Resource Guide to the Lower Hudson River Valley
By: Brittany Angelini, Katie Fitzpatrick, Katie Harty, David Martinson, Michael Tricomi, Brigitte Vargas

The Lower Hudson River Valley is located in the southern section of New York State, right above Manhattan and Long Island. For the purpose of this resource guide, the counties focused on in this region include that of Orange, Dutchess, Rockland and Westchester. The Hudson River divides these counties, placing Orange and Rockland to the West and Dutchess and Westchester to the East. This area was founded roughly around 1609 when Henry Hudson sailed the Half Moon down the Hudson River. Since the founding of this area, this body of water has been arguably the most important feature of the region. The river was a reliable source of transportation in the early days of the colony, flowing vertically through New York to connect the upstate communities and Canada with New York City and the Atlantic. More importantly, however, the Hudson River allowed for extensive trade with other merchants and settlers, as well as with the indigenous populations that inhabited the territory. The Hudson River was an enormous economic advantage to New York because it played such a vital role in the fur trade and was able to generate prosperity for both European traders and the Indians who caught and skinned the animals for pelts. The settlements established along the river were primarily Dutch at the start of New York’s colonization and became more culturally diverse after England took over the colony in 1664, accepting Irish and German immigrants and, of course, the British colonists. This resource guide therefore includes many historical sites and resources that have roots in a multitude of ethnic identities.

The colony of New York was involved both in the French and Indian War as well as the Revolutionary War, with a larger role played in the former. The Hudson River Valley, while not directly involved too heavily in either case, still saw the unraveling of events that would result in the creation of the United States we know today.

The purpose of this guide is to provide a comprehensive reference to historical resources of the Lower Hudson River Valley. The sources and information compiled here will be extremely useful in the research of local histories in this region of the state. In the Lower Hudson River Valley, there is a substantial amount of historical markers and cemeteries, all of which have been included in this guide. The cemeteries are very interesting, as there is evidence that a number are of Dutch heritage and also the wide range of religious denominations suggest the diversity of New York’s population dating back even to its founding. The numerous war memorials and dedications to those who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks suggest that New York has had experience with and played a part in very many tragic events in our country’s history. Monuments and memorials in this region span the entire history New York, keeping in memory such events as the Civil War to the Vietnam War to historic people like Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic homes and sites are also representing of our country’s extensive history, including such sites as Revolutionary War encampments to the impressive Vanderbilt Mansion in Poughkeepsie.
The heritage resources of the Lower Hudson Valley, if not anything, demonstrate the incredible history our country has seen since the first discoveries of early explorers and retains memories of all the important people and events that have come to shape New York and the United States.

I. Cemeteries

Information provided by Google Maps and individual cemetery websites

Westchester County


- A link to current Cemeteries within Westchester
- A list of older cemeteries that volunteers have transcribed of the older stones of the following cemeteries before they fade away.
- Articles Published in Periodicals about Westchester's Cemeteries

Kensico Cemetery Garage
30 Commerce Park, Valhalla, NY
(914) 684-9076 kensico.org

- Organized under the “act authorizing the incorporation of Rural Cemetery Association” passed on in 1874. It is recognized as one the most beautiful cemeteries in the United States. Many famous authors and artist were buried here and tours are given of the cemetery.

Ferncliff Cemetery
280 Secor Road, Hartsdale, NY
(914) 693-4700· ferncliffcemetery.com

- Founded in 1902. Many famous Singers, writers, and leaders are buried here such as the opera singer Paul Althouse, Hall of Fame professional golfer Tommy Armour, U.S. Congressman from Connecticut Albert Austin, Civil rights leader Malcolm X, and many more.

Cemetery of the Gate of Heaven
10 W Stevens Ave, Hawthorne, NY
(914) 769-3672

- Roman Catholic burial site establish in 1917. Amongst the most famous buried here are Babe Ruth, and Medal of Honor winner of WWI, Veteran Richard W. O’Neill.

Woodlawn Cemetery
East 233rd Street, New York, N
(718) 920-0500 thewoodlawnecemtery.org

- Established in 1863 and is a National Historic Landmark. The Annie Bliss Titanic
Victims Memorial is there. Around 300,000 are buried here.

**White Plains Rural Cemetery**  
167 North Broadway, White Plains, NY  
(914) 949-0072  
- Established 1855. Apart of the National Register of Historic Places in 1999. One of the many rural cemeteries of this time period.

**Dale Cemetery**  
104 Havell Street, Ossining, NY  
(914) 941-1155 dalecemetery.com  
- Established in 1851, it was first owned by The Dale Cemetery Association and was not given to the Town of Ossining until 2004. Congressmen and governors are buried here.

**Oakland Cemetery**  
Yonkers, NY  
(914) 963-1077 oaklandcemetery.net  
- Established around 1783 and was first used for Revolutionary War under the name of St. John Burial Grounds. 1873 the name was changed to Oakland Cemetery. Civil War Veterans are also buried here. It is known to be haunted.

**Dutchess County**

- On this website one can find a list of old cemeteries located in Dutchess County. Most of the listings are taken from Poucher’s “Old Gravestones in Dutchess County.” The cemeteries are listed under the towns they are located in. There are links to lists of who was buried within the cemeteries.

**Dutchess County Cemeteries**

**Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery**  
342 South Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY  
(845) 454-6020 · poughkeepsieruralcemetery.com  
- Established in 1853. This land was first owned by Mathew Vassar (Founded Vassar College) and he was a part of the committee to create the cemetery. This cemetery was a part of the “Rural Cemeteries” revolution, where Americans buried their beloved deceased. Many veterans are buried here.

**St Paul's Lutheran Cemetery**  
7370 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY  
(845) 758-2379  
- Has sandstone graves and marble. The Earliest grave appeared in 1813. None of the
headstones are marked due to the funeral art. Many Palatine German refugees from the War of Spanish Succession are buried here

Fishkill Rural Cemetery
801 New York State Bicycle Route 9, Fishkill, NY
(845) 896-6227 · fishkillruralcemetery.com
- It was the public burial grounds of this area. Isaac Cotheal and Jas E. Van Steenbeegh helped organized this cemetery within the year 1866.

Orange County

- This website has a list of Cemetery Records. The website has links were one can find records of who was buried within the cemetery, location, pictures, and some of the websites have a small amount of background information on the cemetery.

Orange County Cemeteries

Hillside Cemetery
Middletown, NY
- Rural cemetery established 1861. Many examples of Funeral art. It is a part of the National Register of Historic Places. A Civil war Medal of Honor winner is buried here.

Orange County Cemeteries (with no further information Available)

Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery
141 Sarah Wells Trail, Campbell Hall, NY
(845) 496-5506 · holyspirit-saintandrew.org

Wallkill Cemetery Associates
160 Midway Road, Middletown, NY
(845) 343-6176

Slate Hill Cemetery
Goshen, NY

Cemetery of the Highlands
Woodbury, NY
(845) 928-9122 · cemeteryofthehighlands.com

St Stephen's Cemetery
75 Sanfordville Road, Warwick, NY
(845) 986-3838
Saint James Cemetery
Goshen, NY

Rockland County


- This website is a file that attempts to list all known cemeteries in Rockland County, including the past and present, the active and abandoned. They are listed by town, then by village and finally, alphabetically. It is not complete, but represents all that have been located in published information to date. Some sources list cemeteries and locations. Other list individual graves and birth and death dates.

Rockland County Cemeteries

Reformed Church of West New Hempstead Cemetery
221 Brick Church Road, Spring Valley, NY
(845) 354-6785 · churches.rca.org

- The Church within this Cemetery was founded by Dutch settlers in 1774. Revolutionary veterans and original settlers were buried here.

Airmont Lutheran Cemetery
3 Church Road, Suffern, NY
(845) 357-3344

- Established in 1720, and the first head dates back to 1745. It was a predominantly Dutch Cemetery

Tappan Reformed Church

- The Church associated with this Cemetery is Reformed Church of Tappan, established in 1694 and is a historic church, with a marker in the Cemetery. American Revolutionary War Soldiers are buried here. Some of the head stones are in Dutch.

Reformed Church of West Hempstead
221 Brick Church Road, Spring Valley, NY
(845) 354-6785

- The church was built 1856. Historical Dutch Cemetery. The complex is composed of a Church, School, and superintendent’s house. In late nineteenth century a bell tower was built. In 1984 it was listed as a National Register of Historic Place.

