

Highlights in Bayonne's History

The following chronology of Bayonne's important historical dates was compiled by Henry R. Schnitzer, local historian. Some additions have been made to bring the chronology up to date.

Discovery — September 3, 1609.

First settlement; Birds Point (Constable Hook); March 1646; by Jacob Jacobson Roy.

Captured from the Dutch by England in 1664.

Van Buskirk's plantation flourishing by 1680.

Surrounding waters used as rendezvous by pirates. People in Bergen Neck (Bayonne) lived quietly and generally undisturbed.

Pamrappo (northern Bayonne) a prosperous community of ten families.

Van Buskirk's Point (Constable Hook) occupied by British April 4, 1776. General Mercer's patriot army in northern Bergen Neck. Fort Delancy constructed.

British under Col. Abraham Van Buskirk in Bergen Point; April, 1777.

Depredations of Tories under Captain Tom Ward; minor military actions; evacuation of Fort Delancy by Tories; 1779 to '82.

Washington on journey to New York for his inauguration passed Bergen Point on his barge; 1789.

Evidence of slavery in Bergen Point about this time (1789).

First school; 1799.

DuPont family settled in Bergen Point; Admiral Samuel DuPont here; 1803.

First manufacturing concern, Hazard Powder House established; 1812.

Slaves freed; 1820.

1828; First Reformed church constructed. Eventually used as first high school.

1830; a quiet farming community.

1836; Morris Canal put through.

1840; Bergen County divided into Hudson and Bergen Counties.

1849; Cholera epidemic; new burial ground, East 22nd St. and Avenue I.

1850; Dr. Jahiel Parmelee made artificial teeth.

1855; Money raised to support schools.

1857; act passed to lay out streets.

1857; new school erected in Bergen Point.

1861; Bayonne Township established.

1864; bridge across Newark Bay to Jersey City for the New Jersey Central Railroad trains.

1869; emergence as a recreation community begins.

1869; Meigs elected first mayor; township villages merged.

1872; new schools.

1872-3; continued development along municipal lines.

1875; Prentice Oil Company predecessor of Standard.

1877; archery and tennis club in Bergen Point; part of continued development as a recreation community.

1877; first Standard Oil pipe line to Constable Hook.

1881; Water brought in from outside city.

1886; fully developed as a recreation and sports community. Bergen Point A. C. with Amos Alonzo Stagg.

1886-7-8; yachting and boating.

1888; 67 street names changed.

1888; March 12th blizzard.

1888; Electric lighting.

1888; Tidewater Oil Company 1890; library.

1891; new city hall.

1892; high school.

1892; reading room added to library.

1893; record height achieved

in kite flight by W. A. Eddy.

1895; Hudson Boulevard in Bayonne completed.

1897; number of streets increased with important streets paved.

1897; high school moved to Schuyler Hall.

1901; Standard Oil tanks explode.

1901; large number of homes erected; population expanding.

1903; Carnegie Library donation presented to city.

1903; city park on Newark Bay (16th to 19th Streets)

1903; land acquired for present County Park.

1903; Elco Yacht and Naval Divisions established.

1905; David Horsley and his brother established motion picture studio.

1906; paid Fire Department established.

1920; circa; Bayonne Junior High School and Vocational School.

1930's; construction of Port Terminal.

1936; President Franklin D. Roosevelt visits city.

1941; Naval Base.

1944; Celebration of Bayonne's 75th Birthday.

1949; Andrew Walsh paintings displayed in Library.

1961; city celebrates 100th anniversary of its establishment as independent municipality.

April, 1963; general alarm fire destroys 3 plants; guts 14 factories and 3 homes; city declared a disaster area.

1964; Bayonne joins in commemorating New Jersey's 300th anniversary.

FIRST BREWERY

Hudson County has the dubious distinction of being the site of the first brewery in the New World when Aert von Putten of Holland in 1642 established a brewery at what is now Hoboken.