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FALLING INTO HISTORY

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the October issue of *Main Street Magazine*. This issue has a bit of a theme to it, for those who have already flipped through the pages, you may have noticed already. And for those who hadn't flipped through and are starting to read this issue right here – first off, thank you – secondly: this month we're giving a nod to a bit of history.

Now, I know that not everyone loves history whereas others live for it. But my personal philosophy is that we should at least all have an appreciation of- and understanding for what came before us. The people, places, things, and events that took place before us have all shaped who and what we are. One decision made by our forefathers is in part the reason we are where we are. For example, the decision of my parents to come to America in 1989 from Iceland altered the trajectory of not just their lives, but the lives of my brother and myself. It is because of my parents' decision that we live the lives we live today, are married to the (Americans) people that we are married to, and have the children that we have today. Had our parents stayed in Iceland and raised us there, well, we can assume that my brother and my life would have been drastically different: we would probably be married to fellow Icelanders and have 100% Icelandic children. The point of this little personal story: the decisions that we make impact not just us, but our family and friends, our communities, and also our descendants.

That said, this issue is chock-full of history – sharing stories of people, places and things from our region. Some you may be aware of, others perhaps not. But I hope that you all find something of interest, and I hope that we each can find something that we appreciate and view differently as a result. So I hope that you will enjoy!

I wanted to take a moment and share with you all that our beloved writer CB Wismar will no longer be contributing to this magazine after this issue. CB and his wife Kathy will be moving out of the area. CB has written for this magazine for over seven years, and in that time he's shared so many wonderful stories with our readers, and he's also shared parts of his own life through his writing. Personally, I'll miss our conversations, exchange of ideas, and words of wisdom and life experience that he often shared with me. If any of you would like to drop CB a parting note, please feel free to email info@mainstreetmag.com attn: CB Wismar. CB, my friend, thank you for everything and best of luck to you and Kathy on your next chapter.

– Thorunn Kristjansdottir



OCTOBER 2022

The October moon is called Hunter's Moon. (The full moon in September is Harvest Moon). This Hunter's Moon was captured on top of Winchell Mountain between Pine Plains and Millerton, NY.

Cover photo by
Olivia Valentine

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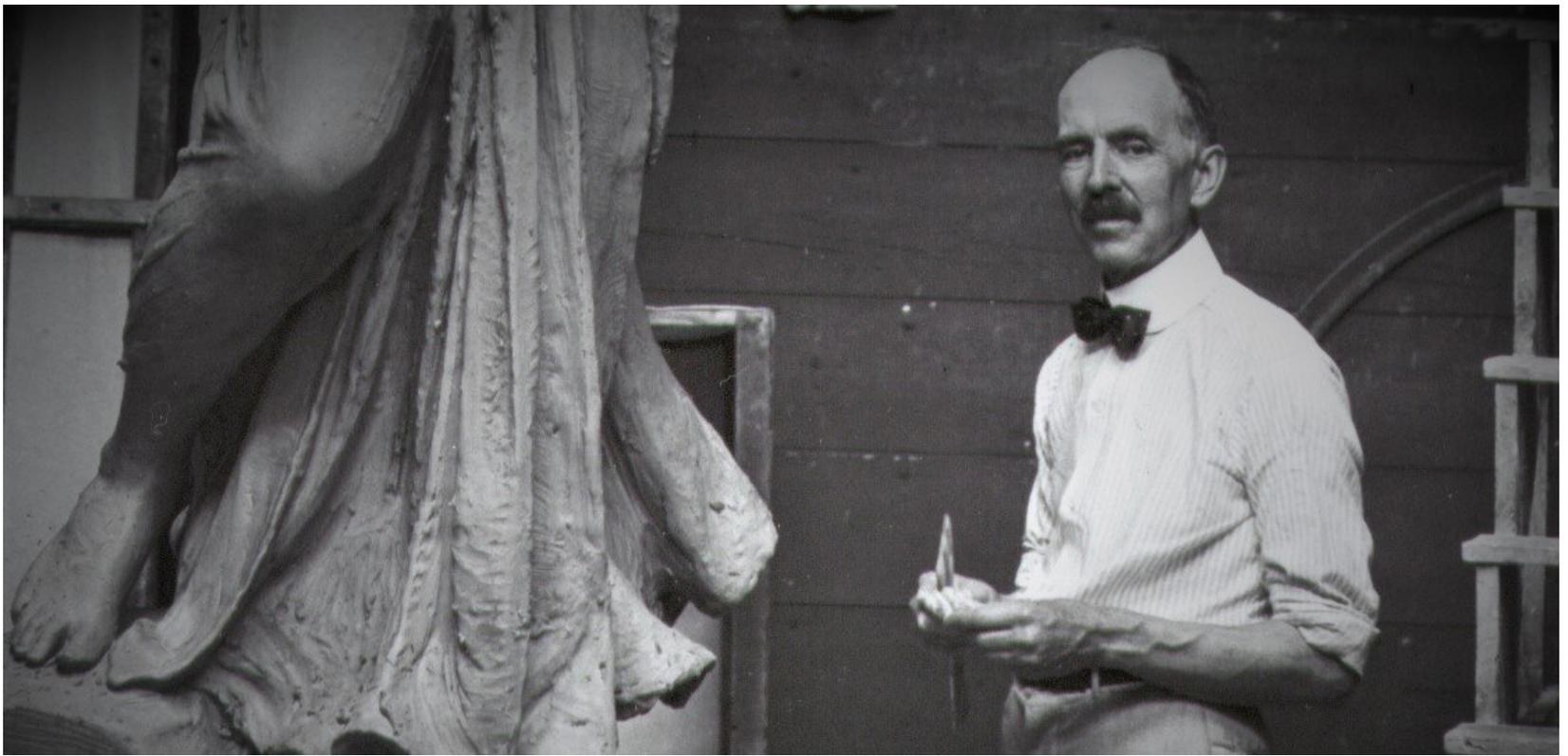
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AN ARTIST'S LEGACY

DANIEL CHESTER FRENCH

By CB Wismar
info@mainstreetmag.com

In honor of our "history" themed issue that you are currently reading, we opted to give a nod to an artist who not only resided in our area and worked here, but who has since passed - a first for us in this artist profile feature. CB had his selection of talented artists to choose from with so many artists having called our area home throughout the centuries. His choice was Daniel Chester French whose work we have (probably) all seen.

The name may not be familiar, but images of his work are etched deeply into our national consciousness. Daniel Chester French, an American sculptor who died in 1931, was a longtime resident of the Berkshires, having established both his summer home and his studio at Chesterwood in Stockbridge, MA – a few miles north of Great Barrington. It was there in his studio that French created the model that would become the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC.

The four year project to turn model into masterpiece was intensely supervised by French. Six brothers, the Piccirillis, accomplished the construction which they carved from Georgia white marble in 28 pieces, shipped to Washington and assembled on site. Over the years of his career, French would often reunite with the family to execute his sculptural designs.

Placed at one end of the National Mall, Lincoln's seated figure seems to look across the huge reflecting pool, past the memorials recognizing the nation's engagement in World War II, the Vietnam War, and the Korean War, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, the nearby Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, the giant obelisk memorializing George Washington, all the way to the Capitol Building. Every year, in every season, thousands of visitors to the Capitol climb the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to stand in awe of French's imposing figure.

Success from the beginning

Lincoln was not his only contribution to the celebration of American history. It was, in fact, French's first major work that brought him recognition and was the foundation for his career. Because of family connections in the town of Concord, MA, French was the only sculptor to be considered by a panel of revered town elders, including Ralph Waldo Emerson. The project was to create a monument commemorating the beginning of the American Revolutionary War. The Concord Minute Man statue sits across the North Bridge over the Concord River and memorializes the Battle of Concord. Unveiled in April, 1875 during the centennial celebration of that battle, it was positively received by critics, though French was not on hand to accept their applause. He had traveled to France to pursue

his training and avoid the embarrassment of criticism should his work be not well received.

What followed the completion of the Minute Man was a career that created lasting monuments to both individuals and philosophical concepts and aspirations. John Harvard, his 1884 statue looks over Harvard Yard in Cambridge, MA. The Statue of the Republic, created as the centerpiece of the Chicago Columbian Exposition can still be admired in a somewhat reduced version (24 feet tall) in that city. The George Robert White Memorial resides in Boston's Public Garden, the imposing bronze doors of the Boston Public Library not far away, and his Four Continents are at the Alexander Hamilton US Custom House in New York.

A childhood of privilege

Daniel Chester French was born in Exeter, NH, where his father was the state's chief justice. A respected legal mind, French's father also served as Assistant US Treasury Secretary and was an author. In 1867, the family moved to Concord, MA, where they became friends with Ralph Waldo Emerson and the Alcott family. It was May Alcott, sister of Louisa May Alcott who was credited with encouraging Daniel to pursue sculpting. French attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) but did not

graduate, choosing, instead, to travel to Florence, Italy, to study sculpture.

With the critical acclaim surrounding the Minute Man, French established his own studio – located, first, in Washington, DC, then later Boston and New York. As his reputation and career ascended, French maintained a home in New York City, and in 1896, purchased the farm of Marshall Warner of Stockbridge, MA. The 150-acre estate would become the summer home for the French family and the primary studio where he created the designs and models for pieces done as commissions as well as pieces done as his own creative expression.

Welcome to Chesterwood

The 1820 farm house that had been situated on the property was replaced in project that began in 1901. French had met and become friends with noted architect Henry Bacon, who he asked to design both the main house and a studio. It was Bacon with whom French collaborated in the triumphant development of the Lincoln Memorial. Bacon's own career is represented in structures throughout the country including the Naugatuck, CT, train station, Waterbury Hospital, and the World War I Memorial at Yale University in New Haven.

Throughout the years, Chesterwood has undergone renovation, now under the auspices of the owners of

the property, the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1965, the property is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Admission to and tours of Chesterwood are offered through October 24. It is open five days a week, closed on Tuesdays



Above: The construction of the Lincoln Memorial. Below, left: Daniel Chester French with a model of the Lincoln Memorial. Opposite page: The artist, Daniel Chester French. All images courtesy of Chesterwood's website www.chesterwood.org.

and Wednesdays. Tickets to visit the house, the studio, the art collections and the grounds can be obtained on line at www.chesterwood.org. The address is 4 Williamsville Road, Stockbridge, MA.

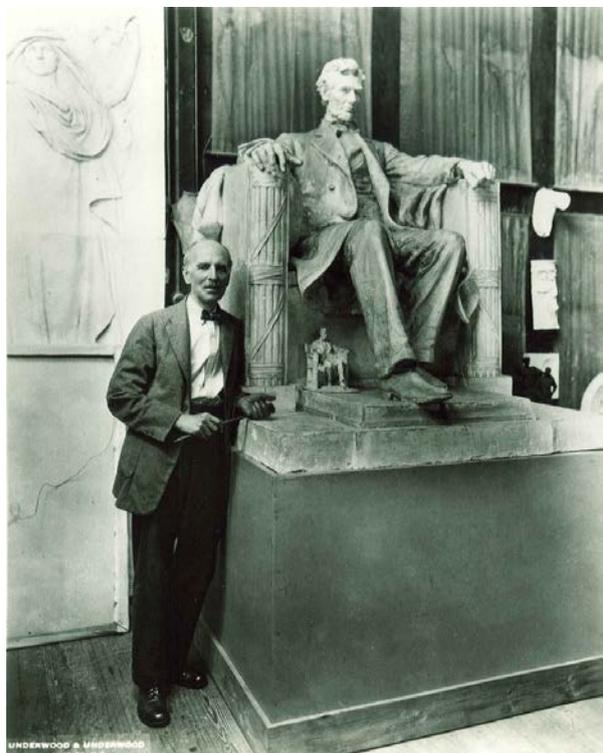
The Three Arts Society

While the world thinks of Lincoln and the Minute Man and Chesterwood when focusing on the legacy of Daniel Chester French, there is another fine example of his contribution to life in the area. In 1928, French was one of four area dignitaries who came together to form Three Arts Society. The focus of their partnership was to disassemble a casino that once stood on the eastern part of Main Street in Stockbridge, have it carried by horse-drawn wagon to the bottom of Yale Hill and reassembled, adding a stage and seating. Introducing the Berkshire Playhouse, thanks, in part, to Mr. French.

The newly refashioned theater opened in 1928. When the depression caused Pittsfield's Colonial Theatre to close, it was French, again, who joined with several of the other Three Arts Society board members to keep that organization going and were able to mount a 1935 season that starred none other than the great Ethel Barrymore.

As Berkshire Theatre Group, created with the merger of Berkshire Theatre Festival and The Colonial Theatre moves proudly toward its centennial of blended operation, the legacy of French's commitment to the area lives on. ●

Are you an artist and interested in being featured in Main Street Magazine? Send a brief bio, artist's statement, and a link to your work through the arts form on our "arts" page on our website.



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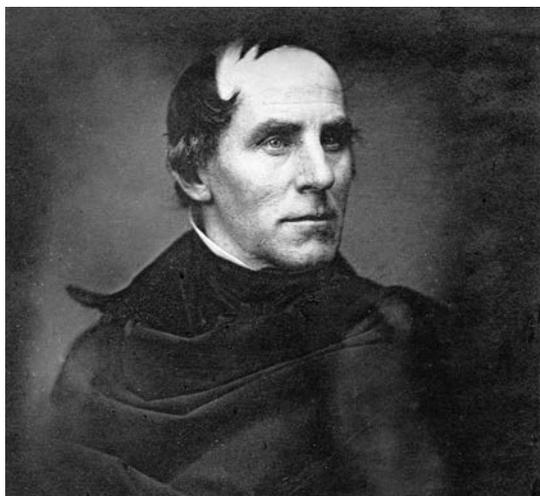
Main Street Magazine's director of advertising, **Ashley Kristjansson** has been with *Main Street* since – literally – day one. She says, “I truly enjoy interacting with all of our advertisers and I love that I have the ability to bring ad designs to life.” As a self-proclaimed crazy cat lady, you might also associate Ashley with our weekly “Whisker Wednesday” post on her beloved fur baby, Otis. Aside from her creative side, Ashley loves to sing, spend time with her family, watch reality TV, and travel. “Iceland and Mexico are my favorite destinations so far, but Aruba is totally on my bucket list!” Ashley’s firmly planted her roots in Columbia County and is happy to be raising her four-year-old daughter Ellie with the same small town feel she grew up with. “Speaking of my daughter; does anyone know how to slow down time? Four years have gone by in a blink!”



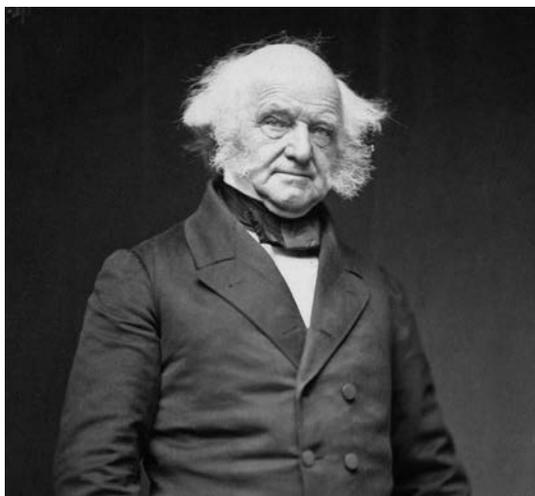
Gavin Gursky, a Copake Lake native, just celebrated his first birthday in August. He is a happy boy and loves to explore – from walking the Rail Trail, Bash Bish, or hanging out on the lake, he is a very adventurous guy! Gavin is a frequent diner of Copake Country Club, but mostly gets the 5pm early bird special to avoid a meltdown. Gavin is spoiled by so many including his Mama, Dada, MEMA, Grammie, aunts, uncles, cousins and Miss Kim. He loves YouTube sensation “Miss Rachel” and Cocomelon if given the opportunity. Gavin is a huge animal lover, frequenting the Trevor Zoo and Love Apple Farm to check them out, his favorite animal we have discovered so far are dogs. He’s obsessed with his mini golden doodle Charli, and they are nothing short of besties. Gavin is so grateful to grow up in such a wonderful area with so many wonderful things to see and do.



Lesley Doyel, is the president of the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society (RJHS) in Copake Falls, NY. “I have a long background in education and museums, so for me, this is a dream come true. I’ve been working at the RJHS since 2018 and I love the deep dive into local history, and designing programs and exhibitions that are relevant to and engage our membership from surrounding communities and beyond.” When asked what she likes to do outside of her work at the RJHS she said, “Visiting museums, other historical societies and sites are favorite pastimes. I am also a dedicated preservationist and involved in several historic preservation projects locally and in New York City.” Though a native of Manhattan, Lesley feels a deep connection to upstate New York, and its breathtaking landscapes. She loves taking long walks with her husband Nick and their dog Munchkin.



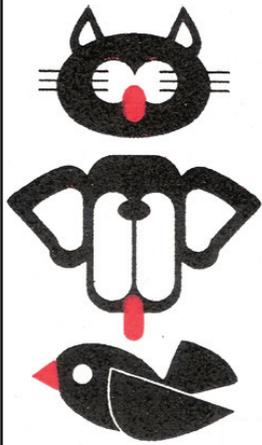
Thomas Cole (February 1, 1801 – February 11, 1848) was an English-American painter known for his landscape and history paintings. He is regarded as the founder of the Hudson River School, an American art movement that flourished in the mid-19th century. Cole’s work is known for its romantic portrayal of the American wilderness. Born in Bolton le Moors, Lancashire, in 1801, Cole immigrated with his family to the United States in 1818, settling in Steubenville, OH. At the age of 22, he moved to Philadelphia and later, in 1825, to Catskill, NY, where he lived with his wife and five children until his death in 1848. After 1827 Cole maintained a studio at the farm called Cedar Grove, in the town of Catskill. He painted a significant portion of his work in this studio. In 1836, he married Maria Bartow of Catskill, a niece of the owner’s, and became a year-round resident. (Picture and text courtesy of Wikipedia).



