

2025 SCHOHARIE VALLEY

Community Directory





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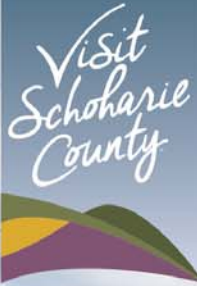



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SCHOHARIE COUNTY

HISTORY OF SCHOHARIE COUNTY

In Schoharie County, history comes to life in 1712, the first Europeans arrived in the Schoharie Valley of New York. Palatine German refugees, believing they had been granted lands here by Queen Anne, settled in seven villages called “dorfs”. Dutch American settlers also migrated from nearby Schenectady, purchasing land from the Indians. At first the two groups clashed. But, by the late 1700s, they were living harmoniously.

When the Revolutionary War came to the Valley, the people found themselves on a frontier exposed to raids by the Mohawk Iroquois Indians allied with the British. In 1777, a force of Loyalist Americans and Indians tried to enforce the King’s authority, even convincing tavern owner Captain George Mann of the local militia to “turn his coat”. This was during British General Burgoyne’s campaign to drive through New York from Canada. A troop of Continental dragoons, detached from the American forces at Albany, made the U.S. Army’s first cavalry charge – complete with bugle horn – defeating the Loyalists and Indians at the Battle of the Flockey.

The Upper, Middle and Lower Forts were established along the Schoharie Creek to provide refuge in the event of another raid. These were made by enclosing a sturdy building within a wooden wall or stockade. The Lower (Stone) Fort was built in 1777 around the Dutch Reformed stone church, constructed in

1772 by the congregation of Foxesdorf, now part of Schoharie.

In October of 1780, a major raid led by Sir John Johnson and the Mohawk Chief Joseph Brant swept through the valley. At this time, farmers in the Schoharie Valley were supplying huge amounts of grain to Gen. George Washington’s Army, earning for it the nickname of “The Breadbasket of the American Revolution.”

While the people took shelter in the forts, the raiders laid waste to the valley, burning houses, barns and crops. Middle Fort might have been surrendered if not for legendary rifleman Timothy Murphy, already a hero of the Battle of Saratoga. He fired on the British negotiating party in defiance of orders, helping to convince Sir John to move on. The raiders then advanced to the Lower (Stone) Fort and bombarded it with their single cannon.

After the war, the forts were dismantled and farming again became the dominant occupation in the Schoharie Valley, with the cultivation of wheat, flax, corn and hops occupying most people. Schoharie County was formed in 1795 and local government began to grow in importance with the arrival of New Englanders and immigrants.

On the evening in 1865 when President Abraham Lincoln was shot at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, D.C., Corporal James Tanner – a disabled Army Stenographer from Schoharie County – was called to record the last moments of



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Schoharie County's Mobility Manager helps people find solutions for their transportation needs. The Mobility Manager offers travel training and educational sessions for individuals, groups and organizations. If you have a mobility challenge, or want more information about transportation options in Schoharie County, please call our Mobility Manager, Christine Kraemer.

*Connecting
Our
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June 14-15	Pathways Through History
July 13	Antique Auto Show
July 21-25	Intro to Robotics Pre-registration required
Aug. 18-22	SeaPerch Pre-registration required
Aug. 23	Touch-A-Truck
Sept. 27	Wildlife Festival
October	Energy Awareness Month
Oct. 11-13	Pathways Through History
Oct. 18	Spooktacular
Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23	STEM Sundays
December	Festival of Trees
Dec. 13	Holly Jolly Party

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

Blenheim-Gilboa Power Project

📍 1378 State Route 30, North Blenheim NY
📞 800-724-0309
📧 VisitBG@NYPA.gov



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SCHOHARIE COUNTY

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COMMUNITY AGENCIES

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.....518-296-8390

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SCHOHARIE CO.
www.charitiesccd.org
489 West Main St., Cobleskill518-234-3581

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC.
www.sccapinc.org518-234-2568

**CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXT.
OF SCHOHARIE CO.**518-234-4303

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF SCHOHARIE CO.
.....518-234-2576

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AT ALBANY (NABA)**
<https://nabavision.org>

301 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12206
.....518-463-1211

NYS COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND
Albany District Office
52 Washington St., Room 201 South Bldg.
Rensselaer, NY 12144.....866-871-3000

**NY STATE POWER AUTHORITY
BLENHEIM-GILBOA VISITORS CENTER**
www.nypa.gov
North Blenheim.....800-724-0309

NY STATE POLICE
Cobleskill518-630-1700

NYS D.E.C
www.dec.ny.gov
General Info518-357-2234

SCHOHARIE CO. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Mission Statement: The Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce is an organization of business people and other leaders working together to advance the general welfare and prosperity of our community through our endeavors with business, including agriculture, education, government and tourism.
256 Main St., Schoharie, NY518-295-8824

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Did You Miss Out?

**...on listing your organization
or activity in our
2025 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 2025 Community Directory.

If that's the case, let's make sure we have the proper listing of your organization or activity included in the 2026 Community Directory for your area, email your information by January 3, 2026 to:

info@myshopperonline.com

Subject line: 2026 Community Directory





Schoharie County

Community Action Program, Inc.

Building stronger, healthier communities and empowering families that experience economic and social challenges through strategic partnerships, education, services and compassion.



Energy Services

Services to help income-eligible county residents save on fuel and energy consumption

Furnace repair and carbon monoxide detection

Air exchange reports for new home builds per code



Healthy Families/ WIC

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Breastfeeding support and education

Nutrition education and referrals

Mothers Milk Depot of Schoharie County



Family Support & Resource Center

Family Peer Advocates
Family Team Conferences

Supervised Visitation
Skill Building

Child and Adult Care Food Program
Safe Sitter® CPR & First Aid Training
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Community Services

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Food Pantry

HEAP

Employment Services

Community resources and advocacy



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- Heating distribution
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- Indoor air quality tests
- Ventilation
- Insulation
- Air sealing
- Refrigerator testing and/or replacement
- Check and/or replace water heater
- Install LED bulbs, pipe wrap, water heater wrap, faucet aerators and shower heads
- Window and door replacement for mobile homes
- Window air conditioners for customers with a medical need



DHCR income guidelines thru 11/30/2025 are:

Household Size	Gross Monthly Income
1	\$3,322
2	\$4,345
3	\$5,367
4	\$6,390
5	\$7,412
6	\$8,434
7	\$8,626
8	\$8,787

795 East Main Street, Suite, 5, Cobleskill, NY 12043 | www.sccapinc.org | 518-234-2568 | admin@sccapinc.org

SCHOHARIE COUNTY

SCHOHARIE CO. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

.....518-234-7604

SCHOHARIE CO. OFFICES

County Office Building
284 Main St., Schoharie518-295-8316

SCHOHARIE CO. SHERIFF

Schoharie, NY518-295-8114

SCHOHARIE CO. SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

.....518-823-4535

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Info at: www.cobyschool.com and in local libraries

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

CHARLOTTEVILLE SCHOOLHOUSE

641 Charlotte Valley Road, Charlotteville, NY 12036
The Charlotteville Schoolhouse Restoration Committee, a 501(c)(3) organization of member volunteers, posts information and events on Facebook@charlottevilleschoolhouse. Our goal is to restore the Schoolhouse Bell to its original location with our many fundraisers throughout the year.
For available Schoolhouse rental opportunities and further information please email CSRC641@gmail.com or 607-397-9180

SCHOHARIE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Email: wa2zwm.scara@gmail.com
website: schoharieamateurradio.org
P.O. Box 394, Warnerville, NY 12187

SCHOHARIE VALLEY PIECEMAKERS (SVP)

Meet 2nd Tuesdays of the month from Sept. - June at St. Mark's Church hall, Middleburgh, NY from 1 - 3 pm
Info at: www.schoharievalleypiecemakers.com and on facebook

THE GAS UP

The Gas Up is held annually on the 2nd & 3rd weekends of June at 106 Murphy Road, Gallupville. An exposition of antique & vintage vehicles, tools, and machinery. Our organization holds monthly meetings. Our volunteers maintain and improve our property (or say land and buildings) including the ice cream house, the steam powered sawmill, various antique equipment and other items.
Visit our website at <https://www.thegasup.org/>, facebook.com/gasup

BROOME

HISTORY OF BROOME

The town of Broome was established March 17, 1797 as one of the six original towns formed in Schoharie County.