Sleepy Hollow Cemetery
Sleepy Hollow, NY
(914) 631-0081 · sleepyhollowcemetery.org

- There is a 112 year old underground receiving vault. There are two-hour walking tours.

**Rockland County Cemeteries (with no further information Available)**

**Gates of Zion Cemetery**  
670 Saddle River Road, Airmont, NY  
(845) 352-3102 · jewishmemorialchapel.com  
- Family owned Jewish Cemetery. Established in 1930.

**Veterans Memorial Park**  
15 Cedar Street, Nyack, NY

**Germonds Presbyterian Cemetery**  
46 Germonds Road, New City, NY  

**Ascension Cemetery**  
650 Saddle River Road, Airmont, NY  
(845) 352-7220

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**II. Hudson Valley Monuments**

"Fieldguide to U.S. Public Monuments and Memorials."

- Through this website. One can find the name, the location, content, pictures, and design, setting, theme, demography, and description for every monument. There is also a search box where one can look up other areas or monuments.
- Using art and language, American society creates public monuments and memorials to express collective appreciation and display civic memory. *Fieldguide* gathers data about the content, design, setting, themes and demography of these public works. Based on this data and through this website, it provides site images and data analysis as well as mapping capabilities.

**Westchester County**

"Fieldguide to U.S. Public Monuments and Memorials :: The Monuments : Search Options."

- One can find 513 monuments and memorials within Westchester County.
- There are many newer monuments and memorials in Westchester for 9/11. There are also older ones for veterans from Civil war, World War I, World War II, The Korean
War, The Vietnam War and for war mothers. There are also monuments for Firefighters, Police, and some historic individuals such as Columbus and S.T. Armstrong.

**Dutchess County**

"Fieldguide to U.S. Public Monuments and Memorials :: The Monuments : Search Options."


- One can find fourteen monuments and memorials within Duchess County through this website
- Majority of the Monuments and Memorials are for firefighters, police, and War Veterans (Civil War, World War One, Pearl Harbor, Atom Bomb Victims from World War II, Vietnam War).

**Orange County**

"Fieldguide to U.S. Public Monuments and Memorials :: The Monuments : Search Options."


- One can find thirteen monuments and memorials when one searches Orange County through this website. However many of the monuments are actually in neighboring Counties such as Westchestcher County and Rockland County. Only four of the monuments and memorials that come up are actually in Orange County.
- The four monuments within Orange County are for Orange County Veterans, Martin Luther King Jr., Lummi Healing Pole, and Firefighters.

**Rockland County**

"Fieldguide to U.S. Public Monuments and Memorials :: The Monuments : Search Options."


- One can find eleven monuments and memorials when one searches Rockland County through this website (however, one of them are actually located in Westchester County). The ten monuments within Rockland Counties are for Brink Robbery Memorial Brown O’Grady Paige, Nyack Turnpike Founding Opening, Pelco NY Memorial 9/11, Trade Center Bombing 9/11 WTC, British 17th Foot, Firefighters, Stony Point Memorial Arch, Time Capsule 2019 Wayne Hose, Wayne’s Light Infantry, Andre Monument, Larchmont Virtual War Memorial.

**III. Historical Markers in the Lower Hudson Region:**
Westchester County Markers


- This site has a list of all 2889 Marker within New York state. One can search by County for Markers and then the Markers are listed under Towns.
- In 1923 the New York Historical Association was directed to suggest possible celebrations for the upcoming "150th Anniversary of the American Revolution". The Commissioner of Education was directed to arrange the commemoration of the Sesquicentennial, including "...markers to designate sites that are of historic significance in the colonial, revolutionary or state formative period...".
- The State Historic Marker Program, which was managed by the Education Department’s State History office as an active field program from 1926 to 1966, has now become largely an advisory and database management program. The markers are maintained by the Museum. Although historic markers are no longer funded by state appropriations, information on past markers continues to serve as a database for research, marker replacement, and tourism development. Organizations wishing to erect new markers are provided with information and procedures and this Division acts as a clearinghouse for proposals to monument local historic sites.
- These are some highlighted towns that are located near us.

**County of Westchester: Town of Courtland**

**CAMP SMITH** NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD TRAINING CAMP

ESTABLISHED 1882. CONTAINS 1900 ACRES NAMED FOR ALFRED E. SMITH GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK

Location: SEMINARY AVE., NO. OF ENTRANCE TO SEMINARY

<http://dmna.ny.gov/campsmith/index.php>
CROMPOUND ROAD MAIN ROAD FROM YORKTOWN TO PEEKSKILL IN COLONIAL DAYS AND DURING THE REVOLUTION. Location: US 202, E. OF PEEKSKILL, CLINTON AVE. & CROMPOUND RD.

JAN PEECK BRIDGE NAMED TO COMMEMORATE THE PLACE WHERE JAN PEECK, DUTCH TRADER, 1640-1650, MET INDIANS TO TRADE FOR FURS. Location: US 6, US 9 AND US 202, SO. OF PEEKSKILL CREEK BRIDGE.

JAN PEECK BRIDGE NAMED TO COMMEMORATE THE PLACE WHERE JAN PEECK, DUTCH TRADER, 1640-1650, MET INDIANS TO TRADE FOR FURS. Location: US 6, US 9 AND US 202, NO. OF PEEKSKILL CREEK BRIDGE.

KINGS FERRY IMPORTANT RIVER CROSSING IN COLONIAL DAYS AND DURING THE REVOLUTION. USED BY FRENCH AND AMERICAN ARMIES ON MARCH TO YORKTOWN IN 1782. Location: KINGS FERRY RD., NEAR VERPLANCK.

POST HANNOCH HOUSE OWNER OPERATED KINGS FERRY 1664. COLONEL LIVINGSTON'S HEADQUARTERS, 1781. WASHINGTON PRESENTED MEDALS TO CAPTORS OF ANDRE HERE IN 1782. Location: KINGS FERRY RD., 1 MI. W. OF US 9.

County: WESTCHESTER Town: SCARSDALE.

SITE OF JAMES FENIMORE COOPER RESIDENCE ERECTED 1817. HERE WAS WRITTEN THE SPY 1821. Location: MAMARONECK RD. BETWEEN MURRAY HILL & KELWYNNE RD.

County: ROCKLAND Town: ORANGETOWN

"76 HOUSE" WHERE MAJOR JOHN ANDRE, BRITISH SPY, PLOTTER WITH ARNOLD
TO DELIVER WEST POINT, WAS CONFINED BEORE HIS EXECUTION. Location: MAIN & WASHINGTON STS. IN TAPPAN.

DE WINDT HOUSE WAS WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS SETP. 28 - OCT. 2, 1780 DURING THE TRIAL OF ANDRE, BRITISH SPY, PLOTTER WITH BENEDICT ARNOLD. Location: OAK TREE RD. IN TAPPAN.

GENERAL LAFAYETTE LIVED HERE IN A HOUSE ON THE BOGART FARM IN 1780. OPPOSITE IS SPRING USED BY CONTINENTAL ARMY CAMPED ON THE WEST RIDGE. Location: WESTERN HWY. IN TAPPAN.

THE MANSE BUILT 1726, DOMINIE SAMUEL VERBRYCK LIVED HERE DURING THE REVOLUTION. HE WAS FRIEND OF WASHINGTON. HE FOUNDED RUTGERS COLLEGE, N. J. Location: WESTWOOD-OLD TAPPAN RD., W. OF GREENBUSG RD., IN TAPPAN.

TRIAL OF ANDRE THE BRITISH SPY, ANDRE WAS FOUND GUILTY, IN THE DUTCHESS CHURCH WHICH STOOD, IN 1780, ON THE SITE OF THE EDIFICE. Location: MAIN ST., NORTH OF WASHINGTON ST. IN TAPPAN.

TURN LEFT AT LIGHT DE WINDT HOUSE GEORGE WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS. SEPT. 28 - OCT. 2, 1780. Location: ON US 9W AT OAK TREE RD.

WASHINGTON'S CAMP ON THE RIDGE WEST, 1782, THE AMERICAN ARMY, AFTER ITS RETURN FROM YORKTOWN, ENCAMPED UNDER GENERALS WASHINGTON AND GREENE. Location: WESTERN HWY. & WASHINGTON AVE. IN TAPPAN.

ANDRE MONUMENT ON THE HILL SOUTH IS THE SITE OF THE GALLOWS WHERE MAJOR JOHN ANDRE, BRITISH SPY, WAS HANGED, AND BURIED, ON OCT. 2, 1780. Location: SUMMIT AVE. & OLD TAPPAN RD. IN TAPPAN.

