Rensselaer County, New York

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Rensselaer County, New York

Welcome to Rensselaer County! This part of New York is an area rich with over 400 years of history, spanning from the early days of European settlement in the New World to some of the most important moments in American history, including: the American Revolution, War of 1812 and the Civil War. This local history research guide will aid you in the creation of lessons and will provide you with a comprehensive overview of some of the key towns in Rensselaer County, including: Brunswick, East Greenbush, Hoosick Falls, Schodack and Troy.

In terms of the cultural history of this area, during the American Revolution, the Battle of Bennington (fought in the extreme northeast corner of the county) helped to lay the foundation for the victory at Saratoga. During the War of 1812, the town of East Greenbush acted as the headquarters of the northern army. During the Civil War, the county's local industries became a large contributor to the Union cause, helping to produce the Monitor, an ironclad warship, and horseshoes for the Union Army. Additionally, the county is the home of our nation’s icon: Uncle Sam.

Below are two maps, one that illustrates the various towns and villages within the county and the other provides the geographic location within the State of New York.


Selected Town Histories

The History of Brunswick

Welcome to the Town of Brunswick, located in the beautiful Rensselaer County, New York! Settled in the 18th century, the town borders the City of Troy to the West; Grafton to the East; Pittstown and Schaghticoke to the North; and Poestenkill and North Greenbush to the South. Its geographical location allowed for it to be historically important throughout New York State history, as well as the founding of America and beyond.

The town was founded around “Hosek Road” (today Route 7), which connected the settlement to Vermont and was an important route for trade and politics in colonial New York. The town’s historical importance held true through events such as the Revolutionary War, where the town’s residents experienced the impacts of war firsthand. Even through the 19th century, during the Industrial Revolution, Brunswick developed into a town rich in history. During the industrial boom, Joseph Allen, who would later be awarded the rank of Lieutenant Colonel by President Abraham Lincoln himself, opened up the extremely successful Planter’s Hoe Company.

Brunswick has a vast number of heritage resources within the community. Ranging from state and local parks to museums, historic cemeteries, and historic homes, the town remains connected to its rich historical roots. It includes such resources as: the historic marker of the home of Philip D. Dater, who served in the War of 1812; the Gilead Lutheran Church, which was erected as a log structure in the 18th century by Germans from the Palatinate; and the Brunswick Historical Society, dedicated to preserving the town’s heritage resources, as well as teaching those interested about the town’s extensive history.

The History of East Greenbush

The town of East Greenbush was first settled around the year of 1628; however, the specific date is unknown. The first recorded settlement was made by the tenants of Dutch Patroon Kiliaen Rensselaer prior to the year 1631. The town’s name "Greenbush" is a derivative of the Dutch "groenen bosch" which loosely translates to “pinewoods” – a reference to the once lush pine trees that covered the area. Due to the area lacking sustainable water power early industries were unable to develop.

One of the town’s most famous residents was Edmund Charles Genêt. In 1792, Genêt had been sent from France as a special envoy to the United States, with the hope of building American support to aid France militarily against Britain. When first arrived in the United States, he was not received well by President George Washington in South Carolina. Genêt, mislead by the enthusiastic reception given to him on his arrival, immediately began to use his influence to excite the people into a state of opposition against the British. In taking matters into his own
hands, Genêt began traveling North, enlisting support for France. Even though President Washington denounced him for these actions, he was granted asylum in the United States as an arrest warrant had been issued for him back in France. In 1794, Genêt moved to New York State and married the daughter of New York Governor George Clinton, Cornelia Clinton. He built an estate on Hays Road. Genêt died on July 14, 1831, and is buried behind the Greenbush Dutch Reformed Church.

During the War of 1812, the United States government purchased roughly 300 acres of land just to the east of the town center, for the purpose of using it as the Northern Army Headquarters during the War of 1812. After the war had concluded the army camp was abandoned. In May 1831, the land and buildings were sold to Hawthorne McCulloch of Albany. McCulloch established his house in the northeast quarters of the cantonment. Today, none of the original buildings remain except for McCulloch’s former residence. Red Mill Elementary School occupies some of the former grand parade grounds. Below is a map that illustrates the Greenbush U.S. Cantonment, in relation to present day landmarks and buildings.

Note: Map is adapted from the New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center Website

The History of Hoosick Falls

The small village of Hoosick Falls became an industrial powerhouse in the early 1900s, because of the various nearby rivers that provided various industries with the needed power to manufacture goods, such as paper products. The small village contains an historic district with various churches, an armory and buildings listed on the National Historic Register.

