



# Prologue

“The past is prologue”

## JULY 2023

*Welcome to the JULY '23 all digital Hurley Heritage Society Prologue!*

### Greetings from Main Street



The Hurley Heritage Society has had an exciting start to the 2023 season. In May we hosted *Professor Louie and the Crowmatix* at the Hurley Reformed Church. A packed house was once again treated to a night of fabulous music by this Grammy nominated local favorite. If you missed the concert, we have several of the band's CDs available in the gift shop.

The Museum opened on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> with our two new exhibits, POST OFFICES OF HURLEY 1837 TO THE PRESENT and EAGLES NEST: EXPLORING THE MYTHS AND REALITY. Our opening reception was well attended, and the exhibits have brought many first-time visitors to the Museum. The post office exhibit includes a representation of a vintage post office constructed with actual parts of our Hurley post office. You might even see your name still on the sorting station that was used in the Main Street Post Office and is on loan through the generosity of Katie Greaves and Alex Perfect. Bring the kids who get to open a vintage mailbox and receive a gift.

The Annual Spring Plant Sale was another huge success. This year in addition to the pre-orders we had some extra plants for sale. Thank you Flo Brandt, Pat Findholt, Barbara Zell and Cathy DuMond for organizing this and to everyone who came to help distribute the plants on distribution day. Be sure to put in your orders for The Annual Mum Sale this

October.

We are beginning to plan for our Annual Online Action. Some of the most popular items have been representative of life in Hurley, many donated by our members. If you have any items you would like to give a new home, you can contact me to donate.

Your membership is important to us. As a not-for-profit organization, the Hurley Heritage Society relies on the support of its members to carry out our mission and grow, Currently your donations are making it possible for us to restore our porch which has fallen into disrepair. We plan to have it completed and ready to host events in August.

In closing, THANK YOU to our members, volunteers and community. It is through your generosity and support that we continue to grow. All gifts to the Hurley Heritage Society, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization are tax deductible,

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## 2023 Hurley Heritage Society Calendar of Events



### 2023 Hurley Heritage Society Fall/Winter Calendar of Events

**Sept 22-23**            **Mum sale pick up**  
(orders to be placed 1-2 weeks in advance)

**Oct 9 - Nov 3**        **Hurley Scarecrow Invasion**

**Oct 18 – 29**         **HHS Autumn Auction**

Nov 25-26

Annual Holiday sale at the Museum

Herbal Wreath workshop with Ellen Richards - check website for dates

Library/Children's Events - check website for scheduled events

Hurley Walking Tours - Available on 4th Sunday of the month at 2pm May - Oct

**MUSEUM HOURS:**

**Open May 5th through October 29th**

**Saturday - Sunday 1-4pm**

Free and open to the public; donations welcome

For almost 50 years, the Hurley Heritage Society has maintained and operated the Hurley Museum, which continues to be open and free to the public. We are an all-volunteer organization with a mission to protect and preserve materials, documents and artifacts pertaining to the Hurley area, and raise awareness and educate the public of the town's special heritage through events, lectures, programs, lectures and community initiatives.

## OPENING DAY 2023

We had a great turnout for our opening reception of the 2023 season of the Hurley Heritage Society Museum on May 6th! Introducing two new exhibits:

**POST OFFICES OF HURLEY: 1837 TO THE PRESENT**

and

**EAGLE'S NEST: EXPLORING THE MYTHS AND REALITY**

The museum will be open thru the end of October, Sat and Sun 1pm to 4pm. Free and open to the public





## Museum Porch Gets Needed Facelift



You may have noticed recently that the Hurley Heritage Society Museum's back porch is undergoing some long needed repairs. New screening along with replacement of beams, painting and more. When done the porch will be better than ever and ready for hosting events!

If you would like to help us in this project by contributing to the repairs of the porch and maintenance of the museum, you can donate online! Any amount is always appreciated!

DONATE

# Meet Leigh Wray Retired Postmistress



In July the Hurley Library hosted a family story time featuring the subjects of mail and the post office. Following the story hour, the families visited the Hurley museum. Retired Hurley postmistress Leigh Wray was on hand to greet them, answer questions, and assist in opening the vintage mailboxes to get their 'mail'. Leigh retired from the post office after 17 year of service, the last 12 in Hurley.

She has retired to Arkansas but still spends summers here. We were happy to have her as part of our continuing celebration of the Post Offices of Hurley!