County: ORANGE Town: CORNWALL

NEW YORK, NEW HAMPSHIRE AND NEW JERSEY TROOPS QUARTERED 2500 FEET N.E. IN HUTS ON WEST BANK OF SILVER STREAM 1782-83. Location: ON N. SIDE NYS 94 AT RILEY RD. INSTRSCTN. 1 MI. W. VAILS GATE

County: DUTCHESS Town: WAPPINGER

MESIER PARK: PRE-REVOLUTIONARY HOUSE, HOME OF MESIER FAMILY FROM 1777 TO 1890, ACQUIRED BY VILLAGE 1891. Location: NYS 9D, AT WAPPINGERS FALLS.

County: ORANGE Town: MONTGOMERY
HOME OF JOHN NICHOLSON: 1743-1811, WHO HELD MANY PUBLIC OFFICES AND SERVED AS COLONEL IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. Location: ON NYS 208 AT MAYBROOK

IV. HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Historical Society of the Town of Warwick, NY
http://www.warwickhistoricalsociety.org/v1/
2 Colonial Avenue
Warwick, New York 10990
(845) 986-3236

- The Historical Society of the Town of Warwick preserves the history of the community and uses this knowledge to educate the public. This society conserves local historic sites such as the Baird’s Tavern and Hasbrouk Carriage House and the Azariah Ketchum House. The society is also enlisted to give tours of these sites as a means to spread the knowledge gained by such conservation of the local history.

Historical Society of Walden and the Wallkill Valley
http://www.thewaldenhouse.org
Barbara Imbasciani, President
magic318@hvc.rr.com

- The Historical Society of Walden and the Wallkill Valley is a non-profit organization. Their mission is to preserve “the rich history of the Jacob T. Walden House and the surrounding area of Walden, Town of Montgomery, Orange County, New York”. The society also distributes a newsletter biannually. In addition, some members have written several books such as The Grace Murder Case by Lisa Melville, and For the Average Person by Joyce B. Concors.

Middletown and New Jersey Railway Historical Society
http://www.mnjrhs.org/
P.O. Box 848
New Hampton, NY 10958-0848
fairmont2@hotmail.com

- The Middletown and New Jersey Railway Historical Society, established in 1994, is another non-profit association dedicated to preserving and allocate the history of this railroad. It conserves “artifacts, historical records and experience of the railroad’s employees, customers and their employees, passengers and all whose lives were affected by the M&NJ and its predecessors”. The society also publishes a newsletter, The Unionville Flyer, four times a year that contains recent discoveries, new historical articles, etc.

Minisink Valley Historical Society
http://www.minisink.org/
125-133 West Main Street
Port Jervis, NY 12771
(845) 856-2375

- The Minisink Valley Historical Society collects any relevant information pertaining to the early settlers of the Minisink Valley. This society organizes this information and preserves any
artifacts relating to this time period. The society also provides its own reading room in the Port Jervis Free Library, with volunteers available on Thursday evenings.

**Dutchess County Historical Society**  
[http://dutchesscountyhistoricalsociety.org/contact.html](http://dutchesscountyhistoricalsociety.org/contact.html)  
The Clinton House  
549 Main Street  
Poughkeepsie, NY  
(845) 471-1630  
- The Dutchess County Historical Society care for two historic homes, and several collections of artifacts. In addition, the organization supports tutors, internships, seminars as well as workshops. The society also hosts a celebratory dinner for members and individuals who have been distinguished in honor of their contributions to local history.

**Westchester Country Historical Society**  
2199 Saw Mill River Road  
Elmsford, NY 10523  
(914) 592-4323  
- The Westchester Country Historical Society, established in 1874, acts as another non-profit association running solely on the contributions of trustees, member fees, and donations. The mission of the society “is to collect and preserve books, pamphlets, maps, manuscripts, photographs, newspapers, periodicals, film, video and digital materials pertaining to the history of Westchester County, to promote the knowledge and understanding of that history, and to advocate for the preservation of the county's architectural heritage”.

**Rockland County Historical Society**  
20 Zukor Road  
New City, NY 10956  
(845) 634-9629  
- "The Historical Society of Rockland County acquires, preserves, and exhibits objects, buildings, and sites which reflect primarily the history of Rockland County and the Lower Hudson Valley, and researches, documents, promotes, and publicizes the rich historical heritage of the county for the people of Rockland."

**Tappantown Historical Society**  
[http://www.tappantown.org/aboutus.html](http://www.tappantown.org/aboutus.html)  
P.O. Box 71  
Tappan, NY 10983  
(914) 359-7790  
- Since being founded in 1965, the Tappantown Historical Society has been charged with the duty to protect, and restore local historical building and sites. This society provides educational programs, walking tours and historical materials as a means to engage the local population interest in the heritage.
Historical Society of the Nyacks
http://www.nyackhistory.org/welcome.html
P.O. Box 850
Nyack, NY 10960
(845) 358-0552

- The Historical Society of the Nyacks entertains the population with interesting activities such as the John Scott Armchair Tours, and collections on display in the Nyack Library. The purpose of this society, much like the other historical societies, is primarily “to researching, preserving and fostering appreciation of the history” in the local community.

Sloatsburg Historical Society
http://www.sloatsburgny.com/History.htm
Orange Turnpike
Sloatsburg, NY 10974
(845) 753-2071
(845) 753-2030

- This society promotes the preservation of historical specimens and displays their collection in the local public library. The organization also “conducts an annual educational program for 4th grade students at the Sloatsburg Elementary School”. As a result, the Sloatsburg Historical Society prides itself on being chartered and recognized by the New York State Education Department.

African American Historical Society of Rockland County
http://www.aahsorockland.org/
P.O. Box 652
Piermont, NY 10968
(845) 359-2267

- The African American Historical Society of Rockland County is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is “to promote and educate the public regarding the historical, social and cultural experiences of People of the African Diaspora in Rockland County; to identify, research, preserve and disseminate accurate and appropriate historical and genealogical information; to gather, collect, own, hold, preserve, display and make available for study appropriate historical artifacts, books, manuscripts, papers, photographs and other records and materials; to organize and sponsor seminars, forums, workshops, meetings, programs and events, sponsor exhibits and issue publications. Towards those ends, we endeavor to identify, research and preserve the legacies, lore and historical sites of the People of the African Diaspora.” This organization also has a local cultural center called Rockland African Diaspora Heritage Center (RADHC).

Orange County Genealogical Society
http://www.ocgsny.org/
101 Main Street
Goshen, NY 10924

- The Orange County Genealogical Society, founded in 1971, is an organization designated “to encourage genealogical research by educating the public about the study of genealogical records. We also collect and preserve family and genealogical records and papers pertaining to, but not limited to, the past and present inhabitants of Orange County.”
The Wappingers Historical Society was created in 1967, when John Ferris, a fourth generation local resident, realized that much of the Village's history was being discarded or given away.

Hudson River Heritage
P.O. Box 287
Rhinebeck NY 12572
President: Warren Temple Smith, R.A.
(845) 876-2474
office@hudsonriverheritage.org

Hudson River Heritage (HRH) is a nonprofit membership organization committed to preserving the unique character of the Mid-Hudson Valley’s historic architecture, rural landscapes and scenic views through education, advocacy and community involvement.

Little Nine Partners Historical Society
P.O. Box 243
Pine Plains, NY 12567
littleninepartners@gmail.com

Our mission is to foster 1) the study of the history of the area known as the 1706 Little Nine Partners patent in Dutchess County, NY, and 2) the conservation of the elements of that history.

For the following societies, Katie Fitzpatrick was unable to contact them to gain more information:

Rockland Civil War Round Table
P.O. Box 849
Pearl River, NY 10965
(845) 623-0560

Founded in 1995, the Rockland Civil War Round Table is a non-profit organization dedicated to exploring, discussing, understanding and preserving the history of the American Civil War.

Historians Round Table of Rockland County
20 Zukor Road
New City, NY 10956
(845) 947-1231

Piermont Historical Society
616 River Road
Piermont, NY 10968
Contact: William Plumb
WLPlumb@aol.com
Suffern Village Historian
15 Beech Road
Suffern, NY 10901
(845) 357-3667

Tappan Zee Historical Society
South Nyack, NY 10960
(845) 623-0560

V. LOCAL HISTORY READING ROOMS:

Rockland Reading Room:
http://www.newcitylibrary.org/taxonomy/term/20
220 N. Main Street
New City, NY 10926
(845) 634-4497 EXT 139
- The Rockland Room, directed by Sally Pellegrini, contains a large archive of historical resources, including “more than 4,500 print materials, 15 drawers of vertical files, a large collection of local family names and genealogy, the Burdke collection, [etc]”.

