, Christiane	Head	M/W/48/M	8	Ireland	Contractor	Stair Building
-, Olga	Wife	F/W/45/M	4	Norway		
-, Ethel	Daughter	F/W/10/S		New York		
-, Edith	Daughter	F/W/6/S	8	New York		
McManus, James	Head	M/W/59/M	8	Ireland	Office	Railroad

*Personal Description – Gender (M/ F), Color, Age, Marital Status (Single or Married)

1. When was this **census** taken??

2. What is the purpose of the United States Federal Census?

3. This is just a small portion of the census from East 45th Street in East Flatbush. However, based on the segment, what kind of people lived in East Flatbush?

4. Do you think the people listed on this census highly educated? Explain.

DATE OF ADMISSION.	WARD.	NAME.	AGE.	Married or Single.	NATIVITY.	WHERE FROM.	CLASS.
Feb. 24. 1862	1.	Henry Michael	35.		Poland	Brooklyn	2.
March 3. 1862	17.	Agnes Catharine	34.		"	"	2.
" 4 "	10.	Henry Sabien	25.		"	CT. Hb	2.
" 5 "	22.	John Maria	30.		W.I.	Brooklyn	2.
" 8 "	4.	James James	36.		Poland	"	2.
" 10 "	17.	James James	104.		W.I.	Brooklyn	2.
" 11 "	10.	Henry James	24.		Poland	Brooklyn	2.
" 18 "	8.	Henry Thomas	25.		"	Brooklyn	2.

DISEASE.	Duration before Admission.	RESULT.	DATE OF RESULT.
Concussion		Recovered	March 5 1862
Quinsey		Recovered	July 25 62.
Wound of manipulation		Recd	May 30 62
Bronchitis acute.		Recd.	March 21 62
Ulcer of (tongue)		Recovered	June 22
			July 25 62.
Pharyngitis.		Recovered	May 7 62
Epistaxis Pulmonary		Recovered	May 2 62
Obstruction of ureter		Recovered	May 5 62

Document 3 – Kings County Hospital Admissions Book. 1860s. Brooklyn Collection, Brooklyn Public Library.

Transcription:

Date of Admission	Ward	Name	Age	Married or single	Nativity	Where From	Class
Feb 24, 1864	1	?	35		Ireland	Brooklyn	P
March 3, 1864	17	Hogarty, Catherine	24		"	"	P
March 3, 1864	10	Hyde, Patrick	25		"	?	P
March 5, 1864	22	Hall, Eliza	20		US	Brooklyn	P
March 8, 1864	4	Herrch, James	36		Ireland	Brooklyn	P
March 10, 1864	12	?	1 day		US	?	P
March 11, 1864	8	?	24		Ireland	Brooklyn	P

Disease	Duration before admission	Result	Date of Result
Insanity		?	March 5, 1864
Pregnancy		Recovered	Sept 25, 1864
Ulcer of the		Rec	May 30, 1864
Bronchitis Acute		Recov.	March
---of both legs		Recovd	
		---	July 25, 1864
Psychosis		Recovd	May 7, 1864

1. What year does this page of the admissions book illustrate?

2. What were some of the diseases listed? Do you think these diseases still exist?

3. What struck you about the Kings County Admissions book?

4. What does this book tell you about the population of people near the hospital?



Document 4 – *Kings County Hospital*. 1965. Brooklyn Collection, Brooklyn Public Library.

Kings County Hospital, or as it is now known as Kings County Hospital Center, has claimed many "firsts" in the field of medicine. Located on Clarkson Avenue between New York Avenue and Albany Avenue, "it was the site of the first open-heart surgery performed in New York State; Kings County physicians invented the world's first hemodialysis machine, conducted the first studies of HIV infection in women and produced the first human images using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). In addition, Kings County was named the first Level 1 Trauma Center in the U.S." (NYC.gov)

1. Describe the image.

2. Where is Kings County Hospital located?

3. What were some of the "firsts" that took place in Kings County Hospital? Explain.



Document 5 – *Holy Cross Cemetery*. Brooklyn Collection, Brooklyn Public Library.

Inscription: 1849, Holy Cross Cemetery opened in the Town of Flatbush as the out-growth of the old burial ground at St. James Church on Jay St., which was the first Catholic Church, 1822. The cemetery now embraces 100 acres, and lists more than half a million **interments**.

