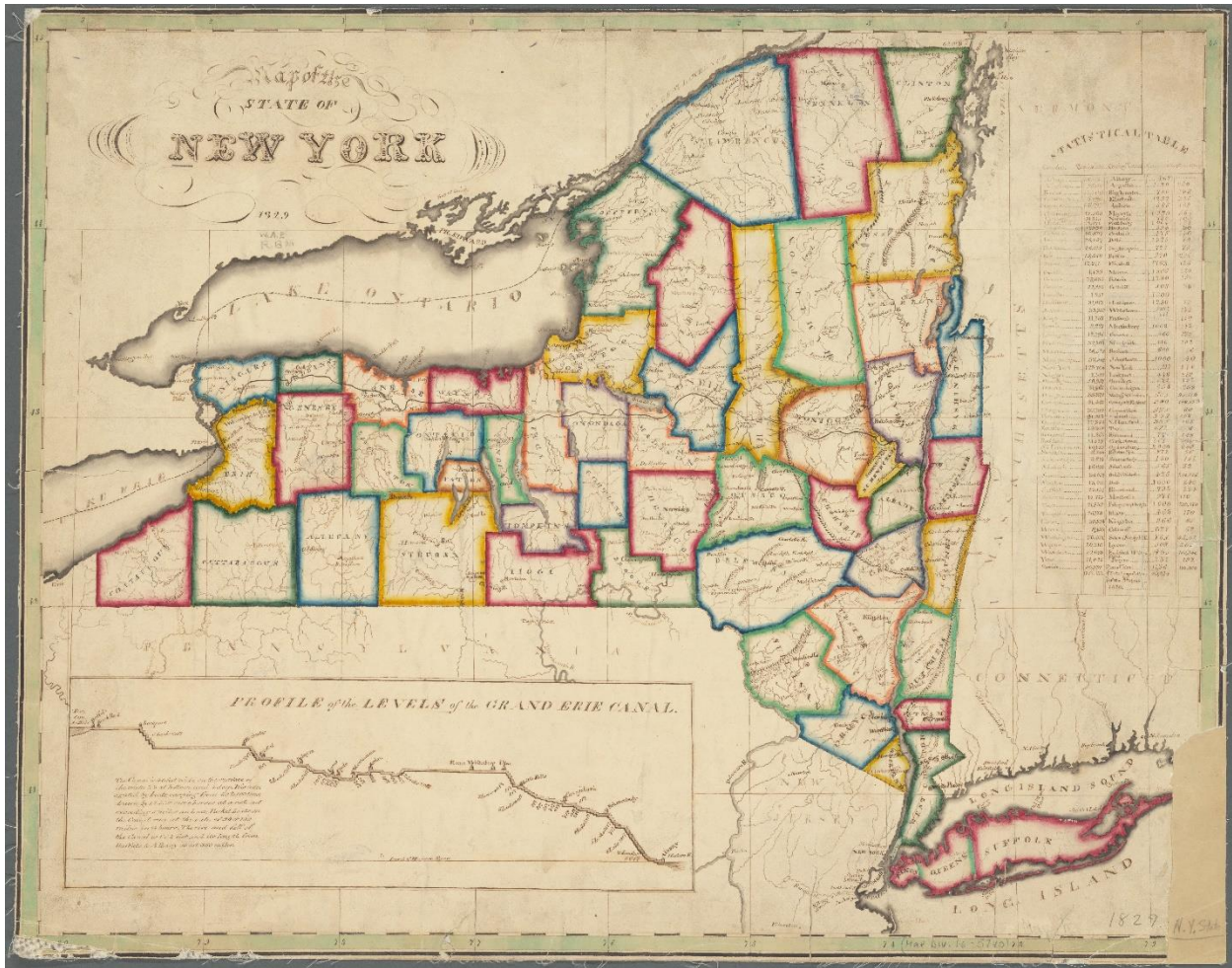




HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of the* NEW YORK COURTS

History of Westchester County

Bench and Bar



David L. Goodwin

The Historical Society of the New York Courts

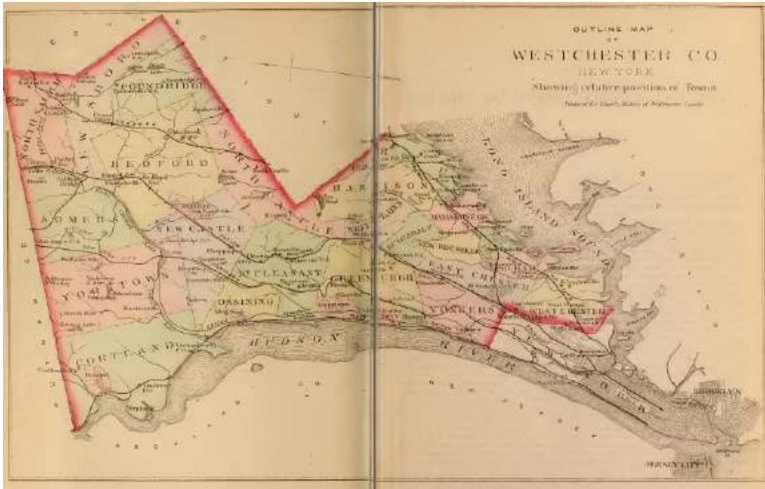
Westchester County Legal History

David L. Goodwin, Esq.

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I. County Origins

a. General Narrative



Although European settlers had encountered the region on prior occasions, legend grants September 14, 1609, a day of particular reckoning in Westchester County history: the day Henry Hudson left anchorage at Spuyten Duyvil and traveled almost the entire Westchester shore.¹ Others followed—especially from the Netherlands, whose traders took advantage of the rich flora and fauna of the land.² Piece by piece, European explorers mapped and explored its features. For example, in 1614, Dutch

explorer Adriaen Block became the first European mariner to enter the Long Island Sound.³ For a time, the Dutch West India Company maintained (on paper, at least) exclusive trade privileges on the shore of the Hudson.⁴ The first English vessel, meanwhile, arrived in 1619.⁵

Attempts to establish formal settlements in the region were slow in coming. The New Netherland Company was the first to make a “sincere” proposal to do so in 1620.⁶ Part of this was due to the extrinsic realities then preoccupying those who might otherwise have acted more rapidly; tensions between the Netherlands and Spain ensured that the former saw, as its “determining consideration . . . the desire . . . to provide . . . for a strong offensive and defensive naval arm in the Atlantic Ocean.”⁷ Thus, during the first two decades of formal settlement of New Netherland, which began around May 1623, few Europeans settled north of the Harlem River—although at least one, Jonas Bronck (1600–1643), after whom the Bronx would be named, was living in the area by 1639.⁸

However, settlement in the broader colony would gain speed after 1638 brought certain realignments in the Dutch philosophy regarding the kind of person to be encouraged to settle. Partially abandoning a prior plan that had encouraged the formation of a new landed



A mural in the rotunda of the Bronx County Courthouse depicts Jonas Bronck arriving in Westchester

¹ Frederic Shonnard & W. W. Spooner, *History of Westchester County New York from its Earliest Settlement to the Year 1900*, at 57 (1900).

² *Id.* at 58–59.

³ *Id.* at 59–60.

⁴ *Id.* at 67.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.* at 69; see generally Jaap Jacobs, *New Netherland: A Dutch Colony in Seventeenth Century America* (2003).

⁷ Shonnard & Spooner, *supra* note 1, at 70.

⁸ *Id.* at 71–73.

aristocracy, the Dutch States-General opened up settlement to people of all means.⁹ By April 1640, the West India Company, through its agent Cornelius van Tienhoven, purchased from the local Indians “all the lands located in the southeastern portion of Westchester County,” in an effort designed at least partially to frustrate English claims on the same region.¹⁰

Shortly afterwards, the relationship between Dutch settlers and the native population soured, due in part to revised policies advanced by then-Director of New Netherland Willem Kieft (1597–1647). Although most of “Kieft’s War” is outside of the scope of this piece, several incidents, such as the infamous “Pound Ridge Massacre,” took place in and around Westchester County; and the war as a whole led to years of hostilities after a period of relative peace, causing the Dutch to fear for the “very existence of their New Netherland colony.”¹¹ One of the bloodiest engagements of the conflict with the Native Americans, whose casualty count outpaced the Revolutionary War’s battle at White Plains, took place in what is now the town of Bedford.¹² A lasting peace was not achieved until 1645; even after, Dutch settlement north of the Hudson was impeded as attention turned to restoring the settlements of Manhattan Island.¹³

One of the new settlers north of the Harlem was Adriaen Cornelissen van der Donck, whose estate was unique of its kind in the nascent Westchester County.¹⁴ Van der Donck, who as a graduate of Leiden University had been an attorney in Holland, was also notable for his conflicts with both Kieft and Kieft’s replacement, Petrus Stuyvesant, protesting the “misgovernment and oppression” that characterized the latter’s term as Director of the colony.¹⁵

Settlement picked up steam again by the 1650s. One of the purchases from the native population during this period, by one Thomas Pell of Fairfield, Connecticut, is notable for producing one of the earliest legal records referring to the region as “West Chester.”¹⁶ More English settlers arrived in the mid-1650s, leading to tensions with the Dutch inhabitants.¹⁷ For a time, both English and Dutch authorities made claim to various Westchester lands.¹⁸ New land purchases accelerated in the 1660s, with parcels conveyed encompassing what are now parts of Rye, Harrison, and Port Chester.¹⁹ Rye itself was founded in 1664, after settlers outgrew Manussing Island.²⁰

The year of 1664 was auspicious for another reason: on September 6, the City of New Amsterdam “surrendered to an English fleet”²¹ under the command of Captain Richard Nicolls, who became the first English governor of New York. The transition from Dutch to English ownership involved the legal necessity of deed transfers and patent-issues—via a code known as “The Duke’s Laws” (after the Duke

⁹ *Id.* at 80–82; see also *id.* at 84 (describing prior scheme as a “complete failure”).

¹⁰ *Id.* at 84, 86.

¹¹ Shonnard & Spooner, *supra* note 1, at 99.

¹² *Id.* at 101; see also Jaap Jacobs, *The Colony of New Netherland: A Dutch Settlement in Seventeenth-Century America* (2009).

¹³ Shonnard & Spooner, *supra* note 1, at 105.

¹⁴ *Id.* at 112.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 107. For a lengthy and lively account of van der Donck’s conflicts with Stuyvesant, see Russell Shorto, *The Island at the Center of the World* (2004).

¹⁶ Shonnard & Spooner, *supra* note 1, at 115–16.

¹⁷ *Id.* at 117–18.

¹⁸ *Id.* at 120.

¹⁹ *Id.* at 124.

²⁰ *Id.* at 125–26.

²¹ *Id.* at 132.

of York, later King James II)—but preexisting ownership interests were generally preserved.²² During the administration of Governor Lovelace, who succeeded Nicolls in 1668, the number of settlers “rapidly increased.”²³

With few interruptions—chiefly in 1673, where for a brief period the Dutch retook possession²⁴ — Westchester remained of British ownership until Independence in 1776, although Britain’s own transitions in governance found occasional reverberations in the colonies at large. For instance, Jacob Leisler (1640–1691), who brokered the foundation of New Rochelle, fomented rebellion in the wake of the Glorious Revolution and served, for a time, as acting governor of the Colony.

By the time of the American Revolution, Westchester was one of 14 New York counties.²⁵ It played a large role in the Revolution itself, as a space for protest and conflict.²⁶ The Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Provincial Congress in White Plains in July 1776, which led to the old White Plains courthouse—the site of the adoption—to be called “the Birthplace of the State of New York.”²⁷

The Battle of White Plains would follow in October; during the British invasion of Westchester County, beginning in 1776, county records were removed from the White Plains courthouse by one Theophilus Barton, the court clerk, and deposited elsewhere for safekeeping.²⁸ This occurred amidst much raiding of the land and its people, in part by organized factions and in part by marauding gangs.²⁹

The County retained its largely agricultural character through the turn of the nineteenth century,³⁰ but by 1810 had swelled in size to 30,272 people.³¹ By 1844, the New York and Harlem Railroad had been extended to White Plains. By 1847, the line extended through Croton Falls, and by 1850 proper, “the three great railway routes which traverse Westchester County had been completed and put in successful operation.”³² The Croton Aqueduct, of unending importance to the City below the County,

²² *Id.* at 136.

²³ *Id.* at 194; see also David W. Voorhees, “English Law Through Dutch Eyes: The Leislerian Understanding of the English Legal System in New York,” in *Opening Statements: Law, Jurisprudence, and the Legacy of Dutch New York* 207, 207–27 (Albert Rosenblatt & Julia Rosenblatt eds., 2012).

