

# QUADRICENTENNIAL

1616-2016



*Haverstraw  
Where It All Began*

*400th Anniversary*  
**Commemorative Journal**





Haverstraw is one of the oldest names in the geography of North America. It first appeared on a map in 1616 and was originally written "Haverstroo," which is Dutch for "Oat Straw," which describes the waving straw found along the Hudson River and surrounding waterways.

The above map was obtained through the diligent efforts of Larry Singer and Paul Cleary, members of the Haverstraw Quadricentennial Anniversary Committee who took on the task of finding a copy of a 1616 map listing Haverstraw. They contacted the Dutch Consulate in New York City, Arinda van der Meer at the Department of Public Diplomacy, Press and Culture at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Washington, D.C., Jan Smits in the Public Service Department at the National Library of the Netherlands, the National Archives of the Netherlands and ultimately the person who located the above map in a book was Reinder Storm, Curator of Cartography, Geography and Travel, at the University of Amsterdam. Special thanks to Mr. Storm for locating the map and our utmost gratitude to all these individuals for their assistance.





**TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW**

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Dear My Fellow Citizens:

The year 2016 was historic for the Town of Haverstraw as we celebrated our 400<sup>th</sup> or Quadricentennial Anniversary of the founding of Haverstraw. It was in 1609 that Henry Hudson docked his **Half Moon Ship** in what is now known as Haverstraw Bay. As noted on the opposite page, it was in 1616 that Haverstraw was named by the Dutch as “**Haverstroo**” and first appeared on a nautical map. We are extremely proud of our heritage here in Haverstraw. Our beautiful Town is located on the widest part of the Hudson River. Haverstraw was also one of the locations where **General George Washington** set up camp for his troops. It was in Haverstraw where the traitor Benedict Arnold passed on the plans of West Point to Major Andre. At Town Hall, we have on display **Haverstraw’s 95<sup>th</sup> Civil War Regimental flag** which was carried at several major battles including the defining Battle of Gettysburg. The Town of Haverstraw is honored to be the home of **three Medal of Honor recipients**. Haverstraw is also known as “**The home of the bricks that built New York.**” Over the last several centuries, Haverstraw has been a gateway for every new immigrant group coming to America to fulfill their dreams.

As part of our 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, we held numerous events throughout the year, commencing with our Opening Ceremony in February. On that evening, we were delighted to have several speakers including Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Senator William Larkin, Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski, Superintendent of the North Rockland Central School District Ileana Eckert and myself. Mrs. Eckert’s presentation was perhaps the most moving, as she described her life experience of her family fleeing Fidel Castro’s Cuba for the shores of the United States and her family settling in Haverstraw. In addition to this exciting kick off, celebrations were held throughout 2016, including: historical exhibits, Haverstraw 400 Lectures, a spectacular Independence Day Celebration concert and fireworks, a Quadricentennial Student Contest, the dedication of Haverstraw’s first African American Memorial Park during the Juneteenth Celebration, the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual United Latin Festival of Haverstraw, an Anniversary Clock installation outside Town Hall, the Schooner Pioneer visit, a historical reenactment of Major Andre and Benedict Arnold, and a Motown concert, just to name a few! However, Haverstraw’s greatest achievement continues to be its people who have given so much to our country and community.

On behalf of the Town Board members, I hope that you enjoy this commemorative journal. We are very grateful to all the sponsors and this journal would not be possible without their generosity. I would also be remiss if I did not recognize the Quadricentennial Anniversary Committee members for their assistance in making the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events successful and also special thanks to the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal Committee members who spent many hours working on this journal: Town Historian Stephen Cobb, Steven Perry, Nancy Casey and my staff Rosa Urena and Alex Guarino.

What a spectacular year 2016 was in the Town of Haverstraw! Thank you for sharing it with us. We hope you will cherish the wonderful memories. Many of you joined us to celebrate Haverstraw’s rich history and its people. May God continue to shed His grace and love on Haverstraw and the United States of America.

Sincerely,

**HOWARD T. PHILLIPS, JR.**  
Supervisor

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## The Rumanchenanks: Haverstraw's Original People

When Henry Hudson first sailed into Haverstraw Bay in 1609, native people had already inhabited the area for thousands of years. Arrowheads found in a cave in Harriman Park in Haverstraw prove that people were here at least **3,000 to 5,000** years ago. Some archeologists theorize the area may have been inhabited as early as 10,000 years ago.



Some of the Arrowheads found in Harriman Park.

The natives called themselves the **Rumanchenanks** which may also have been their name for Haverstraw Bay. It most likely meant the people of the wide bay. These natives were Algonquin Indians who belonged to the Leni Lenape sub tribe. The Leni Lenape were well respected by other Algonquins. In the Algonquin language Leni Lenape meant "original people" and many respectfully referred to this group as "grandfather."

The Rumanchenanks tribal lands were extensive, reaching from Hook Mountain north to Bear Mountain and from the Hudson River west to the western edges of the modern day Harriman State Park. They lived at only a Stone Age level of technology, but their relative backwardness was not an issue because of their bountiful surroundings. In the soil they grew corn, beans and squash. From the Hudson which they called **Muheakkunnuk**, they caught sturgeon, shad and eels. In the woods they hunted deer, turkey and bears.



For much of the year, the Rumanchenanks probably lived together in several 30 to 60 foot wide circular homes made from dried grass and bark. These structures probably existed not far from the river within the present boundaries of Haverstraw Village. During the winter they probably moved west living either in wooded areas or caves.

The Rumanchenanks were led by a sachem. The sachem dealt with other tribes and in later years with European settlers. Important decisions involving the tribe were made by a council which reached their decisions through consensus. In times of war, a special council made up of the tribe's best warriors ruled the tribe.

## Watch Fires

For hundreds of years what is now Bear Mountain in the northern end of the Rumanchenank tribal lands played an important role in relaying messages from one Lenape river tribe to another. In a time before there was digital communication, Rumanchenank observers could see special message fires set in what is now



northern Manhattan by the Manhattan Indians. They in turn would light a watch fire atop Bear Mountain that could be seen by the Esopus Indians all the way up by present day Kingston. The fires were often a signal that there was important news. Other times they were lit as a symbol of hope.

View from Bear Mountain that allowed Rumanchenank observers to see Watch Fires set by fellow Lenapes either to the south on Manhattan Island or north near Kingston.

## The Downfall of the Rumanchenanks

From the very beginning the Rumanchenanks had trouble with European settlers. When Henry Hudson's *Half Moon* arrived in Haverstraw Bay in 1609 several Rumanchenanks paddled out to see the impossibly large canoe. During the visit one of the natives was shot and killed as he tried to take a pillow and some clothes.

As with most Indians, contact with Europeans exposed the Rumanchenanks to diseases that their bodies had no defense against. Interaction with Europeans also brought the natives in contact with alcohol which often led to disastrous results, but the arrival of guns in the Hudson Valley ultimately posed the greatest danger for the Rumanchenanks.



*The Half Moon*



For years the Leni-Lenape were stronger militarily than their northern neighbors, the Mohawks. Dutch traders were strictly forbidden to sell guns to Native Americans. But Dutch traders in the Albany area, away from Dutch authorities, began trading guns to the Mohawks.

Fearing for their safety the Rumanchenanks begged the Dutch authorities for equal access to guns. Their requests were turned down. Then, in 1643, the



**Dutch Militiamen**

Rumanchenanks worst fears were realized as Mohawks armed with guns invaded their tribal lands killing many and taking a great number of prisoners. The desperate surviving Rumanchenanks sought safety at a Dutch settlement. But soon after their arrival, the Dutch governor ordered militia to launch a night attack on the natives leading to another huge loss of life including many women and children.

The surviving Rumanchenanks began a campaign of terror against the Dutch settlers. Finally, after much loss of life on both sides, Leni-Lenape leaders including Sesejemu, the Rumanchenank's sachem, reached a peace treaty with the Dutch.

The Rumanchenanks realized their days in their long held tribal lands were nearing an end. In 1666, their sachem, Sackagmeck, sold their land in what is now Haverstaw Village to a Dutch trader named Balthazar de Harte. A few years later they sold their land near Bear Mountain to another Dutchman. The remaining Rumanchenanks merged with the Tappan Indians and later moved to Pennsylvania and then the Midwest.

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is proud that its exhibit

“Dutchtown and Major Andre”

participated in celebrating Haverstraw’s 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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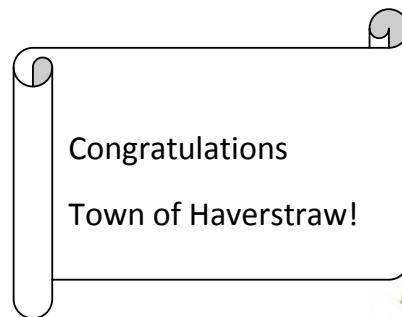
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ON 400 YEARS



FROM THE TOWN OF  
HAVERSTRAW SENIORS

## The Haverstraw Brickyards

When our country began in the late 1700s, its economy was almost exclusively agricultural and Haverstraw was no different. Most of the area's economic activity revolved around agriculture. However, as our country moved into the 1800s, the economy became more and more industrially oriented. Similar economic changes took place in Haverstraw.

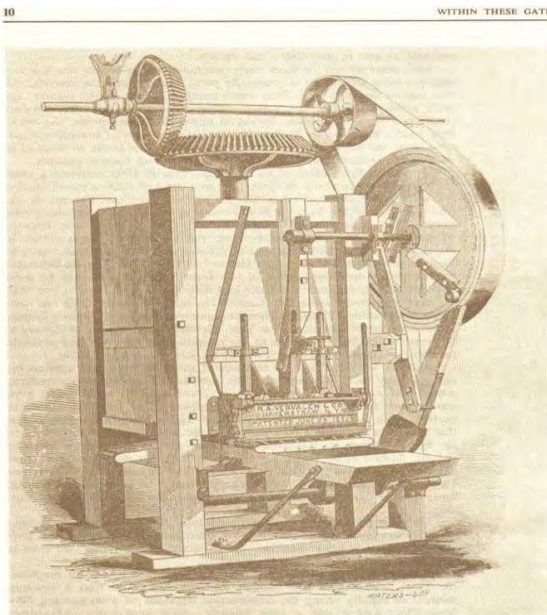
Several circumstances combined to transform Haverstraw's economy. One involved natural resources. Ice Age glaciers deposited huge amounts of clay along the banks of Hudson River. Dutch settlers tried molding the clay into bricks, but more often than not they created bricks of inferior quality.

Another circumstance that transformed Haverstraw economically was the arrival of **James Wood** from England in 1815. Wood had been a brick maker in England and in 1820, he started a brickyard near what is now the Harbors at Haverstraw. Wood used techniques he learned back in England such as mixing coal dust with the clay. As a result, his bricks were far superior to any previously produced in Haverstraw and other areas.

Yet another transformative circumstance occurred in 1835 when a terrible fire destroyed much of lower Manhattan. As the buildings were rebuilt, brick was preferred instead of wood because of its fire resistant nature. Thanks to the

Hudson River, Haverstraw's brick makers were well positioned to supply New York's exploding demand for bricks. Large shipments of bricks could be sent quickly down to New York on sloops or barges.

The need for bricks continued unabated through the 1840s and 1850s. Haverstraw's brick makers struggled to keep up with demand. Then in 1852, the hard pressed brick makers benefited enormously from Haverstraw native **Richard Ver Valen's** automatic brick making machine. The new device allowed brick makers to turn out 10 to 20 times as many bricks as they had before.



*The VerValen machine which changed the course of brickmaking for all time!*

### Ver Valen's Automatic Brick Making Machine



Over the next 75 years, Haverstraw's brickyards were one of the world's largest producers of bricks. Haverstraw was often called "The Brick Making Capital of the World." During this time, about 40 brickyards operated between Dutchtown and Grassy Point routinely producing more than 100 million bricks each year. In 1883, the Haverstraw brickyards produced 302,647,000 bricks. At one time, about two thirds of the buildings in New York City were built with bricks from Haverstraw. This is why Haverstraw is also known as "The Home of the Bricks that Built New York." Thousands of immigrants first from Ireland and later from Italy and Canada found work in the brickyards. In the late 1880s, many African Americans came from the south to work here.



**Photo taken from Hi Tor Mountain of the brickyards in the southern part of Haverstraw Village.**

After the Civil War, Haverstraw brick makers began putting lettering on their bricks to distinguish their bricks from their competitor's bricks. For instance **DF+S** was stamped on Denton Fowler's bricks and **DeNBCo** on De Noyelles bricks. The book *Within These Gates* by one time Haverstraw historian Dan De Noyelles has an appendix listing the lettering found on various Haverstraw bricks. In his book, De Noyelles estimated that the brickyards produced gross revenues exceeding \$2,000,000 a year, a staggeringly large amount of money for the late 1800s and early 1900s. This amount in today's dollars puts that annual revenue at approximately \$55,000,000. De Noyelles estimated that directly or indirectly the brickyards created about 10,000 jobs.



**A brick from the Garner Brickyard**

## The Landslide of 1906

The demand for bricks continued unabated as the 20<sup>th</sup> Century began. To satisfy demand, brick companies dug for clay closer and closer to the village itself. In the summer of 1905, cracks began appearing on the streets near the Gillies and Excelsior brickyards. Experts from the Army Corps of Engineers were alarmed at what they found. They recommended that the digging near the village be stopped. The recommendations were ignored and the digging continued.

Then, early on in the following year disaster struck. Just before 11 PM on January 6, 1906 two landslides devastated Haverstraw by destroying many buildings and killing at least 19 people. It is the largest single loss of life in Rockland County history. After the landslides, Haverstraw faced an even greater danger. Fires caused by overturned stoves and lamps threatened to engulf much of the remaining village. Fire fighters were hampered by strong winds and sub-freezing temperatures. They were also thwarted by broken water mains at the



Photo showing the aftermath of the 1906 Landslide

disaster site which cut off the water supply. Fortunately, an even greater disaster was averted when firefighters from S.W. Johnson in Garnerville arrived with a pump engine that provided water that allowed the blaze to be contained.

## The Decline of the Brickyards

The brickyards continued producing huge amounts of bricks in the early 1900s. But demand for Haverstraw bricks began to decline. One factor in the decline was cheaper bricks from other places. A preference for concrete and steel rather than bricks by builders was another factor. Not surprisingly, the Great Depression of the 1930s suppressed the demand for brick even further. The outbreak of World War II was the final straw for the brickyards. The last Haverstraw brickyard closed in the early 1940s.



## The Brickyards' Legacy: Beautiful Buildings and the Blues

The brickyards left no economic legacy, but there was a positive legacy nonetheless. Most of the homes on First Street as well as the beautiful Victorian Era homes on Hudson Avenue in Haverstraw Village were either built by brickyard owners or businessmen who made their fortunes from businesses. In addition, the picturesque Elks Club building on First Street was once the home of brick magnate, Denton Fowler. Fowler also contributed half of the money for the construction of the **King's Daughters Library** building on Allison Street. The library is on the National Historic Buildings Register.



Elks Club/Fowler Home

Contributions from many brickyard owners resulted in the building of Haverstraw's magnificent **Central Presbyterian Church** on Hudson Avenue. Irish immigrants who worked in the brickyards did much of the construction of **St. Peter's Church** on Broadway.



St. Peter's Church  
on Broadway



Central Presbyterian Church on Hudson Avenue

## The Surprising Legacy

The brickyards left another legacy that may be even greater than the homes and buildings left behind by the brickyard owners. They also left an important cultural legacy. The great Jazz pianist **Willie "The Lion" Smith** helps one understand the brickyard's unique contribution to American culture. Smith once explained:

**I first heard the Blues** sung while I was still a barefoot boy out of New Jersey. I was up **around Haverstraw, New York** where they had about 35 brickyards. The yards employed Negroes to load and unload millions of bricks, and when you got anywhere near that town, you could hear the workers chanting and singing. Many of the songs you heard had things in them you read about in the Bible, or were familiar melodies from the church since they sang them in the style that is known as spiritual or the **Blues** today.

In other interviews, Smith went so far as to claim that the Blues were born not in New Orleans but in the brickyards of Haverstraw. While Smith's claim is impossible to verify, the impact of this unique music that originated in the brickyards is not.



