

# Blackwell's Almanac

A Publication of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society



*Eleanor Roosevelt remains one of the foremost advocates for human rights and equality the world has seen. See "Eleanor Roosevelt and the Moral Basis of Democracy," page 7. Image credit: [nps.com](https://www.nps.com), National Park Service.*

To be added to the Blackwell's Almanac mailing list, email request to:  
[rooseveltislandhistory@gmail.com](mailto:rooseveltislandhistory@gmail.com)

RIHS needs your support. Become a member—visit [rihs.us/?page\\_id=4](https://rihs.us/?page_id=4)

Contents

P. 2 “My Mission Over Here Has Been Filled”: The Story of Private Jarratt at Base Hospital No. 48 during the Great War, by Benjamin F. Jarratt II

P. 6 Blackwell House Soon to Open with RIHS Help

P. 7 Eleanor Roosevelt: The Moral Basis of Democracy.

P. 10 From the RIHS Archive: An Object and Its Owner, by Melanie C. Colter

P. 12 RIHS Calendar

Blackwell’s  
Almanac

Published quarterly in February, May, August and November. Back issues may be viewed at [rihs.us](http://rihs.us). Click on *Blackwell’s Almanac* at left.

Publisher:  
Judith Berdy

Writer/editor:  
Bobbie Slonevsky

Contributing writer:  
Melanie C. Colter

© 2019, Roosevelt Island  
Historical Society

## “My Mission Over Here Has Been Filled”: The Story of Private Jarratt at Base Hospital No. 48 during the Great War

by Benjamin F. Jarratt II

*This article is a follow-up to Judith Berdy’s story “Metropolitan Hospital Goes to ‘The Great War’” (Blackwell’s Almanac, Vol. III, No. 2, 2017). The Metropolitan Hospital staff on Blackwell Island organized Base Hospital No. 48 (B.H. 48), which operated in France from July 1918 until January 1919. According to Berdy’s research, “By the end of the war, 4,822 cases had passed through B.H. 48—2,960 surgical and 1,862 medical patients; 85 of them didn’t survive.” This is the story of my great-uncle, Private Cary F. Jarratt (Company A, 318<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 80<sup>th</sup> Division, American Expeditionary Forces) and the B.H. 48 medical staff who treated him. Private Jarratt was one of the 85 patients who did not survive.*

On Sept. 26, 1918, U.S. General John Pershing sent the U.S. First Army “over the top” in the Meuse-Argonne offensive northwest of Verdun. This attack was part of coordinated American, French and British offensives along the Western Front against Germany and her allies. After 24 hours of fighting, Private Cary Jarratt and members of Company A/ 318<sup>th</sup> were hunkered down in an abandoned German trench preparing their lunch. Suddenly, everyone heard the screeching of German artillery shells overhead and scrambled for cover. As 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Guy A. Dirom described it: “*Private Jarratt was wounded Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> about noon. This battalion was in reserve at the time, northwest of Verdun, just outside the small village of Cuisy. Two shells fell in the area occupied by this company. The second one wounded Private Jarratt and four others.*”



*Private Cary F. Jarratt, 1888–1918. Credit: Jarratt Family Collection.*

The explosion sent shrapnel, mud, and debris ripping through Private Jarratt’s uniform. Foreign objects—and bacteria—tore into his right knee, hip, arm and neck. Litter bearers evacuated Private Jarratt to Mobile Hospital No. 5 several miles away in Bois de

Placey. Once there, front-line medical doctors provided emergency surgery. They cut away his uniform and debrided his wounds, removing any damaged tissue, pieces of uniform and metal fragments from his body. Infection was a major concern. Once his condition stabilized, Private Jarratt was sent to Evacuation Hospital No. 6 in Souilly. The medical staff worked on preventing bacterial infection by applying the antiseptic Carrel-Dakin solution directly into his wounds. Then Private Jarratt was placed on a military hospital train and evacuated to the rear.