Martin Van Buren (December 5, 1782 – July 24, 1862) was an American lawyer and statesman who served as the eighth President of the United States from 1837 to 1841. A founder of the Democratic Party, he had previously served as the ninth governor of New York, the tenth United States Secretary of State, and the eighth Vice President of the United States. Later in his life, Van Buren emerged as an elder statesman and an important anti-slavery leader who led the Free Soil Party ticket in the 1848 presidential election. Van Buren was born in Kinderhook, NY, where most residents were of Dutch descent and spoke Dutch as their primary language. He was the first President to have been born after the American Revolution and is the only President to have spoken English as a second language. Van Buren emerged as the most influential politician from New York in the 1820s and established a political machine known as the Albany Regency. (Picture and text courtesy of Wikipedia).



Elizabeth Freeman (c. 1744 – December 28, 1829), also known as Bet, Mum Bett, or MumBet, was the first enslaved African American to file and win a freedom suit in Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling, in Freeman’s favor, found slavery to be inconsistent with the 1780 Massachusetts State Constitution. Her suit, *Brom and Bett v. Ashley* (1781), was cited in the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court appellate review of *Quock Walker’s* freedom suit. When the court upheld Walker’s freedom under the state’s constitution, the ruling was considered to have implicitly ended slavery in Massachusetts. “Any time, any time while I was a slave, if one minute’s freedom had been offered to me, and I had been told I must die at the end of that minute, I would have taken it – just to stand one minute on God’s airth [sic] a free woman – I would.” – Elizabeth Freeman. (Picture and text courtesy of Wikipedia).



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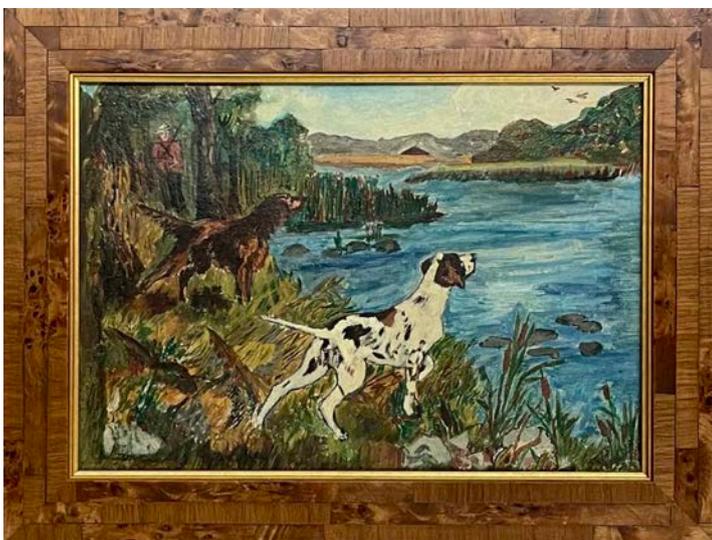


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WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE?

By Christine Bates
info@mainstreetmag.com

This summer's regional drought with four to five inches of rain less than usual, polluted city drinking water in Jackson, MS, and water restrictions in California emphasize the importance of water to our lives. What are the questions homeowners, and real estate buyers and sellers should have about the source and quality of the H2O coming out of the faucet? Poor water flow or contaminated water affects the livability of any home and its eventual salability.

Over 300 million Americans drink water pumped into their homes from public water systems. New York City relies on its reservoirs, the largest source of fresh, unfiltered water in the world, which provide over a billion gallons of water daily to around 9.5 million people. New York City is the inheritor of a robust system of pristine watersheds, aqueducts, tunnels, and water pipelines to supply the city's taps and flush toilets, but in rural, less densely populated areas, small municipal and private wells supply much of the population. Outside of cities like Poughkeepsie and Hartford, regional municipal water systems typically supply only the central, commercial areas of a town or village with the rest of residents relying on wells on their own property.

What to ask? What to know?

Real estate listings always indicate a property's source of water whether it

is a well or municipal water supply. When you visit a house in the country ask the agent where the well is and actually take a look. Don't be assured by a realtor's wave of the hand in the direction of a wooded area. Find the well and check to see if the "well head," that's the pipe sticking out of the ground, is elevated at least 6" above ground level and that the cap is in good condition.

While you're in the house taste the water from the faucet. Is it cloudy? Does it taste good? Well water typically is better tasting than chlorinated municipal water. Is there a water filter and water softener in the basement?

The next step is to consult with the county department of health and get information about what's underground if the well is registered and properly permitted. If you get to the final stage before purchase, you should make water flow and quality a specific contingency to purchase and have the well inspected both for productivity and for water quality. Water flow should be at least 6 gallons per minute and the water should be safe to drink. This flow would provide 360 gallons of water each hour, which would be sufficient to meet most home water peak demands. If the flow is not sufficient it may be necessary to dig a new, deeper well or to hydro frack the existing well which is done with high pressure water, not chemicals.

A home inspector should also provide a clean bill of health on the water quality. After a failed water flow test and many conversations with well drillers one buyer declined to move ahead with a \$300,000 purchase. There just wasn't a way to drill another well on the property. The house later sold for \$288,000 and two years later at the height of the pandemic sold for \$265,000. Water does affect real estate prices.

What if you're building?

What if you have a beautiful piece of land with a view and want to build a



Above: The water tower in Millerton, NY, generates extra income by renting its height out to cell phone companies. Left: What's in your glass of water? Photos by Christine Bates

new home or need to dig a new well? Before purchasing it's important to determine the availability of water especially on a smaller parcel where septic might also be an issue. Consult with an engineer and a well drilling company before moving ahead to make certain that the soil is appropriate for a septic and that there's room after considering lot lines and power lines to also dig a well. How accessible is the site to the massive equipment required by both excavators and well drillers. An average well typically is over 200 feet deep and drilling will cost on average at least \$10,000, but could be much more depending on depth soils, and rocks. The best well

Continued on next page ...



site is an elevated area which allows any surrounding surface water or rain to drain away from the well. Avoid placing a well on steep slopes or where there are large rocks on the ground which may be indicative of what lies beneath the surface. Larry Grela of Grela Drilling, Connecticut's largest well driller, observed that new wells are getting deeper and deeper – 275 feet to 300 feet. Shallow wells, less than 200 feet are a less reliable sources of water and are very dependent on precipitation. Bored and hand dug wells that are only 10 to 30 feet deep cased with simple tile or brick still exist near older homes. There is one of these hiding in my backyard – it provided household water before village water arrived in pipes. Like the slightly deeper driven wells these draw from water close to the surface which makes them vulnerable to contaminants.

Hydrofracking, which improves well water flows, can only be done for wells that 250 feet or deeper. New wells are now regulated by county health departments, Dutchess County Department of Behavior and Community Health and in Litchfield County, the Torrington Area Health District and approval to drill may take up to six months. It will involve a percent, deep soil excavation, survey, and engineering designs for both the water and septic system. The actual drilling is the easy part.

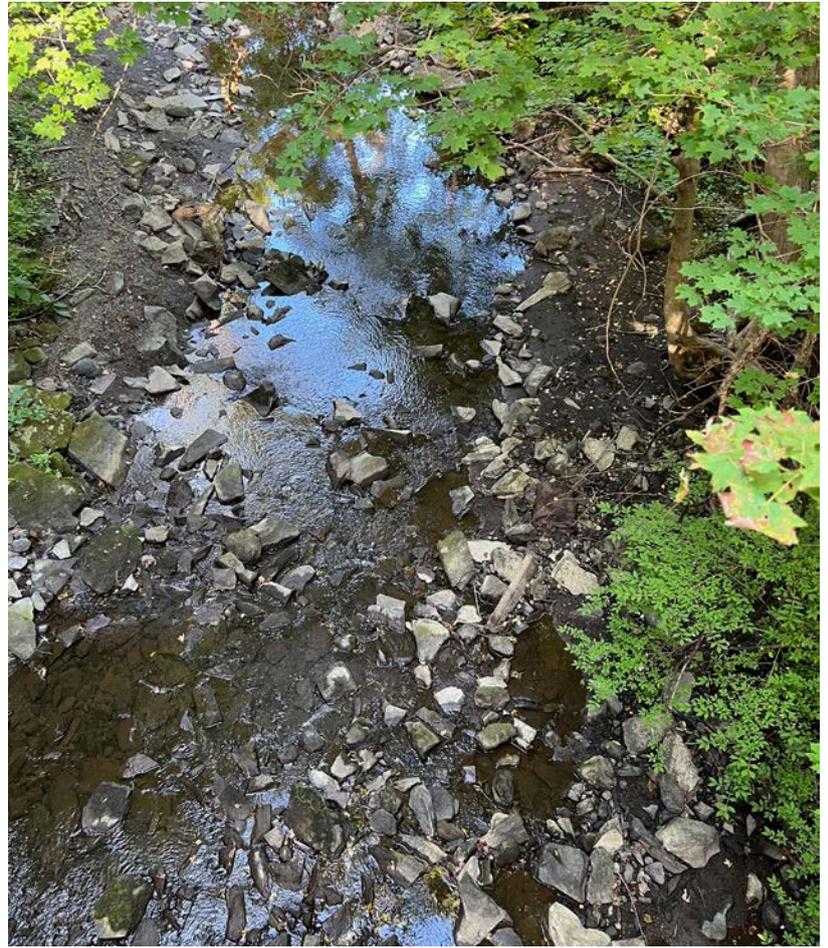
Is village water better?

Most agents and sellers will point to access to public water as a plus for the property. Sometimes public water also means access to a sewer

system but not always, as in the case of the Village of Millerton, NY, where residents rely on individual septic systems that must be pumped and maintained. Municipal water systems are a reliable source of water even during power outages. These systems are tested daily by a water operator for bacterial contaminants. Annually each resident receives a full report on water quality compared to EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) standards. Almost all municipal water systems in our region are in compliance with these standards; however, the non-profit Environmental Working Group provides additional information about contaminants not covered by federal regulations which have not been updated in 20 years. Their site <https://www.ewg.org/tap-water> provides higher standards for water quality based on current health guidelines. For example, in our area one town in Dutchess County had 8.3 times the amount of arsenic currently regarded as safe; a nearby Connecticut town had 28 times, and Great Barrington met the more stringent health guidelines.

The expense of municipal water is enormously variable from town to town. Aquarion, the water operator for much of the Litchfield Hills, is now asking for a rate increase which includes stepped up pricing depending on usage. An average customer uses 80 to 100 gallons of water a day or about 6,000 gallons a month at the current rate of \$5.66 a thousand gallons plus additional service charges.

One Lakeville, CT, resident just received a bill for over \$230 for the month of August because of



32,000 gallons used for lawn irrigation. Next year this user's bill will be much higher after the graduated rate increase. The Village of Millerton has just started reading water meters and heavy users will be paying much more than the \$115 flat quarterly fee now in effect. Nationally it costs about \$325 per year for water and in some places two to three times that amount.

Water is survival

From the aqueducts that the Romans built to bring water for their cities from France to Rome, and the cisterns of Constantinople, to mechanical windmills which opened the West and the reservoir system of New York City access to potable water remains critical to civilization. Our region dubbed by the Cary Institute as the "Saudi Arabia of water," is blessed with abundant, unpolluted water. We have the responsibility to care and protect this resource which will become increasingly valuable. ●



Above, top to bottom: Dry creek beds in August were proof of lack of precipitation. Photo by Christine Bates. Mechanical windmills brought water to the surface making it possible to settle the West. Today wells rely on submerged electrical pumps. Left: Recently renovated water system equipment in Millbrook, NY.



Christine Bates is a registered real estate agent in New York and Connecticut with William Pitt Sotheby's. She has written about real estate and business since Main Street Magazine's first issue.

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**Tuesday, Oct 18 via Zoom
10am: Hearing begins
3pm: Public Testimony begins**

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PUFF PASTRY

Apple tarts



By Olivia Valentine &
Caroline Markonic
info@mainstreetmag.com

Fall! It's hard to believe that it's October already! We are going to take it super easy on you this month. You'll need to save your baking energy for the next few months as we approach the holiday season. We must admit that our first recipe attempt for this month was somewhat of a flop. It used apples, which are plentiful this time of year, but it fell flat. Our taste testers liked the flavor but didn't think it was worthy enough to share with y'all. So, we decided to keep the apple theme and make a super easy apple tart out of ready-made pastry. No need for tedious laminating of home-made pastry. As the kids would say: "miss me with that."

It was so much fun to make this on a chilly Friday evening. We even had helping hands in the kitchen! Jane, my (Olivia) middle daughter, stopped by with her two dogs. Jane and Caroline belted out all the tunes from the musical *Les Mis*. All the laughter and singing was very heartwarming and it was a perfect night. When Jane and Caroline were younger, their uncle nicknamed them giggle-itis and laugh-a-lotamous. The two of them were always giggling and laughing

about something – when they weren't fighting! Although these interactions are less frequent, they definitely still occur. It's not often that we all get together and make new memories in the kitchen anymore. I find that I am more often than not looking fondly back at old times.

Our kitchen really is the heart of our home, despite how absolutely tiny it is when there are more than two people in it. One thing of note that gave us all our "ab workout of the day" (laughing) was at my expense. We have one or two oven mitts that are a bit past their prime... Out of the few, the worst was chosen. And it was very apparent. When I took the sheet pan out of the 425 degree oven, the oven mitt was only an illusion. The heat went right through it and started burning my hand. As this was happening, Jane and Caroline stood and watched as yelling and screaming ensued. They stood and stared, waiting for me to put the pan down. I instead continued to look down at my hand telling them that it was %&* hot! The moment felt as if it happened in slow motion. What could they even do? I finally set it on the counter and after it was clear that I was okay, laughter erupted, and we each told the story of what just happened from our own perspectives. The main takeaway

was: what took me so long and why didn't I just put it down? It's easy to understand if you have ever experienced me during an emergency: my brain loses most all function. Do not fret however, I'm positive that by the time this comes out, the blister will be healed as if it never even happened. The memory is sure to remain though.

Anyway, moving on... As always with our recipes, we like to try to use seasonal fruits as much as we can in our bakes. In the beginning of October, apples are ripe for the picking. Go out and get 'em! Take a drive to your local farm stand or pick-your-own and don't worry about getting too many. There are endless apple recipes out there. Here's ours.

Ingredients:

3 Granny Smith Apples cored and sliced very thin
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup sugar
1 tsp fresh lemon juice
1 tsp cinnamon
2 tbs apricot jam (for the glaze)
Confectioners sugar

Instructions:

Remove puff pastry from the freezer and allow to thaw for about 20 minutes on the counter. While the puff

pastry is thawing, slice the apples and place in a medium size bowl. Add the sugars, lemon juice, and cinnamon. Toss the apples with the sugar mixture and let sit for about 10 minutes.

Once the pastry has thawed, cut the sheet into four equal squares. Lay the puff pastry on a parchment paper-lined cookie sheet. Arrange apples however you like, just make sure to leave space on the edges for the pastry to puff up. We did them a few ways but the best was simply overlapping them across the puff pastry (see photo).

Bake for approximately 25 minutes. While the tarts are still warm, brush with 2 tbs of apricot jam mixed with 1 tbs of water. Serve warm with a dusting of powdered sugar, a scoop of vanilla ice cream, or drizzle with some caramel sauce!

P.S. Remember the old saying: an apple a day keeps the doctor away. ●

Olivia and Caroline are enthusiastic foodies and bakers who are constantly in the kitchen, as well as explorers who create their own adventures in our area – and did we mention they are mother and daughter? Follow Olivia on Instagram to see her many creations at @oliviawvalentine.

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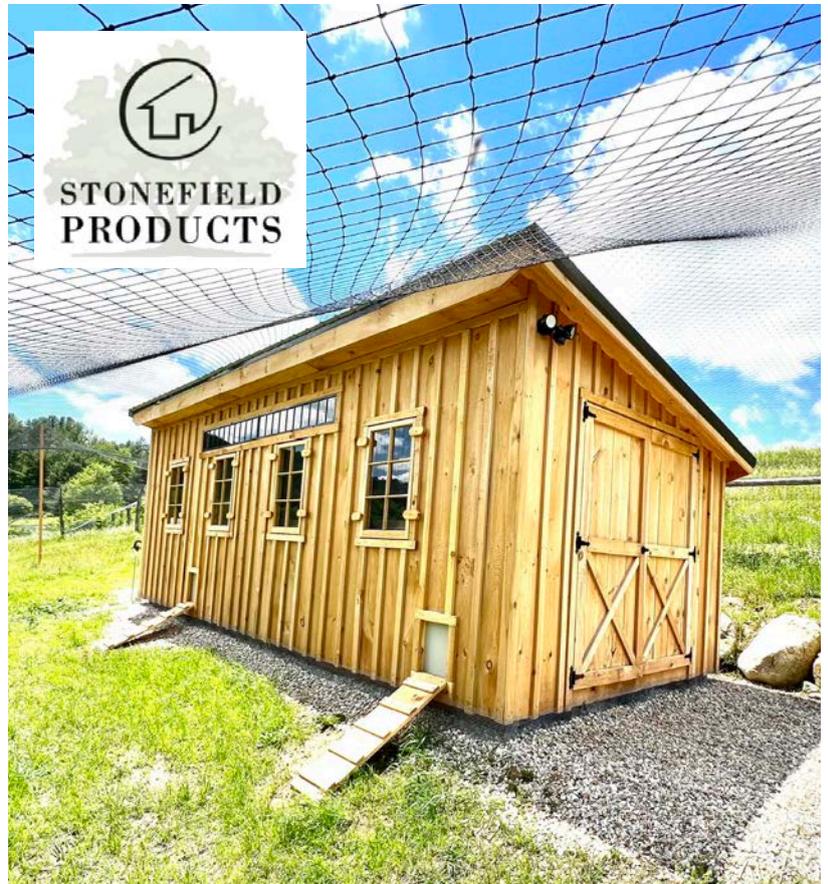
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Fall festivities

By Regina Molaro
info@mainstreetmag.com

Although many of us struggle to transition from summer to autumn, there are plenty of reasons to celebrate the season. As we leave the long leisurely days of summer behind us, we learn to embrace the more structured routines that come along with fall. Many people enjoy their autumn traditions, which may include visiting corn mazes with the kids, picking apples, baking sweet treats, taking weekend road trips, visiting vineyards, or attending (or hosting) annual Halloween fetes. Warm up to the new season by enjoying all of the festivities that come along with it. Here are some ideas to kickstart your season.

