

HISTORIC QUEENS BUS TOUR

Saturday, July 18, 2015

Few New Yorkers, even Queens residents, know of the stunning historic sites that exist in our Borough. The Queens Village Republican Club is sponsoring an all-day, all-inclusive, chartered bus tour of six historic sites, one of which will be our venue for lunch. Learn early American history and its development into the middle of the 19th Century by visiting these important landmark places. Reserve early as we are limiting this event to only 40 people. (Starting/ending point at Queens County Farm Museum, 73-50 Little Neck Parkway, Bellerose.)

Cost is \$89. inclusive of transportation, admission fees, guided tours, tips, and lunch.



King Manor in Jamaica takes its name from Rufus King, a member of the Continental Congress, a framer and signer of the Constitution, one of the first senators from New York State, the ambassador to Great Britain under four presidents, and an outspoken opponent of slavery. In 1820, he delivered two of the most radical speeches heard in the Senate before the Civil War. His opposition to the admission of Missouri as a slave state marked the apogee of his long anti-slavery career. After King's death in 1827, his eldest son, John Alsop King, continued to operate the farm and made further improvements to the House. John served as a congressman and governor of NY State.



❖
Friends Meeting House of Flushing is the oldest house of worship in New York City (1694) and is still in active use. A cemetery is located in the rear (shown in image at left.) The Quakers defied the government which only permitted worship in the Dutch Reformed Church. They were punished, but they protested their treatment (a long story which you will learn about at the site) which led to the writing of the Flushing Remonstrance in 1657. These actions led ultimately to the establishment of the principal of freedom of religion in America.



❖
Bowne House in Flushing is the oldest house still standing in Queens, built at least by 1661. John Bowne let the Quakers worship in his house until their Meeting House was built on Northern Boulevard, just a couple of blocks away. Bowne was punished for aiding in worship in other than the Dutch Reformed religion by the Governor of New Amsterdam, Peter Stuyvesant. Stuyvesant's soldiers arrested Bowne, imprisoned him, tried and fined him. Bowne pled his case before the Dutch West India Company. In 1663, the Burghers in Holland wrote to Stuyvesant ending the severe punishment. In 1664 the British took over New Amsterdam and named it New York. The Quakers met twice a week in Bowne's home for 30 years without fear of disturbance.



❖
The Douglaston Club in the Douglaston Historic District was originally a two-story mansion built in 1819 by Wynant Van Zandt who once owned the entire peninsula. It was a large house because he had 11 sons and 4 daughters. It has been home to the Douglaston Club, a private yacht club formed in 1918, since 1921. The Club is located in the Douglas Manor Historic District. Our lunch will be taken in this building which still feels like a grand private home. Lunch will include salads, wraps, coffee, soda, and cookies.



❖
Poppenhusen Institute in College Point was built by German immigrant Conrad Poppenhusen, built a company town around his hard rubber plant. He built homes for his workers (some of which still stand) and built this multi-functional building that served as a community center and town hall. We will visit the grand ballroom on the second floor and the jail cells in the basement. This French Empire-styled Victorian building was home to the first free kindergarten in America in 1870. We will visit that room as well. The Institute may well be the oldest surviving non-church non-profit in Queens.



❖
Queens County Farm Museum in Bellerose is one of the oldest continuously farmed sites in New York State, going back to 1697. The current 47-1/2 acres constitute the largest remaining tract of farmland in New York City. The Adriance Farmhouse was built around 1772. We will also visit the greenhouses, barnyard, and livestock as well. This museum is the most visited farm museum in the United States, if not the world, serving upwards of 450,000 people a year. The site contains a gift shop, plant shop and produce shop.

All participants will receive a free Souvenir Journal as a keepsake of this trip.

For further information, call James Trent at 718-343-8830

✂-----
Please reserve ____ seats (state number) on the Historic Queens Bus Tour for July 18, 2015. Make checks out to the Queens Village Republican Club and send to James Trent, 242-33 90th Avenue, Bellerose, NY 11426-1115. E-mail: jtrent8830@aol.com.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

For ads in Souvenir Journal, submit camera ready copy via mail or e-mail. Rate: \$100 for full page, \$75 for 1/2 page. Page: 7"x8-1/2".