

Chapter 1 : Manhattan Psychiatric Center - Wikipedia

Besides the burial of the indigent dead, the island was also the site of a hospital for sick and destitute immigrants, known as The State Emigrant Refuge (the biggest hospital complex in the world.

The two islands were formerly separate, with the channel between them, Little Hell Gate, being filled in by the early s. The parks offer athletic fields, a driving range, greenways, playgrounds and picnic grounds. The island also has a history of being used for asylums, hospitals, and cemeteries, and is currently home to several public facilities, including two psychiatric hospitals , a state police station , a fire academy, a wastewater treatment plant, and several homeless shelters. The island is crossed by the Triborough and Hell Gate bridges. The island can be reached by the Triborough Bridge; the Wards Island Bridge , which serves pedestrians and bicyclists and links the island to East Harlem in Manhattan; or by the Randalls Island connector , a pedestrian and cycling bridge crossing the Bronx Kill and connecting to the Port Morris neighborhood of the Bronx. Randalls Island is the home of three music festivals: History Colonial era A British map of Manhattan. John Montresor , an engineer with the British army , purchased Randalls Island in During the Revolutionary War, both islands hosted military posts for the British military. He resigned his commission and returned to England in , but retained ownership of the island until the British evacuated the city in and it was confiscated. Both islands gained their current names from new owners after the war. Although a small population had lived on Wards since as early as the 17th century, the Ward brothers developed the island more heavily by building a cotton mill and in building the first bridge to cross the East River. The wooden drawbridge connected the island with Manhattan at th Street, and was paid for by Bartholomew Ward and Philip Milledolar. The bridge lasted until , when it was destroyed in a storm. After the destruction of the bridge, Wards island was largely abandoned until Randalls housed an orphanage , poor house , burial ground for the poor, "idiot" asylum, homeopathic hospital and rest home for Civil War veterans , and was also site of the New York House of Refuge , a reform school completed in for juvenile delinquents or juveniles adjudicated as vagrants. Between and , Wards island was used for: Burial of hundreds of thousands of bodies relocated from the Madison Square and Bryant Park graveyards The State Emigrant Refuge, a hospital for sick and destitute immigrants, opened in , the biggest hospital complex in the world during the s[11] The New York City Asylum for the Insane , opened around [12] Manhattan Psychiatric Center incorporating the Asylum for the Insane , operated by New York State when it took over the immigration and asylum buildings in With 4, patients, it was the largest psychiatric institution in the world. The census notes that the hospital had a total of 6, patients. It later became the Manhattan Psychiatric Center. It still appears on charts of the area today. In the Parks Commissioner Henry Stern , upon learning of the name, thought it was offensive. Parks New fields on Randalls Island, Proposals to add parks to the islands were made as early as , but park development was truly kicked off by the Metropolitan Conference of Parks, which recommended transforming them into recreational parks. Randalls Island Park Alliance works with the City and local communities to provide sports venues, cultural events and environmental exploration. RIPA runs free youth programs at the Park, bringing thousands of children to the Park for a range of sports and environmental-education activities. The lights came from the old stadium, which was being torn down. Then, a tennis center opened in Randalls Island Park in July It features 20 courts, 10 har-tru and 10 rubberized hard 5 indoor , along with a cafe, pro shop, fitness facilities and locker rooms. In the winter, all 15 outdoor courts are bubbled for use by club members. Finally, in May , RIPA and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation completed the construction of over 60 athletic fields to support a greater variety of sports, including football, lacrosse, field hockey, and rugby amongst the sports already played at the Park, soccer, baseball and softball. Three natural environments, two salt marsh and a freshwater wetland, have been established on the island. In addition, the restoration projects play a crucial role in an park-wide filtration system that collects storm water from the adjacent sports fields, pathways and paved areas and channels it through the Wetlands, where the new plants naturally filter pollutants before reaching the East River. Connection to the South Bronx Greenway is planned, with additional waterfront pathway sections, a naturalized "living shoreline," and further environmental restoration. The project was planned to include a

solar-powered marine research and information kiosk that would have been open to visitors of the island, and was hoped to have been completed in September. Soon thereafter, the city began filling in most of the passage between the two islands, in order to expand and connect the two parks. Javits Convention Center, the governors office, and parade details. Kennedy Bridge at the left, and the Hell Gate Bridge right. Also visible in the distance is the rd Street Footbridge to Manhattan. Wards Island Bridge central span in raised position, In, the Hell Gate Bridge, a railroad bridge, was built across both islands, running from Queens to the Bronx. The bridge is considered to be extremely sturdy; it would be the last New York City bridge to collapse if humans disappeared, taking at least a millennium to do so, according to the February issue of Discover magazine, while most other bridges would fall in about years. Kennedy at the request of the Kennedy family. In, the islands were connected by a bridge over Little Hell Gate, obviating the need for a ferry to Wards Island. Efforts were made in the mids to preserve the bridge in the face of plans by the New York City Department of Transportation to demolish it. However, actual construction of this Wards Island Bridge, also known as the rd Street Footbridge, did not begin until

Chapter 2 : NYC Manhattan: Wards Island

The Ward's-Island Hospital, on Ward's Island, was opened in , for the treatment of all classes of diseases, both male and female. It is under the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction. The Nursery.