## HHS ONLINE LECTURE

### Imagining Colonial Women in the Hudson Valley

*Presented by Susan Ingalls Lewis, Professor in History  
at SUNY New Paltz*



## STEREOTYPES OF COLONIAL WOMEN

- Interior
- Domestic
- Meek and mild

On March 23rd of this year, the Hurley Heritage Society hosted a lecture on New York's colonial women. [This lecture is available to view online for free](#)

Colonial era women ranged from indigenous people to those of Western European descent (Dutch, English, French, Belgian, and German, among others) – from religious refugees to enslaved Africans to capitalists. As in all periods, age and marital status also created diversity among women. Beginning with an overview of Colonial New York, this talk focuses on the many ways in which women shaped the history of the Hudson Valley between 1609 and 1775. We end with a short addendum on New York women's experiences in the American Revolution.

This Hurley Heritage Society lecture was presented by Susan Ingalls Lewis, Professor Emerita in History at SUNY New Paltz.

[VIEW LECTURE](#)

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!**

## The HHS Annual Mums Sale

The Hurley Heritage Society will have our annual Chrysanthemum Sale in September! The plants will be from Boice's Farm and promise to be outstanding as usual. All proceeds help support the HHS Museum and grounds.

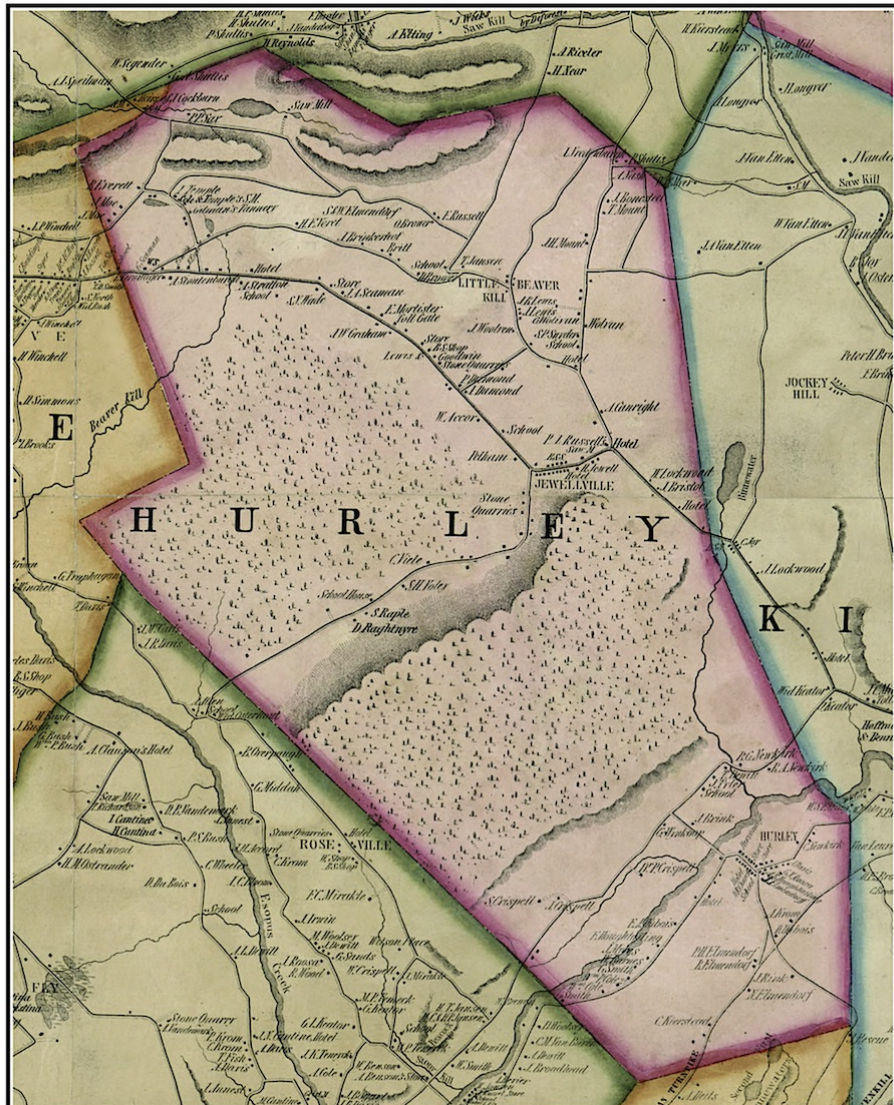
Stay tuned by visiting our website ([hurleyheritagesociety.org](http://hurleyheritagesociety.org)), your email, or for notices posted around town for dates

and order forms. Further questions may be directed to Pat Findholt at 845-338-3137.