First known as Bristol, its name was changed to Broome on April 6, 1808, in honor of the Lieutenant Governor Jobner John Broome, who was much admired in this portion of the State for his sterling honesty, strict integrity and high political ability.

Broome lies on the east border of the county, south of the center. The surface is hilly upland, broken by deep ravines. The Catskill Creek starts in the north part at Vlaie in Franklinton and several branches of the Schoharie Creek drain the north and west portions.

Catskill Creek rises in the northern part of the town, flows southeastward, through Albany County, and empties into the Hudson.

Broome's history is deeply intertwined with the neighboring towns of Conesville, Gilboa and Middleburgh. The original town was very large and included over half the present towns of Gilboa and Conesville. The hub was Broome Center, which is located in the present town of Gilboa. The first town meeting was held at the house of Peter Richtmyer located in the present day town of Conesville.

In 1836, a part of Broome was split off and combined with parts of Durham to form Conesville. In 1848, another split was made to form Gilboa. The town once again increased its size by annexing sections of Middleburgh in 1849.

In 1860, Broome was a thriving community with a population of 2,182. Many farms dotted the hillsides and businesses abounded in the four major settlements of Livingstonville, Hauverville, Franklinton and Bates (originally called Smithton).

The hamlet of Livingstonville had a hotel, two churches, two stores, a post office, school, shoe shop, two blacksmith shops, grist mill, sash and blind factory, as well as two doctors, a lawyer, and an undertaker.

Franklinton had a church, school, store and post office, wagon making shop, gristmill and two blacksmith shops.

Bates had a church, school, sawmill, store and blacksmith shop.

Hauverville had a church, school, store, blacksmith shop, cider mill, tannery, wagon shop, sawmill and shingle factory. It also had a quarry, which supplied stones for the Capitol building in Albany.

By 1980, population had declined to 761. Census figures for 1990 showed a reverse in this decline; population was 926, an increase of 21% over the previous ten years.

Over the years, many old non-working farms were divided into parcels and sold for summer homes and hunting camps. Of the approximately 29,000 acres of land in the town, approximately 5,500 acres are state owned and approximately three-fourths of the remaining property is owned by non-residents.

HOSPITAL

COBLESKILL REGIONAL HOSPITAL

178 Grandview Drive
Cobleskill, NY 12043518-254-3456

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

LIVINGSTONVILLE VOL. FIRE DEPT.

453 State Hwy. 145, Middleburgh518-827-5820

LOCAL SERVICES

POST OFFICE

300 Main St., Middleburgh, 12122518-827-5210

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

SCHOHARIE COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

114 Rock Rd., Cobleskill, NY 12043518-234-0952

SCHOOLS

MIDDLEBURGH CENTRAL SCHOOL

middleburghcsd.org
Elementary, 245 Main St., Middleburgh.....518-827-3600
Jr.-Sr. High, 291 Main St., Middleburgh518-827-3600

SERVICES FOR SENIORS

SCHOHARIE COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING

113 Park Place
Schoharie, NY 12157518-295-2001

CARLISLE

THE HISTORY OF CARLISLE

The first land cleared in the town was in 1760. These farms were a part of "New Dorlach" patent, granted in 1730, (now called the Borst patent) but not surveyed until the year 1753, by Isaac Vroman and re-surveyed in 1797 by Johannes Lawyer. The original grant contained forty-five lots of six hundred acres each and nine of one hundred and three hundred acres each.

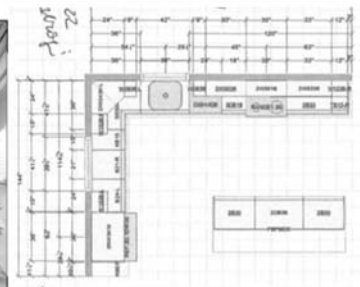
At the commencement of the Revolutionary War, quite a number of families could be found in this neighborhood. Prominent families were the Karkers, Young, Brown, Fichter, Borntheit, Kneiskern, Loucks and March or of late Monk. The descendants of all those pioneers are still here but as neighbors enjoy better feelings towards each other than their ancestors did, who were divided in a political point of view as Patriots and Tories.

Between the years 1795 and 1810, the town was filled by immigrants from every part of the country, many coming from Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Jersey, owing to the idea gained during the war, of Schoharie being such a wheat growing section. With but very few exceptions, the descendants of the first settlers of the town remain upon their ancestral homes.

Carlisle formed in 1807 from Cobleskill and Sharon, and was named by Mrs. John Sweetman, an established lady, after Carlisle Pierce, a prominent townsman. One hundred twenty-three acres were laid out in village lots of one-half acre each,

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with three parallel streets running east and west, and some north and south, where the village now stands. While Livingston, the owner of the land, easily built a small city on paper, few actual buyers came. They passed on with the cry "Westward Ho!!"

The Carlisle Foundry was established in 1846, by Paige & Woolson and the steam, saw and grist-mill, erected upon the site of the "Cromwell stand," by Nicholas Hanson, in 1875, adds greatly to the business of the place.

Joseph Taylor settled in the year 1911 upon a farm that had been occupied by a Hitchman family for several years. Taylor kept a store and built a distillery and was a very energetic business man. He purchased large quantities of flax-seed which he shipped to Europe, besides other grains, which proved successful speculations.

The Young, Loucks and Richtmeyer families now living here are near descendants of the first settlers of the County. The small hamlet, for many years called "Bradt's Corners" was changed to "Carlisle Center," upon establishment of the post office in 1871.

Note: The Town of Carlisle was formed March 31, 1802.

HOSPITAL / HEALTHCARE

BASSETT HEALTHCARE MEDICAL CENTER

1 Atwell Rd., Cooperstown, NY607-547-3456

BASSETT HEALTHCARE / COBLESKILL REGIONAL HOSPITAL

178 Grandview Dr., Cobleskill, NY 12043....518-254-3456

LOCAL SERVICES

TOWN CLERK/COLLECTOR/REGISTRAR

Town Hall Building
541 Crommie Rd., Carlisle, NY518-234-7080 x3

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

SCHOHARIE COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

114 Rock Rd.
, Cobleskill, NY 12043518-234-0952

SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

SCHOHARIE COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING

113 Park Place, Schoharie, NY 12157518-295-2001

SCHOOLS

COBLESKILL-RICHMONDVILLE CS

c-res.k12.ny.us
Radez Elementary
319 Main St., Richmondville518-294-6621
Ryder Elementary
143 Golding Drive, Cobleskill518-234-2585
Golding Middle
193 Golding Drive, Cobleskill518-234-8368
C-R High School
1353 Rte. 7, Richmondville518-234-3565

COBLESKILL

HISTORY OF COBLESKILL

Cobleskill is said to be named for Jacob Kobel, a German Palatine who migrated to the Schoharie Valley in 1713. Jacob intended to build a mill near the spot where the creek the Iroquois called Ots-ha-le-ga flowed into the Schoharie. He emigrated to Pennsylvania instead in 1725 and the mill was never built. The earliest use of the name "Cobus Kil" appears on a 1728 map. Kil is an early Dutch word meaning stream and Cobus was a common nickname for a man named Jacob.

Early in the year 1751 Jacob Borst, a German from Schoharie, and Partners purchased 4,800 acres of land about six miles upstream from the mouth of the Cobus Kil. It was probably that same year that Johans Shafer of Ulster County and his cousin Pieter purchased six hundred acres from Borst and settled in what is now the east side of the village. Jacob Borst settled in the valley at about the same time. Jacob's farm was located in the vicinity of modern day Borst Noble Road.

Borst and his partners managed to get title to nearly 18,000 acres in three separate land patents. The other two patents were several miles north of Cobus Kil. In between lay a 4,800 acre patent granted to the Royal Governor's secretary, a young man named Goldsbro Banyar. That parcel would come to be known as "The Patent" and would not be settled for many years.

Many more families arrived at the close of the French and Indian War in 1760. There were soon three separate communities. New Turloch was several miles farther up the creek (West Creek today) and New Rhinebeck a few miles north of Cobus Kil. Banyar's Patent separated the three communities.