Additionally, the island is a transportation hub, hosting the Robert F. Kennedy, previously known as the Triborough, Bridge. After the purchase, the islands maintained the function of farming and other natural purposes, such as housing the rock quarry for the Old Trinity Church. Also to note, Big Barn Island became a military base during the war, establishing an active military role for both islands during the Revolutionary War. The House of Refuge was intended to incarcerate teenage criminals, mainly Irish, where they spent part of their day in religious and school-curriculum based classes, and the other part of their day performing lucrative labor for the state. The conditions were not ideal, as the boys were forced to perform this labor for outside contractors, and those who misbehaved were punished. The city had become one with a rapidly growing population and an even quicker growing issue of separated wealth. The wealthy were growing richer, and the poor poorer, causing the city to begin trying to separate the suffering from the successful. From this point forward, the islands would cease being a place for the city to dispose of issues, but rather, a place for the city to grow. The city began to realize the value of the location of the islands, and started to work on making them more connected both to each other and the rest of the city. Construction began in September , on the Hell Gate Bridge and railroad trestle. This connected both islands, as well as Queens and the South Bronx. With their removal, the islands were left, instead, with a more recreational focus. From this point forward, recreation and transportation become the main purpose of the islands. In , the Triborough Bridge and Triborough stadium opened, hosting the Olympic track and field trials. Interestingly, it was at this event that Jesse Owens qualified for the Berlin Olympics. Additionally, in , the Wards Island Pedestrian Bridge opened, providing Manhattan residents with significantly easier access to the parks on both islands. Spanning from the s to present day, the biggest names in music and entertainment held concerts and events on the island, drawing New Yorkers to the parks for various forms of entertainment. In the most recent updates to the island, Downing Stadium, the original sporting stadium, was demolished in to create the new Icahn Stadium, and in the same year, a ferry dock was constructed on the Harlem River Waterfront. The development of Randalls Island, its changing use over time, its often dark past, and its eventual use for entertainment are all not necessarily unique. While certainly the island has its own story and timeline, many of the trends and struggles faced within were small examples of New York City and American Culture as a whole. Historically, New York City has often been seen as a city of vice, suffering with issues of drinking, prostitution, and rampant poverty and wealth disparity. Painter George Bellows, a New York City painter from the mid-nineteenth century, often depicted these struggles in his works. Depicting the crowds and bustle of the city What is most interesting, though, is how the most recent history of the Island has truly reflected a greater change in the city of New York. The city has begun to work to change its racial and class struggles, making the city somewhere that anyone can make their own future. The Island, with its development into a space for all residents to enjoy and utilize for exercise, entertainment, and even travel, is an example of how the city is making changes for all of its citizens, not just those who can afford to cash out for them.

Chapter 3 : Blackwell's Island Asylum - Asylum Projects

Randalls Island (also called Randall's Island) and Wards Island are conjoined islands, collectively called Randalls and Wards Islands, in the New York City borough of Manhattan, separated from Manhattan by the Harlem River, from Queens by the East River and Hell Gate, and from the Bronx by the Bronx Kill.

Colonial era[edit] A British map of Manhattan. John Montresor , an engineer with the British army , purchased Randalls Island in . During the Revolutionary War, both islands hosted military posts for the British military. He resigned his commission and returned to England in , but retained ownership of the island until the British evacuated the city in and it was confiscated. Both islands gained their current names from new owners after the war. Although a small population had lived on Wards since as early as the 17th century, the Ward brothers developed the island more heavily by building a cotton mill and in building the first bridge to cross the East River. The wooden drawbridge connected the island with Manhattan at th Street, and was paid for by Bartholomew Ward and Philip Milledolar. The bridge lasted until , when it was destroyed in a storm. After the destruction of the bridge, Wards island was largely abandoned until . Randalls housed an orphanage , poor house , burial ground for the poor, "idiot" asylum, homeopathic hospital and rest home for Civil War veterans , and was also site of the New York House of Refuge , a reform school completed in for juvenile delinquents or juveniles adjudicated as vagrants. Between and , Wards island was used for: Burial of hundreds of thousands of bodies relocated from the Madison Square and Bryant Park graveyards The State Emigrant Refuge, a hospital for sick and destitute immigrants, opened in , the biggest hospital complex in the world during the s [11] The New York City Asylum for the Insane , opened around [12] Manhattan Psychiatric Center incorporating the Asylum for the Insane , operated by New York State when it took over the immigration and asylum buildings in . With 4, patients, it was the largest psychiatric institution in the world. The census notes that the hospital had a total of 6, patients. It later became the Manhattan Psychiatric Center. By the early s, the islands were connected. It was infilled in when the city allowed construction companies to dump debris in between the islands for free. The former island is now part of Sunken Meadow. It still appears on charts of the area today. In the Parks Commissioner Henry Stern , upon learning of the name, thought it was offensive. Parks[edit] New fields on Randalls Island, Proposals to add parks to the islands were made as early as , but park development was truly kicked off by the Metropolitan Conference of Parks, which recommended transforming them into recreational parks. Randalls Island Park Alliance works with the City and local communities to provide sports venues, cultural events and environmental exploration. RIPA runs free youth programs at the Park, bringing thousands of children to the Park for a range of sports and environmental-education activities. The lights came from the old stadium, which was being torn down. Then, a tennis center opened in Randalls Island Park in July . It features 20 courts, 10 har-tru and 10 rubberized hard 5 indoor , along with a cafe, pro shop, fitness facilities and locker rooms. In the winter, all 15 outdoor courts are bubbled for use by club members. Finally, in May , RIPA and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation completed the construction of over 60 athletic fields to support a greater variety of sports, including football, lacrosse, field hockey, and rugby amongst the sports already played at the Park, soccer, baseball and softball. Three natural environments, two salt marsh and a freshwater wetland, have been established on the island. In addition, the restoration projects play a crucial role in an park-wide filtration system that collects storm water from the adjacent sports fields, pathways and paved areas and channels it through the Wetlands, where the new plants naturally filter pollutants before reaching the East River. Connection to the South Bronx Greenway is planned, with additional waterfront pathway sections, a naturalized "living shoreline," and further environmental restoration. The project was planned to include a solar-powered marine research and information kiosk that would have been open to visitors of the island, and was hoped to have been completed in September . Soon thereafter, the city began filling in most of the passage between the two islands, in order to expand and connect the two parks. The inlet was filled in by the s. Javits Convention Center , the governors office , and parade details. Kennedy Bridge at the left, and the Hell Gate Bridge right. Also visible in the distance is the rd Street Footbridge to Manhattan. Wards Island Bridge central

span in raised position, In , the Hell Gate Bridge , a railroad bridge, was built across both islands, running from Queens to the Bronx. The bridge is considered to be extremely sturdy; it would be the last New York City bridge to collapse if humans disappeared, taking at least a millennium to do so, according to the February issue of Discover magazine, while most other bridges would fall in about years. Kennedy at the request of the Kennedy family. In , the islands were connected by a bridge over Little Hell Gate, obviating the need for a ferry to Wards Island. Efforts were made in the mids to preserve the bridge in the face of plans by the New York City Department of Transportation to demolish it. However, actual construction of this Wards Island Bridge , also known as the rd Street Footbridge, did not begin until