The most famous resident to live near the village was painter Grandma Moses. She is buried in the Maple Grove Cemetery, at the south end of the village.
The village is located near the Bennington Battle Field State Historic Site. The Battle of Bennington was an important stepping stone in the American Revolution which would culminate at the victory in Saratoga.

**The History of Schodack**

The town of Schodack is a small town in the Southwest of Rensselaer County. The town has about 12,500 people, and was founded in 1795. At first, the land was part of the Indian Mahican tribe. In 1609, Henry Hudson explored the land surrounding the area, and was supposedly the first man to set foot on the land. During the seventeenth century, the area became part of the Manor of Rensselaerswyck, while in 1795, when Rensselaerswyck was divided, the town of Schodack was established. The first settlers in the town were the Dutch, who were the dominant group in the ‘New Netherlands’ area.

During the Civil War, many people from the town participated and fought alongside the American army in the Revolutionary war. Colonel Jakob Schermerhorn was one of the most important people from this town fighting in the war. During the War of 1812, many people from this town fought and even died fighting for America.

The first people to live in the area around Schodack were the Mahican tribe, an Indian tribe who were located around Albany and western New England. In 1609, the first Europeans came to that region, and the area was ‘discovered’ by the famous Dutchman Henry Hudson. After this, the Dutch settled there during the seventeenth century, with the area as part of the New Netherlands colony. Kiliaen van Rensselaer is without a doubt the most important of the settlers, and he became the patroon over the area. Farming was the main occupation in the area, but trading with the Indian tribes was also an important source of income.

Looking at heritage resources, there are no monuments of great importance in the town of Schodack.

**The History of Troy**

Troy has been known for its industrial establishments since the early nineteenth century. A time for growing businesses and individuals from all over the country were settling in after the Great Depression. Historical homes and buildings account for the Hart-Cluett House founded in 1827, on Second Street. Privately owned by General Hart and later passed onto Cluett and his family where they resided for a few years. In addition to historical homes in Troy, the marble house, built between 1888 and 1892 was significantly known as a cottage in the early nineteenth century. This was an architectural landmark constructed by Mr. Vanderbilt who made a fortune in steamships and the New York Central Railroad. The Collar City Bridge also had a significant impact among the city of Troy. Initially, a collar worn around an individuals’ neck symbolized labor for women in the 1900s. Around 1829 on 139 Third Street in Troy, N.Y., Mrs. Hannah Lord Montague constructed the first detachable shirt collar at her house. “The collar, cuff, and
shirt industry became one of Troy’s leading industries and the city became known as the Collar City (41).” Mostly worn by women, ninety dozen were made. Troy was producing a million dollars a day and half-a-million shirts a week. In addition to location of historical facts present in the early nineteenth century, Lansingburgh has their own public library where various artifacts and paintings may be found. Pottery, oilcloth, tin, medicine, beer and soda are also displayed in recognition of the local establishments made in Troy. Secondary research may be found at the Troy Public Library, RPI achieves, Russell Sage College, and Emma Willard achieves.
Bibliography of Resource Materials and References


*Centennial Anniversary of the Independence of the State of Vermont and the Battle of Bennington*. Rutland: Tuttle and Co., 1877

The Centennial Community. *The Dedication of the Bennington Battle monument and Celebration of the Hundredth Anniversary of the Admission of Vermont as a State*. Bennington: Banner Book and Job Printing House, 1891.


Eaton, Amos, and Stephan Van Rensselaer. “A geological and agricultural survey of Rensselaer County, in the state of New-York. To wich is annexed, a geological profile, extending from Onondaga Salt Springs, across said county, to Williams College in Massachusetts. Taken under the direction of the Honourable Stephen Van Rensselaer.” *American Culture Series* 385.4 (1822).


Historical Societies

**Town Historical Societies**

**Brunswick Historical Society**  
605 Brunswick Road  
Brunswick, New York 12180  
Phone: (518) 279-4024  
Website: http://www.bhs-ny.org/

**Grafton Historical Society**  
Grafton Town Hall  
2379 Route 2  
Grafton, New York 12082  
Phone: (518) 641-9660  
E-mail: historicgrafton@aol.com  
Website: www.graftonny.org/wordpress/historical/about/news

**Hoosick Historical Society**  
166 Main Street  
Hoosick Falls, New York 12090  
Phone: (518) 686-4682  
Website: http://www.hoosickhistory.com/

**Lansingburgh Historical Society**  
Physical: The Melville House and Museum  
2 114th Street, Troy  
Mailing: P.O. Box 219, Lansingburgh Station  
Troy, New York 12182-0219  
Phone: (518) 235-3501  
Fax (518) 235-3501  
E-mail: lhssecretary@gmail.com  
Website: www.lansingburghhistoricalsociety.org