**Jazz Great Willie "The Lion" Smith**





**Duke Ellington Playing With  
Willie "The Lion" Smith**

Willie "The Lion" went on to become one of America's first great jazz musicians as a "stride" pianist in New York City. Smith's unique style of Jazz was strongly influenced by the Blues which Smith first heard in the Haverstraw brickyards. The influence of "Haverstraw's Blues" extends even further. **Duke Ellington** is generally considered to be the greatest composer of Jazz. Early in his career, Ellington was strongly influenced by Willie "The Lion."

But amazingly the influence of "Haverstraw's Blues" probably extends even further. When he was young **George M. Cohan**, "The Father of the Modern Broadway Musical" lived during the summer in a house on Division Street in Haverstraw. Young Cohan had to have heard the same Blues being sung in the brickyards that had inspired Smith since Cohan's house was close to the brickyards. This singing was probably Cohan's first exposure to the Blues. One of Cohan's great achievements as a composer was his ability to integrate strains of Blues and Jazz into his music. Cohan's music helped bring Jazz and the Blues into mainstream American culture.



**George M. Cohan**

It is remarkable that music sung by workers in Haverstraw's brickyards to ease the burden of difficult work could end up having such a profound influence on American culture as Jazz and the Blues are American art forms.

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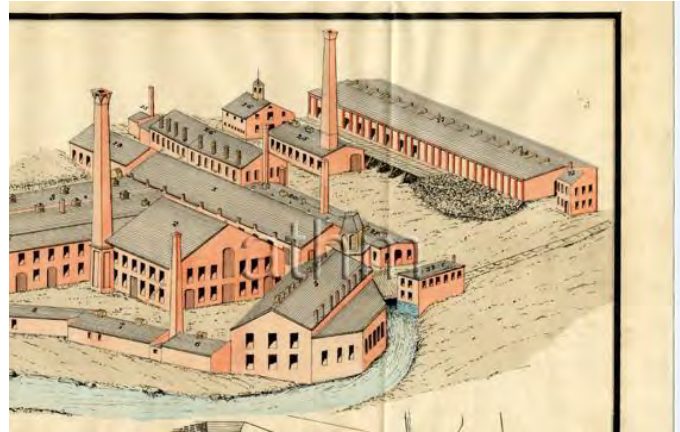
*Pictured Sculpture by James Tyler*



## The Garnerville Industrial Terminal

During most of the 1800s and then the early 1900s the Haverstraw brickyards, situated along the Hudson River shoreline, were the area's economic centerpiece. Beginning in the late 1830s, a second economic center began developing in Haverstraw a mile or two west of the brickyards along the Minisceongo Creek.

In 1838 two brothers, **Thomas and Charles Garner**, immigrants from Manchester, England along with Charles Welles acquired a complex of buildings which had been built about 15 years earlier along the Minisceongo Creek. Here Welles and the Garner brothers began the **Rockland Print Works** which specialized in making printed and dyed wool, cotton and linen. As the business grew, the complex became larger. An expansion undertaken from 1871 to 1909 increased the size of the compound to nearly 30 buildings.



Part of an insurance map of the Rockland Print Works

By 1915, the Print Works was the area's largest employer. Many workers walked from Haverstraw Village as well as Grassy Point and even New City to their jobs at the plant. Many immigrants from England, Scotland and Wales found employment at the Print Works. Each year it produced enough cloth to dress every woman in the United States. The Print Works became part of a northeast based company that was the largest producer of textiles in the United States.

As the Great Depression struck the United States in the 1930s, the Garnerville industrial center seemed destined to suffer the same fate as the nearby brickyards. During the Depression, the site was abandoned causing nearly 1,500 workers to lose their jobs. Fortunately, the story ended differently than it had at the brickyards. 39 investors led by William Larkin and George Allison pooled together 1,500 dollars, a huge sum for the time, and formed the **Garnerville Holding Company**. The company's prospects of revitalizing the industrial complex were greatly enhanced when it received a matching grant of 1,500 dollars from a New Deal program called the Reconstruction Finance Program. Thanks to the

program, businesses were allowed to operate rent free at the site. They only had to pay the company a fee for the amount of steam they used to operate their machinery. Businesses operating in the revitalized complex produced products



ranging from pocket books to sweaters to small metal tools. During World War II, uniforms for American soldiers were made on the site just as they had for Union soldiers back in the time of the Civil War in the 1860s. Many businesses still operate in the terminal today.

**A postcard of the Garnerville Industrial Complex**

The industrial complex hugely influenced Haverstraw's development. Perhaps haunted by the abuse of factory workers back in their native England, the Garner brothers worked to create a safe community around the factories. They paid for the lighting of the streets near the complex as well as a police force. There was a YMCA branch near the complex. They began the S. W. Johnson Steam Fire Engine Company, which protects the area to this day. And they built housing for their workers along Bridge Street and Church Street as well as Railroad Avenue. These streets and houses developed into the present day community of Garnerville.



**Early horse-drawn fire equipment from the S.W. Johnson Steam Fire Engine Co.**

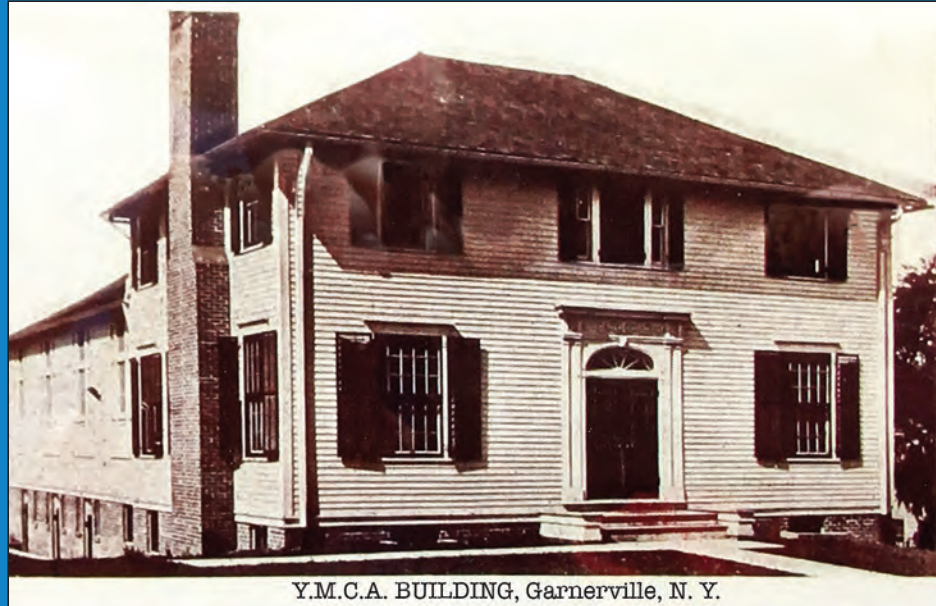
Haverstraw's demographics were strongly influenced by the Garnerville Terminal. Starting in the 1950s and 1960s, a large number of immigrants from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic came to work in the complex's dye factories. This began a wave of immigration to Haverstraw from Spanish-speaking countries in the Caribbean as well as Central and South America. Many of Haverstraw's residents have Latino background.



# THE ROCKLAND COUNTY YMCA

## The Garnerville YMCA

The Garner Print Works Company established and built a YMCA on Bridge Street in Garnerville in the later 1800's to provide recreation for its employees, their families, and community. It had a social room, bowling alley, billiard tables, reading rooms, showers for men and women, and gymnasium for basketball, gymnastics and athletic exercises. The YMCA served the community well, but it was destroyed by a fire in 1930.



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## Letchworth Village

In 1907, Governor Hughes tasked a commission to create a special hospital for New York residents with mental disabilities. The commission reported that an innovative solution was needed. They asked that a facility rather than a hospital be created to address the problem. So the state bought more than 2,000 acres in the hamlet of Thiells in Haverstraw.

In 1911, a facility called **Letchworth Village** named in honor of the noted philanthropist, William Letchworth, opened. Charles Little was the facility's first director. Letchworth had more than 130 buildings with stone facings. Most were one story dormitories called cottages which were designed to house about 70 patients. In a time of high rise asylums for people with mental deficiencies, this was a radical departure. Residents with limited mental abilities were allowed to spend their days at play. Residents with higher mental capacities worked on a substantial farm that was created on the Letchworth grounds. Here they grew crops and tended to cattle, poultry and pigs. For years until the 1960s, Letchworth was largely sustained with food from its farm.



After the demise of the Haverstraw brickyards, Letchworth became an important source of jobs. Haverstraw's supervisor, Victor Shankey, a member of Letchworth's supervisory Board of Visitors, made sure that many Letchworth jobs went to Haverstraw residents especially during the Great Depression. At its peak, about 10,000 people worked at Letchworth.

For years, a great deal of research into mental disabilities took place at Letchworth. In 1950, the first experimental polio vaccine was given to 20 Letchworth residents. The successful test results later led to the use of the vaccine nationwide positively altering thousands of lives.

Letchworth's population grew rapidly. In 1921, it had about 1,200 residents. By the 1960s more than 5,000 residents lived at Letchworth. Many felt it was too many residents for Letchworth to accommodate. As the 20<sup>th</sup> Century drew to a close, New York State decided to move Letchworth's residents elsewhere. Letchworth closed in 1996.



Much of the former Letchworth land was turned into Haverstraw's Rotella golf course. North Rockland's Willow Grove Elementary and Fieldstone Secondary School are also located on the grounds of the former Letchworth site.



**Front Entrance of Fieldstone Secondary School**



**The Lynch family was one of the brickyard owners in Haverstraw.**

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## Helen Hayes Hospital

In 1900, Governor Theodore Roosevelt signed a bill to create the New York State Hospital for the Care of Crippled and Deformed Children. It would become the first state operated rehabilitation hospital for the treatment of individuals with physical disabilities in the United States.

In 1903, the state bought 48 acres of land in West Haverstraw known as the Lilburn estate. Two years later, a children's rehabilitation hospital opened with 45 patients. Most of its early patients were children suffering from tuberculosis or Ricketts and other bone related illnesses. By 1940, the hospital was treating almost 500 patients. Most were children suffering from polio. But it expanded its care to include adults suffering paralysis resulting from accidents as well as strokes. The hospital also began providing outpatient services, physical therapy, and medical social work.

In 1944, the hospital acquired an important ally when Nyack resident Helen Hayes, the First Lady of American Theater, joined the hospital's Board of Visitors. She remained in this position for 49 years until her death in 1993. Hayes was a tireless advocate for the hospital. She held fund raising events in her elegant home, "Pretty Penny" in Nyack which laid the foundation for an endowment fund for the hospital. In the 1960s, she waged a successful battle which prevented the hospital from being moved from West Haverstraw to Albany. It wasn't surprising that in



Helen Hayes Embracing a Young Patient

1974 the hospital's name was changed from the New York State Rehabilitation Hospital to Helen Hayes Hospital.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century sees the hospital beginning its second century with an international reputation for orthopedic care as well as the treatment of patients with complex injuries. It has become a leader in research specializing in skeletal problems. It also studies neurological issues especially cutting edge ways to help individuals who cannot speak to communicate.







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## Haverstraw's Schools

Schools have operated in Haverstraw for four centuries. The earliest record of a school is found in a 1796 highway report which mentions an "old school house" near the Gurnee property. Just how old this school house was back in 1796 is impossible to know. In 1810, a school was opened on Fourth Street in Haverstraw. It existed until a fire destroyed it in 1846. After the fire, a larger school was built on the same site. It later became the Village and Town Hall.



**Second Public School on Fourth Street**

Garnerville had a school as early as 1796. In 1817, 129 students attended school in Garnerville. The first school in West Haverstraw was a three room building at the corner of Railroad and Samsondale Avenue known as the "Yellow School House." The Mountain Institute was a private school on Tor Avenue in Haverstraw. Opened in 1853, it taught the sons of some wealthy Haverstraw residents as well as boys from parts of Latin America. St. Peter's parish ran a parochial school on Ridge Street in Haverstraw from the mid-1800s until the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



**The Mountain Institute  
Tor Avenue Haverstraw**

In 1884, Haverstraw's residents spent \$20,000 to build a new public school on Hudson Avenue. Haverstraw High School was the first high school in Rockland County to offer instruction in shorthand, typewriting, and bookkeeping. Students attended the school until it was destroyed by fire in 1935.



**Haverstraw High School on Hudson Avenue**



Fortunately, the year before the fire the residents of Haverstraw had approved an apportionment of \$690,000 to build a new school on the site of the former Eckerson Field. Students began attending the new Haverstraw High School in 1937. The school with its modern auditorium, gymnasium, vocational arts classrooms and extensive sports fields was so spectacular that it attracted students from other parts of Rockland County as well as from Haverstraw.



**The Second Haverstraw High School Opened in 1937.**

In 1957, the Haverstraw and Stony Point School districts merged. A few years later, in 1965 residents approved a \$5,000,000 bond to build a new high school on Hammond Road in Thiells to serve the students from both towns. In 1972, the high school opened. The high school boasts two gymnasiums, an auditorium, a swimming pool, a planetarium and extensive sports fields.



**North Rockland High School on Hammond Road in Thiells**



~HAPPY 400<sup>th</sup>~  
ANNIVERSARY

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## Haverstraw Firefighters

For more than a century and a half, Haverstraw has been protected from devastating fires by generations of its residents serving as volunteer firefighters.

The need for a firefighting organization became clear when a barn owned by John De Noyelles caught fire, and the blaze for a time threatened much of Haverstraw Village. Shortly after that several other nearly disastrous blazes occurred and village residents decided it was time to act. A week later at a meeting at the American Hotel, it was agreed to raise funds to outfit a rescue hook and ladder company. A few months later, the newly formed Village of Warren spent just over 1,000 dollars to equip a new fire company with a fire engine, a hose carriage and 400 feet of hose. When a river steamboat arrived in Haverstraw with the new engine it was immediately paraded through the village.



More fire companies soon came into existence. In 1869 a steam engine company which soon became known as the Lady Warren Fire Company joined Haverstraw's other fire companies. In 1876, the S. W. Johnson Fire Company was started in Garnerville in response to a dangerous fire which nearly destroyed the Garnerville Print Works factories. In 1907, Cosgriff Hose became yet another Haverstraw Village fire company. In 1913, Volunteer Hose Company # 2 was formed with its firehouse located on the site of the old Manhattan Theater on Railroad Avenue. In 1936, Rescue Hook & Ladder #1, General Warren Emergency Co. #2 and Cosgriff Hose Co. #4 moved to the Haverstraw Village municipal building on Maple Avenue. The three companies moved from their Middle St. firehouses to the municipal building keeping them together. In 1957, the David B. Roche Fire Company was created to serve the western part of Haverstraw. There are three existing firehouses for David B. Roche: one firehouse is located on Route 202, another on Hammond Road and a third off of Beach Road.

There are countless instances of Haverstraw firefighters risking their lives to protect property and their neighbor's lives from the ravages of fire and there are two episodes that especially stand out.

On the night of January 8, 1906, the Village of Haverstraw was suddenly devastated by a large landslide which instantly destroyed many homes on several streets at the eastern end of the village. Firefighters rushed to the scene to battle a worsening blaze caused by overturned coal stoves and lamps in some of the buildings in the devastated area. As they fought the flames, a second landslide struck, further devastating the area and taking the lives of four firefighters- Joseph Albert, William Hughes, Abe Dias, and Benjamin Nelson.

The situation was dire for the Village. A strong wind threatened to spread the flames to much of the rest of the village which contained a large number of susceptible wooden structures. Sub-freezing temperatures quickly coated the fire fighters coats with ice. On top of that, they had great difficulty accessing water as many of the water pipes at the scene of the landslide had been severed.



S. W. Johnson's Steam Fire Engine

In desperation, villagers turned to a new piece of technology, the telephone, to call for help. A phone call quickly brought the S. W. Johnson fire Company with a piece of newly developed firefighting technology, the steam fire engine, to battle the flames. The steam engine got water to fire fighters in the devastated area and the fire was extinguished before it had a chance to devastate more of the Village.

About a century later, another generation of fire fighters responded to a potentially devastating situation. On a winter night in December 2000, flames erupted from a large apartment building on Fairmount Avenue in Haverstraw Village. It was the largest residence in the Village. Ignoring the possibilities that a ceiling could collapse on them or they could be overcome by smoke or flames, fire fighters and Haverstraw police on the scene rushed into the burning building. Within a few minutes, all the apartment building's residents were safely removed.