Averill Farm, Washington Depot, CT

This fall, visit Averill Farm to sample its homemade cider, apple cider donuts, jams, and jellies. Beyond fresh cut blooms, Averill also sells locally-sourced pies, pumpkins, gourds, Indian corn, colorful mums, maple syrup, honey, cheddar cheese, garlic, potatoes, tomatoes, and gift items. The family-run farm has been operated continuously by the Averills since it was purchased way back in 1746. Although it was a dairy farm for many years, the 260-acre property is now a fruit orchard that produces hay and Christmas trees. Tyson Averill (of the 10th generation) currently runs

the farm with help from his wife Jennifer, father Sam, mother Susan, and several dedicated employees. Averill's apples and pears are grown in the 30 acre orchard and are sold as picked fruit and pick-your-own. Although more than 100 varieties are grown, approximately 20 are available for customers to pick.

250 Calhoun St, Washington Depot, CT. Call (860) 868-2777, or visit online at www.averillfarm.com.

Daisey Hill Farm, Millerton, NY

Millerton's Daisey Hill Farm is the destination for snapping up seasonal autumn fare. Its charming market offers everything from pumpkins to gourds, winter squash, potatoes, and onions. One of the highlights of Dailey Hill is its fun corn maze, which kids will certainly enjoy exploring. There's also a mining wheel where the wee ones can mine gems.

438 Indian Lake Rd., Millerton, NY. Call (518) 789-3393, or visit online at www.daiseyhill.com.

The Farm Store at Willow Brook, Millerton, NY

Autumn is an ideal time to enjoy all the benefits of this 450-acre family-owned dairy farm in Millerton. Its colorful farm store is an emblem of authentic country living. At the farm, you'll find yourself surrounded by pumpkins of various shapes and sizes. While there, explore the corn maze, witness a herd of cattle grazing in an open pasture, and indulge in the sweet taste of delectable baked goods. With a view of a small, lively duck pond and the scenic, open air fields outside the village, Willow Brook Farms has been a family business since it was first purchased back in 1943. The farm is home to more than 100 Holstein-Friesian and Jersey dairy cows, which are pedigreed and registered for shows. Its shop is proud to provide the community

Warm up to the fall season with these cool activities in the Hudson Valley



Above: Rose Hill Farm in Red Hook, NY, offers more than just pick-your-own. Photo: Rose Hill Farm. Below, left: Golden Harvest in Valatie, NY, is famous to generations of patrons for their apple cider donuts, but their offerings keep expanding! Photo: Golden Harvest.

and visitors with superior quality dairy, local fruits and veggies, and non-GMO sweet corn, as well as its own pork, beef, eggs, and gift items.

196 Old Post Rd. 4, Millerton, NY. Call (518) 789-6880, or visit online at www.thefarmstoreatwillowbrook.com.

Golden Harvest Farms, Valatie, NY

This season, Golden Harvest Farms welcomes guests to enjoy its new Harvest Smokehouse, which offers takeout, as well as outdoor and greenhouse dining. A giant pumpkin display and hundreds of colorful mums welcome visitors to the festive "select your own" activities. After a long day of leaf peeping, head to the Harvest Spirits distillery and terraced garden to unwind with a cocktail. While at Golden Harvest, you can also sample the apple cider donuts.

Golden Harvest traces its roots back to the 1950s, but the story of apples being grown on its land extends back much further. The productive apple orchards of the upper Hudson Valley have a long and storied history. In the late 1940s, production in Columbia County reached its historical peak. According to Golden Harvest, about 1.5 million bushels were harvested annually. In 1957, Golden Harvest opened its road stand to the public. Every fall, at harvest time, this stretch of road transforms into a seasonal attraction – customers take in the colorful outdoor apple displays and select from a wide selection of seasonal produce. The orchards now comprise over 200 acres, with upwards of 45,000 apple trees. Nearly 30 varieties are

Continued on next page ...



grown, including Honeycrisp and new varieties such as SnapDragon, RubyFrost, and Zestar.

3074 Rt. 9, Valatie, NY. Call (518) 758-7683, or visit online at www.goldenharvestfarms.com.

Greig Farm, Red Hook, NY

Greig Farm welcomes guests to spend a leisurely morning or afternoon picking seasonal fruits and vegetables. 'Tis the season for delicious apples, pumpkins, and blackberries. Beyond the pick-your-own and scenic farm trails, the multifaceted Red Hook-based farm offers a market, which is open daily and serves lunch and dinner to go. A petting area invites guests to visit the adorable goats. The family-run farm also boasts a craft shop, which features work from 30 local artisans.

The Greig family's legacy goes back to 1942 when Marion and Robert Greig met in Hudson and settled in Red Hook to start a small dairy and fruit farm. In 1952, the farm started welcoming neighbors for pick-your-own strawberries. In 1975, the couple's son Norman began making the pick-your-own a core component of the farm.

Over the following decade, Greig Farm began growing blueberries, blackberries, asparagus, and pumpkins. In 1998, Norman sold the cows and exited the dairy business, but luckily the pick-your-own and artisans remain.



227 Pitcher Ln., Red Hook, NY. Call (845) 210-5897, or visit online at www.greigfarm.com

Rose Hill Farm, Red Hook, NY

Rose Hill Farm is certainly fulfilling its mission: to honor its family farm legacy, engage its community, empower the local economy, and tread lightly. For fall, head to the farm for apple picking, sampling wine and cider, and a festive fall vibe. Please visit Rose Hill's website's calendar or events page for all activities, including enticing food pop-ups, live music, and food-themed evenings throughout October. The farm traces its roots back to 1798 when Peter Fraleigh initially purchased the land and established and named Rose Hill Farm in 1812. Six generations proceeded him.

Some recent history: In 2001, the New York State Agricultural Society honored Rose Hill Farm and its then owners Dave and Karen Fraleigh, as the only fruit orchard among ten Bicentennial Family Farms. Two decades ago, the Fraleighs transitioned the farm from a wholesale apple orchard to a pick-your-own destination. They also expanded the crop offerings. In 1998, the Fraleighs sold their development rights to the Scenic Hudson Land Trust, which through a conservation easement, protects farmland and helps preserve the Hudson Valley's world-renowned landscape. In

2015, Bruce and Holly Brittain and Chris Belardi purchased Rose Hill Farm. Their shared vision was to grow the family-friendly orchard, be effective stewards of the land, and preserve the natural beauty of the Hudson Valley. In 2020, the Rose Hill Winery brand launched and the Taproom opened



Above: The corn maze at Mead Orchard in Tivoli, NY, this year gives a nod and part of its profits to the Ukraine Emergency Refugee Fund. Photo: Mead Orchards. Below, left: Rose Hill Farm in Red Hook, NY. Photo: Rose Hill Farm.

its doors. The festive farm is a great place to visit during the fall.

19 Rose Hill Farm, Red Hook, NY. Call (845) 758-4215, or visit online at www.pickrosehillfarm.com.

Mead Orchards, Tivoli, NY

Mead is a working family farm with more than 100 acres in cultivation. It takes pride in its stunning variety of apples available for picking, including favorites such as Honeycrisp, McIntosh, Macoun, and Cortland. It also boasts dozens of less common varieties such as SnapDragon, EverCrisp, Crimson Crisp, Jonagold, RubyFrost, and Idared. For autumn, Mead entices guests with its enormous corn maze.

At eight acres, it's twice the size of last year's maze. In tribute to the people of Ukraine, this year's maze has a bright, bold sunflower theme. A portion of the proceeds from the maze will benefit the Ukraine Emergency Refugee Fund. This year also marks the introduction of Apple

Town – a children's village/playground that features a child-sized schoolhouse, church, barn, houses, and beyond. Let the kids explore and enjoy. Also on the menu are fresh cider doughnuts, hayrides, food trucks, and a farmstand with pumpkins and fresh picked veggies.

15 Scism Rd. Tivoli, NY. Call (845) 756-5641, or visit online at www.meadorchards.com.

Whitecliff Vineyard at Hudson, NY

For a mod vibe in a historic locale, stop in to Whitecliff Vineyard's new Tasting Room. Set on ten acres in a spectacular setting above the Hudson River, guests can enjoy a leisurely afternoon of flights or a few glasses of wine.

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In Windham at the Colony Courthouse an area of land on the east side of the Housatonic River was auctioned off and then divided into ten sections and 50 shares were sold. During that year, the first settlers of Kent began to take up residence on those plots building a minimum of a 16'x16' structure. Throughout the next two centuries most people had no way of owning a house. They didn't have the money for the down payment, and banks would not lend money to average people until mortgages were born and the banks stabilized in 1863 by the National Banks Act! In the 1900s the loan term was typically 5 years, 50% down required, interest only payments and a lump sum due at the end. Borrowers often renegotiated their loans every year.

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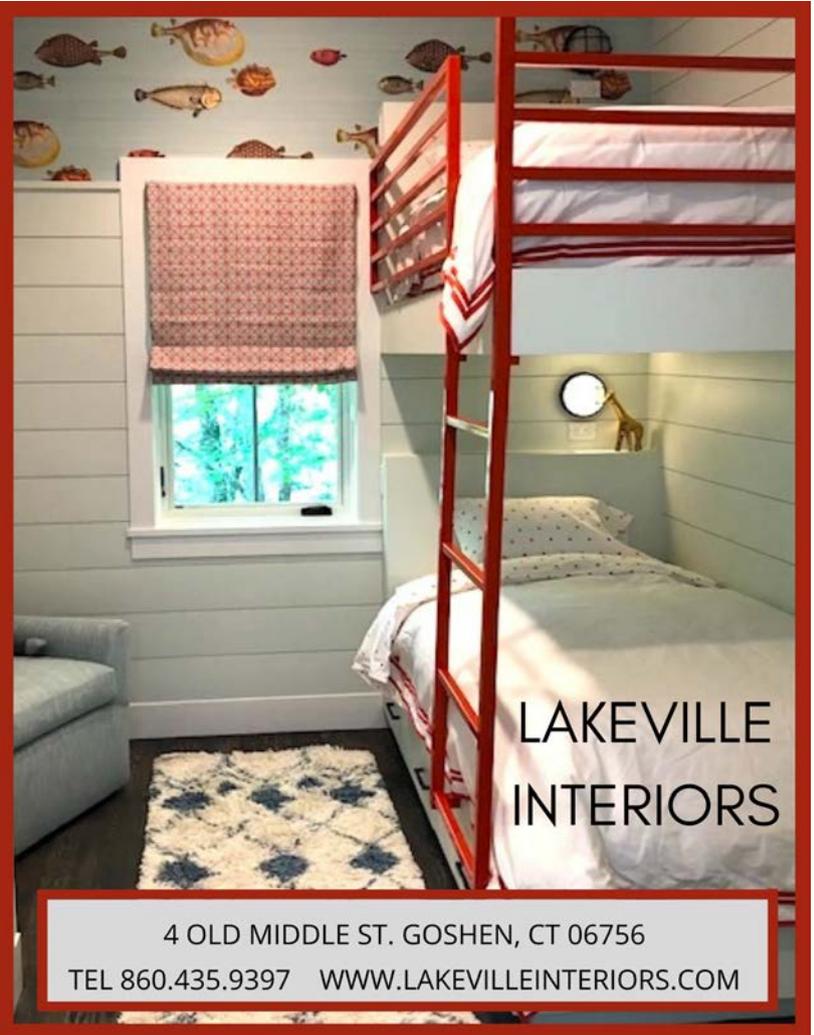
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THE ROELIFF JANSEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Collecting local history

By Lesley Doyel, president, The Roeliff Jansen Historical Society
Photographs by Peter N. Fritsch
info@mainstreetmag.com

When you really consider the everyday things around you, they start to seem like tiny miracles. – Amy Shearn

Next June 12 marks the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the “old Copake Falls Church” as home to the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society (RJHS) and Museum. The building itself, rescued from neglect and adaptively repurposed, turned 130 years old in 2022. Throughout the years, the museum has become a repository for artifacts and documents reflecting the multifaceted history of the Roe Jan area. We have chosen a small sampling of items from the collection for a look beneath the surface, and have found some surprising and unexpected blasts from the past!

The Jiffy Way egg scale and grader

Egg scales (see photo below) are used to separate eggs into predetermined grade levels for customers. An egg scale is a useful item as it is light, and can be transported from market to market.

In 1924, Acme inventor N.E. Chapman received a patent for what he referred to as an egg grading device. The example in the RJHS collection is a Jiffy Way brand egg weighing scale, which was first patented in 1940. This portable device allowed farmers to weigh one egg and easily recognize the weight of

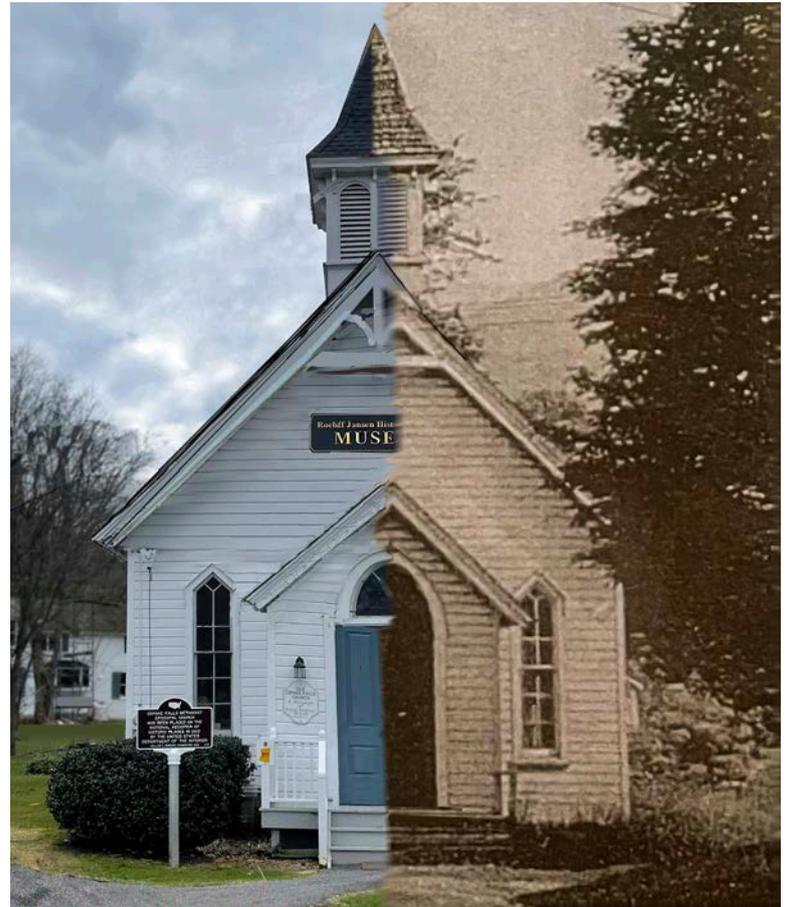
a dozen similar-sized eggs. Further, by placing an egg on the nickel-plated cradling arm, the machine not only tells the specimen’s weight in ounces but also its grade, from small to extra-large. Originally sold for around \$2, this colorful tool has become a highly collectible item.

Patent for “Method of Operating Charcoal Kilns”

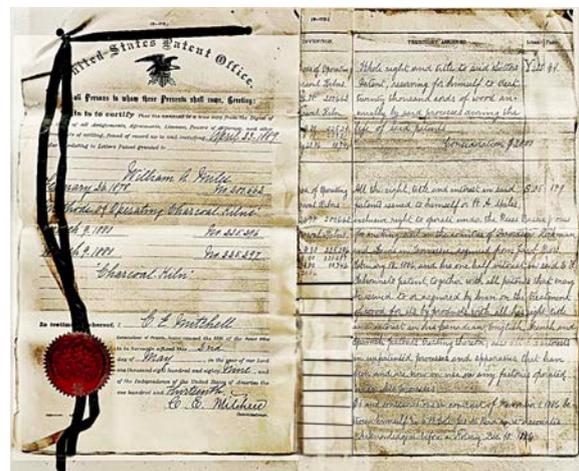
The essential materials needed to establish an iron works facility in the mid-19th century were raw ore, limestone, wood, and waterpower. All four ingredients were abundant in Copake Falls, NY, the site of the Copake Iron Works. Now a museum, the Iron Works constitutes the largest group of iron-making remnants in the larger Tri-state “Iron Heritage” area. Founded in 1845 by Lemuel Pomeroy, the Miles family purchased, owned, and operated the Iron Works from 1861 to 1903.

The patent in the RJHS collection (see photo below, right) was issued in 1898 to William A. Miles, the last owner of the Copake Iron Works. To smelt iron efficiently, a blast furnace had to continuously burn very hot. Charcoal burns much hotter than wood (even seasoned wood) and at a more consistent temperature.

