

2024 MOHAWK VALLEY

Community Directory



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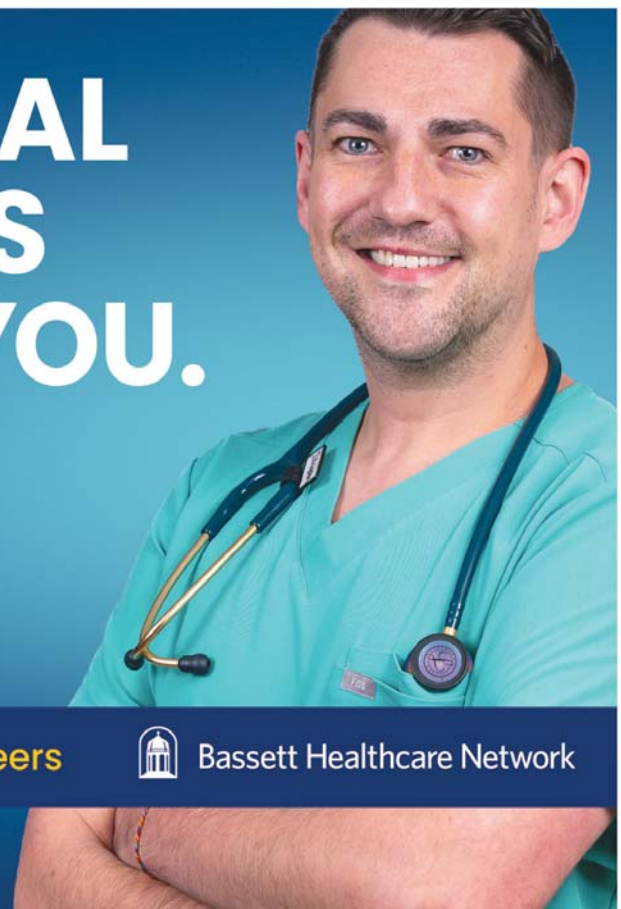
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Fulton Montgomery Regional
fulmontgomeryny.org **518-725-0641**

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

20 Park St., Fonda, NY **518-853-2135**

COUNTY CLERK

County Office Bldg., 64 Broadway, Fonda
Phone: **518-853-8111**
..... Fax: **518-853-8116**

COUNTY COURTS

See nycourts.gov for full listing

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Fonda **518-853-8250**

HISTORIAN/MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & ARCHIVES

Old Courthouse, 9 Park St., Fonda
historian@co.montgomery.ny.us
..... **518-853-8186**

MOTOR VEHICLE

County Office Bldg., Fonda **518-853-8125**

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2024 Mohawk Valley Community Directory

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Did you miss out on listing your organization or activity in our 2024 COMMUNITY DIRECTORY?

We make every effort to include a complete list of businesses, services, organizations, churches, schools, local governments and activities in your area... but with changes and additions every year, it's possible that a listing of your organization or activity did not appear in the 2024 Community Directory. If that's the case, let's make sure we have the proper listing of your organization or activity included in the 2025 Community Directory for your area. Email your information by January 3, 2025 to:

Mohawk Valley My Shopper

Call 1-800-767-7862 or email (emailed preferred):

info@myshopperonline.com with subject line: 2024 Directory



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PUBLIC DEFENDER
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County Annex Bldg.,
20 Park St., Fonda518-853-3531

REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE
County Annex Bldg.,
20 Park St., Fonda518-853-3996

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200 Clark Dr., Fultonville518-853-5500

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County Annex Bldg.,
64 Broadway, Fonda518-853-4355

FULTON COUNTY

HISTORY OF FULTON COUNTY

Fulton County is blessed with rich inviting history that continues to impact the charm and vitality of the area today.

The county began as a frontier with primitive homesteads and settlements where many sensitive negotiations took place between the English King's representatives and the Native American national leaders. Thanks to the dynamic personality of Sir William Johnson, the area took its shape as an economically prosperous dwelling place. One of the great shapers of New York colonial history, Sir William's legacy still leaves an impression. He created Tryon County which later divided into Fulton and Montgomery counties; Brought in early settlers and established the glove and leather indus-

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FULTON COUNTY

tries which survived for more than 200 years; Planned and contributed to the public buildings and institutions which are still in active use today. Most noteworthy of which is the Fulton County Court House, the oldest working in the state and one of the oldest in the nation.

Other Fulton County natives who made notable accomplishments to the world include Elizabeth Cady Stanton, pioneer woman suffragist. Dr. Mahlon Loomis, a dentist by profession, but the inventor who conducted a series of experiments which resulted in the first wireless telegraph communication system. The county's namesake is Robert Fulton, who improved the steamship invention.

Throughout the county, landmarks and early history architecture remind residents and tourists of Fulton County's colorful history, as the remains as promising and inviting as it was more than 200 years ago.

FULTON COUNTY OFFICES www.fultoncountyny.gov

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

County Office Complex
2714 State Hwy 29, Johnstown **518-736-5526**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County Office Bldg.,
223 W. Main St., Johnstown **518-736-5540**

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Fulton Montgomery Regional

fultonmontgomeryny.org
2 N. Main St., Gloversville **518-725-0641**

COMMUNITY SERVICES

57 East Fulton St., Gloversville **518-773-3557**

COUNTY CLERK

County Office Bldg.,
223 W. Main St., Johnstown **518-736-5555**

COUNTY TREASURER

County Office Bldg.,
223 W. Main St., Johnstown **518-736-5580**

COUNTY COURTS

See nycourts.gov for full listing

HISTORIAN

email: historian@fultoncounty.ny.gov
..... **518-736-5667**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

County Office Bldg.,
223 W. Main St., Johnstown **518-736-5511**

MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC, ST. MARY ADULT

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PLANNING

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PROBATION

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See fultoncountyny.org for full listing

PUBLIC HEALTH & RABIES HELPLINE

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AMES

HISTORY OF AMES

In 1924, the Village of Ames became the smallest incorporated village in New York State. Ames has a long history of having been settled prior to 1760. Early settlers in and around Ames differ from the pioneers locating on the river, inasmuch as they came mostly from New England while the latter were of German extraction. The Village of Ames is named after Fisher Ames, Dedham, Mass. He was the most powerful man in New England. He was instrumental in bringing about the Declaration of Independence.