Chapter 4 : Manhattan Psychiatric Center - Asylum Projects

The State Emigrant Refuge, a hospital for sick and destitute immigrants, opened in and it was the biggest hospital complex in the world during the s. The predominance of public works led the City to purchase Wards Island outright in

At the time the vast majority of the insane under municipal care were poor immigrants, which at the time were pouring into New York City. To combat the rising population the asylum built a three story building for violent patients and later expanded to a three story building, formerly a workshop for the neighboring workhouse. Finally a series of one story pavilions were built however by the asylum only had accommodation for of the patients under their care. As a result a site was picked and the new branch of the asylum was established in , opening to patient on December 12, The new hospital building was built constructed of brick and Ohio free-state in the English Gothic Style with a Mansard roof. It was built in the Kirkbride style, with a three story central building with wings staggered back en echelon on either side. Immediately all male patients were shipped up river to this new building. Regrettably this new hospital was no real improvement and suffered from many defects. The eating and lighting proved to be inadequate, the furniture was crude and many patients did not even have eating utensils to use at meal time. The nurse to patient ratio was one to 30 while the physicians proved inexperienced, only serving at the Asylum until they had enough experience to move on. Attendants proved similarly inadequate, as did treatment of patients, with many being locked in their rooms. The patients often were mingled with no regard to disease and with no treatment. On top of this it was almost immediately the hospital found itself again overcrowded and looking for more space. In the Wards Island Asylum transferred some patients to the former Inebriate Asylum, which had recently closed. In patients were sent to an unoccupied three story building, know as the "annex", formerly used by the Emigration Department to house immigrants. The building, having only open barracks style bays on each floor proved less than ideal for care of the insane. In some patients were transferred to the Hart Island Asylum , a new branch which moved into Civil War era barracks formerly occupied by an industrial school. Their age and nature made them completely unsuitable for habitation by the mentally ill but they were forced to endure the conditions for several years. Finally in Superintendent MacDonald requested a new wing to the original building, providing room for an additional patients. For the sake of time and expedience a second ward on the other wing was also set to be built. Immediately patients and convicts from the work house set to work on the new additions to alleviate the overcrowding. Also under MacDonald there was a marked improvement in hospital management, food, and general welfare. He worked to not only ensure a better diet for the patients but also replaced the sub standard and uncomfortable furniture and increased the funding for patient amusement. In four lectures on insanity were given at the hospital to the student physicians, with crowd ranging from 20 to over at each. These were the first lectures of their kind given at a New York Insane Hospital. MacDonald succeeded in finally getting rid of the practice of using convicts in hospitals, arguing it brought an atmosphere of crime and depravity which held the hospitals progress back. In this year manual restraints were also abolished at the hospital. Despite the dedication and commitment of Superintendent MacDonald to improve and administer the hospital as well as possible the ever increasing population led ever worsening conditions. In allegations of poor food and attendants were made and an investigation found the claims credible. As a result appropriations were increased and plans made for construction of more buildings. A plunge bath was also built in the West wing of the kirkbride. The hospital at this time included carpenters and painters shops, a shoe shop, brush shot, a tailor, a printing office, and others. All work was done by the patients, with a requirement for release from the hospital being proficiency in one of these trades, to better serve the patients search for employment. A new dietary was enacted and buildings were begun on a newly purchased acre tract of land at Central Islip on Long Island. However, this same year considerations were made regarding the transfer of female patients to the recently abandoned State Emigrant Hospital complex, vacant since the new Federal Emigration Station at Ellis Island opened earlier in the year. The agreement was that the state would have use of these leased properties for a period of 15 years, after which time control of the properties would be turned back over to the City of New York. The total population of the asylum by was 4,, making it the largest

institution in the world at the time. In these two departments were merged by the state into Manhattan State Hospital, while the colony at Central Islip, formerly a department of this hospital, was separated into an independent entity. The Hospital continued to grow, reaching its peak population of 7, in In February a fire at the hospital claimed the lives of 25 patients. Furthermore he envisioned both Islands as a vast complex of parks a public space, even planning for a large stadium. While he did get his goal realized in many ways, with the House of Refuge and most other institutions being demolished in by he ran into problems when the Manhattan State Hospital refused to leave. Though still housed in 19th century buildings and a state law mandating its closure by it prevailed and continued to operate due to overcrowding at the other state institutions. Ths new complex consisted of 3 large metropolitan plan buildings, however new facilities did not end the hospitals troubles. Rapes and robberies occured at the hands of criminals who came onto campus due to poor security and in the Times reported recently transferred retarded patients were left in rooms idly while equipment for their development went unused because of under staffing and poor management. Shortly afterwards the Mayor of NYC accused the hospital of being unsanitary, keeping poor records, and distributing drugs carelessly. Also in the late s the Mayor opened a "temporary" homeless shelter for men, which was the cause of much debate and controversy. After turning it over to a private organization Volunteers of America it grew to residents by By , with accusations of the residents stealing, exposing themselves to children, and other criminal acts the VOA were forced to greatly increase the security at the Shelter. Today it provides a home to men. In one of the buildings was separated from the Manhattan State Hospital to become the Kirby Forensic Psychiatric Center , for violent and criminally insane patients. Today it bills itself as a modern hospital providing top notch care to its patients. The in-patient population in stood at patients and as of only are housed in the hospital. The hospital also has 90 patients living in transitional housing on the campus as well as over regular outpatients. Images of Manhattan Psychiatric Center[edit].

Chapter 5 : Randalls and Wards Islands, New York, NY | CruiseBe

The Refuge is used mainly for females, the New Barracks for males. Other buildings are the Dispensary building, the new Dining Hall (capable of seating 1, persons), Protestant chapel, Fever and Surgical Wards, Lunatic Asylum, Boys' Barracks, workshops, the dwellings of officials, and other appurtenances.