²⁴ Shonnard & Spooner, *supra* note 1, at 194–97. The Dutch character of the county has been thought to have dampened some of the trends that otherwise swept the nascent United States—including witch trials, of which the county recorded only two. See Richard M. Gardella, “From the Back Bench,” *Westchester County Bar Association Newsletter* 18 (January 2010), available at <http://www.wcbany.org/resource/resmgr/Newsletters/2010-01.pdf>.

²⁵ Shonnard & Spooner, *supra* note 1, at 513.

²⁶ *Id.* at 297; see also *id.* at 312 (discussing the strict anti-Tory regulations in Westchester County). For an overview of the Battle of White Plains, see *id.* at 357–96.

²⁷ See, e.g., *Twelfth Annual Report 1907, of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society* 64 (1907), reprinted in *13 Documents of the Assembly of the State of New York, 113th Session* (1907), available at <https://play.google.com/store/books/details?id=ipA7AQAAMAAJ&rdid=book-ipA7AQAAMAAJ&rdot=1>.

²⁸ Shonnard & Spooner, *supra* note 1, at 526.

²⁹ See generally Lincoln Diamant, “Skinners: Patriot ‘Friends’ or Loyalist ‘Foes’?,” in *Key to the Northern Country: The Hudson River Valley in the American Revolution* 93 (James M. Johnson et al. eds., 2013); Stephen Jenkins, “The Cowboys, the Skinners and the Neutral Ground,” 9 *Proceedings of the N.Y. State Hist. Ass’n* 160 (1910).

³⁰ Shonnard & Spooner, *supra* note 1, at 534.

³¹ *Id.* at 539.

³² *Id.* at 547, 575.

opened in 1842. Train traffic, in addition to boat traffic from the new steamboats, jump-started the region's commerce and led to population growth.³³

³³ *See id.* at 563, 577 (“With the completion of the railways a great change at once transpired in local conditions in Westchester County.”).

b. Legal Beginnings

In the 1640s, the Dutch West India Company purchased from the Lenape natives the large tracts of land between Norwalk, Connecticut, and the North River—the southernmost portion of the Hudson River—that now comprises most of Westchester County.³⁴ By the 1660s, the boundaries of what would become the County were falling into place, as a series of land patents and subdelegations solidified the towns and manors of Westchester.³⁵

The County was established as a political entity on November 1, 1683 by the first Provincial Assembly of New York, which “formally marked off the province into the twelve original counties of the state,” although in the following years, several towns and manors (such as Scarsdale) were still to form.³⁶ Assembled by the new governor, Thomas Dongan, the initial Assembly consisted of four Westchester representatives: Thomas Hunt, Sr.; John Palmer; Richard Ponton, and William Richardson.³⁷ The original county seat was the Town of Westchester itself, which was replaced by White Plains later in the 18th century.³⁸

Significantly, around the time the future state was subdivided into counties, a new boundary with Connecticut was being hashed out between New York and its neighbor. The final dividing line, a mixture of natural and artificial boundaries, replaced the previous division, which had been established in 1664.³⁹ The new boundary placed Rye and Bedford resolutely within New York.⁴⁰ Squabbling over the boundary line, however, would continue until the late nineteenth century.⁴¹

In 1685, due to the succession of King Charles II to James II, New York “lost its separate status as a propriety province,” joining New England and New Jersey as a possession of Great Britain.⁴² As a result, New York was folded together with New Jersey and New England under combined government; Governor Edmund Andros became the first head of the combined provinces, with Francis Nicholson elevated to manage New York itself.⁴³ As before, changes at “home” could bring about changes in the colonies.⁴⁴

By the beginning of the 18th century, Westchester County occupied, more or less, its present-day boundaries, and held several special privileges: for example, the Town of Westchester itself was one of two New York communities (the other was Schenectady) to be designated a “borough.”⁴⁵ White Plains became the county seat in 1759, replaced by Bedford after the White Plains courthouse was burned on

³⁴ A. Outram Sherman, *Westchester County and the Town of Rye* 7 (1909).

³⁵ See, e.g., Shonnard & Spooner, *supra* note 1, at 176 (describing the establishment of New Rochelle and Mamaroneck).

³⁶ *Id.* at 1, 180; see also Henry B. Dawson, *Westchester County during the American Revolution* 1 (1886). The other eleven counties were New York, Richmond, Kings, Queens, Suffolk, Dutchess, Orange, Ulster, Albany, Dukes, and Cornwall (the last two at the time the property of New York). Shonnard & Spooner, *supra* note 1, at 198; 1 Henry T. Smith, *Manual of Westchester County, Past and Present, Civil List to Date* 5 (1898).

³⁷ Shonnard & Spooner, *supra* note 1, at 197.

³⁸ *Id.* at 198, 229.

³⁹ *Id.* at 199–201.

⁴⁰ *Id.* at 201.

⁴¹ *Id.* at 201–03.

⁴² *Id.* at 203.

⁴³ *Id.* at 203–04.

⁴⁴ See *id.* at 204–07.

⁴⁵ *Id.* at 213, 227. But see also *id.* at 215–17 (discussing the secession of Rye back to Connecticut).

November 5, 1776, in the wake of the Battle of White Plains; after Bedford was put to the torch a few years later, proceedings relocated to Upper Salem through 1785.⁴⁶

The predecessor of Westchester’s modern-day government also came into being in the early eighteenth century. In 1703, the General Assembly of New York Colony created the Board of Supervisors, which functioned as Westchester’s dual legislative and executive body through 1937.⁴⁷



The first great seal of New York State, created by a Committee appointed by the Constitutional Convention of 1777

After New York became a state in 1777—its constitution adopted in Kingston the same year—the civil divisions of Westchester County continued to be organized, for a time, much as they were in Colonial times, in part because the County was slow to recover from the war.⁴⁸ In March 1788, the Legislature formally subdivided the county into twenty-one townships⁴⁹: Westchester, Morrisania, Yonkers, Greenburgh, Mount Pleasant, Eastchester, Pelham (the smallest by area), New Rochelle, Scarsdale, Mamaroneck, White Plains, Harrison, Rye, North Castle (the largest), Bedford, Poundridge, Salem, North Salem, Cortlandt, Yorktown, and Stephentown.⁵⁰ Morrisania was to be short lived, annexed to the Town of Westchester in 1791 (before being separated again in 1855).⁵¹ Yonkers, Greenburgh, and Mount Pleasant were separated out from the Manor of Philipsburgh.⁵²

From about 1777 to 1815, Westchester was represented in the State senate along with Kings, New York, Queens, Suffolk, and Richmond in what was called the “Southern district.” The addition of Dutchess, Putnam, and Rockland to the district in 1815 was accompanied by a name change: the First district. In 1821, Westchester was reassigned to the Second district, joining Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland, Orange, Sullivan, Ulster, Queens, and Suffolk.⁵³

Another legal milestone was reached in April 1813, when Sing Sing became the first Westchester County village to be organized under the state government.⁵⁴ The first village election was held one month later.⁵⁵ The building of the state prison (to supplement the Newgate prison in New York City and the prison at Auburn) was authorized in 1824.⁵⁶ Peekskill followed Sing Sing, incorporated in 1827—after that, a dry spell until Mount Vernon (which “owe[d] its very existence to the railroad”) was

⁴⁶ *Id.* at 526.

⁴⁷ <http://archives.westchestergov.com/board-of-legislators>.

⁴⁸ Shonnard & Spooner, *supra* note 1, at 527–28.

⁴⁹ Some sources put the official tally at twenty. *See, e.g.*, <http://www3.westchestergov.com/1783-1865-the-pastoral-life>.

⁵⁰ Shonnard & Spooner, *supra* note 1, at 531, 533

⁵¹ *Id.* at 531.

⁵² *Id.*

⁵³ *Id.* at 564.

⁵⁴ *Id.* at 540.

⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ *Id.* at 543.

organized in 1953, and Yonkers (officially) organized in 1855.⁵⁷ Two other *new* townships began in the 1840s: Ossining (1845) and West Farms (1846).⁵⁸ New Rochelle followed in 1858.⁵⁹

The Civil War slowed political growth as well as population growth, and only one new village, Morrisania, was incorporated in the period between 1860 and 1865.⁶⁰ White Plains followed in 1866, as did Port Chester in 1868.⁶¹

Yonkers, which experienced steady growth, was soon to transcend its status as a township. In 1872, it officially became a city.⁶² As a harbinger of things to come, the city charter excluded from the city limits a portion of the old town lying below Mount Saint Vincent, which “was clearly with a view to reserving the section thus cut off for subsequent incorporation in the City of New York.”⁶³ Formal annexation took place in early 1874.⁶⁴ The remaining Westchester portions of what is now Bronx County were annexed in 1874 and 75.⁶⁵

The 1880s and 1890s saw several new cities bloom into being. New Rochelle was incorporated in 1889, with Mount Vernon following in 1892.⁶⁶ Westchester is also home to the newest city in the state, with the City of Rye (not to be confused with the town of the same name) incorporated in 1942.⁶⁷

In the twentieth century, Westchester built on the gains and lessons of a long and established legal history. In 1935, the then-active 1894 State Constitution was amended to allow counties more flexibility in establishing and managing government structures; two years later, the State Legislature enacted an Optional County Government Law.⁶⁸ Westchester wasted no time in taking advantage of the new law, establishing the office of the County Executive in 1937,⁶⁹ which moved the executive function of the Board of Supervisors to a new executive office. The Board of Supervisors itself became the Board of Legislators in 1970.⁷⁰

⁵⁷ *Id.* at 559, 579, 582.

⁵⁸ *Id.* at 575.

⁵⁹ *Id.* at 584.

⁶⁰ *Id.* at 603.

⁶¹ *Id.* at 603.

⁶² *Id.* at 606.

⁶³ *Id.* at 609.

⁶⁴ *Id.* at 610.

⁶⁵ *Id.* at 622.

⁶⁶ *Id.* at 581

⁶⁷ <http://www.ryeny.gov/history.cfm>

⁶⁸ http://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/publications/Adopting_and_Amending_County_Charters.pdf. For more on the history of New York home rule and county charters, see *County Charter Reform in New York: The Importance of Language – A Survey of Legal Issues* (1992), available at http://www.governmentlaw.org/files/county_charter_reform_NY.pdf.

⁶⁹ <http://archives.westchestergov.com/county-executives-intro>

⁷⁰ <http://archives.westchestergov.com/board-of-legislators>

c. Timeline

- Oct. 1664** New York and Connecticut work out a boundary agreement via a line starting at the mouth of the Mamaroneck River. Rye falls within the Connecticut boundary.
- 11/1/1683** Westchester established by the First Provincial Assembly of New York.
- 11/24/1683** Border between Connecticut and New York revised to near its modern contours. Birthdate of White Plains, due to land purchase from indigenous residents.
- Jun. 1684** First Court of Sessions held in Westchester County.
- 1695** Rye rejoins Connecticut.
- 1700** Rye returns to New York.
- 1703** The Board of Supervisors is created by the New York General Assembly.
- 1720** First county courthouse built in Bedford Village.
- 1759** White Plains becomes the county seat, taking over from Westchester.
- Jul. 1776** Declaration of Independence received in White Plains.
- 1777** New York State is born, with its 1777 Constitution formally adopted on April 20 in the town of Kingston. The new state's government initially met in Kingston.
- 1788** Westchester formally divided into townships. First session of County Court held in the new courthouse in Bedford.
- 1800** Village of White Plains incorporated.
- 1813** Sing Sing becomes the first township organized under the state government.
- 1844** New York and Harlem Railroad reaches White Plains.
- 1846** Judicial election system established by the Constitution of 1846.
- 1872** Yonkers incorporated as a city.
- 1874–75** Annexation of the Bronx territories into New York City.
- 1889** New Rochelle incorporated as a city.
- 1892** Mount Vernon incorporated as a city.
- 1895** Final sitting of the Westchester County Court of Sessions.
- 1906** Westchester redesignated into the Ninth Judicial District, where it remains today.
- 1909** "Supreme Court Building" completed. Chamber of Commerce incorporated.
- 1916** White Plains incorporated as a city.
- 1937** Office of the County Executive is established.
- 1940** Peekskill incorporated as a city.
- 1942** Rye incorporated as a city, becoming the (as yet) youngest city in the State.
- 1970** Westchester County Board of Supervisors is replaced by the Board of Legislators.

II. County Courthouses – From Past to Present

a. History

From the 9th Judicial District's website:⁷¹

The current courthouse [on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Boulevard in White Plains] is the eighth courthouse built for Westchester County. The first was actually located in Bedford Village circa 1720 and destroyed by fire in 1758. The second courthouse was erected in 1759 in the hamlet of White Plains at South Broadway and Mitchell Place. This is the current site of the State Armory. This courthouse, too, was destroyed by fire in 1775. There is an interesting footnote here. Many viewed the courthouse as a symbol of the British establishment and it is thought that an arsonist burned it down for this reason.

