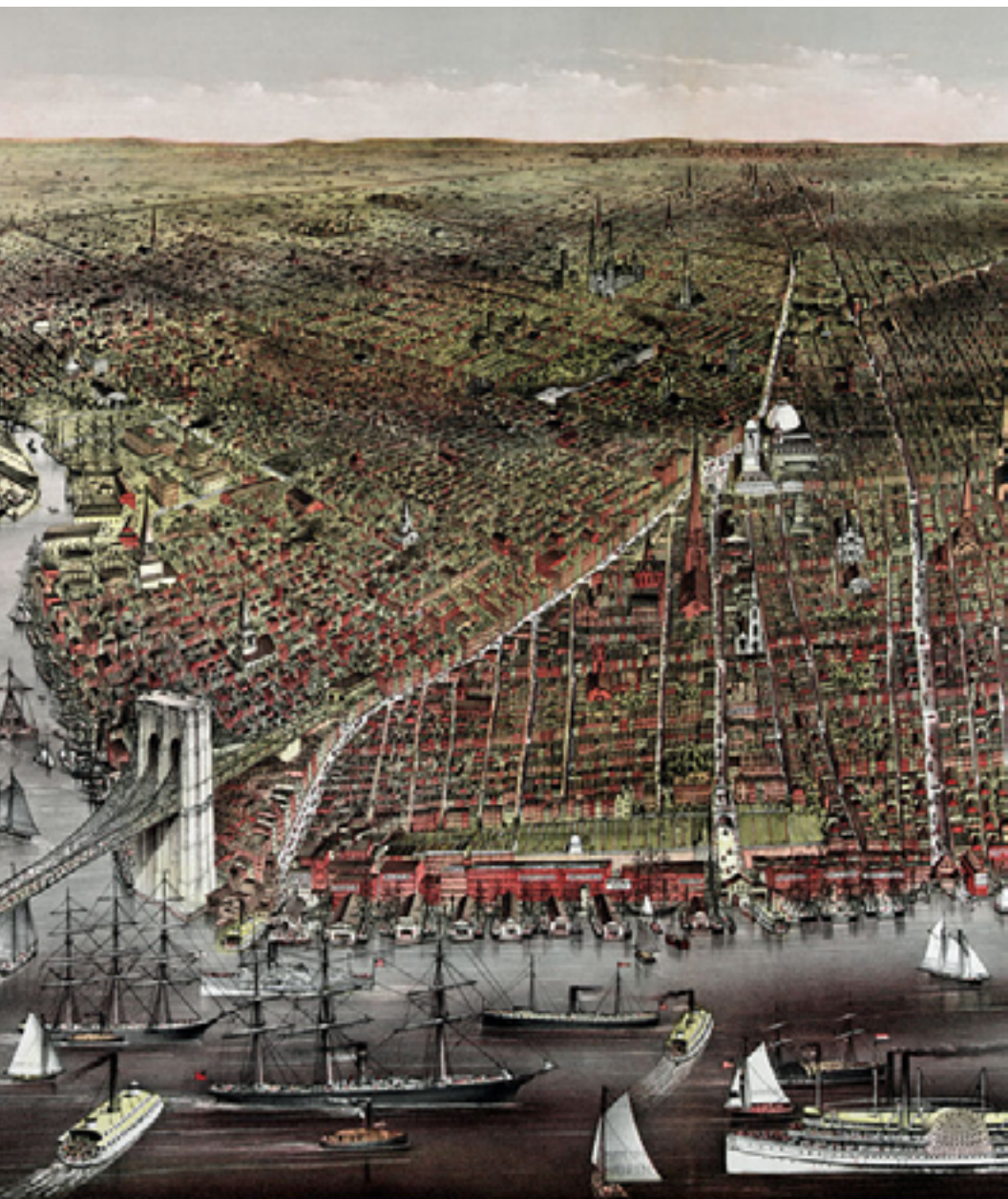


BROOKLYN HISTORY



The Revolutionary War: A Local History

The Battle of Long Island (AKA the Battle of Brooklyn) began on August 27, 1776. The Continental Army, under the command of General George Washington, were driven north retreating to their main defenses on Brooklyn Heights, supported by a stand of 400 Maryland troops. The British dug in for a siege but on the night of August 29–30, Washington covertly evacuated the entire army to Manhattan without the loss of supplies or a single life.

But General Howe and his British Army had hidden 75 flatboats and other small craft at the mouth of Newtown Creek, at the top of Brooklyn, now known as Greenpoint.

On September 15, 1776, Howe invaded Manhattan Island in pursuit of Washington. With the help of four warships, a mixed force of about 4,000 British regulars and Hessian mercenaries were able to cross the East River, drive the Americans from the shore, and seize Kepp's Bay, now called Kips Bay, at 34th Street. Washington's Army withdrew in disorder but once again was saved from destruction by a rear guard of the Continental Army's Maryland Regiments.