### **Base Hospital 48**

On Sept. 30, five military trains arrived at the U.S. Army's Mars Hospital Complex in Mars-sur-Allier, France. Private Jarratt was among the hundreds of badly wounded or gassed American soldiers unloaded at the train platform. Six months ago, Private Jarratt was a merchant in his hometown of Jarratt, VA. Now he was a casualty of war. Litter bearers for Base Hospital No. 48 carried his stretcher to their receiving ward. After processing, he was admitted to B.H. 48's Ward 12.

Nurse Bertha E. Yerton had just been assigned to oversee the night shift. She was

originally from Berlin, NY, but had moved to Philadelphia to work at Hahnemann Hospital. Margaret W. Worth was another Red Cross nurse at B.H. 48. She was born in Brooklyn, NY, and worked at the Hahnemann Hospital of New York. Both these nurses had trained with the Metropolitan Hospital staff in early 1918 before being sent to France. Their job was to take care of their patients' daily needs, providing medical care, meals, clean sheets, fresh clothing, and at times, just talking with the wounded soldiers. They had more than 55 boys in their ward.

Capt. Robert V. White was one of a dozen doctors assigned to work at B.H. 48. He was originally from Scranton, PA, and graduated from Hahnemann Medical College. He was the hospital's chief surgeon when he entered military service. Capt. White worked under the direction of Lt. Col. William Honan and Lt. Col. Frederick Dearborn, two Metropolitan Hospital doctors who oversaw B.H. 48's operations.

The doctors and nurses made rounds twice a day, checking on their patients' condition and monitoring vital statistics. Capt. White was concerned about Private Jarratt's fluctuating



*Nurse Bertha E. Yerton. Credit: Town of Berlin, NY, archives.*



*Nurse Margaret W. Worth. Credit: Martin Matheson and Veterans U.S. Base Hospital 48.*



*Capt. Robert White. Credit: Dr. Frederick M. Dearborn and American Institute of Homeopathy.*

vital signs. For six weeks, Private Jarratt's temperature ranged from 99.4 to 105 degrees; his pulse swung from 66 to 158; and his respiration ranged from 18 to 30. Capt. White administered Carrel Dakin solution daily and changed bandages as needed. While the staff hoped the antiseptic solution was cleansing his wounds, infection was still a major concern.

On Oct. 9, the wounded soldier first wrote to his mother, Sallie Jarratt: *"Dear Mama: I am in the Hospital and have been here for about 10 or 12 days. I am wounded in my right knee, hip and arm. No bones broken, just flesh wounds and not very serious. I am getting along fine. The nurses in the hospital are just as fine as they can be. Don't think that I will see any more action this winter. ... It's my right arm that is wounded so I can't write long at a time. Lots of love for you all, Cary."*

### A Turn for the Worse

Three weeks after being admitted, Capt. White wrote on Private Jarratt's "Clinical Record" that the "Patient Seems Brighter." But then Private Jarratt's health took a turn for the worse. Nurse Yerton noted (in a 1919 letter to Sallie Jarratt) *"... for a time (he) seemed to be getting along nicely, when suddenly his leg commenced to swell and he gradually got worse, yet his leg didn't seem to be more painful."* His deteriorating health pointed to bacterial infection starting to creep through his body.

Nurse Yerton said that Private Jarratt was *"... cheerful and hopeful of getting home by Christmas where he could have some good 'fried chicken' and 'squabs.'... When I feared he wasn't getting better, I urged him to write*

*to you or let me write for him and he replied he would write that very day—so I left him some paper and he attempted to write but wasn't able to do so, so had one of the boys write for him. I addressed the envelope and mailed the letter which I hope you received."*



Base Hospital 48 cemetery. Credit: Jarratt Family Collection.

Thanks to Nurse Yerton's encouragement, Private Jarratt wrote home again on Oct. 25: *"Dear Mama... Both my arm & hip are about well and my knee is much better, but it is still giving me right much trouble, but I hope that by the time you get this I will be well. My mission over here has been filled. I will be sent home just as soon as my knee gets well."*

Private Jarratt added: *"One of the nurses in the Hospital here is Mr. J. B. Worth's sister. She was mighty good and kind to me. She developed a case of pneumonia night before last and died in a very short time."* Nurse Margaret Worth was the sister of Joseph B. Worth, who owned the J.B. Worth Company in Petersburg, VA. The Jarratt and Worth families knew each other since they worked together as local business merchants. Nurse Worth was buried in the military cemetery next door to the B.H. 48's chapel.