Charcoal is generally prepared by burning wood in a kiln or oven, and by extinguishing the fire just before the wood turns completely to ash. Charcoal making became an extremely important industry, and colliers (charcoal-makers) were essential. The three-page patent granted to William Miles for his method of operating charcoal kilns is well preserved and complete with a ribbon and official seal on the first page. Seals of this kind inspired the expression “seal of approval,” which refers to receiving approval from an authoritative person or institute.



Above: Old Copake Falls Church, early 20th century and as the RJHS in 2022.



Left: 1889 patent, William Miles (originally dating from 1878, the patent was renewed in 1880 and 1889) RJHS Cat. No. 2014-0032, gift of Bill Miles.

Far left: Egg scale and grader, gift of Connie Near, ca. the 1950s. RJHS Cat. No. 2009-0029.



Continued on next page ...

Stickle & Mason Sectional Map of Columbia County, ca. 1880

The earliest puzzles were created as educational tools to teach children geography. The earliest commercial publisher of these puzzles is John Spilsbury, a London-based cartographer and engraver. He created these puzzles, known as “dissected maps” by pasting a paper map onto a thin piece of mahogany wood and then used a marquetry saw to section the pieces. The idea of reassembling an image from a myriad of pieces became very popular and in addition to maps, puzzle imagery expanded to include farms, animals, and religious scenes. The term jigsaw puzzle only came into use during the 1880s when a tool called a jigsaw was used to cut the intricate and interlocking pieces that would stay together.

The sectional puzzle of Columbia County in the RJHS collection (see photo right) was made by Stickle & Mason, of Weedsport, NY, and originally had 22 pieces. When assembled, the pieces became a map of Columbia County (founded in 1786) and were printed on wood and paper.

Oak Magneto Hand Crank Ringer Box and handset

The independent telephone industry began to develop throughout rural America early in the 1890s. After the publication of a manual that explained to farmers how they could develop their own telephone systems on a mutual or cooperative basis, many such phone systems



evolved throughout rural America. By 1912, the number of rural telephone systems has grown to more than 3,200 and included numerous manufacturers that specialized in the production of so-called “rural phones”

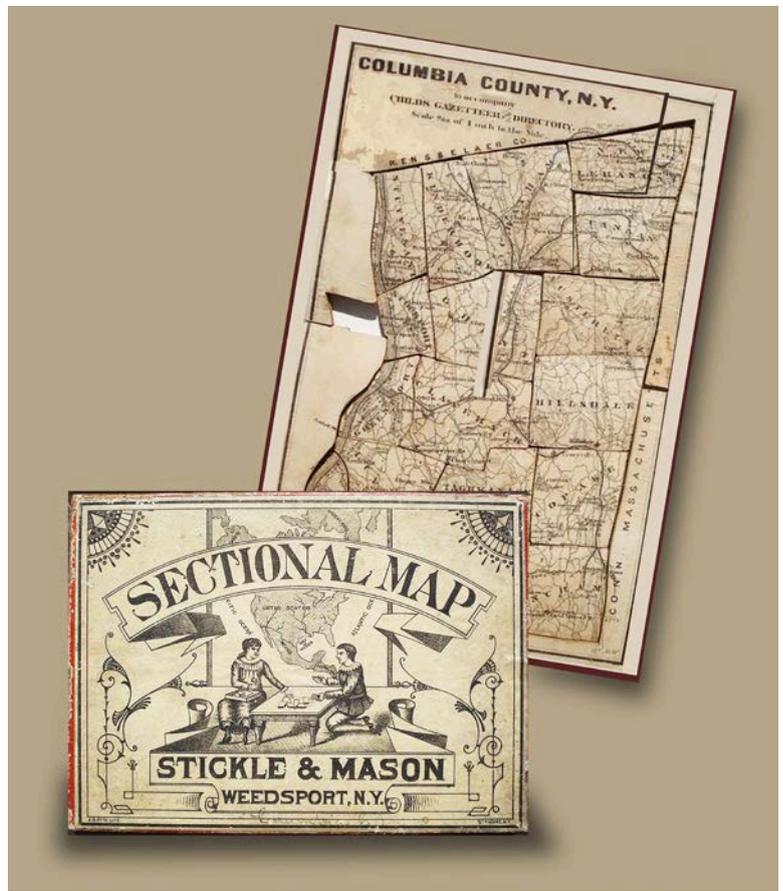
The Copake Telephone Company

The Copake Telephone Company was a rural system founded in 1908, by a group of investors headed by John D. Ackley. The vintage oak crank ringer box from the RJHS collection (see photo below) once belonged to this small but dynamic company. The equipment was made by Western Electric and includes a handset. Many early manual telephones had an attached hand-cranked magneto that produced an alternating current (AC) at 50–100 V for signaling and ringing bells of other telephones on the same “party” line. This ringing would alert an operator at the local telephone exchange. The handset with receiver and cradle relied on operators to put calls through to the exchange and predated telephones equipped with self-operated rotary dials.

Two vintage hats from the New York Central Railroad

The New York Central Railroad primarily operated in the Great Lakes and Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States. New York Central was headquartered in the New York Central Building adjacent to its largest station, the Grand Central Terminal in New York City. The railroad line was established in 1853, consolidating several existing railroad companies, and was one of the first railroads in the United States. In 1968, the New York Central merged with its former rival, the Pennsylvania Railroad, to form Penn Central.

In 1972, passenger service north of Dover Plains ceased, and around 50 miles of track was abandoned. The track bed is now being incrementally transformed into the Harlem Valley Rail Trail for pedestrians and bicyclists, and will soon extend all the way from Wassaic to



Above, top to bottom: Stickle and Mason Sectional Map, catalog number 2000-0004, gift of John Jones. RJHS Cat. No. 1989-0090 H, the brakeman's hat of Ray Snow, Hillsdale, N.Y., and a conductor's hat, Cat. No. 2015-76 donated by the David Vincent family. Below, left: RJHS catalog no. 2012-009A, gift of Judith Ackley Whitbeck.

Chatham, NY.

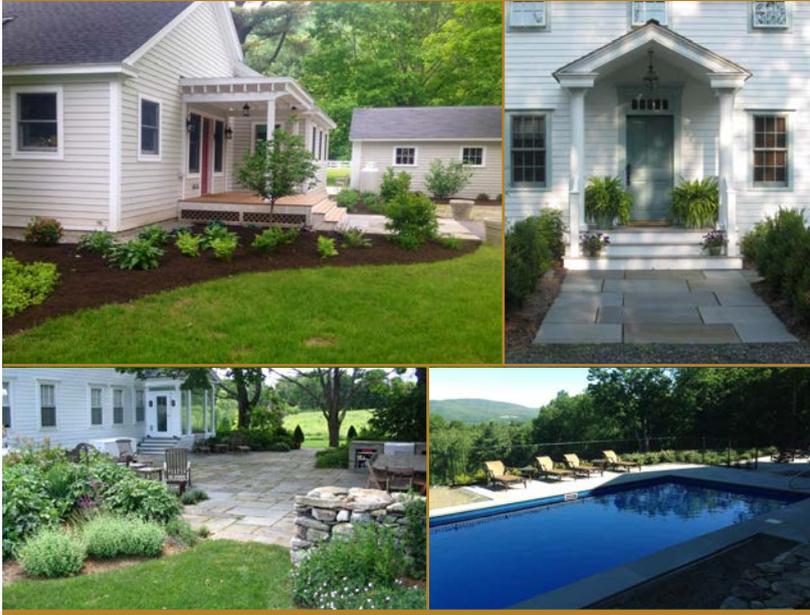
The two vintage Railroad hats in the RJHS collection (see photo above) sport New York Central badges, predating the Penn Central established in 1968. The hats also tell us that they respectively belonged to a brakeman and to a conductor. A conductor has traditionally been the train crew member responsible for operational and safety duties that do not involve the actual operation of the train/locomotive. The brakeman's job, however, was initially very dangerous and involved walking atop moving cars and manually applying brakes.

In 1869, George Westinghouse patented the automatic air brake system, eliminating this hazardous

but necessary practice. These days, the brakeman (called a trainman or assistant conductor) collects revenue, may operate door “through switches” for specific platforming needs, makes announcements, and operates train-line door open and close controls when required to assist the conductor. ●

Next summer (2023), the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society will celebrate its 40th year as a museum of local history and will showcase many other fascinating objects and documents from its ever-growing collection. The museum is located at 8 Miles Road, Copake Falls, NY. Please visit their website at www.roeliffjansenhs.org to learn about their programs, exhibits and to explore much more local history.

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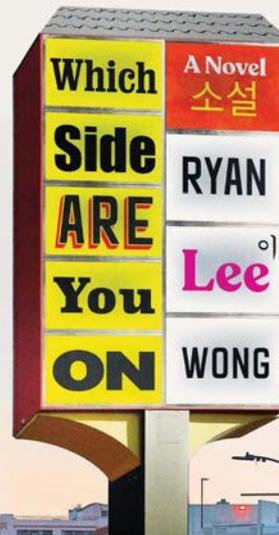


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Rhinebeck roots

Rhinebeck is the birthplace of John Jacob Astor IV who perished on the Titanic

By Regina Molaro
info@mainstreetmag.com

With the news of the advanced *Titanic* 8K footage, which shows the most detail ever captured of the sunken ship and *Titanic: The Exhibition* debuting in Manhattan next month (at 526 6th Ave., New York, NY), there's been a new wave of interest in this intriguing yet tragic story.

Of course, everyone is familiar with the history of the RMS *Titanic* – the luxurious ocean liner that collided with an iceberg on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England to New York City in April, 1912.

The ship, which was believed to be unsinkable, went down almost three hours after colliding with the iceberg and sank en route to New York. Among the 1,500 people who lost their lives in the tragedy, most of them were crew.

If the *Titanic* successfully reached its destination, it would have arrived at New York City's Pier 59 on April 17, 1912. Instead, *Carpathia*, the transatlantic passenger steamship that rescued *Titanic's* 705 surviving passengers and crew, docked at Pier 54 off of West 12th Street on April 18, 1912.

Among the New Yorkers who perished were John Jacob Astor IV (who was referred to as Jack) who was among the wealthiest men in America. His net worth at the time was \$87 million, which is the equivalent of \$2.2 billion today.

Hotelier

The American businessman, financier, and investor created most of his personal fortune through real estate investments, including the opening of Astoria – a luxury property near the Waldorf Hotel, which was owned by his cousin and rival, Waldorf Astor.

Later, Jack and Waldorf combined properties and created the Waldorf-Astoria New York. Cultural figures,

political leaders, musicians, and royalty gathered in its grand spaces and entertained in its opulent suites in Midtown Manhattan.

In 1904, Jack opened the St. Regis Hotel – its name was inspired by the St. Regis Lake in the Adirondacks, NY. This idyllic spot was a popular vacationing destination for the Astor family. He also opened The Knickerbocker – one of New York City's most luxurious hotels at the time. It is rumored to be the birthplace of the martini.

Along with Astor, Isidor Strauss – a co-owner of Macy's also lost his life in America's largest maritime disaster. Another wealthy businessman, Benjamin Guggenheim, who hails from the now-famous Guggenheim family, also perished on this fateful journey along with Henry B. Harris – a Broadway producer who built the Hudson Theater.

In Rhinebeck, NY

The Astors trace their roots back to Rhinebeck, NY. From the early days through today, their legacy lives on. Born on July 13, 1864 at Ferncliff, the Astor family estate in Rhinebeck, Jack was the fifth child and first son of William Blackhouse Astor Jr. and Caroline Webster Schermerhorn. He was born into an affluent family. His great-grandfather was German-American immigrant, John Jacob Astor, who amassed his fortune through work in the fur trade.

Jack attended St. Paul's School in Concord and Harvard University. His accomplishments include publishing a science-fiction novel, *A Journey in Other Worlds*, which was set in the year 2000. Astor also had an inventive side. In 1898, he patented a bicycle brake.

When the Spanish-American War began in 1898, he offered his yacht, the *Nourmahal*, to the US Navy to help in the war effort. Jack also served in the US Army during the conflict.

Although Jack was married once before to Ava Lowle Willing, he was



Above: A flashback of yesteryear when the elite spent time at John Jacob Astor's posh hotels. Image courtesy of The Knickerbocker.

returning from his honeymoon in Egypt and France with his second wife, Madeleine Talmage Force, when he sailed aboard the *Titanic*. The newlyweds boarded in Cherbourg, France, with plans to eventually land in Manhattan. Madeleine was pregnant at the time.

During the ship's sinking, Astor helped his new bride into a lifeboat. He hoped to join her, but was instructed that only women and children were permitted to board the lifeboats. He took note of which lifeboat Madeleine had entered, so that he could find her later. Astor then stepped back to allow others to board.

In *The Knickerbocker*, Eric Enders wrote: "When it collided with an iceberg, Astor calmly walked to their cabin to inform Madeleine. They made their way to the lifeboat deck, where Astor helped his five-months pregnant wife into a boat. 'I heard Mr. Astor ask the second officer whether he would not be allowed to go aboard this boat to protect his wife,' survivor Archibald Gracie IV later testified. The Second Officer said, 'No, sir, no

Continued on next page ...

man is allowed on this boat or any of the boats until the ladies are off.' Mr. Astor then said, 'Well, tell me what is the number of this boat so I may find her afterwards.' Seven days later, Astor's corpse was recovered by a rescue ship. His pockets contained \$2,440 in cash, a few francs and British pounds, and various gold and silver coins."

Jack's body was recovered and laid to rest at Trinity Church in Manhattan.

Ferncliff: then and now

The estate that Jack grew up on, Ferncliff Estate – also known as Ferncliff Farm – was a working farm with dairy and poultry operations, and stables. According to sources at Ferncliff Forest, after Jack's death on the *Titanic*, his son William Vincent Astor, widely known as Vincent, inherited the estate.

Vincent continued to acquire property, including land that stretched all the way down to the Hudson River. In 1940, the land totaled 2,800 acres. In 1959, Vincent passed away and left Ferncliff Farm to his second wife, Brooke Russell Astor.

A few years later, Homer K. Staley Sr., then president of the Rhinebeck Rotary, asked Brooke Astor if she would donate 190 acres, known as Mt. Rutsen, to the Rotary, so that it could be enjoyed by the community as a forest preserve and game refuge. In 1964, she granted his request, stipulating that the land must remain "forever wild."

Homer K. Staley Sr. was named Ferncliff's first Forest Ranger and served as a ranger for a few decades. At his request, the property was

transferred to Ferncliff Forest, Inc. – a not-for-profit organization. His son, Homer K. Staley Jr. also served as Forest Ranger. In 1994, the Homer K. Staley Sr. Nature Walk was established as a gift from the Rhinebeck Rotary.

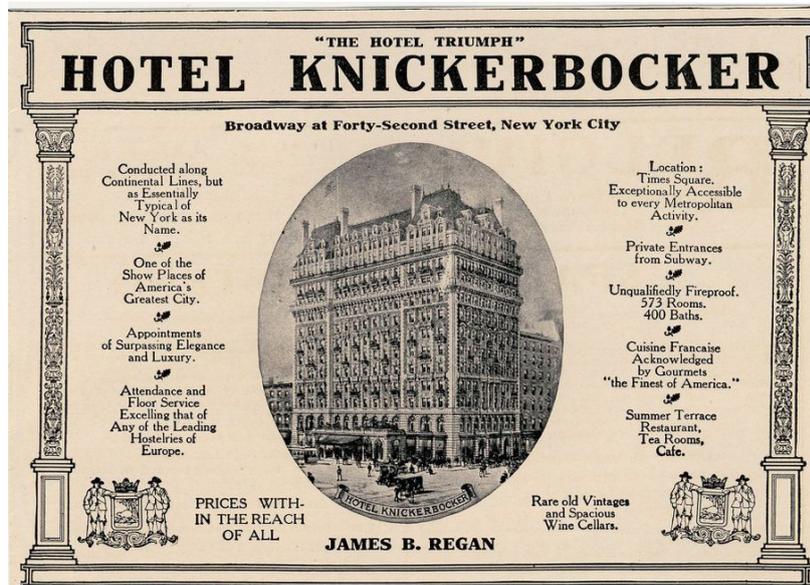
The land is enjoyed by locals and visitors. Open year-round, it offers trails for walking, hiking, and mountain biking. People are also welcome to fish, camp, and ski there. The top attraction is climbing the fire tower to take in views of the foliage and beyond.

Caring for the community

After Vincent's passing, some of the estate's land, including the gatehouse, staff quarters, teahouse, and dairy barns became private homes. Another land donation led to the establishment of ArchCare at Ferncliff Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center on the former estate property. Nestled on 36 park-like acres, this center serves individuals and families from every corner of the Hudson Valley and beyond. According to the Marist Heritage Project, a director at Marist College was friendly with Vincent and shared this story:

"One time Vincent fell suddenly sick, and was taken to Benedictine Hospital in Kingston run by the nuns. He remained there several days, then returned to Ferncliff. He must have been very impressed with the care he received from the nuns, because two decades later, he left the Ferncliff estate to them.

Today it is a residential nursing home for seniors. A special school for developmentally disabled students in Rhinebeck is called the Astor Home,



Above: John Jacob Astor IV opened Manhattan's luxurious hotel The Knickerbocker. Below, left: The Tea Room at The Knickerbocker exudes the elegance of a bygone era. All images courtesy The Knickerbocker.

originally run by the nuns, but now an independent corporation.

Vincent's wife, the late Brooke Astor, was involved in myriad philanthropies mostly connected to New York City, but until her final sickness she maintained her connection with the Astor home."