Westchester County Reading Room:
http://www.westchesterhistory.com/index.php/home
- The Westchester County historical reading room provides trained volunteers to assist individuals searching through the references. This room is shared with the county archive which enables greater access to public records for research including the records privately held by the Westchester County Historical Society.

Orange County Local History Room:
http://www.thrall.org/lh/
11-19 Depot Street
Middletown, NY 10940
(845) 341-5454, EXT 5479
- This room located in the Thrall Library; it is open 9AM Monday through Friday till 5PM. This history room holds a plethora of historical references, including the “records of Elizabeth Stivers Mills.... [and]....Orange County Landfill studies”.

VI. Museums and historic homes in Dutchess, Westchester, Orange, and Rockland counties
Information provided by National Historic Landmark Survey

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site
4097 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538 (845) 486-1966
- The personal home of President Franklin D. Roosevelt (Springwood) including the later added Presidential Library and Museum.

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (Val-Kill)
56 Valkill Park Road
Hyde Park, NY 12538
(845) 229-9422

- The personal home of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

**Vanderbilt Mansion**
119 Vanderbilt Park Road
Hyde Park, NY 12538

- Home of Frederick William Vanderbilt, Director of the New York Central Railroad. The mansion is a prime example of Gilded Age homes of wealthy industrialists.

**Samuel F. B. Morse House (Locust Grove)**
2683 South Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845-454-4500

- The personal home of Samuel F. B. Morse, inventor of the telegraph and Morse code.

**Aaron Copland House**
P.O. Box 2177
Peekskill, NY 10566
(914) 788-4659

- Home of music composer Aaron Copland for the last 30 years of his life. Copland was instrumental in forging a distinctly American style of composition, and is often referred to as "the Dean of American Composers"

**John William Draper House (Draper Park)**
US 9, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York
Home of scientist John William Draper. Draper is most famous for taking the first recognizable photographs of the Moon through a telescope in 1840 at his home.

**Elephant Hotel**
335 Route 202
Somers, NY 10589
(914) 277-4977

- Used as headquarters for Hachaliah Bailey who toured an African Elephant throughout the northeast. Responsible for giving Somers the nickname “Cradle of the American Circus”

**Fort Montgomery**
690 Route 9W
P.O. Box 213
Fort Montgomery, NY 10922
(845) 446-2134

- Built by Continental Army in 1776 during the Revolutionary War. The Battle of Fort Montgomery also delayed British reinforcements from reaching Saratoga. The British defeat at Saratoga is considered the turning point of the war because it convinced the French to join the conflict on the side of the revolutionaries.


**Jay Gould Estate (Lyndhurst)**
635 South Broadway
Tarrytown, N.Y. 10591
(914) 631-4481

- House built in the gothic revival style. Home to famous railroad tycoon Jay Gould who is considered among the worst of the “robber barons” in American history.

**E. H. Harriman Estate (Arden)**
1/2 miles west of New York Route 17 Arden, N.Y.

- Home to famous railroad executive E. H. Harriman who at the time of his death controlled seven different railroads. His son served as Governor of New York.

**John Hartford House**
Westchester Community College
75 Grasslands Road
Valhalla, New York 10595
914-606-6600

- Home of John Hartford, whose family built A&P into the first nationwide retail chain. Currently known as Hartford Hall and is a part of the campus of Westchester Community College.

**John Jay Homestead**
400 Jay Street
(Mailing:P.O. Box 832)
Katonah, NY 10536
(914) 232-5651

- Also known as Bedford House or as John Jay House, it was the home of renowned patriot and statesman John Jay, first Chief Justice of the United States.

**Knox Headquarters**
289 Forge Hill Road
New Windsor, NY 12553
(845) 561-5498

- House is most commonly remembered as the headquarters of American General Henry Knox during the Revolutionary War, the house was more commonly used as the headquarters of Generals Nathanael Greene and Horatio Gates.

**Montgomery Place**
25 Gardener Way
Red Hook, NY
845-758-1036

- It is the only Hudson Valley estate house from this era that survives intact, and architect Alexander Jackson Davis's only surviving neoclassical country house. It was originally owned by the wealthy Livingston family and shows French influence in home design. Currently operated by Historic Hudson Valley.
Philipsburg Manor
81 N Broadway
Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591
914-631-8200
Philipsburg Manor was a thriving farming, milling, and trading center owned by the Philipses, a family of Anglo-Dutch merchants. Currently operated by Historic Hudson Valley

Philpse Manor Hall
29 Warburton Avenue
Yonkers, NY 10701
914-965-4027
- Home of trader Frederick Philipse, a son-in-law of Stephanus Van Cortlandt. During Philipse's life, the building was used primarily as a stopover point on the long journey up and down the river between his home in New Amsterdam and the northern parts of his estate. It would later become the primary family residence with later generations. It is also Westchester County’s oldest standing building, having been built circa 1862.

John D. Rockefeller Estate (Kykuit)
381 N Broadway
Sleepy Hollow, NY
914-631-8200
- Estate of famous businessman and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, founder of Standard Oil. Rockefeller is often regarded as the richest person in history when adjusting for inflation and holds the distinction of being the first American to be worth a billion dollars. The estate was home to four generations of the Rockefeller family. Currently operated by Historic Hudson Valley.

Sunnyside
3 W Sunnyside Lane,
Irvington, NY 10533
914-631-8200
- Home of famous American author Washington Irving. Irving is most famous for his short stories “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and "Rip Van Winkle” Currently operated by Historic Hudson Valley. Sunnyside is considered one of the most famous historic homes in the country.

Top Cottage (Hill-Top Cottage)
24 Potters Bend Road
Hyde Park, New York
- A fieldstone cottage built as a retreat for President Franklin D. Roosevelt located a few miles away from his primary residence. Famous for being one of the first American buildings designed to be fully wheelchair accessible. Although primarily a retreat, FDR did entertain famous guests such as King George VI and Queen Elizabeth at the cottage. This building is the only building designed by a sitting U.S. President other than Thomas Jefferson who designed several.

Van Cortlandt Manor
525 South Riverside Avenue
Originally, it was an 86,000-acre tract granted as a Patent to Stephanus Van Cortlandt in 1697 by King William III. The manor house was built sometime before 1732 but was not any owner's principal residence until a grandson, Pierre Van Cortlandt, moved there in 1749. At that time the manor house was on a 1,000-acre (405 ha) portion of the original tract. The house remained in Van Cortlandt family ownership until 1945. In 1953, John D. Rockefeller purchased it and began a restoration. The restored manor house was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1961. Currently operated by Historic Hudson Valley.

Villa Lewaro (Anne E. Poth Home)
North Broadway
Irvington, New York

Home of Madam C.J. Walker, the first known African-American millionaire and also believed to be the first American female millionaire. She made her fortune by developing and marketing a successful line of beauty and hair products for black women under the company she founded. Currently a private residence.

Washington's Headquarters
84 Liberty Street
Newburgh, NY 12550
(845) 562-1195

The headquarters of George Washington during the final years of the Revolutionary War. This Dutch stone house is the oldest building in Newburgh and the first-ever property designated as a historic site by a U.S. state. In the headquarters, Washington rejected a suggestion to institute an American monarchy (Newburgh Letter) and defused the threat of a mutiny among his officers over pay and pensions.

VII. National, State, and Local Parks

Dutchess County:

Bowdoin Park
85 Sheafe Road
Wappingers Falls, NY

The Bowdoin Park has riverside picnic areas, nature trails, and nature museum. The park is historically significant because there were Native American villages located on the Park.

Burger Hill Park
Route 9G
Rhinebeck, NY

Burger Hill Park is 550 feet high. This park has open meadows and rural, scenic views. This park is historically significant because Sepasco Indians lived on the park grounds.

College Hill Park
North Clinton Street
Poughkeepsie, New York
• This park allows for a great view of Poughkeepsie and the surrounding areas.

**Denning Point Park and Beacon Riverside Trail up to Beacon Riverfront Park**  
Beacon, NY

• The park is available for hiking, fishing and bird watching. This park is historically significant because of the trading routes on the riverfront.

**Gateway to Mount Beacon Park**  
Route 9D, Beacon, New York

• The park is about 15 acres and has trails. This park is historically significant because Revolutionary War signal fires were lit on the park grounds during the revolutionary war period.