Despite the stress of war, the B.H. 48 staff did their best to provide for their patients. They even celebrated Private Jarratt's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday on Oct. 27. Nurse Yerton said Private Jarratt *"...often wished for chicken and I did manage to get some for him on his birthday, which he appreciated very much. Such luxuries as chicken wasn't to be had where we were."*

On Nov. 11, 1918, the staff at B.H. 48 rejoiced at the signing of the Armistice. The

war was over; the medical staff and patients would eventually be going home. But Private Jarratt could barely smile at this point. Streptococcus bacteria had been attacking his body for weeks. Septicemia (blood poisoning) was spreading through his body, attacking his organs and causing chills, fever, pain and headaches. Bed sores and lesions grew larger. Breathing became difficult and shallow as bronchitis took hold in his lungs. He drifted in and out of consciousness. At this point, Capt. White could only prescribe morphine to ease his pain. Private Jarratt slipped into a coma and passed away on Nov. 15—four days after the Armistice had ended the fighting.

The next morning, Capt. P.C. West (B.H. 48 pathologist) and Major W.E. Shea (B.H. 48 laboratory officer) performed an autopsy:

*“Private Jarratt.... Died: 10 P.M. 11/15/18 at Hospital Center APO 780.*

*Autopsy: 9 A.M. 11/16/18.*

**CLINICAL DATA:**

*Admitted here from Mobile Hospital # 5 with diagnosis of G.S.W. (gun shot wounds) right knee, right hip, right arm, right side head.*

*Severe G.S.W. right knee, badly infected.... For some time showed improvement but developed severe general infection which resulted in death.*  
TPR

*(Temperature-Pulse-Respiration); 99.4-105; 66-158; 18-30.*

*Final Diagnosis: General Septicemia following G.S.W. Multiple. OBSERVATIONS: Bed sores.... Greenish pus.... Ankles swollen... Terminal bronchial pneumonia of lungs.... Streptococcus in liver.... Swelling of kidneys....*



*Private Cary Jarratt’s headstone in Base Hospital 48 cemetery. (Note misspelling of his name.) Credit: Jarratt Family Collection.*

Nurse Yerton later wrote Sallie Jarratt: *“The last three days of his illness, the doctor gave him medicine to make him comfortable and he passed away very peacefully. We all felt so sorry at the death of any of the boys—they were all so brave and wonderful and so perfectly lovely to we nurses. It must be a great comfort to mothers to have such lovely sons and to have them serve in such a wonderful cause.”*

Private Jarratt was buried near Nurse Margaret Worth’s grave in the B.H. 48 cemetery. The U.S. Army then started the administrative process of officially notifying the next of kin of their loved one’s death. On Dec. 6, Private Jarratt’s father, William N. Jarratt II, received a Western Union telegram, which starkly read: *“Deeply regret to inform you that it is officially reported that Private Cary F. Jarratt, injured, died November fifteenth from wounds received in action.”* There was no additional information.

Weeks later, the B.H. 48 chaplain, Rev. Joseph L. Mastaglio (Brooklyn, NY) wrote Private Jarratt’s brother, Richard, and provided additional information: *“He was buried with full military honors, in our cemetery on the hospital grounds located in the village of Mars about 8 miles from the larger town of Nevers in central France. His grave is marked with a cross bearing his name, date of death, and regiment. Hoping this will give you some comfort and that God will help you to bear your cross with humility and resignation, and that you will take your part in this great sacrifice, as faithfully and fearlessly as your brother did. I was just talking to the doctor that attended him, and was with him in his last moments, and he said your brother made no request, and he died easily and quietly.”*

Private Cary Jarratt’s mission “over there” was over.