Apartment Building 9 Fairmount Avenue





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## The American Revolution

Today it seems inevitable that the American colonists would get their independence from the British. The truth is that this outcome was far from certain. The American colonists who favored independence risked their property and often their lives trying to overthrow the mighty British. In their own way, the American colonists of the late 1700s are as remarkable as the so called "Greatest Generation" who overcame the Great Depression and triumphed in World War II.

News of the Battle of Lexington and Concord first reached Haverstraw on April 22, 1775. Soon after, many Haverstraw residents saw the need to form a militia to defend their community. They feared that lawless Loyalist "Cowboys" would attack their property and threaten their lives and they probably had an even greater fear of the same by the British Army. So, many joined the 3rd Orange County Regiment (Haverstraw was part of Orange County back then) and trained to defend Haverstraw from Cowboy or British assaults.

Fortunately, the Haverstraw area was largely spared the attacks from rogue Cowboys that plagued large parts of Bergen and Westchester Counties. But an invasion by the British Army was a different story. The British realized it would be difficult to suppress an insurrection in a region that was over 1,000 miles long.



**British Armada in New York 1776**

They decided the situation called for a divide and conquer strategy. Controlling the Hudson River Valley provided the best means of cutting off the troublesome New England colonies from the Middle and Southern Colonies. So in the spring of 1776 an army of more than 30,000 British soldiers as well as an armada of nearly 200 British ships arrived in the New York area. They stayed until November 1783.



**Minuteman Statue**

Livestock like pigs and cattle on the farms of pro-independence colonists in the Haverstraw area were tempting targets for British marines looking to supplement the meager food rations of the British Army and Navy. To combat such incursions by British soldiers, the militiamen in Haverstraw decided to adopt the methods used effectively by their fellow colonists in Massachusetts. They began training as "Minutemen," soldiers ready to fight on a moment's notice. The Minutemen realized that any encounter with British soldiers would not be easy. The British Army was arguably the most formidable fighting force the world had seen up to that time.



A Revolutionary Era Farm

A few weeks after the British arrived, a watch fire lit atop Hi Tor Mountain on the evening of July 14, 1776 alerted the Minutemen of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment that their moment of truth was upon them. Nearly 400 Minutemen from all parts of present day Rockland County quickly assembled in Nyack to confront an amphibious assault on the village by British marines. Intense and accurate fire from the militia men forced the British to abandon their plans and return to their ship.



Glow from a watch fire lit on Hi Tor Mountain

## The Battle of Haverstraw

The reality was that the danger was far from over. The British force sailed north to Haverstraw Bay planning a similar raid on Haverstraw itself. Haverstraw's Minuteman unit hurriedly marched about 10 miles back to their village to defend it from a similar British attack. Early the next morning, Saturday, July 15, 1776, four landing boats filled with British marines were lowered into the waters of Haverstraw Bay. The marines





rowed toward the shore. The Minutemen led by their commanding officer Committeeman James Coe returned fire determined to defend the village as well as an important supply of munitions that was stored in Haverstraw. Again the British landing boats were forced to retreat and this ensured that **The Battle of Haverstraw** was a victory for the Minutemen of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment.

A few weeks later, several militia men from Haverstraw were chosen to participate in an invasion of Canada. The soldiers marched hundreds of miles, endured bitter cold, and fought bravely during the unsuccessful campaign. Earlier in that year a soldier from Haverstraw fought in the Battle of Long Island, the Revolutionary War's largest battle.,

### **George Washington in Haverstraw**

**George Washington** passed through Haverstraw at least eight times. In 1780 he deployed an American Army commanded by General Lafayette in the vicinity of Camp Hill Road in present day Pomona. The army was stationed there so it could counter any movements into the Hudson Valley by British forces in New York City.

### **Rochambeau's French Army Marches Through Haverstraw**

The American Revolution effectively ended in 1781 when an entire British Army surrendered to a combination of French and American forces. The French soldiers who fought at Yorktown commanded by General Rochambeau landed in Newport, Rhode Island and marched all the way to Yorktown, Virginia. The march took the French Army thru Haverstraw. First, they crossed the Hudson at the King's Ferry near the Stony Point Battlefield (which was then a part of Haverstraw). Next, they marched south along what is now 9W alongside the present day Helen Hayes Hospital grounds. Then they marched west along what is



now Route 202 toward present day Suffern. A historical marker at the corner of Route 9W and Railroad Ave. commemorates the historic march.

**Rochambeau's Army marching to Yorktown**

## The Great Betrayal



West Point during the American Revolution

British plans to divide and conquer the 13 colonies by using the Hudson River as a wedge were thwarted by an ingeniously designed fortification on a narrow bend along the banks of the Hudson about 18 miles north of Haverstraw at **West Point**.

The British were anxious to obtain any information about the fortification and its sophisticated defenses. Twenty-nine-year-old

**Major John Andre** was the personal assistant to Sir Henry Clinton, the Commander of British forces in New York. He indirectly contacted **General Benedict Arnold**, the American Commander of West Point.

Normally such contact would be impossible since Arnold was arguably the American's best general after George Washington himself. Arnold played a key role in capturing Fort Ticonderoga which provided the cannons for Washington's successful siege of Boston in 1775. He had performed exceptionally in the American's nearly impossible attempt to invade Canada in 1776. And most importantly, he probably turned defeat into victory by personally rallying disheartened American forces and leading them to victory at the pivotal Battle of Saratoga in 1777. The victory convinced France to decisively join the fight against Britain.



Benedict Arnold

In the end, Arnold was nonetheless susceptible to wooing from the British. He probably felt slighted since in 1777 five American generals with military

records that were inferior to Arnold's were promoted above him. In addition, he felt insulted that he had faced a court martial hearing over misuse of funds.

So on the night of the 21<sup>st</sup> of September, 1780 Andre traveled north on a British sloop, the H.M.S. *Vulture*. At the same time, Arnold traveled south from West Point to Haverstraw. Arnold met Andre along the Hudson shoreline near Haverstraw's Dutchtown.

The two traveled to the home of Thomas Smith behind the present day parking lot of Hoyer's Ice Cream.



Drawing by Andre of his landing in Haverstraw

(For years the Arnold-Andre meeting was mistakenly thought to have taken place at the home of Joshua Hett Smith on the grounds of the present day Helen Hayes Hospital. However, in September of 1780 Joshua Hett Smith was living in the home of his brother, Thomas and that is where the meeting actually took place.)

Arnold offered to describe West Point's defenses to Andre in exchange for 20,000 pounds and the promise that he would be made a general in the British Army. Arnold even drew a map for Andre of the defenses but Andre did not want



the map. He was confident he could remember West Point's defensive scheme. However, Arnold insisted that Andre take the map and he probably did this because he wanted there to be concrete proof that he had kept up his end of the bargain. So Andre put the map in one of his boots and it would prove to be a fateful decision.

(Map showing West Point defenses - pictured left) The treacherous plot quickly unraveled. An

American artillery battery opened fire on the *Vulture* forcing it to move down the Hudson too far away to retrieve Andre. Then, Andre made another fateful decision. Disregarding orders that General Clinton had given him, Andre decided to



take off his British Army uniform and put on civilian clothes. Since he was in enemy territory Andre could now be considered a spy if he were to be captured.

Arnold and Joshua Hett Smith helped Andre cross the Hudson just north of the present day Bear Mountain Bridge. He made his way south on horseback. It seemed as if Andre would safely reach British lines with the plans for West Point. But Andre was stopped by three men at the site of the present day Patriot's Park in Tarrytown. Andre showed the men a pass from Arnold and offered the men gold coins if they let him pass. The men were about to let Andre go on his way when he began fiddling with his gold watch. This was a terrible mistake. The men became suspicious of Andre since very few American colonists owned gold watches. Andre was taken to some nearby bushes where he was ordered to start undressing. The West Point plans were discovered in the boot. One of the three, John Paulding, could read and he immediately realized that an ordinary traveler should not have such an important military document. The three took Andre to an American garrison at White Plains. News of the arrest was sent to George Washington who by chance was in the area.



**Major Andre's arrest in Tarrytown**

Andre was taken back across the river and put on trial for spying. The British tried to negotiate Andre's release, but Washington would only agree if Arnold were given over to the Americans. On hearing of Andre's capture, Arnold fled to British held New York City. Andre's trial was held at the present day 76 House in Tappan. He was convicted of spying and hanged. After the war, Andre's body was returned to England where he was buried with honors at Westminster Abbey in London.

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**Major John Andre**

Arnold became a general in the British Army. He showed added treachery against America by attacking and then burning two American towns. After the war, Arnold did not receive any significant commands in the British Army probably because they didn't trust him. He died in debt in 1801. If Arnold had never visited

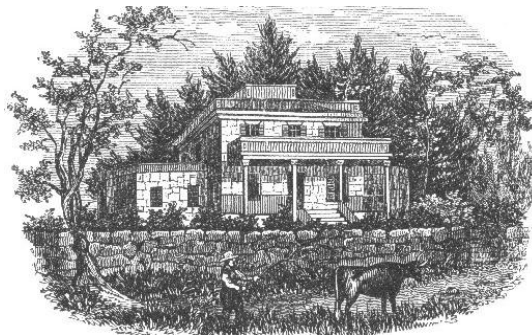
Haverstraw, he might have been one of America's greatest heroes. Instead he became America's most notorious traitor.

## The Treason House: Correcting a Mistake

For many years, it was believed that the treasonous meeting between Arnold and Andre took place in a house called the Belmont, the home of Joshua Hett Smith located on the northeast corner of the present day Helen Hayes Hospital property. Benson Lossing, a nineteenth Century American Revolution historian, cemented this belief in the minds of many by including a

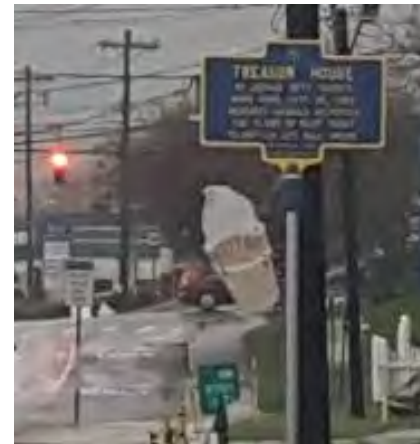


sketch of Joshua Hett Smith's home which he called the "Treason House" in his 1850 history *The Pictorial Field-book of the Revolution*.



Lossing's sketch of Joshua Smith's home

About 150 years later, the site of Arnold's treason was challenged by historian Richard Koke. Koke had learned a lot about the Revolutionary War era first as the curator of the Stony Point battlefield historic park and then as the head curator of the New York Historical Society. After careful study, Koke concluded that in 1780 Smith was not living in his home, but in the home of his brother William, and it was here where Arnold and Andre met. This house was located behind the present day Hoyer's Ice Cream stand. This structure, the true "Treason House" was destroyed by a fire in 1808 or 1809.



The marker's new location

In 2016, the "Treason House" marker was moved from the Helen Hayes property to a new, historically accurate location in front of Hoyer's Ice Cream stand on Route 9W in West Haverstraw.

# THE VILLAGE OF HAVERSTRAW



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to the residents of our community.*

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*Village Attorney*

*Trustee Rafael Bueno*

*Trustee Emily Dominguez*

*Judith R. Curcio*

*Village Clerk/Treasurer*



## The Civil War

During the first half of the 1800s, American statesmen negotiated difficult compromises on the difficult question of slavery. Finally, in the 1860s compromises could no longer be reached. Ten southern states seceded threatening to tear the United States apart.

Thousands of young men from the northern states enlisted as soldiers to put down the rebellion. More than 300 men from Haverstraw served in the Grand Army of the Republic as the Union Army was officially known. Many were



volunteers who were recruited by Edward Pye. He was the first president of the Village of Warren (as Haverstraw was then known). Most of the soldiers who enlisted from the

**Colonel Edward Pye** Haverstraw area joined a contingent that became Company F of the 95<sup>th</sup> New York Regiment and were known as "The Warren Rifles."



Recruiting notice posted in the Village of Warren in September 1861.

The unit saw action in many of the Civil War's major battles including Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Battle of the Wilderness and the defining Battle of Gettysburg. They participated in the Appomattox campaign which ultimately ended the war in 1865.

The unit's finest hour occurred at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. The battle began when a Union cavalry unit accidentally encountered a large number of Confederates north of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. A Union general ordered the 9<sup>th</sup> New York Regiment which included the soldiers from Haverstraw to advance toward the firing. The soldiers soon encountered a large force of nearly 30,000

Confederates. The "Warren Rifles" fought bravely even though they were heavily outnumbered and they were eventually ordered to retreat.

The Haverstraw soldiers began to withdraw, but then disregarded their orders and marched back toward the Confederates. By a ditch cut out for a railroad line known as "The Railroad Cut" the Haverstraw soldiers met units from



A.P. Hill's Corps, some of the best soldiers in the Confederate Army. During a determined fight, they helped force an entire regiment, the Mississippi 2<sup>nd</sup>, to surrender. This was the first time in the war that Union soldiers had forced an entire Confederate regiment to surrender.

**Warren Rifles fighting at the Railroad Cut**



**Civil War Monument On Hudson Avenue**

After the Civil War ended, the veterans remained proud of their service. They formed a veteran's group which met each month well into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. At their meetings they proudly displayed the flag which they had carried in battle. The flag is today displayed in the meeting room at the Haverstraw Town Hall on Rosman Road. In 1913, on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their great achievement at Gettysburg, the Haverstraw veterans erected a statue on Hudson Avenue in their honor. To this day, it is Rockland County's only Civil War monument.

## Company F Battle Flag

During the Civil War, the men of Company F carried an American Flag with them into battle. The flag accompanied the soldiers on the battlefields of Antietam, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, the Wilderness and Gettysburg. After the war the flag was supposed to be returned to New York State officials. For some reason, the Haverstraw veterans did not hand in their flag. It was treated with great respect. For years, it was prominently displayed at the monthly meetings held at the United States Hotel on Main Street by the Edward Pye chapter of the Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic as the Union Army was officially known. It was probably carried by the veterans in parades held in Haverstraw on Memorial Day or other important occasions.

When the last veterans of Company F died early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the flag was sent to Bear Mountain where it was put into a box and forgotten for decades. In the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Lance Ingelmeyer found out about the flag while researching a book on the Civil War. Rockland County Sheriff James Kralik and Haverstraw Town Supervisor Howard Phillips helped raise thousands of dollars to have the historic flag restored. It is presently on display in the meeting room of the Haverstraw Town Hall on Rosman Road in Garnerville.



The flag carried by Haverstraw soldiers from Company F of the 95<sup>th</sup> New York Regiment during the Civil War.





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Congratulates the Town of Haverstraw  
on your 400th anniversary.**

**We also recognize that you never forgot the sacrifices  
made by our men and women who have served this  
Great Nation**



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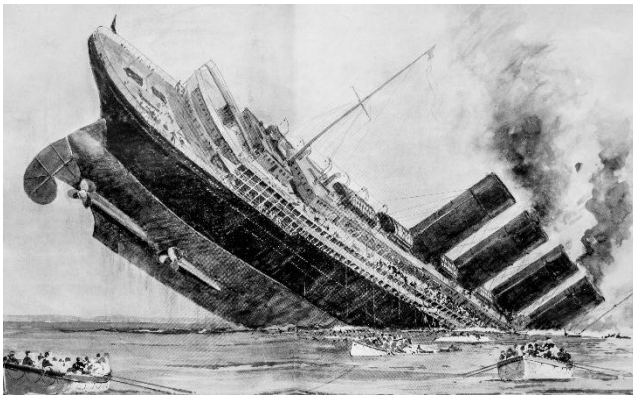
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## World War I

World War I or the *Great War* as it was called at the time was the largest conflict the world had seen in about 100 years. New inventions like the machine gun and chemical weapons in the form of "mustard gas" made it the deadliest war the world had yet experienced. The British and the Germans each had over a million soldiers killed in the fighting. Yet neither the Allies nor the Central Powers could gain the upper hand in the fighting.



**A German Machine Gun Unit**



**The Sinking of the Lusitania**

The United States remained neutral for most of the war. But provocative actions by Germany against the United States including the sinking of a passenger ship, the *Lusitania*, in 1916 with many Americans being killed brought the United States into the war on the Allies side.

The United States raised an army of about 5 million soldiers. Nearly 500 men and some women from Haverstraw served in the military during the war. At least a dozen men enlisted in the New York National Guard and were sent to France in May 1918 as part of the 107<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry. That fall the unit saw significant action in the Somme River offensive which tried to pierce the German's Hindenberg Line. The campaign brought the German Army to the verge of collapse and led to the armistice in November 1918 which ended the long, deadly war.