Sufferings of Emigrants while at Sea. Having just returned from the errand sent upon by you and the other officers of the German Society, relative to the German Redemptioners lately arrived at Perth Amboy, I have thought proper without loss of time to communicate to you in writing, for your and their information, how far I proceeded with the business entrusted me, respecting the said German redemptioners. Robert Eastburn, and presented him the letter you addressed him. Eastburn appears to be a gentleman of humanity and of feeling. After he read the letter, he observed a willingness to accompany me to Amboy; he did so the next morning, as also did Mr. Both of them behaved with the greatest politeness towards me, and with great liberality towards the German Redemptioners at Amboy. Immediately on our arrival at Amboy we went to the river with an intention of going on board the ship General Wayne, or with an expectation of seeing some of the redemptioners on shore. How ever, we saw none of them at the time, and the ship was weighing anchor, and soon after set sail for New York. By enquiry we found the passengers were deposited in the Jail of Amboy, however not closely confined, having permission granted them by the agent to walk about the place or town. From what I could learn, the captain began to be uneasy, as some of the inhabitants had spoken to him with respect to the malconduct exercised by him towards those unhappy beings, and resolved to leave Amboy and go to New York. I went to visit those unfortunate people, and in truth they may be called unfortunate. And I must confess I have seen a number of vessels at Philadelphia with redemptioners, but never did I see such a set of miserable beings in my life. Death, to make use of the expression, appeared to be staring them in the face. The complaints were numerous which they made against the captain respecting the bad treatment they received from him on and during the passage. The complaints which I conceive are of the greatest importance I shall briefly state. My intention was to have had them confirmed with their oaths, but as they are made by every one of the passengers I thought it unnecessary. Ten men consented, and entered their names, giving to the other passengers their reasons for so doing, namely, that, having been already put on allowance by the captain, they were apprehensive that, should they stay on board the ship, they should be starved before they arrived in America. Amongst those that enlisted was a man who had a wife and child on board the ship; that eight days after they had thus entered their names they were taken from the ship by the recruiting officer, although some of them wished to withdraw their names, but to no effect; go they must. The woman and her child are now at Amboy, lamenting the loss of the husband and father. On the last day of their remaining in this British port, the same recruiting officer came the third time on board the ship, when the mate called four or five of the passengers by name, and told them, in the presence of the captain, they must be soldiers and go with the officer. They replied they had no intention of being soldiers, they wished to go to America; whereupon the captain and mate seized one of them by name Samuel Vogel, and threw him into the boat belonging to the recruiting officer, which was alongside of the ship. However, Vogel got back again into the ship, went below, and hid himself, but was again compelled to come forward with his clothes, when the recruiting officer, observing him weep, declared he would not have him, and left the ship, mentioning that he should not have again come on board had not the captain, the day before, pressed him so to do. The captain was highly dissatisfied with these men for refusing to go, and declared that they should not have anything to eat on board the ship, that they might starve, and ordered one of them to be flogged for refusing, which was performed, too, in a cruel manner. They then set sail, and after fourteen days had elapsed the captain informed them that they would get nothing to eat except bread and meat. After this each person received two biscuits, one pint of water, and the eighth part of a pound of meat per day. This regulation continued for two or three weeks, when they one and all declared they could not any longer exist on the small allowance they received; that they must, without doubt, perish. The hunger and thirst being at this time so great, and the children continually crying out for bread and drink, some of the men, resolved, at all events, to procure bread, broke

open the apartment wherein it was kept, and took some. This was discovered by the captain, as were also those who did the same, when each of them was ordered to, and actually did, receive, after being first tied, a number of lashes on their bare backs well laid on. The whole of the passengers were also punished for this offence. The men received no bread, the women but one biscuit. This continued for nine days, when the men were again allowed one biscuit per day; however, the captain would at least make or proclaim a fast day. In this situation their condition became dreadful, so much so that five and twenty men, women, and children actually perished for the want of the common necessaries of life, in short, for the want of bread. The latter were ten in number, all at the time at the breasts of their mothers. The cry of the children for bread was, as I am informed, so great that it would be impossible for man to describe it, nor can the passengers believe that any other person excepting Captain Conklin would be found whose heart would not have melted with compassion to hear those little inoffensive ones cry for bread. The number of passengers, when the ship arrived at Amboy, amounted to one hundred and thirty-two. Fifty-one remain there still; the others have been disposed of. The passengers further state that they did not receive the tobacco, the fish, nor the potatoes, as they ought to have received, and which they were entitled to as by their contract with the captain, neither did they receive their dram but four or five times during their passage, and no butter after they left the British port until within three or four days ago. The foregoing are the principal causes of complaint, and indeed they appear very serious ones too to me. However, after reflection I determined to push on for New York, and there inform the German Society of his conduct. I did so, and on Sunday arrived there, when, after some little enquiry, I found the President of the society, Mr. To him I communicated the whole of this disagreeable affair. His feelings can be more easily conceived than described. He, however, gave directions to have the officers of the society summoned to meet the next day, which was done, and they all attended, excepting one of the assistants, and, after hearing the circumstances relative to those unfortunate people, they appointed three of their members, officers, to act in such way as they should, after taking legal advice, think best to bring the captain to that punishment which his conduct should merit. We shall confine our present reference to the emigration to Canada, and track its course up the waters of the St. A glance even at a single quarantine—that of Grosse Isle, in the St. Lawrence, about thirty miles below Quebec—while affording a faint idea of the horrors crowded into a few months, may enable the reader to understand with what alarm the advent of the Irish was regarded by the well-to-do colonists of British America; and how the natural terror they inspired, through the terrible disease brought with them across the ocean, deepened the prejudice against them, notwithstanding that their sufferings and misery appealed to the best sympathies of the human heart. On the 8th of May, , the Urania, from Cork, with several hundred immigrants on board, a large proportion of them sick and dying of the ship-fever, was put into quarantine at Grosse Isle. This was the first of the plague-smitten ships from Ireland which that year sailed up the St. But before the first week of June as many as eighty-four ships of various tonnage were driven in by an easterly wind; and of that enormous number of vessels there was not one free from the taint of malignant typhus, the offspring of famine and of the foul ship-hold. This fleet of vessels literally reeked with pestilence. All sailing-vessels the merciful speed of the well-appointed steamer being unknown to the emigrant of those days a tolerably quick passage occupied from six to eight weeks; while passages of ten or twelve weeks, and even a longer time, were not considered at all extraordinary at a period when craft of every kind, the most unsuited as well as the least seaworthy, were pressed into the service of human deportation. Who can imagine the horrors of even the shortest passage in an emigrant ship crowded beyond its utmost capability of stowage with unhappy beings of all ages, with fever raging in their midst? Under the most favorable circumstances it is impossible to maintain perfect purity of atmosphere between decks, even when ports are open, and every device is adopted to secure the greatest amount of ventilation. But a crowded emigrant sailing-ship of twenty years since, with fever on board! Of the eighty-four emigrant ships that anchored at Grosse Isle in the summer of , there was not a single one to which this description might not rightly apply. The authorities were taken by surprise, owing to the sudden arrival of this plague-smitten fleet, and, save the sheds that remained since , there was no accommodation of any kind on the island. These sheds were rapidly filled with the miserable people, the sick and the dying, and round their walls lay groups of half-naked men, women, and children, in the same condition—sick or dying. Hundreds were literally flung on the beach, left amid the mud and stones,