Another Astor affiliation

As demonstrated, the Astor family has made many contributions to the Rhinebeck community and beyond. Community-based non-profit organization, Astor Services for Children & Families, provides children's mental health services, child welfare services, and early childhood development services.

It was established in 1953, in response to an initiative of the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene, to create children's residential treatment programs that would reduce the need for psychiatric hospitalization of children,

The organization's first home, now the agency's administrative offices and residential treatment center, was located in Rhinebeck on property that Vincent donated to the Archdiocese of New York.

Other prominent properties

Completed in 1904, Astor Court, which was designed by American architect Stanford White, spanned 40,000 square feet. Also known as Ferncliff Casino, it boasted a lavish

indoor swimming pool and tennis court. When former President Bill Clinton's daughter Chelsea wed Marc Mezvinsky in 2010, their fete was held at the opulent Astor Court.

Several years ago, the Astor Teahouse was placed on the market. A later addition to the estate, it was built in 1948 on the site of William Astor's original house. In 2013, the teahouse was purchased by Robert Duffy, co-founder and president of Marc Jacobs International LLC., who completely renovated the home. In 2018, it went back on the market.

The Astors certainly made their mark in Rhinebeck, Manhattan, and beyond. When we stroll through Ferncliff Forest, drive down the country roads in Rhinebeck, or visit family or friends at Astor Services for Children & Families or ArchCare at Ferncliff Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center, we are enjoying their generosity and experiencing an echo of the Astor's legacy. ●



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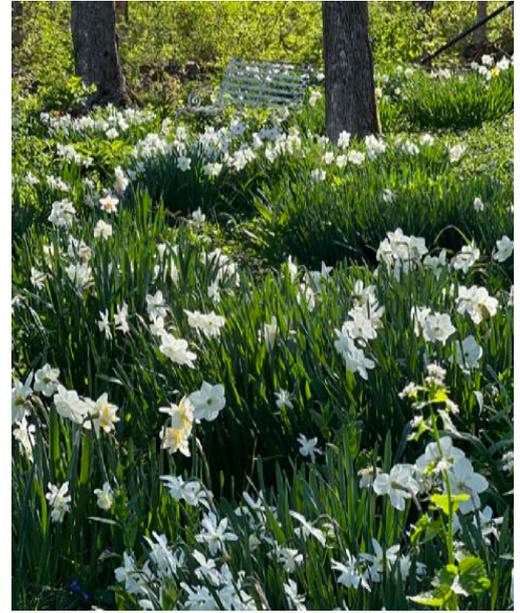
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The end of gardening season



By Pom Shillingford
info@mainstreetmag.com

Flower friends, we have to face it: it's October and like it or not, (in my case, not at all) the end of the gardening season is nigh. Days are getting shorter. Temperatures are dropping. I'm obsessing about when we are going to get our first frost (assuming we haven't already had it by the time you are reading this. In which case I will be in deep mourning for the premature demise of my dahlias). There are still a few joys to come – winterberry, holly, and all those holiday floral joys – but in terms of perennials, bulbs, or annuals, we've reached the end of the road for this year as far as cut flowers go.

Get a plan

But no slipping gently into that good night! For right now is the perfect time to get into gear and start planning next year's garden. In fact, if you want to ensure that next year is going to be in a banner year, get a plan (and some action) together now, or you're going to be screwed!

First up, plant those spring bulbs! There is no greater exercise of faith, I think, in life than planting bulbs. For those of us who dread winter and especially those interminably bleak grey days of March and early April, we go through this ritual every fall in the hope, if not the knowledge, that

better days will come again.

Even as someone who ordered a mountain of bulbs back in June when this year's spring bulbs were still fresh in my mind and having to plant them was a far-off problem not to be worried about, I can attest you can NEVER have too many spring bulbs. Snowdrops, aconites, crocus, narcissi, tulips, fritillaria, muscari, allium... the list goes on. As the procession of spring color bursts into life, it will be so worth the effort that went before. You may not want to at the time. You might not even have the most fun doing it. But like going for a run, you will never regret it once you're done. I can't tell you the number of blazing rows my husband and I have had planting the thousands of bulbs into our garden every November for the last ten years. Tears, swearing, and lots of "You're on your own next year!" I can guarantee the same thing will happen this year. And come next spring, I can promise you we'll be plotting how we can plant more again come the fall.

So, if you haven't already ordered your bulbs, put this magazine down and get on it right now [ED – no Pom, don't tell them to put the magazine down!]. Many bulb companies will not yet have started shipping their orders and while some varieties may have sold out long ago, they will still have some available inventory. And while you're at it, make sure you

order some paperwhite, hyacinth, and amaryllis bulbs for winter forcing. I'll be chatting about these in a later edition but get these bulbs now and store them somewhere cool and dark in the meantime. We want to grow these so that come those bleak winter months our homes are still going to be full of fresh, seasonal, and sustainable flowers

Upside / downside

The next thing to think about now is what you want to grow next year and where. One (probably the only) upside to Covid is it opened up the world of gardening to so many new gardeners. The downside is demand for seed, plants, and tubers is now at an all-time high. What was once a leisurely pursuit, these days ordering dahlia tubers has become like an episode of *Hunger Games* so cut-throat is the competition to secure a lusted-after tuber. Seeds that were once easily ordered in April when it was time to sow can now sell out months earlier. Even if you don't order now, work out what you want to grow and at least identify where you are going to source your seed and plant material starting in January. Sign up now for those companies' catalogues, newsletters, or sales announcements.

Where you want to grow is also worth considering now. If you are thinking about adding new beds, the current movement to no-dig gardening, instead of the traditional back-

breaking double digging, involves laying down thick cardboard and then covering it in a heavy layer of compost. Far better for soil structure and long-term health, it does however require a significant amount of time to turn grass into plantable ground. Best to get a jump on it now than wait and have a late spring scupper your flower plans.

And finally, if you need help with bringing any of your garden plans to life and want to hire a professional for labor, design and/or installation, find someone now. Discuss what you want, agree on a quote, and get on their schedule now. With demand for these services sky-high, if you wait until spring, just as I said at the beginning of this article, you're going to be screwed!

Favorite sources

Vegetable seeds: Johnny Selected Seeds www.johnnyseeds.com. Flower seeds: Floret Flower Farm www.floret-flowers.com. Bulbs: John Scheepers www.johnscheepers.com. Dahlia Tubers: Triple Wren Farms www.triple-wrenfarms.com and The Farmhouse Flower Farm www.thefarmhouseflowerfarm.com. ●

Pom Shillingford is an obsessive gardener originally from England and now based in Salisbury, CT. She offers seasonal cut flowers through English Garden Grown. Find her on Instagram @english_garden_grown.

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MILLBROOK'S MUSEUM IN THE STREETS

By Lorraine Alexander
info@mainstreetmag.com

Anyone who visits Millbrook, NY, will likely notice a series of panels mounted on posts that bring them to a comfortable reading level. Once noticed, they do seem to mushroom. In fact, there are 29 in all, three of which are most accessible by car; otherwise the panels, recounting the lives, occupations, and dwellings of Millbrookers through the ages, are by their very nature “for pedestrians only.” They militate in the nicest possible way against the tendency of people to rush from one errand to the next, barely noticing much more than the oncoming traffic or the quality of the fall foliage. (Millbrook’s main street is lined with thornless honey locusts, a tree that tolerates drought and road salt, and turns bright yellow in fall.)

Museum in the Streets

Based on the copyrighted model of a program named Museum in the Streets – a learning experience, via self-guided walking tours – panels proffer well-researched narratives accompanied by archival photographs culled painstakingly from historical societies, libraries, and private collec-

tions. In the case of Millbrook, they tell a detailed story of the village’s Quaker beginnings and the arrival and impact of Irish and Italian immigrants in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. All MITS installations feature a second language, and Millbrook’s is Italian.

In a world where many people work and play in a version of solitary confinement, museum-going and other public activities have sometimes suffered, especially in small communities. In which case, reasoned Patrick Cardon, originator of the global MITS program, why not bring museums, in particular small ones, to the people? “The idea germinated because of a lack of information and a feeling of being lost in a fantastic environment,” says Cardon, an art historian and Egyptologist at the Brooklyn Museum before becoming secretary-general of the International Council of Museums in Paris, an organization that “protects and promotes the museum profession.” While in France, Cardon became active in a local historical society and formed a business to bring history into focus, as one might say, at street level. When he moved to Maine, having brought MITS to fifteen municipalities in France, his business model came with him.

The program has grown slowly, as is often the case for community-wide initiatives with limited budgets. Thomaston, ME, was the first American town to participate, in 2003, and to date Maine has ten member sites, the most of any state.

The next year Hastings-on-Hudson was the first town to sign on in New York,



Above: Today’s Village Hall was once the YMCA. Below, left: St. Joseph’s, with a glimpse of cemetery in the rear.

not least because of a vibrant historical society and the involvement of the recently deceased historian and writer David McCullough. Wherever the villages, towns, and even a few cities are located, illustrated accounts of collapsed bridges, May Day celebrations, disastrous fires, parades for every occasion, the realities of war and their remembrance, the struggles of immigrants, the advent of railroad service, then its demise...all are laid out for the curious stroller or a high-school historian in the making. The panels are positioned before the very site where something of note once stood and has vanished or, against many odds, survived.

How to do it

The process of approval, funding, research, and installation varies with the size of the undertaking and the enthusiasm of townspeople. If you shy away from meetings, you might not be the ideal proponent of such a project; “community” is a byword, opinions are many, and then there is the task of research, some of which may already be in place, some not, followed by the writing of synopses,

Continued on next page ...



gathering of illustrations, translation into a requisite second-language....

On the brighter side, pride in one's home town or neighborhood and the desire to teach future generations about what they may initially think of casually or even dismissively as "the past" are powerful motivations. MITS is a big-picture vision made up of many small ones.

Looking into the faces of those long gone

Millbrook's heritage trail, if you like, came together in 2014 as the result of an anonymous grant, individual contributions, and, not least, the determination of village leaders. Looking over the entire 29 panels, absorbing the details, staring back into the faces of people long dead who shaped village life, can be daunting. It's the sort of experience that I at least would want to take in slowly, on repeated visits.

With distance, several key periods fall into place: the early times in the mid-18th century, when Quakers first settled the area; the arrival of train service in 1869, which changed everything and required the village to give itself a name, Millbrook Farm; the decades before and after the turn of the century, when immigrants first from Ireland and then from Italy arrived, businesses took root, churches and schools were established, and the surrounding grand estates brought money, prosperity, and a leisured class to the countryside.

Influential families

The Haight, Hart, and Thorne families were landowners, entrepreneurs, and Quakers, the colonies' third-largest religious group before the Revolution. Philip Hart owned orchards and developed mills along the tributaries of Wappinger Creek; Harts Village is Millbrook's oldest neighborhood, with residences dating back as far as 1750.

The Thorne family has endured, donating land and the three-story Beaux Arts buff-brick and limestone building that would become the village high school from 1895 until 1962. (A newspaper article had criticized Millbrook for lagging behind in public education, which prompted the grandiose gift – the Thorne Building was listed on the National Register of Public Places in 1996 – and in turn obligated the village to incorporate). Though you won't find this on the panel, the building has recently been taken in hand by the Millbrook Community Partnership to be revitalized and repurposed as a state-of-the-art landscaped community center.

With the Dutchess and Columbia Railroad's arrival, the rate of change accelerated. Sheep pastures and orchards were laid with tracks and threaded with access roads. Today's Merritt Bookstore was erected as a warehouse for grain, freight, and the firehouse stands where Millbrook House hotel, c.1870, welcomed guests for a newly developing summer season. Railway maintenance gave jobs to Irish immigrants, driven westward by the 1840 potato famine, who otherwise were finding work on the local horse farms.

The first commercial structure, Thompkin's & Smith General Store, was moved in 1870 from nearby Harts Village to a lot on Front Street across from the current (and only) service station in Millbrook, protected under the terms of the Thorne family's gift of Tribute Garden. The view of this section has changed little with time. The hardware store, which carries the Reardon name from the 1890s, has continued in the same building, and remains in the Flanigan family, who purchased it in 1963.

The village bank building was first a railway office, then a pharmacy, and as of 1891 was the precursor of today's Bank of Millbrook, having survived



Above: Generations of Italian stonecutters' work survives in Millbrook. This c.1905 structure was Nunzia Galuppo Petrone's shop selling Italian groceries and homemade *dolci*. Below, left: A railroad warehouse once occupied the site where Merritt Bookstore is now.

the Great Depression. The train, however, did not, and in 1930 the great railway adventure was stopped in its tracks, and the wagons' iron wheels were sent to be melted down for the coming war effort.

It was in 1890 that the wave of Italian immigration to cities and towns in the Northeast began in earnest. Young men from southern Italy came as day-laborers and stonecutters, escaping the lack of opportunity at home, although about half of the immigrants, disillusioned and ambivalent, eventually returned. The great gift of many of those who remained was the stone masonry that became Millbrook's signature style (rounded stone with mortar in contrast to the dry walls of New England). Systematically underpaid, these artisans were rewarded in the 1930s when FDR's WPA construction of the Taconic Parkway enlisted their talents for the road's many fine bridges. Alden Place had become their home turf, they'd finally (after distinguished service in WWI) been allowed to buy property, and panel 12 shows the Italian Naturalization Society, one of numerous mutual aid societies formed to help new arrivals.

Daily life

Daily life, as much as is ever the case, became stabilized, its essential services well established. In 1907 Millbrook Library had moved from a room in the high school to its own building at the corner of Franklin Avenue and Friendly Lane, thanks to funds

donated by the widow of a Civil War soldier, Richard Hayes. Expanded in 1973 and 2002, the library has long been a vibrant locus of village life. Parades traditionally celebrate village people, pets, and festivals: the firefighters, Sandanona Hounds, the WWI Armistice when Red Cross volunteers filed past the Tripps' butcher shop and the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

For fifty years (1920-1970) teenagers hung out at the ice cream shop where today's deli is. Across Church Street the store pictured on panel 15 was a news/tobacconist during the 1930s and 1940s and became, under the ownership of John and Marilyn Kading, *The Corner News*, a sort of village turnstile (at Millbrook's only traffic light) from 1947 through 1999. The first resident I met during a coffee break from my house search was sitting on a sidewalk bench here, his paper on his lap, his golden Lab stretched out at his feet, his smile exuding contentment – all good signs! More recently, during a three-month period in 2020 when restaurants were closed by the Covid pandemic, Millbrook's fifties-era silver diner distributed 9,000 free hot meals to people in need.

There is so much more to tell, but the rest is for those who visit Millbrook to discover as they move among its lovingly created street museum, free to the public and open every day, rain or shine. ●



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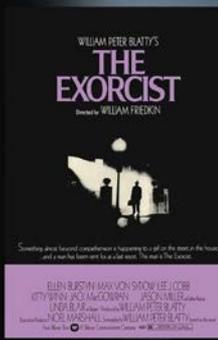
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LOCAL LEGACY

Beyond confronting racism and poverty, Great Barrington's W.E.B. Du Bois advocated for a world without human exploitation and with equality for all

By Regina Molaro
info@mainstreetmag.com

Since the October issue celebrates the area's rich history, it proved to be an opportune time to honor the achievements of William Edward Burghardt Du Bois. Renowned as W.E.B. Du Bois, he was a scholar, sociologist, historian, activist, and journalist. The Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, MA, features a permanent exhibition that highlights some of his life's work. Visit The Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation, an interactive exhibition that celebrates innovators like Du Bois who hail from the Berkshires. Here's a history and a few highlights of his legacy.

A history

Great Barrington, MA, is the hometown of Du Bois who was born on February 23, 1868. Growing up, he spent time in the company of many intellectuals and was inspired to learn. After graduating from Searles High School where he served as valedictorian in 1884, Du Bois attended Fisk University – a historically Black college in Nashville, TN. Donations from church members at the Congregational Church in Great Barrington funded his tuition.

Although Du Bois witnessed racism during his childhood in the Berkshires, this didn't fully prepare him for the South with its Jim Crow laws, Black voting suppression, lynchings, and beyond. While studying at Fisk University, Du Bois spent his summers teaching in Tennessee. This gave him personal insight into the poverty and discrimination that young Blacks endured. In 1888, he earned his Bachelor's degree.

In fall of 1888, Du Bois began his studies at Harvard, which failed to honor his degree from Fisk because it was considered inferior. After entering Harvard as a junior, Du Bois graduated with his second Bachelor's degree in 1890. History was his area of study.

