

1,000 Mark Restoration Of Joseph Drake Park

April 19, 1962

More than 1,000 pupils from PS 48, Joseph Rodman Drake School, participated in rededication ceremonies Monday of Joseph Rodman Drake Park, Oak Point and Hunts Point Aves.

Aided by Joseph Levine, principal of PS 48, the children planted a pin oak tree, and one of them, Armando Montano, 13, read the beginning of the Bronx poet's tribute to the American Flag:

When Freedom from her mountain
height

unfurled her standard to the air.
She tore the azure robe of night,
and set the stars of glory there.

Drake died in 1820. His grave, surrounded by a high iron fence, is one of a score on a knoll in the park. Many of the tombstones were

Army, Ryuku Islands. He is a clerk in the 57th Ordnance Co. there. broken and hedges uprooted up by vandals last spring, and the rededication ceremony noted the restoration of the park.

With members of the Bronx County Historical Society, Simpson St. Police Pct., and other persons watching, a gray granite block, dated April 12, was unveiled to mark the rededication. The event was postponed because of the teachers' strike and rain.