Future Haverstraw Supervisor **Victor Shankey** was one of several Haverstraw residents who enlisted in the Marines. **George Holt** was one of General Pershing's drivers during World War I. Others served in the Navy including four women- **Ruth Fowler, Eileen Walsh, Jane Walsh** and **Leila Meade** who served as Navy Yeomanettes. Seventeen of Haverstraw's soldiers died while in service. Some were killed in action but most including **Leo Laders** and **Harold Holt** died from illnesses. The names of Haverstraw's World War I veterans are listed on a monument at the northeast corner of Mount Repose Cemetery.

**The World War I Memorial at Mt. Repose Cemetery**

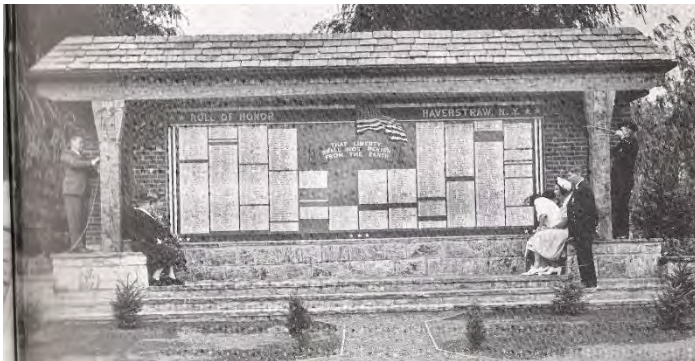
Haverstraw residents strongly supported the war effort. People in the town escorted the draftees to the West Shore Railroad with flags flying and bands playing. For most of the soldiers it was the first time they had been away from the North Rockland area. During the war, many of Haverstraw's residents planted Victory Gardens, raised pigs and did what they could to increase the food supply for the soldiers in France. Shows were performed in Haverstraw with the proceeds going to purchase boxes to be sent to the soldiers. Many women knitted warm hats and gloves for the soldiers in the trenches.



**WWI Victory Garden Poster**

## World War II

World War II was the largest military struggle the world has ever seen. Over 16 million Americans were called to military service as the United States was forced to simultaneously fight two significant wars, one against Nazi Germany and another against Imperial Japan. About a thousand Haverstraw residents served during the World War II conflict. The number was so large that Anthony Bosico, who served on a submarine, remembers walking around Haverstraw Village while on leave from the fighting and seeing hardly any men under the age of 40. Some



Haverstraw families made extraordinary sacrifices. Five brothers from the Kwiecinski family served in the conflict as did five sons of the Courtney family.

Display created during WWII in front of Haverstraw High School listing Haverstraw residents serving in WWII

Nearly two dozen Haverstraw residents gave their lives defending our great nation. John Halgren was killed during a bombing mission against the Japanese in 1942. Anthony Ferracane was killed during the Battle of Coral Sea, the fighting which set the stage for the pivotal American victory at the Battle of Midway. William Coyne was lost when his ship, the U.S.S. Juneau, was sunk during the battle of Guadalcanal, a decisive battle in the Pacific campaign. The five Sullivan brothers were lost with Coyne when the Juneau sank. Harry Robbins was killed in Saipan in 1944.

At least seven Haverstraw residents were killed during the decisive D-Day campaign which recaptured France in 1944: James Brems, Anthony Bronico, William Huott, Vincent Lawless and Joseph Vransky. John Kwiecinski and Joseph Shankey were killed fighting behind enemy lines during the early hours of the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944. Robert Ducey and Louis Jones lost their lives in the final weeks of the war.



The D-Day Landing on June 6, 1944

Many of these brave men have had streets in the Town of Haverstraw named in their honor. A monument honoring Haverstraw's World War II veterans was erected on New Main Street in Haverstraw Village.



**World War II Monument on New Main Street**

Haverstraw's civilian population was also profoundly affected by World War II. Huge amounts of resources were needed to feed and supply America's enormous armed forces. As a result, food, gasoline and even some clothing was rationed. Each month, Americans were issued tickets which allowed them a certain amount of the rationed item. Therefore, during the war Haverstraw residents had to use their ration tickets at grocery stores like Meyer's Market judiciously.



**A WWII ration coupon**

Draft boards were set up all over the country to review cases where someone's military service might impose undue hardship. **James Freeman** oversaw the draft board in Haverstraw. He was so fair-minded that he turned down a deferment request by his own brother. During the war, wardens went around Haverstraw at night enforcing a lights out ordinance. The policy was enacted to make it more difficult for enemy planes to carry out air raids. **Joseph Gordon** began his many years of community service by serving as a warden before he joined the United States Navy in 1945.

Haverstraw did benefit from World War II. Many Haverstraw residents who had struggled to find work during the Great Depression era found work at the Naval Ammunition depot on Iona Island near Bear Mountain. In fact, there were so



**US Naval Ammunition Depot Iona Island**

many workers from Haverstraw employed at the depot that a train ran each morning on the West Shore Railroad tracks from West Haverstraw to the depot.





**Page from 1944 Haverstraw High School yearbook with letters and photos from Haverstraw servicemen**



**Another 1944 yearbook page showing students at Haverstraw High School purchasing war bonds**

## Korean, Vietnam and Foreign Wars

Soon after World War II ended the United States began the Cold War conflict against the Soviet Union. In 1950, this led the United States to enter the Korean War. A large number of Haverstraw residents served in the conflict against North Korea and China. John Mackey, James Kenneth Smith, and James Nicholas Smith were killed during the conflict. Benedetto Aventurato fought with distinction at the pivotal battle of Pork Chop Hill in 1953, receiving two Bronze Stars. William Hurley was awarded a Silver Star in 1951. Julio Mercado of West Haverstraw was cited in the Congressional Record for "considerable valor" during his service in the Korean conflict.



**Benedetto Aventurato**

A plaque honoring Haverstraw's Korean War veterans was dedicated at the Town Hall in 2000.



About a decade later, American soldiers arrived in Vietnam in another phase of the Cold War. Again, a large contingent from Haverstraw served. Walter Andrews, Joseph Conklin, Anthony Morina, Giraud Muntz and William Turner were all killed in the fighting. Turner received a Silver Star which is displayed at the Leo Laders American Legion Hall. A plaque honoring Haverstraw's Vietnam War veterans was dedicated at the Town Hall in 2006. In addition, a large watch fire honoring Haverstraw's Vietnam War dead is lit each year at Bowline Park on Memorial Day.



**Watchfire at Bowline Park**

After Korea and Vietnam, there have been numerous other conflicts including those in Iraq and Afghanistan and other areas of the Middle East and world. We are very proud of all the men and women who have served our country. Freedom is not free and we will never forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice including most recently Corporal Manuel "Manny" Lopez, who was killed on April 12, 2005 while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## Haverstraw's Medal of Honor Winners

The Medal of Honor is the highest military honor awarded for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty. Three Haverstraw residents have won this prestigious award.



**Richard Smith**

**Richard Smith**, a member of Company B of the 95<sup>th</sup> New York Regiment was Haverstraw's first Medal of Honor recipient. During the Civil War, at an engagement at Weldon Railroad in Virginia on August 21, 1864 Smith singlehandedly captured 22 Confederate soldiers from Hagood's Brigade. Previously, Smith fought with distinction at the Battle of Gettysburg. After the war, Smith lived on Westside Avenue and is buried in Mt. Repose Cemetery.

About 30 years later during the Spanish American War, **Nicholas Erickson** became Haverstraw's second Medal of Honor winner. Erickson, an immigrant from Finland, was a Coxswain aboard the *U.S.S. Marblehead*. On May 11, 1898, the *Marblehead* came under fire near Cienfuegos, Cuba. It could not move out of danger because it was attached to some telegraph cables. Exposing himself to heavy fire Erickson got into an open boat and proceeded to cut the telegraph cables freeing his ship to move to safety. Erickson is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx.



Twenty years later during World War I, **Sergeant Michael Donaldson** became Haverstraw's third Medal of Honor winner. Donaldson was a member of the famous "Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>" Infantry Division. On October 14, 1918, on St. Georges Road near Sommerance-Landes, France Donaldson's unit came under heavy German machine gun fire. The unit retreated to safety at a sunken roadway. Without being ordered, in broad daylight Donaldson ran from the roadway to the crest of a hill **six** times to rescue six wounded comrades. In 1923, he was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Calvin Coolidge. Donaldson died in 1970 and is buried in St. Peter's Cemetery.



**Michael Donaldson**

Haverstraw could have had a fourth Medal of Honor winner. During World War II, Bill Maynard of Hillside Avenue was a Navy gunnery officer. In 1944 he was assigned to a merchant marine ship *SS City of Flint* which was bringing oil and communications equipment to the European theater of operations. During the voyage the ship was attacked and sunk by a German U-Boat. Maynard and about a dozen sailors boarded a lifeboat which was not discovered by rescuers. He and the men remained at sea for 44 days with only about two weeks of food. After they were rescued by a Norwegian freighter, Maynard's commanding officer wrote him up for the Medal of Honor. But Maynard refused to accept it when he learned that none of the other survivors from the lifeboat would receive the award.





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# Immigration

Throughout its history, immigration profoundly impacted the United States. From 1820 to 2010 over 75 million immigrants came to America. About a third of these immigrants - nearly 23 million - first arrived in New York City. Therefore, it's not surprising that Haverstraw, a community about 30 miles from New York City with a need for thousands of workers in the brickyards and at the Garnerville Print Works, would become home to thousands of immigrants.

The following pages tell some of the story of the largest immigrant groups to arrive in Haverstraw. It also spotlights immigrants or the children of immigrants who significantly impacted Haverstraw.



**Mural outside Village of Haverstraw Community Center celebrating many of Haverstraw's immigrant groups**

## Haverstraw African American Connection

**Congratulates the Town of Haverstraw on the Quadricentennial Celebration**



**Haverstraw African American Memorial Park**

Our Park, located at the end of Clinton Street in the Village commemorates the African American presence in the Town of Haverstraw since the 1700s. The Park documents our contributions in music, arts and especially the history of Haverstraw.

The journey of the African American is often lost to both history and time. We appreciate our Mayor Michael Kohut and elected officials for recognizing and supporting the strong contributions of the African American community. This collaboration has us to create the first Haverstraw African American Park celebrating our history and heritage.

### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Haverstraw African American Connection is to research, recover, preserve and teach the rich culture and contributions of African Americans with emphasis on the African American people of Haverstraw, N.Y.



### **Habakkuk 2:2-3:**

“Write the vision and make it plain so that anyone can read it. But these things I plan will not happen right away. Slowly, Steadily, Surely the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled.”

**Virginia Norfleet, Chairperson**

**Linda Epps, Co-Chair**

**Susan Filgueras, Historian**

## African Americans

For years it was thought that African Americans were one of the later groups to arrive in Haverstraw. While many did move here in the early 1900s to work in the brickyards, African Americans were actually one of the first groups to arrive in Haverstraw back in the 1600s.



Unfortunately, unlike the other immigrant groups that followed, the African Americans came to Haverstraw against their will as slaves. In the early days, they made up a large percentage of Haverstraw's early residents. The first U.S. Census taken in 1790 reported that **238 slaves** lived in Haverstraw.

During the early 1800s, slavery was outlawed in New York State. The former slaves were left to fend for themselves. They eked out an existence by working as farm hands, domestics and peddlers. They lived together in two shanty communities. One known as "**The Beach**" existed in northern Haverstraw near the present day site of Beach Road and the Haverstraw Bay Park. The other, "**The Mud Hole,**" was in southern Haverstraw near the present day Haverstraw Harbors. In the early 1900s, some African Americans through their diligence as peddlers or brickyard workers were able to buy homes in the neighborhood around Clinton Street and Jefferson Street.



The First Free Colored Wesleyan  
Methodist Church

Throughout our history, African Americans endured hardships by being people of faith. Haverstraw's African Americans were no different. In 1846, a group of African Americans took all their wealth to found a church. The **First Free Colored Wesleyan Methodist** was one of Haverstraw's first churches of any denomination. In 1906 it moved to its present location on West Street in Haverstraw Village. In the early 1900s, another group of African Americans mortgaged their homes to found the **Fairmount Baptist Church** and **Calvary Baptist Church** also in Haverstraw Village.





Insignia of the New York 26<sup>th</sup> Colored Infantry

Haverstraw's African Americans have continually displayed their patriotism. During the Civil War, seven men from Haverstraw volunteered to serve in the **New York 26<sup>th</sup> Colored Infantry**. In 1864, they saw action against Confederate soldiers in South Carolina. Later, other African Americans from Haverstraw served their country during World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War and every conflict since then.



The African American Park on Clinton Street



The first Juneteenth Celebration in 2016

In 2016, Rockland County's first park celebrating African American culture and heritage opened overlooking the Hudson River on the east end of Clinton Street in Haverstraw. Display boards in the park tell about topics like slavery, Juneteenth and the contributions made by several of Haverstraw's African American residents to the development of jazz. The grand opening in 2016 of this park was one of the highlights of the Quadricentennial celebration. Since then, there has been an annual Juneteenth Celebration at this park.



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Historian: Jim Russell

Chaplain: John Kelly

### **Division 1, Haverstraw-Stony Point**

Secretary: Michael Lydon

Fin. Sec: Jerry O'Connor

Marshall: Jim Gilmartin

Standing Comm: Jim Normoyle

Webmaster: Rich Caunitz

#### **WE CELEBRATE OUR HERITAGE**

The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America was formed to protect the Irish Community and the Church. It was necessary due to the Nativists' opposition to the Irish Catholic Immigrants. When they arrived in Haverstraw, the Irish encountered problems with this group when they wanted to build a Church. Thus, the Hibernian movement was introduced into Rockland County through the Town of Haverstraw. There were no records of a formal St. Patrick's Day Parade being held, but records indicate that they would march after Mass from St. Peter's Church to Grassy Point in Stony Point. Newspapers also mention that large picnics were held by the Hibernians featuring Irish music, stepdancing and games, a precursor to the Feis in Rockland.

A young priest had his first Mass at St. Peter's Church, assisted by a young altar boy. The Priest was Father Duffy, famed chaplain of the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> during World War I, and the altar boy was Michael Donaldson who became a member of the 69h and won the Congressional Medal of Honor.

May these great thoughts of our past continue to symbolize the Irish American presence in Haverstraw as we move on into the future.

## Irish Immigrants



**Memorial to the  
Potato Famine Victims  
in Dublin, Ireland**

From 1847 to 1860 over one million people migrated from Ireland to the United States. Most left because of the Irish Potato Famine of 1845-1850 which killed about a million people. Many Irish immigrants settled in New York City, but some journeyed about 30 miles up the Hudson to work in the Haverstraw brickyards.

The Irish immigrants came to Haverstraw from all parts of Ireland. They mostly took jobs working long hours baking, loading and unloading bricks in more than 40 brickyards. They were lucky to arrive in Haverstraw just as Richard Ver Valen invented his brickmaking machine. The device caused the production of bricks in Haverstraw to skyrocket, and it created a demand for unskilled laborers like the Irish immigrants. They lived throughout the village wherever they could find housing. Temperance groups were formed in Haverstraw to combat excessive drinking by some Irish brickyard workers especially on Saturday nights.

The large Irish presence in Haverstraw was shown by its vibrant Ancient Order of Hibernian (A.O.H.) chapter which existed from the 1880s to the 1930s. A.O.H. picnics held in Haverstraw featuring singing and dancing competitions were frequently attended by thousands of people.



At first, life was not easy for Irish immigrants. Hatred was directed at them by some native born Americans called Nativists. In Haverstraw, Nativists burned crosses in the Catholic cemetery on Ridge Street.



## Irish Immigrants and Rockland's First Roman Catholic Church

As more and more Irish Catholic immigrants arrived in Haverstraw, the need for a Roman Catholic Church building became greater and greater. Masses were occasionally said in Haverstraw in people's homes. When they weren't, the only option for Catholics was to row across the Hudson to attend services at a Catholic church in Verplanck.

In 1847 a group of Irish immigrants purchased land behind the present St. Peter's Church intending to build a Catholic church and dedicate a cemetery. At first, vandals (presumably anti-Irish Nativists) came at night and destroyed any newly completed work on the church. The destruction finally ended when groups of Irishmen stayed overnight at the church armed with cudgels. The church served Haverstraw's Catholic community for more than two decades.