By 1770 Cobus Kil consisted of about a dozen farms stretching for three miles along the creek. Christian Brown's farm and mill was the farthest to the east. Farthest to the west were the Warner and Zea families, in present day Warnerville. In between were the Borsts, at least three Shafer houses, Koenigs, Fersters (site of present day Bull's Head Inn), Boucks, Schells and Lawyers.

A log church was constructed in Turloch and served all three communities. A rough, log structure was built as a schoolhouse near Hans Shafer's farm and run by a German Schoolmaster named Paughoer.

The residents of Cobus Kil proved to be staunch patriots when war broke out in England in 1775. A militia company was formed for protection and became the fourth company, Albany County Militia. Christian Brown was elected Captain and Jacob Borst, Jr. Lieutenant. The first few years of the war were uneventful although the militia was called up periodically for service in the Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys. The war entered a new phase in 1778 when many of the Iroquois joined the Tories in a campaign to terrorize the frontier settlements.

In May 1778, after a few Indians were seen near Lambert Lawyer's farm, the militia assembled at Christian Brown's residence. A messenger was sent to request assistance from the Schoharie forts. Captain William Patrick of the 7th

COBLESKILL

Massachusetts Infantry arrived at Brown's the next day with thirty two men from his company and assumed overall command. The joint force then marched west to Lawyer's farm where they halted and sent out scouts. They were joined at Lawyer's by a handful of Duanesburgh militia and probably a few more of Brown's militia. When the scouts reported seeing Indians at George Warner's farm Captain Patrick moved the whole force, now numbering fifty seven men, there.

Warner's house was built on a knoll south the creek, near the Warnerville cemetery today. From there, Indians could be seen running to and fro in the fields to the west. Patrick formed the men into a line and advanced against the wishes of Captain Brown who feared a trap.

The soldiers chased the Indians into the forest until, about a mile west of Warner's, the two companies were ambushed by a force of about two hundred Tories and Iroquois, led by Mohawk leader Joseph Brant. After Captain Patrick was killed Captain Brown ordered a retreat which quickly turned into a race back to Warner's farm. A large number of Continentals and militia men were shot down as they ran. Five men, three of Patrick's and two of Brown's, took shelter in Warner's house and attempted to make a stand. The house was quickly surrounded and burned. Two Massachusetts men were killed fleeing the house, the other three men perished in the flames.

The survivors made their way to Schoharie, preceded by their families who had left as soon as they heard the sounds of battle. Captain Patrick and fifteen of his men were dead

along with six Cobus Kil militiamen. Another five men were wounded and three others captured.

The Tories and Indians burned the community as far east as the schoolhouse.

The following winter a fort was constructed around Pieter Shafer's ruined farm. It was named Fort DuBois in honor of the officer commanding the soldiers who built it. The surviving farmers only worked their fields in armed parties after that. Most families were reluctant to return. The fort was abandoned and burned during a raid three years later.

By the time the war ended the community was greatly changed. A few families, their men nearly all killed, left the area for good. New settlers moved into the valley, many of them soldiers receiving land as compensation for years of back pay. Many were English speaking Yankees, leaving New England where land was becoming scarce and expensive.

Jacob France, son of New Rhinebeck patriot Sebastian France, settled south of the Borst farm. The area soon became known as France's Corners and eventually Mineral Springs after a spa was built there in the 1860's.

The area known as Punchkill developed into a small village after two highways, the Loonenberg Turnpike and the Unadilla Turnpike, were run through in the early 1800's. A brewery operated there for more than sixty years. The hamlet known as East Cobleskill today.

The spring fed streams running into the creek near the Berner farm, east of Cobus Kil, ran year 'round and proved to be exceptional for powering mills. Numerous mills for grind-

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COBLESKILL

ing grain, sawing lumber and making paper operated there over the years. A small farming community grew around the general store and Methodist churches. That community is Barnerville today.

Fulling mills for finishing wool cloth were established farther downstream as early as 1816. Since John Brayman was the principle businessman in the area the community around the business became known as Brayman's Mills. Saw mills and later a grist mill and cider mill would operate there as well. The community is called Bramanville today.

Goldsbro Banyar finally sold off his land north of Cobus Kill, not to local Germans but to New England Yankees. The first settlers, known as the "Yankee Triumphorate," were Captain Dana, Captain Reddington and Lieutenant Grosvenor, all officers of the Connecticut line. They were followed by more New Englanders including many skilled craftsman and attorneys. Master builder Seth Wakeman built numerous houses in the area including Bull's Head Inn and Beekman Mansion. A New England style community grew around a traditional village green. The area, still commonly referred to as "The Patent" began to be known as "New Boston." In 1819 it was renamed Lawyersville in honor of resident U.S. Congressman Thomas Lawyer, ironically one of the only Germans in an English community.

In the 1840's Lester Howe opened his famous Cave to the public and the village of Howes Cave took root around it. Sadly much of that area was later destroyed by quarry operations.

Cobus Kil was renamed Cobleskill and was incorporated as a town in 1797. The village grew slowly. The first merchants and doctors set up their businesses in the village in the 1790's. A few mills began operating in the early 1800's followed by a few small factories which produced farm tools and machinery. When the Railroad ran through the village in 1864 Cobleskill changed dramatically. Soon there were seven hotels, nine grocery stores and three Blacksmith shops. The population quadrupled in twenty years. The village was incorporated in 1868. Factories and mills opened all along the rail line as well as dealers in hops and grain. By the turn of the century so much pancake flour was being produced in the village that it became known as "the Pancake Flour Capitol of the World." A modern high school was built early in the early twentieth century followed by a State School that would eventually become SUNY Cobleskill. Factories produced farm implements, refrigerators and textiles. Bottling plants shipped milk and soft drinks.

Most of the industry is gone today but Cobleskill remains the largest village in Schoharie County. It has become the main shopping center for the county as well as a college town and tourist area. The village is struggling today to maintain a balance between shopping and tourism. - Ted Shuart

CHURCHES

CALVARY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

960 Mineral Springs Rd., Cobleskill.....518-234-4182

CALVARY CHAPEL OF THE HILLS

Calvarychapelofthehills.com

137 Legion Drive, Cobleskill518-294-2007

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cobleskillumc.org

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

492 West Main St., Cobleskill.....518-234-2729

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375 North Grand St., Cobleskill518-234-8339



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HOSPITAL

COBLESKILL REGIONAL HOSPITAL

178 Grandview Drive
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LIBRARY / MUSEUM

COBLESKILL COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Serving the Cobleskill-Richmondville School District
Kimberly Zimmer, Library Director,
email: Cob-director@mvls.info
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142 Schenectady Ave., Cobleskill518-255-5841

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Information 774-266-3772.

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107 Chapel Street, Cobleskill.

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COBLESKILL

LOCAL SERVICES

FIRE DEPT.

610 East Main St., Cobleskill
Non-emergencies518-234-2424

MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE

284 Main St., Schoharie.....518-295-8317

POLICE DEPT.

378 Mineral Springs Rd., Cobleskill
Non-emergencies518-234-2923

POST OFFICE

111 Union St., Cobleskill 12043518-234-4011

TOWN CLERK / COLLECTOR / REGISTRAR

378 Mineral Springs Rd., Cobleskill518-234-1719

VILLAGE CLERK

378 Mineral Springs Rd., Cobleskill518-234-3891

PARKS / RECREATION

IORIO PARK

112 Pleasantview Dr., Cobleskill

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514 West Main St., Cobleskill

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

SCHOHARIE COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

114 Rock Rd., Cobleskill, NY 12043518-234-0952

SCHEDULED EVENTS

COBLESKILL SUNSHINE FAIR

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www.sunshinefair.org518-234-2123

SCHOOLS

COBLESKILL-RICHMONDVILLE CS

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319 Main St., Richmondville518-294-6621

Ryder Elementary
143 Golding Drive, Cobleskill518-234-2585
Golding Middle
193 Golding Drive, Cobleskill518-234-8368
C-R High School
1353 Rte. 7, Richmondville518-234-3565

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CONESVILLE

TOWN OF CONESVILLE

By Beatrice Mattice, Historian

The first settlement in what is now the Town of Conesville, was made by Ury Richtmyer and a few other families in 1764, during the period between the close of the French and Indian War and the commencement of the Revolution. The settlement was on the land of Die's Manor, six miles from the Schoharie Creek and some distance from other settlements. Richtmyer built the first log house very near the present state historical marker for the Richtmyer Tavern, between the hamlets of Conesville and Manorkill. It is told that the Old Richtmyer homestead was bought of the Indians for a pound of butter per acre.