**Postscript**

After the war ended, Margaret Worth was reburied with 4,153 American soldiers and nurses at the St. Mihiel American Cemetery in Thiaucourt, France. Capt. Robert White and Bertha Yerton were discharged from their service with the Metropolitan Hospital’s B.H.

48 unit and returned to the Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia. Rev. Joseph Mastaglio became a minister at St. Malachy's Catholic Church in New York City. And Private Cary Jarratt, along with 2,100 fallen American comrades, were repatriated to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, where they rest in peace today.

Sources:

Cary F. Jarratt Collection, Letters & Photographs, unpublished by Jarratt Family, 1918-1922.  
Dearborn, Dr. Frederick M., *"American Homeopathy in the World War,"* American Institute of Homeopathy, 1923.

Dirom, Lt. Guy A., "Letter" to Sallie Jarratt, March 17, 1919.

Mastaglio, Chaplain Joseph L., "Letters" to the Jarratts, December 12, 1918 & February 11, 1919.

Matheson, Martin, *"48 – History of U.S. Base Hospital 48,"* Veterans U.S. Base Hospital 48, 1939.

Smith, Dr. Dale C., Professor of Military Medicine, "Interview" concerning WWI Medical Practices, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, 2014.

Yerton, Bertha E., "Letter" to Sallie Jarratt, May 10, 1919.

### Blackwell House Soon to Open with RIHS Help

Long in its construction and even longer in its planning, the refurbished Blackwell House will finally have its ribbon-cutting ceremony sometime this summer. And when it does, the Roosevelt Island Historical Society will have played an important part.

While both New York State and New York City contributed funding, the original seed money—\$365,000—came from the City Council's Department of Cultural Affairs when Jessica Lappin was our council representative. It was funneled through RIHS—a required not-for-profit. This sum plus subsequent funding allowed for exterior repair, complete refurbishment and stabilization of the interior (including the foundation), as well as compliance with American Disabilities Act ramp access. And now in its last phase, interior decoration, the makeover is tapping RIHS archives.



RIHS is contributing the majority of the historic images to be displayed in the first-floor public areas. Almshouse, penitentiary, City Hospital, the Octagon staircase and other echoes of the island's past will enhance the experience of people attending the landmark's eventual community gatherings and social events. Watch for the opening—coming soon!

## Eleanor Roosevelt and the Moral Basis of Democracy

*Blanche Wiesen Cook is Distinguished Professor of History and Women's Studies at John Jay College and Graduate Center (CUNY) and author of a three-volume biography of Eleanor Roosevelt. No surprise then that, on February 7 of this year, when she took the podium at RIHS's library talk, she delivered a powerful account of Eleanor Roosevelt's activities during WWII and after. The audience was treated to several readings from Wiesen Cook's 2016 third volume. And these were punctuated by quotes from the First Lady, many delivered in an eerily good imitation of ER's high-pitched, aristocratic voice.*

"We still have slavery in different forms," Ms. Wiesen Cook quoted. "...many people are debased by poverty or the accident of race... Some of us have too much of this world's goods...and are thereby separated too widely from each other" to appreciate daily hardships and suffering others endure.

This was an essential part of Eleanor Roosevelt's creed. And from 1935 to the end of her life, she wrote a syndicated newspaper column, penned countless articles, and authored 18 books (including the much heralded *The Moral Basis of Democracy*) advocating for universal human rights and equality. In between those efforts, she was a relentless gadfly in person, lecturing, badgering and working behind the scenes to achieve that same goal. What is especially notable, according to the speaker, is that every one of ER's issues remains an issue today. She deplored the rise of fascism, rejected discrimination, and maintained that democracy was not possible without economic justice, health for all and education for all.

### **Fascism (and Refugees)**

Like today, the world of the late 1930s saw political leaders using state power and terror to crush individual liberty and rights. The author's book conveys ER's belief that the struggle against fascism required our own country to foster equal opportunity and

respect, rather than bigotry and violence. Otherwise, democracy—the founding principle of the U.S.—would remain an empty promise.