In 1787 two new County courthouses were built, (numbers three and four) one in Bedford and one in White Plains. Westchester County used both of these courthouses for the next 83 years. This arrangement lasted until 1870 when a law mandated that all terms of court were to be held in White Plains. Courthouse number five was built on the block surrounded by Main Street, Martine Avenue, Grand and Court Streets in 1855. This complex included a jail and offices for County departments. In 1909 the sixth courthouse called the "Supreme Court Building" was completed. The County was experiencing much growth at the time creating much more County government business. These County departments were also located within the courthouse.

This growth spurt within the County was not foreseen by the planners of this courthouse. The end result was that the courthouse was not spatially adequate from the day it opened. The seventh courthouse was six stories in height and "architecturally severe" so that it would be possible to raise the roof and add two more courtrooms or two floors of office suites.

It is important to note here that courthouses five, six and seven were all built adjacent to each other in the block surrounded by Main Street, Martine Avenue, Grand [Street], and Court Street. This courthouse was occupied early in 1917. Courthouses were an integral part of the community prior to World War II. When the Declaration of Independence was going around the country to be ratified, it was read aloud to the people of the area from the steps of the courthouse. In 1916 people went to the steps of the courthouse to hear the early returns of the Presidential election which were read from the Western Union ticker. In 1954 there were seven judges housed in the courthouse (5 resident Supreme Court Justices of the Ninth Judicial District, one County Court Judge, and one Surrogate.) By 1966, there were fourteen Supreme Court Justices, official referees and retired Supreme Court Justices qualifying for retention to age 76 thanks to a new law enacted in the early 1960s. A new "Site Committee" was once again formed in February 1960 to plan a new courthouse. The eighth courthouse was built between March 1970 and December 1973, when it was dedicated. This is the current courthouse now under renovation.

⁷¹ <http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/9jd/westchester/countyhistory.shtml>

b. Courthouse Art and Architecture

See generally Herbert Alan et al., *Historic Courthouses of New York State* (1977); Albert & Julia Rosenblatt, *Historic Courthouses of the State of New York: A Study in Postcards* (2006).

The County Courthouse at Bedford



Built in 1787, court was held in this building until 1870.

The Second County Courthouse at White Plains



The 1915 Westchester County Courthouse, White Plains



Built in 1915 and landmarked on the National Register of Historic Places. However, it was demolished in 1977

Courthouse, Yonkers, NY



III. The Bench & Bar

According to one commentator, the “official” history of the bench in Westchester County began in 1688 when Judge John Pell was appointed the first county judge.⁷² The first Court of Sessions had met a few years earlier, in 1684, one year after the county was officially established.⁷³ Other famous names, including Caleb Heathcote and Lewis Morris, Jr., were members of the bench of in the county.⁷⁴

Selected Resources

Biographical History of Westchester County, NY (multi-volume, 1899, print).

Benjamin, Vernon. *The History of the Hudson River Valley: From Wilderness to the Civil War* (2014).

Chamberlain, Joshua Lawrence et al. *Universities and Their Sons: History, Influence and Characteristics of American Universities, with Biographical Sketches and Portraits of Alumni and Recipients of Honorary Degrees, Volume 3* (1899, print).

Chester, Alden et al. *Legal and Judicial History of New York* (multi-volume, 1911, print)

Jacobs, Jaap & Roper, L., eds. *The Worlds of the Seventeenth-Century Hudson Valley* (2014)

Jacobs, Jaap. *New Netherland: A Dutch Colony in Seventeenth Century America* (2003).

McAdam, David et al. *History of the Bench and Bar of New York* (multi-volume, 1897, print)

Shonnard, Frederic & Spooner, W. W. *History of Westchester County New York from its Earliest Settlement to the Year 1900* (1900).

Smith, Henry T. *Westchester County in History: Manual and Civil List Past and Present 1683–1912* (multi-volume, 1912, print)

Wilcox, Arthur Russell. *The Bar of Rye Township: An Historical and Biographical Record 1660-1918* (1918, print).

Historical lists were graciously provided by the Westchester County Archives, whose source document can be found at:

<http://archives.westchestergov.com/images/stories/deskreference/RecordGroup04.pdf>

⁷² 1 J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Westchester County, New York* 526 (1886).

⁷³ *Id.*

⁷⁴ *Id.* at 527.

a. Judges

When appropriate, material in this section has been taken from the Legal History section of the New York Courts' website: <http://www.courts.state.ny.us/history/legal-history-new-york/history-legal-bench-bar.html>. Some has been rewritten but the authors owe a debt to the work already done. Additional facts pertaining to the eminent jurists and attorneys who have left us have, at times, been taken from obituaries that provide succinct chronicles of achievements and milestones.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

Jay, John (1745–1829) – John Jay needs little introduction. Father of the New York Constitution, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Secretary of State, Governor of New York—he left an indelible mark on the history of the State and Country. Jay's long-deserved retirement in 1801 was to his expansive homestead in Katonah, where the John Jay Historic Site is today.

NEW YORK STATE COURT OF APPEALS

Fuchsberg, Jacob David (1913–1995) – Judge Fuchsberg was elected to the Court of Appeals in 1974, beginning a colorful career as a jurist—encompassing censure and a number of rhetorical flourishes—that ended with his resignation in 1983. Judge Fuchsberg maintained strong connections to Westchester County and its various philanthropic organizations, and resided in Harrison.

NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION

Brennan, Arthur D. (1889–1993) – Justice Arthur D. Brennan was born on August 29, 1899 in Mount Vernon, NY. He graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 1918, Syracuse University in 1920, and Syracuse University Law School in 1923. He was admitted to the Bar on March 3, 1925. He worked as a law clerk at the office of William S. Coffey in 1923 and at the office of Sydney A. Syme from 1923 to 1925. He then practiced at the law firm of Bleakly, Platt, Gilchrist & Walker in White Plains. Brennan was elected to the Westchester County Court in 1951, and in 1953, he was elected as a Justice of the State Supreme Court for the Ninth Judicial District. He was designated to the Appellate Division by Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller on January 1, 1960. He retired from the bench in 1976.

Hopkins, James D. (1911-1996) – Born in North Castle, Judge Hopkins served as the town's Councilman and Supervisor before being elected to the County Board of Supervisors and, shortly afterwards, serving as the Westchester County Executive. His judicial career began in 1957, when he was elected County Judge. He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1960 and elevated to the Appellate Division two years later, where he served until his retirement in 1981. Judge Hopkins served as the Dean of Pace Law for eighteen months before returning to the judiciary as a judicial hearing officer, formally retiring in 1994. A lifelong resident of Armonk, Judge Hopkins passed away in Mount Kisco at age 84.

See generally Jay Carlisle II & Anthony DiPietro, "Justice James D. Hopkins: Jurist, Dean, Scholar and Expert on New York Law," 33 *Pace L. Rev.* 3 (2013); James Hopkins, 84, Appeals Court Judge, N.Y. Times, Jan. 7, 1996.

Miller, Sondra (1929–) – Judge Miller graduated from Harvard in its first class that was open to women. Her judicial service began in 1983, when she joined the Westchester County Family Court bench. She was elected to the Supreme Court in 1986 and appointed to the Appellate Division by Governor Cuomo in 1990 (Judge Miller was the first woman from the Ninth Judicial District to be so designated). After retiring from the bench in 2006, Judge Miller has served as chief counsel with McCarthy Fingar and has maintained an association with Pace University Law School.

Mills, Isaac N. (1851–1929) – Judge Mills was born in Thompson, Connecticut. After graduating from Columbia Law School, he joined a law firm in Mt. Vernon and joined the County bench in 1883. After a stint in the Senate, he joined the Supreme Court bench in 1906 and the Appellate Division in 1917, retiring in 1921.

Nolan, Gerald (1891–1980) – Judge Nolan was born in Yonkers. He graduated from NYU Law, and joined the Westchester bench in 1930. He earned a seat on the Supreme Court in 1938 and was designated to the Appellate Division in 1945, where he soon was promoted to the position of Presiding Justice. He practiced law as a member of the White Plains firm McCarthy Fingar.

Rubin, Isaac (1914–2000) – Justice Isaac Rubin was born in Mount Vernon around the year 1914. He earned degrees from New York University and a doctorate in law from St. John's University School of Law. Before joining the bench, he worked for 30 years as a partner in his law firm. Rubin served as a judge of the City Court in Rye in 1970. Three years later, he was named to the Westchester County Court and won election to a full term in 1974. In 1976, he was elected to the State Supreme Court in Westchester. He also served as the supervising judge for the Ninth District Criminal Division, reducing backlogs in five counties. Rubin was designated by Governor Carey to the Appellate Division, Second Department in 1982 and reappointed by Governor Mario Cuomo two years later. He finally retired in 1990 at the age of 77 after challenging the constitutional requirement that state judges retire at age 76, stating that the issue was not one of age, but of "experience, competency, proficiency and physical condition" (Buder). Following his retirement, he continued to serve as a Judicial Hearing Officer. (<http://www.nycourts.gov/history/legal-history-new-york/history-legal-bench-appellate-02.html>)

Schmidt, Frederick G. (1886–1977) – Justice Frederick G. Schmidt was born around the year 1886 and raised in Greenwich, Connecticut. He began his political career in Westchester County as the Village

Clerk in Port Chester. Beginning in 1928, he served as Village Corporation Counsel. Schmidt then served as the elected Town Supervisor for Rye, New York from 1929 until 1940.

He took the bench in 1943, when he won election as a Westchester County judge. In 1945, Schmidt was elevated to the State Supreme Court, where he served until his designation to the Appellate Division, Second Department in 1951. Following his retirement from the bench four years later, he served as a court referee until 1961 and was a senior partner at the firm of Bleakley, Platt, Schmidt and Fritz.

Taylor, George H., Jr. (1873-1958) – Justice George H. Taylor, Jr. was born on April 22, 1873 in Westport, Connecticut. Educated at public grammar schools, he went on to earn degrees from City College in New York and New York Law School. Taylor was admitted to the bar in 1894 and for the next four years practiced at the firm of Johnston and Johnston. He was then engaged in solo practice until 1922. Taylor served as an Alderman in Mount Vernon from 1906 until 1910 and became President of the Mount Vernon Board of Aldermen. Later, he ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of Mount Vernon.

He joined the bench in 1923 after winning election as a Justice of the Supreme Court for the Ninth Judicial District. Justice Taylor was designated to the Appellate Division in 1936. He left the bench in 1943, having reached the mandatory retirement age of 70, but continued to serve as an official referee for the Supreme Court for the next ten years.

Young, J. Addison (1866–53) – Justice J. Addison Young was born on September 14, 1866 in Aquebogue, Long Island. He was educated at Franklinville Academy and graduated from Williams College in 1888 and Columbia University Law School in 1890. Young was admitted to the bar in the same year and began practicing law in New Rochelle. In 1902, he was elected District Attorney of Westchester County. He served for six years in that position before returning to private practice.

Young took the bench in 1915, when he was elected as a Justice of the Supreme Court. In 1922, he was designated to the Appellate Division, Second Department, and remained until 1936, when he reached the mandatory retirement age. Thereafter he continued to serve as an official referee until his death. Young served the judiciary in various capacities for over 38 years.

In 1938, Young served as a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention. He also served as director of the New Rochelle Trust Company, a member of the New Rochelle Board of Education, and was a member of the Masons and the Union Club of New York. In 1896, he was one of the founders of the Westchester County Bar Association.

OTHER NOTABLE JUDGES FROM WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Cochran, Robert (1826–1880) – Former supervisor of White Plains and delegate to the 1867 constitutional convention. Took the county bench in 1867, and later became district attorney of Westchester County. He is buried in Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery.

Daronco, Richard (1931–1988) – The namesake of the present Westchester County Courthouse, Judge Daronco served on the Westchester County Family Court, the County Court itself, and then on the New York State Supreme Court. He joined the federal bench (SDNY) in 1987. Tragically, he was shot by a disgruntled family member of a plaintiff in the backyard of his Pelham house, having served approximately a year as a federal judge.

Dykman, Jackson O. (1830–1904) – Former district attorney of Westchester County, who joined the Supreme Court bench in 1875 as a bipartisan candidate. He is buried in White Plains Rural Cemetery.

Hart, Robert S. (1811–1887) – Appointed in 1846 to the Common Pleas bench, he was the final judge appointed by the governor and confirmed by the State Senate. He is buried in the Episcopal Cemetery.

Jay, William (1789–1858) – Second son of John Jay. Appointed to the County Court of Westchester by Governor Tompkins in 1818, serving until 1842 (although some sources say that his term from 1818 through 1820 was on the New York Court of Common Pleas). One of the founders of the American Bible Society.

