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HISTORY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The strategic location of Montgomery County, the “Gateway to the West,” and its valuable river, turnpike, canal and railroad transportation routes make Our History rich and complex.

Midpoint between today’s celebrated Cooperstown and Saratoga attractions, Montgomery County has long been the center of some of the most important events in our nation’s history. Abundant natural resources sustained the Mohawk tribal people whose villages once dotted the river corridor. The Dutch and then German, British and other settlers arrived in the early 1700s. It was at the center of intense fighting during the American Revolution. Postwar soldiers and pioneers traveled by river bateaux, then turnpike and then via the Erie Canal to settle its fertile banks and supply the migration into the West.

With its natural break in the Appalachian Mountains at “The Noses,” Montgomery County anchored America’s main east-west axis enabling New York to become one of the greatest manufacturing regions in the world.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICES
www.co.montgomery.ny.us

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Old Courthouse, 9 Park St., Fonda . . . . . . . . . . . . 518-853-8180

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS / COUNTY EXECUTIVE
County Annex Bldg., 20 Park St., Fonda . . . . . . . . 518-853-4304

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Fulton Montgomery Regional
fultonmontgomeryny.org
1166 River Front Center, Amsterdam . . . . . . . . 518-725-0641

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Annex Building, 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
New Courthouse, Fonda . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 518-853-8250

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
County Office Bldg., Fonda . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 518-853-4011

HISTORIAN
Kelly Yacobucci Farquhar . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 518-853-8186

2021 Mohawk Valley Community Directory

Did you miss out on listing your organization or activity in our 2021 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 2021 Community Directory. If that’s the case, let’s make sure we have the proper listing of your organization or activity included in the 2022 Community Directory for your area. Email your information by January 3, 2022 to:

Mohawk Valley My Shopper
Call 1-800-767-7862 or email (emailed preferred):
info@myshopperonline.com with subject line: 2022 Directory
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 industries 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 Building
2714 State Hwy 29, Johnstown ............. 518-736-5526

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County Office Bldg., 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., Johnstown ............ 518-736-5555

COUNTY TREASURER
County Office Bldg., Johnstown ............ 518-736-5580

COUNTY COURTS
See nycourts.gov for full listing
In 1797, Ames had no connection with other settlements except a trail to Canajoharie, now Old Sharon Road. The first 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 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 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 phone in Ames was installed about 1885 in the old store and gift shop. Ames has had several stores: In 1800, a store built by a man who operated the Ames Tannery. Here, the first phone in Ames was installed about 1885 in the old store and gift shop. The village also had a blacksmith shop, a wagon and wheelwright shop. Later, a pottery shop, mill factory, milk and cheese plant, shoe store, cobbler shop and a blacksmith shop were operated. Jump pumps, bas-
**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 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.
Henry pitched his tent where Joshua Williams now resides. It rich interval lands just westward of Canajoharie Village. Henry, Nicholas and John Failing (Germans) located on the Canajoharie. had a mill near the site of Arkell & Smith’s dam in Elizabeth. Schremling, in the latter part of the last century Winn, married respectively his daughters Catherine and Capt. Martin C. Van Alstine and Captain or Sheriff John Of Henry Schremling, abovementioned, little can be learned. afterward, found in an abutment of the bridge over the creek. A small tin trunk inside, containing valuable papers was, 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.
CHURCHES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
20 Moyer Street ..............................................518-673-3440

FAITH, HOPE & LOVE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
faithhopeandlovechurch.com
50 East Main Street ........................................518-673-5128

REFORMED CHURCH OF CANAJOHARIE
canjoreformed.org.
15-19 Front Street ........................................518-673-2816

ST. JOHN & ST. MARY’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
stjmcanjo.org.
143 Church Street............................................518-673-2224

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
unyumc.org.
50 East Main Street ........................................518-673-6026

HOSPITAL / HEALTHCARE

ST. MARY’S HEALTH CLINIC
48 Erie Blvd., Canajoharie, NY ....................518-673-2573

LIBRARY / MUSEUM

CANAJOHARIE PUBLIC LIBRARY
canajahariepubliclibrary.org
2 Erie Blvd. ....................................................518-227-3786

ARKELL MUSEUM
arkellmuseum.org
2 Erie Blvd. ....................................................518-673-2314

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

CANAJOHARIE PALATINE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
canajahariepalatinechamber.com
P.O. Box 38, Canajoharie ................................518-673-0292

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. ..................................518-673-3812

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

GARBAGE COLLECTION
Contracted locally

MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE
64 Broadway, Fonda, NY .................................518-853-8125

POST OFFICE
50 West Main St., Canajoharie, 13317 .............518-673-5811

POWER AUTHORITY, NATIONAL GRID
nationalgridus.com .........................................800-322-3223

TELEPHONE, FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS
frontier.com .................................................866-950-4727

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VILLAGE CLERK
75 Erie Blvd., Canajoharie ..............................518-673-5515

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**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 trial 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 For 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.