In 1797, Ames had no connection with other settlements except a trail to Canajoharie, now Old Sharon Road. The first merchants in Ames were Russell and Mills (about 1800). Among the first industries and trades (1797) was a gristmill, sawmill, a wagon and wheelwright shop. Later, a pottery shop, mill factory, milk and cheese plant, shoe store, cobblers shop and a blacksmith shop were operated. Jump pumps, baskets, bricks, caskets, featherbeds and tin boxes were made in the Village. There was also a silversmith and a hatter. There were several hotels and inns in and around the community. In 1796, the first Baptist Church was established one mile west of the Village. In 1832, the Baptist Church was built in the Village.

The Methodist Church was built in 1839, on land deeded to them by Abil and Susan Bingham. They also gave the land to build the academy on, which was built in 1835 by their slaves. The lower walls are 33" deep and the upper walls are 26" deep. This served as a school for higher education. In 1876 it became a public school; 1945 it centralized with Canajoharie Central School. In 1959, the school closed. In 1988 it became a museum. On Sept. 24th, 2001 Ames Academy Building was placed on the State Register of historical places. On Feb. 20, 2002 the Ames Academy Building was placed on the National Register of historic places.

Ames was the home of several doctors. It was also the birthplace of Alexander Randall, who later became governor of Wisconsin, Postmaster General of the United States and representative of the U.S. to the Papal States. His birthplace is still standing. Ames had a post office, an opera house and a music hall. In 1903, the I.O.O.F. Hall was built. Through the efforts of the I.O.O.F. members, streetlights were brought to Ames (1911-1912).

Scotts Opera House block (approx. 1881-1883) was built on the corner of Ames. At one time, part of the building was an undertaker's parlor. On the other side was a hardware and grocery store where dry goods, groceries, drugs and shoes were sold. It also housed the Post Office on the first floor and the Music Hall was upstairs. Later, an ice cream parlor occupied half of the bottom floor. The opera house/music hall was complete with stage and auditorium. The museum has plaques and artifacts from Scotts' Opera House and Winnies' Music Hall. Rev. Warden, a well-known postman, preacher and humorist resided in Ames 12 years as the Baptist Minister. He wrote for many New York papers. His 3-act play "Asleep and Awake", which he wrote while he was here, was put on at the

Music Hall (1883). The original play is in the Museum.

The original building is still standing and is now known as "Sunset Corners" occupied in its entirety as a Luncheonette and gift shop. Ames has had several stores: In 1800, a store built by a man who operated the Ames Tannery. Here, the first Post Office was located (approx. 1830) and the first telephone in Ames was installed about 1885 in the old store and was connected with the Argusville Silk Mill.

Dr. Mereness' home was a place where students that attended the Academy boarded. It also served as part of the Underground Railroad. The museum has a letter from Elizabeth Kinney who tells how she made the trip there with her grandfather when she was just a kid. Mrs. Kinney was born in 1842 and died in 1929.

CHURCHES

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VILLAGE CLERK

Ames, NY518-774-4387

PARKS / RECREATION

COMMUNITY PARK Latimer Hill Rd., Ames, NY

SCHOOLS

CANAJOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

canajoharieschools.org

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Middle: 25 School District Rd., Canajoharie

.....518-673-6320

High: 136 Scholastic Way, Canajoharie

.....518-673-6330

CANAJOHARIE

CANAJOHARIE

REVOLUTIONARY STRONGHOLDS

The VanAlstyne Homestead is a stone structure constructed by Martin VanAlstyne c. 1749 in what is now Canajoharie but was at the time wilderness. The structure survived the ravages of the French and Indian War as well as the American Revolution. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Rufus Grider and R.A. Richmond the building was restored in 1883 and became one of the first museums in New York State. In 1915 an addition was constructed making the facility useful as a meeting place for the community. The building is open for tours on summer Saturday from 1-4 pm as well as by appointment. To arrange a tour call 518-673-5528.

All pioneer settlements, not abandoned in the Revolution, made some provisions for their security in the hour of peril. This usually consisted of a palisade dwelling, a stone one being preferred if favorably located. Such defense was dignified by the title of forts. There were several in this town, the most prominent of which is still standing on the east side of the creek in Canajoharie. This was of stone and was, during the Revolution, known as the Philip Van Alstine and 50 years later as the John H. Moyer place. It became known when fortified as Fort Rensselaer.

A mile or two Southeast from this, on the Mapletown road and a mile from the creek, resided John Ehle whose house was palisade and called Fort Ehle. A little distance from this

CANAJOHARIE

place, in 1780 or 1781, a party of enemies under Brang surprised and killed Adam Eights and captured Nathan Foster and Conrad Fritcher, who were taken as prisoners to Canada, enduring their share of suffering. Lieut. Cornelius Van Evera and ensign John Van Evera were on duty in and around Fort Ehle.

French's Gazetteer of the State says that a fort 100 square feet was erected at Canajoharie at an early day as one of the chain of fortifications guarding the route to Oswego, This is an error. The fort referred to was at the upper of Canajoharie castle of the Mohawks in Danube, Herkimer County. It had an English garrison during the wars with the French and was sometimes called Fort Hendrick, after the famous chieftain who dwelt near it.

Johannes or John Roof, who had located at Fort Stanwix (now Rome) in 1760, left that place by the advice of Col. Gansevoort when the enemy threatened it in 1777, leaving his buildings to be burned by Gansevoort's order to prevent the occupancy of their enemy. Dropping down the valley to Canajoharie, bought a farm upon which Henry Schremling, an early settler, had built a stone dwelling. It stood directly in back of the present Eldridge or Lovell House until about the year 1850 when it was demolished. In the latter part of the Revolutionary war, a small party of Indians fired at some men hoeing corn on Roof's flats, between his dwelling and the river not far from the present river bridge and killed one of them. But seeing the others securing their firearms, they fled to the hills and escaped. Roof had kept a tavern at Fort Stanwix, and in Canajoharie he resumed that business, continuing it for some years after the war. His son and namesake, the late Col. John Roof, succeeded him.

Martin Roof, a brother of the last-named, was a druggist at an early day in Canajoharie Village and one of its first post-masters, also an acting Justice of the Peace. John Roof, Jr. married a daughter of George Spraker of Palatine and, for a time, kept the Roof tavern as one family. During this time, probably about 1795, the house was robbed one night of a heavy iron chest, which was chained to the post of a bed on which some of the families were sleeping. A trundle bed was also quite near it. The chest usually contained several hundred dollars in specie, and no inconsiderable sum was in it when it was so mysteriously abducted. Not long before it was stolen,

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CANAJOHARIE

two girls lifted it only with great effort in their teens. One of them, the young innkeeper's wife's sister, still lives at the age of 97. It was never known who took the safe or what became of it. A small tin trunk inside, containing valuable papers was, afterward, found in an abutment of the bridge over the creek. Of Henry Schremling, abovementioned, little can be learned. Capt. Martin C. Van Alstine and Captain or Sheriff John Winn, married respectively his daughters Catherine and Elizabeth. Schremling, in the latter part of the last century had a mill near the site of Arkell & Smith's dam in Canajoharie.