Keogh, Martin Jerome (1853–1928) – Judge Keogh was strongly associated with his hometown of New Rochelle; he was instrumental in organizing Westchester County’s Legal Aid Society and the New Rochelle People’s Forum, and also founded the Thornton-Donovan School. He was a New York Supreme Court Justice from 1897 to 1903 (in the 2d District) and then again from 1910 through 1920 (in the 9th district).

Lockwood, Albert – Of Sing Sing, the first judge to be elected under the New York Constitution to the county-court bench.



Scrugham, William Warburton (1820–1867) – The first Westchester County lawyer elected to the Supreme Court bench of the Second Judicial District following the introduction of elected judgeships in 1846. He was elected in 1859. Served as a Judge of the New York Court of Appeals, ex – officio, 1867.

*William Warburton
Scrugham, 1820-1867*

Tompkins, Jonathan G. (1733–1823) – “First Judge” of the Court of Common Pleas from 1794 to 1797. Father of Vice President Daniel D. Tompkins and adopting member of the Declaration of Independence and first New York Constitution. Also one of the first regents of the University of the State of New York.

Watts, John (1749–1836) – “First Judge” of the Court of Common Pleas from 1802–07. Earlier, Speaker of the New York Assembly.

OTHER LEGAL LUMINARIES (JUDGES AND OTHERWISE)

Baker, Harold Albert (1929–) – Judge Baker was born in Mt. Kisco, and currently sits on the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois. (Judge Baker served on the old Eastern District of Illinois before it was redesignated).

Berrigan, Helen Ginger (1948–) – Born in New Rochelle, Judge Berrigan is a federal district judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Clowes, Samuel (1674–1760) – One of the first lawyers on record to have practiced in Westchester County. He practiced from 1717 through 1744 and was one of the first prosecuting attorneys (if not *the* first prosecuting attorney) in the new County.

Morris, Gouverneur (1752–1816) – Like John Jay, Gouverneur Morris is one of the founding figures of New York and the United States; and, also like Jay, he is indelibly associated with historic Westchester County. In addition to drafting part of the United States Constitution, Morris was a member of the New York Assembly, a United States Senator, and the United States Minister to France.

Morris, Richard Valentine (1768–1815) – While Richard Morris is better known for his storied career as a Navy Captain, he was also (briefly) a member of the New York State Assembly from Westchester, having been born in Morrisania.

HISTORICAL LIST OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY SUPREME COURT JUDGES
Modified from a list generously provided by the Westchester County Archives

1906-1920

Arthur S. Tompkins
Martin J. Keogh

1921-1922

Arthur S. Tompkins
Isaac N. Mills
Martin J. Keogh
J. Addison Young
William Popham Platt
Albert H. F. Seeger

1922-1923

Arthur S. Tompkins
Martin J. Keogh
J. Addison Young
William Popham Platt
Albert H. F. Seeger
Frank L. Young

1923-1927

Arthur S. Tompkins
J. Addison Young
William Popham Platt
Albert H. F. Seeger
George H. Taylor
Frank L. Young

1927-1929

Arthur S. Tompkins
J. Addison Young
Albert H. F. Seeger
George H. Taylor
Frank L. Young
William F. Bleakley

1929-1930

Arthur S. Tompkins
J. Addison Young
Albert H. F. Seeger *Term expired Dec. 31, 1929*

Graham Witschief
George H. Taylor
Frank L. Young
William F. Bleakley

1930-1933

Arthur S. Tompkins
J. Addison Young
Graham Witschief
Frederick P. Close
George H. Taylor
William F. Bleakley

1934-1935

Arthur S. Tompkins
J. Addison Young
Graham Witschief
Frederick P. Close
George H. Taylor
William F. Bleakley

1936

Mortimer B. Patterson
J. Addison Young
Graham Witschief
Frederick P. Close
George H. Taylor
William F. Bleakley

1937

Mortimer B. Patterson
Lee Parsons Davis
Graham Witschief
Frederick P. Close
George H. Taylor
Sidney A. Syme

1938-1943

Mortimer B. Patterson

Lee Parsons Davis
Graham Witschief
Frederick P. Close
George H. Taylor

1943-1945

Mortimer B. Patterson
Lee Parsons Davis
Graham Witschief
Frederick P. Close
Frank H. Coyne

1946

Lee Parsons Davis
Charles W. U. Sneed
Frank H. Coyne
James W. Bailey
Frederick G. Schmidt

1947

Frank H. Coyne
Lee Parsons Davis
Charles W. U. Sneed
James W. Bailey
Frederick G. Schmidt

1948-1950

Lee Parsons Davis
Charles W. U. Sneed
Frank H. Coyne
James W. Bailey
Frederick G. Schmidt

1951-1952

Lee Parsons Davis
Charles W. U. Sneed
Frank H. Coyne
James W. Bailey
Frederick G. Schmidt
Elbert T. Gallagher

1953

Frank H. Coyne
Charles W. U. Sneed

James W. Bailey
Frederick G. Schmidt
Elbert T. Gallagher
Arthur D. Brennan

1954

Frank H. Coyne
James W. Bailey
Frederick G. Schmidt
Elbert T. Gallagher
Arthur D. Brennan

1955

Frank H. Coyne
James W. Bailey
Frederick G. Schmidt
Elbert T. Gallagher
Arthur D. Brennan

1956-1959

Frank H. Coyne
James W. Bailey
George M. Fanelli
Elbert T. Gallagher
Arthur D. Brennan

1960

Frank H. Coyne
James W. Bailey
George M. Fanelli
Elbert T. Gallagher
Arthur D. Brennan *Appellate Division*
Hugh S. Coyle

1961

Arthur D. Brennan *Appellate Division*
George M. Fanelli
Elbert T. Gallagher
Hugh S. Coyle
Frank S. McCullough

1962

Joseph F. Gagliardi
Arthur D. Brennan *Appellate Division*

George M. Fanelli
Elbert T. Gallagher
Hugh S. Coyle
Frank S. McCullough
James D. Hopkins *Appellate Division*
John J. Dillon

1963-1964

Joseph F. Gagliardi
Arthur D. Brennan *Appellate Division*
Frank H. Coyne
George M. Fanelli
Elbert T. Gallagher
Hugh S. Coyle
Frank S. McCullough
James D. Hopkins *Appellate Division*
John J. Dillon
James W. Bailey

1965

Joseph F. Gagliardi
Arthur D. Brennan *Appellate Division*
Frank H. Coyne *Died Jan. 1966*
George M. Fanelli
Elbert T. Gallagher
Hugh S. Coyle
Frank S. McCullough
James D. Hopkins *Appellate Division*
John J. Dillon
James W. Bailey

1966

Joseph F. Gagliardi
Arthur D. Brennan *Appellate Division*
George M. Fanelli
Elbert T. Gallagher
Hugh S. Coyle
Frank S. McCullough
James D. Hopkins *Appellate Division*
John J. Dillon
James W. Bailey
John H. Galloway, Jr.

1967

Joseph F. Gagliardi
Arthur D. Brennan *Appellate Division*
George M. Fanelli
Elbert T. Gallagher
James D. Hopkins *Appellate Division*
John H. Galloway, Jr.

1968

Joseph F. Gagliardi
Arthur D. Brennan *Appellate Division*
George M. Fanelli
Elbert T. Gallagher
Hugh S. Coyle
Robert E. Dempsey
Frank S. McCullough
John P. Donohue
James D. Hopkins *Appellate Division*
John J. Dillon
John H. Galloway, Jr.
Robert Trainor

1969

Joseph F. Gagliardi
Arthur D. Brennan *Appellate Division*
George M. Fanelli
Elbert T. Gallagher
Hugh S. Coyle *Administrative Justice*
Robert E. Dempsey
Frank S. McCullough
James D. Hopkins *Appellate Division*
John J. Dillon
Joseph F. Hawkins
John H. Galloway, Jr.
Robert Trainor
Samuel W. Eager
P. Raymond Sirignano
Morrie Slifkin

1970

Joseph F. Gagliardi
Arthur D. Brennan *Appellate Division*
George M. Fanelli
Elbert T. Gallagher
Robert E. Dempsey

Frank S. McCullough
James D. Hopkins *Appellate Division*
John J. Dillon
John H. Galloway, Jr.
Leonard Rubenfeld
Robert Trainor
Samuel W. Eager
P. Raymond Sirignano
Morrie Slifkin

1971

Joseph F. Gagliardi
Arthur D. Brennan *Appellate Division*
George M. Fanelli
Elbert T. Gallagher
Robert E. Dempsey
Frank S. McCullough
James D. Hopkins *Appellate Division*
John J. Dillon
John H. Galloway, Jr.
Leonard Rubenfeld
Robert Trainor
P. Raymond Sirignano
Morrie Slifkin
John C. Marbach
William A. Walsh, Jr.
John W. Sweeny

1972

Joseph F. Gagliardi
Arthur D. Brennan *Appellate Division*
George M. Fanelli
Elbert T. Gallagher
Robert E. Dempsey
Frank S. McCullough
John P. Donohue
James D. Hopkins *Appellate Division*
John J. Dillon
Leonard Rubenfeld
Robert Trainor
P. Raymond Sirignano
Morrie Slifkin
John C. Marbach
William A. Walsh, Jr.
John W. Sweeny

Anthony J. Cerrato
George Beisheim, Jr.

1973

Joseph F. Gagliardi
Arthur D. Brennan *Appellate Division*
George M. Fanelli
Elbert T. Gallagher
Robert E. Dempsey
Frank S. McCullough *Administrative Judge*
John P. Donohue
James D. Hopkins *Appellate Division*
John J. Dillon
Leonard Rubenfeld
Robert Trainor
P. Raymond Sirignano
Morrie Slifkin
John C. Marbach
William A. Walsh, Jr.
John W. Sweeny
Anthony J. Cerrato
George Beisheim, Jr.

1974

Joseph F. Gagliardi
Arthur D. Brennan *Appellate Division*
Frank S. McCullough *Administrative Judge*
James D. Hopkins *Appellate Division*
John J. Dillon
Leonard Rubenfeld
Robert Trainor
P. Raymond Sirignano
Morrie Slifkin
John C. Marbach
William A. Walsh, Jr.
John W. Sweeny
Anthony J. Cerrato
George Beisheim, Jr.
George D. Burchell
Alvin R. Ruskin
Timothy J. Sullivan

1975

Joseph F. Gagliardi *Administrative Judge*
Arthur D. Brennan *Appellate Division*
James D. Hopkins *Appellate Division*
Leonard Rubenfeld
Robert Trainor
P. Raymond Sirignano
Morrie Slifkin
John C. Marbach
William A. Walsh, Jr.
Anthony J. Cerrato
George Beisheim, Jr.
George D. Burchell
Anthony J. Ferraro
Alvin R. Ruskin
Timothy J. Sullivan
Harold W. Wood
1975 Acting Supreme Court Justices
Court of Claims
9 year terms
Howard A. Jones
John J. Walsh
Daniel F. McMahon

1976

George Beisheim, Jr. *Administrative Judge*
George D. Burchell
James R. Caruso *Administrative Judge*
Anthony J. Cerrato
Anthony J. Ferraro
Joseph F. Gagliardi *Administrative Judge*
James D. Hopkins *Appellate Division*
John C. Marbach
Leonard Rubenfeld
Alvin R. Ruskin
P. Raymond Sirignano
Morrie Slifkin
Timothy J. Sullivan
Robert Trainor
William A. Walsh, Jr.
Harold W. Wood
Acting Supreme Court Justices - Court of Claims
Howard A. Jones
Daniel F. McMahon
Duncan S. McNab
John J. Walsh

1977

George Beisheim, Jr.
George D. Burchell
Anthony J. Cerrato
Theodore Dachenhausen, Jr.
Richard J. Daronco
Anthony J. Ferraro
Joseph F. Gagliardi
James D. Hopkins
John C. Marbach
Leonard Rubenfeld
Isaac Rubin
Alvin R. Ruskin
P. Raymond Sirignano
Morrie Slifkin
Timothy J. Sullivan
Robert J. Trainor
William A. Walsh, Jr.
Harold L. Wood
Acting Supreme Court Justices - Court of Claims
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Daniel F. McMahon
Duncan S. McNab
John J. Walsh

1978

George Beisheim, Jr. *Administrative Judge*
George D. Burchell
Anthony J. Cerrato
Anthony J. Ferraro
Joseph F. Gagliardi *Administrative Judge*
James D. Hopkins *Appellate Division*
John C. Marbach
Leonard Rubenfeld
Isaac Rubin
Alvin R. Ruskin
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Morrie Slifkin
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William A. Walsh, Jr.
Harold W. Wood
Acting Supreme Court Justices - Court of Claims
9 year terms
Howard A. Jones

Daniel F. McMahon
Duncan S. McNab

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Anthony J. Ferraro
Joseph F. Gagliardi *Administrative Judge*
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John C. Marbach
Leonard Rubenfeld
Isaac Rubin
Alvin R. Ruskin
P. Raymond Sirignano
Morrie Slifkin
Timothy J. Sullivan
John W. Sweeny
William A. Walsh, Jr.
Harold W. Wood

1980

George Beisheim, Jr.
George D. Burchell
Anthony J. Cerrato
Richard J. Daronco
Anthony J. Ferraro
Joseph F. Gagliardi *Administrative Judge*
James D. Hopkins
Theodore A. Kelly
John C. Marbach
Leonard Rubenfeld
Isaac Rubin
Alvin R. Ruskin
P. Raymond Sirignano
Morrie Slifkin
Timothy J. Sullivan
John W. Sweeny
William A. Walsh, Jr.
Harold W. Wood
Vincent Gurahian
Theodore Dachenhausen, Jr.

