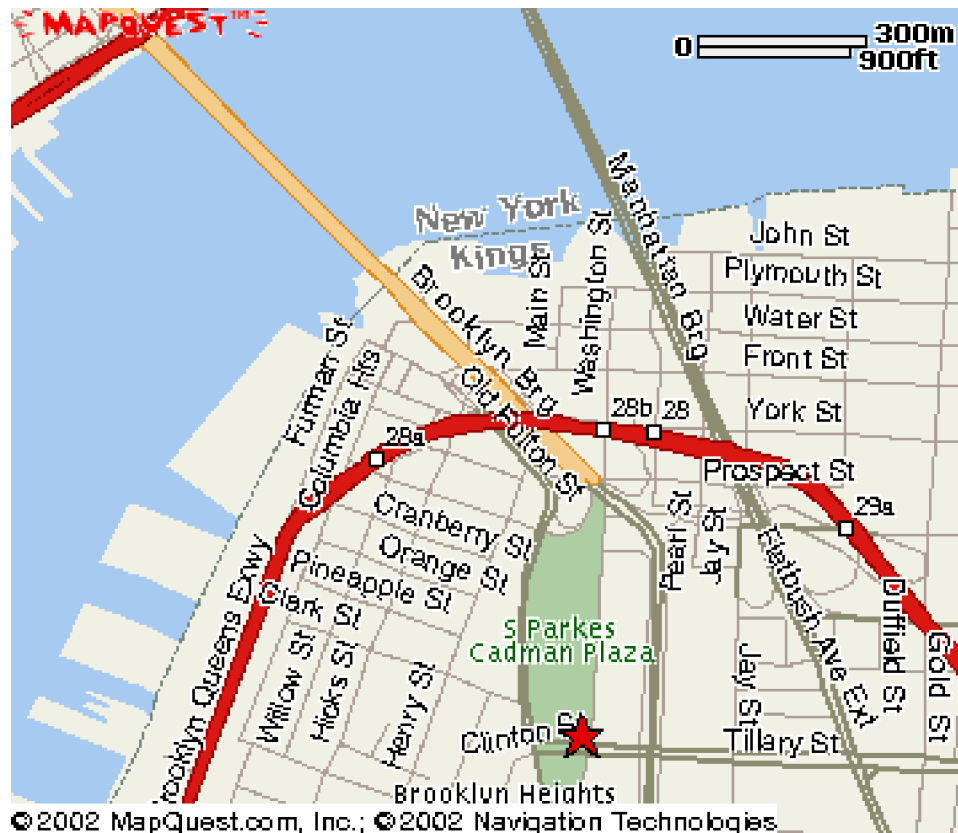


## Downtown Brooklyn Map



Excerpts below are from *A History of the City of Brooklyn including the Old Town and Village of Brooklyn, the Town of Bushwick, and the Village and City of Williamsburgh, vol. II*, by Henry R. Stiles.

### Document 1. People and Buildings from Guy's "Snow Scene of Brooklyn in 1820"

On the corner of Front Street and the Old Road was the large and very old (wood) frame building. It was occupied as a hardware store by Thomas W. Birdsall and Joel Bunce. Above Birdsall's corner was the residence of Abiel Titus. It was a small dwelling (house) with a narrow front on Fulton Street. In the picture, Titus is feeding his chickens in the gateway of the yard between his house and barn. He supported the loyalist side during the revolution and was servant to a major in the British army. Later he was a butcher.

Next to this house was a large one and a half-story house built of small yellow bricks. On one side of this house was a wheelwright shop. On the other side was Mrs. Eagles' candy shop. She was a somewhat remarkable female known as "The American Heroine." According to tradition, she had worn a uniform and seen service in the revolutionary war.

On the southerly corner of Sands Street, was John Harmer's cloth factory. About 1819, he erected a new factory in Middagh, near Fulton street. Harmer was an Englishman and a great infidel (he did not believe in God). He was a friend and great admirer of Thomas Paine, author of *The Age of Reason*. Harmer was a man of considerable property. James Street was simply a passage way up from Front Street, containing a few small buildings, mostly occupied by Negroes.