# Hurley - A Brief History

Hurley 1853



Just after the Revolution the western area of the town, called the Hurley Patentee Woods, was subdivided and settlement rapidly occurred, generated in a large part by the discovery of easily worked sandstone called "bluestone" which was ideal for sidewalks and curbing. This industry continued until the late 1890s. In the southern part of town, now the Town of Rosendale, new settlements appeared with the building of the Delaware and Hudson Canal and the development of the cement industry. During that same period the old section of town, depending on its production of grains, fell into a depression as the price of grain sharply declined with the building of the Erie Canal. The local agricultural products quickly changed to raising sheep and cattle, with the emphasis on milk and milk products. Pot cheese (similar to cottage cheese) was produced in such quantity that it was rumored that there were cheese mines in the hills

In keeping with its volunteer militia past, over 175 men from the town volunteered for duty during the Civil War, participating in all parts of the conflict. One resident, Charles Dumond, survived the horrors of Andersonville, while Corporal August Kauss is the only known resident to receive the Medal of Honor.

The Town, was visited by such notables as Governor Clinton, General Washington, Washington Irving, Senator Van Buren, and artist Winslow Homer, who used the area as the setting for several of his paintings and wood engravings of the 1870s.

In 1906 the valley of the Beaverkill, in the Patentee Woods area of the town, was purchased by the New York City Water Department, and the Ashokan Reservoir was created. Eight hamlets, four of them in Hurley, were razed in its creation. William Saxe, a local landowner, purchased two large parcels of land for the resettlement of the refugees. The first settlement became the core of the present hamlet of West Hurley, and the second was along the Esopus Creek and is now called Riverside. Glenford was relocated by T. Sherman Lennox when he opened a general store at the foot of Lennox Lane and the old Boulevard (old Route 28) in 1913.

Today the Town of Hurley is a rural/suburban community, principally noted for its quiet neighborhoods, large farms on the floodplain of the Esopus, and the Historic District with its ties to a very vibrant past. Until recently, nearly all of the 3000 acres of fields were planted in sweet corn which inspired a Hurley annual Sweet Corn Festival for 30 years. Twenty-six stone houses, from one-room cottages to two-story buildings, dot the landscape of the town. The majority of the stone houses are privately owned. You can take a self-guided walking tour of the stone houses ([download brochure](#)), or take one of the HHS's monthly [walking tours](#).

## **Hurley Heritage Society Walking Tours**

The Hurley Heritage Society will once again be offering walking tours of Historic Main Street on the Fourth (4th) Sunday of the month, May-Oct.

Knowledgeable guides will share unique stories, as you view the exteriors of stone homes 230-330 years old in this National Historic Landmark.



Tours begin at the HHS Museum, 52 Main Street, Hurley at 2PM. Admission \$5, children under 12 free. For more information and to purchase tickets please visit [hurleyheritagesociety.org](http://hurleyheritagesociety.org).

## CREATING A HISTORIC GARDEN AT THE COL. JONATHAN P. ELMENDORF HOUSE



When the Hurley Heritage Society was founded in 1974, one of its goals was to purchase a historic house for use as a museum. That goal was finally achieved in 2000 when the Col. Jonathan P. Elmendorf stone house at 52 Main Street, c. 1790, was purchased by the Society.

Some initial landscaping work was done to make the house more visible from the street, i.e., shrubs and trees were removed. In 2003 the Hillside Acres Garden Club, spearheaded by members Pat Seimeca and Virginia Murphy, applied for and secured a \$500 grant from the Principal Financial Group through the Federated Garden Club of New York. The grant was set up to support volunteer gardeners in preserving and creating gardens, especially in historic places. It was a perfect fit for our needs! The Hillside Acres Garden Club and the Hurley Heritage Society each added \$250 to the grant.

Before work commenced, research on plantings appropriate to 1790 was conducted by Ulster County Master Gardeners Marie Ianotti and Cheryl Alloway. They made a site plan and gave the garden club a list of plants that would have been growing here in 1790. Over that winter, the garden club sourced nurseries for the appropriate plants and the actual digging and planting by the club began in the spring of 2004. Among the things planted were autumn clematis, oak leaf hydrangeas, Dutch irises and Rembrandt tulips.

Every Dutch home of that era had an herb garden and the club decided to replicate one behind the museum. The herb garden was designed into four quadrants for each of the following types and uses: medicinal, cooking, dyeing and decorative. Initially, only herbs that would have existed here in 1790 were planted, i.e., dill, parsley, artemisia, thyme, but over time, newer varieties have been added.