**Madam Brett Park**  
Beacon, Dutchess County, NY

• Madam Brett Park is about 12 acres. This park is historically significant because it was the first land grant in Dutchess County.

**Margaret Lewis Norrie State Park**  
Old Post Road, P.O. Box 893  
Old Post Road,  
Staatsburg, NY 12580

• This park is two connecting state parks: Margaret Lewis Norrie and Ogden & Ruth Livingston Mills State Parks. This park is historically significant because of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp was established at the park.

**Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills State Historic Site and Park**  
Old Post Road  
Staatsburg, NY

• This park is historically significant because a Revolutionary War Colonel Morgan Lewis bought it.

**Poets' Walk Park**  
River Road  
Red Hook, NY

• The park was designed to celebrate the connection between art and nature. The Hudson holds conservation easements on two neighboring historic properties totaling to nearly 800 acres. This park is historically significant because the land was granted to Colonel Peter Schuyler of Albany.

**Riverfront Park**  
River Road, Dutchess County, New York

• This park is historically significant because it was a major source of transporting goods from New York City to Upstate New York.

**Victor C. Waryas Park**  
Main Street  
Poughkeepsie, New York
This park is located on the Hudson River waterfront. The historical significance of the park is that it used to be a large industrial area. The park was named after the late mayor of the city of Poughkeepsie from 1960-1964.


**Orange County:**

**Algonquin Park**  
Powder Mill Rd., Route 52  
Town of Newburgh  
- The Algonquin Park is 41 acres and is an attraction is both historical and recreational. The features of the park provide powder mill buildings from the Civil War era.

**D&H Canal Park**  
58 Hoag Road  
Cuddebackville, NY (Off Route 209)  
- The D&H Canal Park is a National Historic Landmark that features trails, picnicking areas. The park has historic canal sites along the D&H canal.

**Thomas Bull Memorial Park**  
211 State Route 416,  
Montgomery, NY 12549  
- The Thomas Bull Memorial Park is currently one of the largest developed parks in the County’s Park System. The park is over 719 acres.


**Rockland County:**

**Bear Mountain State Park**  
Bear Mountain, Rockland NY  
- The park is 52,000 acres of forested landscape with hundreds of miles of trails. This park is historical because Fort Montgomery is located with in it. The British occupied Fort Montgomery during the American Revolution. The Appalachian trail which it the rich hiking resource close to New York City.


**Dater Mountain Nature Park**  
Seven Lakes Drive, Sloatsburg
Rockland County, NY

- This park contains eight federally designated wetlands. The park is meant for hiking, nature and geologic study. This park is historically significant because Munsee Indians once inhabited the property.

**Eleanor Burlingham Memorial Park**
25 Municipal Plaza, Sloatsburg
Rockland County, NY

- This park is considered a passive park. It has fishing, canoeing, bird watching and hiking. This park is historically significant because Isaac Sloat built Sloats Pond Dam that provides waterpower to run mills and other forms of manufacturing. The dam is a rare remaining symbol of the early industrial era and the contribution of waterpower to the development of the village of Sloatsburg.

**Haverstraw Bay County Park**
21 Gagan Road, Haverstraw
Rockland County, NY

- The park borders the Hudson River. This park is significant because the property has played a prominent role in the industrial development of Rockland County.

**Mountain View Nature Park**
2 Strawberry Hill Lane, Central Nyack
Rockland County, NY

- The park is mountainous, heavily wooded and has numerous nature trails. The property was a gift from Winston C. Perry Family who donated County’s 50 percent of the acquisition cost. This makes the park historical significant.

**Samuel G. Fisher Mount Ivy Environmental Park**
Fireman’s Memorial Drive, Rockland County NY

- The park is 272 acres and is teeming with wildlife. This park is significant because it was a Quaker settlement.

**Stony Point Battle Field**
P.O. Box 182
Stony Point, NY

- This site is historical because General Anthony Wayne led his troops into a daring midnight attack against the British army. He seized the fort and took the British soldiers as prisoners during the attack.


**Westchester County:**

**Battle Hill Park**
Battle Avenue & Hawley Street
White Plains, NY 10606
- This park is significant because during the Battle of White Plains in Westchester, the park ground was a battlefield.

Chatterton Playground
Chatterton Avenue & Harmon Street
White Plains NY 10606
- This park is located near Battle Hill Park. This park is historical significant because the British were attacked by the right wing of Washington’s Army located on Chatterton Hill.

Croton Point Park
- The park is 508 acres and is on a peninsula on the east shore of the Hudson River. The park has the oldest wine cellars and has a nature center. This park is historically significant because Native Americans inhabited it.

Friends of Rockefeller State Park
Sleepy Hollow, New York
- The park was established in 1997. The park preserves the wildlife and the habitat for sustaining it historical features. The park has unique system and is maintaining the carriage roads.

Lasdon Park Arboretum
Route 35
Somers, NY
- The park is 234 acre and consists of woodlands and open grass meadow. The park is also known as a Veterans memorial. The park honored Westchester veterans. The park has the Chinese Friendship Pavilion and four inspirational memorials.

V.E. Macy Park
Saw Mill River Road
Irvington, New York
- This park is 172 acres. The park was renamed because of the history of the Irish who fled to Westchester in 1840s to escape the poverty and famine. The park was known as the Great Hunger Memorial.

Ward Pound Ridge Reservation
Near the junction of Routes 35 and 121 south
Cross River, NY 10518
- The park is 4,315 acres and is the largest park in Westchester County. The park has hiking trails, fishing spots, birding and nature trails.

"Historic Sites | History - Westchester, NY." Westchester Towns, Westchester County NY.
VIII. County and Town Historians

Dutchess County

Dutchess County Historian
William Tatum III

Tatum III is the first full-time county historian in county history. The position has been vacant since 2008. Tatum III was just selected by County Executive Marc Molinaro on October 1, 2012. Tatum III will officially assume his position if confirmed at the Dutchess County legislative meeting on October 10, 2012. Currently Tatum III’s contact information is unavailable.

Historical Society of Dutchess County

President: Steven Mann
Location: The Clinton House
549 Main Street
Poughkeepsie, New York 12602
Mailing: Dutchess County Historical Society
P.O. Box 88
Poughkeepsie, New York 12602
Phone: 845.471.1630
Website: http://www.dutchesscountyhistoricalsociety.org
Email: dchistorical@verizon.net

County Genealogist

Dutchess County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 708
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602
(845) 462-4168
http://www.dcgs-gen.org/

Meetings
When: The third Tuesday of September, November, January, March and May
Time: 7:30 PM
Place: Church of Jesus Christ, Latter Day Saints (LDS)
204 Spackenkill Road
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

County Genealogists
Arthur C.M. Kelly and Nancy Kelly
kinshipny@cs.com
Virginia Buechele
ginnyflies@usa.net
Valerie LaRobardier
vl@valeconsulting.com
Dutchess County Clerk’s Office
County Clerk: Bradford Kendall
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
Voice (845) 486-2120   Fax (845) 486-2138
Toll Free (866) 694-4700 (outside 845 area code only)

The records division has historic documents available to the public which date back to 1719. Included in these records are indictments and convictions (although sealed documents are not accessible to the public), as well as naturalization documents which can assist in genealogy research.

