Queens Name Explorer Spotlight On Wilson Rantus of Elmhurst

Wilson Rantus (1807-1861) was a free African American businessman, farmer, and politician who played a key role in the fight for the rights of African American citizens in the 19th century. Rantus operated a farm and a cemetery in Elmhurst, Queens, and was a leader in the community, advocating for equal rights and representation.

The Wilson Rantus Rock, located on the Queens College campus, is a commemorative boulder that honors Rantus' legacy. The boulder is an example of the Queens Memory Project's efforts to recognize and celebrate the contributions of local heroes.

Calling hacktivists and historians:

Join the Queens Memory Project in presenting the Queens Name Explorer Edit-a-Thon! This event will bring together volunteers to create and edit entries in Wikidata, raising awareness of Queens' diverse local heroes. The edit-a-thon is part of NYC's Open Data Week and will be centered on climate-focused programming.

There will be refreshments and prizes for participants. This is a great opportunity to hone your open data skills and contribute to the diverse narratives of Queens.

Queens Public Library at Douglaston/Little Neck branch has partnered with community members, Wilson Rantus family, and Queens Memory Project to produce an edit-a-thon focused on Queens' named streets, schools, buildings, parks, and monuments with the Queens Memory Project to produce an edit-a-thon focused on Queens' named streets, schools, buildings, parks, and monuments.

This program is made possible by the generous support of NYC Councilmember Julie Won.

The Rantus family farm and cemetery were located in Elmhurst, Queens, adjacent to the site on which Queens College now sits.

Queens College SEEK History Project.

February Oral History Spotlights an Attorney, and Queens College Alum Hwesu Samuel Murray

Murray was interviewed by Obden Mondesir, as part of the Queens Memory Project for a virtual walking tour that explores a sampling of the diverse musicians who've practiced their art in our borough.