to crawl on the dry land as they could. Death was doing its work everywhereâ€”in the sheds, around the sheds, where the victims lay in hundreds under the canopy of heaven, and in the poisonous holds of the plague-ships, all of which were declared to be and treated as hospitals. From ship to ship the young Irish priest carried the consolations of religion to the dying. Amidst shrieks, and groans, and wild ravings, and heart-rending lamentationsâ€”over prostrate sufferers in every stage of the sickness from loathsome berth to loathsome berth, he pursued his holy task. So noxious was the pent-up atmosphere of these floating pest-houses, that he had frequently to rush on deck, to breathe the pure air or to relieve his overtaxed stomach; then he would again plunge into the foul den, and resume his interrupted labors. There being, at first, no organization, no staff, no available resources, it may be imagined why the mortality rose to a prodigious rate, and how at one time as many as bodies, most of them in a half-naked state, would be piled up in the dead-house, awaiting such sepulture as a huge pit could afford. Poor creatures would crawl out of the sheds, and, being too exhausted to return, would be found lying in the open air, not a few of them rigid in death. When the authorities were enabled to erect sheds sufficient for the reception of the sick, and provide a staff of physicians and nurses, and the Archbishop of Quebec had appointed a number of priests, who took the hospital duty in turn, there was of course more order and regularity; but the mortality was for a time scarcely diminished. The deaths were as many as and even a day, and this for a considerable period during the summer. The masters of the quarantine-bound ships were naturally desirous of getting rid as speedily as possible of their dangerous and unprofitable freight; and the manner in which the helpless people were landed or thrown on the island aggravated their sufferings, and in a vast number of instances precipitated their fate. Then the hunger and thirst from which they suffered in the badly found ships, between whose crowded and stifling decks they had been so long pent up, had so far destroyed their vital energy that they had but little chance of life when once struck down. About the middle of June the young chaplain was attacked by the pestilence. For ten days he had not taken off his clothes, and his boots, which he constantly wore for all that time, had to be cut from his feet. A couple of months elapsed before he resumed his duties; but when he returned to his post of danger the mortality was still of fearful magnitude. Several priests, a few Irish, the majority French Canadians, caught the infection; and of the twenty-five who were attacked, seven paid with their lives the penalty of their devotion. Not a few of these men were professors in colleges; but at the appeal of the Archbishop they left their classes and their studies for the horrors and perils of the fever sheds. It was not until the 1st of November that the quarantine of Grosse Isle was closed. Upon that barren isle as many as 10, of the Irish race were consigned to the grave-pit. By some the estimate is made much higher, and 12, is considered nearer the actual number. A register was kept, and is still in existence, but it does not commence earlier than June 16, when the mortality was nearly at its height. According to this death-roll, there were buried, between the 16th and 30th of June, Irish immigrants "whose names could not be ascertained. In the following year 2, additional victims were entered in the same register, without name or trace of any kind to tell who they were or whence they had come. Thus 5, out of the total number of victims were simply described as "unknown. Castle Garden, New York, Jan. Resolved, That the Report of Commissioners Kapp and Bissinger, in relation to the mortality on the sailing-ship Leibnitz, be accepted and adopted, and be referred to the Special Committee, Messrs. Resolved, That one thousand copies of the above Report be printed for circulation. The following is the Report of Messrs. Kapp and Bissinger, referred to in the foregoing resolutions: To the Board of Commissioners of Emigration: Although not expressly authorized, yet, because the emergency arose since your last meeting, the undersigned deemed it their duty to go on board the ill-fated ship Leibnitz, and to enquire into the condition of her passengers transferred to the hospital-ship Illinois, in the Lower Bay. Swinburne, the Health Officer, kindly placed the steamer Fletcher at our disposal. Pieper, Schwarzenberg, and Krause, who volunteered their services for the examination of the cause of the sickness. The Leibnitz, originally the Van Couver, is a large and fine vessel, built at Boston for the China trade, and formerly plying between that port and China. She was sold some years ago to the house of Robert M. Sloman, and has since sailed under her present name. We were informed that her last trip was her second with emigrants on board. Last summer, she went to Quebec with about seven hundred passengers, of whom she lost only a few on her passage; this time, she left Hamburg, Nov. Bornhold, lay at Cuxhaven, on account of head-winds, until the 11th, whereupon she took the southern

course to New York. She went by the way of Madeira, down to the Tropics, 20th degree, and arrived in the Lower Bay on Jan. Her passengers in allâ€™ of whom were adults, children, and 46 infantsâ€™ came principally from Mecklenburg, and proposed to settle as farmers and laborers in Illinois and Wisconsin; besides them, there were about 40 Prussians from Pomerania and Posen, and a few Saxons and Thuringians. It is not proven by any fact, that the cholera as has been alleged raged or had raged in or near their homes when or before they left them. This statement appears to have been made by or in behalf of those who have an interest in throwing the origin of the sickness on its poor victims.

Chapter 6 : Randall's Island " History of New York City

Wards Island Immigration Station circa Photos from the New York Times courtesy of M. Smith. Ward Island was the home of the New York State facilities for the detention and treatment of destitute or sick arriving immigrants.