Little is known of the other families who settled here with the Richtmyers. The patent reads that Ury Richtmyer was a blacksmith and Hendrick Weaver was a farmer so probably Weaver also lived here. An early map of a section of the Die's Manor settlement shows the houses of Dies and VanLoon, John Everson, Richtmyer, Jacob VanLoon and Abraham VanLoon. Early county histories tell that Ury Richtmyer was followed by a son John, then Peter Richtmyer, who had lived at Hartmansdorf (near Middleburgh) "wandered off" to the Manorkill when but a young man and settled with Ury. Other sources tell that Ury was one of seven brothers who came to this country in 1745 from Germany, and that he had five sons: Peter, Cobus, Frederic, John and George.

Die's Manor soon became a valley of relatives. Frederic Richtmyer married Rebecca VanLoon on October 5, 1770; George Richtmyer married Rebecca Everson and Johan George Richtmyer married Margaret Shoemaker. Matthew Dies married Eva VanLoon and their children Christina married Benjamin Fanning, Jacob married Margaret Schoonmaker and Jane married Isaac VanLoon. John Die's other son married a Richtmyer. More than one child was named John Dies Richtmyer.

The early settlers were hardy and industrious, who usually lived at peace with themselves and the Indians who passed through the valley. However, due to a misunderstanding, the Indians plotted to burn out Richtmyer and his family in the dark hours of one night. One of the neighbors who understood a little of the Indian language, happened to be at the Fanning Mill and overheard the plot. He hurried home, made a bridle out of basswood bark, caught his horse and rode at a fast pace to warn the Richtmyers of the danger. The family hurried to a place of safety and before midnight were sitting upon a hill that overlooked their cabin. They had not been there long when they saw the red-tongued flames consuming their home, which the Indians supposed was consuming the family as well. Richtmyer proceeded to rebuild his burned home and soon had another shelter erected for his family.

There was peace along the Manorkill for several years, until the Revolution began in 1775. Twelve men from Die's Manor were taken prisoner by the Tories, and the families soon left for the safety of the settlements along the Schoharie. After the

war ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783, the early settlers returned to their burned-out homesteads and started anew.

CHURCHES

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HOSPITAL

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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

CONESVILLE FIRE DEPT. & RESCUE SQUAD

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LOCAL SERVICES

CONESVILLE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Located in the Town Hall for local residents

MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE

284 Main St., Schoharie, 12157518-295-8317

POST OFFICE

373 Ste Hwy. 990v, Gilboa, 12076607-588-6667

TOWN CLERK

1306 State Hwy. 990v607-588-7211

PARKS / RECREATION

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PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

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SCHOOLS

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gilboa-conesville.k12.ny.us
132 Wyckoff Rd.607-588-7541

SERVICES FOR SENIORS

SCHOHARIE COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING

113 Park Place
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DUANESBURG

DUANESBURG

Duanesburg, named for James Duane who held most of it as an original land grant, is a small town in the western part of Schenectady County. The town's earliest settlers chiefly comprised of English Quakers and a group of settlers originally from Kent, Connecticut. The Delaware & Hudson Railroad provided major freight traffic carrying Pennsylvania coal northeast to Albany, Boston & other eastern cities. In the late 20th century, farming fell into decline and the town became home for commuters working in Schenectady & Albany. The population was 6,122 according to the 2010 census.

CHURCHES

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LIBRARY

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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

DUANESBURG AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER

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DUANESBURG VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORP.

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10136 Duanesburg Rd.518-895-2121

LOCAL SERVICES

POST OFFICE

7000 Duanesburg Rd., Duanesburg 12056518-895-8872

TOWN CLERK

5853 Western Turnpike518-895-8920

SCHOOLS

DUANESBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Duanesburg.org
Elementary: 165 Chadwick Rd., Delanson518-895-2580
Jr-Sr. High: 163 School Drive, Delanson518-895-3000

ESPERANCE

ESPERANCE

Esperance, a welcoming community in the northeastern part of Schoharie County, is named for the French meaning of hope. The Town of Esperance was originally a part of the Town of Schoharie. The earliest European settlement was at Kniskern's Dorf in 1729 near the junction of the Cobleskill and Schoharie Creeks. Artifacts left behind by Native Americans go back many hundreds of years. These are usually found where small feeder streams flow into the Schoharie. An early Native American trail ran through Sloansville heading towards Canajoharie and just above the Village of Sloansville was an Indian Stone Heap that was documented by Missionary Gideon Hawley in the mid 1700's. It was removed in the 1820's by a nearby farmer. It had been a boundary marker for the Stone Heap Patent and was later a trail used by the Palatines to visit their relatives in Montgomery County.

The Palatine settlement was like a cooperative owned at one time by the settlers as a group. By the mid 1700's lots were being surveyed and the farms divided among the families. Not much growth occurred until after the Revolution since there was much destruction of Kniskern's Dorf at that time. In 1792 a law was passed putting this area in the Western Road District and a State Road and Bridge across the Schoharie at what was called "State Bridge." To accommodate the workers on the road and early travelers, the earliest farms started to take in boarders. The area around the Bridge was surveyed and broken up into building lots by its owner Harmonous Ten Eyck, a merchant of Albany. The lots sold slowly; and William North of Duanesburg seeing an opportunity, purchases the lots from the Ten Eycks in 1806. The Post Office had been established in a Hotel near the Bridge in 1805 under the name Schoharie Bridge. William North gave it the name "Esperance" the French word for "Hope." The village was later incorporated in 1818 and had the first fire department and engine in the county. The Deluge, a used pumper said to

ESPERANCE

date from 1731 is displayed at the Old Stone Fort in Schoharie. In 1799 the State could no longer keep up with the demand for roads and bridges in New York, so investors bought shares in Turnpike Companies hoping the improved highway would benefit them as land owners along its route. The State Bridge was washed away in 1798, so the Great Western Turnpike Co. was formed. William North was an office holder in both the State and Private concerns to construct the road. In 1812 Theodore Burr built an impressive two lane covered bridge spanning 300 feet across the Schoharie Creek. A toll house was located on the Esperance side to collect tolls and the Brown Brothers of Sloansville were early gate keepers there. To avoid paying tolls, shunpike roads were formed and travelers still forded the creek when possible to avoid the bridge toll. Over 700 teams a day crossed this bridge and traffic was heavy during the War of 1812.

The beauty of the Schoharie Creek and its abundant bass population draw sportsmen to its public access areas. For generations of young people it is a great place for boating and recreation along its winding path towards Burtonville. We invite you to take a leisurely ride through our scenic Town and cross the Schoharie Creek as other travelers have done for over 200 years.

CHURCHES

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LIBRARY / MUSEUM

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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

ELKS LODGE
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FIRE DEPT. & RESCUE SQUAD
115 Church St.
Non-emergency518-875-6088

LOCAL SERVICES

BURTONSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
2053 Burtonsville Rd., Esperance, NY 12066
Meetings held monthly.
.....518-875-6228
.....(dial 911 for emergencies)

POST OFFICE
170 Main St., Esperance, 12066518-875-6731

TOWN CLERK
104 Charleston St518-875-6109

VILLAGE CLERK
113 Church St.....518-875-9044

PARKS / RECREATION

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SCHEDULED EVENTS

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

SCHOOLS

SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL
schoharieschools.org
136 Academy Dr., Schoharie.
Elementary School518-295-6651
Jr./ Sr. High School518-295-6601

FULTONHAM / WEST FULTON

FULTONHAM / WEST FULTON

The town of Fulton, colonized by the British in early 18th century today encompasses the hamlets of Breakabean, Fultonham and West Fulton. Notable locations in Fulton include Vroman's Nose, Max V. Shaul State Park, Bouck's Falls and Bouck's Island. Bouck's Island was home to one New York Governor, (1843-1844), William C. Bouck. Bouck resided at Bouck's Island in Fulton until his death in 1859.