1981

George Beisheim, Jr.
George D. Burchell
Anthony J. Cerrato
Matthew F. Coppola
Richard J. Daronco
Anthony J. Ferraro
Joseph F. Gagliardi *Administrative Judge*
James D. Hopkins
John C. Marbach
Leonard Rubenfeld
Isaac Rubin
Alvin R. Ruskin
P. Raymond Sirignano
Morrie Slifkin
Timothy J. Sullivan
William A. Walsh, Jr.
Harold W. Wood
Vincent Gurahian
Theodore Dachenhausen, Jr.

1982

George Beisheim, Jr.
Lucille Buell
George D. Burchell
Anthony J. Cerrato
Matthew F. Coppola
Richard J. Daronco
Anthony J. Ferraro
Joseph F. Gagliardi *Administrative Judge*
Russell Leggett
John C. Marbach
Leonard Rubenfeld
Isaac Rubin
Alvin R. Ruskin
P. Raymond Sirignano
Morrie Slifkin
Timothy J. Sullivan
William A. Walsh, Jr.
Harold W. Wood
Vincent Gurahian
Theodore Dachenhausen, Jr.

1983

George Beisheim, Jr.
Lucille Buell
George D. Burchell
Anthony J. Cerrato
Matthew F. Coppola
Richard J. Daronco
Gerald E. Delaney
W. Denis Donovan
Anthony J. Ferraro
Joseph F. Gagliardi *Administrative Judge*
Russell Leggett
John C. Marbach
Louis Palella
Leonard Rubenfeld
Alvin R. Ruskin
Timothy J. Sullivan
William A. Walsh, Jr.
Harold W. Wood
Vincent Gurahian
Theodore Dachenhausen, Jr.

1984

George Beisheim, Jr.
Lucille Buell
George D. Burchell
Matthew F. Coppola
Richard J. Daronco
Gerald E. Delaney
W. Denis Donovan
Anthony J. Ferraro
Joseph F. Gagliardi *Administrative Judge*
John C. Marbach
Lawrence N. Martin, Jr.
Aldo A. Nastasi
Louis Palella
Leonard Rubenfeld
Alvin R. Ruskin
Morrie Slifkin
Timothy J. Sullivan
William A. Walsh, Jr.
Harold W. Wood
Vincent Gurahian
Theodore Dachenhausen, Jr.

1985

George Beisheim, Jr.
Lucille Buell
George D. Burchell
Matthew F. Coppola
Richard J. Daronco
Gerald E. Delaney
W. Denis Donovan
Anthony J. Ferraro
Joseph F. Gagliardi *Administrative Judge*
John C. Marbach
Lawrence N. Martin, Jr.
Aldo A. Nastasi
Louis Palella
Leonard Rubenfeld
Alvin R. Ruskin
Morrie Slifkin
Timothy J. Sullivan
William A. Walsh, Jr.
Harold W. Wood
Vincent Gurahian
Theodore Dachenhausen, Jr.

1986

Lucille Buell
Anthony J. Cerrato
Matthew F. Coppola
Richard J. Daronco
Gerald E. Delaney
W. Denis Donovan
Anthony J. Ferraro
Joseph F. Gagliardi *Administrative Judge*
John C. Marbach
Lawrence N. Martin, Jr.
Aldo A. Nastasi
Louis Palella
Leonard Rubenfeld
Isaac Rubin
Alvin R. Ruskin
Morrie Slifkin
Timothy J. Sullivan
William A. Walsh, Jr.
Harold W. Wood
Vincent Gurahian
Theodore Dachenhausen, Jr.

1987

Lucille Buell
 Anthony J. Cerrato
 Matthew F. Coppola
 Richard J. Daronco
 Gerald E. Delaney
 W. Denis Donovan
 Anthony J. Ferraro
 Joseph F. Gagliardi *Administrative Judge*
 John C. Marbach
 Sondra Miller
 Aldo A. Nastasi
 Louis Palella
 Leonard Rubenfeld
 Isaac Rubin
 Alvin R. Ruskin
 Timothy J. Sullivan
 William A. Walsh, Jr.
 Harold W. Wood
 Vincent Gurahian
 Theodore Dachenhausen, Jr.

1988

Lucille Buell
 Nicholas Colabella
 Matthew F. Coppola
 James R. Cowhey
 Theodore Dachenhausen
 Gerald E. Delaney
 W. Denis Donovan
 Thomas A. Facelle
 Vincent Gurahian
 Sondra Miller
 Aldo A. Nastasi
 Louis Palella
 Peter P. Rosato
 Harold L. Wood
 Anthony J. Cerrato
 Anthony J. Ferraro *On leave*
 John C. Marbach
 Leonard Rubenfeld
 Isaac Rubin *Appellate Division*
 Alvin R. Ruskin
 William A. Walsh, Jr.

1989

Gordon W. Burrows
 Nicholas Colabella
 Matthew F. Coppola
 James R. Cowhey
 Gerald E. Delaney
 W. Denis Donovan
 Thomas A. Facelle
 Vincent Gurahian
 Sondra Miller *Appellate Division*
 Aldo A. Nastasi
 Louis Palella
 Peter P. Rosato
 Harold L. Wood
 Anthony J. Cerrato
 Anthony J. Ferraro *On leave*
 Irving A. Green
 John C. Marbach
 Isaac Rubin *Appellate Division*
 Alvin R. Ruskin
 William A. Walsh, Jr.

1990

Gordon W. Burrows
 Nicholas Colabella
 Matthew F. Coppola
 James R. Cowhey
 Gerald E. Delaney
 W. Denis Donovan
 Albert J. Emanuelli
 Thomas A. Facelle
 Samuel G. Fredman
 Vincent Gurahian
 Sondra Miller *Appellate Division*
 Aldo A. Nastasi
 Louis Palella
 Peter P. Rosato
 John C. Marbach
 Isaac Rubin *Appellate Division*
 Alvin R. Ruskin
 William A. Walsh, Jr.
 Harold W. Wood

1991

Gordon W. Burrows
Nicholas Colabella
Matthew F. Coppola
James R. Cowhey
Gerald E. Delaney
W. Denis Donovan
Samuel G. Fredman
Vincent Gurahian
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Sondra M. Miller *Appellate Division*
Aldo A. Nastasi
Francis A. Nicolai
Louis C. Palella
Peter P. Rosato
Alvin R. Ruskin
Harold W. Wood

1992

Louis A. Barone
Gordon W. Burrows
Nicholas Colabella
Matthew F. Coppola
James R. Cowhey
W. Denis Donovan
Samuel G. Fredman
Vincent Gurahian
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Sondra M. Miller *Appellate Division*
Aldo A. Nastasi
Francis A. Nicolai
Louis C. Palella
Peter P. Rosato
Alvin R. Ruskin
Harold L. Wood

1993

Gordon W. Burrows
Louis A. Barone
Nicholas Colabella
Matthew F. Coppola
James R. Cowhey
W. Denis Donovan
Samuel G. Fredman
Vincent Gurahian
Joan B. Lefkowitz

Sondra M. Miller *Appellate Division*
Aldo A. Nastasi
Francis A. Nicolai
Louis C. Palella
Peter P. Rosato
Donald S. Silverman
Alvin R. Ruskin
Harold L. Wood

1994

Gordon W. Burrows
Louis A. Barone
Nicholas Colabella
Matthew F. Coppola
James R. Cowhey
W. Denis Donovan
Samuel G. Fredman
Sondra M. Miller *Appellate Division*
Anthony A. Scarpino
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Aldo A. Nastasi
Francis A. Nicolai
Louis C. Palella
Peter P. Rosato
Donald S. Silverman
Harold L. Wood

1995

Gordon W. Burrows
Louis A. Barone
Nicholas Colabella
Matthew F. Coppola
James R. Cowhey
W. Denis Donovan
Samuel G. Fredman
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Sondra M. Miller *Appellate Division*
Aldo A. Nastasi
Francis A. Nicolai
Louis C. Palella
Peter P. Rosato
Anthony A. Scarpino
Donald S. Silverman
Harold L. Wood

1996

Louis A. Barone
Orazio R. Bellantoni
John P. DiBlasi
Gordon W. Burrows
Nicholas Colabella
Matthew F. Coppola
James R. Cowhey
W. Denis Donovan
Samuel G. Fredman
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Sondra M. Miller *Appellate Division*
Aldo A. Nastasi
Francis A. Nicolai
Louis C. Palella
Peter P. Rosato
Kenneth W. Rudolph
Anthony A. Scarpino
Donald S. Silverman

1997

Louis A. Barone
Orazio R. Bellantoni
Nicholas Colabella
Matthew F. Coppola
James R. Cowhey
John P. DiBlasi
W. Denis Donovan
Samuel G. Fredman
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Sondra M. Miller *Appellate Division*
J. Emmett Murphy
Aldo A. Nastasi
Francis A. Nicolai
Louis C. Palella
Peter P. Rosato
Kenneth W. Rudolph
Anthony A. Scarpino
Donald S. Silverman

1998

Louis A. Barone
Orazio R. Bellantoni
Nicholas Colabella

Matthew F. Coppola
James R. Cowhey
John P. DiBlasi
W. Denis Donovan
Samuel G. Fredman
Joan B. Lefkowitz
J. Emmett Murphy
Sondra M. Miller *Appellate Division*
Aldo A. Nastasi
Francis A. Nicolai
Louis C. Palella
Peter P. Rosato
Kenneth W. Rudolph
Anthony A. Scarpino
Donald S. Silverman

1999

Peter P. Rosato
Louis A. Barone
Orazio R. Bellantoni
Nicholas Colabella
Matthew F. Coppola
James R. Cowhey
John P. DiBlasi
W. Denis Donovan
Samuel G. Fredman
John LaCava
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Sondra M. Miller *Appellate Division*
J. Emmett Murphy
Aldo A. Nastasi
Francis A. Nicolai *Administrative Judge*
Louis C. Palella
John M. Perone
Kenneth W. Rudolph
Anthony A. Scarpino

2000

Daniel D. Angiolillo
Louis A. Barone
Orazio R. Bellantoni
Nicholas Colabella
Matthew F. Coppola
James R. Cowhey
John P. DiBlasi

W. Denis Donovan
Samuel G. Fredman
John LaCava
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Sondra M. Miller *Appellate Division*
Richard A. Molea
J. Emmett Murphy
Aldo A. Nastasi
Francis A. Nicolai *Administrative Judge*
Louis C. Palella
John M. Perone
Peter P. Rosato
Kenneth W. Rudolph
Anthony A. Scarpino
Joseph K. West

2001

Daniel D. Angiolillo
Louis A. Barone
Orazio R. Bellantoni
Nicholas Colabella
Matthew F. Coppola
James R. Cowhey
John P. DiBlasi
Mark Dillon *Appellate Division 2005-present*
W. Denis Donovan
John LaCava
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Sondra M. Miller *Appellate Division*
Richard A. Molea
J. Emmett Murphy
Aldo A. Nastasi
Andrew P. O'Rourke
Kenneth W. Rudolph
Francis A. Nicolai *Administrative Judge*
Louis C. Palella
John M. Perone
Peter P. Rosato
Fred L. Shapiro
Bruce E. Tolbert
Joseph K. West

2002

Daniel D. Angiolillo
Louis A. Barone

Orazio R. Bellantoni
Nicholas Colabella
James R. Cowhey
John P. DiBlasi
Mark Dillon *Assigned to Dutchess County*
W. Denis Donovan
John LaCava
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Sondra M. Miller *Appellate Division*
Richard A. Molea
J. Emmett Murphy
Aldo A. Nastasi
Francis A. Nicolai *Administrative Judge*
Andrew P. O'Rourke
Louis C. Palella
Kenneth W. Rudolph
Robert A. Spolzino
Fred L. Shapiro
Bruce E. Tolbert
Joseph K. West