Over the years, upkeep of the garden has been undertaken by HHS members with the help of the Ulster County Alternative Sentencing Work Crew. The herb garden is in full bloom now and is open anytime for people to visit. Come and smell the herbs!!



## News from the gift shop



When you visit the Hurley Heritage Museum (open Saturdays and Sundays, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.) be sure to stop in the Museum gift shop, where you'll find some special new gifts, plus your favorite items.

We're excited to offer three beautiful new prints by renowned local artist Judy Howard—*Path Through History*, *Viola's Front Porch*, and the *Hurley Reformed Church*. Thanks to a generous donation from local artist Cindy Gill Lapp we have some great tee-shirts that showcase her 1662 Hurley painting. Also new to the shop are Col. Jonathan Elmendorph House flexible magnets. You'll find three new books—*How the Post Office Created America*, *New York State's Covered Bridges*, and *Remarkable Women in New York*



## State History

And, of course, we have your favorites: Hurley rooster mugs, Hurley ball caps, Hurley tee-shirts, porcelain Hurley houses, and Hurley books by Deana Decker.

And for fans of Delft porcelain, the shop's wide selection of **vintage and reproduction Delft will be on sale for 20% off for the month of August**. You won't want to miss this great sale!

We look forward to seeing you at the Museum and the gift shop when we open in May.



## Volunteer Spotlight Amy del Aguila

Meet Amy del Aguila! Amy has done an outstanding job of creating children's and family events for Hurley Heritage Society and serving as liaison with the Hurley Library for joint programs. Through Amy's creativity and inspiration, in 2022 HHS offered: 1) a Tea Party on the HHS lawn, preceded by a Tea Party Story Time at the Hurley Library, and 2) Cider and Stories, that also included an art project. Most recently, participants in the Library's Mail Themed Story Time toured HHS's new "Post Offices of Hurley, 1834 - Present Exhibit." The kids had a great time writing post cards, opening the old-fashioned mailboxes to find surprises, and interacting with our "Honorary Postmistress," Leigh Wray.



And Amy brings with her a wonderful helper— Grace, her eight-year-old daughter. Grace jumps right in to help at HHS's children's events. Amy's enthusiasm is contagious, and we applaud her dedication to The Hurley Heritage Society and the youth of our community.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



If you have a passion for Hurley and local history and are looking for a way to get more involved in the community, the Hurley Heritage Society offers many opportunities!

Founded almost 50 years ago, our mission is to preserve, protect, educate and celebrate the town of Hurley's unique heritage. We are an all-volunteer organization, and sponsor a variety of activities

including walking tours of historic main street, our popular ZOOM lectures on local culture and history, children's activities in partnership with the Hurley library, and informative demonstrations.

We also operate the Museum which remains free and open to the public, and houses the Dutch room and a gift shop. This year we will also unveil 2 exciting new exhibits. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors when the museum is open on weekends, volunteer in our gift shop, assist with events, and maintain our collections, the museum, and grounds.

Volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested in learning more, please go to the volunteer link on the **HHS website** or call us.

### Help Grow the HHS' *Heritage Walk*

Our Heritage Walk, located on the front lawn of the Museum grounds, is growing with the recent additions of several new bricks. Each brick is sponsored by member donations, with their



names inscribed onto the brick and added to our growing Walk.

You can show your support for by sponsoring a brick for \$125 in your or your family's name or to honor someone close to you.

The inscription may be composed with as many as four lines of eighteen characters. If interested, please contact Wally Cook at (845) 338-2193 or send an email to [wally.cook@gmail.com](mailto:wally.cook@gmail.com).

## MEMBERSHIP



If you would like to renew your membership or become a new member, please use the form below or [\*\*join through our website.\*\*](#)

As an all volunteer organization, membership dues enable us to maintain our museum building and continue to provide activities for the community and visitors to beautiful historic Hurley.



Please help by sending your tax-deductible donation to:

Hurley Heritage Society  
PO Box 1661  
Hurley, NY 12443

Dues and donations can also be made ONLINE:  
<https://www.hurleyheritagesociety.org/join/>

Membership levels:

Single	\$30
Family	\$40
Patron	\$175
Lifetime Supporter	\$300
Donation	_____

For timely email updates on HHS activities and our quarterly Prologue, please provide your email address.



Hurley Heritage Society | 52 Main St , Hurley, NY 12443

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