The cemetery is located at 3620 Tilden Avenue between Snyder Avenue, Schenectady Avenue, Cortelyou Road and Brooklyn Avenue. Some notable residents include John Brosnan (Civil War Medal of Honor recipient), Lucy Burns (Brooklyn Suffragette), and Louis Capone and Frankie Yale (Mob bosses).

1. Where is Holy Cross Cemetery located?

2. Describe the image of the entrance to the cemetery.

3. How many permanent residents are there at Holy Cross Cemetery? Name a few.

4. What religious **affiliation** do you think is associated with the cemetery? Explain.

East Flatbush Used to Be 'Goat Town' But One Can't Even Keep Chicken There Now

East Flatbush has changed plenty since Sam Kerschenbaum was a boy. It was only about fifteen years ago, maybe less, that goats roamed the lots in that section of Brooklyn and youngsters played baseball and football in the bumpy fields. In those days East Flatbush was commonly known as "Goat Town."

But no more, as Mr. Kerschenbaum learned yesterday in Flatbush Magistrates Court. Nowadays, it seems, a man can't even keep a chicken in his own back yard without offending the sensibilities of neighbors and getting a summons for violating the Sanitary Code.

It was all very puzzling for Mr. Kerschenbaum and he said so to Magistrate Francis X. Giaccone. After all, he explained, he owned the house at 37 East Fifty-third Street and the yard behind it. He also owned the chicken and kept it in the yard.

"Look, judge," said the 43-

year-old defendant. "In my house I have a parrot and a canary. I don't have a permit for them but they're pets just like the chicken. So what's wrong with the chicken? She doesn't bother anyone. My family likes her and every once in a while she gives us an egg. We love that chicken just like the parrot and the canary."

Patiently, Magistrate Giaccone listened to the explanation and then suggested three alternatives: 1. Try to get a permit for the chicken. 2. Keep the chicken in the house. 3. Eat the chicken.

Mr. Kerschenbaum protested vigorously against the last suggestion. "I'm not in the poultry business and I wouldn't have the heart to kill the chicken."

Magistrate Giaccone shrugged and postponed the case until March 31. Mr. Kerschenbaum left the court, shaking his head and muttering that "things didn't used to be like this in Brooklyn."

Document 6 – "East Flatbush Used to Be 'Goat Town' But One Can't Even Keep Chicken There Now." *New York Times*. 15 March, 1947.

1. How has East Flatbush changed, according to the article?

2. Why is Mr. Kerschenbaum so upset?

3. What was East Flatbush commonly referred to in the past? Explain.

4. What does the judge propose to Mr. Kerschenbaum as a solution to his problem?

Wingate High School Hailed As Great Education Project



POST-WAR MILESTONE—The cornerstone of the \$6,000,000 Gen. George W. Wingate High School, Kingston Ave. and Rutland Road, the city's first post-war high school, is set in place by, left to right, Arthur Levitt and the Rev. John M. Coleman, Brooklyn members of the Board of Education; Joseph Reich, borough secretary, and B. Sumner Gruzen, architect of the banjo-shaped school. Ceremonies were held yesterday at the school.

The cornerstone of the General George W. Wingate High School, Kingston Ave. and Rutland Road, hardened into place today as construction of the city's first new high school since World War II was stepped up to meet the scheduled date for completion in September, 1954.

At cornerstone-laying ceremonies yesterday, the Rev. John M. Coleman, Brooklyn member of the Board of Education and chairman of the program, described the event as a symbol of "the most important single project in the Board of Education's post war building program."

The giant \$6,000,000 banjo-

shaped school, a sharp departure from traditional school design, will accommodate 3,200 students and relieve overcrowding in Samuel J. Tilden, Erasmus Hall and Thomas Jefferson High School, which are presently on extended time schedules.

Named for Boro Hero

Speaking at the ceremonies, Arthur Levitt, Brooklyn member of the Board of Education, said that the name of General Wingate had been chosen for the school so that "future generations of school children will have a model and shining example of American manhood."

He described General Wingate, a Civil War hero, as a

"great American, Brooklynite, soldier and athlete who emulated the finest attributes of citizenship."

Borough Secretary Joseph Reich, speaking for Borough President Cashmore, expressed the hope that the name of Wingate would be an inspiration to students to offset "the unfortunate conditions in which American students today find ways to break from tradition and listen to the undermining of their thoughts."