2003

Daniel D. Angiolillo
Louis A. Barone
Orazio R. Bellantoni
Nicholas Colabella
John P. DiBlasi
Thomas A. Dickerson
Janet DiFiore
W. Denis Donovan
Linda S. Jamieson
John LaCava
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Sondra M. Miller *Appellate Division*
J. Emmett Murphy
Aldo A. Nastasi
Francis A. Nicolai *Administrative Judge*
Andrew P. O'Rourke
Louis C. Palella
Peter P. Rosato
Kenneth W. Rudolph
Mary H. Smith
Robert A. Spolzino
Joseph K. West

2004

Daniel D. Angiolillo
 Louis A. Barone
 Orazio R. Bellantoni
 Nicholas Colabella
 Thomas A. Dickerson
 Janet DiFiore *Acting Justice*
 W. Denis Donovan
 Margaret Garvey
 Lawrence Horowitz
 Linda S. Jamieson
 John LaCava
 Joan B. Lefkowitz
 Sondra M. Miller *Appellate Division*
 J. Emmett Murphy
 Aldo A. Nastasi
 Francis A. Nicolai *Administrative Judge*
 Andrew P. O'Rourke
 Louis C. Palella
 Peter P. Rosato
 Kenneth W. Rudolph
 Mary H. Smith
 Robert A. Spolzino
 Bruce E. Tolbert

2005

Lester B. Adler
 Daniel D. Angiolillo
 Louis A. Barone
 Orazio R. Bellantoni
 Nicholas Colabella
 Barry A. Cozier
 Thomas A. Dickerson
 Janet DiFiore
 W. Denis Donovan
 William Giacomo
 Linda S. Jamieson
 John LaCava
 Joan B. Lefkowitz
 Sondra M. Miller *Appellate Division*
 J. Emmett Murphy
 Aldo A. Nastasi
 Francis A. Nicolai *Administrative Judge*
 Louis C. Palella
 Peter P. Rosato

Kenneth W. Rudolph
 Robert A. Spolzino
 Bruce E. Tolbert

2006

Lester B. Adler
 Daniel D. Angiolillo
 Orazio R. Bellantoni
 Nicholas Colabella
 Thomas A. Dickerson
 W. Denis Donovan
 William Giacomo
 Linda S. Jamieson
 John LaCava
 Joan B. Lefkowitz
 Richard Liebowitz
 Jonathan Lippman
 Richard A. Molea
 J. Emmett Murphy
 Aldo A. Nastasi
 Francis A. Nicolai *Administrative Judge*
 Louis C. Palella
 Peter P. Rosato
 Kenneth W. Rudolph
 Mary Smith
 Robert Spolzino
 Bruce E. Tolbert

2007

Lester B. Adler
 Daniel Angiolillo *Appellate Division*
 Orazio R. Bellantoni
 Nicholas Colabella
 Thomas A. Dickerson *Appellate Division*
 W. Denis Donovan
 Anita Florio *Appellate Division*
 William Giacomo
 Linda S. Jamieson
 John LaCava
 Joan B. Lefkowitz
 Richard Liebowitz
 Jonathan Lippman
 Lewis Lubell
 Richard A. Molea
 J. Emmett Murphy

Aldo A. Nastasi
Francis A. Nicolai *Administrative Judge*
Louis C. Palella
Peter P. Rosato
Kenneth W. Rudolph
Alan Scheinkman
Mary Smith
Robert Spolzino *Appellate Division*
Bruce E. Tolbert
Sam Walker

2008

Lester B. Adler
Daniel D. Angiolillo *Appellate Division*
Orazio R. Bellantoni
Nicholas Colabella
Thomas A. Dickerson *Appellate Division*
W. Denis Donovan
Anita Florio *Appellate Division*
Richard Liebowitz
William Giacomo
Linda S. Jamieson
John LaCava
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Jonathan Lippman
Lewis Lubell
Richard A. Molea
J. Emmett Murphy
Aldo A. Nastasi
Francis A. Nicolai *Administrative Judge*
Louis C. Palella
Peter P. Rosato
Kenneth W. Rudolph
Alan Scheinkman
Mary Smith
Robert Spolzino *Appellate Division*
Bruce E. Tolbert
Sam Walker

2009

Lester B. Adler
Daniel D. Angiolillo *Appellate Division*
Orazio R. Bellantoni
Nicholas Colabella
Thomas A. Dickerson *Appellate Division*

Anita Florio *Appellate Division*
Linda S. Jamieson
John R. LaCava
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Richard Liebowitz
Lewis Lubell
Richard Molea
J. Emmett Murphy
Francis A. Nicolai *Administrative Judge*
Louis C. Palella
Kenneth W. Rudolph
Anthony Scarpino
Alan Scheinkman
Robert Spolzino *Appellate Division*
Mary Smith
Bruce E. Tolbert
Sam Walker

2010

Lester B. Adler
Daniel D. Angiolillo *Appellate Division*
Orazio R. Bellantoni
Jeffrey Cohen
Nicholas Colabella
Thomas A. Dickerson *Appellate Division*
Robert Holdman
Linda S. Jamieson
John R. LaCava
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Richard Liebowitz
Albert Lorenzo
Lewis Lubell
Richard A. Molea
J. Emmett Murphy
Francis A. Nicolai
Louis C. Palella
Alan Scheinkman *Administrative Judge*
Mary Smith
Bruce E. Tolbert
Sam Walker
William Wetzel
Charles Wood

2011

Lester B. Adler

Daniel D. Angiolillo *Appellate Division*
Orazio R. Bellantoni
Robert Berliner
Linda Christopher
Francesca E. Connolly
Jeffrey Cohen *Appellate Division*
Thomas A. Dickerson *Appellate Division*
Colleen Duffy
Lawrence Ecker
Anita Florio *Appellate Division*
Linda S. Jamieson
John R. LaCava
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Richard Liebowitz
Albert Lorenzo
Lewis Lubell
Richard Molea
J. Emmett Murphy
Francis A. Nicolai
Louis C. Palella
Alan Scheinkman *Administrative Judge*
Mary Smith
Bruce E. Tolbert
Sam Walker
Charles Wood

2012

Lester B. Adler
Daniel D. Angiolillo *Appellate Division*
Orazio R. Bellantoni
Linda Christopher
Francesca E. Connolly
Jeffrey Cohen *Appellate Division*
Robert DiBella
Thomas A. Dickerson *Appellate Division*
Colleen Duffy
Lawrence Ecker
William Giacomo
Linda S. Jamieson
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Gerald Loehr
Lewis Lubell
Paul Marx
J. Emmett Murphy
Francis A. Nicolai

Alan Scheinkman *Administrative Judge*
Mary Smith
Bruce E. Tolbert
Sam Walker
Charles Wood

2013

Lester B. Adler
Daniel D. Angiolillo *Appellate Division*
Orazio R. Bellantoni
Linda Christopher
Jeffrey Cohen *Appellate Division*
Nicholas Colabella
Francesca E. Connolly
Robert DiBella
Thomas A. Dickerson *Appellate Division*
Colleen Duffy
Lawrence Ecker
Anita Florio
William Giacomo
Linda S. Jamieson
John LaCava
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Lewis Lubell
Paul Marx
J. Emmett Murphy
Francis A. Nicolai
Alan Scheinkman *Administrative Judge*
Mary Smith
Bruce E. Tolbert
Sam Walker
Charles Wood

2014

Lester B. Adler
Orazio R. Bellantoni
Linda Christopher
Nicholas Colabella
Francesca E. Connolly
Robert DiBella
Lawrence Ecker
William Giacomo
Linda S. Jamieson
Joan B. Lefkowitz
Lewis Lubell

Paul Marx
J. Emmett Murphy
Francis A. Nicolai
Alan Scheinkman *Administrative Judge*
Mary Smith
Bruce E. Tolbert
Sam Walker
Charles Wood

SURROGATES

From Scharf, Chester, through 1918; remainder from Westchester County archives

| | | | |
|------|---------------------|------|--------------------------------------|
| 1730 | Gilbert Willet | 1847 | Lewis Platt |
| 1754 | John Bartow | 1855 | Robert Coles |
| 1761 | Caleb Fowler | 1862 | Silas Gifford/John Mills |
| 1766 | David Daton | 1870 | Owen Coffin |
| 1778 | Richard Hatfield | 1894 | Theodore Silkman |
| 1787 | Philip Pell | 1906 | Frank V. Millard |
| 1800 | Samuel Youngs | 1912 | William A. Sawyer |
| 1802 | Edward Thomas | 1918 | George Slater |
| 1808 | Ezra Lockwood | 1937 | William J. Sheil |
| 1810 | Samuel Youngs | 1938 | Charles D. Millard |
| 1811 | Ezra Lackwood | 1944 | Charles H. Griffiths |
| 1813 | Samuel Youngs | 1954 | Samuel Faile |
| 1815 | Henry White | 1958 | John J. Dillon |
| 1819 | Samuel Youngs | 1962 | Harry G. Hermann |
| 1821 | Ebenezer White, Jr. | 1966 | Otto C. Jaeger |
| 1828 | Jonathan Ward | 1974 | Evans V. Brewster |
| 1840 | Alexander H. Wells | 1991 | Albert J. Emanuelli |
| 1844 | Frederick Coffin | 2001 | Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr. (incumbent) |

b. Attorneys, District Attorneys, & Politicians



John E. Andrus, 1841-1934

Andrus, John Emory (1841–1934) – Born in Pleasantville, Andrus taught school in his early years, after which he became something of an entrepreneurial polyglot, investing widely, running the Arlington Chemical Company, and engaging in complex real-estate transactions. Andrus became the mayor of Yonkers in 1903 before becoming a member of Congress in 1905. He passed away in Yonkers and is buried at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla.

Bishop, James Keough, Jr. (1938-) – Ambassador Bishop was born to a well-respected New Rochelle family. He has served as Ambassador to Somalia, Liberia, and Niger.

Depew, Chauncey Mitchell (1834–1928) – Born in Peekskill, Depew served in the Assembly as a member from Westchester and later served as the County Clerk; in between, he was briefly the New York Secretary of State. Depew was justifiably famous for his learned and long-term association with various railroad interests, serving in counselor and executive positions. Depew also served as a United States Senator and remained active in politics. He is interred in Corlandt.

Fairchild, Benjamin Lewis (1863–1946) – Fairchild has the unusual distinction of being a long-serving member of Congress, but across varying districts and with noncontiguous terms. He is associated with Pelham, having served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Pelham National Bank, but also has connections with Monroe County.

Hamilton, Alexander (1755–1804) – A Founding Father who needs no introduction, Hamilton’s life in New York intersected, at times, with Westchester County. He participated in the Battle of White Plains.

Later in life, he had occasion to practice in the White Plains County Courthouse; as did, curiously enough, Aaron Burr.

McGovern, J. Raymond (1898–1974) – Born in and closely associated with New Rochelle, McGovern served in the State Senate and as State Comptroller, and pursued—unsuccessfully—the position of Lieutenant Governor.

Miller, Henry G. (1931-) – Senior Member at Clark Gagliardi & Miller in White Plains, Miller was the president of the Westchester County Bar Association from 1975 to 1977 and has been appointed by multiple governors of New York to chair panels on matters of state concern. Miller also served as an adjunct professor at St. John's. He graduated from St. John's Law School with graduate coursework at NYU and Columbia Law Schools. He is also widely known as a playwright and novelist.

Neale, J. Henry (1906–1989) – J. Henry Neale, who served as General Counsel of the Navy in World War II (and would later write extensively on issues pertaining to the Navy), was a longtime Westchester County resident, serving as president and chairman of the Scarsdale National Bank and Trust Company and as president of the Westchester County Bankers Association. He was also president of the Westchester County Bar Association from 1953 to 1955, before becoming president of the State Bar Association in the 1960s.

Otis, Norton Prentiss (1840–1905) – Born outside of New York into the Otis elevator family, Otis became mayor of Yonkers in 1880 and later served in the State Assembly (from Westchester) and in the United States Congress.

Pataki, George (1945-) – George Pataki was the 53rd Governor of New York, having won three consecutive four year terms from 1995 through 2006. He was born and raised in Peekskill, becoming mayor in 1981 and joining the New York State Assembly in 1984. Pataki also served one term in the New York State Senate (representing Westchester).

He graduated from Yale in 1967 and from Columbia Law School in 1970.

Robertson, William H. (1823–1898) – A Westchester native, Robertson served in the state Assembly, state Senate (a longtime senator, served for a time as president pro tempore), and the local bench; and, somewhere in there, Robertson also found time to serve two years in Congress. He played an important role in an intra-GOP split, when his appointment as Collector of the Port of New York led ultimately to the defeat of New York's two United States Senators. Last, but not least, he was the first president of the Westchester County Bar Association and a president of the State Bar.

Ryan, William (1840–1925) – The Irish-born Ryan arrived in Port Chester in 1861, serving in several local offices before being elected to the State Assembly and the United States Congress.