During the war, she worked tirelessly to rescue Europe's endangered people. She believed in loving thy neighbor as thyself, and her definition of "neighbor" was global. She supported a children's village in Palestine. She worked with the U.S. Committee for the Care of European Children and the Foster Parents Plan for War Children to support and bring British children to safety in the U.S. And when other refugee/asylum initiatives were hopelessly entangled in red tape, she convinced FDR to establish an Emergency Visitors Visa Program to rescue individuals of exceptional merit.



*Eleanor Roosevelt speaks at an AFL-CIO event.*  
Credit: Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation and Archives.

ER had been dismayed by America's now notorious refusal to admit a shipload of Jewish refugees arriving on the *SS St. Louis*. So, when sometime later the *SS Quanza* arrived and only Europeans presumably with valid visas were allowed entry into the country, ER went to work. She pulled strings behind the scenes so that the remaining passengers, mostly Jewish refugees, were ultimately granted permits to disembark.

### Discrimination

Wiesen Cook suggested that FDR was unable to do much to further racial integration because of the entrenched bigotry that existed in the U.S. This did not deter Mrs. Roosevelt. She championed the rights of all minority groups, including Negroes and women.

Throughout WW II, ER advocated for the recruitment of black soldiers and nurses. She championed the Tuskegee airmen and their training as fine pilots, and encouraged acceptance of black women in the WAVES and WACS. She supported the NAACP's protests against separate and discriminatory treatment in the military, although desegregation of the armed forces wouldn't happen until after the Korean War, following Harry Truman's 1948 executive order.

ER reacted with horror to Japanese internment. She visited the internment camps and successfully lobbied to allow some of their young people to attend school and join the military.

Finally, the First Lady worked to end wage differences and the intolerable conditions faced by women and black workers in defense plants.

### Economic Justice

The speaker placed great emphasis on Roosevelt's insistence that political democracy requires economic democracy, while greed debases it. ER decried the existing concentration of wealth and the country's devotion to Mammon. For too long, she claimed, democracy had failed to challenge selfishness; the days of selfishness must be over. "That means an obligation to the coal miners and share croppers, the migratory workers, the tenement-house dwellers and farmers who cannot make a living." Similar to some of the policies being put forth today, she proposed "an economic level below which no one is permitted to fall."

The New Deal actually introduced a type of economic revolution, but ER recognized that there

was still much to be done. She and her allies set out to do nothing short of "humanizing capitalism."

### Health for All

Even back in the 30s and 40s, before medicine was as comprehensive and effective (and expensive) as it is now, it was obvious that both children and adults must be in good health to realize their full potential. ER's friend, Esther Lape, had been collaborating with a group of physicians to convince the government to create a national health care program. It was originally to have been part of the Social Security Act of 1935.

When it seemed FDR was going to change his mind, ER made multiple efforts to set up a meeting between Lape and her husband. To no avail. The meetings were always postponed because FDR did not want to cross the American Medical Association, which, according to Wiesen Cook, was



*ER visits an internment camp. Credit: [nps.com](https://www.nps.com) National Park Service.*





ER scans a published copy of “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” 1949.  
Credit: [nps.com](https://www.nps.com) National Park Service.

### The Ultimate Humanist

As a friend of hers put it, “Eleanor Roosevelt care[d] first and always for people... her every thought [was] for human beings.” *The Moral Basis of Democracy*, which was published in 1940, codified this attitude, making the fulfillment of human ideals the underlying principle of democracy. In fact, it is little known, but FDR’s famous

“Four Freedoms”—freedom of speech and religion and freedom from want and fear—were lifted from ER’s book.

Surely the climax of all her efforts was her work as part of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations. There she was instrumental in hammering out and achieving passage, in 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This was a far-reaching common standard on behalf of fundamental political freedoms, as well as economic and social rights.

ER was convinced that compliance with this document would be a powerful instrument for peace in the world. Her logic was simple: “All people desire peace, but they are led to war because what is offered...seems to be unjust, and they are constantly seeking a way to right that injustice.” In a world described by Wiesen Cook as still struggling for peace, freedom, democracy, justice and dignity, the UDHR is Eleanor Roosevelt’s surrogate and blueprint for hope.