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**CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF CHARLESTON FOUR CORNERS**

www.christianchurchcharlestonfourcorners.org

1380 E. Lykers Rd. ........................................518-922-9088

**HOSPITAL / HEALTHCARE**

**ST. MARY’S HEALTH CLINIC**

48 Erie Blvd., Canajoharie, NY ....................518-673-2573

**LOCAL SERVICES**

**FOOD PANTRY, COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY**

............................................................518-853-3011

**GARBAGE COLLECTION**

See Town Clerk

**MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE**

64 Broadway, Fonda, NY ..............................518-853-8125

**POST OFFICE**

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**TELEPHONE**

Frontier Communications. frontier.com............866-950-4727

Verizon Landline ........................................verizon.com

**TOWN CLERK**

480 Corbin Hill Rd., Charleston .................518-922-7661
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 railroad.

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

The history of this village does not stop here.
HOSPITAL / HEALTHCARE

LITTLE FALLS HOSPITAL / BASSETT HEALTHCARE
140 Burwell St., Little Falls ........................................315-823-1000

LIBRARY / MUSEUM

DOLGEVILLE-MANHEIM PUBLIC LIBRARY
dolgevillelibrary.org
24 Main St. ...............................................................315-429-3421

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

DOLGEVILLE FORWARD
DOLGEVILLE ROTARY
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.
........................................................................315-429-8261

LOCAL SERVICES

GARBAGE COLLECTION
Contracted locally

MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE
109 Mary St., Herkimer, NY ..............................315-867-1130

POST OFFICE
41 South Main St., Dolgeville NY ......................315-429-8221

POWER AUTHORITY, NATIONAL GRID
nationalgridus.com ........................................800-322-3223

TELEPHONE, FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS
frontier.com ............................................................866-950-4727

TOWN CLERK
........................................................................518-673-3112

VILLAGE CLERK
41 North Main St., Dolgeville ............................315-429-3112

SCHOOLS

DOLGEVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
dolgevillecsd.org
38 Srawson Street, Dolgeville ..............................315-429-3155
Elementary & Middle School (Pre-K thru 8)
James A. Green High School (9-12)

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.
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.

CHURCHES

ST. CECILIA CATHOLIC CHURCH
26 Broadway ...........................................................518-853-4195

FONDA REFORMED CHURCH
fondarca.org.
19 Broadway ...........................................................518-853-3621

SAVING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
savinggracebaptist.org.
2615 State Hwy. 30A ................................................518-853-3703

HOSPITAL / HEALTHCARE

NATHAN LITTAUER CLINIC
46 East Main Street ................................................518-853-3190
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
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 became the Farmers and Mechanics Bank. Additions were made and a clock on top was added in 1892.

**CHURCHES**

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**  
24 Willett Street .............................................. 518-993-5567

**FORT PLAIN METHODIST CHURCH**  
Freysbush Road .............................................. 518-993-3645

**GRANDVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH**  
grandviewbaptchurch.com.  
15 Washington Street ....................................... 518-993-3822

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119 Reid Street .............................................. 518-993-4302

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165 Canal Street .............................................. 518-993-3822

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rmifellowship.org.  
431 St. Hwy. 80 .............................................. 518-993-3102

**HOSPITAL / HEALTHCARE**

**ST. MARY’S HEALTH CLINIC**  
48 Erie Blvd., Canajoharie, NY .......................... 518-673-2573

**LIBRARY / MUSEUM**

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

**FORT PLAIN MUSEUM & HISTORICAL PARK**  
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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

CANAJOHARIE / FORT PLAIN GARDEN CLUB
Susan Mahr........................................................518-993-4470

FRIENDS OF FORT PLAIN
A not-for-profit 501 C 3 community volunteer organization working to preserve the cultural heritage of the Erie Canal in the Mohawk Valley Villages area. ..............................................mohawkvalleyvillagesny.com