At some period before the Revolution, three brothers, Henry, Nicholas and John Failing (Germans) located on the rich interval lands just westward of Canajoharie Village. Henry pitched his tent where Joshua Williams now resides. It was known after the war as the Roger Dougherty, and still later, as the Adam I. Roof place. Nicholas resided nearly a mile farther west where he built, just before the war, one of the better class of stone houses in a commanding position upon a knoll. It is remembered as a large two-story dwelling, having a spacious hall and stairway in the center. In the autumn of 1833 or 1834, this edifice, then occupied as a tenement house by several families, took fire one night from a keg of ashes under the stairs and burned down. This house, as was learned many years ago from the late Jacob H. Failing (a son of Henry and grandson of Nicholas Failing) who was a boy living in it at the time, was rendered defensible during the Revolution by the following process: A staging was erected across its rear or hillside a few feet wide, with an oak floor and was planked up breast high, access being gained to it by the chamber windows. The lower windows and outer doors were also planked up so as to be bulletproof. As the house had several families in it during the war, especially after so many had been burned out by the enemy, it was believed it might be defended against a large attacking force. But it was never molested.

After the war, the place went into the possession of Rev. John Daniel Gross, who after owning it for a time traded it to Col. Hendrick Frey for property in Freysbush where he built a large brick mansion (now standing) in which he lived for some years and where he died in 1822. Col. Frey occupied the Failing place for some years and in it, at a good old age,

died. From it, with a field glass, he could oversee his men at work on the flats of the Mohawk for half a mile east, north and west. His farm embraced 200 acres and his entire possessions south and west of the site of Canajoharie Village, 3,200. From him Freysbush was named. Col. Frey was a justice of sessions of Tyron County and a postmaster. He carried on a lucrative trade with the Indians and settlers. He was buried near his house abovementioned, but no monument marks the spot. Col. Frey was a loyalist during the Revolution. His brother, Major Frey, was a prominent patriot, once Chairman of the Tyron County Committee of Safety.

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143 Church Street.....518-673-2224

HOSPITAL / HEALTHCARE

ST. MARY'S HEALTH CLINIC
48 Erie Blvd., Canajoharie, NY518-673-2573

LIBRARY / MUSEUM

CANAJOHARIE PUBLIC LIBRARY
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CANAJOHARIE

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

CANAJOHARIE PALATINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

canajohariepalatinechamber.com
P.O. Box 38, Canajoharie518-673-0292

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.518-673-3812

LOCAL SERVICES

FOOD PANTRY, COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
.....518-853-3011

GARBAGE COLLECTION
Contracted locally

MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE
64 Broadway, Fonda, NY518-853-8125

POST OFFICE
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Middle: 25 School District Rd., Canajoharie
.....518-673-6320
High: 136 Scholastic Way, Canajoharie
.....518-673-6330

CHARLESTON FOUR CORNERS

HISTORY OF CHARLESTON

The Town of Charleston was formed from the old Town of Mohawk, March 12, 1793, comprising parts of Bagley's Patent, Corry's Parent and Bowen's or Stone Heap Patent. Charleston is the third oldest town in Montgomery County and the most southerly. Charleston originally extended north to the Mohawk River. The town of Glen and part of the Town of Root were organized from Charleston in 1823, leaving Charleston the only town in Montgomery County that does not border the Mohawk.

During the American Revolution, this area that was to become the Town of Charleston, was a short cut from the Susquehanna and Schoharie River Valleys to the Mohawk Valley and north. Raiding parties of British and Indians would use what has been called the old Indian road. The old Indian road is presumed to be part of present-day Route 30A and, perhaps, part of a trail going through the Charleston State Forest. After the Revolutionary War, many veterans came to settle in the area of Charleston. Among those were Elkanah Corbin, one of George Washington's lifeguards; Capt. Thomas Machin, who engineered the West Point Chain which blockaded Hudson's River from British ships heading north; William McConkey, whose ferry on the Delaware River was chosen by George Washington to move troops and supplies across the frozen river Christmas Eve, before the Battle of Trenton; Samuel Tallmadge, who fought with George Washington on Long Island, just to name a few.

There were several denominations including the Reformed Dutch Church of Charleston, the Methodist Church in Burtonville and the First Baptist Church, the oldest church started in 1793 at Ryder's Corners. The Christian Church of Charleston, formed in 1813 and situated at Charleston Four Corners, is still an active church. The Christian Church has an interesting and lengthy history and was the founding church for several other churches of this denomination including the Christian churches of Burtonville, Carlisle, Rural Grove and Randall. The Society of Friends or Quakers, as they are more commonly known, also had a meetinghouse at Charleston Four Corners. During the period of the Civil War, it has often been thought that the Friends of Charleston were part of the Underground Railroad route to Canada, taken by African Americans seeking their freedom.

CHARLESTON FOUR CORNERS

CHURCHES

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON FOUR CORNERS**
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1380 E. Lykers Rd.518-922-9088

HOSPITAL / HEALTHCARE

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CHARLESTON FOUR CORNERS

LOCAL SERVICES

FULMONT COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
.....518-853-3011

GARBAGE COLLECTION
See Town Clerk

MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE
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DOLGEVILLE

HISTORY OF DOLGEVILLE

In 1795, John Faville settled on Ransom Creek and built a Grist Mill and Sawmill. Not long after, a small settlement began to develop with a blacksmith, tannery and school. Some of the first families to settle in the area were the Ayers, Brockett, Lamberson, Randal, Ransom, Spencer and Spofford. These families settled and cleared the adjoining lands to make farms. Then, in 1826: The first Post Office was established with Zephi Brockett as postmaster. The area was then known as Brockett's Bridge.

1874: Alfred Dolge arrived in Brockett's Bridge, prospecting for spruce wood to be used for piano sounding boards.

1875: Alfred Dolge purchased the tannery property and began manufacturing operations which later developed into felt mills and felt shoe, piano case, piano sounding board, piano hammer factories and lumber yards.