Town Historians

Municipal Historians of Dutchess County

- Cities -

Beacon - Robert Murphy, P.O. Box 89, Beacon, NY 12508

Poughkeepsie - George Lukacs, 207 Overocker Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

- Towns -

Amenia - Arlene Iuliano, 5103 Route 22, Amenia, NY 12501-5343

Beekman - Tom Usher, 4 Main St., Poughquag, NY 12570

Clinton - Craig Marshall, 820 Fiddlers Bridge Rd., Rhinebeck, NY 12572

Dover - Donna Hearn, 126 East Duncan Hill Rd., Dover Plains, NY 12522

East Fishkill - currently vacant

Fishkill - Willa Skinner, 30 Charlotte Rd., Fishkill, NY 12524

Hyde Park - Ave Clark, 4383 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park, NY 12538

LaGrange - Georgia Herring-Trott, 15 Freedom Rd., Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

Milan - Patrick Higgins, 286 Milan Hollow Rd., Rhinebeck, NY 12572

North East - currently vacant
Pawling - Bob Reilly, 10 Hursds Corner, Pawling, NY 12564

Pine Plains - Little Nine Partners Historical Society, PO Box 243, Pine Plains, NY 12567

Pleasant Valley - Fred Schaeffer, 12 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Poughkeepsie - Jean Murphy, 2451 New Hackensack Rd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Red Hook - John Winthrop Aldrich, P.O Box 338, Red Hook, NY 12571-0338

Rhinebeck - Nancy Kelly, 305 Cedar Heights Rd., Rhinebeck, NY 12572

Stanford - Dot Burdick, 19 Burdick Pl., Stanfordville, NY 12581

Union Vale - Frances Wallin, P.O. Box 126, Billings, NY 12510

Wappinger - Janice Hilderbrand, 35 Spring St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Washington - David Greenwood, 510 Sharon Tpke., Millbrook, NY 12545

- Villages -

Fishkill - Karen Hitt, 40 Broad St., Fishkill, NY 12524

Millbrook - David Greenwood, 510 Sharon Tpke., Millbrook, NY 12545

Millerton - currently vacant

Pawling - Drew Nicholson, 9 Memorial Ave., Pawling, NY 12564

Red Hook - Richard Coons, 34 Garden St., Red Hook, NY 12571

Rhinebeck - Michael Frazier, 8 Sunset Rd., Rhinebeck, NY 12572

Tivoli - Bernie Tieger, 48 Broadway, Tivoli, NY 12583

Wappingers Falls - Brenda VonBurg, 34 Prospect St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Reference Libraries

Adriance Memorial Library
93 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(845) 485-3445
Mon - Thu: 9 am - 9 pm
Fri - Sat: 9 am - 5 pm
Sun: 2 pm - 5 pm (closed Sundays in August)
http://poklib.org/

The Adriance Memorial Library is the main public library of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, serving the city and town of Poughkeepsie, New York, United States. It is on Market Street south of downtown. It is a member library of the Mid-Hudson Library System, which has its headquarters next door. The library regularly checks out over 400,000 items a year. Tom Lawrence is Executive Director of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District and can be contacted at (845) 485-3445 x 3306.

**Grinnell Library**
2642 East Main Street
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590
(845) 297-3428
Mon – Thu: 9:30 AM – 8:30 PM
Fri: 9:30 AM – 6:00 PM
Sat: 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM
Sun: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
www.grinnell-library.org

Jessica Gonzalez, MSIS – Executive Director
director@grinnell-library.org
Erin Barnard, MSIS – Assistant Director
ebarnard@grinnell-library.org
Jessica Johnson – Outreach Coordinator
jjohnson@grinnell-library.org

The mission of the Grinnell Library is to provide free access to a variety of informational materials, library services, and programs using its resources and those of the Mid-Hudson Library System, to meet the educational, cultural, and recreational needs of the community. Grinnell Library also holds the distinction of being the 6th oldest library in New York State. Grinnell Library is proud to be the guardian of many important historical collections including the Local History Collection, The Bird Display, the John R. Ferris Civil War Collection and The Clapp Paintings. Further information on these collections can be found on the website.

**Rockland County**

**County Historians**

**Rockland County Historian**
Craig H. Long
Curator of the Suffern Village Museum; Curator of the Suffern Railroad Museum
120 Wayne Ave Suffern NY 10901
History.detective@verizon.net
845.357.6383
October 9, 2012).

**Historical Society of Rockland County**  
Marianne B. Leese  
*South of the Mountains*, co-editor. Please contact regarding past, current and future editions.  
845.634.9629  
(HSRC phone) or by e-mail at the HSRC  
RocklandHistory.org : Research : :Historians."RocklandHistory.org  

**Town of Orangetown**  
Mary Cardenas  
The Orangetown Historical Museum & Archives  
196 Chief Bill Harris Way, Orangeburg, NY 10962  
845.398.1302  
www.orangetownmuseum.com  
"GSRC: Research Sources in Rockland County NY." Genealogical Society of Rockland County.  

**County Genealogist**

**Genealogical Society of Rockland County**  
P. O. Box 444, New City, New York 10956

*Meetings held at New City Library every fourth Tuesday of the month.*

**County Geneologists**  
Marie Koestler  
Marie_Koestler@opentech.net  
Susan Schwinn  
Sue.schwinn@verizon.net  
"GSRC: Research Sources in Rockland County NY." Genealogical Society of Rockland County.  

**Rockland County Archives**  
Archivist Peter Scheibner  
ScheibnP@co.rockland.ny.us  
845.364.3670  
Includes information on libers, microfilm, indexes and computer files of archives of important documents of those residing or who have resided in Rockland County. Documents are kept up to date and in check by archivist Peter Scheibner who is the archivist for all towns within Rockland County.  
*Archives included are as follows:*  
Orange County Deeds-1703-1798--two libers and microfilm  
Orange County Mortgages-1703-1798--one liber and microfilm
Rockland County Deeds-1798-1908—libers and microfilm, plus index
Rockland County Mortgages-1798-1931—libers, index on microfilm
Rockland County Mortgages-1830-date—microfilm only
Rockland County, State Census records-1865-1925 for Clarkstown, Haverstraw, Orangetown, Ramapo, Stony Point
Rockland County Federal Census for the years 1830, 1840, 1860 & 1880—book form, no index
Marriage Records- 1908-1926; License Affidavits- 1908-1918—index, paper and microfilm
Naturalization Oaths-1836-1896—1,828 records on microfilm
Naturalization Papers-1812-1991—24,718 records on paper and microfilm
Court Records-1798-2001
Maps (subdivisions, annexations, railroads, highways)
"GSRC: Research Sources in Rockland County NY." Genealogical Society of Rockland County.

Rockland County Clerk’s Office
County Clerk Paul Piperato
www.rocklandcountyclerk.com
1 South Main Street, Suite 100, New City, NY 10956
Includes information on libers, microfilm, in addition to photos and maps. Information regards mortgages, deeds and certificate records. The County Clerk, Paul Piperato, accounts for documents.
Included in the Clerk’s Office are the following:
Rockland Deeds-1798-to date—libers and microfilm
Rockland County Mortgages-1931-to date—libers and microfilm
BusinessCertificates, Incorporations records and Subdivision maps-1827-2002—Clair Tholl Map Collection, Rockland Aerial Photos-1931-1954
Court Records-2002-to date
"GSRC: Research Sources in Rockland County NY." Genealogical Society of Rockland County.

Surrogate’s Court
1 South Main Street, New City, NY 10956
845.638.5000
Includes documentation of juveniles and their guardians, their criminal records and letters of administration. Also contains wills. All documents are available on microfilm.
Guardian Records—microfilm
Letters of Administration—microfilm
Probate Records—on microfilm
Wills—on microfilm
"GSRC: Research Sources in Rockland County NY." Genealogical Society of Rockland County.

LDS Family History Centers
Town Historians

**Piermont**
Grace Mitchell
Dennis P. McHugh Piermont Public Library
25 Flywheel Park West
Piermont, New York 10968-1040
845.359.4595
info@piermontlibrary.org

**Village of Nyack/Upper Nyack**
Jean Pardo / Winston C. Perry Jr.
The Historical Society of the Nyacks
P.O. Box 850
Nyack, NY 10960
845.418.4430
info@nyackhistory.org
Meetings are held at South Nyack Village Hall every third Thursday of the month

**Village of Sloatsburg**
Harrison O. Bush, Jr.
Chairperson, Harmony Hall, Friends of Jacob Sloat House
PO Box 29
Sloatsburg NY 10974
RocklandHistory.org : Research : :Historians."RocklandHistory.org

**Town of Stony Point**
Stuart L. Gates
Village of Haverstraw
Stephen Cobb

Reference Libraries/Reference Librarians

New City Library
Sally Pellegrini—Local History Librarian, Community Relations Department
220 Main Street, New City, NY 10956-4000
845.634.4997 ext. 139
spellegr@rcls.org
www.newcitylibrary.org
"Local History at New City Library." Rockland Room New City Library.

New City Library contains the largest collections of Local History and genealogical books. Contains Rockland county Federal and State census records for the years 1800-1860 on microfilm with indexes. Also includes information on governmental, and school information within the Rockland County area, more specifically Clarkstown. Also contains telephone books from 1957-present. Has the “Rockland Room” which is managed by Sally Pellegrini. This reading room has 4,500 print materials, with 15 drawers of files, a massive collection of local family names and genealogy in addition to other genealogy services and maps. On the Rockland Room’s website, there is also a blog where staff members, library members and community members can discuss history of the town, the events and issues that are being worked out in the present or to just commemorate the historical events in Rockland County.