### Questions

1. What types of buildings and occupations are described in this passage?

2. What do we learn about Mr. Titus, Mrs. Eagles and Mr. Hammer?
3. According to this passage, where do African Americans live?
4. What do you learn about life in Brooklyn in the early nation period from this passage?

### **Document 2. Characters from the Early History of Brooklyn**

The north-east corner of Prospect street and Stewart's alley, is most pleasantly associated, in the mind of early Brooklynites, with a famous restaurant kept there for many years, by John Joseph, otherwise better known as Johnny Joe. He was a native of Martinique, West Indies, from whence he was brought, about 1795, by a Frenchman, who left him in New York, to serve for a time as a waiter in several families. At the commencement of the war of 1812, he accompanied Captain Alexander Hamilton (son of the great statesman), to Governor's Island, which was then occupied as a recruiting station. From there he went to Canada with Captain Jeremiah Hayden. He returned here in 1825, with a snug little fortune of some \$1,600 in gold, the result of diligent industry and careful economy; married a West Indian mulatto woman, and taking a lease of the building on Prospect Street, opened a restaurant which he continued for some twenty years. He expended (spent) considerable money in the repairs of these buildings, and was not fortunate in his tenants. In the end, although his immediate business had been popular and successful, the expenses of his real estate swallowed up his earnings. He surrendered his lease and retired upon a small piece of land in Queens county, near Jericho, at a place called Bushy Plains, where he resides with his wife in a settlement of colored people, working very diligently for a living.

On, or near the present corner of Main and York Streets, was John Moon's house, and his next neighbor, was the house and garden of Capt. John O. Zuill, master of the good ship Gleaner, in the West India trade. He married a daughter of Bishop Roorback, of New York; was a hearty, sociable man, of some note in Brooklyn society, and an estimable citizen.

#### **Questions**

1. Who was John Joseph?
2. Why are John Joseph's achievements important?
3. Who was John Zuill?
4. What do you learn about life in Brooklyn in the early nation period from this passage?

### **Document 3. Characters from the Early History of Brooklyn**

Israel and Timothy Horsfield were men of mark (wealth) in their day. They were the sons of Timothy Horsfield, of Liverpool, England, where they were born. Israel came to this country in 1720, and became a freeman (citizen) of New York, on the 13th of December, of the same year. About three years after, his brother Timothy arrived and entered into business with him, as butchers.

Long Island at that time furnished the New York market with most of its live stock. They built a wharf at the foot of the present Doughty Street, together with a slaughtering place and the necessary buildings for residence. The next year they leased the two best stands in the Old Slip Market in the city of New York; their dressed meats being brought over daily, in rowboats by their own slaves, to their stands in the market. Israel Horsfield, in 1738, had a family of ten persons, three of whom were colored men, and slaves. He and his brother afterwards had the misfortune to lose some of their "chattels," who were put to death for complicity in the "Great Negro Plot" of 1741. The Horsfields accumulated a large property and owned a considerable amount of land on the Heights, near the ferry. Israel, Jr succeeded his father in the business of a butcher, but not with the same success. In 1755, he had one slave, Chalsey.

John Carpenter was also a butcher. He and his brother Benjamin were sons of George and Elizabeth Carpenter, who came from Long Island, about 1718, to the city of New York, of which the father became a freeman (citizen), entering into business as a butcher, which he continued until his death, about 1730. His widow then carried on the business, with the help of her sons, and became a very successful butcheress. In the Negro Plot of 1741, she lost two of her most valuable butcher slaves, one of whom was burned at the stake, and another transported; while in 1756, she lost one by running away, and again in 1759.

**Questions**

1. Who were Israel and Timothy Horsfield?
2. Who were the Carpenters?
3. Why did the Horsfields and Carpenters “lose some of their ‘chattels’” as a result of the “Great Negro Plot” of 1741?
4. What do you learn about life in Brooklyn in the colonial period from this passage?