The town offers a variety of outdoor activities and other attractions, Bouck's Falls, located on Panther Creek, Krum and Nelson Falls on the Keyserkill, and several outstanding falls on the outlet of Looking Glass Pond as the water drops some 700 feet in less than 1/2 mile are well worth viewing. Miles of maintained snowmobile trails, a mountain bike trail, cross country skiing, assorted hiking trails including The "Long Path Trail." The Long Path has its beginning at the George Washington Bridge, enter the Town of Fulton in Cole Hollow, continues on its way to Rossman Hill -- passes by an Adirondack lean-to -- the Rossman Hill Cemetery -- over the dike of Looking Glass Pond -- following the Ponds outlet stream down to the Panther Creek Valley -- through the historic Village of West Fulton -- up the hills of Partria -- down Hard Scrabble -- and again up the hill to Vromans Nose -- and on the way to the Cliffs of Middleburgh. The town also offers pond fishing at Mallot Pond (bass and trout - also allows ice fishing) and bass fishing and boating at Looking Glass Pond. Panther Creek, House Creek, Cole Hollow and the Keyserkill have an abundance of "Wild Trout."

HOSPITAL

COBLESKILL REGIONAL HOSPITAL
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Cobleskill, NY 12043518-254-3456

LIBRARY / MUSEUM

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856 West Fulton Rd., West Fulton518-827-5618

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

THE TOWN OF FULTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
.....518-827-5618

LOCAL SERVICES

MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE
284 Main St., Schoharie518-295-8317

POST OFFICE
Fultonham
3431 State Rte. 30, Fultonham, 12071518-827-5355
West Fulton
832 W. Fulton Rd., West Fulton, 12194518-827-5116

TOWN CLERK
1168 Bear Ladder Rd., West Fulton518-827-6365

PARKS / RECREATION

MAX V. SHAUL STATE PARK

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

SCHOHARIE COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
114 Rock Rd.
Cobleskill, NY 12043518-234-0952

SCHOOLS

MIDDLEBURGH CENTRAL SCHOOL
Middleburghcentralschooldistrict.org
Elementary: 245 Main St., Middleburgh.518-827-3600
Jr.-Sr. High: 291 Main St., Middleburgh.518-827-3600

SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

SCHOHARIE COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING
113 Park Place
Schoharie, NY 12157518-295-2001

GILBOA

HISTORY OF GILBOA

The Town of Gilboa was formed from the towns of Blenheim and Broome on March 16, 1848. In the 1850 census it was listed as the largest town in Schoharie County in both acreage and population, Cobleskill was 7th. In 1890 the acreage was unchanged but Cobleskill was number one and Gilboa was number seven.

In its glory days Gilboa was a hub of activity, boasting two hotels, usually filled with travelers, three churches, (Methodist, Baptist & Dutch Reform), many businesses including a cotton mill consisting of 100 looms and employing eighty people (this was destroyed in the 1869 flood and never rebuilt), two blacksmith shops, a foundry, creamery, telephone company, its own power plant (supplying power not only for itself but also Stamford), two doctors, as well as sev-



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GILBOA

eral stores. A stage line, owned and operated by Lou O'Brien ran to and from Middleburgh as well as Grand Gorge, where it picked up the mail at the railroad station and brought it to the Gilboa post office. Long after the days of horse travel, people wanting to know if the mail had arrived would ask "did the stage come yet?" The village also had a weekly newspaper "The Gilboa Monitor" which operated until October 10, 1918 when the owner had an opportunity to make a move and though he felt he could publish the Monitor for another three or four years, knew Gilboa was doomed and decided to move on. (I have a collection of Monitors handed down from my father that have been micro filmed by the capitol newspaper project and are available for viewing in the state archives).

May 4, 1890 was not a good day. Sometime in the night a fire started and destroyed the entire business area. Fortunately there were many enterprising individuals in the village at that time and rebuilding started immediately, and soon things were looking up again, but the devil wasn't done with us yet. About 1905, New York City began looking for additional water to supply its needs. That was the beginning of the end for a great little village. The town is still there and consists of South Gilboa, Broome Center and Mackey. We have an excellent high school, (the first central school in Schoharie County, opening its doors for the first time in September 1930) a post office, town hall, top notch highway department, an active historical society (over one hundred members) planning to open our museum some time in the spring. We have a lot of optimistic and enthusiastic people who have worked long and hard to make this overdue project a success.

As it became evident that the village was going to be destroyed, I.C. Wyckoff decided to try to establish a new village. Most of the buildable land was claimed by New York City so he selected a small section below the city's taking area to erect some buildings (five in all, plus two bungalows) there was a feed and general merchandise store, a service station & garage with eight apartments above designed to house some of the displaced people, a restaurant and rooming house, a grocery store with living quarters above, and a building planned for a recreation center (it served as everything but), temporary high school while our new school was being

completed, post office, and finally living quarters for two families.

These buildings were all wood frame construction with metal siding, and one by one each burned. Only one had any of the original lumber left in it and that was recently razed to make room for our new post office.

Richard Lewis, Town Historian

HOSPITAL

COBLESKILL REGIONAL HOSPITAL

178 Grandview Dr.
Cobleskill, NY 12043518-254-3456

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

CONESVILLE FIRE DEPT. & RESCUE SQUAD

1292 State Hwy. 990v.607-588-6622

LOCAL SERVICES

MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE

284 Main St., Schoharie, 12157518-295-8317

POST OFFICE

373 Rte. 990v, Gilboa, 12076607-588-6667

TOWN CLERK & TAX COLLECTOR

373 Rte. 990v607-588-6400

PARKS / RECREATION

GILBOA DAM

NY POWER AUTHORITY

BLenheim-GILBOA VISITOR CENTER

1378 State Rte. 30, North Blenheim800-724-0309

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

SCHOHARIE COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

114 Rock Rd.
Cobleskill, NY 12043518-234-0952

SCHOOLS

GILBOA-CONESVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL

gilboa-conesville.k12.ny.us
132 Wyckoff Rd.607-588-7541

SERVICES FOR SENIORS

SCHOHARIE COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING

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JEFFERSON

JEFFERSON

The Revolutionary War was fought during the years 1776 - 1783 and during this period there was no white person living permanently in what was later known as Jefferson. In fact up to 1776 and until 1795 there was no organized Schoharie County. The area north of Ulster County east of the Schoharie River was in Albany County. West of the River was Tryon County, which was later called Montgomery with some division and that was called Otsego County.

In 1788 Schoharie was organized as a town in Albany County with no representation locally but a person or overseer was appointed in Albany County. In 1795 a petition was presented to the Legislature for the information of a new county. This was granted April 6, 1795. Then there was a division of the County into six towns. Blenheim, the southern-most of all, included the area of the present town of Jefferson except a small portion which was taken from Harpersfield, then in Otsego County. This area included the present Jefferson and extended beyond Summit Lake and Charlotteville and joined the town of Cobleskill. When Summit was organized in 1819 the northwestern corner went with Summit.

The land in this area situated in the edge of the Catskill Mountains was covered with dense forests and rocks. There were many springs of pure water and streams leading from these springs. There were and still are many hills, ravines and gravelly knolls which were left here from the glacial period. Bald Mountain is the highest peak with an elevation of 2,700 feet. There were no highways. Perhaps there were Indian trails or the path made by the deer and other wild animals as they roamed at will over the area.

On December 4, 1771, this section was granted to John Butler and others (recorded in Bk. 16 of Letters Patent, Sec. Of State's Office). In 1793, John E. VanAlen began to divide it into lots and it was called Strasburg Patent. Sometimes it was called, according to old deeds, the Town of Strasburg. Strasburg Patent corners with three other patents at Utsayantha Lake, namely: Blenheim, Harper and Great Hardengurg. Lot No. 1 of the Strasburg Patent is at the point. Robert McGregor and Elkanah Watson and others owned four thousand acres in the Strasburg Patent dated October 10, 1803, recorded in the book #36 of Deeds at the Sec. of State's Office.

The two men who purchased land and settled here first were Ezra Beard and William Cowley. Beard purchased what was more or less the Marvin Churchill property of Robert McGregor for two hundred sixty-eight pounds and ten shillings, in 1794. William Cowley purchased land near Lake Utsayantha where Roger Buechler now lives, in 1791. Col. Stephen Judd, another early settler, purchased of Elkanah Watson 1,937 6/10 acres of land for one thousand nine hundred thirty seven pounds and twelve shillings in English money.