Dr. Jacob Greenberg, deputy superintendent of schools, also spoke. The invocation and salutation was read by Rabbi Jacob Leibowitz, spiritual leader of the East Flatbush Jewish Community Center and chairman of the local school board.

1. What is so interesting about the design of the school?

2. Who is the school named after? Why was he an important person in Brooklyn's history?

3. Using your prior knowledge, and **DOCUMENT 1**, what else was named after this man?

4. Using the article for clues, what group of people do you think lived in East Flatbush in the 1950s?

**BROOKLYN
SECTION TWO**

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NEW

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New York

60/41/69
news 8/17/69

NO CRITICS IN BROOKLYN

An Editorial

A consultant retained by the City Planning Commission warns that a ghetto future threatens East Flatbush unless the city takes decisive action now on racial problems. In a long, gloomy report, Walter Thabit cites the "little organized effort to welcome the Negroes or Puerto Ricans who already live in the area into community life." In addition, he notes real estate speculation and deterioration of buildings.

Hastily, the mayor's office assures Brooklynites that the report "does not reflect either official policy or a consensus of opinion about East Flatbush." In so many words, Thabit is told to stand in a corner, face to the wall.

Mrs. Millar Graff, horticulture writer, similarly gets her comeuppance after lambasting Mayor Lindsay for neglecting election promises to improve Prospect Park. Parks Commissioner August Heckscher asks her to resign from the non-salaried Prospect Park Advisory Board.

In Brooklyn at least, the Lindsay administration—like the sundial—records only the sunny hours. Trouble is, considering the frightening speed with which municipal problems now develop, the sundial is a dangerously archaic device today.

Document 8 – "No Critics in Brooklyn." *Daily News*. 17 August, 1969.

1. What is the problem discussed in this article?

2. What was the consultant's duty?

3. Why is the Mayor's office upset about the report?

5. Why does Mr. Hecksher want Mrs. Graff to resign?

DOCUMENT 9: *Wyckoff House in Brooklyn, NY.* 2013. <http://wyckoffmuseum.org>

New York City's oldest house and first official landmark, the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum (ca. 1652) stands in M. Fidler-Wyckoff House Park in Brooklyn, New York.

In 1652, "Pieter Classen and Grietje Van Nes acquired a farm in the newly established community of Nieuw Amersfoort in what would eventually comprise the city, and later borough, of Brooklyn. The house they occupied was a simple one room structure with a packed earth floor and unglazed windows, with doors at both ends and a large jambless (open) hearth.

Over the centuries, the house has been reconfigured, expanded, and modernized to eventually encompass 6 rooms with three fireplaces, a walk-up attic above, and root cellar below. The Wyckoff family occupied the site for eight successive generations until 1901 when the land and house were sold to developers.

After more than a half century of disrepair and a devastating fire, the house was restored in 1982 and opened to the public as a museum.

After the English assumed control of New Netherland, residents practicing patronymics (a naming system that utilized one's father's name in place of a surname) were required to adopt, or freeze, surnames that could be passed down each generation. Pieter Claesen chose the name Wykhof, which most of his descendants have spelled Wyckoff. The Wyckoff surname is unique – so much so that the vast majority of American and Canadian Wyckoffs can trace their lineage to one of Pieter and Grietje's eleven children."

