

**LONG ISLAND
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY; SKETCH OF
SOCIETY, 1863-1891**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649236596

Long Island Historical Society; Sketch of Society, 1863-1891 by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**LONG ISLAND
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY; SKETCH OF
SOCIETY, 1863-1891**

LONG ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY. *Brooklyn*



PIERREPONT STREET, COR. CLINTON STREET,
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

P.
113
.11558

113

1

Jan. 1871
2 14
1871

LONG ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

1863-1891.

THE Society was organized in March, 1863, and in the following month was incorporated under the general law of the State.

It began its operations in two small rented rooms, one of which afforded ample accommodation for its library, and the other for its meetings. Contributions of books, and of money for the purchase of special classes of books, also of manuscripts, paintings and curiosities, soon made it necessary to add other rooms, until, in 1867, the fourth year of the existence of the Society, it occupied eight connecting apartments, well filled with its various collections.

In 1868, the site upon which the Society's building now stands was secured, but it was not until 1877 that a sufficient fund could be secured for an adequate and appropriate building. The cornerstone was laid in November, 1878; the building was completed in 1880, and was formally opened, with suitable ceremonies, in January, 1881. The amount subscribed for site and building, with

accruing interest, was \$155,684.05. The cost of the site was \$32,500, and of the building \$121,209.72, leaving a surplus of \$1,974.33, which was used in the purchase of furniture. Every part of the work was done in the best manner, at a time when materials were lower than usual, and the house as it stands is admirably adapted to the purposes of the Society.

Since it has occupied this permanent home, the Society has made large and important additions to all departments of its collections, and its endowment has been increased.

The growth of the institution has hitherto been largely due to the personal efforts of a few active members of the Society, and to benefactions of money and boons from the living. Thus far it has received but three bequests, one of \$5,000, from Mrs. Maria Cary, one of \$10,000, from Mrs. Urania B. Humphrey, and one of \$10,000, from Hon. Simeon B. Chittenden. Recently a fund of \$5,000 has been subscribed by members to print a catalogue of the books now in the library. This work is in preparation, and will signalize, we trust, in a very useful way, the completion of the first thirty years of the existence of the Society.

The names of all who have thus far contributed to the various funds, or who have given books, manuscripts, paintings, specimens of natural history, and objects of curious interest, have been announced in the reports issued by the Society, and are fully entered upon its records, where they will form a permanent memorial of the wise public spirit and liberality of those who have manifested by their work for this institution their consciousness that "while men die Man survives."

Their efforts and benefactions have enriched, and will enrich,

the lives of many in this community: while their service to posterity, by the establishment of this institution, will be enduring, and will grow more valuable with the passage of time.

The Library contains about 45,000 volumes, including many rare and valuable works. It is rich in works relating to American local history, and to family genealogy, and contains nearly all the important works which have been published upon general American history. It is also strong in English and French history and biography, and has a fine collection of costly and richly illustrated volumes, relating to fine art, antiquities and natural history. It contains a good collection of general literature, and is well furnished with Encyclopædias, Dictionaries and similar works of reference. The most important American and English Periodicals and the New York and Brooklyn daily and weekly papers are supplied regularly, and of many of these periodicals and newspapers the Library contains complete or nearly complete files.

Many unpublished manuscripts are in possession of the Society, among them a large portion of the papers of Henry Laurens, the correspondence of his son, Col. John Laurens, with letters of Richard Henry Lee, General Gates and other eminent men of the period; also a series of one hundred and twenty-three original letters of Washington, formerly belonging to Edward Everett, and which have recently been printed by the Society.

Thus far the Society has published four volumes, with the following titles:

VOLUME I.—Journal of a voyage to New York, and a tour in several of the American Colonies, in 1679-80. By Jasper Dankers and Peter Sluyter. Translated from the original

manuscript in Dutch, and edited by Henry C. Murphy. Brooklyn, 1867. 8vo pp. xlvii.-440.

VOLUME II.—The Battle of Long Island, with connecting preceding events, and the subsequent American retreat. Introductory narrative by Thomas W. Field, with authentic documents. Brooklyn, 1869. 8vo pp. ix.-549.

VOLUME III.—The Campaign of 1776, around New York and Brooklyn, including a new and circumstantial account of the Battle of Long Island, and the loss of New York. By Henry P. Johnston. Brooklyn, 1878. 8vo pp. 300-209.

VOLUME IV.—George Washington and Mount Vernon. A collection of Washington's unpublished agricultural and personal letters. Edited with historical and genealogical introduction by Moncure Daniel Conway. Brooklyn, 1889. 8vo pp. xcii.-352.

The Society possesses a number of valuable paintings, mostly portraits of historical persons, and of those prominent in the history of Brooklyn. An interesting feature of the institution, is a Museum of relics and curiosities, particularly such as are of historical interest in relation to this country, including also a cabinet complete as possible, of specimens illustrating the natural and physical history of Long Island.

The Society holds stated meetings, at which papers are read, or addresses delivered upon topics of historical, literary or scientific interest. These meetings begin in November.

The privileges and terms of membership are as follows:

Members are entitled to admission to all departments of the institution, and to the use of the Library and Reading-rooms.

Books are not allowed to be removed from the building. Cards, admitting two, are sent by post, to members, for every lecture before the Society.

The privileges of the use of the Library, and of access to the Museum, are extended to the ladies in the immediate families of members, and to members' sons under the age of twenty-one.

A very attractive room is specially provided and equipped for any ladies who may desire to avail themselves, as many do, of the pleasure and benefit offered by the institution.

Terms, payable in advance, are: For *Annual Subscribers*, \$10 the first year, and thereafter \$5 a year; or, for *Life Membership*, \$100, in full for all fees and dues.

Application for membership can be made through any member of the Society, or to the Librarian.

Ladies and gentlemen who may be disposed to avail themselves of the privileges of the institution, are invited to call at the Society's house, corner of Pierrepoint and Clinton Streets, and examine the collections. The institution is open from 8.30 A. M. until 9.30 P. M.