By 1803 enough people had come into the area, mostly from

the New England States, to organize a town. They were industrious, religious and farsighted. They wanted a new home and accepted the challenge of wilderness living. They built their log houses, raised their food, made their clothing and reared large families.

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MIDDLEBURGH

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF MIDDLEBURGH

The Town of Middleburgh was originally settled by a group of German Palatines led by Johan Conrad Weiser in 1712; making it one of the oldest settlements in Schoharie County. The original settlement Weiserdorf consisted of forty log and earth huts that ran along a brook from the High School to across the street from Memorial Park. Soon the surrounding land was cleared for crops and the first grist mills appeared. In 1734; the first Dutch Reformed Church was constructed on the southern end of the settlement. By the time of the American Revolution; the valley was producing eighty thousand bushels of grain making it known as the "Bread Basket of the Revolution."

During the Revolution there were constant threats from Tories and Indians. After the Chrysler/McDonald raid of 1777, three forts were constructed in the Schoharie Valley. The largest was the Middle Fort; which enclosed three acres around the Johannes Becker stone farmhouse just north of the present village. It would serve as refuge for the local citizens and headquarters for the military in the Schoharie Valley during the War. It withstood a six to eight hour siege on October 17, 1780 by a force of British, Tories and Indians under Sir John Johnson. Three times Johnson sent out a flag of truce to discuss surrender of the fort and three times the white flag was sent back by fire from Timothy Murphy. Johnson's Raid would leave "Weyserstown" and many of the farms and crops

of the surrounding area in ashes.

A new village would be built after the war closer to the fort around the second Dutch Reformed Church, which still stands. It would be known as "Middletown" later changed to Middleburgh, officially with an "h." The Town of Middleburgh was formed on March 17, 1797. It included the present Town of Fulton, which was separated in 1828. The primary occupation of the people was farming and much of the surrounding hills were cleared. There were grist mills, saw mills and tanneries on the Schoharie Creek and its tributaries. In the valley were two foundries, a paper factory, a nail factory, a broom factory, and wagon builder.

During the first half of the 19th century, cattle would be driven through Middleburgh via the Loonenburg Turnpike (Today Route 145) from western New York to New York City. A bridge and tollhouse was constructed to span the Schoharie at the location of the current bridge in 1813. Inns and hotels also sprang up along the turnpike. The largest of these were the Bull's Head Tavern, the White House where the Red Barrel is, and the Freemeyer House, later the Hotel Baker where the new library is today.

During the Civil War, the Town of Middleburgh furnished 289 volunteers out of a voting population of 740. This represented the second highest proportion of servicemen for a town in New York State.

During the latter half of the 19th Century into the early 20th, small family farms still drove the local economy. The Town of Middleburgh became the largest hop producer in New York State. The Village of Middleburgh was incorporated in 1881. Much of the present business district of the village was completed during this period and small shops and businesses filled the store fronts along Main Street and Railroad Avenue. Keeping the technology of the times, The Middleburgh & Schoharie Railroad was constructed in 1867, The First National Bank of Middleburgh was formed in 1880, The Middleburgh Telephone Company founded in 1897, and M&S Power and Light was providing the local villages with electricity about the turn of the century.

The years after the Great Depression brought many changes to the Town and Village of Middleburgh. The Power

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MIDDLEBURGH

Company became part of a larger entity which became Niagara Mohawk. The railroad ceased operations in 1936. The Hotel Baker burned in 1942. The local bank became part of Central National Bank in the 1950's. Many of the small farms disappeared and returned to forests and became housing subdivisions. The improved roads and the automobile brought competition from larger stores and shopping malls outside the area. As a result; many of the small businesses became part of the past.

During the early years of the 21st century; an effort is now underway to revitalize the Middleburgh area. A new public library has been constructed on the site of the old Hotel Baker. The beautiful wall along River Street has been rebuilt with the added feature of Victorian style lighting. There have been repairs and improvements to the Middleburgh Cemetery. The School District buildings have been expanded and modernized. The Town Hall and Town Garage have received energy improvements. The bridge across the Schoharie Creek was renovated in 2006 with the addition of the same lighting as on River Street. Grants were obtained for building and business improvements on Main Street and Railroad Avenue in the Village. Many new homes have been built in the hills outside the Village. Part of the new parking area has been created as part of the new Creekside park.

CHURCHES

MIDDLEBURGH REFORMED CHURCH

middleburghreformed.org
178 River St.518-827-5134

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LOCAL SERVICES

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POST OFFICE

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Jr.-Sr. High: 291 Main St., Middleburgh.518-827-3600

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NORTH BLENHEIM

NORTH BLENHEIM

Blenheim, one of the original six towns in Schoharie County, was named from the 40,000 acre tract of land granted by King George III of England on November 28, 1769 to forty grantees. This tract of land became known as the Blenheim Patent. The Town of Blenheim was officially formed from Schoharie on March 17, 1797.

Blenheim is an interior town, lying southwest of the center of the county. The surface is a hilly upland, broken by deep ravines and streams. Schoharie Creek flows north through the east part, receiving the Westkill and several smaller streams from the west.

Blenheim Ridge holds the distinction of having had not only the first Town of Blenheim post office (1800), but also the first post office established in Schoharie County. The longest single-span covered wooden bridge in the world built in 1855 by Nicholas Montgomery Powers and used until 1932, achieved national landmark status in 1964.

Lansing Manor House stands on a bluff overlooking the Schoharie Creek. Few other farmsteads in New York State have been able to boast of 18 varieties of trees at one time or another, which was true to the Manor Estate in the early 1900's. The Lansing Manor House complex was acquired by the New York State Power Authority during the construction of the Blenheim-Gilboa Storage Power Project in the early 1970's



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On March 13, 1990 a fiery explosion from a leaking propane gas pipeline owned by Texas Eastern Products Pipeline Company ripped through the upper village on Route 30 and the Westkill Road turnoff in the early morning hours. Two people were fatally injured, and nine residences, included among seventeen buildings, were destroyed.

In September of 2005, the Town of Blenheim held the 150th Anniversary of the Covered Bridge.

CHURCHES

NORTH BLENHEIM UNITED METHODIST

1881 State Rte. 30, North Blenheim518-827-6677

HOSPITAL

COBLESKILL REGIONAL HOSPITAL

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LOCAL SERVICES

POST OFFICE

1748 State Rte. 30, No. Blenheim, 12131518-827-4924

TOWN CLERK & TAX COLLECTOR

Town Hall Building
1748 State Rte. 30, No. Blenheim518-827-6115

PARKS / RECREATION

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PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

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SCHOOLS

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SERVICES FOR SENIORS

SCHOHARIE COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING

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RICHMONDVILLE

HISTORY OF RICHMONDVILLE

The Town of Richmondville was established by an act of the New York Legislature on April 11, 1849. By this act Richmondville became the sixteenth and last town to be established in Schoharie County. The majority of Richmondville was carved out from neighboring Cobleskill, but a small portion was added from Seward in 1851. Besides the village, there are several hamlets including Warnerville, West Richmondville (earlier known as Caryville), and Beards Hollow.

Ordinarily such an event might be greeted with a lot of fanfare, but our nation was in the midst of "gold fever" during the year of 1849.

The name Richmondville has its origins in John Richmond, an early resident of the area. A post office was first established in 1825. Some deeds and post offices records refer to Richmond-Ville (two words) as early as 1834. When the town was incorporated in 1849 the two words were fused to create Richmondville. Through the efforts of Thomas Fairbanks, husband of John Richmond's daughter, Jane, the Richmond name was perpetuated for posterity. In 1881, the village was incorporated as Richmondville too.

The coming of the railroad from Schenectady occurred in 1865. This was made possible through sales of shares via the efforts of John Westover, an important businessman and politician of the era. He was a key player in the early history of Richmondville. With the arrival of the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad (later known as the D&H, and today



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RICHMONDVILLE

CPX), the mills surrounding the many streams of Richmondville began to flourish. Many products such as brooms, bricks, wool, lumber, sashes & blinds, clotheslines, iron works, dried fruits, paper, prison clothes, cheese & butter, wagons, and many small shops sprang up here in Richmondville. Ray Byrne, newspaper man of the time, stated that by 1875, "Richmondville has more factories than any other towns between Albany and Oneonta."

Several hotels dotted the landscape including the Westover House, built in 1866 and stood massively where the post office now sets. The Commercial Hotel also stood where the fire company now resides.