Administratively it is part of the borough of Manhattan. Viaducts leading to the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge and Hell Gate bridges pass overhead. Wards Island is also home to Wards Island Park, which offers stunning views, athletic fields, and picnic grounds. Wards Island History Scylla Point In , the point at the southeastern tip of the island was officially designated "Negro Point", based on the unofficial usage of riverboat workers. In , Henry Stern, the Parks Commissioner, upon learning of the name, thought it was offensive. He replaced it with "Scylla Point" and paired it with Charybdis Playground in Astoria Park; the two features are on opposite sides of Hell Gate, just as the mythological monsters of Scylla and Charybdis were on opposite sides of the Strait of Messina. During the Revolutionary War the island served as a military post for the British military. Although a small population had lived on the island since as early as the 17th century, the Ward brothers developed the island more heavily by building a cotton mill and building the first bridge to cross the East River in , connecting the island with Manhattan at th Street. The bridge, paid for by Bartholomew Ward and Philip Milledolar, was a wooden drawbridge. The bridge lasted until , when it was destroyed in a storm. After the bridge was destroyed, the island was largely abandoned until , when the island was transformed into a dumping ground for everything unwanted in New York City. Between and the island was used for: Burial of hundreds of thousands of bodies relocated from the Madison Square and Bryant Park graveyards. The State Emigrant Refuge, a hospital for sick and destitute immigrants, opened in , the biggest hospital complex in the world during the s. An immigration station from until the opening of Ellis Island. With 4, patients, it was the largest psychiatric institution in the world. The census notes that the hospital had a total of patients. It later became the Manhattan Psychiatric Center. The creation of the park was followed by the development of the Triborough Bridge renamed the Robert F. The current Wards Island Bridge, a pedestrian bridge connecting the island to Manhattan was built in It was designed to give access to Wards Island Park to East Harlem, which has few public green spaces. Most of Wards Island Park was closed in early , pending renovation.

Chapter 7 : Warshaw Family Roots: Ward's Island Refugee Quarters & Hospital

State Emigrant Refuge and Hospital Institutions, Ward's Island View of the State Emigrant Refuge and Hospital Institutions, Ward's Island, from Immigration and the Commissioners of Emigration, by Fredrich Kapp (New York: Arno Press and the New York Times, [originals ca. early 's]).

As a result there were large numbers of indigent insane, whose care fell to the city. It was here where the mentally ill remained in conditions described by the very commissioners in charge of the hospital as "a miserable refuge for their trial, undeserving of the name Asylum, in these enlightened days". It was not until 14 years later, in , that the city approved the construction of a separate institution for the insane on the island as a result of long communications from Dr. However the hospital was not completed until History[edit] This new institution, located on the northernmost end of the island, was at this time completely separated from the other institutions on the island and given autonomy. Despite this new autonomy and purpose built hospital the conditions at the hospital quickly degraded and for the duration of its existence the hospital was plagued by overcrowding, under-funding, and scandals. In only one year after opening the population stood at , while by , with no significant improvement in housing or infrastructure, the hospital housed 1,, far more than any state hospital at the time. This overcrowding served to greatly hinder not only living conditions at the hospital but also impeded efficient internal administration. When considering the population of New York City at the time was less than half immigrant the true disproportion of this statistic is made apparent. His suggestions that the state either open an asylum in the city or take on the responsibility of immigrant insane fell on deaf ears and the population of the hospital continued to grow, by the hospital had accommodations for , but faced a population of , necessitating the creation of a new city asylum on Wards Island in The hospital was visited in the s by both Thomas Story Kirkbride and Charles Dickens, neither of whom were impressed by conditions inside the hospital. After his visit Dickens wrote " The moping idiot, cowering down with long disheveled hair; the gibbering maniac, with his hideous laugh and pointed finger; the vacant eye, the fierce wild face, the gloomy picking of the hands and lips, and munching of the nails: By of the hospital had grown to several buildings, three of which held patients. These were the Asylum, in the original building, the Lodge or "Mad-house", and the Retreat. The Asylum was housed in the original structure, consisting for two wings meeting at a right angle, joined in the center by an octagonal tower. Each wing consisted of three stories and an attic. The three primary stories housed patient rooms on either side while the attic housed the sick rooms. One wing housed men and the other women. This building was partially modeled after the Hanwell Asylum in England. The Retreat was a three story workshop building formerly used by the workhouse but was used by the Asylum to house female patients who outnumbered male patients. In the lodge there were four halls dedicated to females while only two were for males. The Lodge was where the more violent and newly admitted patients were housed. The new patients were kept here until their disposition could be positively identified. Those considered non-violent were moved to either the Asylum or the Retreat. Other buildings as of included the Cook-house, where patient meals were prepared. Also in the cook house were the laundry facilities and the engine room which provided steam heat to the hospital. Four one story wooden pavilion buildings were also completed by and used to accommodate 70 female patients each. Nellie Bly[edit] One of the most famous cases associated with the hospital was the journalism of young female reporter Nellie Bly, who in entered the hospital under the guise of insanity under assignment from Joseph Pulitzer. She wrote, "From the moment I entered the insane ward on the Island, I made no attempt to keep up the assumed role of insanity. I talked and acted just as I do in ordinary life. Yet strange to say, the more sanely I talked and acted, the crazier I was thought to be by all After talking with other patients she became convinced many were as sane as she was, writing "What, excepting torture, would produce insanity quicker than this treatment? Here is a class of women sent to be cured. I would like the expert physicians who are condemning me for my action, which has proven their ability, to take a perfectly sane and healthy woman, shut her up and make her sit from 6 a. Two months would make her a mental and physical wreck. Her report, later published in the book Ten Days in a Mad-House, resulted in not only embarrassment for the Institution but a grand jury investigation into

the conditions and the question of how so many "professionals" had been fooled. In a new branch of the hospital was opened in old buildings on Hart Island and by construction of new buildings had begun at Central Islip, Long Island. By the New York City Hospital consisted of four departments: The Metropolitan Hospital continued to operate there until when it moved to Manhattan, leaving the former Asylum abandoned. After the Metropolitan Hospital left in the hospital sat vacant and the wings were demolished leaving only the Octagon which was ravaged by fire and neglect. In it entered the national register of historic places. Luckily the building was restored when it was incorporated into a new apartment complex built on the ground of the former Hospital.