FORT PLAIN SENIOR CENTER
204 Canal Street ..............................................518-993-3432

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

LOCAL SERVICES

GARBAGE COLLECTION
See Village Clerk

MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE
64 Broadway, Fonda, NY ......................................518-853-8125

POST OFFICE
41 River Street, NY, 13339 ..................................518-993-3801

POWER AUTHORITY, NATIONAL GRID
nationalgridus.com .............................................800-322-3223

TELEPHONE
Frontier Communications...................................866-950-4727
Spectrum Cable ..............................................888-438-2427

VILLAGE CLERK
villageoffortplain.com
Board meetings, 3rd Tuesday, 7 pm in the Village Hall
168 Canal Street .............................................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 Street ..............................................518-993-4000
Fort Plain Jr./Sr. High School
1 West Street ..............................................518-993-4000

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 Evart 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 oper-
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 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

CHURCHES
GLEN REFORMED CHURCH
glenchurch.rcachurches.org.
1526 State Hwy. 161 .........................518-952-5787

HOSPITAL / HEALTHCARE
NATHAN LITTAUER CLINIC
46 East Main Street, Fonda ...................518-853-3190

LIBRARY / MUSEUM
FONDA FROTHINGHAM FREE LIBRARY
28 West Main Street, Fonda ..................518-853-3016

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS
LOST BOYZ MOTORCYCLE CLUB
24 South Main St., Fultonville, NY

LOCAL SERVICES
GARBAGE COLLECTION
See Village Clerk

MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE
64 Broadway, Fonda, NY .....................518-853-8125

POST OFFICE
26 Main Street, Fultonville, 12072 ............518-853-3631

POWER AUTHORITY, NATIONAL GRID
nationalgridus.com ............................800-322-3223

TELEPHONE
Frontier Communications
frontier.com .................................866-950-4727
Spectrum Cable
spectrum.com .................................888-438-2427

TOWN CLERK, TOWN OF GLEN
7 Erie Street, Fultonville ......................518-853-3633

VILLAGE CLERK,
Village office building .......................518-853-3815

PARKS / RECREATION
SNYDER PARK BALL FIELDS

SCHOOLS
FONDA-FULTONVILLE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
fondaftultonvilleschools.org
Elementary through High School
112 Old Johnstown Road, Fonda .............518-853-4415

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 demon-
strate 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 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 visitors 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.

Little Falls is located along State Rt. 5, approximately midway between Syracuse & Albany, New York. Exit Interstate 90 (New York State Thruway) at interchange 29A.
# LITTLE FALLS

## CHURCHES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emmanuel Episcopal Church</td>
<td>588 Albany Street</td>
<td>315-823-1323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Baptist Church</td>
<td>555 Albany Street</td>
<td>315-823-3392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First United Presbyterian Church</td>
<td>16 Jackson Street</td>
<td>315-823-3004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Family Parish</td>
<td>parishes.org/Holy_Family_Parish/ 63 East Main Street</td>
<td>315-823-3410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Spirit National Catholic Church</td>
<td>holyspiritpncc.org. 618 E. Gansevoort Street</td>
<td>315-828-0793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Trinity Lutheran Evangelical Church</td>
<td>512 Gansevoort Street</td>
<td>315-828-4091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inghams Mills Baptist Church</td>
<td></td>
<td>315-828-8210</td>
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## HOSPITAL / HEALTHCARE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital/Healthcare Network</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bassett Healthcare Network</td>
<td>140 Burwell Street</td>
<td>315-823-1000</td>
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## LIBRARY

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<th>Library</th>
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<tr>
<td>Little Falls Public Library</td>
<td>10 Waverly Place</td>
<td>315-823-1542</td>
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## LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elks Lodge #42</td>
<td>2 West Gansevoort Street</td>
<td>315-823-2371</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herkimer County Chamber of Commerce</td>
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## LOCAL SERVICES

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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tr>
<td>City Clerk</td>
<td>659 East Main Street</td>
<td>315-574-5246</td>
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## PARKS / RECREATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burwell Street</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ball fields, community pool, tennis courts, bike trails

## SCHOOLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Little Falls City School District</td>
<td>Benton Hall Elementary</td>
<td>315-823-1400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle and High School</td>
<td>15 Petrie Street</td>
<td>315-823-1470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Wyndfield Acres


1325 State Route 170, Little Falls, NY 13365 • Phone 315-823-0171

Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 9:30-5:00 • Sat. 9:30-4:00 • Closed Wed. & Sun.