1881: The Village of Dolgeville is incorporated and Dolge buys 30,000 acres of Adirondack woodland and introduced electric light into his lumber mills. Also, the Village unanimously voted to change its name from Brockett's Bridge to Dolgeville. Since Dolge's arrival, the local population had grown from 325 in 1875 to 1,500.

1887: Mr. Dolge brings electricity to the Village. He also buys the Reuben Faville farm overlooking the picturesque "High Falls" of the East Canada Creek. After developing 500 acres into a park, Dolge presents it to the people of Dolgeville.

1892: Dolge began to build the Little Falls and Dolgeville

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DOLGEVILLE

railroad. 1898: Dolge ends business in Dolgeville after financial difficulties and relocates to California.

The history of this village does not stop here.

CHURCHES

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

12 VanBuren Street.....315-429-3940

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

31 N. Helmer Ave.315-823-3410

UNITED LUTHERAN PRESBYTERIAN

26 E. Faville Ave.315-429-3622

HOSPITAL / HEALTHCARE

LITTLE FALLS HOSPITAL / BASSETT HEALTHCARE

140 Burwell St., Little Falls315-823-1000

LIBRARY / MUSEUM

DOLGEVILLE-MANHEIM PUBLIC LIBRARY

dolgevillelibrary.org
24 Main St.315-429-3421

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

.....315-429-8261

LOCAL SERVICES

GARBAGE COLLECTION

Contracted locally

MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE

109 Mary St., Herkimer, NY315-867-1130

POST OFFICE

41 South Main St., Dolgeville NY315-429-8221

POWER AUTHORITY, NATIONAL GRID

nationalgridus.com800-322-3223

TELEPHONE, FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS

frontier.com800-921-8101

VILLAGE CLERK

41 North Main St., Dolgeville315-429-3112

SCHOOLS

DOLGEVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

dolgevillecsd.org
38 Slawson Street, Dolgeville315-429-3155
Elementary & Middle School (Pre-K thru 8)
James A. Green High School (9-12)

FONDA

HISTORY OF FONDA

The Village of Fonda has a long and glorious history. The history of the immediate era begins with the Dutch traders from Fort Orange and New Amsterdam. Then,

1666-1693: The Indian Village of Caughnawaga when early Fonda took its name.

1725: Territory patented as Alexander Patent and Caughnawaga (Collins) Patent.

1750: Caughnawaga Village settled,

1758: Caughnawaga Church formed (Reformed)

1775: First blood shed of the revolution in the Mohawk Valley (Liberty Pole raising at Vedder's Mill) Tyron County Militia raised. Fought in important engagements in the Valley.

1836: Railroad and canal changes the economy from grain to dairy.

1836: Old Courthouse erected.

1838: County seat moved from Johnstown.

1843: Methodist Church established

1850: Cheese factories at every corner.Village incorporated.

1863: The 115th and 153rd Regiments of US Troops mustered at campgrounds at the edge of the Village. March to train station for transport to the South.

1878: Reformed Church moved to present location.

1882: St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic parish formed.

1892: The new courthouse erected. Court moved because of noise from railroad.

1910: Old Courthouse enlarged. Proportions are now classic Ionic.

World War I, World War II, Korean, Vietnam, Gulf and Iraq wars – Fonda sent men and women to join troopers.

So the history of this little village goes on from grist and flour-mills through the dairy industry, manufacture of agricultural machinery, making textiles and gloves to the manufacture of aluminum doors and windows.



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FONDA

CHURCHES

ST. CECILIA CATHOLIC CHURCH

26 Broadway518-853-4195

FONDA REFORMED CHURCH

fondarca.org.
19 Broadway518-853-3621

HOSPITAL / HEALTHCARE

NATHAN LITTAUER CLINIC

46 East Main Street518-853-3190

LIBRARY / MUSEUM

FONDA FROTHINGHAM FREE LIBRARY

28 West Main Street, Fonda.518-853-3016

LOCAL SERVICES

GARBAGE COLLECTION

See Village Clerk

MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE

64 Broadway, Fonda, NY518-853-8125

POST OFFICE

1 West Main Street, Fonda, 12068518-853-3112

POWER AUTHORITY, NATIONAL GRID

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TELEPHONE, FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS

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VILLAGE CLERK

villageoffonda.gov
8 East Main Street, Fonda518-853-4335

PARKS / RECREATION

COMMUNITY PARK & BALL FIELDS

Park Street

SCHOOLS

FONDA-FULTONVILLE

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

fondafultonvilleschools.org
Elementary through High School
112 Old Johnstown Road, Fonda518-853-4415

FORT PLAIN

A TASTE OF FORT PLAIN HISTORY

Two hundred years ago, it was very hard for Americans to cross the Appalachian Mountains. Some people's dreams were to build a new ship canal. Work was started on the Erie Canal in 1817. It was completed in 1825. In Fort Plain, there was a lock, a dam, a terminal and a dock. When the canal was fully completed, it ran from Albany to Buffalo.

The Fort Plain Museum was a home built by David Lipe in 1848. It was built on a Revolutionary War site. The original Fort was built in 1776. Fort Plain became the headquarters of Western Defense in 1781. Currently at the museum, there are many exhibits about local history including a lot of Indian artifacts.

The Fireman's Home was a canal store when the Erie Canal flowed through town. Nathaniel Lipe who was a canal supplier built it. It was later given to the Fort Plain firemen to be used as a Fireman's Home. The bell in front was rung when the Fritcher Opera House and Union Hotel burned.

The Clinton Liberal Institute or the C.L.I. used to hold a co-ed prep school. Then it was changed to a military school. Students from all over the world came to the C.L.I. Simon Lake, one of the students, invented the first modern submarine. The C.L.I. Armory was used to store artillery equipment. It burned on March 1900. Some people believe that part of its foundation is part of the Fort Plain High School.

In 1885, Martha A. Bortle, preceptors of the C.L.I. ORGANIZED, A Women's Literary Society in Fort Plain. She wanted to establish a public library for the village. The

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FORT PLAIN

location of the library was changed through the years. In 1909, Mr. & Mrs. James H. Williams' children and Sadi Williams gave the present property to the Fort Plain Library Association.

Isaac Paris, Jr built the DAR House. It was used as a trading post and home. At one time, the Otsquago Creek ran through the bottom of the hill. That made it easier for transportation close to the DAR House. When the Revolutionary War ended, people from farther west in the state came to Isaac Paris, Jr. They explained that due to the damage done to their crops by the war, there was nothing to eat. He transported goods to them. In return, the people gave him some goods of another kind. When their town was incorporated, they named it "Paris."