“The area destined to become the Village of Lansingburgh was originally occupied by the Mohican Indians, later the Mohawks. The land was called Taascamatick.” The Lansingburgh Historical Society has a list of collections that includes maps, photographs, diaries and business records. Artifacts related to Lansingburgh residents are represented through educational, religious, and commercial activities. Some displays feature icons such as medicine, beer, soda and milk bottles from local establishments. On the contrary, paintings and Native American peoples are acknowledged for their historical achievements in art as of the early 19th century. In addition to artifacts and paintings, the Lansingburgh Historical Society has an attic museum that stores tools, materials, advertisements, and products of the community. Brush, oilcloth, pottery and tin ware are displayed within the attic museum.

**Pittstown Historical Society**  
Pittstown Town Hall
123 Tomhannock Road
Valley Falls, New York 12185
Phone: (518) 753-4222
Website: http://pittstown.us/historical_society/pittstown_historical_society.htm

Sand Lake Historical Society
Address unavailable at time of printing
Website: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyslhs

Stephentown Historical Society
Address unavailable at time of printing
Telephone: (518) 733-6070
Website: http://stephentown-historical.org/

County Historical Society

Rensselaer County Historical Society
57 Second Street
Troy, New York 12180
Phone: (518) 272-7232
Website: http://www.rchsonline.org/

Mission: “It manages and administers the largest local history library, archives and research center in Rensselaer County. These collections, comprising more than 30,000 items, are the fastest-growing and most well-used collections at Rensselaer County’s research library.”

Historical records consist of both primary and secondary sources, maps, and photographs from the 1900s. Some of the primary sources contain diaries, letters, scrapbooks, and business records. Secondary sources include city directories, county histories, labor history, social history and Village histories. The Rensselaer County Library honors the War of 1812 exhibit through exploration of how the County’s citizens prepared for conflict, responded to the war at home, deployed troops from the banks of the Hudson and advanced New York into becoming the Empire State. These exhibitions are shown through art, objects, and letters sponsored by New York Council for the Humanities. Walking tours are offered in recognition of Uncle Sam, amazing architecture, history of the Underground Railroad, and monumental designs. Local history reading rooms consist of the Troy Public Library on 100 Second Street, Emma Willard School Archives, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Archives, and Russell Sage College Archives.

As of the 19th century, Troy was known for its riches regarding industrial heritage with its bells, cast-iron stoves, collars, shirts, steel and chemicals. These products were made in Troy along the eastern banks of the Hudson River. Among many row houses in downtown Troy sits a white marble house, completed in 1827 known as the Hart-Cluett House. This house was built for a businessman banker’s family and later sold to the Cluett family who helped give Troy the nickname of The Collar City (Collar City Bridge). Hart-Cluett House was a representation of the most successful design and craftsmanship during that time period. These were what some of the finest houses in Troy looked like in the early 19th century.
Parks

State Parks of Rensselaer County

Cherry Plain State Park
26 State Park Road, Cherry Plain, NY 12040
Phone: (518) 733-5400
Fax: (518) 279-1902

This park provides an area of 175 acres for outdoor activities! New York State once provided President Franklin Roosevelt with a 26-foot Christmas tree from this park as a gift from the state.

Grafton Lakes State Park
100 Grafton Lakes State Park Way Grafton, NY 12082
Mailing: PO Box 163 Grafton, NY 12082
Phone: (518) 279-1155
Fax: (518) 279-1902

First mapped and drafted in 1980, this park provides an area of 2,357 acres for outdoor activities, and was the site of the US Intercollegiate Championships in 1981. It also includes the area of the Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site!

Schodack Island State Park
1 Schodack Way
P.O. Box 7
Schodack Landing, NY 12156
Phone: (518) 732-0187

This park provides an area for year-round outdoor recreational activities, such as fishing and hunting, nature trails, and cross-country skiing.

Local Parks of Rensselaer County

Prospect Park
65 Prospect Park Road, Troy NY, 12180

This park was founded in 1907, and was designed by Garnet Baltimore, the first African American to earn his Bachelor’s degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Technology (RPI). Today it remains an area for recreational activities, and includes a beautiful view overlooking Troy.

Frear Park
Lavin Ct. & Park Blvd., Troy, NY, 12180
Providing a beautiful view stretching for miles of the surrounding area, Frear Park is a gem of Troy. In 1917, the Frear family contributed a 22-acre donation in response to campaigns to create parkland at the sites of previous water supply locations in the 1890s. The park now serves as an area for outdoor recreation, featuring an ice rink, tennis courts, and picnic areas.