The Original St. Peter's Church Building



Workers from Thomas Malley's  
Brickmaking Company

After the Civil War, some Irish immigrants were able to move up from the laborer positions, lease brickyards and start their own brick companies. Bricks with Irish names on their facing like Lynch, Shankey, Malley, Reilly, and McGuire were now being baked in Haverstraw's brickyards. In fact, an 1883 listing of Haverstraw's brick companies shows more than a dozen Irish surnames.

Brick making allowed Irish immigrants to acquire wealth, social status and political power. A milestone in terms of social status for Irish immigrants was achieved in the early 1900s when the Reilly brickmaking family received permission from the residents on exclusive Hudson Avenue to live in a home on the north end of the street. They became the first Irish Catholic family to live there.

## Irish Political Power

After the Civil War, the descendants of Haverstraw's Irish immigrants gained more and more power locally and nationally.

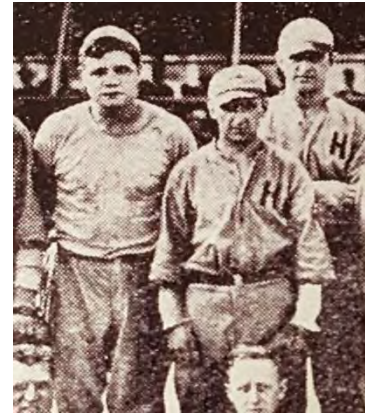
### Locally: Victor Shankey

Victor Shankey was Haverstraw Supervisor for more than a third of a century. He led Haverstraw through the difficult **Great Depression** days. He helped many Haverstraw residents by using his position on the Letchworth Village Board of Visitors to get them jobs at the facility. He was always known for quietly



A political cartoon of Victor Shankey

reaching into his own pocket to help Haverstraw residents in need. During Shankey's tenure as Supervisor, countywide decisions were made by a Board of Supervisors. For instance, the decision to create Rockland Community College was made by the Board of Supervisors in 1959. Shankey was Chairman of this group for 12 years.



Shankey (right) after playing baseball with Babe Ruth

### Nationally: James A. Farley



Farley and Franklin Roosevelt

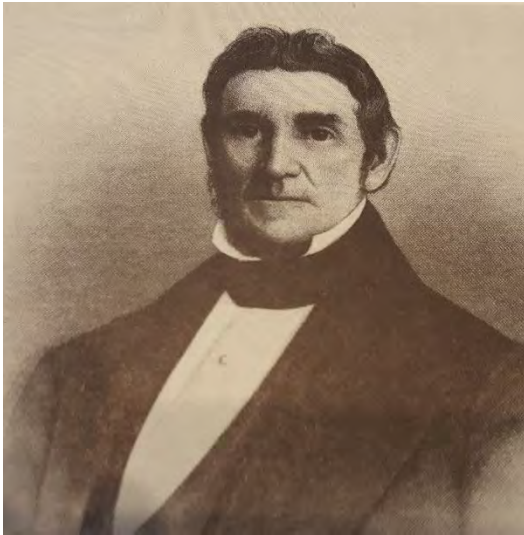
Jim Farley had strong connections to Haverstraw. His grandparents immigrated to Haverstraw from Ireland in 1847 or 1848. Both his mother and his wife were born in Haverstraw and Farley once lived at 72 Hudson Avenue. He did a lot of important behind the scenes work to help get Franklin Delano Roosevelt elected president of the United States in 1932.

As Postmaster General during the Great Depression, Farley had hundreds of post offices built throughout the United States including Haverstraw's on Main Street. This created thousands of badly needed jobs for Americans. Farley was the longest serving National Chairman of the Democratic Party.



Haverstraw Post office built in 1935 thanks to Jim Farley

## Noteworthy Irish Immigrant: David Munn



David Munn

David Munn was born in Northern Ireland in 1798. He immigrated to New York and started some of Haverstraw's early brickyards in Grassy Point.

Even though he was Protestant, David donated land and building supplies so a larger Catholic Church could be built on Broadway in Haverstraw. He did this for two main reasons. First, he knew a larger church would better serve the spiritual needs of Haverstraw's large Irish Catholic community.

Second, he didn't want Haverstraw's Civil War veterans who had sacrificed so much fighting to preserve the country to return from the war and face unemployment. So, Munn insisted that all the workers building the new church had to be Civil War veterans.

When the church was completed in 1869 it was one of the largest buildings in Haverstraw. The substantial structure became a symbol that Irish immigrants had become accepted in the Haverstraw community. **St. Peter's Church (on right)**





## German Immigrants

German immigrants began arriving in Haverstraw about the same time as the Irish immigrants. However, unlike the Irish who came to escape famine, the Germans came mostly for political reasons. In 1848, many Germans revolted seeking social reforms and a democratic government. The revolutions were violently put down with many Germans killed and many others fleeing the German states in disillusionment. German immigrants settled throughout Haverstraw Village. Apparently, there was a concentration of Germans who settled at the southern end of the village in the area now known as "Dutchtown." The name Dutchtown is probably a misnomer with the area originally known as "Duetschtown" with "Duetsch" being the German word for "German."



Some of the German immigrants took work in the brickyards probably because they lacked skills, but their numbers never approached the numbers of the Irish brickyard workers. However, the Felter family (original name probably Velta) came to Haverstraw from Germany in the 1780s and opened some of Haverstraw's early brickyards in the Grassy Point area.

Josiah Felter was a noted public servant. He was one of Haverstraw's longest serving Supervisors. He also served as the Rockland County Sheriff.



**Josiah Felter**

Many German immigrants came to America with skills and were able to avoid jobs involving manual labor. For example, in 1867 Frederick Mardorf opened a bakery which produced high quality goods for the next 150 years. Frederick and later his son Charles would often travel with their horse and cart making bakery deliveries as far away as Tomkins Cove. It is said that if Charles stayed



Charles Mardorf with horse and cart

too long at Adler's Bar, he could get on the horse, fall asleep and the horse would take Charles back to the bakery.



Mardorf's Bakery on Main St.

German immigrants in Haverstraw were active culturally. Beginning in 1857, a German Evangelical Lutheran Church held services at the corner of Middle and Third Street in Haverstraw. The congregation existed almost until the World War I years. They founded a German United Societies in Haverstraw in 1861.

## Noteworthy German Immigrant: William Meyer Sr.

Wilhelm Meyer came to Ellis Island by himself in 1898 as an 8 year old orphan from Westerwanna, a small town in northwestern Germany. He had just ten Marks in German money. Wilhelm could not speak any English when he arrived at Ellis Island. His name was changed to William probably by the officials at Ellis Island. He lived with his uncle who had a grocery store in Fishkill, New York. As a boy, William did chores around the store gaining an invaluable knowledge of the grocery store business. This informal training was William's only education.

William moved to Haverstraw and in 1910 he bought the grocery store that his uncle operated at the "Bank Corner," the intersection of Broadway and New Main Street. In an era before supermarkets like Shop Rite, the village grocery store was a vital part of the community. For much of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, **Meyer's Market** was more or less Haverstraw's supermarket.



**Bill Meyer, Wearing a White Jacket, in Front of His Store at Its Opening in 1910.**

In a time before there were swipe debit and credit cards, transactions between the grocer and his customers were often complicated. This was true since many customers worked seasonally and needed a line of credit during the months when they were not receiving a paycheck. This was especially true in Haverstraw where many residents worked in the brickyards which closed down during the winter months.

Bill Meyer greatly simplified these potentially complicated dealings by including a huge amount of trust in his transactions. At Meyer's Market there were no written contracts. A simple handshake was the only collateral Bill needed from a customer.

Bill was as generous as he was trusting, which was especially true during the Great Depression years. During these difficult times many customers tried paying for groceries with a bank check. Bill accepted the checks knowing full well they could be next to worthless because of all the Depression era bank failures. When asked why he accepted potentially worthless checks, Bill replied "What was I going to do? Let the customers go home without groceries and starve to death?" In a time when there was no welfare or Food Stamps, Bill was not overestimating the dire predicament these people faced. Meyer's Market was an essential part of the Haverstraw community for nearly 70 years.



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**and the LADIES AUXILIARY**

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*Preamble*

*The purpose of this organization shall be to further the Italian Culture through the promotion of good citizenship, the improvement of local conditions and the creation of more friendly relationships between the organization, its members and the community*

**The Officers & Membership of the  
Italian American Heritage Org of Rockland & the Ladies Auxiliary  
Wishes the Town of Haverstraw a Bright and Prosperous Future for many  
generations to come**

**In Memory of  
Supervisor Philip J. Rotella  
and  
Mayor Dominic “Babe” Gamboli**

# Italian Immigrants



In the 1880s, large numbers of Italian immigrants began arriving in the New York area. Like the Irish immigrants before them many were unskilled peasant farmers who were willing to work as manual laborers. Fortunately for them, by the 1880s many Irish had moved on from manual labor to more skilled work. For example, in Haverstraw many Irish immigrants who labored in brickyards were now running them.



De Feciani's Grocery Store 180 Broadway

It wasn't surprising that many immigrants from Italy arrived in New York City and then quickly made their way up the river to jobs as laborers in Haverstraw's brickyards. Although many of the immigrants who came to Haverstraw were from southern Italy, there were new arrivals from all parts of Italy. Most came because increasing populations in their home regions made acquiring land for a farm very difficult. Because their language and customs were different from "native" Americans Italian immigrants felt comfortable living with fellow countrymen. In Haverstraw many immigrants from Italy lived together in the northern part of Haverstraw Village by Warren and Westside Avenues and in the vicinity of Benson Street in West Haverstraw.



The **Pleasure Palace** might have been the Italian community's most unusual establishment. First opened by the Gizzis in the late 1920s on Broadway near St. Peter's Church, it provided a wide variety of entertainment including dancing, roller skating, bowling and billiards. Italian operas were sometimes performed there. During World War II, many recruits from Camp Shanks made their way to the Pleasure Palace before going overseas.



Haverstraw's Italian immigrants showed great religious devotion. In the late 1920s, they began holding a festival on Labor Day weekend on Warren Avenue to honor **Our Lady of Montevergine**. It often attracted about 25,000 pilgrims from the tri-state area. The main highlight of the festival was an open air mass said by a Bishop. The festival has continued into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



Chapel of Maria Santa Di Montevergine  
on Warren Avenue in Haverstraw

### **Italian American Patriotism**

Haverstraw's Italian American community has shown great patriotism. More than 30 men from Haverstraw of Italian descent served in World War I, including **Colozero Tronia** who gave his life serving his country. A plaque in St. Peter's Church listing parishioners who served in World War II lists over **250** men with Italian surnames.

### **Italian American Philanthropy**

Several Italian Americans from Haverstraw were well known for their outstanding generosity. Paul Mastromarino, who built many homes in West Haverstraw after World War II, made significant contributions to many charities and community organizations. For Phil Martino, it was said that he never turned down anyone who came to his butcher shop on Railroad Avenue looking for a charitable donation. Mayor "Babe" Gamboli worked tirelessly to start Haverstraw's Little League program.

### **Son of an Italian Immigrant: Phil Rotella**

Although a huge number of Haverstraw's residents were of Italian descent, for years they wielded little political power. This changed abruptly in 1963 when Philip Rotella, the son of immigrants from Calabria, was elected Supervisor.

Working long hours in the brickyards as a child left him little time for education and he never finished high school. As Supervisor, Mr. Rotella more than made up for any educational shortcomings with an amazing work ethic. He made a point of not being isolated in the Town Hall. Most days he spent hours going around Haverstraw in his car with its trademark Z-9 license plate looking for problems of any kind. His dedication to serving the people of Haverstraw was so great that he wouldn't take vacations. After years of trying, his staff finally convinced him to take a vacation, but the vacation ended abruptly when he got word that another



Town was trying to steal a power plant that was scheduled to be built in Haverstraw. He returned immediately and it was years before he took another vacation.

Mr. Rotella made himself extremely available to Haverstraw residents. He almost always took resident calls at home. He was accessible almost every Saturday morning at Seminara's barbershop on Railroad Avenue. During his time as



Supervisor, he faced unprecedented challenges. When he took office in 1964, Haverstraw's population was about 16,000 people. By 1980, it had doubled to about 32,000. Many aspects of the Town needed to be massively upgraded to accommodate the vast influx of new people. More police needed to be hired and three new schools were needed as well as dozens of teachers to staff them. Haverstraw needed a new Town Hall and Police Station. The sewer system needed a huge expansion and Town parks were needed.

**Phil Rotella (center) and his Town Attorney George Cobb inspecting sewer construction on Rosman Road in 1970**

In only about a decade, most of this was accomplished. Amazingly, it was done without a massive tax increase. This was possible because he was always extremely careful about how much money the town spent. He also received a huge source of tax revenue for Haverstraw when an energy company decided to build a power plant in the Town. By the time Mr. Rotella retired in 1998, Haverstraw had been transformed from a backwater Town into one of the New York metropolitan area's most significant suburban communities.



**Phil Rotella and Governor Mario Cuomo**

**Congratulations to the  
Town of Haverstraw  
on their Quadricentennial Anniversary!**

Thank you for your dedication and  
commitment to preserving Haverstraw's history.



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Mayor**

And the Village of West Haverstraw Elected Officials  
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ON 400 YEARS  
FROM HAVERSTRAW TRANSIT**



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**President, Paul Piperato**  
**ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH ROCKLAND**  
**P.O. BOX 10, GARNERVILLE, NY 10923**



*It has been an honor for our Rotary to be a part of the history of the Town of Haverstraw. Our support towards the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Clock is a small contribution to the history of this Town.*

*As the Town of Haverstraw built New York City, brick by brick, this town has provided a home for many immigrants who now are a part of the great mosaic of America.*

*Fulfilling the American Dream for the next 400 hundred years.*

*Congratulations to the Town of Haverstraw!*







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*Congratulations  
&  
Best Wishes for continued  
success  
On Your 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*The Officers and Members of  
Haverstraw Lodge #877*



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TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW  
ON YOUR 400<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!**

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*Rev. Raymond C. Caliman, Sr. Pastor*

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*Town of Haverstraw*

*Congratulations*

*On Your*

*Quadrcentennial Anniversary*

*May God continue to bless us*

*as we strive for the Victory*

*From the Pastor:*

*Teach us to walk in His Way. This church shall be firmly founded and well-built, and that those who find this house will come hither for instruction.*

*That a disposition of mutual peace and love will prevail for setting up of the kingdom of God.*

*That our swords will be beat into plowshares and that the gospel of Jesus Christ shall prevail.*

*We shall walk in the name of the Lord our God and acknowledge Him in all our ways.*

*Reverend Raymond C. Caliman,  
Senior Pastor*



**Happy Birthday to the Town of Haverstraw  
400 years and counting.....**



**The  
Haverstraw Fire Department**

**Protecting the Village of Haverstraw since 1854**

**Chief**

**Robert Drexler Jr.**

**Assistant Chiefs**

**Tom Price      John "Bart" Gordon**

**Perry Masiello      Michael Begbie**

**Rescue Hook & Ladder Co #1** "Service to All Without Fear or Favor"

**General Warren Emergency Co #2** "Ever Ready when Duty Calls"

**Relief Hose Co #3** "We Honor All and Fear None"

**Cosgriff Hose Co #4** "Lightning Strikes Before Thunder"

**Lady Warren Hose Co #5** "The Greatest Show on Broadway"

# *Knights of Columbus*



## **HAVERSTRAW COUNCIL 581**

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KofC581@yahoo.com

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"Serving the Catholic Church and the Community of North Rockland"  
Since May 30, 1901

William Freeman  
Mayor, Village of Haverstraw

Thomas Freeman  
Mayor, Village of Haverstraw

Thomas Lynch  
President, Village of Haverstraw  
Chief, Village of Haverstraw Fire Dept.  
1<sup>st</sup> Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus Haverstraw Council #581

John Lynch  
Brickyard Owner, Alderman

Patrick Lynch  
Brickyard Owner

Everett Phillips  
Entrepreneur - Phillips & Ibsen

Aloysius "A.J." Lynch  
Superintendent of Haverstraw School District

In Memory Of the Phillips, Freeman, Lynch, Burns and Kelly Families

With Love,

Howard, Arlette, Veronica, Thomas and William Phillips



## Slovak Immigrants

Between 1880 and 1920 about half a million Slovaks immigrated to the United States. Many Slovaks came to New York State and Haverstraw was one of the first Towns in New York where they settled. Most of the Slovaks came from Hrabusice Barreljov and Secovska Polianka in eastern Slovakia. The Slovaks settled mainly in three parts of Haverstraw. Many lived in the "Mud Hole," the present day site of the Haverstraw Harbors. Others lived by Calico Hill in Garnerville and a third large group lived in the neighborhood around St. Mary's Church. By the late 1800s, there were 250 to 300 Slovak families in Haverstraw. Most worked in the Haverstraw brickyards or the Garnerville dye factories.