Blauvelt Free Library
Reference Services: Tonie Ann D’Angelo, Joseph McAuley, Marybeth Darnobid, & Sr. Marie J. Morahan
541 Western Highway, Blauvelt, NY 10913
845.359.2811
blv@rcls.org

As shown above, has a couple of reference librarians which have been some of the most helpful in the county. The library is an old, beautiful sandstone Hudson river Valley colonial building, which was originally the home of Judge Cornelius Blauvelt. A reference areas and work room were added over two decades ago. Also includes close ties with the Rockland County Tourism
which points people in the direction of historical sites in Rockland County. This website is www.rocktourism.com.

**Westchester County**

**County Historians**

**Westchester County Historical Society**
2199 Saw Mill Road, Elmsford, NY 10523
Phone: Library 914-592-4338    Office: 914-592-4323
- Holdings include: extensive manuscripts giving inventories of many old cemeteries located throughout the County.

**Westchester County Archives**
Westchester County Records Center
2199 Saw Mill River Road, Elmsford, NY 10523
Phone: 914-592-1925
- Holdings: Primary records held by the county.
  - There is a list of their holdings by subject on their website. Each of the subjects links to a brief description of the records which includes information on the quantity of the records, their arrangement, if an index exists, and the types of subjects covered by the records to help researchers judge if the records will be useful to their research.
  - In addition, each subject description links to the series descriptions page for records created by the same department, so related records can be found on that page as well.
- Here are some popular collections by subject:
  - Board of Supervisors Proceedings, 1772-1969 (Series 145)
  - Board of Legislators Proceedings, 1970-1995 (Series 147)
  - Bronx Parkway Commission Annual Reports, 1907-1925 (gaps) (Series 95)
  - Census Rolls, 1905, 1915, 1925 (Series 19)
  - Deeds, 1684-1903 (Series 47)
  - Estate Records, 1775, 1782-1921 (Series 16)
  - Incorporation Records, 1848-1926 (Bulk: 1878-1926) (Series 45)
  - Marriage Certificates Index, 1908-1935 (gaps) (Series 183)
  - Naturalization Records Index, 1808-1972 (Series 130)
  - Park Commission Annual Reports, 1924-1953 (gaps) (Series 96)
  - Surrogate Records, Index, 1787-1983 (Series 171)
  - Veterans' Cemetery Index, Revolutionary War to World War I (Series 181)
  - Wills, 1775-1784 (gaps), 1787-1941 (Series 132)
• **Virtual Archives** — this portion of their web site contains images of many original records.

**Westchester County Clerk's Office**
- 110 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street  
  (formerly Grove Street)  
  White Plains, NY 10601  
- Phone: 914-285-3080  
- Holdings Include: Electronic Recording of Land Records Such as Deeds and Mortgages

**Surrogate's Court, 9th Judicial District**
- 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, 19th Floor,  
  White Plains, NY 10601  
  Phone: (914) 824-5656  
  - A list of websites of sources for legal information. A Summary of the county history. A list of all the current Judges within the County. Juror information.

**LDS Family History Centers**
- You can now search the catalogs of the Family History Centers on the Internet at their web site: <http://www.familysearch.org/>  
- Scarsdale Family History Center  
  60 Wayside Way, Scarsdale, NY 10583  
- Yorktown Family History Center  
  Route 134 East, Yorktown, NY 10598  
- The centers are resources for research and study of genealogy and family history.  
- The records span billions of names across hundreds of collections—including birth, marriage, death, probate, land, military, IGI extracted, and more.

**County Genealogist**

**Westchester County Genealogical Society**  
P.O. Box 518  
White Plains, NY 10603-0518

- *Westchester County Genealogical Society (WCGS)* was organized in September 1982 in Westchester County, New York to bring together people interested in tracing their ancestry. Here members can study methods of genealogical research and exchange information helpful in their search for family roots. Any person, whether amateur or professional, interested in genealogy or related topics is welcome to join WCGS.
In 1919 the New York State legislature passed a law requiring municipalities to appoint a municipal historian. These historians form a network of people charged with preserving the history of their communities. It is the largest and most extensive network in the country.

**Ardsley Village Historian:**
Beverly Levine  
(914) 693-1266  
69 Bramblebrook Road  
Ardsley, NY 10502

**Bedford Town Historian**
John Stockbridge  
(914) 666-4745  
321 Bedford Rd.  
Bedford Hills, NY 10507

**Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historian:** Vacant

**Bronx County Historical Society**
Dr. Gary Hermalyn  
Executive Director  
Dr. Lloyd Ultan - Borough Historian  
(718) 881-8900  
3309 Bainbridge Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10467

**Bronxville Village Historian**
Eloise Morgan  
(914) 779-9391  
email: rcmelm@aol.com
c/o Village Hall of Bronxville
200 Pondfield Road
Bronxville, NY 10708

**Buchanan Village Historian**: Vacant

**Cortlandt Town Historian**
Laura Lee Keating
home: (914) 739-0154
12 Cross Lane
Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567-5108

**Croton Village Historian**
Dorothy Dymes Pezanowski
Croton-on-Hudson Historical Society
1 Van Wyck Street
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520
(914) 271-4574

**Dobbs Ferry Village Historian**
Richard Borkow, MD.
(914) 693-8498
[www.villageHistorian.org](http://www.villageHistorian.org)
email: VillageHistorian@aol.com
11 Deerfoot Lane
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

**Eastchester Town Historian**
Richard Forliano
office: (914) 725-8035
email: clancy465@aol.com
26 Dogwood Drive
Scarsdale, NY 10583

**Elmsford Village Historian**: Vacant

**Greenburgh Town Historian**

Frank S. Jazzo  
(914) 993-1641  
177 Hillside Avenue  
Greenburgh, NY 10607

**Harrison Town Historian**

Greg Ricci  
(914) 948-2550  
Charles Dawson History Center  
1 Park Lane  
West Harrison, NY 10604

**Hastings-on-Hudson Village Historian**

Barbara Thompson  
(914) 478-2249  
407 Broadway Street  
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706

**Irvington Village Historian**: Vacant

**Larchmont Village Historian**: Vacant

Larchmont Village Hall  
120 Larchmont Avenue  
Larchmont, NY 10538

**Lewisboro Town Historian**

Maureen Koehl  
office: (914) 533-2396  
home: (914) 763-3326
email: funnyfarm.ss@verizon.net
141 Spring Street
South Salem, NY 10590

**Mamaroneck Town Historian**
Donald March
(914) 698-1152
740 West Boston Post Road
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

**Mamaroneck Village Historian**
Gloria Pritts
(914) 777-7700
169 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

**Mount Kisco Town/Village Historian:** Vacant
office: (914) 241-0500
mtkhsociety@cyburban.com

**Mount Pleasant Town Historian**
George Waterbury
(914) 769-4734
e-mail: George_Waterbury@msn.com
7 Sunset Drive
Thornwood, NY 10594

**Mount Vernon City Historian**
Dr. Larry Spruill
163 Beechwood Avenue
Mount Vernon, NY 10550

**New Castle Town Historian**
Gray Williams
(914) 238-8593
32 Gray Rock Lane
Chappaqua, NY 10514

New Rochelle City Historian
Barbara Davis
bdavis@nrpl.org
New Rochelle Public Library
1 Library Plaza
New Rochelle, NY 10801

North Castle Town Historian
Doris Finch Watson
(914) 234-7845
Town Hall
15 Bedford Road
Armonk, NY 10504

North Salem Town Historian
Susan J. Thompson
home: (914) 276-2523
town hall: (914) 669-8439
11 Cotswolds Drive
North Salem, NY 10560
susiejt@optonline.net

Ossining Town Historian
Martha Mesiti
c/o Town of Ossining
16 Croton Avenue
Ossining, NY 10562

**Peekskill City Historian**

John Curran
c/o Peekskill Museum
P.O. Box 84
Peekskill, NY 10566-0084
http://peekskillmuseum.org

**Pelham Town Historian**

Blake A. Bell
34 Fifth Avenue
Pelham, NY 10803

**Pleasantville Village Historian**

Carsten Johnson
(914) 769-0548
PO Box 399
Pleasantville, NY 10570

**Port Chester Village Historian**
Port Chester Historical Society
(914) 939-6040
6 Puritan Drive, Port Chester, NY 10573