*Below is a map which provides the location of Rensselaer County’s two state parks*
Historical Museums, Buildings and Homes

Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site
Address: Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site
Route 67
Walloomsac, New York 12090
Phone: (518) 686-7109

Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site is the geographical location of a Revolutionary War battle, in the State of New York. The battle was fought on the present day boarder of Rensselaer County and the State of Vermont, near Bennington.

Bennington Battle Monument State Historic Site
Address: Bennington Battle Monument
15 Monument Circle
Bennington, Vermont 05201
Phone: (802) 447-0550

This is the site commemorates the Battle of Bennington in the State of Vermont. It is about 20 minutes from its companion site in New York.

Crailo State Historic Site (Fort Crailo)
Address: Crailo State Historic Site
9 1/2 Riverside Avenue
Rensselaer, New York 12144
Phone: (518) 463-8738

The Fort Crailo, formally a Dutch patroon house, is a museum which presents information of the New Netherland period of New York State history.

Kate Mullany House
Address: Kate Mullany House
350 8th Street
Troy, New York 12180
Website: http://www.katemullanynhs.org/

Kate Mullany was early female labor leader who founded an all women collar laundry union in February 1864.
Owner Status: Private
**Historic Districts**

**Hoosick Falls Historic District**

The Hoosick Falls Historic District is comprised of an eight-acre area. Its buildings demonstrate late 1900s industrial peak of the village. It was given this distinction in 1980.

Hoosick Falls Historic District (The Hoosick Township Historical Society)  
Address: The Louis Miller Museum  
166 Main Street  
Hoosick Falls, New York 12090  
Phone: (518) 686-4682  
Website: http://www.hoosickhistory.com/

**Hoosick Falls Armory**  
Location: Main Street (address within the district)  
Built in 1889, by state architect Isaac Perry  
Owner Status: State of New York (New York Division of Military and Naval Affairs)  
Website: www.hoosickarmory.com

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
Location: Main Street (address within the district)  
Church was finished in 1860 and was designed by architect Henry Dudley.

**United States Post Office**  
Location: Main Street (address within the district)  
The post office was built in 1925.  
Owner Status: United States Government

**Tibbits House**  
Location: Junction of NY 22 and NY 7 in near the town of Hoosick  
The house, also known as Tibbits Hall, was built circa 1860. The property was originally owned by U.S. Congressman George Tibbits and was a stop on the Underground Railroad.  
Owner Status: Private

**Nassau Historic District**

The Nassau Historic District is consists of three areas: Church Street, Albany Avenue Historic District and Chatham Street Row. Buildings located within these districts are interpreted to be from the early 1800s to around 1920.

**Troy Historic District**

The Troy Historic District encompasses a 96-acre area of downtown Troy. The red on the inset map denotes the current size of the district. In total the district contains two National Historic Landmarks and nine buildings classified on the National Register of Historic Places.
National Historic Landmarks

Cannon Building
Location: 1-9 Broadway, on the south side of Monument Square (address within the district)
Built in 1835, the building now is comprised of office spaces and a hotel on the upper floors.
Owner Status: Private

Hart-Cluett Mansion
Location: 57 Second Street (address within the district)
Owner Status: Public

Ilium Building
Location: Fulton and Fourth, northeast corner (address within the district)
Built in 1904 by architect Marcus Cummings.
Owner Status: Private

McCarthy Building
Location: 255 River Street, on the west side of Monument Square (address within the district)
Built in 1904 by architect Charles Boland.
Owner Status: Private

National State Bank Building
Location: 297 River Street (address within the district)
Built in 1904 by architect Marcus Cummings.
Owner Status: Private

Proctor's Theater
Location: Fourth Street (address within the district)
Built in 1914 by architect Arlard Johnson.
Owner Status: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Private)

W. & L.E. Gurley Building
Location: Fifth and Fulton streets (address within the district)
Built in 1862, was the manufacture of precision measuring instruments (i.e. surveying equipment).
Owner Status: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Private)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Location: Third and State Street (address within the district)
Completed in 1828 in the Gothic Revival style

Troy Public Library
Location: 100 Second Street (address within the district)
Owner Status: City of Troy (Public)

Troy Savings Bank
Location: 32nd Street (address within the district)
Built in 1875, the building features a full concert hall above the back. It is renowned for its musical acoustics and includes a huge Odell concert organ.
Owner Status: First Niagara Bank (Private)

