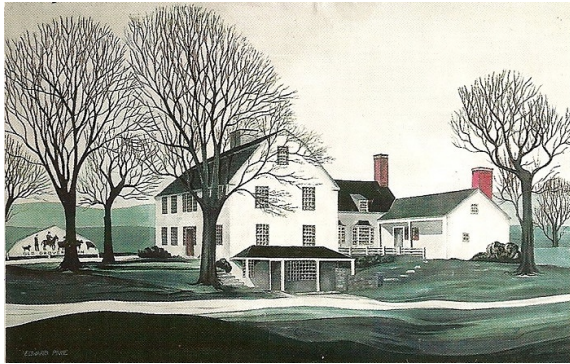


GETTING THERE

The Harlem Valley is the result of eons of erosion forming a valley and ridge topography oriented mostly north-south along the eastern edge of Dutchess and Columbia counties in New York and adjacent New England. The topography of this valley created a natural pathway for animals and people alike. The roads that carried commerce, armies, and travelers during the Revolutionary War period were slow, dirty, and arduous. A rider could go from New York to Boston in 4 to 6 days, with good weather and frequent changes of horse.



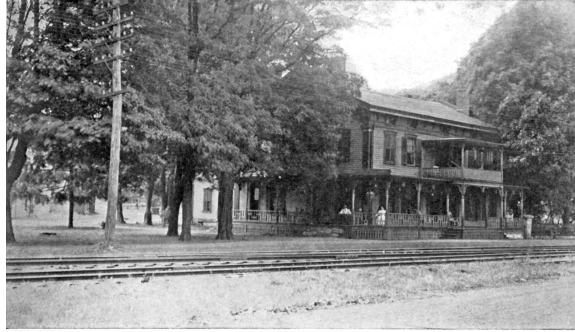
Old Drover's Inn - Dover Plains, NY

Farmers from Vermont and neighboring states used the Harlem Valley as a drover's route to bring cattle to the slaughter houses in New York City. The cattle had to be plump and healthy on Monday, market day, so they could not be driven too fast or hard. Drover's taverns were important to this operation. At the end of every week there were as many as 2,000 head of cattle on the road between Dover and Pawling. One inn near Pawling showed on its books 27,784 cattle, 30,000 sheep and 700 mules lodged in one year alone. Providing food and shelter to the men and animals was very important. Preston's Inn still stands and today is Old Drovers Inn.



Main Street - Millerton, NY

Stages began to appear on "highways" like the Albany Post Road and the Boston Post Road, cutting travel time to Boston from New York to a day and a half. Stage coaches ran from New York City through Dover to Bennington, Vermont charged 5¢ a mile. These coaches weren't abandoned until the rail lines



Wassaic House, Wassaic, N. Y.

were completed around 1850. Passengers could purchase a 1st, 2nd or 3rd class ticket with varying conditions for their ride. First class ticket holders rode on through in style. Those with 2nd class tickets were expected to get out and walk up hills. The 3rd class client was not only required to disembark and walk up hills, but also to push when necessary. A similar journey to Boston in the mid 1850's by



railroad was cut to half a day. The railroad made bustling communities of Pawling, Wingdale, Dover Plains, Amenia & Millerton. The old Harlem Division road bed that runs north of Wassaic to Millerton is now a paved bicycle/pedestrian path, called the Harlem Valley Rail Trail. It attracts people from hundreds of miles away. Future plans are in the works to complete the entire Harlem Valley Rail Trail on the Harlem right-of-way to Chatham from Wassaic, a 46 mile journey. Visit www.pawling.org, townofdovernny.us, www.townofnortheastny.gov, ameniany.gov, & www.hvrt.org for more information.

www.hvpathways.org

Harlem Valley Historic Pathways
52 Mill Street P. O. Box 478
Dover Plains, NY 12522

HOOF, FOOT, ROAD, AND RAIL



Harlem Valley Historic Pathways



NORTHEAST MILLERTON

N1 Rudd Pond - part of the Taconic State Park. A favorite spot for picnics, fishing and swimming. Rudd Pond has 15 tent sites and 26 tent platform sites, each providing campers with grand views of the ridge, pond, and nearby countryside. Each campsite has a picnic table and a camp fire ring and grill. Comfort stations and a hot water shower house are conveniently located in the campground. Open daily from sunrise to sunset; located 2.3 miles north of Main Street in Millerton. Turn left on Rt 62N at the Baptist Church.

N2 The Simmons Inn - built in 1854 by Edward Simmons; prominent lawyer and statesman. Converted into an elegant Victorian residence in 1892. Baseball hall of fame member Eddie (Cocky) Collins was born here in 1887. Purchased in 2012 by the Cocheo family who opened the Zagat rated "No. 9" restaurant.