Montgomery Hall was built in 1832. It was owned by Solomon Bowen. Back then it was the largest hotel in town. Then it was called Bowen's Tavern. The building was changed when it become the Farmers and Mechanics Bank. Additions were made and a clock on top was added in 1892.

CHURCHES

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LIBRARY / MUSEUM

FORT PLAIN FREE LIBRARY
 19 Willet Street.518-993-4646

FORT PLAIN MUSEUM & HISTORICAL PARK
 fortplainmuseum.com
 389 Canal St., Fort Plain, NY.518-993-2527

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

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LOCAL SERVICES

GARBAGE COLLECTION

See Village Clerk

MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE

64 Broadway, Fonda, NY518-853-8125

POST OFFICE

41 River Street, NY, 13339518-993-3801

POWER AUTHORITY, NATIONAL GRID

nationalgridus.com800-322-3223

TELEPHONE

Frontier Communications

frontier.com800-921-8101

Spectrum Cable

spectrum.com888-438-2427

VILLAGE CLERK

villageoffortplain.com

Board meetings, 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 pm
in the Village Hall

16 River St.518-993-4271

PARKS / RECREATION

HASLETT PARK- Willett Street

WILES PARK- Near the school

SCHOOLS

FORT PLAIN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

fortplain.org

Harry Hoag Elementary School

25 High Street518-993-4000

Fort Plain Jr./Sr. High School

1 West Street518-993-4000

FULTONVILLE

HISTORY OF FULTONVILLE

Every community has its own unique history and the Village of Fultonville is no exception. Seated in the heart of Montgomery County on the south bank of the Mohawk River, this community's origins began much earlier than its date of incorporation.

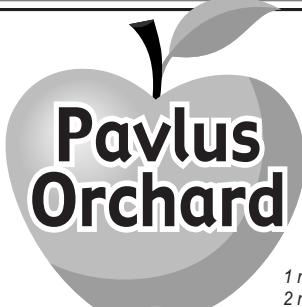
In 1750, John Evert Van Epps purchased 900 acres of marshland in the area that became known as Van Epps' Swamp. Although its future as the town's business center was years down the line, early on Voorheesville overshadowed this area, later known as the Glen hamlet.

John Starin opened one of the first taverns around 1810. However, the construction of the Erie Canal catapulted the community's growth. By the time the waterway began operations in 1825, area officials had streets laid out and a variety of businesses opened doors including a flourmill, distillery, mercantile, sawmill, blacksmith shop and potash cry.

On August 9, 1848, the community, now known as Fultonville, in honor of steamboat inventor Robert Fulton, incorporated as a Village. That same year, residents purchased land from Garret Yates for the purpose of establishing a public cemetery. Burial plots were sold at auction. A private cemetery, set up by Barney Gardinier about 1/2 mile from the center of the village, passed into the hands of Maple Avenue Cemetery Association when that organization formed in 1873.

Life in Fultonville thrived, as this was a major transportation center exporting freight from the Adirondacks, as well as from Fonda, Johnstown and Gloversville. A furniture company, a foundry, a broom-making company and a manufacturer from Vermont known as White Mop Wringer, continued operations in Fultonville for a long time.

John H. Starin, son of the above tavern keeper, after leaving his native village in search of greater opportunity, made a name for himself in New York City as a shipping magnate with both railroad and steamboat lines. Upon his return to



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FULTONVILLE

Fultonville in 1874, he purchased 600 acres for his palatial estate, high on a hill overlooking the Mohawk River. Starin generously bestowed his wealth upon his native village in many ways. Among them establishing a silk mill, the Fultonville National Bank, a library, a sewing school and a dance/banquet hall in the upper floor of the Donaldson Block.

After traffic on the Erie Canal dwindled, so did some of Fultonville's business. However, it was construction of the New York State Thruway through the heart of the village's business section that tremendously affected growth. Close to 40 structures were moved or demolished in preparation for the state's "superhighway," drastically altering the community's landscape.

Despite losing two major industries in the last few years, White Mop Wringer and Capital Vial, there have been some businesses recently opening doors in Fultonville. Riverside Drive continues to see traffic due to the Thruway interchange and the nearby Fonda Speedway/Fairgrounds. Fultonville's future looks bright.

ANNUAL EVENTS

CANAL CLEAN-UP

Village wide clean-up in April & October

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FONDA PRIMARY CARE

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LIBRARY / MUSEUM

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28 West Main Street, Fonda.....518-853-3016

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

12 Erie St., Fultonville518-853-3815

LOCAL SERVICES

GARBAGE COLLECTION

See Village Clerk

MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE

64 Broadway, Fonda, NY518-853-8125

POST OFFICE

26 Main Street, Fultonville, 12072518-853-3631

POWER AUTHORITY, NATIONAL GRID

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TELEPHONE

Frontier Communications

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Spectrum Cable

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TOWN CLERK, TOWN OF GLEN

7 Erie Street, Fultonville518-853-3633

VILLAGE CLERK,

Village Office Building,

10 Erie St., Fultonville518-853-3815

PARKS / RECREATION

SNYDER PARK BALL FIELDS

SCHOOLS

FONDA-FULTONVILLE

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

fondafultonvilleschools.org

Elementary through High School

112 Old Johnstown Road, Fonda518-853-4415

LITTLE FALLS

LITTLE FALLS HISTORY

A snug, unassuming residential community, Little Falls is nestled in a deep gorge of the Mohawk River Valley. From various vantage points, the view is compelling, if not breathtaking and the coloration in the fall being striking.

Little Falls is home to approximately 5900 friendly and helpful people, with a wide and diverse background. In addition, the community is accented by a variety of stores and shops, restaurants, industry, churches and organizations, schools, an excellent hospital, along with a fine public library, area museums and other historical sites.

The contemporary Erie Canal is a significant feature of the City. This grand waterway, once the conduit for major commercial traffic, has become a clean, attractive destination for boating and other recreational activities. The Historic Erie Canal and Mohawk River system, along with the Western Inland Navigational Lock Canal, played an important role in the development of Western New York and the Great Lakes region, in the 18th and 19th centuries. A precursor to the historic Erie Canal, The Western Inland Canal, built in 1792, was in operation for less than 25 years. Although economically unsuccessful, the Western Inland Canal served to demonstrate the importance and possibilities of water transportation in the State. The 1825 Erie Canal, known as Clinton's Ditch and completed in 1825, was the "Internet" of its era; opening new vistas and changing the lives of those who adventured upon its waters.