**U.S. Post Office (Troy)**
Location: Fourth and Broadway.
Built in 1936, as a depression era public works project, the lobby contains a famous Waldo Peirce mural depicting Rip Van Winkle.
Owner Status: United States Government

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**Road Markers**

**Town of Brunswick**

798 (NY 96)
Home of Philip D. Dater (1790-1868)
Served in War of 1812
*Location: NY 96 at Eagle Mills*

**Gilead Church (Lutheran Church)**
First organized circa 1746 by Palatine settlers (400 Feet East of marker’s present spot)
Moved 2 ½ miles south to present site in 1817.
*Location: NY 7 at Haynersville*

**Town of East Greenbush**

**Citizen Genêt (1763-1834)**
Burial marker (house settlement about 2 miles west of marker)
*Location: US 9 & 20 in front of Dutch Reformed Church*

**War of 1812**
Greenbush cantonment quarters for United States army situated about half a mile north of here
*Location: US 9 & 20 Columbia Turnpike (in Hampton Manor)*

**Fort Crailo “Yankee Doodle”**
Written there in 1758
*Location: Intersection on US 9 & 20 and NY 4 & 40*

**Town of Hoosick**

**Bennington Battlefield**
General stark's victory
August 16, 1777
*Location: on NYS 67 about 1 mile east of Walloomsac, NY*
Bennington Battlefield
Marker Significance: Road leading to site of battle and Baum's redoubt (August 16, 1777)
*Location:* on NY 67 about 1 mile east of Walloomsac, NY

Bennington Battlefield
Marker Significance: Battery point, cannon guarding bridge and fort, was captured by the Americans, occurred on August 16, 1777.
*Location:* on NY 67 about 1 mile east of Walloomsac, NY

Early Tavern
Kept by David Wilcox before 1814
Later home of Dr. John Warren (1806-1882), first regular pastor
*Location:* NY 7 in Hoosick

Reformed Protestant Dutch church at Tiossiook
First organized May 2, 1792 (first Pastor Rev. Smith)
Present building erected 1823
*Location:* NY 67 at Buskirk

Walloomsac N. E. Church (Original Site of...)
Incorporated April 18, 1811 and reincorporated in 1845 and 1858 on Pittstown circuit.
Church building removed 1898
*Location:* Town Road about 1 mile east of Walloomsac, NY

First bridge over Hoosick River at the falls
Built 1791 as "federal bridge" by John Waldo and John Ryan.
Rebuilt by J. Manchester, 1825
*Location:* Mechanic Street

Hoosick Baptist Church
Organized March 16, 1785 and first building erected 1792
Elder Samuel Rogers, First regular pastor 1797
*Location:* NY 7 about 1 ½ miles northeast of Hoosick

St Croix Church
Near here is site Dutch reform church.
The first protestant church in Hoosick Valley.
On lot of A. Wendell in Hoosick Pat.
*Location:* on NY 67 about ½ mile west of North Hoosick

Town of Nassau

Benjamin Budd's Tavern
Built by Hershon Turner on site of Kaunaumeek where Brainerd preached to Indians with aid of Wauwaumpequannuntaunt.
*Location:* US 20 in Brainerd
**Town of North Greenbush**

**Van Alen home**  
Built on 400 acres tract purchased in 1778 by U.S. Congressman John Evert van Alen (1749-1807)  
*Location:* NY 43 in Defreestville, NY

**Town of Petersburg**

**Brimmer farm settled in 1754**  
Indian massacre occurred here June 2, 1755 and George Brimmer is buried here.  
*Location:* County Road about 1/2 mile south of Petersburg junction

**Farm of John Brimmer**  
who was captured by Indians, 1754  
Buried here in 1830  
*Location:* NY 22 about 1 1/2 miles south of Petersburg

**Hezekiah Coon Inn**  
First town meeting held here April 5, 1791.  
H. Coon, moderator; J. Odell, supervisor; J. Greene, clerk  
*Location:* NY 22 about 1 mile south of Petersburg.