Du Bois completed his graduate work at Harvard University in 1895 and was the first African American

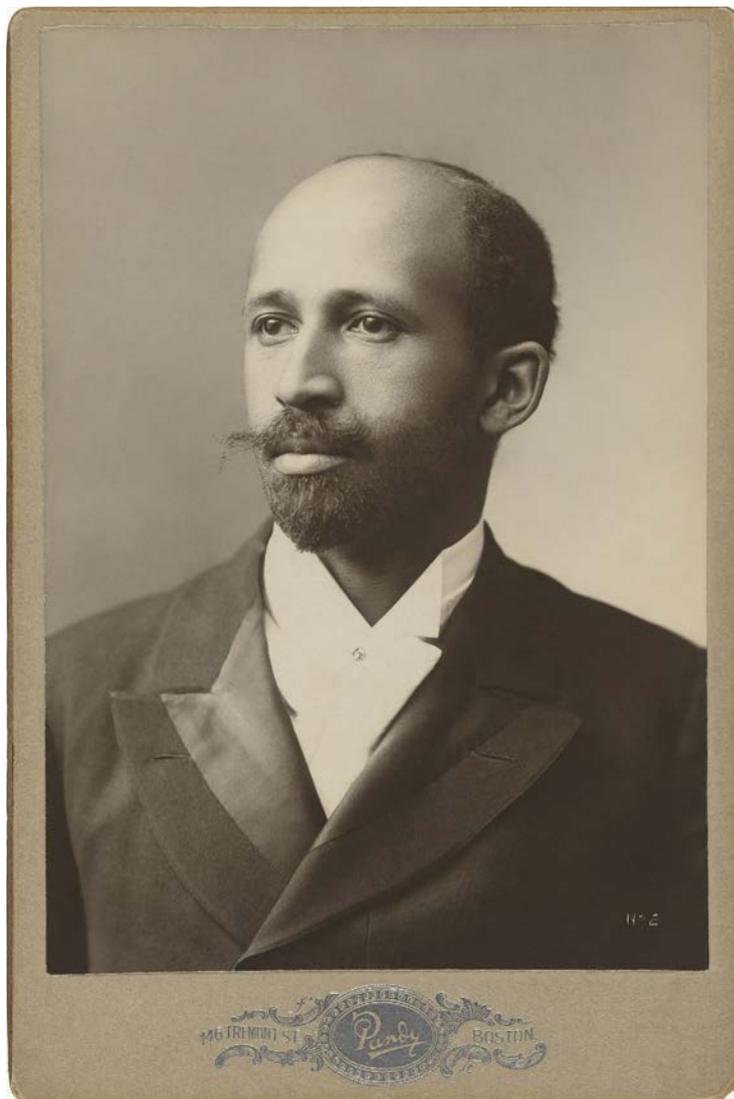
to receive a PhD. His doctoral thesis, "The Suppression of the African Slave Trade to the United States of America, 1638–1870," became his first book.

From 1892-1894, Du Bois studied at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (then the University of Berlin). His studies with German economists, sociologists, and historians was very influential and shaped his perspective.

According to *Berlin Days, 1892-1894: W. E. B. Du Bois and German Political Economy* by Kenneth D. Barkin (Duke University Press), "Throughout his life, indeed, Du Bois stressed the importance of his 'Berlin Days' on his subsequent intellectual development. In *My Evolving Program for Negro Freedom*, an essay he wrote in 1944 for Rayford Logan's *What the Negro Wants*, Du Bois was quite clear about the importance of the year 1910, when he abandoned the Germans Gustav Schmoller and Max Weber (although I believe he meant Adolf Wagner rather than Weber) in favor of his Harvard professors William James and Josiah Royce. The implications of his essay have been missed by many Du Bois scholars; there is much evidence that his professors in Berlin were critical contributors to the strategy he embraced to mitigate racism in the United States for at least a decade, from his return in 1894 until 1910. Du Bois's thoughts had turned to Germany long before he enrolled at the University of Berlin. He had studied the German language for three years at Fisk University in Nashville, TN, and delivered his valedictory address in 1888 on Otto von Bismarck."

Sociology

Du Bois was broadly trained in the social sciences. Although he later shifted his mindset, Du Bois initially believed that social science could provide the knowledge needed to solve race problems. For more than a decade, he devoted himself to sociological investigations of Blacks in America. He



produced 16 research monographs, which were published between 1897 and 1914 at Georgia's Atlanta University, where he was a professor.

As an assistant instructor at the University of Pennsylvania, Du Bois conducted a study of the socioeconomic issues endured by Philadelphia's Black citizens. Published as *The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study* in 1899, it was the first case study of a Black community in the United States. Du Bois personally conducted hundreds of door-to-door interviews.

According to *Penn Today* – a University of Pennsylvania news source,

Above: W.E.B. Du Bois by James E. Purdy, 1907, gelatin silver print, from the National Portrait Gallery which has explicitly released this digital image under the CC0 license. (https://npg.si.edu/object/npg_NPG.80.25) Gelatin silver print. Dimensions: Image/Sheet: 14.2 Q 9.9 cm (5 9/16 Q 3 7/8") Mount: 16.5 Q 11 cm (6 1/2 Q 4 5/16"). Image courtesy of Wikipedia.

Continued on next page ...

“Du Bois was not offered a professorship at Penn after his position expired. He was hired as a professor at Atlanta University – now Clark Atlanta University – where he founded the field of modern sociology. In 1903, he published his masterful *The Souls of Black Folk*, and became one of the most famous African Americans in the country.” He continued his work at Atlanta University.

Activism

While pursuing his studies, Du Bois was a voice for civil rights and activism. He was also a peace activist and later an advocated for nuclear disarmament.

In 1905, he formed the Niagara Movement – an organization of Black scholars and professionals who were dedicated to social justice. The group met in Erie, Ontario, near Niagara Falls.

In 1909, he co-founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). It strived to secure for all people the civil rights guaranteed in the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution. Its national office was established in New York City in 1910. Despite its commitment to multiracial membership, Du Bois was the only African American among the organization’s original executives. He was appointed director of publications and research. In 1910, he established *The Crisis*.

By 1913, NAACP established branch offices in Boston, Baltimore, Kansas City, St. Louis, Washing-

ton, DC, and Detroit. Membership swelled from approximately 9,000 in 1917 to about 90,000 in 1919.

Until 1934, Du Bois remained a leading figure in the NAACP. He later determined he could no longer support its goal of racial integration. Disappointed in the lack of progress towards equality, he began advocating for Black separatism.

Du Bois returned briefly to the NAACP from 1944 to 1948, when he served as director of special research. He prepared and presented the grievances of Black Americans before the newly established United Nations. In his 1947 report, *An Appeal to the World: A Statement on the Denial of Human Rights to Minorities in the Case of Citizens of the United States of America and an Appeal to the United Nations for Redress*, the NAACP asked the United Nations to redress human rights violations that the United States committed against its African-American citizens.

Throughout the 1940s, the NAACP saw enormous growth. By 1946, there were 600,000 members. It provided legal representation and aid to members of other protest groups. The NAACP posted bail for hundreds of Freedom Riders in the ‘60s who had traveled to Mississippi to register black voters and challenge Jim Crow policies.

End of life

Du Bois believed that capitalism contributed to racism, and was generally sympathetic to socialist causes throughout his life. According to the



This page: Du Bois Homesite. Image above courtesy of Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Site. Below, left courtesy of Du Bois National Historic Site.

W.E.B. Du Bois National Historic Homesite, his ideas were threatening to some, and in the 1950s during the McCarthy era, he was falsely accused of being an agent of a foreign power and later exonerated of all charges.

At the invitation of Ghana’s President Nkrumah, Du Bois moved to Ghana at the age of 93 to undertake writing the *Encyclopedia Africana* – a collection of the achievements of people of African descent. Du Bois passed away in Ghana in 1963, having never completed it.

His passing occurred on the eve of the historic Civil Rights March on Washington, at which Roy Wilkins, then leader of the NAACP, proclaimed to the 250,000 people gathered at the Lincoln Memorial: “At the dawn of the 20th century his was the voice that was calling to you to gather here today in this cause.”

W.E.B. Du Bois Homesite – A National Historic Landmark

History buffs can visit the W.E.B. Du Bois National Historic Site in Great Barrington. The National Historic Site program is comprised of numerous places that were relevant to Du Bois as a young man, and includes the Du Bois Homesite, a National Historic Landmark under the stewardship of UMass Amherst.

These sites are all part of the Upper Housatonic Valley African American Heritage Trail, an extensive interpretive program which encompasses 29 towns in Massachusetts and Connecticut. It celebrates African Americans in the region who played pivotal roles in key national and international events, as well as ordinary people of achievement.

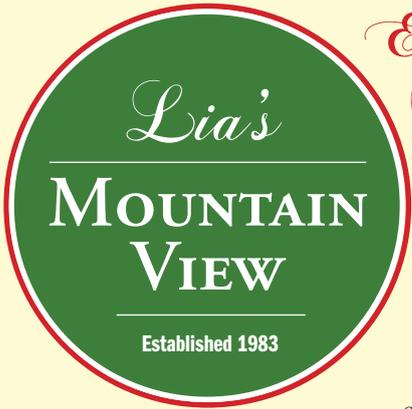
The W.E.B. Homesite is open daily from dawn to dusk for self-guided tours. The Homesite features a level woodland path with a number of interpretive panels that provide information about Du Bois and the Homesite. It is important to note that the house no longer exists, but visitors will find this serene setting to be quite inspirational.

Put your walking shoes on. There’s a Du Bois Walking Tour of Downtown Great Barrington. It has about 20 locations. Among them are River Park, his birthplace, the Great Barrington Schools, and beyond. ●

W.E.B. Du Bois Homesite – A National Historic Landmark. 612 S. Egremont Rd., Great Barrington, MA. Call (413) 717-6359 or visit online at duboishns.org and africanamericantrail.org

Berkshire Museum is located at 39 South St., Pittsfield, MA. Call (413) 443-7171 or visit online at berkshiremuseum.org.





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main street

By Ian Strever
info@mainstreetmag.com

After sitting in the Irving Farm coffee shop in Millerton, NY, for ten minutes, it occurs to me that the floorboards are not original. They are some kind of gray laminate, installed during a remodel about five years ago, presumably to match the gray wainscoting, black accents, and wood grain tabletops. It's all very slick and cosmopolitan. The circular antique farm table next to the window is the lone legacy piece, now decorated with five white tulips in a Chemex decanter.

History yielding commerce

But consider the floorboards. The current woodwork – if you can call it that – is preternaturally straight, with crisp, dark lines running the length of the shop in one direction and segmenting the floor at regular perpendicular intervals. Each board is exactly five inches wide, each one pressed against another in martial uniformity. It all works together to effect an interior design aesthetic that I can appreciate even while completely lacking the vision to achieve it in my own home.

Stepping outside, I walk ten feet to the west, before Main Street begins to slant toward Route 22, and take a seat on the doorstep

of Terni's, the Millerton institution that lorded over the bend in the road for over a century before closing its doors a few years ago, and whose floorboards are, as far as I can tell, original. The street-edge is worn into a profile reminiscent of sunrooms from the 1980s, and a century of sand has ground the surface into corrugation. Underneath the shop windows, boards of two different widths peek out from trim and shrouds of paint layers, suggesting either different phases of building or a complete indifference that someday a detail-obsessed writer might notice such a thing.

Main Streets filled with ghosts

I rest my hand on the grooved floorboards that find a foil across the street in the corrugated steel awning of Westerlind or, as I like to think of it, Saperstein's, and it occurs to me that I could experience this on any Main Street in our area: history yielding to commerce, country to city. Few places in Everytown, USA, have the capacity for reinvention that retail establishments have, and Main Streets are filled with ghosts: ghosts of mom-and-pops that held their ground while everything around them changed; ghosts of



failed businesses that tried to read the tea leaves of economic change; ghosts of noble civic projects that never quite seized the zeitgeist; ghosts of sad cinder block construction and questionable architecture.

Recently, neon has been making an appearance on Main Streets. I'm not sure how I feel about that yet.

But there is something very Jay Gatsby about Main Street, a possibility that a general store can become a Brooklyn-style boutique in the same way that a kid from the Midwest can reinvent himself into a celebrity. All this slate gray and black could be painted over somewhere in "the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us." A survey of local Main Streets finds storefronts turned restaurants, forgotten general stores turned art galleries, garages turned breweries. And in five years, they will turn again.

Continued on next page ...





Sidewalks = economy saved

If we install new sidewalks. Flanking every Main Street are ribbons of fresh granite and concrete, signs of election-year selectmanic achievement and unassailable indicators of civic advancement. “If we build it, they will come,” seems the suggestion, and if we can just get the sidewalks right (“run faster, stretch out our arms farther”), the dilapidation of Main Street will dissolve in a diffusion of brilliant green light.

Here’s the thinking, as I understand it: new sidewalks invite walks, walks invite observations, observations invite curiosities, and if those curiosities compel walkers to enter a storefront, money will exchange hands. Economy saved.

So modern sidewalks shoulder a heavier burden than the curbs of yesteryear: they must be flawlessly navigable for pedestrians and the differently-abled, inviting for strollers and accommodating of parking spots. They mustn’t tectonically heave each spring, erode from salt, or become discolored. There shall be no scrawling of names in the setting concrete. These are generational sidewalks that will gnarl your car’s rims before yielding to a half ton of poor parallel parking.

To get you where? And why?

Quarterly trips to the post office and bi-annual church attendance constitute two reasons, and the truly sanctimonious – farm market solicitors – will have a third purpose. But if our sidewalks are to be anything

more than decorative, Main Streets need more reasons for us to get out of our cars.

A glutenless street

There are the fall festivals and arts and crafts fairs. There is that workspace that is mostly unoccupied. And then there’s food. Food festivals, restaurants – we are programmed to take in a Pavlovian stroll if there is food at the other end of it, and once engorged, we will somnambulate along any promenade, burning off the bacchanal while taking in storefront curios, each step priming our digestive tracks for the procession toward sleep.

I submit as proof of thesis, Exhibit A: a recent Saturday afternoon in early September, weather sublime. Made for sipping coffee well into the PM. But as it turns out, this Saturday is an annual vacation break for our town bakers, who have set aside their whisks and traded their aprons for shorts, leaving our town glutenless. Consequently, there are two cars parked on Main Street, which will be nearly vacant until evening, or whatever hour one deems permissible for imbibing. Without food, there are few reasons to visit Main Street on the regular. Our restaurants serve no country-style anything, despite the fact that this is the country. You can’t get scrapple anywhere (sadly for anyone who grew up in Pennsylvania), and there are no greasy spoons or bona fide bars. As a group, our eateries lean decidedly toward the well-heeled, white napkin crowd. Burgers are local and farm-raised, tomatoes heirloomed. Our restau-



rants seem to know what they are doing with wine.

Or maybe it just seems that way because we all do. Restaurants, banks, and government-subsidized post offices notwithstanding, the one thriving enterprise in all of our towns is the liquor store. Does that fact make us a region of alcoholics? I’ll leave that to the reader to decide, but while a grocery store can be twenty-five minutes away, ETA on an IPA is never more than fifteen. And after all, if Gatsby’s mansion was built on sales of illegal whiskey, it should be no surprise that the same recipe for success has been the linchpin of most Main Streets. Until the day that Amazon drones can deliver a bottle of merlot in ten minutes, the local package store – and Main Streets – are here to stay. ●



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Legends of the fall

ALTHOUGH A FICTIONAL CHARACTER, RIP VAN WINKLE IS SYNONYMOUS WITH THE CATSKILLS REGION

By Regina Molaro
info@mainstreetmag.com

Renowned for his short stories, *Rip Van Winkle* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, American author Washington Irving is regarded as the Father of the American Ghost Story. Born in Manhattan in 1783, Irving was also a historian, essayist, and biographer.

Both of the ghostly tales mentioned above appear in Irving's collection, *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent* (more commonly known as *The Sketch Book*), published in the 1819-1820 time frame. Although the story of Rip Van Winkle is set in New York during the pre-Revolutionary War era, the tale is based on a German folktale.

According to Catskills Greene County – a tourism information center in Leeds, “the region was settled in the 17th century by Dutch and English colonists who were enticed by its fertile ground. Industry along the river flourished and the Catskills became the most important cultural center outside of Albany and New York City. By the time construction of the Erie Canal was underway in 1817, an influx of Germans, Italians, and Ukrainians had settled in the area.”

As the region became more developed, the Great Northern Catskills

was transformed into a getaway destination for affluent New Yorkers. Perched atop scenic bluffs, tucked away in the majestic mountains of New York State, the hotels in the region prospered.

Life imitating art, imitating stories

The scenic vistas and serene landscapes of the area also lured artists to the region. The Hudson River School was a group of New York City-based landscape artists that emerged around 1850 under the influence of artist Thomas Cole. He was the artist who taught Frederic Edwin Church – perhaps the best-known representative of the Hudson River School, as well as one its most traveled artists.

The Hudson River School of painters is what inspired Irving to set *Rip Van Winkle* in the Catskill Mountains. The Catskills Greene County cites that Rip Van Winkle is one of the region's best-loved figureheads – a link to the past and a reminder of the region's unique place in American history.

According to the tourism center, the tale goes something like this: “Set

in pre-Revolutionary New York, Rip Van Winkle lives a life of ease – much to the chagrin of his wife, Dame Van Winkle. Rip's passions include wandering through the Catskill Mountains and old-growth forests, being idle, and enjoying life. He doesn't work for long however, and though itinerant, he is well loved by all in town. The children especially love the fanciful stories he tells.”

“One day, Rip wanders off into the woods to escape his nagging wife. Hearing thunder, he unwittingly follows the ghosts of Henry Hudson's men deep into the wilderness. As the men play nine-pins, Rip imbibes a ‘magic potion’ – quietly falling into a deep sleep. He awakens 20 years later, his beard grown long and his beloved dog, Wolf, nowhere to be found. Rip makes his way back into the village and discovers that the American Revolution has taken place. He is no longer recognizable, nor does he know any of the townspeople who greet him.”

“Rip's luck holds out and it isn't long before he finds his place among his grown children – though much of his family has passed on – and resumes his habitual idleness. His tale is

repeated and solemnly taken to heart by hen-pecked husbands who wish they could have shared in Rip's good fortune and slept through the atrocities of war.”

Catskills legend

In the Great Northern Catskills, Rip Van Winkle's legend continues to live on. There are events such as the 16th Annual Rip Van Winkle Wine, Brew & Beverage Festival (May 13, 2023) that honor this fictional great. Luckily, fans of the character don't have to wait until spring to experience the Catskills and all that the area has to offer.

Fall inspiration

People are welcome to visit the Rip Van Winkle Bridge – a 5,041-foot bridge that spans the Hudson River between the towns of Hudson and Catskill. It opened to the public on July 2, 1935. The bridge towers 145 feet over the river and offers a walking path for strollers who yearn to take in vistas of the Hudson River, Catskill Mountains, and colorful foliage while embarking on this trek.