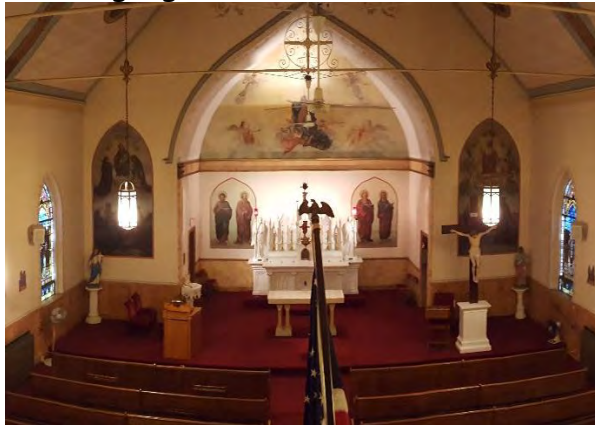
The Slovaks immigrated for two main reasons - economic and cultural. In the late 1800s, Eastern Slovakia experienced a large population growth and there was very little open area for young people to start farms for themselves. During the late 1800s, Slovakia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After 1875, the Hungarians began a program called Magyarization to keep the empire unified. Under this program, which was very similar to modern day ethnic cleansing, Slovaks were forced to learn Magyar, the Hungarian language. Schools that taught the Slovak language and culture were systematically closed. Slovak cultural institutions like Matica Slovenska were also closed down. Slovak journalists and civic leaders who protested Magyarization were arrested.

As a result, Slovaks coming to America were extremely anxious to practice their culture freely. They first did this by starting cultural societies. The first was the Society of St. Peter and Paul. The society took care of members' material needs by providing them with life insurance as well as funds if they were seriously ill or became unemployed. Even more importantly, the society allowed Slovaks to preserve their national identity and it was a principal reason for their survival as an ethnic group.

### The Slovak Church

In 1897, a group of Slovaks began planning to build a Slovak church in Haverstraw. A group of 35 investors each donated a substantial amount of their personal wealth to the project. The St. Peter and Paul Society added a substantial contribution from their members. Several Haverstraw brickyard owners including Reilly, Washburn and Lynch donated over 90,000 bricks to the project.

Despite all the contributions, there were still not enough funds to complete the church. So **John Stets**, one of the 35 original investors, tirelessly went door to door amongst Haverstraw's Slavic community collecting a few coins here and a few coins there to collect the remaining amount. The church opened in 1899. The Slovak community realized its goal by building a church where parishioners could use their own language and follow their customs.



The interior of the church



Church of St. Mary of the Assumption

### Haverstraw Slovaks and the Birth of the Slovak Republic

During the World War I era, many Slovak-Americans wanted an independent nation for Slovaks. Two Haverstraw Slovaks played key roles in the formation of the eventual Slovak nation. Many Slovak priests in America favored Slovak independence, but remained silent because they believed priests shouldn't speak out on political matters. At a meeting of these priests, **Father Blaznik** of Haverstraw made a strong speech convincing the Slovak priests to speak out for independence. Their influence helped turn the debate. In 1918, he signed the

**Pittsburgh Agreement**, a Slovak version of the Declaration of Independence. **Jednota**, a national Slovak organization in America, raised large amounts of money for Slovak independence. **Michael Semko** of Haverstraw was Jednota's treasurer. He worked tirelessly to raise most of this money. Semko was so influential that

President Woodrow Wilson once met with him at the White House about Slovak independence.





## Msgr. William Remy: Son of Slovak Immigrants

William Remy was born in New York City in 1895. His parents came to New York as immigrants from the Kosice region of Slovakia. William was ordained as a priest in 1921 and became the pastor of St. Mary's in Haverstraw in 1926. He remained as St. Mary's pastor for the next 45 years leading the parish for more than a third of its entire existence. He provided immeasurable spiritual guidance to his parishioners and many others in the Haverstraw community. In acknowledgement of his great service to his parish, the New York Archdiocese gave Father Remy the honored priestly title of Monsignor (Msgr.)

Msgr. Remy moved the young parish forward in many ways. Most likely because his parents' educations had been so restricted back in Slovakia, Msgr. Remy placed a great deal of importance on education. He dreamed of building a school across the street from St. Mary's Church where the church has its parking lot. However, the economic hardships of first the Great Depression and then World War II prevented his dream from being realized. So he worked to build a significant religious education program for the parish. He arranged for nuns to be brought to St. Mary's to teach religion classes. He also hired a bus which went throughout the Haverstraw area bringing students to their religion classes at St. Mary's.

Msgr. Remy believed his parish needed to be more than Masses said in the Church, so he worked tirelessly to develop parish activities. He helped organized sports teams for the parish's young people. In fact, the former boxer often played in pickup basketball games with young parishioners up until he was in his fifties. He probably took greatest pride in the parish's choir which frequently won competitions held throughout the archdiocese.

His help often extended beyond the walls of St. Mary's Church. He set up a credit union for St. Mary's parishioners. He frequently gave money from his own pocket to parishioners in need. This was especially true during the Great Depression years. His long years in Haverstraw allowed him to become significantly involved in many of Haverstraw's organizations. He often served as a fire department chaplain and was deeply involved in the Knights of Columbus.



## Jewish Immigrants



In the late 1800s, a large number of Jewish immigrants came to America. Some came for economic opportunity. Others were fleeing violent pogroms that attacked their communities in Russia and Eastern Europe. In the 1850s, a Jewish community



developed in Haverstraw. The first Jews came to Haverstraw as peddlers. Some stayed and started businesses most notably the **Baum Brothers** who had a store on Broadway for almost 60 years.

Many of Haverstraw's Jewish residents came together to hold religious services. At first, they were held in homes. Then on September 3, 1899, they opened the **Congregation of the Sons of Jacob** synagogue on Clove Ave. It was the first synagogue in Rockland County.

**Original Sons of Jacob Synagogue**

The 1906 landslide was especially devastating for the Congregation. Several congregants were killed by the disaster. The congregation's rabbi, **Elimelech Edlin** died trying to save fellow residents at the site of the landslide.

Part of the inscription on the rabbi's tombstone says:

*"Intelligent man, young in days. Comes from Russia. From a spiritual place. Every eye with tears on a loss of a precious soul from this disaster."*



**Rabbi Edlin's tombstone**

Young men from Haverstraw's Jewish community have always stepped forward in America's times of need. During the Civil War, **George Baum** served and was killed in the Battle of the Wilderness in 1864. During World War I, several members of the Sons of David congregation served including **Louis Rosenberg** who was in a medical unit. During World War II, an even larger contingent from the Jewish community served, including one congregant who was killed in the infamous Bataan Death March in the Philippines in 1942. During the Vietnam War, **Richie Korn** volunteered and saw extensive action in a helicopter unit.

## Noteworthy Immigrants: Louis Korn and Murray Goldfinger

**Louis Korn** was born in Wierchomla, a Town located in what is now Poland. Louis came to America in 1910 and his family opened a kosher butcher shop in Haverstraw later that year. Louis then opened a traditional grocery store



called the Premier Market. In 1938, Louis purchased an Irish Sweepstakes ticket from a customer. It seemed that his chances of winning



Louis Korn

were slim as the ticket gave him a horse in a big race that had only a **40 to 1** chance of winning. Somehow, the horse, *Battleship*, pulled off a huge upset win and Louis won **\$150,000**, a huge sum for that time.

Louis kept working at his store as if nothing had happened. Always known for his generosity, Louis used his winnings solely to help family members with large medical bills or college tuitions.

Perhaps his greatest generosity occurred after World War II. Two of his cousins, **Stanley Appel** and **Murray Goldfinger** wrote to Louis. They told him that they had been in the **Buchenwald** concentration camp. Fortunately, the camp was liberated by American soldiers. Both cousins were in a refugee camp and they asked Louis if somehow he could help them. Louis used some of his winnings to bring his cousins to the United States to live in Haverstraw.



Murray Goldfinger

**Murray Goldfinger** dedicated the rest of his life to being a **Holocaust witness**, giving hundreds of talks about his experiences. He has given several talks to students at North Rockland High School and Rockland County. Mr. Goldfinger has continued giving talks into his 90s.

**ALL THE BEST TO THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW  
ON YOUR 400TH ANNIVERSARY**



**COUNCILMAN HECTOR L. SOTO**



***THE UNITED LATIN FESTIVAL OF HAVERSTRAW  
CONGRATULATES THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW  
ON ITS QUADRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!***

***THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR  
SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS.***





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# ROCKLAND COUNTY POLICE HISPANIC SOCIETY

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[www.rcphs.org](http://www.rcphs.org)

**Wishing the Town of Haverstraw  
A Memorable event as they celebrate their  
Quadracentennial Anniversary**

**Congratulations on achieving a  
significant milestone in history**

**The Rockland County  
Police Hispanic Society  
Executive Board & Members**

**GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS AND GOD BLESS AMERICA**



***“Serving the Entire Community”***

## Latino Immigrants

In the 1950s and 1960s the first Spanish speaking immigrants arrived in Haverstraw from **Puerto Rico** and the **Dominican Republic**. They were recruited to work in the dye factories in Garnerville. The workers were compensated fairly so word went back to their homelands that Haverstraw offered economic opportunity. Later, Puerto Rican and Dominican immigrants found work at the chair factory and Hornicks in Haverstraw as well as the dye factories. Most of the Dominicans came from Tamboril, a village in the Santiago region in the northern part of the country. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Dominicans and Puerto Ricans were Haverstraw's two largest Latino immigrant groups.

Beginning in the 1990s, they were joined by immigrants from **Mexico**. Many of these immigrants come from the Puebla region near Mexico City, but others arrived from other parts of **Mexico** as well. Most of the immigrants came to Haverstraw seeking economic opportunity. Unlike previous immigrants, the Mexicans could not find unskilled work in places like the brickyards, the dye factory, or Hornicks. They have been able to make a living working in many areas including construction, landscaping and the restaurant business, to name just a few. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Mexicans were Haverstraw's third largest Latino group, but if trends continue they may become the largest sometime this century.



Part of the Mexican contingent in the United Latin Festival of Haverstraw

Since the beginning of the 21st Century, other Latino immigrants have arrived from other Central and South American countries. Immigrants from **Ecuador** have arrived from the Guayaquil and Quito regions. Immigrants from **Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia** and **Cuba** can also be found in Haverstraw.

Haverstraw's Latino population has increased dramatically. In 1962, the first Mass ever said in Spanish at St. Peter's attracted about 20 people. Today the

Spanish mass at St. Peter's routinely attracts more than 800 people. Census figures show that about half of the people in West Haverstraw and two thirds of Haverstraw Village's residents are of Latino descent.

As with other immigrant groups before them, Latino immigrants have become important politically at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Trustees with Latino background are members of the Haverstraw Town Board as well as both the Haverstraw and West Haverstraw Village Boards. In 2003, Roman Rodriguez, a Vietnam War veteran, became the first Latino from Haverstraw to serve in the Rockland County Legislature.

Latino immigrants have contributed significantly to Haverstraw's culture. Each summer a Latino parade which is held in Haverstraw Village attracts



Diablos Cojuelos at the Haverstraw Latin Parade

thousands. Participants dress in a wide variety of costumes that represent Haverstraw's various Latino groups. In addition, many Latino groups organize special religious processions in Haverstraw Village. On New Years' Day Ecuadorian's celebrate [La Virgen de la Nube](#) (Our Lady of the Clouds)

Later in January, Dominicans celebrate [La Fiesta de la Virgen de la Altagracia](#). In November Puerto Ricans honor [La Virgen de la Providencia](#) and in December Mexicans celebrate [La Virgen de Guadalupe](#).



Marchers in the Haverstraw Latin Parade



## Noteworthy Latina Immigrant: Ileana Eckert

Ileana Eckert was born in Havana, Cuba just before the Communist takeover in 1959. After her father's textile business was taken over by the Castro government, her family fled to the United States. In 1966, nine-year-old Ileana arrived in Haverstraw speaking no English. She attended Neary Elementary and Haverstraw Middle School before graduating from North Rockland High School in 1975. She became one of the first Latina females from Haverstraw to obtain a college degree when she graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas. After that, she began teaching Spanish speaking immigrants. She then held several administrative positions in the North Rockland Central School District.

In 2009, Ileana became the first female and Latin Superintendent of the North Rockland Central School District. North Rockland is one of New York State's largest school districts with over 8,000 students and a budget of well over 200 million dollars. Since 2009, both graduation rates and participation by high school students in college level courses has increased. During her tenure, North Rockland has provided its students with a well-balanced, comprehensive education. This was no small accomplishment by Ileana because during her tenure the school district faced unprecedented financial difficulties due to unfavorable court rulings concerning taxation. She greatly minimized these potentially devastating financial problems by reaching out to North Rockland's staff and convincing them to agree to compensatory savings. She also found innovative, cost-saving ways to pay some of the district's larger bills.

In 2015, Ileana decided to share her extensive educational expertise with all of Rockland County by becoming a member of the Board of Trustees at Rockland Community College.





Achievement  
**EveryDay**

DOMINICAN COLLEGE CONGRATULATES THE

**Town of Haverstraw**  
ON ITS QUADRICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

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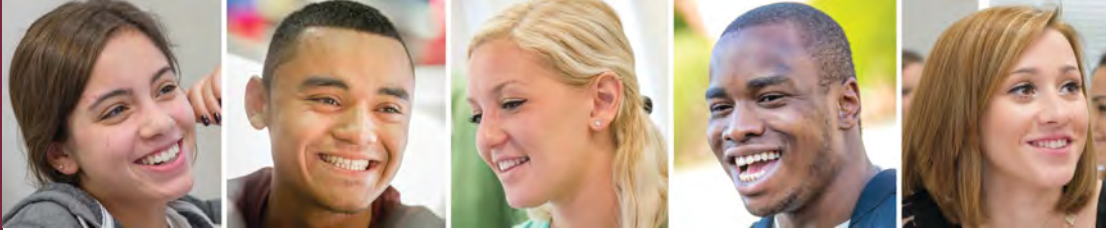


Margaret M. Fitzpatrick, S.C., Ed.D., President of the College  
and The St. Thomas Aquinas College Community

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YOU  
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## Haverstraw and the Arts

Through the years, Haverstraw has had a strong connection to the arts.



Nyack native Edward Hopper is considered one of America's best landscape artists. One of his best paintings is the *House By the Railroad*.



Many believe that Hopper used the the house at 18 Conger Avenue in Haverstraw as the model for his famous landscape. Amo Gagan, who lived in the house at the time *House by the Railroad* was painted, remembers frequently seeing a man with a painting easel near the house.



It is said that famed director Alfred Hitchcock used the house in Hopper's painting as the model for the Bates Mansion in his 1960 classic *Psycho*.





**Ray Heindorf** was born in Haverstraw in 1908 and graduated from Haverstraw High School. He arranged and composed music for Warner Brothers. He won three Academy Awards for Best Score in a Musical for his work on *This is the Army*, *Yankee Doodle Dandy* and *The Music Man*.

**George White**, a self-taught artist from Haverstraw, was well known for his landscapes.



**George White's Landscape of Maple Avenue**



**Christmas**, by **Cleo Crawford**, a nationally known "Primitive" artist from Haverstraw, is in the Sidney Janis traveling collection of the renowned St. Etienne Gallery in New York City. Crawford painted the piece in the late 1930s.



In the 1930s, Haverstraw's **Geneva Powell** and **Hattie Lassiter** often performed as jazz singers at the world famous Cotton Club and the Apollo Theater.



**Geneva Powell Singing in Calvary Baptist Church**



A large portion of the Garnerville Industrial Complex morphed into the **GARNER Arts Center**. Beginning in 2003, it has presented art and cultural exhibits in a unique historical setting - the old **Rockland Print Works** complex.



Part of an art exhibit presented at the **GARNER Arts Center** in 2011



**Ted Lucwiczak**, a nationally known sculptor, made faces out of stone for almost 40 years at his home in Dutchtown in Haverstraw. He once said, "Rocks talk to me. I pick the ones that have a face in them. Then I follow the shape of the stone. I can't wait to see how it will turn out."