**Lydia Odell Baxter (Poet)**  
Birthplace of Baxter on September 2, 1809, she died in New York City on January 23, 1874  
*Location:* Town Road about 1 1/2 miles east of Petersburg

**Reynolds Farm**  
Settled in 1780 by William W. Reynolds, who was born in Rhode Island died here 1829.  
Reynolds served in American Revolution  
*Location:* NY 22 about 3 miles south of north Petersburg

**Town of Poestenkill**

**Garfield Church**  
President James A. Garfield preached here and conducted his writing school, earning tuition to Williams College  
*Location:* Town Road near Poestenkill

**Town of Rensselaer**

**Fort Crailo**  
"Yankee Doodle" written here in 1758.  
*Location(s):* Dunn Memorial Bridge, Broadway at Dunn Memorial Bridge, Intersection of Aiken
Ave. & Columbia Street, Intersection of Columbia St. & Broadway and Riverside Avenue, opposite Fort Crailo

**City of Troy**

**Herman Melville (Author of Moby Dick)**  
Family home 1838-1847  
Did his earliest writing and completed first two books here: *Typee* and *Omoo*  
*Location*: 114th Street in North Troy

On this site the first house of worship in troy was erected – 1792 - by the first Presbyterian Church. The present church was built in 1836.  
*Location*: Corner of Congress & 1st Streets

**Rensselaerswyck**  
Marker is placed because of the Dutch influence by de Van Rensselaers  
*Location*: Thruway, eastbound, at Columbia Service Area (milepost B-5 of Berkshire Spur)

**Monuments**

**Bennington Battlefield**: Located in Bennington, Vermont, but as a monument, it is located within New York State. The monument was built in the 1880s in remembrance of the famous battle of Bennington during the American Revolution in 1777.

Contact Information:  
15 Monument Circle, Bennington, VT 05201  
Phone: (802) 447-0550  
Website: [http://www.historicvermont.org/bennington](http://www.historicvermont.org/bennington)

**Fort Crailo**: Fort Crailo, or ‘Yankee Doodle’ is a fortified house built in the Dutch style in the early eighteenth century by Hendrick van Rensselaer, a grandson of the first patroon van Rensselaer.

Contact Information:  
9 Riverside Avenue, Rensselaer, NY  
Phone: (518) 463-8738

**Soldiers and Sailors Monument**  
This monument is placed in order to honor the soldiers who have fought or died in the American Civil War.  
*Location*: Monument Square, Troy, NY

**Korean War / Vietnam War / World War II Monument**:  
On one site, there are three monuments commemorating the Korean, Vietnam and the Second World War and the Americans who have fought in the war.
Cemeteries

**Oakwood Cemetery**: Founded in 1848 and, currently, one of the largest rural cemeteries. Oakwood is the burial place for several prominent American people. First and foremost, it is the place where Samuel “Uncle Sam” Wilson is buried in 1858. “Uncle Sam” is the personification of the American government during the war of 1812, two hundred years ago. Another American historical person who is buried at Oakwood is Emma Hart Willard, who was a pioneer in women’s education and who was fighting for the rights of working men and women as a labor union leader. Jacob D. Vanderheyden, who was the founder of Troy and is known as “The Patroon of Troy” was buried at Oakwood as well. Furthermore, there is Amos Eaton, co-founder of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and several soldiers who have fought in the civil war, such as Rice C. bull, Major General Joseph B. Carr, William Henry Freeman and Major General John Ellis Wool.

Contact information:
Mailing Address:
Troy Cemetery Association, Inc.
Oakwood Cemetery
50 101st Street
Troy, New York 12180
Phone Number: (518) 272-7520
Fax Number: (518) 272-7521
E-mail Addresses: oakwood_cemetery@yahoo.com
Thomas O. Maggs, President, Board of Trustees
Bernie Vogel, Administrator, Oakwood Cemetery

**City Cemetery/Mount Ida Cemetery**: Also known as the Old Troy Burial Ground, Mount Ida Cemetery is a cemetery which is almost destroyed due to the abundance of vandalism. Although Samuel “Uncle Sam” Wilson is buried in Oakwood, he was first buried in Mt. Ida Cemetery in 1854, and only four years later transferred to Oakwood Cemetery. Another prominent community member who was buried in Mt. Ida Cemetery is Seymour David Lowrey, a New York politician and District Attorney for Rensselaer County around the 1850s.

Contact information:
575 Congress Street
Troy, NY 12180

Contact information:
Location: Dumbleton Rd., Grafton, NY
Local History Specialists

Town of Brunswick

Town historian: Sharon Zankel
Address: Brunswick Town Office
336 Town Office Road, Troy, NY 12180
Phone: (518) 279-9714
(518) 279-3461
Fax: (518) 279-4352
Website: http://www.townofbrunswick.org/history

Town of Schodack

Town historian: Diane Hutchinson
Town of Schodack
265 Schuurman Road, Castleton, NY 12033
E-mail: historian@schodack.org
Phone: (518) 477-7939

Castleton Public Library
85 South Main Street
Castleton, NY 12033
Phone: (518) 732-0879

East Greenbush

Town Historian: Waldi Cavanaugh
E-mail: wcavanaugh@eastgreenbush.org
Phone: (518) 477-4869

East Greenbush Community Library
10 Community Way
East Greenbush, New York 12061
Phone: (518) 477-7476

Research Information Note: Historical sources and reference materials pertaining to the local history of the town and region are available for public use and may be checked out.
Visit the Bennington Battlefield!