In time the Bank of Richmondville became an important partner of the many mills and shops of the surrounding area. Through the efforts of Lewis and A.D. Fraiser the bank was established in 1893.

The Twentieth century saw important changes as Richmondville evolved. In 1932 the schools of the area consolidated and in 1993 a merger occurred between Cobleskill Central School and Richmondville Central School. Today the new high school building on the Warnerville flats in 1998 is a testimony to the merger efforts.

As we look ahead, Richmondville has great potential. Its power co-op makes it very attractive to businesses and residents. The Warnerville Water District established in 1999, has come to fruition bringing safe and clean water to the residents and businesses of that area.

Lastly, it is necessary to mention the recent creation of the Richmondville Historical Society. Their purchasing of the Bunn Mill on High Street is a major step in preserving the history of the Richmondville area.

The productions of two recent video shows their effort and dedication to preserving our heritage. New members are always welcomed to join this worthy organization.

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POST OFFICE

278 Main St., Richmondville, 12149518-294-6665

TOWN CLERK & TAX COLLECTOR

104 Municipal Lane518-294-7150

VILLAGE CLERK

Richmondvillevillage.org
295 Main St518-294-6681

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

SCHOHARIE COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

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SCHOOLS

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Ryder Elementary
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Golding Middle
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C-R High School
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SERVICES FOR SENIORS

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SCHOHARIE

HISTORY OF SCHOHARIE

Schoharie was one of six original towns established in 1797, shortly after the county was created in 1795. Over time ten more towns were set up and boundary lines shifted until the current boundaries were fixed in 1846. Two population centers within the town are Schoharie and Central Bridge.

Native Americans once resided here, having villages near present day Schoharie and Central Bridge. Although members of different Indian groups, their allegiance was to the Iroquois.

In the early 1700's Palatine Germans began to arrive. By 1713 they were planting crops and establishing villages known as dorfs. Brunnen Dorf (Schoharie), Smith's Dorf, Fox's Dorf, Garlock's Dorf and Kneiskern's Dorf (Central Bridge) were located within current town boundaries. These villages were important to the English colonization effort because they were the first large movement into the hill country of upstate New York, thus expanding the line of the frontier. The land was well suited to farming and supposedly the first wheat in the country was grown near Central Bridge in 1713. Credit goes to a farmer named Lambert Sternberg who planted one skipple of wheat and reaped 83. As one skipple is about 3 pecks, he managed to harvest nearly 250 pecks of grain! Soon other farmers began to grow wheat and this was a significant development, for by 1780 the Schoharie valley was known as the "Bread Basket of the Revolution". This fame and their location on the frontier would cause dire results for the residents of Schoharie.

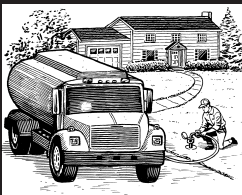
In May of 1775 Johannes Ball and other patriot leaders formed a Committee of Safety. They met in secret and strove to gather information on enemy (British, Tory, and Indian) movements and to prepare for the defense of Schoharie. The decision was made to fortify the stone Dutch church near Fox Creek. It was a wise decision for late in the day on October 17, 1780 the Johnson Brant Army launched an attack on the church, known as the Lower Fort. The defenders were able to hold off the attack but could do little to prevent the enemy from ravaging the farms and homes strung along the valley. It would be a hard winter for the survivors.

But survive they did, as well as grow and prosper. In 1797 the first town meeting was held, and men were selected to fill positions ranging from Town Clerk to Fence Viewers! By

1798 Schoharie village was chosen as the site for the building of a court house and jail. For some time the village was known as Schoharie Courthouse. By 1800 the census lists the town as having 1,696 residents. By 1872 the village contained several county buildings, four churches (one of which was the African M.E. Zion's Church as there was a Black community within the village), the Schoharie Academy, a bank, two newspapers, three hotels, a hub and spoke factory, a carriage factory and many stores and mechanic shops. Nearby was a large brick yard producing 500,000 bricks a year. There were two rail lines, one built in 1867 connecting the village to Central Bridge, and another built in 1868 linking it with Middleburgh. One resident of Schoharie, Hobart Krumm, opened his law office in the village in 1857 and later went on to become a N.Y. state senator, serving from 1895 until 1902. Nearby Central Bridge was a station on the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad. It had two churches, a hotel, various shops, two gristmills and two sawmills. Near the station were two more hotels, five stores and several mechanic shops. Several years earlier, in 1846, George Westinghouse was born in Central Bridge. He would grow up to become one of America's greatest inventors.

As the town grew modern technology arrived on the scene. Near the end of the 19th century Daniel Frisbee built a dam on the Schoharie between Schoharie and Middleburgh which produced the first electricity for the two towns. In 1880 a telephone line was opened between these two towns and a central office with a handmade switchboard was opened in Schoharie

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One of the most entertaining eras of Schoharie was the time of open air movies which were shown on Main Street in the summers from 1917 until 1942. Traffic was rerouted and a screen was placed in front of the courthouse. People from all over the country enjoyed the movies as local merchants sold hot dogs, popcorn, ice cream and candy. After the movies people strolled along Main Street or danced to music by a local band playing popular jazz and dance tunes.

Today there are 3,299 people in the town. The town is home to many operating farms and prosperous businesses providing a variety of goods and services. Here one can find the Old Stone Fort, the Palatine House, The Schoharie Valley Railroad Museum, and other tourist attractions.

Prepared by Dawn Johnson

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.....jdsicluna@gmail.com

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POST OFFICE

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SCHOHARIE COUNTY CLERK

County Office Building
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TOWN CLERK

300 Main St518-295-6570

VILLAGE CLERK

300 Main St518-295-8500

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SEWARD

TOWN OF SEWARD

The Town of Seward was formed on February 11, 1840 from the Town of Sharon, formerly a part of Albany County. The Town was named after William H. Seward, then Governor of the State of New York. William H. Seward would later serve as Secretary of State under Presidents Lincoln and Johnson and is most remembered for orchestrating the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867.

The Town is primarily agricultural and has beautiful rural landscapes. It is located in the northwestern part of Schoharie County. The Town had and continues to have, several hamlets within its borders. Their names were derived from diverse sources. These hamlets include: Dorloo, Janesville, Hyndsville, Gardnersville, and Seward. In between these hamlets the Town is characterized by low, flat, and rolling terrain associated with the Mohawk Valley as opposed to the high, rough mountainous terrain in Southern Schoharie County and the lower Catskill Mountains.

The Town of Seward has a total area of 36.5 square miles. Its highest elevation is 1800 feet above sea level and the lowest point is at 1080 feet above sea level. It is located west of the Capital District and is forty-two miles west from the cities of Albany and Schenectady, forty-two miles east of Utica, 35 miles northeast of Oneonta, and twenty-five miles southwest of Amsterdam. This central location allows beautiful pastoral rural living while allowing residents and visitors to enjoy the all that the key urban centers in central New York have to offer.

Located a short drive from Exit 21 off Interstate 88, The Town of Seward has two North South Axis roads consisting of NY-10 and NY-145. Its primary East West road is NY-165. These routes along with a superb network of town roads allow easy access to the entire region.

The Town of Seward has a long history of European settlement going back to before the Revolutionary War. During the Revolutionary War residents were divided between those loyal to the King (Tories) and those supporting independence (Patriots). After the war the area began to grow. The various hamlets developed local industries to support agriculture in the area. Soon grist mills, saw mills, creameries, blacksmiths, general stores, and post offices were available in most hamlets.

In the 1870's, the Delaware & Hudson Railroad built the railroad branch from Cobleskill to Cherry Valley called the Cherry Valley Branch. This branch added station depots at both the hamlets of Hyndsville and Seward respectively along its route. This promoted growth in those two hamlets to the detriment of the other hamlets. Still, the railroad made it easier for the Town members to ship their goods and allowed the Town to prosper. The railroad branch remained operational until the last freight shipment took place in 1956.

By the 1880's the hamlet of Dorloo boasted a horse racing track that operated until the early 1900's. Seward built its own school house that was first operational in 1893. This school district was later merged with the one in nearby

Cobleskill in the early 1930's; however, the small Seward school house remained operational until the 1950's. The original building still stands today in Seward and is an historic structure used for arts and crafts, social events, and meetings.