Smith, Henry J. (1919–1986) – President of the Westchester County Bar Association from 1963 to 1965; also president of the State and White Plains bar associations. He notably represented Greenburgh in an action challenging its representation on the County Board of Supervisors and was a partner at McCarthy Fingar in White Plains.



Tilden, Samuel Jones (1814–1886) – Governor Tilden’s story is best told elsewhere, and his connection to Westchester arrives in its twilight; he retired to Yonkers after the infamous and disputed loss in the 1876 presidential election.

Tompkins, Caleb (1759–1846) – Indelibly associated with Westchester County, Tompkins was a lifelong resident of Scarsdale, serving in the State Assembly, as a judge on the Westchester County Court, and as a Congressman; after leaving Congress, he returned to the bench. He is buried in White Plains.

Underhill, John Quincy (1848–1907): Born in New Rochelle, Underhill was long associated with the Westchester Fire Insurance Co. before moving into politics in a series of local and state positions; later, he served a single term in Congress.

Ward, William Lukens (1856–1933) – Born in Connecticut, Ward built his home and livelihood in Port Chester; as his official Congressional biography puts it, he “engaged in the manufacture of bolts, nuts, and rivets in Port Chester.” He served a single term in Congress, after which he returned to Port Chester. He is buried in the Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla.

Wallin, William John (1879–1963) – Wallin’s long career in public service included commissioner of elections, special district attorney, Assistant Yonkers City Attorney, and mayor of Yonkers. He also served as a delegate to the 1938 New York constitutional convention and as vice-chairman of the Westchester County Health Commission.

Williams, Isaiah Thornton – Prominent Westchester County attorney. Aide to President Fillmore. A close friend of Tribune owner Horace Greeley, and defended Greeley’s *Tribune* in various civil suits. One of the original founding members of the Westchester Historical Society.

Wood, Joseph Simeon (1843–1922) – President of the Westchester County Bar Association from 1899 to 1901, Wood was born in New York City, and his association with Westchester began when he became Superintendent of the Mount Vernon public schools. He later graduated from Columbia Law School and would attain positions such as president of the Mount Vernon Board of Education and president of the city’s board of trade.



JOSEPH S. WOOD
Joseph S. Wood, 1843-1922

District Attorneys⁷⁵

| Tenure | Name | City |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1819-1820 | Robert P. Lee | ----- |
| 1820-1823 | Aaron Ward | Sing Sing (Ossining) |
| 1823-1845 | William Nelson | Peekskill |
| 1845-1848 | Richard R. Voris | Sing Sing (Ossining) |
| 1848-1851 | William W. Scrugham | Yonkers |
| 1851-1857 | Edward Wells | Peekskill |
| 1857-1863 | William H. Pemberton | ----- |
| 1863-1866 | Pelham L. McClellan | Mount Vernon |
| 1866-1869 | John S. Bates | Bedford |
| 1869-1872 | Jackson O. Dykman | White Plains |
| 1872-1875 | Daniel C. Briggs | Peekskill |
| 1875-1878 | Robert Cochran | White Plains |
| 1878-1890 | Nelson H. Baker | Sing Sing (Ossining) |
| 1890-1896 | William P. Platt | White Plains |
| 1896-1901 | George C. Andrews | Tarrytown |
| 1902-1907 | J. Addison Young | New Rochelle |
| 1908-1913 | Francis A. Winslow | Yonkers |
| 1914-1916 | Frederick E. Weeks | White Plains |
| 1917-1921 | Lee Parsons Davis | Yonkers |
| 1922 | Frederick E. Weeks | White Plains |
| 1923-1928 | Arthur Rowland | Yonkers |
| 1929-1934 | Frank H. Coyne | Yonkers |
| 1935-1939 | Walter A. Ferris | Port Chester |
| 1940-1945 | Elbert T. Gallagher | Katonah |
| 1946-1952 | George M. Fanelli | New Rochelle |
| 1952-1954 | Samuel Faile | White Plains |
| 1955-1960 | Joseph L. Gagliardi | Larchmont |
| 1961 | Robert Trainor | Eastchester |

⁷⁵ <http://www.westchesterda.net/about-the-office/former-district-attorneys>

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|------------|
| 1962-1969 | Leonard Rubinfeld | Peekskill |
| 1970-1993 | Carl A. Vergari | Yonkers |
| 1994-2005 | Jeanine Pirro | Harrison |
| 2006- | Janet DiFiore | Bronxville |

c. Westchester County Bar Association

From Scharf: Isaac N. Mills, the Bench and Bar (526):

Westchester County has had an established bench for about two hundred years, and an established bar for nearly, if not quite, that length of time. A period so long could not fail to prove a rich field for historical investigation. While, in the main, the materials in hand are abundant, still, in some cases, it has seemed impossible to recover from oblivion the biography of one who, from the frequent appearance of his name upon the records of the court, we should judge to have been in his time a leading counselor and advocate.

From Smith, 160:

The Westchester County Bar Association was organized in February 1896, with the following named incorporators: William H. Robertson, Theodore H. Silkman, Gideon W. Davenport, Francis Larkin, William A. Woodworth, I.N. Mills, J. Addison Young, H.T. Dykman, R. E. Prime, D. Wiley Travis, Richard S. Emmet, Herbert D. Lent, and Charles Haines.

Current president (as of June 2015): P. Daniel Hollis, III.

Past Presidents (from <http://www.wcbany.org/?9>):

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1896-1897 | Hon. William H. Robertson | 1922-1923 | George H. Taylor, Jr. |
| 1897-1899 | Hon. Theodore H. Sikman | 1923-1925 | Frederick P. Close |
| 1899-1901 | Joseph S. Wood | 1925-1927 | I. J. Beaudrias |
| 1901-1902 | Joseph F. Daly | 1927-1929 | Hon. Charles D. Millard |
| 1902-1904 | Wilson Brown, Jr. | 1929-1931 | Albert Ritchie |
| 1904-1906 | J. Mayhew Wainwright | 1931-1933 | LeRoy Mills |
| 1906-1908 | John F. Brennan | 1933-1935 | Frank J. Lamb |
| 1908-1910 | Hon. Frank V. Millard | 1935-1937 | Hon. Lee Parsons Davis |
| 1910-1912 | Hon. J. Addison Young | 1937-1939 | Hon. Benjamin W. Moore |
| 1912-1914 | Jerome Alvord Peck | 1939-1941 | Gerald FitzGerald |
| 1914-1916 | Charles Philip Easton | 1941-1943 | Hon. Walter G. Otto |
| 1916-1918 | Michael J. Tierney | 1943-1945 | Silas S. Clark |
| 1918-1920 | Odell D. Tompkins | 1945-1947 | Hon. Thomas F. Croake |
| 1920-1922 | John M. Digney | 1947-1948 | James H. Cavanaugh |

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 1948-1950 | Ray Aylesworth | 1985-1987 | Joseph F. Longo |
| 1950-1951 | Thomas Connolly | 1987-1989 | Frank M. Headley, Jr. |
| 1951-1953 | Paul L. Bleakley | 1989-1991 | Gloria C. Markuson |
| 1953-1955 | J. Henry Neale | 1991-1993 | Ralph R. Nobile |
| 1955-1957 | Robert P. Smith | 1993-1995 | Arthur L. Penzel |
| 1957-1958 | Hon. John J. Dillon | 1995-1997 | Gary E. Bashian |
| 1958-1959 | Hon. Otto C. Jaeger | 1997-1999 | Richard M. Gardella |
| 1959-1961 | Hon. John H. Galloway, Jr. | 1999-2001 | Mary Ellen Manley |
| 1961-1963 | Frank H. Connelly | 2001-2003 | J. Radley Herold |
| 1963-1965 | Henry J. Smith | 2003-2004 | John A. Geoghegan |
| 1965-1967 | Hon. Evans V. Brewster | 2004-2005 | Hon. Sam D. Walker |
| 1967 | Morris Golub | 2005-2006 | John S. Marwell |
| 1967-1969 | J. Addison Young, 2nd. | 2006-2007 | Hon. Adam Seiden |
| 1969-1971 | Frederick F. Hufnagel | 2007-2008 | Anthony J. Enea |
| 1971-1973 | Hon. Isaac Rubin | 2008-2009 | Sal Lagonia |
| 1973-1975 | Charles E. Doyle, Jr. | 2009-2010 | Peter Zeltner |
| 1975-1977 | Henry G. Miller | 2010-2011 | Donald K. Sandford |
| 1977-1979 | Benjamin I. Taylor | 2011- 2012 | Carol Van Scoyoc |
| 1979- 1981 | William J. Daly | 2012-2013 | Jerold R. Ruderman |
| 1981-1983 | Martin Drazen | 2013–2014 | Jody Fay |
| 1983-1985 | H. Glen Hall | 2014–2015 | Dawn Kirby |

d. Women in Westchester⁷⁶

The Westchester County Women’s Bar Association, provided by Silvia Galgano, Executive Director:

The Westchester Women’s Bar Association (WWBA) celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Founded in 1975, WWBA has grown to more than 550 men and women members in all facets of the legal profession supporting WWBA’s mission to promote justice for all, regardless of gender; to advance the social, economic and legal status for women through the law; to expand opportunities for women and to raise the level of competence and integrity in the legal profession.

WWBA is one of the original five local/regional bar associations that formed the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY) to act as a unified voice for its members on issues of statewide, national and international significance to women. To that end, WBASNY now holds United Nations NGO status in association with the U.N. Department of Public Information and Special Consultative Status in association with the U.N. Economic and Social Counsel (ECOSOC). WBASNY now consists of 18 chapters and the WWBA is one of the largest chapters of WBASNY. The Association counts Justice Sondra Miller (ret.) as a Founding Mother.

While the WWBA has a rich 40 year history of addressing the overall needs of women lawyers, women lawyers in Westchester County realized the importance of a women’s bar association 80 years ago. The WWBA had a predecessor organization – The Westchester County Women’s Bar Association – which was formed back in 1935 and continued until the 1960s. The membership of this predecessor organization started with less than a dozen members in the 1930s and grew to approximately 42 members in 1947. Historical documents reveal that this predecessor bar association had a similar mission to the current WWBA mission which stated “The object of this association shall be to advance and maintain a high standard of ethics in the legal profession, to bring about a spirit of cooperation among the members of the bar, to promote the interests of women lawyers and to extend their opportunities” And, they also located other Women’s Bar Associations from the five boroughs of New York City and Nassau County to establish a Joint Committee of Women’s Bar Associations, where among other things, they discussed appointments of women judges. Thus, much like today’s WWBA, and its parent organization, WBASNY, the WCWBA and the Joint Committee of Women’s Bar Associations provided a forum and outlet for women attorneys.

Bradley, Cheryl – In 1974, Bradley joined the Westchester County District Attorney’s office, becoming the first female attorney on the staff. Bradley also cofounded the Westchester Women’s Bar Association.

⁷⁶ Some additional information drawn from <http://www.newrochelleny.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/123>.

Braslow, Ingrid – The first woman to run for Westchester County Court, in 1988. Judge Braslow later served as a Family Court Judge from 1991 through 1999.

Hutchinson, Anne (1591–1643) – Hutchinson cannot be done justice in summary format, but suffice to say, she was a transformational figure in Westchester County history, in terms of her participation and leadership in religious and social controversies. There are several biographies about her.

Knight, Madam Sarah (1666–1727) – Madam Knight’s solo journey from Boston to New York was notable by itself, but the journals she kept also provide insight into the formative days of various American towns and communities—including, most notably, New Rochelle.

Markuson, Gloria (1923–2012) – A graduate of Fordham Law School, Markuson was the first female president of the Westchester County Bar Association and the first female president of the Westchester County Legal Aid Society. She practiced in White Plains, New Rochelle, and Scarsdale.

Philipse, Margaret Hardenbroeck (1631–1690) – Hailing from the Netherlands, Margaret arrived in the United States in 1659; and, shortly after marrying her first husband, Pieter de Vries, began to work in business, trading for various Dutch merchants. After Pieter died, she took over his business operations as well; even among Dutch women, who were unusually entrepreneurial for the period, she stood out for her acumen. She then married Frederick Philipsen (later Philipse), although the transition to British rule meant that her autonomy in business matters was greatly decreased (Dutch law, unlike its British counterpart, recognized that women could own property); nevertheless, she continued to work, and the couple became one of the richest in all of New York. The Philipse Manor in Yonkers was built by the couple in 1682. Jean Zimmerman’s book, *The Women of the House: How a Colonial She-Merchant Built a Mansion, a Fortune, and a Dynasty* (2006), provides a biography.

Pirro, Jeanine (1951-) – First female District Attorney in Westchester (1993); first female judge on the County Court bench (1989).