Little Falls owes its very basis for existence to the falls or rapids. The Iroquois, to the great falls at Cohoes, described the Falls in contrast 75 miles to the East. Cohoes Falls is at the point where the Mohawk River enters the Hudson River.

The earliest settlers of the area, who appeared in the first

LITTLE FALLS

decades of the 18th century, were involved in river trade and the commerce associated with the portage or carry, around the rapids. Little Falls was the site of several frontier industries during the 18th century, including a sawmill, gristmills and a foundry at the mouth of Furnace Creek. A cheese exchange was established and in the years 1853-1875, Little falls was cheese market to the Nation.

Throughout the 18th century, the area saw much growth and development, but the settlement was not incorporated into a village until 1811. In 1895, the community received its charter as the City of Little Falls. Before that, the Village also had been informally known as Rockton or Rock City.

There is a certain degree of irony in the name Little Falls. The Mohawk River descends over 40 feet as it passes through the narrow gorge, while proceeding less than 3 miles. New York Lock 17 on the contemporary Erie Canal was constructed to solve this engineering challenge, replacing 3 locks on the 1825 Erie Canal. Until very recent years, this great lock was the highest lift lock in the world.

Little Falls was the site of much industrial growth in the years surrounding the turn of this century. The development of industry and commerce in Little Falls was due largely to the immense source of available energy. Today, a hydroelectric plant located just west of Lock 17 is tapping this source of power.

This industrial growth, and the associated economic impact on this area are responsible for another noteworthy feature of the city. The number of stately old homes strikes many visi-

tors to the area, many in remarkably preserved condition. These homes for the most part, were the domiciles of the entrepreneurs and managers of the once booming shops and factories.

Another feature that enhances the spirit of relaxation and enjoyment in the community are the parks and other open areas. These spaces have open access and are perfect for walking, games, or just relaxing. Moreland Park, for example, located in a wooded setting, has excellent facilities for family and small group picnics and outings.

Located along the south bank of the Erie Canal, the Miller Bicycle and Exercise Trail is ideal for taking a casual walk, or pouring-it-on to burn those extra calories. There are several sanctioned running events within the city during the year. The Fall Flurry and the Canal Classic 10k Run, held during the Canal Days Celebration are very popular.

Did we mention The Canal Celebration? Each year in August, Little Falls is visited by a celebration likened to a mini Mardi Gras.

There are many natural and geological features in the area that are awesome. The deep chimney potholes, scoured in the stone by the swirling waters, at the end of the last ice age, are a geological marvel. Many of the larger potholes are located on Moss Island, adjacent to Lock 17.

If one searches carefully, "Little Falls Diamonds" can be located along various outcroppings. Excellent examples of these unique Quartz crystals are on display at the Public Library and The Little Falls Historical Society Museum.

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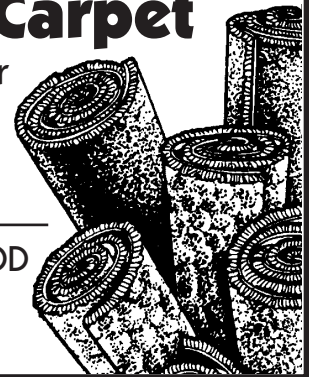
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555 Albany Street.....315-823-3392

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parishes.org/Holy_Family_Parish/
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HOSPITAL / HEALTHCARE

BASSETT HEALTHCARE NETWORK
140 Burwell Street315-823-1000

LIBRARY

LITTLE FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY
lflibrary.org
10 Waverly Place.....315-823-1542

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

ELKS LODGE #42
2 West Gansevoort Street315-823-2371

HERKIMER COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
420 East German St., Suite 100, Box 7
Herkimer, NY315-866-7820

LOCAL SERVICES

CITY CLERK
659 East Main Street315-574-5246

PARKS / RECREATION

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SCHOOLS

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NELLISTON

HISTORY OF NELLISTON

The Indians were here first. For 20 years, from 1669-1689, three centuries ago, the capital village of the Mohawk nation was on the site of present Nelliston. The Village or "Castle" was called Tionontogen, sometimes written Tionondogue and is said to have been located on land along the Nelliston Creek, whose Dutch name was Loughkill, meaning Low Creek.

The French and Indians under De Tracy destroyed the Mohawk Indians moved to the North side of the river after their villages on the South side in the fall of 1666. Four new villages were built, all on the North side. While waiting for the completion of their new capital, the Wolf Clan lived in a temporary village or camp on the West side of the Flat Creek at present Sprakers.

The new Wolf Clan village of Tionontogen was strongly fortified and the largest of that period. In 1677, Wentworth Greenhalgh, an English explorer, visited it. His records state that at that time it covered considerable ground and was enclosed within a double stockade of logs with four wide gates. There were 30 of the long bark houses and he counted 400-500 people, 100 hundred of whom were warriors. Their extensive cornfields were outside the village along the river.

The defeated Mohawk now had quite different relationships with the French. The French hoped that friendship with the Iroquois and conversion to Christianity would help them protect and extend their empire in North America. Only about 20 years after the martyrdom of Father Jogues at Ossueruonon (now Auriesville) the Mohawk negotiators allowed three Jesuit priests to accompany them back to the Valley.

Father Pierron was assigned to Tionontogen and land was given in the new Village for the erection of a chapel called the Mission of St. Mary's. He was in charge there from 1667-1671. Perhaps, Father Pierron was the originator of visual education in the Valley. He painted a number of religious pictures to decorate the new chapel, with the idea they would help him teach the Indians.

During the years 1671-1672 and 1674-1679, Father Jacques Bruyas was in charge of the Mission of St. Mary's. He also advanced education. While there, Father Gruyas wrote a dictionary-grammar of the Mohawk language written in Latin with the Mohawk words translated to French. A copy of this is in the State Library at Albany.

The Mohawks, for many years, had carried on a peaceful and profitable trade with the Dutch and very early had made a covenant called a "chain of friendship." When the colony changed hands in 1664, this had been transferred to the English. The English government became concerned that the French Jesuits might influence the Iroquois against them, A decisive step in making America an English speaking continent happened right here in the Nelliston area. Governor Edmund Andros, governor of the English province of New York, met with the Mohawk chieftains at their capital on August 30, 1675, As a result of this friendly conference, all of the Iroquois Five-Nations sent chieftains to Albany where a

treaty of friendship and military alliance was signed. This was never broken by the Mohawk nation.