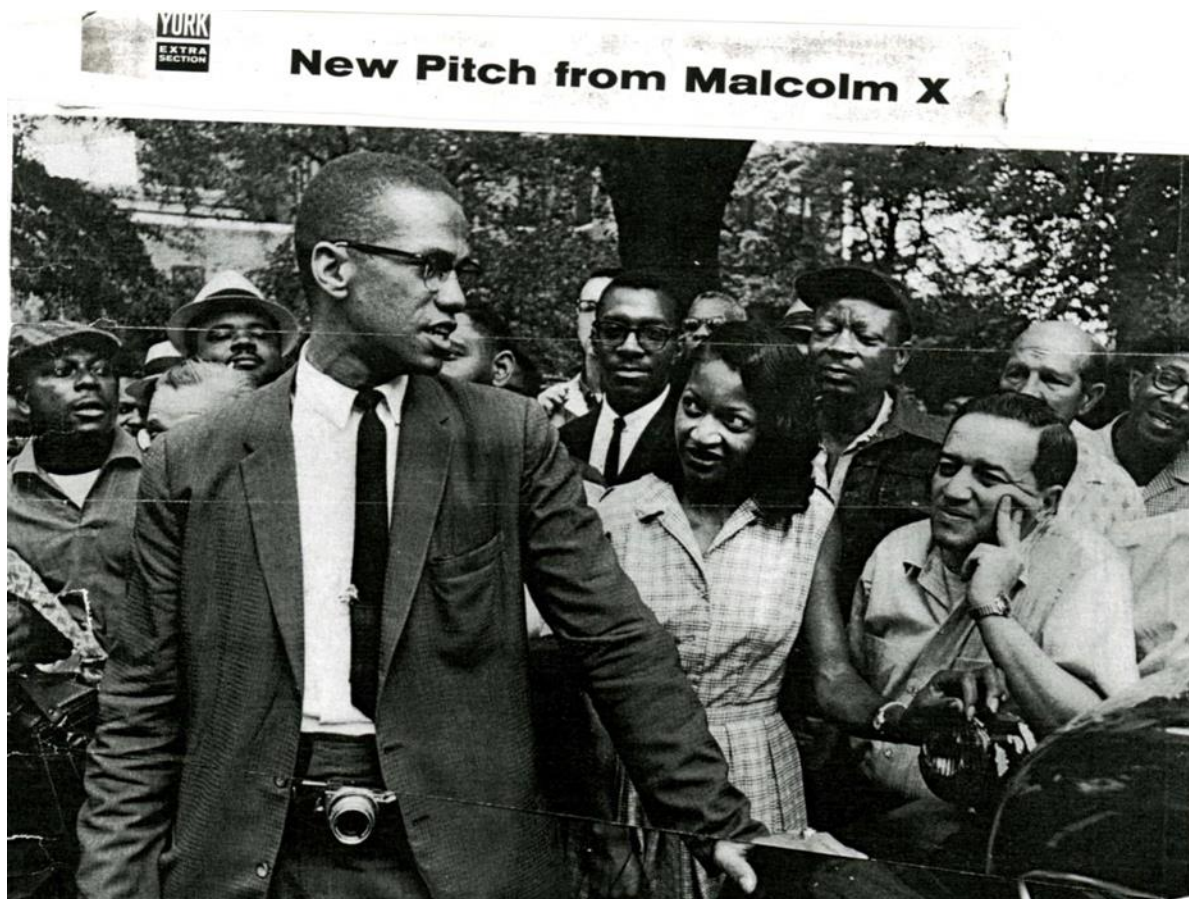


1. Why do you think this house was preserved as a museum and a NYC landmark?

2. What do you think the house looked like in the late 1600s?

3. Why does the house museum have the name Wyckoff?

4. Does the house look like the houses we have today? Explain.



The construction at Brooklyn's Downstate Medical Center in 1963 was intended to be a major boost for Brooklyn's economy, providing years of employment for laborers and construction workers. Unfortunately, the vast majority of the jobs were given to unions that were traditionally "unavailable" to black workers.

In response to this discrimination, CORE joined with the Black Ministers Coalition and other organizations to stage a major sit-in at the construction site itself, with the intention of breaking the unions and increasing jobs for African Americans and Latinos. On July 15, 1963, fourteen of Brooklyn's African American ministers arrived at Downstate with over 75 parishioners to picket. In the weeks that followed, several hundred people, many of whom were members of Brooklyn CORE, were arrested for picketing.

Perhaps more than any other demonstration by Brooklyn CORE, the protests at Downstate Medical Center attracted great attention from the media, as well from other Civil Rights activists. According to the article associated with this image, Malcolm X, then serving as the leader of the Black Muslims, visited the demonstrations regularly. However, Malcolm X chose not to participate in the protest because it was conducted by an interracial group.

1. Why did CORE believe Downstate Medical Center discriminated against blacks?

2. What happened on July 15, 1963?

3. Was Malcom X involved in the protests? Why or why not?

4. What were some **tactics** used by CORE during the Downstate protests?

GLOSSARY

Affiliation: the state or process of affiliating or being affiliated. Association; relationship.

Census: an official enumeration of the population, with details as to age, sex, occupation, etc.

Comeuppance: a punishment or fate that someone deserves.

Interment: the burial of a corpse in a grave or tomb, typically with funeral rites.

Predominantly: Mainly; for the most part.

Tactic: an action or strategy carefully planned to achieve a specific end.