At various times, New York City's Insane Asylums included the asylums on Blackwell's, Hart, Randall's, and Ward's Islands; and Central blog.quintoapp.com Asylum for the Insane on Ward's Island with branches on Ward's and Randall's Islands, were for Men.

The two islands were formerly separate, with the channel between them, Little Hell Gate, being filled in by the early 1800s. The island had a population of 1, living on 2. Most of the island is parkland, spanning a total of 100 acres. The parks offer athletic fields, a driving range, greenways, playgrounds and picnic grounds. The island also has a history of being used for asylums, hospitals, and cemeteries, and is currently home to several public facilities, including two psychiatric hospitals, a state police station, a fire academy, a wastewater treatment plant, and several homeless shelters. The island is crossed by the Triborough and Hell Gate bridges. The island can be reached by the Triborough Bridge; the Wards Island Bridge, which serves pedestrians and bicyclists and links the island to East Harlem in Manhattan; or by the Randalls Island Connector, a pedestrian and cycling bridge crossing the Bronx Kill and connecting to the Port Morris neighborhood of the Bronx. John Montresor, an engineer with the British army, purchased Randalls Island in 1784. During the Revolutionary War, both islands hosted military posts for the British military. He resigned his commission and returned to England in 1785, but retained ownership of the island until the British evacuated the city in 1783 and it was confiscated. Both islands gained their current names from new owners after the war. Nineteenth century Although a small population had lived on Wards since as early as the 17th century, the Ward brothers developed the island more heavily by building a cotton mill and in building the first bridge to cross the East River. The wooden drawbridge connected the island with Manhattan at 11th Street, and was paid for by Bartholomew Ward and Philip Milledolar. The bridge lasted until 1827, when it was destroyed in a storm. After the destruction of the bridge, Wards island was largely abandoned until 1827. Randalls housed an orphanage, poor house, burial ground for the poor, "idiot" asylum, homeopathic hospital and rest home for Civil War veterans, and was also site of the New York House of Refuge, a reform school completed in 1824 for juvenile delinquents or juveniles adjudicated as vagrants. Between 1824 and 1827, Wards island was used for: Burial of hundreds of thousands of bodies relocated from the Madison Square and Bryant Park graveyards The State Emigrant Refuge, a hospital for sick and destitute immigrants, opened in 1825, the biggest hospital complex in the world during the 1800s The New York City Asylum for the Insane, opened around Manhattan Psychiatric Center incorporating the Asylum for the Insane, operated by New York State when it took over the immigration and asylum buildings in 1827. With 4,000 patients, it was the largest psychiatric institution in the world. The census notes that the hospital had a total of 6,000 patients. It later became the Manhattan Psychiatric Center. Scylla Point In 1827, the point at the southeastern tip of the island was officially designated "Negro Point", based on the unofficial usage of riverboat workers. It still appears on charts of the area today. In the Parks Commissioner Henry Stern, upon learning of the name, thought it was offensive. He changed the name to "Scylla Point" and paired it with Charybdis Playground in Astoria Park; the two features are on opposite sides of Hell Gate, just as the mythological monsters of Scylla and Charybdis were on opposite sides of the Strait of Messina. Despite the name change Negro Point is still used by tug captains and mates as they sail past the area. Parks Proposals to add parks to the islands were made as early as 1827, but park development was truly kicked off by the Metropolitan Conference of Parks, which recommended transforming them into recreational parks. The Alliance works with the City and local communities to provide sports venues, cultural events and environmental exploration. RIPA runs free youth programs at the Park, which brings thousands of children to the Park for a range sports and environmental education activities. It was the site of an international soccer friendly in which England defeated the USA, 10-0, on May 27, 1976. In 1976, the owners of Ebbets Field donated stadium lights to Downing Stadium. The lights came from the old stadium, which was being torn down. Downing Stadium was torn down in 1976 and replaced by a newer complex, Icahn Stadium, which opened in April, 1977. It was designed by architect Ricardo Zurita, who was also involved with the master planning of the park development. A renovated golf center opened in 1977. Then, a tennis center opened in 1977. Randalls Island Park in July 1977. It features 20 courts, 10 har-tru and 10 rubberized hard 5 indoor, along with a

cafe, pro shop, fitness facilities and locker rooms. In the winter, all 15 outdoor courts are bubbled for use by club members. Finally, in May, RIPA and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation completed the construction of over 60 athletic fields to support a greater variety of sports, including football, lacrosse, field hockey, and rugby amongst the sports already played at the Park, soccer, baseball and softball. Two natural environments, a salt marsh and a freshwater wetland, have been established on the island. In addition, the restoration projects play a crucial role in an park-wide filtration system that collects storm water from the adjacent sports fields, pathways and paved areas and channels it through the Wetlands, where the new plants naturally filter pollutants before reaching the East River. The island has almost 5 miles of waterfront pathways, and a greenway under the Hell Gate Viaduct is almost completed. By a connection to the South Bronx Greenway will be completed, and will have additional waterfront pathway sections, a naturalized "living shoreline," and further environmental restoration. The project will include a solar-powered marine research and information kiosk open to visitors of the island, expected to be completed in September. After the Triborough Bridge opened in 1963, it spurred the conversion of both islands to parkland. Soon thereafter the city began filling in the passage between the two, to expand and connect the parks on each island. Few traces of Little Hell Gate still exist. Only indentations in the shoreline of the joined island in the East River indicate the former entrances to the waterway. Infrastructure and facilities: Javits Convention Center, the governors office and parade details. The bridge is supposedly extremely sturdy; it would be the last New York City bridge to collapse if humans disappeared, taking at least a millennium to do so, according to the February issue of Discover magazine, while most other bridges would fall in about years. In 1963, the islands were connected to the rest of the city by the Triborough Bridge, the hub of which crossed the islands. Kennedy at the request of the Kennedy family. To manage the bridge and eventually all tolled New York City water crossings, the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority erected an art deco head building, the former base of Robert Moses; the building still stands on the island. In 1963, the islands were connected by a bridge over Little Hell Gate, obviating the need for a ferry to Wards Island. Although Little Hell Gate has been filled, this bridge still exists. Around this time, Little Hell Gate began to be narrowed with infill, and the islands were connected by the early 1960s. This bridge was rendered obsolete when the Little Hell Gate was filled, and a service road was built alongside the deteriorating bridge. Efforts were made in the mid-1960s to preserve the bridge in the face of plans by the New York City Department of Transportation to demolish it. Designed by Othmar Hermann Ammann and built by the U.S. Construction of this bridge was proposed in 1963 but did not begin until 1964.