“…the first link in the chain of successes which issued in the surrender at Saratoga…”

- Thomas Jefferson

The Bennington Battlefield, located on the border between New York and Vermont, was a crucial location during the American Revolution. In 1777, Lieutenant General John Burgoyne of the British Army was in search for military supplies for his forces around Bennington, Vermont. However, he had assumed from false reports that the area was comprised of mostly loyalists. The search led to a bloody battle between the American militia, led by Brigadier General John Stark and Colonel Seth Warner, and the British regulars. The Americans won, leaving Burgoyne’s force weakened and unable acquire adequate supplies. The soldiers under his command were less prepared for the forthcoming Battle of Saratoga, allowing for another American victory that turned the tide of the war to their favor.

The battle, while known to have happened in Vermont, was actually fought on the New York side of the border. Therefore, while the Bennington Battlefield Historic Site is located in New York, it also spills over into Vermont as well. The joint efforts of the New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Department and the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation widely encourage the public to visit these sites. Besides the various monuments, dioramas, and memorials at the Bennington Battlefield, the sites include picnic areas and restrooms to encourage visitation. An elevator located inside of the 306-foot tall Bennington Battlefield Monument allows visitors to view the beautiful landscape of Vermont, Massachusetts, and New York. And, a bookstore located on the grounds allows for further reading on the American Revolution.

The importance of the Bennington Battlefield is present on a local and national level of history. With the American Revolution as a key stepping-stone towards the creation and expansion of the United States, the fact that a battle located right in our backyard shifted the tide of our nation’s fate is incredible. For this reason, it is important to the teaching of New York State and American history.

***SEE BROCHURE IN APPENDIX***
For More Information

National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
Phone: (202) 208-3818
Website: www.nps.gov

New York State Historical Association
Fenimore Art Museum
PO Box 800
Cooperstown, NY 13326
Phone: (607) 547-1400
Website: http://www.nysha.org/

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
625 Broadway
Albany NY 12207
Phone: (518) 584-2000 (Capital District and Saratoga Region)
Website: http://nysparks.com/

Rensselaer County Office
Ned Pattison Building
7th Avenue
Troy, New York 12180
Phone: (518) 270-2702
Website: http://www.rensco.com/

Rensselaer County Historical Society
57 Second Street
Troy, New York 12180
Phone: (518) 272-7232
Website: http://www.rchsonline.org/
Directions to the Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site
From the Capital District take Route 7 east to Route 22, and then take Route 22 north to Route 87. Bennington Battlefield is located on the north side of Route 67, between Walloomsac, New York, and Vermont. To reach the Bennington Battle Monument, take Route 67 east, take a right on 67A (West) and continue to Bennington College. Take a quick right on Silk Road and pass through a covered bridge. Take a left on Fairview Road and you will arrive at the monument. The monument is about 8 miles from the battlefield.

Directions to the Bennington Battle Monument
The Bennington Battle Monument is located at the head of Monument Avenue on Monument Circle. From the center of Bennington, Vermont, take West Main Street (State Route 9) up the hill past the Bennington Museum. At the Old First Church, take a sharp right on to Monument Avenue; the monument is straight ahead. To reach the Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site, take Walloomsac Road and right on to Fairview Road from the monument and make a right turn on Silk Road. Follow Silk Road through a covered bridge until Bennington College and the intersection of Route 67A. Turn left on 67A (West) and follow until the intersection of Route 67. Make a left on Route 67 and follow until you arrive at the battlefield, which is on the north side of the road. The battlefield is about 8 miles from the monument.

State of New York
Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Agency

In cooperation with:
The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
Empire State Society. N.S. S.A.R.
Walloomsac Battle Chapter, N.S. S.A.R.
Friends of the Bennington Battle Monument
The Vermont Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
www.vtssar.org

BENNINGTON, VERMONT
The Sought-After Prize

WALLOOMSAC, NEW YORK
The Defense of Bennington

“There they are boys! We beat them today or Molly Stark sleeps a widow tonight!”

-Brigadier General John Stark, August 16, 1777
At Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site, a topographical map cast in bronze provides visitors with an excellent survey of the field of battle. This monument was dedicated in 1927 for the sesquicentennial of the Battle of Bennington, 1777. Interpretive signs help visitors gain historic perspective as they tour the park.