Known as the Hudson River Skywalk, the walkway connects the major Hudson River School artists Cole and Church. The six mile out-and-back pedestrian path unites the Thomas Cole Site and Frederic Church's Olana (both National Historic Landmarks), via the Rip Van Winkle Bridge. Located at 27-16 NY-23, Catskill, NY, or visit online at www.hudson-riverskywalk.org (those who are just walking the bridge have a nearly-mile journey to trek).

There's also the Rip Van Winkle Monument – a larger-than-life blue sandstone carving of the legendary character. The monument on Hunter

Continued on next page ...





Above: Outdoors enthusiasts explore all the Catskills have to offer through Rip Van Winkle Adventure Guides. Previous page: Rip Van Winkle statue at Hunter Mountain. Photos courtesy of Rip Van Winkle Adventure Guides.

Mountain can be reached via the Hunter Mountain Scenic SkyRide when it's open (it closes mid-October). Visitors can enjoy the panoramic views of the surrounding Catskill Mountains, so pack a lunch and enjoy a picnic with Rip Van Winkle. Located at Rte. 23 A, Hunter, NY. Call (518) 263-4223, or visit online at www.greatnortherncatskills.com/attractions/rip-van-winkle-monument.

Beyond the monument, many area businesses honor Rip Van Winkle. There's the Rip Van Winkle Brewing Company – a restaurant and brewery in Catskill. The story's setting takes place in the mountain range that lies just beyond the restaurant and award-winning craft brewery. The eatery and drinking destination nabbed the "Best in New York State" title. Visit them at 4545 NY Route 32, Catskill, NY. Call them at (518) 678-9275, or visit online at www.ripvanwinklebrewery.com.

The great outdoors

Outdoor recreational guide company, Rip Van Winkle Adventure Guides operates mainly in Catskill Park,

which boasts more than 300 miles of trails. Fully licensed and certified by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the company, headed by Greg Calabrese, can customize just about any adventure outdoor enthusiasts can dream up – from hikes to hunting and fishing trips, and backcountry camping. All levels are welcome – from beginners to those seeking a relaxing nature walk while taking in some attractions.

Rip Van Winkle Adventure Guides' name was inspired by clues in writer James Hashian's reworked version of the original *Rip Van Winkle* story. It is based off a 9" round stone, which is hidden in Catskills and features the initials "RVW" chiseled into it.

Calabrese's father yearned to locate the stone. He scoured the books in search of clues. On the weekends, Greg's father took he and his brother along with him. Although they never found the stone, that was the start of Calabrese's love for the Catskills region.

Calabrese spent the rest of his teenage years exploring the area until he relocated to the Southwest. He then spent 20-plus years honing his backcountry skills. Eventually Calabrese's vast appreciation of the Catskills and

his desire to live a simpler life brought him back to New York. Located at 30 Liberty St., Catskill, NY. Call them at (480) 381-9405, or visit online at www.ripvanwinkleadventureguides.com.

If snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicle rentals, fly fishing, or camping are your game, explore the Catskills region through one of its guides. Let the experts at Rip Van Winkle Ranch guide you through the trails. Snowmobile rentals run from November through April and ATV rentals from April through November (both are weather permitting). Rip Van Winkle Ranch is located at 5305 Rte. 23A, Haines Falls, NY. Call them at (518) 589-6215, or visit them online at www.greatnortherncatskills.com/outdoors/rip-van-winkle-ranch.

Fishing enthusiasts can hook up with Mark W. Klein – a licensed fishing guide based in Phoenicia at 52 Main St. You can call them at (914) 810-6923, or visit online at www.ripvanwinkleflyfishing.net. There's also a campground and cabin rentals in Saugerties that touts the Rip Van Winkle name. Its end of camping season with a bonfire event is being held on October 28. Rip Van Winkle Campgrounds are located at 149 Blue

Mountain Rd., Saugerties, NY. Or visit them online at www.ripvanwinklecampgrounds.com.

Other autumn fetes

Autumn is one of the best times to discover the Great Northern Catskills when fall foliage transforms the mountain's vistas with blazing gold, orange, and red hues. While leaf peeping season varies in New York State, fall foliage peaks in the Catskills around early- to mid-October. Attend one of the fall festivals, which includes the 16th Annual Gavin's Guinness Oktoberfest. This free-admission event is being held at Gavin's Irish Country Inn – an authentic Irish pub in Cornwallville. The festivity will be held October 7 through October 9 and will include live Irish music, dancing, and pipes, as well as a beer truck. Beyond the indoor celebration, the Oktoberfest will host an outdoor heated tent. Located at 118 Golden Hill Rd., Cornwallville, NY. Visit them online at www.greatnorthern-catskills.com/events/16th-annual-gavins-guinness-oktoberfest.

On October 8 and 9, there's also Windham's 27th Annual Autumn Affair. The two-day event is a popular fave that unites friends, neighbors, and visitors. More than 50 vendors will line both sides of Main Street with local crafts, and tasty eats in addition to the many sidewalk sales and food specials that will be offered by Main Street businesses. Live music will fill the autumn air on both days from 1–5pm. Grab the family and enjoy the festivities. Visit www.greatnortherncatskills.com/events/windhams-27th-annual-autumn-affair.

While exploring the region, maybe you'll find the highly coveted 9" round stone mentioned in James Hashian's reworked version of the original *Rip Van Winkle* story. Regardless of which adventures you choose, there's always some fun and folklore to enjoy in Catskills. •

To learn more you can talk with the Great Northern Catskills of Greene County Tourism located at 700 Co., Rd 23B, Leeds, NY, call them at (518) 943-3223, or visit online at www.greatnortherncatskills.com.



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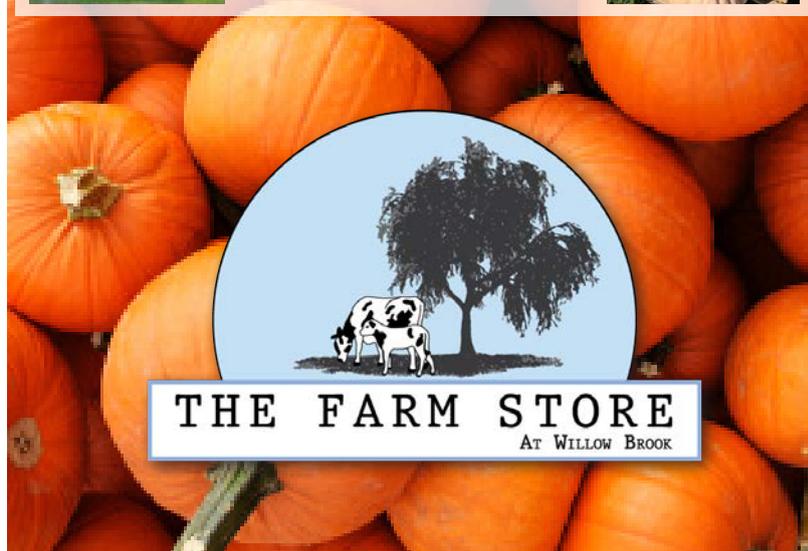
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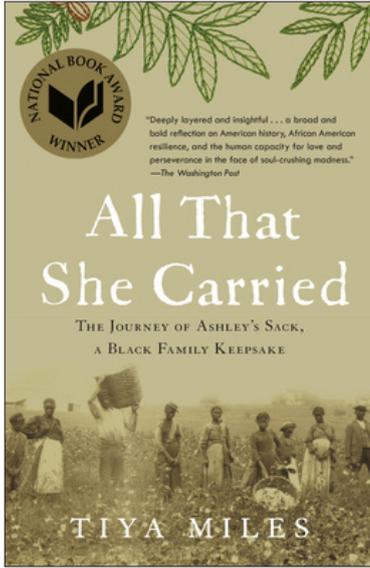


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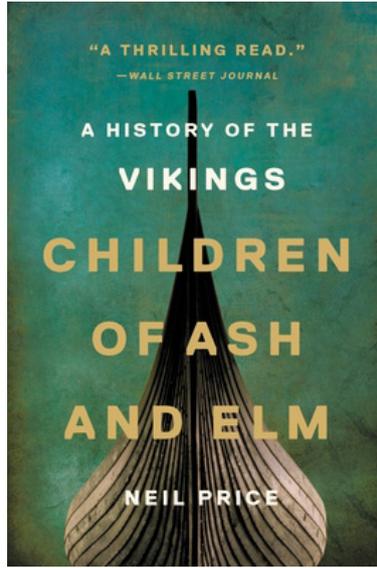
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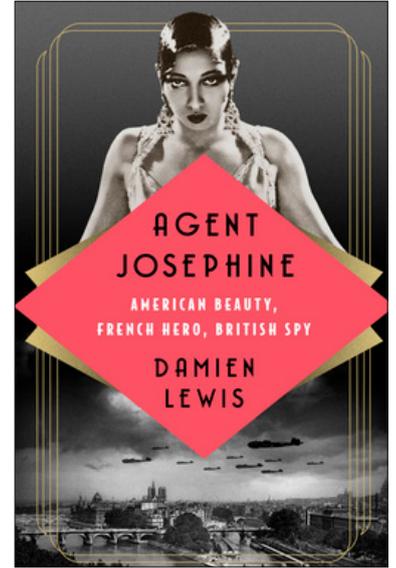
All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake by *Tiya Miles*

A renowned historian traces the life of a single object handed down through three generations of Black women to craft a “deeply layered and insightful” (*The Washington Post*) testament to people who are left out of the archives.



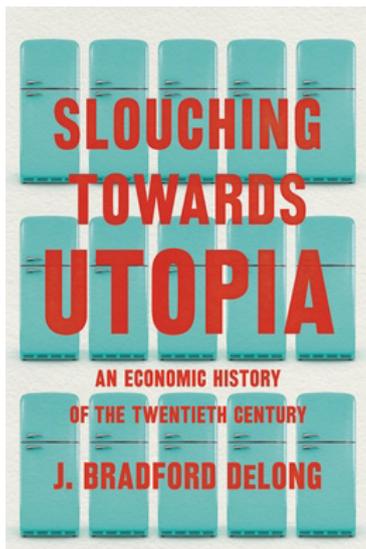
Children of Ash and Elm: A History of the Vikings by *Neil Price*

This is the ultimate resource for the Viking-obsessed. Price gathers all the current thinking on every aspect of this somewhat amorphous people. He is careful to separate fact from conjecture and illuminates the way the thinking has changed as new evidence has come to light. Fascinating!



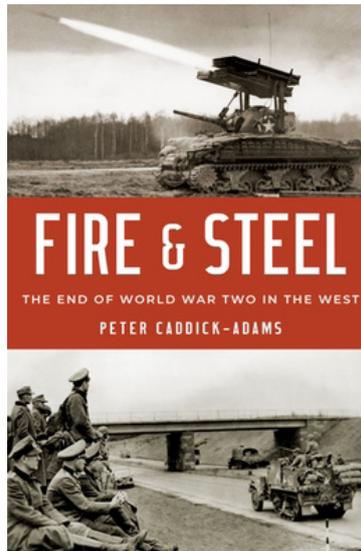
Agent Josephine: American Beauty, French Hero, British Spy by *Damien Lewis*

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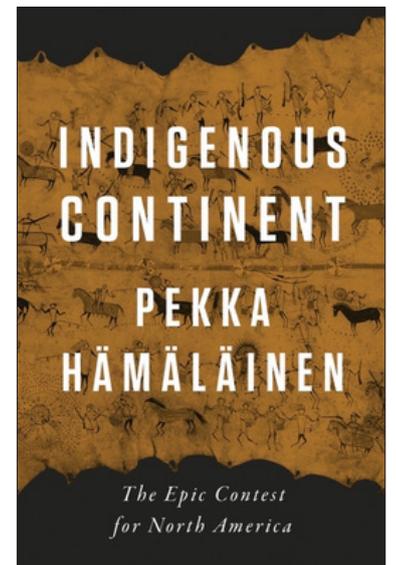
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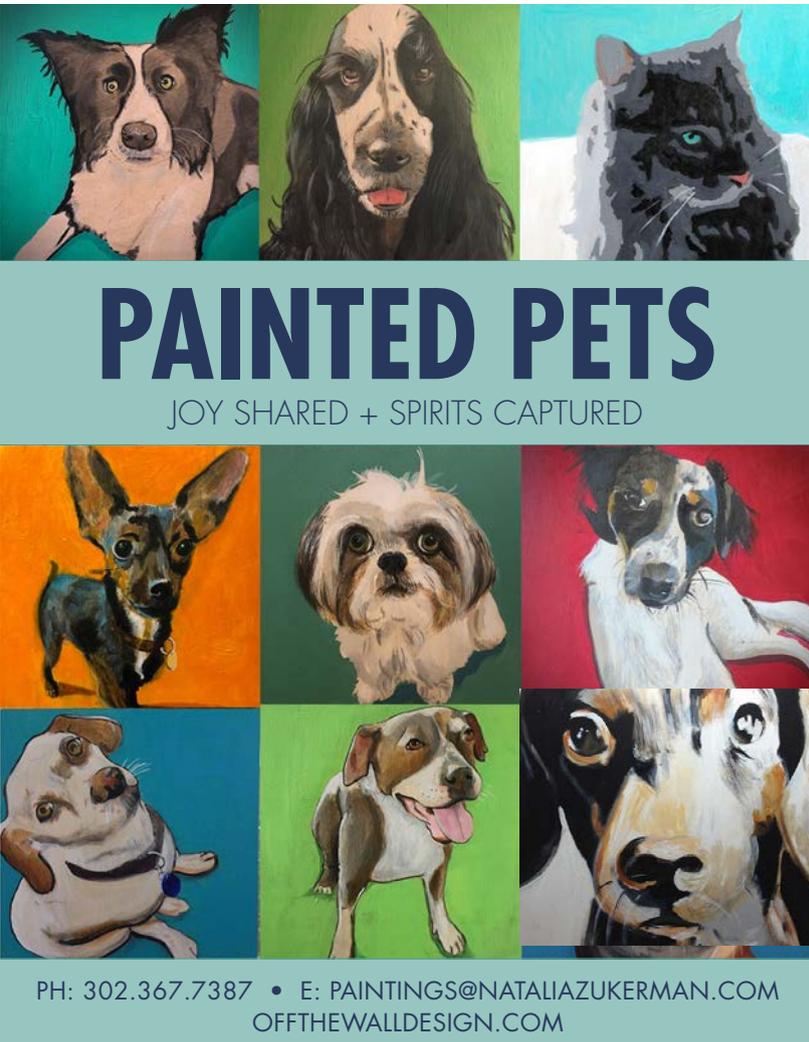
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RICH IN RESOURCES

New York has a vast amount of minerals, some of which played a role in the American Revolution

By Regina Molaro
info@mainstreetmag.com

New York State is renowned for many things from the Statue Of Liberty in New York Harbor to Adirondack Park and Niagara Falls. The Hudson Valley certainly has its own merits and interesting history, synonymous with estate living, the Gilded Age, agriculture, and wine making.

A lesser known quality of the Empire State is its abundance of mineral resources. The Department of Environmental Conservation cites that, “New York State is rich in minerals, which are mined for industrial and construction uses. Sand and gravel mines are found throughout the state. Metal ores and gem minerals such as garnet are mined mainly in mountainous regions. Salt is extracted from rich deposits in Central New York.”

Mining for minerals

The US Geological Survey estimates that the annual value of New York’s mineral production in 2015 (the most recent year available) was \$1.43 billion. These resources make a substantial contribution to the overall economy of the Empire State. New York is among the top third in the country in value of minerals produced. Leading mineral commodities produced in New York State include salt, crushed stone, construction sand, and gravel.



According to the New York State Museum in Albany, this local attraction boasts the world’s largest and most complete collection of New York minerals. Its ongoing exhibition, *Minerals of New York* exhibits only a fraction of its vast collection. It includes specimens from mines, quarries, road cuts, and outcrops – all located throughout New York State.

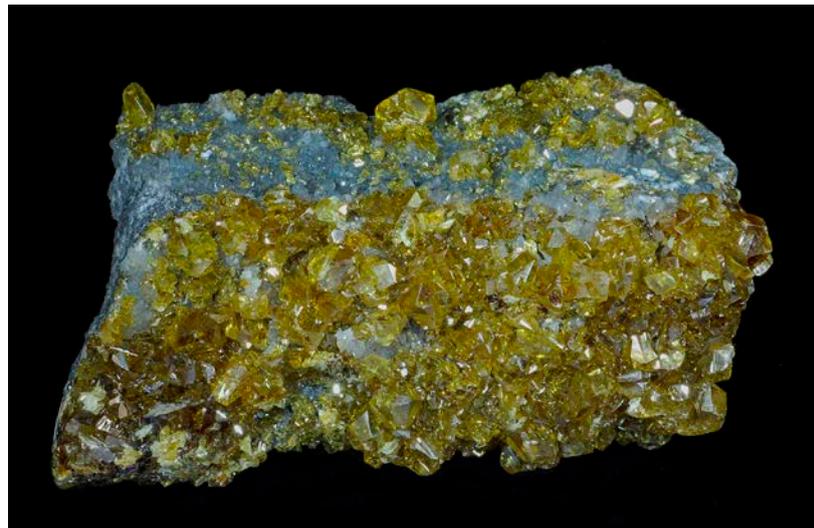
The collection includes 93 mineral species from the Balmat-Edwards mining district in St. Lawrence (the pink and purple mineral, tremolite, which is also known as “hexagonite,” is found only in St. Lawrence County), super garnets from the Barton Mine in the Adirondack Mountains, and “Herkimer diamonds” that hail from Herkimer County.