**Pound Ridge Town Historian**
Philip Pessoni
(914) 764-5967
19 Pound Ridge Road, Pound Ridge, NY 10576

**Rye City Historian**
Daniel Kelly
(914) 967-7588
c/o Rye Historical Society, 1 Purchase Street, Rye, NY 10580

**Scarsdale Village Historian**

Eric Rothschild
Village Hall
1001 Post Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583

**Sleepy Hollow Village Historian**
Henry Steiner  
(914) 631-8976  
email: nevsteiner@aol.com  
129 Farrington Avenue  
Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591  
**Somers Town Historian**  
Doris Jane Smith  
office: (914) 277-4977  
335 Rte. 202  
Somers, NY 10589  
**Tarrytown Village Historian**  
Richard Miller  
(No phone number available, but he is frequently at the Historical Society Inc. Serving Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown)  
63 Riverview Avenue  
Tarrytown, NY 10591  
**Tuckahoe Village Historian**  
Ernest Zocchi  
(914) 961-2562  
305 Columbus Avenue  
Tuckahoe, NY 10707  
**White Plains City Historian:** Vacant  
**White Plains City Archives**  
Elaine Massena, Archivist  
(914) 422-1450  
**Yonkers City Historian**  
Tom Flynn  
(914) 963-2190
29 Reade Street
Yonkers, NY 10703

Library of Westchester

- 540 White Plains Road | Suite 200 | Tarrytown, NY 10591 |
- Phone Number: 914-674-3600
- One can get a list of every library within Westchester and get access to their homepage and information. There is a search option on the website to look for books within the libraries in Westchester. There is a list of events within Westchester. One can get access to the digital Collection and much more.

Central Library of Westchester

Mount Vernon Public Library

Central Library of Westchester

Director: Donna Hurwitz

Homepage Hours

- The Mount Vernon Public Library Virginia McClellan Moskowitz Local History Room is the primary archival and research center for Mount Vernon History as well as one of the major historical collections of Westchester County.
- Among its resources are:
  - Maps and atlases, including road, topography, farm, development and zoning maps, dating back to the mid-1800's.
  - Clipping files, starting in 1904, detailing the economic, political, social and cultural development of Mount Vernon.
  - Ethnic collections on Italians, Jews and African-Americans in Mount Vernon.
  - Newspapers, including bound volumes from the 19th century.
  - Old photographs, post cards, posters, paintings and engravings.
  - Church and synagogue files.
  - City directories beginning in 1885 and telephone books beginning in 1933.
  - School yearbooks.
  - Information on individual houses.
  - Artifacts and mementos.
  - Genealogy and family history files.
  - City government reports.

Libraries and directors
Croton Free Library
Director: Mary Donnery
Homepage Hours
171 Cleveland Drive
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520
Phone: 914-271-6612
Fax: 914-271-0931
- Has a small room used for exhibits, such as the historical art work and Historical walking tours (which starts in the library and then goes to the Croton Dam), presentations on the History of Superheroes, etc.

Mamaroneck Public Library District
Director: Susan Riley
Homepage
136 Prospect Avenue
Mamaroneck, NY 10543
Phone: 914-698-1250
Fax: 914-381-3088
- Has been recently renovated and an art gallery was generously donated by the Warner Family. The gallery is located on the lower level of the new library.

Orange County
Orange County Genealogical Society: [http://www.ocgsny.org/index.htm](http://www.ocgsny.org/index.htm)
Address: 101 Main St. Goshen, New York 10924
- The Orange County Genealogical Society serves as the main reference for genealogical information. It contains historical records and documents for all of Orange County’s 20 towns, 20 villages, and 3 cities.
- A Research Room is available here that includes a computer with a database to conduct searches, as well as books, maps, microfilm documents, and referral cards of surnames.

Orange County Historian: Cornelia Wendell Bush
Phone: 845-291-2388

Local History Specialists (Cornwall): [http://www.ocgsny.org/historians/historians.htm](http://www.ocgsny.org/historians/historians.htm)
Town Clerk: Elaine Tilford Schneer, 183 Main Street, Cornwall, NY 12518 (Telephone: 845-534-9100)
Town Historian: Mary Ann Rose, 183 Main St, Cornwall, NY 12518 (Telephone: 845-534-3760)
- The Orange County Genealogical Society provides a comprehensive list of all town, village, and city historians as well as town clerks in Orange County at this web page. It also contains all of their contact information, making this site an invaluable reference.

The Cornwall Historical Society was begun in 1999 and is committed “to acquaint the residents of Cornwall with our rich cultural heritage; to identify and help preserve worthy old buildings in the community; and to encourage the donation of historical items to Cornwall and provide for their proper storage and opportunity for public inspection.” Unfortunately Cornwall does not have its own genealogical society; however the one in Monroe was formed about thirty years prior to Cornwall’s Historical Society (1971) and should have plenty of genealogical information for this town. The Cornwall Historical Society also has a small museum of historical artifacts on display, and is open from 10 am to 12 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Cornwall Public Library:  http://www.cornwallpubliclibrary.org/contact_us.htm
Address: Cornwall Public Library, 395 Hudson St., Cornwall, NY 12518
Phone: 845-534-8282
Reference Librarians: Charlotte Dunaief - cdunaief@rcls.org
Stella Denton - sdenton@rcls.org
The Cornwall Public Library is not large in size; however it has two reference librarians to assist with historical searches and obtaining information. It also has a Local History Collection which could provide vital sources in an investigation of the local community history. This collection can be browsed at the following web page:
http://www.hrvh.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/cornpl

Newburgh Free Library:  http://www.newburghlibrary.org/
Address (Main Library): 124 Grand St., Newburgh, NY 12550
Phone: 845-563-3600
Reference Librarian (Local History): Heather Henricksen-Georghiou
Phone: 845-563-3617
Email: hhgeo@rcls.org
The Newburgh Free Library is the largest and most resourceful library in Orange County. It contains a history room with extensive historical records, boasting a “4,000-item collection.” This collection includes books, local church and cemetery records, census records, local landmark information, land grants, maps, photographs and much more.

The Newburgh Free Library is part of the Hudson River Valley Heritage, which is an organization that dedicates itself to creating a “digital record of the Hudson River Valley history and creativity.” Among the many types of sources gathered are maps, documents, photographs,
and letters. The website for more information about this organization is as follows: http://www.hrvh.org/

**Orange County Local History Room:**
The Thrall Public Library  
http://www.thrall.org/lh/  
11-19 Depot Street  
Middletown, NY 10940  
(845) 341-5454, EXT 5479

- This room located in the Thrall Library; it is opens 9AM Monday through Friday till 5PM. This history room holds a plethora of historical references, including the “records of Elizabeth Stivers Mills.... [and]....Orange County Landfill studies”.

**Montgomery Historians:**  
**TOWN:** Suzanne Isaksen  
110 Bracken Road,  
Montgomery, NY 12549  
845-427-2600  
tomhistorian@frontiernet.net

**VILLAGE:** Marion Wild  
42 Union Street  
Montgomery, NY 12549  
845-457-5135

a. Orange County Local History Room:  
c. 11-19 Depot Street  
Middletown, NY 10940  
(845) 341-5454, EXT 5479

**IX. ENDORSEMENT**
The Sleepy Hollow Cemetery

Located on the eastern bank of the Hudson River, the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery is a landmark, which is both beautifully landscaped and rich in history. It has been quoted by the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery Historic Fund as an asset to early American history and that “no spot on the entire American Continent is richer in legendary lore or fuller of historical incidents.” That being said, it’s clear that this landmark is essential and should be used to teach both New York history and American history.

The cemetery is at Tarrytown in the County of Westchester, and has a place in the classical literature of the country. Tarrytown is where the plot of Washington Irving short story, “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” takes place, and the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery is where this author is buried. In addition to Washington Irving, many war heroes are buried there. Being that the Patriots maintained a portion of its territory during the American Revolution, there is a large
Revolutionary War Monument placed within the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery gates. What makes this gravesite even more interesting is that there are people buried at the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery from the earliest settlers all the way to present day peoples.

This cemetery would also be a useful and interesting learning tool for students because of the tours available to them. People of the community use this park like cemetery to walk their dogs, go for a jog or just admire the beautiful landscape of the rolling hills and flowering plants. Not only does the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery offer individual daily tours, but they also have themed tours. One of these tours is called the “Murder and Mayhem” tour where students will learn about both the victims and perpetrators of interesting murder mysteries including “the wickedest woman in New York,” the scene of a grave robbery, and an opera singer who allegedly murdered several of her seven husbands. Students will be excited about the range of history and interesting tales that come along with the experience of the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.