“Tell Future Ages What a Hero’s Done” is on the base of the Colonel Seth Warner Memorial, erected in 1910.

Bennington Battle Monument rises above historic Bennington, Vermont.

This beautiful monument was erected in 1931 and pays homage to volunteers from Massachusetts. Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site has monuments dedicated from those states that played a part in the Battle of Bennington: Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.
Strategic Circumstances
As Lieutenant General Burgoyne's campaign advanced southward from Canada, he faced two difficulties: his army was 185 miles from its Canadian base, and loyalist support was not forthcoming in sufficient numbers from the surrounding countryside. Burgoyne's plan was to split the rebellious colonies along the Hudson River. But to do this, he needed food, wagons, and horses.

_The object of your expedition is to try the affections of the country, to disconcert the councils of the enemy, to mount the Riedesel's dragoons, to compleat Peter's corps, and to obtain large supplies of cattle, horses, and carriages._
–Orders from Lieutenant General John Burgoyne. July 31, 1777

Bennington: A Depot of Necessities
Burgoyne's force, numbering as many as 1,500 men, included Brunswick dragoons in search of horses, Hessian artillery and other German detachments, French Canadians, Native Americans, Loyalists, and British marksmen. Burgoyne put Lieutenant Colonel Freidrich Baum in command of the troops and ordered them to advance to Bennington and seize valuable military stores. Because Burgoyne had received incorrect information, he believed the region around Bennington to have loyalist support and the only resistance to be the remains of a scattered American militia regiment retreating from Fort Ticonderoga. What Burgoyne did not know was that Brigadier General John Stark was nearby in Manchester with 1,500 reinforcements and had joined Colonel Seth Warner and his Vermont militiamen.

Attack and Victory: August 16, 1777
After a difficult and cumbersome 40-mile trek, Baum's forces drove off a small American scouting party. Baum positioned his men in small groups and encamped on a hill overlooking the Walloomsac River. Baum sent word to Burgoyne for reinforcements. On August 16, Stark attacked Baum's forces from all directions; the Native Americans fled and the Loyalists scattered. The remainder fought until their ammunition ran out. Then, leading his men in a saber charge, Baum was mortally wounded, and his force surrendered.

Back at headquarters, Lieutenant General Burgoyne sent a relief column of 600 Brunswickers to aid Colonel Baum under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Heinrick Breymann. This force arrived too late to help Baum, but put Stark's men in a difficult situation until Colonel Seth Warner's Green Mountain Boys arrived from Vermont to drive Breymann's force from the field.
Of Great Military Importance
At Walloomsac, Brigadier General John Stark, Colonel Seth Warner, and their untrained militia defeated an enemy that was poorly integrated, but comprised of some of Europe's best regular soldiers. Burgoyne lost vital supplies, and his combat force was weakened. The stage was now set for Saratoga.

A Lasting Tribute
As early as 1854, Vermont citizens had begun to plan the construction of a memorial on the site where the military supplies so coveted by General Burgoyne had been stored. This effort was disbanded within two years because of difficulties raising funds. Then in 1876, the Vermont General Assembly passed an act creating the Bennington Battle Monument Association. With the approach of Vermont's Centennial in 1891, the Bennington Battle Monument Association helped raise $32,000 in private contributions; the State of Vermont appropriated $15,000; New Hampshire $5,000; Massachusetts $10,000; the Congress of the United States $40,000, and the amount of $102,000 was obtained to construct the memorial. The Vermont Legislature purchased the property where the monument was to be built in 1886. In 1887, the cornerstone was laid, and the monument was completed and dedicated in 1891.

Bennington Battlefield at Walloomsac and Bennington Monument
The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the State of Vermont's Division for Historic Preservation encourage visitors to explore Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site just outside Walloomsac, New York, and historic Bennington, Vermont.

At Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site, interpretive signs on the picturesque overlook describe the events of the battle on August 16, 1777. A picnic area, restrooms, and overlook are fully accessible to people with mobility limitations. Bennington Battlefield is open daily from May 1 to Labor Day: 10am–7pm. From Labor Day to Veterans Day, the site is open weekends only from 10am–7pm.

In Bennington, Vermont, the majestic Bennington Battle Monument (306 feet, 4-1/2 inches tall) has an observation deck reachable by elevator. From the deck visitors can see the valleys and rolling hills of Vermont, New York, and Massachusetts. The monument also includes a diorama depicting the second engagement of the Bennington Battle when Seth Warner and his Green Mountain Boys arrived. A number of other memorials are on the grounds. The monument bookstore offers a wide selection of Revolutionary War literature as well as merchandise related to historic Vermont.