In 1684, the English ordered the Mission of St. Mary's to be closed and all Jesuit priests to leave the Valley. The Indians had become powerful again and 15000 warriors from the four Mohawk towns resumed the raiding to the North. Fearing retaliation from the French, they looked for a new place for their capital, which would be easier to defend.

In 1689, the Village of Tionontogen moved from the Nelliston area to anew site near present Wagner's Hollow. The Albany Convention agreed to the request of the Indians and sent three teams and six men to help them remove, carry and reset the logs of the stockade. The new Village lasted only four years. It was burned and completely destroyed in the French raid of 1693.

The site of the Village near Wagner's Hollow is well known, but historical sources do not agree as to the location of the preceding one. Even Nelson Greene disagrees with himself. In his "Fort Plain-Nelliston History" he places it near the creek and within the Village limits. In another writing called "The History of the Mohawks" printed in the Standard in 1933, but never published, Greene places the site at White Orchard less than a mile north and nearer Wagner's Hollow Road.

Unfortunately, any traces of the Village in or near Nelliston have long since disappeared. Probably little was left behind when they moved, and the centuries of farming and building on the same land have destroyed what may have been there. Indian skeletons have been found in and adjacent to the Nelliston Cemetery where the soil is sandy. A few of our citizens remember that as children they found an occasional arrowhead near the creek or in the cemetery area, Some artifacts have been found in past years on the Lasher farm now owned by Carlton and Susie Lasher.

Not far from the railroad and close to the northern Village limits is an old burying ground with crude headstones. John Floyd says that both Indians and white men are buried there and in his family it was always called the "Indian Burying Ground." Other traces of Indian occupation have been discov-

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NELLISTON

ered in the hillocks and fields behind the Old Fort Wagner. According to Douglas Ayres, some historians believe a Huron captive village was once located at this area. Recently, aerial photographs have been taken to locate and map spots for possible future study.

With no landmark remaining, few in our area are aware that the Indian Village ever existed. Yet, here occurred a council meeting in 1665, which was a first step in determining the outcome of the struggle between England and France for possession of America. Perhaps, some day along the road adjacent to Nelliston Creek, a bronze marker could commemorate Governor Andros' visit to the Village of Tionontogen to remind traveler of a now forgotten historic site.

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PALATINE BRIDGE

HISTORY OF PALATINE

The Town of Palatine consists of 41.4 square miles and is located in the Northwestern section of Montgomery County in the State of New York. The Mohawk River runs along the Southern border of the town and Fulton County makes up the Northern border. The Towns of St. Johnsville and Mohawk serve as Palatines' Western and Eastern borders, respectively. The Village of Nelliston and Palatine Bridge are located within the boundaries of the Town.

The Mohawk Indians were the first inhabitants of the area that is now called the Town of Palatine. The Mohawk Indians belonged to what the British called the "Five Nations" or the French call the "Iroquois Nation." The other tribes of this nation were the Oneidas, Onondogas, Cayugas and Senecas. The most Eastern tribe was that of the Mohawks. The Mohawks and their fellow tribesmen would come to play a legitimate role throughout the Mohawk Valley during Americas were for independence.

The first known white settler to settle in the Palatine area was that of Heinrich Frey who came from Switzerland. Frey came to the area now called Palatine in 1689 and settled just West of the present site of the Village of Palatine Bridge.

Upon his arrival here, Frey obtained 300 acres of land from the Mohawks, on which he build a log cabin trading post. In 1739, Heinrich Frey erected a stone house, which was used as a fort for the English troops during the French and Indian Wars. This dwelling is still standing today Heinrich Frey had a son, Heinrich Frey, Jr., which was the first white child born in the Mohawk Valley West of Schenectady.

Heinrich's son, John Frey became a Major and fought with the British in taking Fort Niagara from the French. After the American Revolution, John Frey became the first sheriff of Tryon County who was elected by the people.

Around the year 1715, settlers from the German Palatinate, for whom the Town of Palatine is named after, began to settle within the present day limits of the Town. Most of these original settlers settled in Palatine due to three separate land patents. The first of which was a 3,000 acre patent called the Van Slyck patent, granted to Harmanus Van Slyck by King George I in the year 1716. The second of these patents was the Harrison Patent that comprised of 12,000 acres and was

PALATINE BRIDGE

purchased from the Mohawks on March 8, 1722. The last and biggest of these patents was the 12,700-acre Stone Arabia Patent that was granted to 27 settlers on October 19, 1723 and covered the rest of the present Town of Palatine.

In 1772, Tryon County was formed from the Western most part of Albany County. This new county was divided into five districts and Palatine fell into what was then called the "Stone Arabia District," Then on March 8, 1773, the name was changed to the "Palatine District."

As the American Colonists began to question British rule and the American Revolution began, the Mohawk Valley and especially the Palatine District, became areas that was frequent clashes between the Loyalists and the Patriots. The revolution in America had a tremendous impact on Tryon County and the Palatine District. Whole families were wiped out and women were left without their husbands and sons at the end of the war.

On April 2, 1784 Tyron County was renamed Montgomery County in honor o General Richard Montgomery who had died in the war. Four years later on March 7, 17889, the Palatine District became the Town of Palatine. Within the next 40 years, various subdivisions occurred resulting in the present day boundary of the Town, Originally, the Town of Palatine consisted of the Town of Salisbury, Herkimer County, Stratford and Oppenheim in Fulton County.

Transportation routes led to the early development of the Town of Palatine. In 1798, the first bridge across the Mohawk River West of Schenectady was built here. The Village of Palatine Bridge most likely took its name from this fact. The Mohawk Turnpike, which was built at the turn of the 19th Century, helped stimulate the growth of the Town in its early days. The Mohawk Turnpike ran from Schenectady to Utica and passed through the Town of Palatine. The Schenectady and Utica railroad line was built in 1836, also stimulating the growth of the Town. Webster Wagner, a Palatine Bridge resident, invented the first railway sleeping car. It was first used September 1, 1858 by the New York Central Railway Company.

The Town of Palatine is rich in church history. The Palatine Church erected in 1770 of stone is the oldest church standing today in either Montgomery or Fulton Counties. The Stone Arabia Reformed Church erected in 1792 is tow more early

churches that can be found within the Town. Both of these churches were burned on October 19, 1780 during one of the many raids that occurred in the Town and later rebuilt.