Chapter 9 : Randalls and Wards Islands - Wikipedia

Manhattan Psychiatric Center-Ward's Island in New York, N.Y. is a psychiatric facility.

One of the problems that resulted from the actions of the state legislature was that the sick, blind, deaf and dumb, crippled, feeble-minded, and insane class of immigrants, were sent back to their original port of departure in Europe by themselves with little or no money, and many were sick and improperly clothed. No one bothered to make sure that these helpless people actually made it back to their homes, which in many cases was quite a distance from the port. Many of their relatives and friends never saw or heard from them again. On February 20, , the problem was resolved with a new immigration law. Any alien of these classes who succeeds in entering the United States, or any person who becomes a public charge from causes existing prior to landing, may be deported at any time within two years after arrival, at the expense of the person bringing such alien into the United States. Under certain conditions, the secretary of the treasury is authorized to deport such aliens within three years of landing. Under the provisions of this law insane persons were deported to foreign countries from the State of New York during the fiscal year . From different sources it came to the attention of the Association that insane aliens deported by the government did not always reach their homes so promptly as they should, and sometimes not at all. In this connection the following quotation from the annual report of the superintendent of the Manhattan State Hospital, West, for the year just closed is significant: Any conditions which do not afford protection to the insane alien until she reaches her home, are indeed unfortunate, and it appears to me, that some steps should be taken by the proper authorities, toward remedying these matters. The steamship companies do not appear to hold themselves responsible beyond the port where the patient was originally received aboard their steamship. Only five cases have been studied. A brief account of three of the five cases which are at all complete will give some idea of present methods. Hearing that the girl was to be deported, these friends offered to arrange for her deportation, hoping to find some woman returning to Finland who would take charge of her. The friends of the girl, at the suggestion of the Association, procured these names and addresses, and gave them to the purser of the steamer on which she was to sail, and the Association took the precaution of sending the information to the home office of the steamship company in Glasgow, and of asking the officials there for some particulars regarding the method of transporting the patient from Glasgow to Finland. We are forwarding her to-night in charge of our shore interpreter to Hull, and he has instructions to see her safely on board the steamer for Helsingfors, which leaves Hull to-morrow. We have also addressed letters to the owners of the steamer, both in Hull and in Helsingfors, with a request to take some interest in the case, and to give the necessary instructions regarding treatment on board. The sister writes that she spent three days going from place to place trying to get information regarding the whereabouts of the patient, and finally located her in the Helsingfors hospital for the insane, where she had presumably been sent by the steamship company. This was in July, " two months after the girl sailed from America. The features of this case to which we would call attention are these: It would be interesting to know how this girl fared from the time she left Glasgow in May until her friends found her in July and how she would have fared if her friends in this country and this Association had not actively interested themselves in her case. The hospital, however, said that this could not be done; that she was to be returned by the government. The brother was not informed regarding the time of her return until May 3rd, when he received a letter saying that she was to be deported on May 4th. By the time he received the letter she was already on board, and it was impossible for him to go to the steamer that night. Finally he was allowed to see her for a few minutes. He found her dressed in a cotton wrapper, such as is worn at the State hospital, and provided with no other clothing. He would have brought her clothing if he had known that she needed it, but as nothing had been said by the State hospital it had not occurred to him to do this. He wished to give her money so that she could buy clothing when she got to Hamburg and spoke to the captain about the matter. The captain thought it useless for the girl to have money, but finally consented to take a few dollars for her use. In this case the significant feature seems to be again the failure of the authorities in this State to co-operate with the friends of the patient for her deportation. This patient is the son of one of the two sisters whose pathetic story

appeared in the newspapers in November, , at the time they committed suicide because of inability to support themselves. The following extract from the newspaper account of the case, though not altogether accurate, gives an idea of the story of the boy: Then the boy was taken sick. His illness left him with a deranged brain. The sisters visited him regularly once a week there. One week, about a year ago, they learned on their regular visit, that he had been sent back to Austria. This, friends of the sisters say, had been done without notification being sent to the mother. Her grief and her fear that some harm would come to him on the voyage were intense. She immediately raised all the money she could get, and, taking also the little which her sister had, she boarded a fast ocean liner for Hamburg. She landed there on the same day that her son landed, and, taking him under her charge, continued the journey to Vienna, where she had him put in an asylum. Then she hurried back to her sister in this country. The strain on the income of the two, however, was too great, and when they got out of work a few weeks ago they became despondent. As he was an alien, having been but nine months in the United States, arrangements were made immediately for his deportation. On October 16, the hospital was informed that the boy would be deported on a vessel sailing October 18, and that he was to be placed on board the 17th. Again we note the failure of the State authorities to make any effort to co-operate with the friends of the patient. In this case the hospital did not know of the plans of the Immigration Department for the deportation of the patient until the day before his deportation, and cannot be blamed for not writing earlier to his mother, but under such circumstances it would seem that the friends of the patient should be notified by telegram or special messenger, instead of by a letter, which could hardly be expected to reach its destination before the patient sailed. To subject insane persons, many of them young and in an acute stage of the disease, to the vicissitudes of a long ocean voyage, with a further journey on the other side of the ocean, is certainly a sufficient risk under the best conditions, and every possible protection should be provided against physical or moral injury. The inhumanity of subjecting relatives of patients to unnecessary anxiety and alarm by leaving them in ignorance of what is happening to those they hold dear, should also be prevented by the establishment of some system which will provide for more personal attention to each case. At present insane aliens are dispatched with little more ceremony than if they were able-minded and able-bodied immigrants, capable of attending to their own interests.