The garnet, generally deep red in hue, is New York’s official gemstone. The Barton Mine is said to be the largest garnet mine in the world. In fact, New York ranks first in garnet production in the US and fourth in world production. Another notable fact about New York – it is the only state in the country to continuously produce wollastonite – a key ingredient in the production of ceramics and other industrial products.

Iron’s strength

In 2010, the New York State Museum held a symposium, which brought together researchers from several fields. The history of iron’s production and the use of iron in New York state was the common thread that united the group.

A report, *Iron In New York* cites that, “Of the many non-farming industries brought from Europe to the Americas, ironworking was arguably the most basic. Without it, the building of productive self-sufficient communities could not have proceeded. Iron was needed for tools to



Above: Sphalerite, Hyatt Mine, Balmat mining district, St. Lawrence County. Below, left, top to bottom: Almandine. Wollastonite, Natural Bridge, Lewis County. All images courtesy of New York State Museum.

clear and work the land, for vessels and implements for the preparation of food, for nails and hardware for the construction of buildings, and for the many different kinds of tools for the day-to-day trades of a European community. It forged the weapons of war and the chains of slavery.”

The paper also states that New York had abundant sources of both the ore and wood necessary for fuel to transform it into iron, and the production of iron and iron products has played a key role in shaping the history of New York.

Although relatively little iron production occurred in New York before the American Revolution (in comparison to that of several other colonies), the industry began expanding during the early 19th century.

Large deposits of iron ore, already known in southeastern New York, were discovered in the previously unexplored northern and central parts of the state, and iron production eventually occurred in every part of New York where ore was available, taking advantage of the seemingly endless forests for the charcoal fuel required for forges and blast furnaces.

Iron’s role in the American Revolution

Iron went into the creation of a wartime strategy that used a chain to block the British. According to *Journal of the American Revolution*, “Control of the Hudson River was important strategically during the American Revolution. The river, along with lakes George and Champlain, was a potential invasion route from Canada. It also was a physical separator of the colonies. Men as well as supplies crossed the river. To split off the northern colonies from the South and interrupt this supply line was a war-long British ambition. Engineers, especially engineers with experience, were scarce in the revolutionary forces.”

A plan was developed to place an immense iron chain from Fort Montgomery on the west bank to Anthony’s Nose on the east (Anthony’s Nose is downstream from West Point and is the location of the east end of the current-day Bear Mountain Bridge) to prevent British ships from progressing

Continued on next page ...



Company records from Sterling Iron and Railway Company (between 1740 and 1918) state that the company was located in Ramapo. Earlier records indicate that the original name of the firm was Sterling Forge and Furnace Company. The company traces its history back to 1736.

The 1760s saw a period of expansion with such products as cart, wagon and chair spindles, anchors, teakettles, skillets, pots, and refined iron being produced. According to the records, “Sterling remained a hub of activity during the American Revolution. The ironworks performed a valuable service by providing the Continental Army with arms and ammunition and supplying anchors for Navy warships. Sterling also had a more direct role in the war effort. In February 1778 (its owner), Peter Townsend agreed to produce an iron chain for the Continental Army. The chain was to be placed across the Hudson River at West Point and was to serve as a barrier to British vessels. The chain was laid in place on April 30, 1778 but remained untested, as the British never did attempt to cross it.” The Albany Institute of History & Art’s collection houses one of the links from the chain that was created by Sterling Iron Works. Several other sections of the chain can now be found surrounding war memorials on the bluffs overlooking the Hudson River at the US Military Academy, known to many as West Point.

In summary, New York’s mining industries were important to the development of the American colonies, critical to the American Revolution, and remain an important contributor to the economy and growth of the modern American economy to this day. •

To learn more you can visit the New York State Museum at 222 Madison Ave., Albany, NY, or online at nysm.nysed.gov. Admission is free, but your support helps the Museum’s mission; suggested donations: \$5 per person or \$10 per family.



Above, top to bottom: Iron Link from the Great Chain across the Hudson River. Forged at the Sterling Iron Works, Orange County, New York 1778. Forged iron Albany Institute of History & Art, gift of Charles B. Webster, 1831.1. Tremolite (hexagonite), Arnold Pit, Balmat, St. Lawrence County. Quartz, Ace of Diamonds, Herkimer County. All images courtesy of New York State Museum.

up or down river and to stop them so they would be targets for cannons. It was believed that this chain would prevent the Royal Navy from going up the river. Many of the links for this chain were already forged for various smaller projects, but never used.

The Fort Montgomery chain was made of 1½-inch-square and 2-inch-square wrought iron bars that were then bent into shape. It was 600 yards long. To stretch such an enormous amount of iron across such a vast river, which had not only the normal river flow, but also tides, was an enormous engineering undertaking, which is why the scarcity of engineers was so significant.

The *Journal of the American Revolution* cites that the chain was “positioned in November 1776. To the horror and disgust of onlookers the chain immediately broke as the pressure of the water was too great for the chain to withstand. Laboriously, the chain was reconnected only to break again. With winter approaching, the chain and its raft floats were removed as the river would soon fill with ice so there would be no danger from the British.”

On October 6, 1777 the British attacked, but they did not directly assault the chain. They landed infantry downstream and attacked

the forts and river defenses from the rear. When the fort was overwhelmed, many Patriots took advantage of the chaos and slipped away into the woods to safety. With the Patriot’s defensive artillery under their control, the British could safely spend the time necessary to cut through one of the chain links, opening the river to their fleet. They sailed upriver where they burned the town of Kingston, which was the seat of the New York State government.

According to the journal, “By the middle of January 1778 it was decided that West Point was a better location for a new chain. Up-river traffic makes a sharp turn to the west at West Point. Sailing ships would lose speed and have to tack going around the turn. This would leave them vulnerable to heavy cannon fire from both shores. Infantry would also be stationed nearby to protect the new chain from attack by land. The new chain would be stretched from West Point almost directly North to Constitution Island – a distance of 1500 feet, 300 feet less than the old chain site at Fort Montgomery.”

A new chain was needed and the links and parts were purpose-built solely for the obstruction. Sterling Iron Works in Chester forged the chain. It had to be twice as strong as the first, yet light enough that it could be taken up each fall and installed again in the spring.

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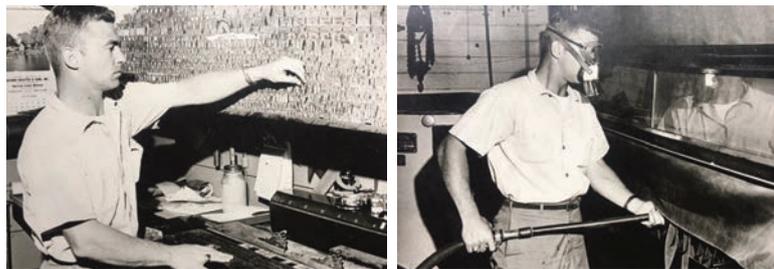
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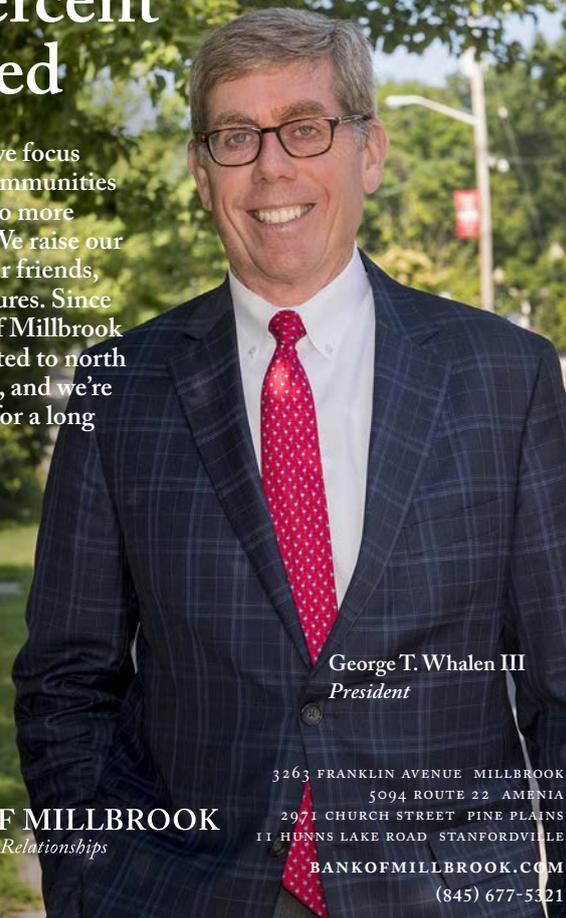
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Locust Hill Barn

Event barn and weddings. 5 Stockport Rd., Ghent, NY.
info@locusthillbarn.com. locusthillbarn.com

Locust Hill's event barn was built in 2019 due to an engagement and impending marriage within the Locust Hill family. The barn was built in only 90 days with lots of hardworking people, after hours food deliveries, and tons of passion. After the venue was completed and the wedding was over, the Locust Hill Barn family decided that they had something special and wanted to share it with other couples. "We provide the space for hosting an event, specializing in weddings. We provide limited rental items, on-site ceremony location, beautiful grounds, and lots of room for customization," explains Lauren Merante, Locust Hill Barn's chief operator. When it comes to what makes this location so unique and special compared with numerous other wedding venues, Merante explained, "What sets us apart from other event barns is that we are a newer venue. We are all one level whereas some other barns are two levels. Our interior is light, airy, and modern. By itself it is beautiful, but can also be dressed to the nines." When asked why they do what they do, Merante and her co-workers explained, "We love watching couples marry the love of their life surrounded by their friends and family. Further, we take pride in working with other vendors to make sure their perfect day goes exactly as planned. I foresee our barn continuing to house happiness and be the place of many couples happier-ever-after."



The Roeliff Jansen Historical Society

Preserving and presenting the history and cultural traditions of the Roe Jan community. 8 Miles Rd, Copake Falls, NY. roeliffjansenhs.org

Founded in 1974 in preparation for the 1976 Bicentennial, the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society (RJHS) was chartered in 1975 as a non-profit organization by the Board of Regents of New York State and moved to its present location in 1983. It serves the towns of Ancram, Copake, Gallatin, Hillsdale and Taghkanic. Their mission is to preserve and present the history and cultural traditions of the Roe Jan community. They have an active speaker series, annual exhibitions, as well as a multimedia archive. RJHS documents and conserves the heritage and history of the Roe Jan area in Columbia County, NY. RJHS is fortunate to be housed in the former "Old Copake Falls Church," a beautifully preserved and repurposed Carpenter Gothic structure that turned 130 years old in 2022. On the National Register of Historic Places since 2012, the building itself constitutes the jewel of their collection. Sharing local history through exhibitions, newsletters, and public programs is what the RJHS finds most rewarding. RJHS is also delighted that through increased outreach and community engagement, their membership has steadily grown. A great ambition of RJHS is to work more closely with area schools, and are in the process of designing educational programs that can help instructors teach local history through the broad range of objects in their collection, spanning two centuries of American history.



Paradis Sport

"The best performance underwear for women on the market."
11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, CT. paradissport.com

Paradis Sport was founded in 2020 by Lakeville resident Sarah Weihman who set out to offer female athletes the best performance underwear on the market. She enlisted athletes across a range of sports to fit-test countless rounds of prototypes, and she launched her first product, the seamless bikini in 2021. "We offer a seamless bikini and seamless thong, and have two natural fiber products in the final prototype phase. All of our products are made in the USA. We have a strong environmental mission and an ambassador program with some amazing female athletes who give back to their communities and sports," shared Weihman. "We are the only company we know of that is focused solely on making performance underwear for female athletes. We manufacture in the US using US-made yarn, keep our packaging minimalist, and use seamless construction to reduce waste. Our fit-testing process with athletes is unlike any other in the industry." Weihman shared that it is very rewarding to hear female athletes say that their products have changed the way they train and compete by allowing them to focus on their sport rather than their underwear. Finding customers and ambassadors who share their passion for great products and their environmental mission is awesome. "Our goals going forward are to expand our product line to include more styles and sizes so that every athlete can find her perfect pair of undies; to find more like-minded ambassadors; and to offer seamless undies made with natural fiber yarn."



Ghent Stone and Landscape Supply

Offering a wide variety of stone products and so much more!
2057 Route 9H, Hudson, NY. ghentstoneandlandscape.com

Some of you might be familiar with Ghent Wood Products and/or Meltz Lumber – both businesses have been a cornerstone of the Columbia County business community for three generations now. They service all facets of wood products. But most might not realize that the Ghent family has expanded its service offerings. From stone to mulch, Ghent Stone and Landscaping Supply has you covered! They specialize in Pennsylvania Blue Stone, Natural Cleft, patio kits, treads and more. From your initial idea and concept, their knowledgeable staff can help with selecting the best material for your project. With their large array of options, there is certainly something for everyone, no matter your project and or vision. From its source to the finished project, Ghent Stone and Landscape Supply and sister company Ghent Wood Products can accommodate nearly all of your needs: clearing land while maintaining respect for the environment, providing material for the smallest home project to the largest, mulch and sawdust for your landscaping and gardening needs. The entire Ghent Stone and Wood Products family is what separates this business from their competitors. And when it comes to sharing the best part of their business, they emphatically explain that it is supporting their customers and their community.

INSURING YOUR WORLD

After a two and one half year-pandemic hiatus, college students are back in school. Most have finally migrated back to dorm rooms or shared rental apartments. Some have their cars at school and some don't. The ones that don't may use their roommates' cars? Expensive computers, bicycles, and sports equipment may be brought and kept in their automobiles or dorm rooms? How are all these risks insured? First let's talk about a student's personal property: if their parents have an active homeowners policy, coverage will be extended for their children's property as well any liability issues that may crop up. If there are no parental homeowners that can be counted on then the student should get their own tenant homeowners policy to be properly covered. Family automobile policies will in fact extend to a child that is attending college with a car and will also provide coverage if the child doesn't have a car and uses a roommate's vehicle and gets in an accident under the "borrowed car" provision in all NYS Family Auto policies. The key here is that the child must be listed on the policy for coverage to be afforded. Lastly, let's not forget health insurance! If the student is out of state, remember to notify your carrier and find out if the carrier's out of area network will work in that area of the state that they are in? As we always like to say, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!



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HISTORIC HOMES ARE THE TREASURES OF A COMMUNITY

They are the Grandparents and Great-Grandparents of architecture with the ties to the past and with the stories to tell. Even if one chooses to own a new home, the Historic Homes are the foundation of a Town – they speak for the people who built the settlement, the original stores, schools, industry, parks... they had a vision and they were brave. Whether a grand Lady Colonial, an early stone home, or a modest bungalow, these homes, and the people who built them, deserve our respect; when renovations are done, we hope the original details will be appreciated.

A favorite quote: "My house was a canvas on which other people had been painting for more than two hundred years... Every house is a work in progress. It begins in the imaginations of the people who build it and is gradually transformed by the people who occupy it down through the years, decades, centuries. To tinker with a house is to commune with the people who have lived in it before and to leave messages for those who will live in it later. Every house is a living museum of habitation, and a monument, to all of the lives and aspirations that have flickered within it." That said, one of the special characteristics of New England is the variety of homes we pass every day and live in. I have personally owned an antique carriage house, the neo-palladian home we built, two in-town colonials, and now an expanded cottage on a private lane. And, among the homes I have rented was a significant mid-century modern with a celebrated past. Each one very much a treasure.

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SENIOR PETS

Things can be old in two ways: they can become obsolete like your iPhone 13 is about to become, or they can increase in value like fine wine. Senior pets are in the latter category. Not only do they come fully finished with all the bugs already worked out, but their life experience makes a bond with their humans as meaningful to them as it is to us. They know the score. If they arrived at the shelter at a mature age, they probably came from a loving home and lost their owner due to age or illness. (Animals that come from bad situations are always younger because most of those poor creatures don't have a chance to grow old). Older animals have known love – they want to experience that love again, and they will be deeply grateful to the person who gives that to them. A senior pet may not have the exuberance of youth, but they have the wisdom and insight to appreciate everything you do for them. If you are considering adopting a pet, don't overlook the older animals. Not only are you doing a decent thing by giving them the home they so desperately need and deserve, but you are getting an exceptional companion who will give you the best years of their life. And like fine wine, those years will be savored by you both.

By Lynne Meloccaro, Executive Director
of Dutchess County SPCA

The Dutchess County SPCA provides services to the community including a pet food pantry, free rabies clinics, pet retention assistance, low interest loans for pet medical care and safety-net pet housing.

For more information: www.dcsPCA.org



HISTORY ON TREND: FAIENCE

You may have recently noticed the pages of shelter magazines filled with wall scapes, not hung with art, but with brightly painted plates and platters. These vessels can vary greatly in size, color, and origin, but their composition has one thing in common, they are made of tin glazed earthenware. The technique of producing faience was first discovered in Baghdad in the 9th century, before it made its way to Europe through Italy and Spain in the subsequent centuries. For centuries, kingdoms in Europe raced to find a way to create something akin to porcelain, mimicking the light weight and fine dishes imported from China. Faience was the closest they got until the 18th century.

The famous faience from the Netherlands is referred to as Delft, while pieces from Spain, and Italy are often referred to as majolica, and examples created in England are referred to as English Delftware. The term faience stems from the town of Faenza in Italy, which was renowned for its potteries as early as the mid 15th century. French king Louis XIV is credited with faience's increased popularity. The Sun King fought five costly wars during his reign, and imposed a tax on silver to aid in financing these military endeavors. The king himself had much of his silver and gold melted down, and his courtiers were encouraged to do the same. Thus his court, and much of Versailles used predominantly faience. This greatly increased its popularity among all classes, and cemented it into French life. To this day, European antiques markets remain a unique source for bright and unique faience pieces, and though trends may come and go, it is safe to say that this one has staying power.

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