The American troops retreated toward Harlem Heights placing New York City firmly in British hands, where it would remain for the course of the war. However, the following day, the American's would win the Battle of Harlem Heights, Washington's first battlefield victory of the war. Although control of the city had been ceded to the British, they had not won a decisive victory in stamping out the rebellion.



The Delaware Regiment at the Battle of Long Island, August 27, 1776



British Troops landing at Kepp's Bay

Church of the Ascension and the U.S.S. Monitor

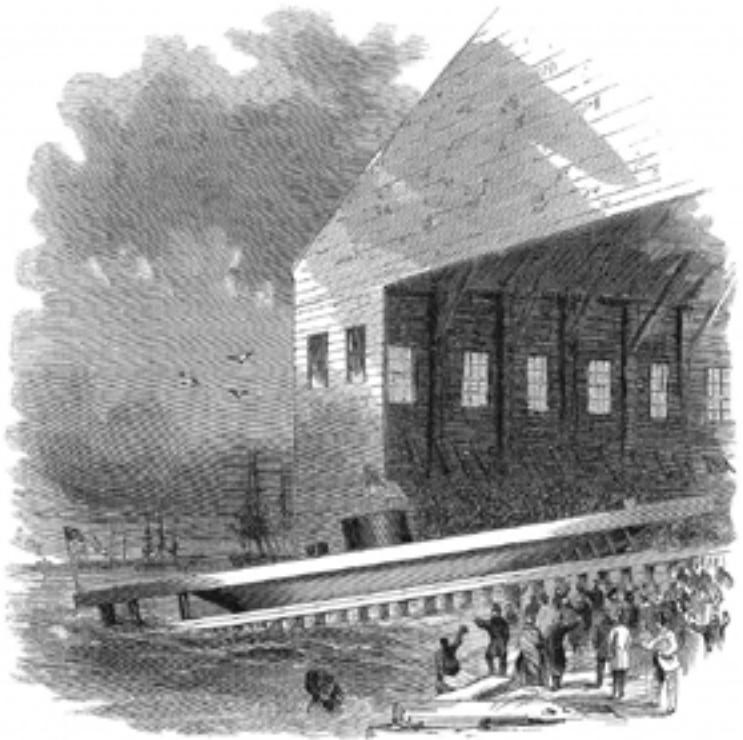
The Church of the Ascension is the oldest church in Greenpoint. Though the parish was incorporated in 1846, the present church edifice wasn't built until 1866. The building, designed by Henry Dudley in the Early English Gothic style, was funded in large part by Thomas Fitch Rowland, the owner of nearby Continental Iron Works.

During the Civil War, Continental Iron Works was a vital manufacturer of warships for the Union. Most famously, in a span of only 101 days in 1862, Continental Iron Works built and launched a mechanized steam-powered ironclad warship called the U.S.S. Monitor from their pier at nearby Quay Street (pronounced key). Monitor Street in Greenpoint is now named for this ship which became so iconic that hundreds of subsequent vessels based on its design would be referred to as "Monitors."

Up to this point, the Confederates had been pulverizing the wooden ships of the Union with their own ironclad, the C.S.S. Virginia, built from the remains of the Merrimack. But on March 8, 1862, when the The Virginia arrived at Hampton Roads to destroy a grounded Union ship, they found the Monitor blocking their way. This was the first ever battle fought between two armored warships and marked a turning point in naval warfare.

The Monitor would continue up the James River, lending support to General McClellan's Union Army and participating in the Battle of Drewry's Bluff later that month.

Continental Iron Works was rewarded many more contracts for iron hulled ships, but their time as shipbuilders would end by 1889 when the company returned to its original purpose, iron manufacturing, before finally closing its doors in 1949.



The U.S.S. Monitor is launched from Continental Iron Works, January 30, 1862



James River, VA Sailors on deck of U.S.S. Monitor, July 9, 1862

The Original Saint Mazie

Saint Mazie Bar & Supper Club is named for Mazie Phillips, the big-hearted, bawdy, truth-telling proprietress of The Venice Theater, the famed New York City moving-picture house on Park Row that ran from the Jazz Age through WWII. Known as the Queen of the Bowery, Mazie would spend her nights walking alone in New York City handing out change to the homeless and helping the downtrodden.

A pillar of hope in lower Manhattan during the Great Depression, she was known for her strong will, hearty laugh, and wicked tongue, offering unwavering compassion to those most in need and dispensing advice, money, grit, and cheer day and night. Mazie always had a collection of bracelets dangling on her arms, a big floppy hat on her head, and a walking stick in her hand to poke the derelicts sleeping in the streets. She would tell them to get out of the cold, drag the drunk ones to flop houses, or call an ambulance when one had been injured.

Mazie had a deep-seated love for the hard-luck streets of the Lower East Side and a genuine fondness for bums, who were often admitted free to The Venice. She was fearless and brash but treated everyone as an equal and showed extra kindness to those whom society ignored.

She was a quintessential New Yorker and the one for whom our restaurant is named. Let us toast to her.



Mazie Phillips in her box office at the Venice Theater on the Bowery



Mazie Phillips, 1946