## Lost Haverstraw

Unfortunately, some of Haverstraw's most interesting and impressive buildings have not survived into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Here are some of them:



The **Peck Mansion** stood on the present site of Samsondale Plaza in West Haverstraw. It was probably built in the mid-1800s and was torn down in the 1960s. It had two ballrooms.

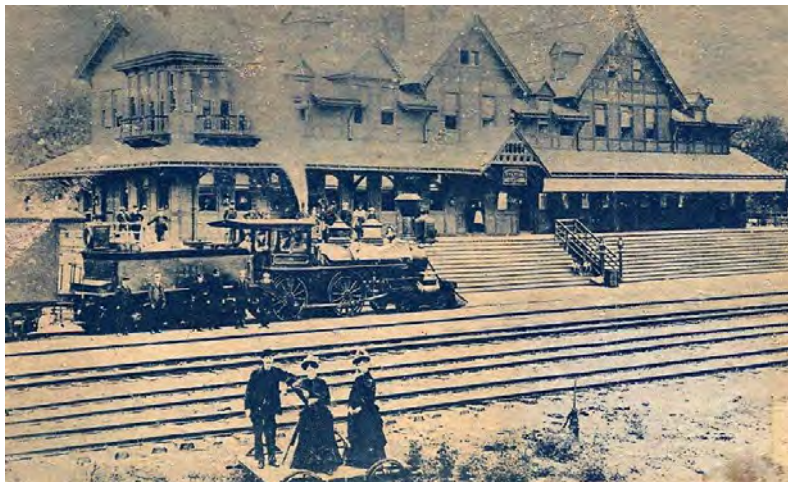


The **United States Hotel** stood on the present site of the Haverstraw Post Office. It was probably built in the mid-1800s and was torn down in the 1930s. Babe Ruth was one of the notable guests here.





The **Manhattan Theatre** stood on the present site of Volunteer Hose Company #2 on Railroad Avenue in West Haverstraw. It was probably torn down in 1919 just before the firehouse was built.



The **West Shore Railroad Station** was located near the intersection of Samsondale and Railroad Avenues in West Haverstraw. It was probably built in the mid-1800s and was destroyed by a fire in the 1940s.





The **Garner Mansion** stood near the northeast corner of Railroad Avenue and Route 9W in West Haverstraw. It was probably built in the mid-1800s and was torn down in the 1970s.



**Eckerson Field** was a baseball field that stood more or less on the playing fields of present day Haverstraw Elementary. Its grandstand was located near the present site of the community garden. Babe Ruth once hit a legendary home run here that landed near St. Peter's Church.



The **Majestic Theatre** stood on New Main Street in Haverstraw near the present site of the Haverstraw Village Hall.



Congratulations On 400 Years Of Serving This Community

From  
Pastor Gregory Merriweather  
and  
Calvary Baptist Church Members  
15 Clinton Street  
Haverstraw, New York



**HVERSTRW LITTLE LEAGUE SALUTES  
THE TOWN OF HVERSTRW  
ON ITS 400<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT  
OVER THE YEARS**



# Happy Quadricentennial to the Town of Haverstraw!



Congratulations for 400 wonderful years. I am extremely proud to represent a town with such rich history and heritage. I have enjoyed celebrating this momentous occasion with you and look forward to what is ahead in the coming years.

**Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski**

# Historical Markers in the Town of Haverstraw

## New York State Markers

<b>Brick Industry</b>	183 West Street, Haverstraw
<b>Calico Hill</b>	31 W. Railroad Avenue, Garnerville
<b>Cheesecoate</b>	428 Willow Grove Road, Thiells
<b>Colonel A. H. Hay</b>	Walnut Hill Apts. Rt. 9W, West Haverstraw
<b>Crossroads</b>	Rt. 9W and Railroad Avenue, West Haverstraw
<b>De Harte Patent</b>	79 N. Rt. 9W, Haverstraw
<b>Garner Works</b>	55 W. Railroad Avenue, Garnerville
<b>Haverstraw Historic Site</b>	25 Fairmount Avenue, Haverstraw
<b>Hudson River</b>	Front St and Elks Drive, Haverstraw
<b>Landslide</b>	Division and Rockland Streets, Haverstraw
<b>Samsondale</b>	40 S. Rt. 9W, West Haverstraw



## Historical Society of Rockland County Markers

- Treason Site**  
On trail app. 200 yards south  
of Riverside Ave, Haverstraw
- Flight 6231**  
Long Path near Lake Welch, Haverstraw
- Kurt Weil and Loretta Lenya**  
79 N. Rt. 9W, Haverstraw



Treason Site Marker

## National Register of Historical Places

- Fraser-Hoyer House** Rt. 9W, West Haverstraw
- King's Daughters Public Library** 85 Main Street, Haverstraw
- Rockland Print Works** 55 W. Railroad Avenue,  
Garnerville
- The Homestead** 143 Hudson Avenue Haverstraw
- United States Post Office** 86 Main Street, Haverstraw



Post Office Building

## Supervisors of the Town of Haverstraw

### Years as Supervisor

Cornelius Haring	1723-24
Jacobus Swartout	1725-27 & 30-34
Cornelius Kuyper	1728-29 & 1740
Garret Snedeker	1736-37
Adrian Onderdonk	1741-43
Guisbert Kuyper	1744-52 & 80-81
John Coe	1753-63
John De Noyelles	1764-71
Edward W. Kiers	1772-79
Tunis Kuyper	1782-85
David Pye	1786-91
Benjamin Coe	1792-1801
Samuel Smith	1802-05
Nathaniel Dubois	1806-7
Andrew Suffern	1808-9
Abraham De Camp	1810-11
Samuel Goetschius	1813-14 & 1821
Halstead Gurnee	1815-1817
James Taylor	1818-20
John I. Suffern	1822-23
Matthew Gurnee	1824-25 & 1828-29
Charles Smith	1826-27
Lawrence de Noyelles	1830-32 & 1834 & 1839-41
James de La Montagne	1832-33 & 1837-38
Jacob Hauptman	1835-36
Henry Christie	1836-42
John W. Felter	1842-46 & 1853-54



George de Noyelles	1847-52
Andrew De Baun	1855-56
Wesley J. Weyant	1857-58
William B. Knapp	1858-59
John L. De Noyelles	1860
Prince W. Nickerson	1861-63
John I. Cole	1863-67
Samuel C. Blauvelt	1868-74
Henry Christie	1875-76
John W. Felter	1876-79
Josiah Felter	1880-1903 & 1906-9 & 1912-15
Oscar E. Reynolds	1904-05
George W. Morley	1910-11
Herman M. Purdy	1916-25
Victor J. Shankey	1926-33 & 1936-63
John B. Lawson	1933-35
Philip J. Rotella	1963-1997
Thomas P. Lawless	1997- 2001
Howard T. Phillips, Jr.	2002 - Present

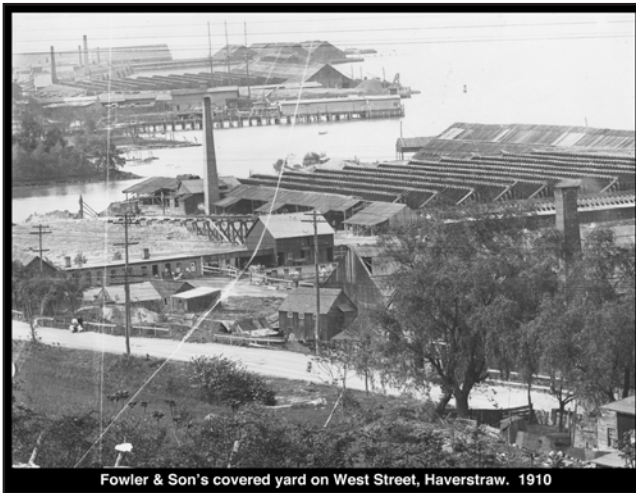
# HISTORICAL PHOTOS



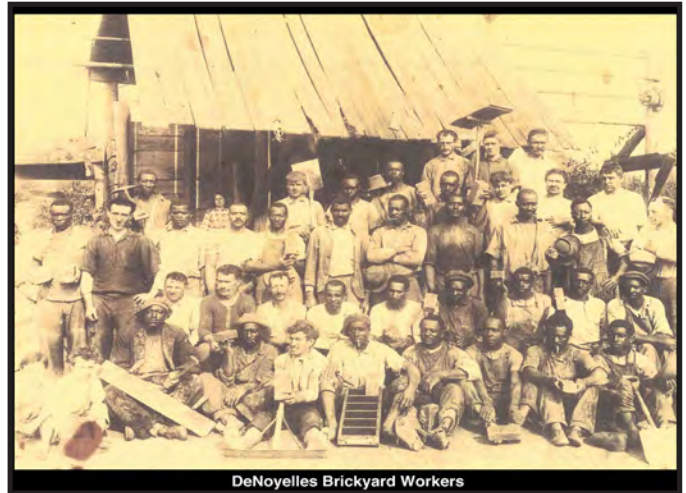
Warren Landing, Haverstraw c 1790 showing High Tor and short Clove



Short Clove from New City and Centenary looking forward North Rockland's Brickyards



Fowler & Son's covered yard on West Street, Haverstraw. 1910



DeNoyelles Brickyard Workers



Road before 9W was completed. Probably road from West Haverstraw to Stony Point.



Road later the basis for Route 9W. This area now Conger Avenue 1911



Route 9W being constructed, southern Haverstraw



THE PEOPLES BANK. C. 1910.





# HISTORICAL PHOTOS



Locomotive No. 25 West Shore Railroad Crossing - 1900



West Shore Railroad - Village of Haverstraw, 1905

Landslide January 8, 1906



The landslide looking toward Broadway in Haverstraw. The tower is St. Peter's Church



Front Street, Haverstraw



Crowd after accident at Westside Avenue



135-2 MAIN STREET—WEST FROM BROADWAY HAVERSTRAW, N. Y.



River Steamer Emeline moored at Rockland Prints works dock Main Street, Haverstraw. Ran from Haverstraw to Newburgh in about 1 hour and return.



Tugboat Solicitor of Cornell Steamboat line in placid Hudson waters off Verplanck's Point. Owned/operated by Capt Charles Weant of Haverstraw.



The Col. John F. Gaylor opening the Hudson by crushing 10 inches of ice. 1911



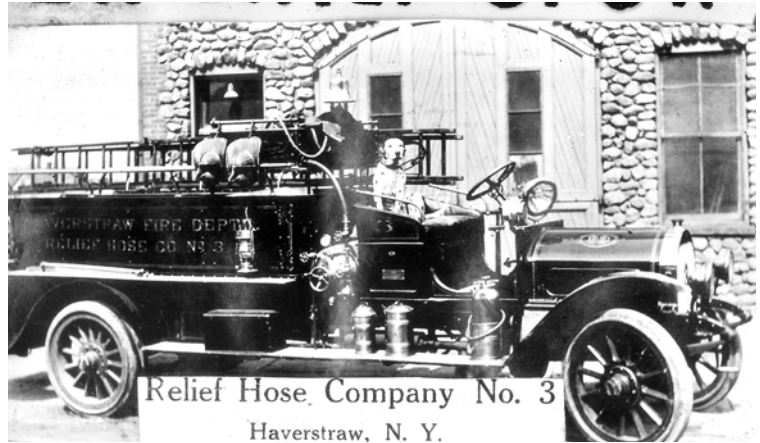
Tugs Eugene Hughes and Col. John F. Gaylor breaking river ice to facilitate tows of brick stone and ice to New York City. 1911



The mode of travel in Haverstraw, 1912



# HISTORICAL PHOTOS





# HISTORICAL PHOTOS



Saint Peter's Church at Christmas Time

Haverstraw High School



Police Officer Joseph Morano, Sergeant Jack Oldfield, Chief William Ecroyd, Sergeant Lawrence Burke, Police Officer Bill Pfeister



Robert F. Kennedy with Philip J. Rotella



Chief William Ecroyd with Robert F. Kennedy



The Rockland County Times, Haverstraw, N. Y., Thursday, August 28, 1975



PARK PROJECT IN FULL SWING — Frank Artigliato of Stony Point, an employee of Paddeck Pools, Inc., surveys the site for the foundation of the Town of Haverstraw's new pool being installed at the Bowline Point Park. The swimming pool and other recreational facilities are scheduled for completion by early spring. Photo by Bridget Leahy Ward



Groundbreaking in Haverstraw



Haverstraw Officials



# HISTORICAL PHOTOS



A divided room in Old Haverstraw School. The graduation picture taken in same rooms, 1908



Meyer Store at New Main Street and West Street, Haverstraw, 1910



Haverstraw High School, Miss Brown's Commercial Business Class 1908



Odd Fellows officers of local lodge



Schaefer's Market at North Broadway, Haverstraw, 1900



Hardware store on Broadway, Haverstraw



The Rehabilitation Hospital in West Haverstraw. Probably during the influenza outbreak during World War 1, 1918

Roman Catholic children with Father Blaznick, a noted priest of St. Mary's, Haverstraw



Women's Group



A scene from a play at Waldron's Opera House



Knights of Columbus banquet at Waldron's pera House 1920



Mr. & Mrs. Viohl with Babe Ruth



Parade, Main Street, Haverstraw, 1907



400th Anniversary of Columbus Discovery, Haverstraw, 1907



Breaking ground for Masonic Temple, New Main Street and Hudson Ave, Haverstraw 1914

Dedicating the Masonic Temple in Haverstraw 1914



The Babe with the Viohl Family



The Odd Fellows Lodge in Haverstraw - 1908



P.S.A.L. 1934-35  
Nov 9. Lost 5



Members of the Haverstraw Knights of Columbus baseball team of 1920 pose with Babe Ruth at versus Field (near the High School grounds). In back, left to right, are Jack Anderson, Frank Hessman, Schmitt, James F. Finney, Ruth, Richard A. (Gus) Shankley, Supervisor Victor J. Shankley, Jack Oly, John E. Cook, Thomas Shankley, Martin Hurley, and Vincent Lynch. Seated, from the left, are two Babe Ruth, Arlington, William J. Rogovsky, and Bert Arlington. In back is High Tax. Monmouth, N.J. Ruth giving a batting lesson to children from the New York State Reconstruction Home.



1934 Haverstraw High School



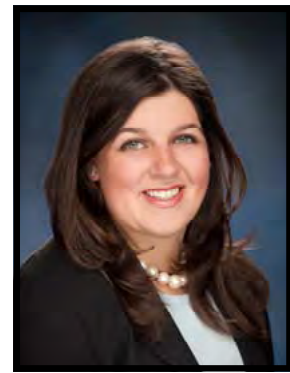
# Congratulations to the Town of Haverstraw on your Quadricentennial Anniversary



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Supervisor



**Frank Borelli**  
Councilman



**Stephanie Hausner**  
Councilwoman

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**Adrienne D. Carey**  
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## TIMELINE FOR QUADRICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION 2016\*

\*Dates and times are subject to change. Please call Town Hall at 429-2200 to confirm event date and time.



### Promotional Souvenir Items are Now For Sale at Town Hall

#### FEBRUARY

Mon. 22nd – 8:00 PM – Grand Opening Ceremony for 400th Anniversary Celebration at Town Hall w/ refreshments

#### MARCH

Sat. 12th – Noon to 4 PM – Exhibit Opening at Historical Society of "Dutchtown and Major Andre: Highlights of Haverstraw History" until May 15th  
Program with Speakers begins at 2:00 pm w/ reception – Exhibit open from Noon to 4PM every Wed.-Fri. and Sun. until May 15th

#### APRIL

Sat. 16th – Haverstraw History Walk with George Leahy (includes lunch) - \$39 per person; \$35 for Historical Society Members  
Space is limited – Reservations required by April 10th – Please call 845-634-9629 or visit [www.rocklandhistory.org](http://www.rocklandhistory.org) to reserve tickets.