N3 Irondale Schoolhouse - This historic 1858 one-room schoolhouse served the Ogdenville (Irondale) community until 1930. It is being moved & renovated to become a Visitor's Center. P.O. Box 876 Millerton, New York 12546

N4 Benedict Hall - Built as a Grange Hall by local iron ore magnate Julius Benedict, the building's two-story clock tower synchronized the townspeople with the nearby train station. Benedict began building the hall but died before it opened in 1903. It was named Benedict Hall in his honor and began hosting Grange meetings, banquets, theater (including Vaudeville) and dancing.

AMENIA

A1 Borden Milk Company - Originally built in 1861 by Gail Borden it was the first company in the United States to produce Condensed Milk and ultimately became the sole milk supply for the Union Army during the Civil War. The economic stimulus to the local economy was phenomenal. Located at 32 Nelson Hill Road in the hamlet of Wassaic, it now houses a subsidiary of Pawling Corp. a community-friendly business. Learn more at www.Pawling.com or call (845)-373-9300

A2 Maxon Mills - Built in 1955 in the agri-industrial days of the eastern Oblong Valley area, it is now a re-purposed 10-story grain elevator used to exhibit art. Located at 37 Furnace Bank Road, Wassaic, NY it is a part of the Wassaic Project, a creative multi-disciplinary community. For more information visit www.Wassaicproject.com.

A3 The Amenia Seminary - Opened in 1835 as a pioneer co-educational college preparatory school. It boasted many distinguished alumni in education and religion, but closed its doors in 1888 to free public education. In 1929 the present building opened as the Amenia High School. Now the site of the Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22. Is an historic site. See www.ameniany.gov or call (845)-373-8118.

A4 Troutbeck - In 1794 the site was owned by the lettered Benton family of Amenia whose associations included Emerson, Thoreau, and John Burroughs. In the early 1900's it came under the ownership of J. Spingarn, nature lover, human rights crusader for the NAACP, founder of Amenia Field Day, and a friend of Sinclair Lewis. The original building burned and the present rebuilt mid-century. 515 Leedsville Road, (845)-373-9681.

DOVER PLAINS AND WINGDALE

D1 The Dover Stone Church - a cave so called for its stained glass window shaped opening and pulpit-like interior rock formation, has been a tourist attraction since the 1800's. Pequot Sachem Sassacus is believed to have hidden here from the English. Woods, a rushing stream and waterfalls make this short walk a must do. Brochure on web site at http://townofdoveryny.us/Stone_Church.cfm

D2 Labor Wing House - on the National Register of Historic Landmarks, was built c1815 and is characteristic of the federal style of architecture with its leaded glass and palladium windows. The building was later used as the local public library and government offices. Today it is home to the Town of Dover Historical Society and used for special events.

<http://www.townofdoveryhistoricalsociety.ny>

D3 Ketcham Corners - taking its name from famed John Henry Ketcham whose house once stood on this corner, was originally built in the late 1940's as a state of the art theatre with an advanced sound system attracting visitors from a distance as well as locally. Today there is a restaurant in the "lobby", shops in the theatre and apartments above.

D4 The Old Dovers Inn, built in 1750, served as a stopover for cattle herders, Dover's first Town Hall from 1807 to 1839, a hideaway for the rich and famous and as a gracious destination. Now lovingly restored, it is open to the public as a bed and breakfast, and for private functions, weddings and dinner parties. The Preston Barn, newly added in 2017, handles catered events for as many as 250 people.

www.olddroversinn.com (845) 832-9311

PAWLING

P1 John Kane House - Originally owned by William Prendergast, leader of the Anti Rent Rebellion in 1766, this home served as General George Washington's headquarters during the fall of 1778. 126 East Main Street, Pawling, NY. Open weekends 2pm-4pm mid-May through mid-October, www.Pawling-History.org (845) 855-9316

P2 Dutcher House/Village of Pawling - Opened as a hotel in 1884, boasting an Opera House and ballroom. John Bowditch Dutcher became the president of the New York and Harlem Railroad in 1864. Now hosts apartments and retail shops. The village of Pawling was a major dairy shipping center. At one time, 250,000 quarts of milk passed through Pawling daily.

P3 Akin Free Library - Built beginning in 1898 by Albert Akin who raised the funds to extend the railroad into Dutchess County. Hosts the Quaker Hill Museum and the Olive Gunnison Natural History Museum. 378 Old Quaker Hill Road, Pawling, NY 12564. Open by appointment (845) 855-9316.

P4 Oblong Meeting House - Sight of the first unified action against slavery in 1764. The Industrial Revolution was incompatible with the Quaker agrarian lifestyle and the meeting was "laid down" in 1885. Meetinghouse Road, Pawling, NY. Open by appointment. www.Pawling-History.org (845) 855-9316