Today, the Town of Seward still relies on agriculture; however, it also still has many small businesses that contribute to the fabric of the community. It is great places to live, work, and enjoy life.

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POST OFFICE

111 Union St., Cobleskill, 12043518-234-4011

TOWN CLERK / COLLECTOR

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PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

SCHOHARIE COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

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SCHOOLS

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SHARON SPRINGS

TOWN OF SHARON

The Town of Sharon, originally called New Dorlach by its German settlers, is located in the northeast corner of Schoharie County. The whole territory of Schoharie County, including New Dorlach, was originally part of Albany County. In 1784, the western part of Albany was set off to form Tryon County - later renamed Montgomery County. Otsego County was formed out of Montgomery County in 1791 and New Dorlach became a town in Otsego County. The Town of Dorlach was annexed to Schoharie County when it was formed from parts of Otsego and Albany Counties in 1795. In 1797, Schoharie County was subdivided into six towns, Blenheim, Bristol (Broome), Cobleskill, Middleburgh, Schoharie, and New Dorlach, which was renamed Sharon at that time.

The Village of Sharon Springs covers approximately one square mile and lays an average of 1,100 feet above sea level. It is situated in a picturesque area and occupies the region between the Adirondack and the Catskill Mountains. Native Americans were probably the first to use the springs of Sharon for medicinal and healing purposes.

Sharon Springs gained international fame through the popularity of its four mineral waters. The white sulphur spring, which emits the strong smell of decayed eggs, is the most noted spring. Magnesia water is beneficial for various problems of internal organs. The Blue Stone Spring (Eye Water Spring) is used for eye treatments and as a refreshing facial

splash. The Chalybeate spring water contains iron and is especially beneficial for treating anemia.

The spa area has been declared a Historical District on the National Register of Historic Places. A walking tour with plaques along Main Street shows photographs and descriptions of buildings, both past and present, at these sites. The Sharon Historical Society maintains a small museum in the heart of the spa district. A major portion of its collection consists of artifacts and ephemera relating to the mineral waters, baths, and accommodations for summer guests from the 1860's through the 1930's.

CHURCHES

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Sharonspringschamber@gmail.com

SHARON SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT

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SUMMIT

HISTORY: TOWN OF SUMMIT

Summit was created from parts of Cobleskill and Jefferson on April 13, 1819. It was originally called Summit Four Corners when it was first settled in the 1790's. Summit also encompasses the hamlet of Charlotteville which had a larger population than Summit during the mid 1850's. From the 1872 Schoharie County Gazetteer/Directory: It is the south-west corner town of the County, lying principally on the west border. The surface is a broken and hilly upland. The central ridge forms a portion of the watershed between the Susquehanna and Mohawk Rivers, the highest summits being from 2,000 to 2,300 feet above tide. Charlotte River, the principal stream, flows south-west through the west part. The soil is gravelly and clayey loam. Most of the land is arable and the people are engaged in dairying and hop raising. Other products are raised for home consumption. Near the village of Summit it's beautiful lake, about half a mile in length. It is supplied entirely by springs and covers about 75 acres. The first settlement was made by Frederick Prosper, from Dutchess County, in 1794. Among the early settlers were, Clement Davis, Samuel Allen, Martin Van Buren, Morris Kiff, Robert and Abraham Van Duser, A.M. Frydenburgh, Joseph L. Barnet, Amos Baldwin, Jonathan Hughes, Baltus Prosper, and James Brown, many of whom were from New England. The first birth was that of ? Frydenburgh, and the first marriage that of Clement Davis and Lovina Allen, in 1797. Daniel Harris taught the first school, in 1798, Benjamin Rider kept the first Inn, James Burns the first store and ? Van Buren erected the first saw mill. The town comprised a part of the Strasburgh, Charlotte River, Stephen Skinner and Walter Franklin Patents. The 1st town meeting was held on the 1st Tuesday in March 1820 at the home of Martin Huffman.

HOSPITAL

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178 Grandview Drive
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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

SUMMIT RESCUE SQUAD

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LOCAL SERVICES

DEPT. OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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POST OFFICE

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TOWN CLERK

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WORCESTER

HISTORY OF WORCESTER

By Marilyn E. Dufresne, Town Historian
TOWN OF WORCESTER

The town of Worcester was formed from Cherry Valley on March 3, 1797. Early settlers found the land to be perfect for farming, grazing of sheep, the raising of hops and potatoes. Blue mold ruined the hop crop around the early 1900s and many men moved on to help with the construction of the Erie Canal. Worcester blossomed into a veritable "Boomtown" with the coming of the railroad in 1865. Buildings in Worcester's Main Street Historic District feature iron cresting, fish scale siding, fancy brickwork, and the "Boontown" facade look.

Farming has proved to be a mainstay for the area over the years, however, there are now fewer farms with larger herds. Farms are now more diversified with the owners raising more vegetables, beef cows and on the side beekeeping and the production of maple syrup.

Worcester is a picturesque village with most of the houses being well maintained. Like all small communities, the days of the privately-owned family business has ceased to exist leaving several vacant stores in both Worcester and East Worcester. Worcester has a modern school with a recent 32.5

WORCESTER

million upgrade. The Wieting, a one hundred year old brick building on Main Street, is available for the production of plays and in the summer movies are shown on Friday and Saturday nights. Also, a portion of The Wieting Building is home to Worcester Free Library, serving Decatur, East and South Worcester, Maryland, Schenevus, Westford and the local community.

Between the two communities there are seven churches, well-maintained fire departments and a water district for each community. Worcester is home to a branch office of Citizen's Bank, the Historic Worcester Inn, a funeral home, an insurance office, Main Street Traders, Norton Hardware, Worcester Market, a post office, several garages, Ardy's Restaurant, Stewarts, The Center, a Historical Society Building and museum, The Storehouse, two realty business, several attorneys, Chris' Pizza, and a new shop, The Quilt Zoo. C. Herzog Supply, a wholesale plumbing business, operates out of an early brick building once an East Worcester school. Children from East Worcester are bused five miles away to the school in Worcester. J-emz a new car care specialist, and Larry Anteman's Garage both have a business in East Worcester.

Also part of the Town of Worcester is the hamlet of South Worcester located over South Hill about five miles on county Route 39. The Charlotte Valley Inn, Inc., a bed and breakfast, is still in operation in a valley bordered by Charlotte Creek.

Worcester's Town Board meetings begin at 7 pm and are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at the Town Barn.

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SCHOOLS

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WRIGHT

HISTORY OF WRIGHT

The Town of Wright was formed from Schoharie April 4, 1846. It lies in the northeast part of Schoharie County, bordering Schenectady and Albany Counties. It was named in honor of Governor Silas Wright. Gallupville is the principle village. It is the only township in the county that doesn't have a namesake. Shutters Corners to the west, and Waldenville to the east were other early settlements. Fox Creek is the principle stream of water. Kings Creek meets Fox Creek near the village of Gallupville.

Zimmer, Becker, Shaffer, Hilts, Schell, Barber & Gallup were among the early settlers. The Zimmer and Becker families were besieged by the Indians and Tories on July 26, 1782.

The Reformed and Methodist Churches were organized in 1844, and the Lutheran Church in 1852. The Reformed Church after being vacant many years, burned in 1932.

The Gallupville House, built in 1872, the last existing hotel in town, has recently been saved and renovated. It is now a gathering place for many meetings and social functions.

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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

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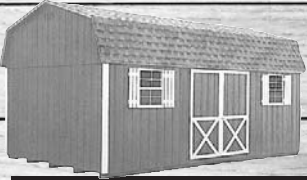


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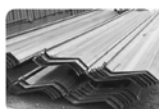
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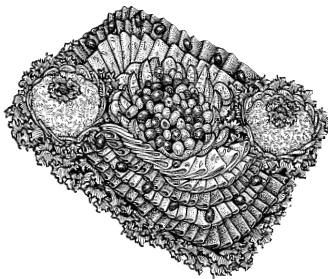


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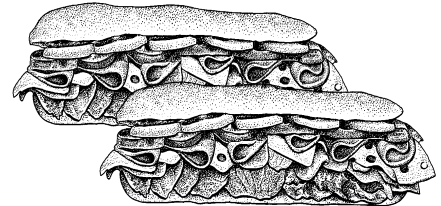
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