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Quality Work / Reasonable Rates

Over 20 Years Experience

Licensed & Insured

**Free Estimates**

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**Hats - Gloves - Sweaters - Socks**

**Scarves - Fur Animals & Much More!**

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27 West Main St., Little Falls, NY 13365

315-823-1100 Hours: M-F 10A-5P, Sat 10A-4P

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**PAGE 18 • 2021 MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY DIRECTORY**
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 1866. 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 Ossueruenon (now Aruiesville) 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 in1664, 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 discovered 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 pos-
sible 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.

## CHURCHES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VALLEY ALLIANCE CHURCH (C&amp;MA)</th>
<th>valleyalliancechurch.org</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85 East Main Street ..........</td>
<td>518-993-3458</td>
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## HOSPITAL / HEALTHCARE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEDICAL HEALTH CENTER</th>
<th>8 River Street, Nelliston</th>
<th>518-993-5229</th>
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<tr>
<td>ST. MARY’S HEALTH CLINIC</td>
<td>48 Erie Blvd., Canajoharie</td>
<td>518-673-2573</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## LIBRARY/ MUSEUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORT PLAIN FREE LIBRARY</th>
<th>19 Willett Street</th>
<th>518-993-4646</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FORT PLAIN MUSEUM &amp; HISTORICAL PARK</td>
<td>fortplainmuseum.com</td>
<td>389 Canal St., Fort Plain</td>
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## LOCAL SERVICES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>GARBAGE COLLECTION- See Village Clerk</th>
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<tr>
<td>MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE</td>
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<tr>
<td>POST OFFICE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POWER AUTHORITY, NATIONAL GRID</td>
</tr>
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## TELEPHONE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frontier Communications</th>
<th>frontier.com</th>
<th>866-950-4727</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spectrum Cable</td>
<td>spectrum.com</td>
<td>888-438-2427</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## VILLAGE CLERK

| 11 River Street | 518-993-2862 |

## PARKS / RECREATION

| HASLETT PARK - Willett Street |
| WILES PARK - near the school |

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## SCHOOLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORT PLAIN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT</th>
<th>fortplain.org</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harry Hoag Elementary School</td>
<td>25 High Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Plain Jr./Sr. High School</td>
<td>1 West Street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 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 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 of General Richard Montgomery who had died in the war. Four years later on March 7, 1788, 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.
LIBRARY/ MUSEUM

CANAJOHARE PUBLIC LIBRARY
canajoharielibrary.org
2 Erie Blvd. ..........................................................518-227-3786

FORT PLAIN FREE LIBRARY
19 Willett Street, Fort Plain ..................................518-993-4646

LOCAL SERVICES

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

GARBAGE COLLECTION
See Village Clerk

MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE
64 Broadway, Fonda, NY .......................................518-853-8125

POST OFFICE
Dutchtown Plaza, 13428 ......................................518-673-2411

POWER AUTHORITY, NATIONAL GRID
nationalgridus.com ...............................................800-322-3223

TELEPHONE
Frontier Communications
frontier.com ..........................................................866-950-4727
Spectrum Cable
spectrum.com ..........................................................888-438-2427

VILLAGE CLERK
11 West Grand Street, Palatine Bridge..................518-673-2917

SCHOOLS

CANAJOHARE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
canajoharieschools.org
Elementary: 25 School District Rd., Canajoharie
...........................................................................518-673-6310
Middle: 25 School District Rd., Canajoharie
...........................................................................518-673-6320
High: 136 Scholastic Way, Canajoharie
...........................................................................518-673-6330

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.

ANNUAL EVENTS

SPRING FEST PARADE
Mother’s Day Weekend

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

FIREMAN’S FAIR
Soldier & Sailor Park, 6 Lion Ave in August

CHURCHES

GRACE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
gracechristian.church
20 Center Street ..................................................518-568-2122

SEEKERS FELLOWSHIP
14 Park Place .......................................................518-568-7700

ST. JOHN’S REFORMED CHURCH
68 West Main St ..................................................518-568-7396

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 Torries 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.

Browns 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 Sulpher spring around which was built a small park and grandstand, alas all traces of this are now gone.

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