(Editor’s note: [Eleanor Roosevelt Volume One](#) was winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, and Volumes One and Two were New York Times bestsellers. Volume Three covers *The Wars Years and After, 1939–1962.*)

squarely against such a concept. But ER never stopped campaigning for it.

### Education for All

ER believed in “...equal opportunity to achieve success according to each individual’s powers.” But of course that depended (and still depends) on equal education. She considered education to be a critical factor as well in allowing all citizens to participate in democracy and to possess the critical thinking that would shield them from the thrall of demagogues.

While the U.S. had been committed to universal education since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, practical implementation was another matter. Some poor communities had no school; even where there was one, often families were too poor to provide books or clothes or the means to get their children there; and in a number of places, the school year had been curtailed.

Just as she had been inspired by her school, the Allenswood Academy in England, and its headmistress, Marie Souvestre, ER knew children needed the influence of a great teacher. She never ceased campaigning for improving schools and developing qualified, well-paid teachers.

From the RIHS Archive:

## An Object and Its Owner

by Melanie C. Colter

*The Roosevelt Island Historical Society has been collecting materials pertaining to our island's past for over 40 years and encourages use by the public. If you are interested in investigating some aspect of Roosevelt Island history, contact [RooseveltIslandHistory@gmail.com](mailto:RooseveltIslandHistory@gmail.com) for an appointment.*



In 2012, RIHS acquired a true treasure: the exquisite 19<sup>th</sup>-century leather and metal-plated surgical kit belonging to Dr. William M. Leszynsky, resident physician at the Blackwell's Island Lunatic Asylum. Engraved on the front flap, an inscription records an inaugural event in the young doctor's career:

*Presented to W. M.  
Leszynsky, M.D. House  
Physician [of the] Lunatic  
Asylum Blackwell's Island by  
The Commissioner of  
Charities and Corrections,  
Townsend Cox, Jacob Hess,  
Thomas S. Brennan,  
October 1st, 1880.*

Founded in 1834, the Asylum was the first public psychiatric facility established in New York City. So when Leszynsky began his residency there shortly after graduating from New York University Medical College at the

age of 19, it was no doubt a prestigious appointment. It is likely he occupied an apartment arranged for attending doctors and staff in the octagonal tower that has since been restored as the Octagon Apartments and headquarters of the RIHS.

As it turns out, prestige followed Leszynsky throughout his career.

From 1882 through 1896, he instructed neurology students on mental and nervous system diseases at the Nervous and Mental Disease Dispensary at the New York Post Graduate School (predecessor of the NYU School of Medicine). For many years, he worked as Consulting Neurologist to multiple hospitals in the Region (Harlem and People's Hospitals, NYC; Christ Hospital, Jersey City; and Lebanon Hospital, NYC) before he was appointed attending Neurologist of Lebanon Hospital (predecessor of the Bronx-Lebanon Hospital) in 1902.

One would like to think that Leszynsky's surgical kit followed him throughout his career as well. But it is unlikely. The closing years of the 19th century saw the widespread



Dr. William M. Leszynsky, 1859–1923.  
Credit: American Medicine, American Medicine Publishing Co.

institution of antiseptic surgical procedures. Surgical instrument design and materials underwent radical change in order to adapt. Instruments had to be smooth and easily disassembled to expose germ-harboring joints and recesses. They also had to be able to withstand high heat, making decorative wood and ivory handles unsuitable. Equally obsolete were leather cases, replaced by canvas or metal that could be sterilized along with everything else.

We know that Dr. Leszynsky had another side to him in addition to his career in public health and teaching, He was also a prolific writer and scholar, contributing scores of research articles to leading medical journals of the time, and not just in neurology. The nature of his profession required him to also possess a vast knowledge of infectious disease. Actually, his breadth of knowledge in that area made him so highly regarded by

peers, many were inclined to take his advice over that of specialists.