The Town of Palatine has always been an agricultural-based community. Dairy farming has been the main part of this agriculture base. In the year 1878, there were nine cheese factories in the Town producing 750m000 to 1,000,000 pounds of cheese annually, The Town of Palatine, like most farming communities in the Northeast, has seen a decrease in farming practices and an increase in the amount of vacant agricultural land. Overall, the Town of Palatine still remains an agricultural community.

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ST. JOHNSVILLE

HISTORY OF ST. JOHNSVILLE

St. Johnsville was formed as a town at the division of Montgomery County on April 18, 1838. It is situated in the northwest corner of Montgomery County on the north bank of the Mohawk. East Canada Creek flows along its western border. The Crum, Klock, Zimmerman, Timmerman, Caldwell and Mother creeks all flow in a southerly direction across the town and are absorbed by the Mohawk River. Upon East Canada Creek there is a succession of falls and rapids descending 75 feet in as many rods.

St. Johnsville has several points of interest, rich in history

and others more recently developed for recreational purposes. The historical points of interest include Fort Klock Historic Restoration which offers many events each year, Palatine Church, Margaret Reaney Memorial Library and Museum, the Village Community house and Inn by the Mill Bed & Breakfast. Recreational activities include boating, fishing, camping along the peaceful Mohawk River, diamond mining, hiking, biking and snowmobiling are also available for your enjoyment.

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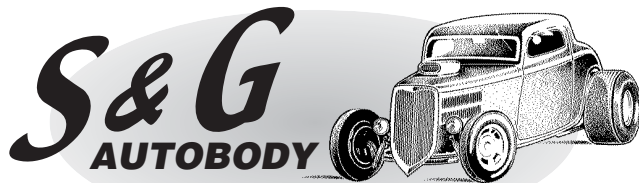
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SPRAKERS

HISTORY OF SPRAKERS

(A HAMLET IN THE TOWN OF ROOT)

As stated in Beer's History of Fulton & Montgomery Counties, the Town of Root was established January 27, 1823. The towns of Canajoharie and Charleston both relinquished land from their towns to form Root. The Town of Root was named after Erastus Root, who at the time was a New York State Senator from Delaware County.

Root is 31,652 acres in area. On the Northern border is the Mohawk River, which forms the only natural break in the Appalachian Mountains. This passage is bounded on either side by what is known as "The Noses", these rise to an elevation of six hundred and thirty feet above sea level. Little Nose, which is in the Town of Root is home to Mitchell's Cave. A small cave, which descends one hundred and fifty feet down and two hundred feet to the end. Some of the old timers tell of their trips into the cave and coming out on the other side of the Mohawk, near what is now the Mohawk homestead. Rumor has it that the portion under the river caved in when the Erie Canal was moved into the river and the dredging began.

The town consists of seven villages, Sprakers, Randall (Yatesville), Currytown, Rural Grove, Flat Creek, Lykers Four Corners, Brown's Hollow and Bundy's Corners. Currytown being the oldest was named after William Corry, who owned the patent for all of the surrounding land. During the Revolutionary War, the village was raided by the Tories and Indians twice. The first raid was on July 9, 1781, it was during this raid that a young boy by the name of Jacob Dievendorf was taken prisoner, along with other members of the village and were taken away with the savages as they made their way South towards the Susquehanna River and from there back to Canada. They were overtaken by Col. Willett near the Cedar Swamp, which is now in the little town of Sharon Center in Schoharie County. Fearing Willett's troops the savages began to kill and scalp their captives. Seeing this young Jacob Dievendorf made a run for his freedom. He was soon overtaken and scalped, having not been killed, he managed to crawl next to a log and covered himself with leaves and twigs. As his captors fled, he was found by one of Willett's men and was taken back to the fort and given medical care. Jacob managed to survive his wounds and lived to the ripe old age of eighty four, becoming one of the largest land owners in the area.

Sprakers is located on the Mohawk River. The Erie Canal came through the village in 1825 and with this the village became a very thriving town. John Bevins took over the business started by Joseph Spencer and erected a large stone store on the canal, which became the largest supplier on the canal from Albany to Syracuse. Sprakers was also home to one of the many locks on the Erie Canal and a ferry that transported goods and passengers to the north side of the Mohawk, so they could board the NY Central train at Sprakers Station.

Rural Grove which is situated on the Yatesville Creek was formed around the skin mill built by Abraham VanDerveer and Henry Stowits. The village has had a few names since its founding. Leathervill, Unionville and lastly Rural Grove. This name coming from the large stand of Elm Trees on the western edge of the village. At one time Rural Grove boasted seventy buildings. There was a Grist Mill, Saw Mill, Tin Shop, a cobblers shop, carriage builder, a hotel, race track and a blacksmith's shop. The town was also home to two churches, Methodists and Rural Grove Christian Church. The fire of 1898 burned down the Methodist Church, the Hotel and some smaller buildings. Rural Grove was also home to the Anti Horse Thief Society, which is self explanatory.

Flat Creek, which is situated on the creek of the same name, is home to a creamery, two hotels, school, blacksmith shop and a cheese box factory. There were also two churches in town. The True Dutch Reformed and a Free Will Baptist Church. Flat Creek also became the town seat, with the town holding their meetings in the old Baptist Church after its closing. The old True Dutch Reformed Church is now gone and the Baptist Church is now home to the Root Historical Society.

Lykers Four Corners is a small village located at the intersection of Carlisle and West Lykers Road. As with most of the villages of that time, there was a store, hotel, blacksmith shop and a steam powered saw mill. The Lykes family has lived in this village since right after the Revolutionary War.

Brown's Hollow is situated on Flat Creek. There was a hotel, store, an alcohol distillery, and a flouring mill. The flouring mill was powered by water that came through a tunnel that was a thousand feet in length and lined with stone. John Brown dug the tunnel to increase the water coming to his mill. There was also a linseed oil mill and a saw mill in the village.

Bundy's Corners a small cluster of houses on West Lykers Road had a small store, all traces of the village are gone except for two houses.

Randall (Yatesville) was also located on the Erie Canal. John Bowdish had a very large and prosperous hay business on the canal. There were five hotels and two stores in the village. Miller's store's lights were powered by a natural gas well on his property, this was also the cause of the fire that destroyed the business. When the railroad came through, John Bowdish donated land for the train station in exchange for the station being called Bowdish Station. Randall was also home to a Sulphur spring around which was built a small park and grandstand, alas all traces of this are now gone.

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