Thurs. 21st - 7:30pm Sharp - Haverstraw 400 Lecture: The Brick Makers - A film screening and discussion with the filmmaker Jim Ormond  
You can reserve FREE tickets by sending an email to [info@rocklandhistory.org](mailto:info@rocklandhistory.org) or calling (845) 634-9629 - Space is limited – Reservations Required

#### MAY

Thurs. 19th – 7:15 pm Sharp - Haverstraw 400 Lecture: The Irish of Rockland – A discussion with historian George Leahy at the Historical Society in New City –  
You can reserve FREE tickets by sending an email to [info@rocklandhistory.org](mailto:info@rocklandhistory.org) or calling 845-634-9629 – Space is limited – Reservations Required

Fri. 20th - "Dutchtown and Major Andre: Highlights of Haverstraw History" Exhibit at Town Hall until June 10th  
Sat.-Sun 21st and 22nd – 11 am to 6 pm – GARNER Arts Festival – featuring Haverstraw artists, photographers and 400th Anniversary Exhibit  
Sun. 29th - Gather at Bowline at 11 PM Vietnam Veterans Memorial Watchfires lit at midnight

#### JUNE

Sat. 4th – Historic Bus Tour – Houses of Worship - \$69 per person; \$64 Historical Society Members

Sun. 5th – A Taste of Haverstraw in the Village of Haverstraw

Thurs. 9th – Tappan Zee Experience – Narrated Boat Tour from Haverstraw to TZ Bridge on paddle wheel boat – \$93 per person; \$88 Historical Society Members

Mon. 13th – 6:00 PM - Town Historian Stephen Cobb's Exhibit Opening on Haverstraw History and 400th Anniversary Exhibit at the King's Daughter's Library in Garnerville until June 24th

Thurs. 16th – 7:30 pm Sharp – Haverstraw 400 Lecture: The Brick Makers – A film screening and discussion with filmmaker Jim Ormond  
You can reserve FREE tickets by sending an email to [info@rocklandhistory.org](mailto:info@rocklandhistory.org) or calling (845) 634-9629 – Space is limited – Reservations Required

Fri. 17th – "Dutchtown and Major Andre: Highlights of Haverstraw History" Exhibit at Village Hall until June 24th

Fri. 17th -Dancing under the Stars in the Village of Haverstraw – Outside Haverstraw Village Hall

Sat. 18th – 1:00 PM -Juneteenth African American Park Dedication on Clinton St. with Jazz Performance

Wed. 22nd – Quadracentennial Student Contest due

Fri. 24th – 7:00 pm – 400th Anniversary Celebration with the Rockland Boulders vs. Cuban National Team at Palisades Credit Union Park

Sun. 26th – 2:00 pm – 400th Anniversary Celebration with the Rockland Boulders vs. Cuban National Team at Palisades Credit Union Park

#### JULY

Fri. 1st – "Dutchtown and Major Andre: Highlights of Haverstraw History" Exhibit and showing of the DVD from the Association of the Blauvelt Descendants  
at Haverstraw King's Daughters Library in Garnerville until July 30th

Sat. 2nd – Independence Day Celebration with Fireworks & Special Concert

Wed. 13th – The Tappan Zee Experience - \$93 per person; \$88 Historical Society Members

Fri. 17th – "Dutchtown and Major Andre: Highlights of Haverstraw History" Exhibit at the King's Daughters Library in Garnerville

Mon. 18th – 7:00 pm – Historic Haverstraw Postcard presentation by Larry Kigler at Haverstraw King's Daughters Library in Garnerville

Thurs. 21st – 7:15 PM - Community Conversations about Immigration at the Historical Society in New City – Space is limited – Reservations Required

#### AUGUST

Date TBA – Haverstraw Brewery opens to the public at GARNER Arts Center

Fri. 5th – 8:00 pm - Dancing Under the Stars in the Village of West Haverstraw – Outside Babe's Restaurant on Railroad Ave.

Sun. 7th - 6th Annual United Latin Festival of Haverstraw

Sat. 13th – Haverstraw Town Bus Tour - \$69 per person; \$64 Historical Society Members

Fri. 19th – Dancing Under the Stars in Village of Haverstraw - Outside Haverstraw Village Hall

Sat. 20th – 7th Annual Town of Haverstraw Air Show hosted by the Hudson Valley Radio Control Club

Tues. 30th – The Tappan Zee Experience - \$93 per person; \$88 Historical Society Members

#### SEPTEMBER

Fri. 2nd – "Dutchtown and Major Andre: Highlights of Haverstraw History" Exhibit at Haverstraw Brick Museum until Sept. 29th – Exhibit Reception on Sept. 11th at 2:00 pm

Sun. 4th – 5:00 pm - Labor Day Concerts at Bowline – The Park Opens to the Public at 4:00 pm

Sat. 10th – 1:00 pm – SW Johnson's 140th Anniversary Celebration & hosting of the 104th Annual Rockland County Volunteer Firefighter's Parade

Fri. 16th – 6:00 pm – Grand Opening Ceremony of the Industrial Arts Brewing Company at the Garnerville Arts and Industrial Center

Fri. 16th – 6:30 pm - Dancing Under the Stars in West Haverstraw on Railroad Ave. & Bridge St. outside the Garnerville Arts and Industrial Center

Sat. 17th – 8:45 am – Haverstraw Historic Cemeteries Tour - \$69 per person; \$64 HSRC Members – Space is limited – Reservations Required

Sat. 17th – 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm – Third Annual Haverstraw River Arts & Music Festival at Emeline Park

Week of 19th – Schooner Pioneer Coming to Haverstraw for Tours with Local Elementary Schools

Sat. 24th – 6:30 pm – Brick Alley Block Party at GARNER Arts Center with live music and exhibitions - \$12 per person – More info at [www.garnerartscenter.org](http://www.garnerartscenter.org)

Sun. 25th – 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM – Rendezvous with Treason: The Arnold, Andre Event with dinner at the Haverstraw Elks

Doors Open at 1:30 pm - Space is limited – Reservations required by Sept. 6th

#### OCTOBER

Sat. 1st – 11:00 am - "High Tor" Film Screening & Panel Discussion at Lafayette Theatre in Suffern – \$69 per person, \$64 HSRC members – Reservations Required by Sept. 15th

Sun. 2nd – 2:00 pm – Presentation by Brian Blauvelt and Showing of Assoc. of Blauvelt Descendants DVD along with Dutchtown panels on display at King's Daughters Library in Garnerville

Sat. 15th – 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM - Haverstraw Historic Homes & Landmarks Tour - \$40 In Advance; \$45 on Day of Tour – Prepaid Reservations Strongly Recommended

#### NOVEMBER

Mon. 14th – 8:00 pm – Student Quadracentennial Contest Awards Presentation at Town Board Meeting

Fri. 18th - 7:30 pm – 10:00 pm - Motown Revue Concert featuring the 747 Orchestra at North Rockland High School auditorium

Sat. 19th – 8:45 am – Haverstraw Pipe Organs Tour - \$69 per person; \$64 HSRC Members – Space is limited – Reservations Required

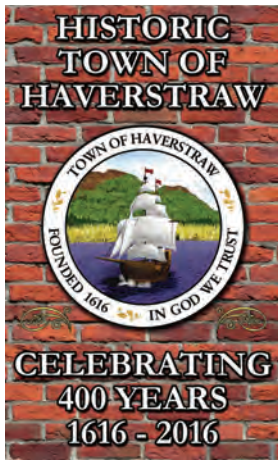
Mon. – 28th – Deadline for Journal Ads for the Quadracentennial Commemorative Journal

#### DECEMBER

Date TBA - Closing Ceremony with Anniversary Clock and Time Capsule Dedication outside Town Hall



# Quadrcentennial Celebration Opening Ceremony





# Quadricentennial Celebration Opening Ceremony





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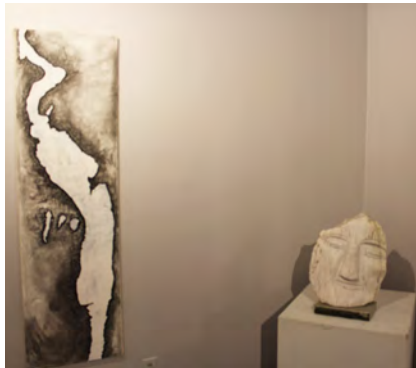


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400th Anniversary Commemorative Journal

# Dutchtown and Major Andre: Highlights of Haverstraw History Exhibit





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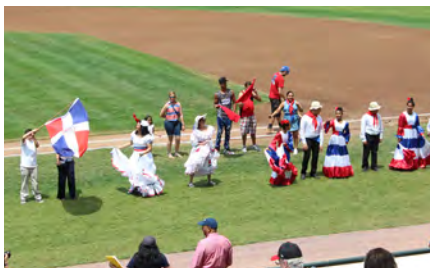
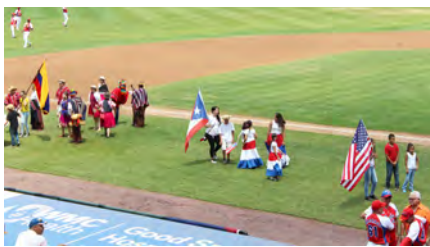
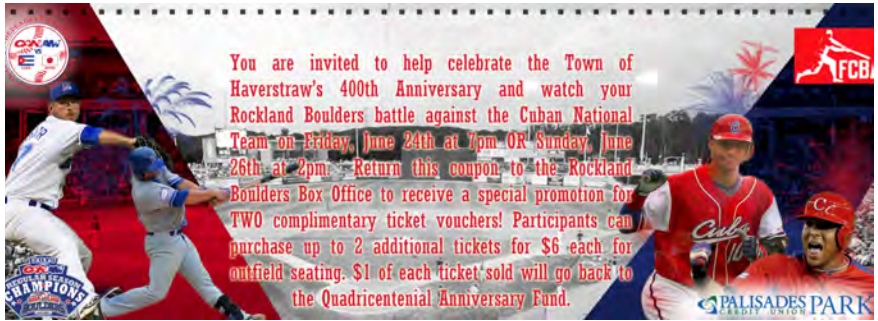
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# 400th Anniversary Celebration with the Rockland Boulders vs Cuban National Team



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# Town Historian Stephen Cobb's Haverstraw History Exhibit





# Juneteenth Celebration and African American Park Dedication





# Dancing Under The Stars







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# Independence Day Celebration at Bowline Point Park





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# 6th Annual United Latin Festival of Haverstraw





# 7th Annual Town of Haverstraw Air Show

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**Rev. Dr. Domingo Rodriguez Diaz**  
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**Rev. Betsy Rodriguez**  
Associate Pastor

# SW Johnson's 140th Anniversary Celebration and hosting of the 104th Annual Rockland County Volunteer Firefighter's Parade





# Haverstraw RiverArts and Music Festival





# Schooner Pioneer Tour with Elementary School Students



# The Hokulea Visits Haverstraw







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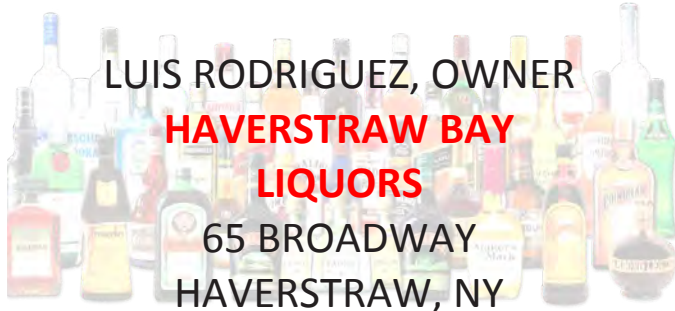


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# Rendezvous with Treason: The Arnold, Andre Event





# Great Photos from 2016





# Great Photos from 2016



Hudson River



Haverstraw Marina





# Great Photos from 2016





# God Bless America



Civil War Monument 1913



9-11 Memorial



In Memory of Manny Lopez







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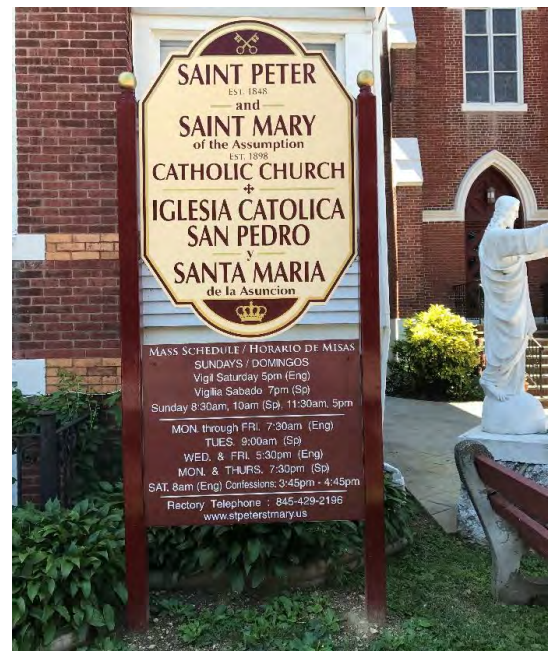
Prayers and Good Wishes to  
Supervisor Howard Phillips and our Friends at  
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as they celebrate pride and gratitude  
in their heritage and 400 year history 1616-2016  
From all of us at the  
Church of St. Gregory Barbarigo, Garnerville



The Reverend Joseph P. LaMorte, Pastor

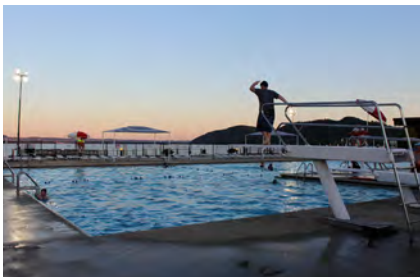


ONWARD  
TO OUR  
5<sup>TH</sup>  
CENTURY  
WITH  
HOPE





# Great Photos from 2016





# 400th Anniversary Concert at North Rockland High School



© 2016 Charles Norfleet Photography



## 400th Anniversary Clock







## **Congratulations Haverstraw on your 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

From all the volunteers, donors, and supporters of Habitat for Humanity of Rockland who are working together with Haverstraw and all of Rockland County to eliminate substandard housing

*Thanks for your support!*

If you would like to help with a donation of building materials, a contribution, or to volunteer

845-354-5635  
[www.HFHR.org](http://www.HFHR.org)  
[cmccullagh@hfhr.org](mailto:cmccullagh@hfhr.org)



Habitat for Humanity of Rockland P.O. Box 329 Spring Valley, NY 10977 845-354-5635



Stephen Cobb became Haverstraw Town Historian in 2009. He has been fascinated by Haverstraw's history since first hearing the story of Benedict Arnold and Major Andre as a young boy back in 1967. He thoroughly enjoyed the task of trying to recount Haverstraw's long and illustrious history for this commemorative journal.





The 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Haverstraw in 1616 led to the planning of numerous events during the course of the year. Many of these events are included in the pages in this journal. The planning, coordination and implementation of these events would not have been possible without the concerted efforts and diligence of the Quadracentennial Anniversary Committee. If you take a look at the Timeline for the Quadracentennial Anniversary Celebration, you will see that there were numerous incredible events and a very exciting year! We are very grateful to the Quadracentennial Anniversary Committee for their ideas and energy to make 2016 a year to remember.

### Quadracentennial Anniversary Committee

Anthony Accomando • Wilbur Aldridge • Anna Badenchini • Mary Behn • Eileen Bookman  
 Anthony Bosico • Robin Brooks • Karen L. Bulley • Andrea Caccuro • Isidro “Papo” Cancel  
 Pat Cancel • Nancy Casey • Paul Cleary • Joe Cobb • Milagros Cobb • Stephen Cobb  
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 Robin Rosenberg • Larry Singer • Hector L. Soto • Roberto Tiburcio • George Tooma  
 Magdalena Truchan • Rosa Urena • Raquel Ventura • George E. Wargo, Jr. • Katie Welsh

**MAY GOD CONTINUE TO SHED HIS GRACE ON THEE**



**The Honorable  
HOWARD T. PHILLIPS, JR., SUPERVISOR  
AND  
THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**ISIDRO CANCEL  
VINCENT J. GAMBOLI  
JOHN J. GOULD  
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MICHAEL GRANT  
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COUNCILMAN  
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LEGISLATOR  
LEGISLATOR  
TOWN CLERK  
SUPT. OF HIGHWAYS  
RECEIVER OF TAXES  
TOWN JUSTICE  
TOWN JUSTICE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY CLERK**



**- HAVERSTRAW-  
HOME OF  
THE BRICKS THAT BUILT NEW YORK  
THREE MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS  
WHERE HENRY HUDSON DOCKED THE HALF MOON  
GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON'S TROOP ENCAMPMENTS  
THE 95<sup>TH</sup> CIVIL WAR REGIMENT FLAG CARRIED AT GETTYSBURG**