Leszynsky was involved in multiple nonprofit and fraternal organizations, including as President of the Lebanon Hospital Medical Board. By his death in 1923, he had garnered a nation-wide reputation for his meticulous practice in patient care and charismatic leadership in academic circles.

Unfortunately, we know little more of the instrument case. Did Leszynsky keep it throughout the years? Did it occupy a place of honor in his office or home? The object led us to its owner's story, but is silent on its own. If only the kit could talk.

#### Sources:

American Medicine Vol. 29, January-December 1923. American Medical Publishing Company.  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=QcIAQAAIAAJ&pg=PA798&lpg=PA798&dq=William+Leszynsky&source=bl&ots=bBBiwsZvH7&sig=ACfU3U2s oMUqwhv8oQh-1L5idU-T1H8jVQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi49dm92dPhAhUBVN8KHeXkCscQ6AEwBXoECAkQAQ#v=onepage&q=William%20M.%20Leszynsky&f=false>  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=asY0AQAAAMAAJ&pg=PR8&lpg=PR8&dq=Lebanon+Hospital+Alumni+William+M+Leszynsky&source=bl&ots=DwFoVKVe2T&sig=ACfU3U16qWnSkpcyuYKTA4wLKC1DfPDBwg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiOnIG9yOzhAhUDneAKHaWNABQQ6AEwAXoECAoQAQ#v=onepage&q=Lebanon%20Hospital%20Alumni%20William%20M.%20Leszynsky&f=false>  
<https://books.google.com/books?id=FasRAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA469&lpg=PA469&dq=W.+M.+Leszynsky&source=bl&ots=ISvqcWduWr&sig=ACfU3U05csFX7vQcWCMhRqsDvDwwbr5wcQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiYnoGau-zhAhXsRd8KHS7vDSQQ6AEwBXoECAgQAQ#v=onepage&q=W.%20M.%20Leszynsky&f=false>  
"ECHOES AND NEWS." 1902. *Medical News* (1882-1905) 81 (25): 1186.  
DullettuFreeman. (1894, Dec 13). *New York Times* (1857-1922).  
7 CHARITABLE GROUPS SHARE IN LEE ESTATE. (1941, Aug 21). *New York Times* (1923-Current File). *A Brief History of Sterilization*, brnskill.com.

## **RIHS Calendar**

**Roosevelt Island Historical Society Lecture Series—FREE**  
**@ the New York Public Library Branch, 524 Main St., 6:30 pm**

**Thursday, May 9**

### **“Hart Island Project”**

For decades, Potter’s Field on Hart Island and the island itself have been run by the Corrections Department. Melinda Hunt, Trustee of the Hart Island Project, will update us on proposals to change administration of the island to the Parks Department, their implications, and other projects.

**Thursday, June 13**

### **“The Woman in the Iron Coffin”**

Scott Warnasch has been a forensic anthropologist/archaeologist for the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, director of the Human Remains Recovery excavations at the World Trade Center site, consultant to the NYPD and FBI on crime scene search and recovery operations, and has recently opened his own consulting business. He will discuss several forensic search and recovery excavation projects, including the mysterious woman in the iron coffin.

**Thursday, September 12**

### **“Barren Island”**

Carol Zoref discusses her book about the “factory” island in Jamaica Bay where dead horses and other large animals were rendered into glue and fertilizer from the mid-19th century until the 1930s. It is a story of immigrant families who lived their entire lives steeped in the smell of burning animal flesh in a world that no longer exists.

---

**Summer (TBA)**

### **Blackwell House Ribbon-cutting**

Official opening of the newly refurbished landmark.

**Midsummer (TBA)**

### **Walking Tour of Long Island City**

Jack Eichenbaum, geographer and professional tour guide, will lead us from Pepsi to the Anable Basin.

## **Become a Member and Support RIHS**

**You can choose the level of membership that is most appropriate for you and your family. Your dues (and additional donation if you can manage it) will help support the many activities and programs we put on every year.**

**Visit [http://rihs.us/?page\\_id=4](http://rihs.us/?page_id=4)**