Seton, Elizabeth (1774–1821) – Elizabeth Seton, who founded the Sisters of Charity in America and established the first American parochial school, is also the first American-born person to become a saint. She spent many of her early summers with relatives in New Rochelle.

Stewart-Cousins, Andrea (1950-) – First woman, and first African American, to lead a legislative conference in Albany (2012).

e. African Americans & LGBT Pioneers

Blackwood, Ronald A. (1926-) – First black mayor in New York (Mount Vernon, 1985).

Hanauer, William R. (1947-) – First openly gay mayor (Ossining) in Westchester.

Michael Jechiel de Hass – One of the first Jewish settlers in America, who settled in New Rochelle around 1700. His sixth son, born 1732, became the first Jewish child born in Westchester.⁷⁷

Keith, Herman – The first African American from Yonkers to be elected to a legislative position.

West, Joseph – The first African American City Court judge in Yonkers. (1983)

⁷⁷ <http://www.newrochelleny.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/123>.

f. Current Judiciary (2015)

Family Court

Kathie E. Davidson

David Klein

Janet Malone

Michelle I. Schauer

Hal Greenwald

Mary Anne Scatteretico-Naber

Nilda Morales Horowitz

County Court

Susan Capeci

Susan Cacace

John Colangelo

James Hubert

Barry Warhit

Barbara G. Zambelli

David Zuckerman

Supreme Court

Alan Scheinkman

Lester B. Adler

Orazio R. Bellantoni

Linda Christopher

Nicholas Colabella

John Colangelo

Francesca E. Connolly

Robert DiBella

Lawrence Ecker

William Giacomo

Linda S. Jamieson

Joan B. Lefkowitz

Lewis Lubell

Paul Marx

J. Emmett Murphy

Francis A. Nicolai

Mary Smith

Bruce E. Tolbert

Sam Walker

Charles Wood

IV. Cases and Trials of Note and Notoriety

The Witch Trial of Katherine Harrison (1670) – In one of Westchester’s *two* witchcraft-related prosecutions, Ms. Harrison was accused of witchcraft, apparently on the basis of accusations (leading to acquittal) from neighboring Connecticut. Harrison was eventually acquitted in New York, too, thanks to the help of some influential backers; bizarrely enough, the same sequence repeated itself in 1673, but met the same fate.

The Trial of John Peter Zenger (1735) – While the infamous Zenger trial actually took place in New York City, it arose from political events in Mount Vernon. Lewis Morris, great grandfather of Gouverneur Morris, was first elected to the assembly in Mount Vernon in 1733. Morris would later become Chief Justice of New York, and his sparring with Governor William Crosby—leading to his dismissal from the court after he ruled against the governor— led to the governor’s efforts to rig the assembly election against Morris and, in turn, created the controversy behind the libel trial. The site of the election, a church courtyard in Eastchester, is why Eastchester calls itself the Birthplace of the Bill of Rights; the powerful summation in the case are on the walls of the Eastchester Town Hall’s courtroom. During the Southern District of New York’s 225th anniversary celebration—also the 20th anniversary of its White Plains courthouse—a reenactment of the Zenger trial was part of the anniversary program.

People v. McFall (1878) – In a pamphlet circulated throughout Westchester, Andrew McFall accused Edward Baird, a City Judge of Yonkers, of embezzling and other moral failures. McFall was indicted for criminal libel; his defense, classically, was that the published statements were true. After a mistrial, McFall was found guilty, although the jury recommended that McFall be shown mercy.

The Croton Lake Murder (1911) – The killing of Mary Hall by young Italian immigrants from Brooklyn near the Croton Reservoir led to a series of high-profile murder trials taking place just days after the murder. All in all, six were convicted for a single murder; their mass execution (along with others) in Sing Sing amounted to an “electric chair record.”⁷⁸

The Albert Fish Trial (1935) – Fish, a murderer and cannibal whose crimes were so horrific that they inspired a Stephen King villain (see the novel *Black House*, co-written with Peter Straub), was tried for the murder of Grace Budd in White Plains. He was convicted—despite the jurors largely believing him to be insane—and was executed at Sing Sing in 1936. His conviction was affirmed by the New York Court of Appeals (269 N.Y. 561 (1935)).

⁷⁸ <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/justice-story-italians-executed-murder-article-1.972902>; see also http://www.crimelibrary.com/notorious_murders/not_guilty/croton/10.html.

People v. Straehle (1966) – This case marked the first reported use of “voiceprint” technology (think fingerprints, but for voices!) in a court proceeding. An allegedly dirty cop was accused of telephoning a gambling concern to warn the proprietor of an upcoming raid. A voiceprint of that call was eventually admitted into evidence, although the trial itself later ended in a hung jury.

The Yonkers JCC Fire (1967) – In 1965, twelve people lost their lives to a fire at the Yonkers Jewish Community Center. Thomas Ruppert, who confessed to setting the blaze (to both police and to the director of the JCC), was indicted and tried; post *Miranda*, Ruppert’s statement to police was deemed inadmissible, but the statement to the director came in. He was convicted and received multiple life sentences. But detecting that the fruit of the poisonous tree flowed to the statements given the JCC director, the Court of Appeals reversed and granted a new trial in *People v. Ruppert*, 26 N.Y.2d 437 (1970). The indictment was later dismissed. See *People v. Ruppert*, 29 N.Y.2d 519 (N.Y. 1971) (per curiam).

Stouffer’s Inn Fire Trial (1982) – After the deaths of 26 business executives in what was, at the time in 1980, the worst fire disaster in the county, Luis Marin, a 26-year-old Guatemalan, was charged with murder and arson. Tried before County Judge Lawrence Martin, the case took an unusual turn; the jury convicted Marin, but Judge Martin threw out the verdict due to insufficiency of evidence. On appeal, the New York Court of Appeals affirmed, deciding that the verdict was properly set aside in *People v. Marin*, 65 N.Y.2d 741 (1985).

“Fatal Attraction” (1991) – The killing of Betty Jeanne Solomon by Carolyn Warmus was dubbed the “Fatal Attraction” case, as Warmus was accused of murdering her lover’s wife. The first trial, held at the Westchester County Courthouse, ended in a mistrial; she was convicted and sentenced to 25 years to life after the second. (http://articles.latimes.com/1991-03-05/news/vw-105_1_fatal-attraction; <http://www.nytimes.com/1991/01/14/nyregion/westchester-fatal-attraction-trial-to-open.html>; *People v. Warmus*, 31 A.D.3d 676 (2d Dep’t 2006)).

The “Scarsdale Diet” Murder (1981) – The murder of Dr. Herman Tarnower (the author of the Complete Scarsdale Medical Diet) by headmistress Jean Harris of the Madeira School in Virginia garnered great media attention and led to a fifteen-year-to-life prison sentence. See *People v. Harris*, 57 N.Y.2d 335 (1982)

The Trial of Isaac Van Wart Buckhout (1870–71) – A notorious mid-nineteenth-century trial in Sleepy Hollow, Buckhout killed his wife and one Alfred Rendall, as he was alleged to have suspected that

Rendall (along with his son, Charles, whom Buckhout attempted to kill) were “improperly intimate” with his wife. He was tried in White Plains. The first trial (Judge Tappan presiding) ended in a mistrial. The second (Judge Barnard presiding) also ended in a mistrial, due to the refusal of one juror (alleged to have been called in error) to convict. Rather than seek a plea, the prosecution convened a third trial, at which Buckhout was finally convicted.

Peaches and Daddy Browning (1927) – It was the classic tale of a millionaire, his child bride, and heartbreak. The sixteen-year-old Frances “Peaches” Heenan and the 51-year-old Edward “Daddy” Browning were married in 1926 after a whirlwind romance, but the relationship soon soured. (Incidentally, Browning’s prior marriage was also to a girl his junior, albeit merely by fifteen years.) Peaches sought a divorce, and the resulting White Plains proceedings attracted extraordinary tabloid media attention, becoming a media circus. Browning was spared great financial penalty; Peaches sought a career in vaudeville.

V. County Resources

a. Selected Bibliography

Augur, C.H., *New Rochelle through Seven Generations* (1908).

Biographical History of Westchester County (1899).

Bacon, E.M., *Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow Illustrated* (1902).

Baird, C.W., *Chronicle of a Border Town: History of Rye, 1660–1870* (1871).

Benjamin, V., *The History of the Hudson River Valley: From Wilderness to the Civil War* (2014).

Biographical History of Westchester County, NY (multi-volume, 1899, print).

Bolton, Jr., R., *A History of the County of Westchester from its First Settlement to the Present Time* (1848).

Bolton, R., *The History of the Several Towns, Manors, and Patents of the County of Westchester from its First Settlement to the Present Time* (1881).

Chester, A. et al., *Legal and Judicial History of New York* (multi-volume, 1911, print)

Dawson, H.B., *Westchester County, New York, During the American Revolution* (1886).

De Lancey, E.F., *Origin and History of Manors in the Province of New York and in the County of Westchester* (1886).

Historical Sketch of Katonah, N.Y. (1896).

Jacobs, J. & Roper, L., eds., *The Worlds of the Seventeenth-Century Hudson Valley* (2014)

Jacobs, J., *New Netherland: A Dutch Colony in Seventeenth Century America* (2003).

McAdam, D. et al., *History of the Bench and Bar of New York* (multi-volume, 1897, print)

Morey, W., *The Government of New York: Its History and Administration* (1902).

Morris, F., *The Borough Town of Westchester* (1896).

O’Callaghan, E.B., *The Documentary History of the State of New York* (1950).

Scharf, J.T., *History of Westchester County, New York* (1886).

Scott, H., *The Courts of the State of New York: Their History, Development, and Jurisdiction* (1909).

Sherman, A.O., *Westchester County and the Town of Rye* (1909).

Shonnard, F. & Spooner, W.W., *History of Westchester County New York, from its Earliest Settlement to the Year 1900* (1900)

Smith, H., *Westchester County in History: Manual and Civil List Past and Present 1683–1912* (multi-volume, 1912, print)

Wilcox, A.R., *The Bar of Rye Township: An Historical and Biographical Record 1660-1918* (1918, print).

b. County Legal Records & Their Locations

About the Westchester County Archives:⁷⁹

The Westchester County Archives is the unit in the Department of Information Technology that serves as the central repository for the historical public records of Westchester County, NY. These governmental records date from 1680 to the present and provide not only documentation of the history of county government, but also the growth of Westchester from an agrarian society through the industrial age to today's commuter and service economy.

Stored in the environmentally controlled vaults at the County Records Center at 2199 Saw Mill River Road, Elmsford, the Archives' resources cover a wide range of subjects and come in a variety of formats. A special feature of the Archives is that visitors to the Archives' Reading Room are also offered access to the library collection of the Westchester County Historical Society, located in the same building. Those records often complement and enrich the public documents.

Whatever your topic – tracing your Westchester ancestors, the cultural growth of suburbia or the background to a local governmental issue – we encourage you to visit us online or in person. Indexes, finding aids, and collection guides have been prepared to assist you in your research, and our professional staff and trained volunteers are ready to help you with your discovery process.

⁷⁹ <http://archives.westchestergov.com/>.

c. County History Contacts

i. Historical Societies

Westchester County Historical Society ([Website](#))

(914) 592-4323 / Fax: (914) 231-1510
2199 Saw Mill River Road, Elmsford, NY 10523

Ardsley Historical Society ([Website](#))

(914) 693-6027
P.O. Box 523, Ardsley, NY 10502

Bedford Historical Society ([Website](#))

Evelyne H. Ryan, Executive Director
e.ryan@bedfordhistoricalsociety.org
(914) 234-9751
612 Old Post Road, PO Box 491, Village Green, Bedford, NY 10506

Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society ([Website](#))

Karen Smith, President
P.O. Box 11, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510

Bronxville Historical Conservancy ([Website](#))

P.O. Box 989, Bronxville, NY 10708

Crestwood Historical Society ([Website](#))

CRESTWOODHIST@aol.com
P.O. Box 81, Tuckahoe 10707
(meets at Crestwood library)

Croton-on-Hudson Historical Society

(914) 271-4574
histsoc1@optonline.net
1 Van Wyck Street, Croton, NY 10520

Dobbs Ferry Historical Society ([Website](#))

Mary Donovan, President
(914) 674-1007 / home: 693-0045
DFHistory@optimum.net
12 Elm Street, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

Eastchester Historical Society

(914) 793-1900
P.O. Box 37, 388 California Road, Eastchester, NY 10709

(Harrison) Charles Dawson History Center

(914) 948-2550
One Park Lane, West Harrison, NY 10604

Hastings-on-Hudson Historical Society ([Website](#))

(914) 478-2249
hhscottage@hastingshistorical.org
407 Broadway, Hastings, NY 10706

Irvington Historical Society ([Website](#))

Andy Lyons, President
(914) 591-1020
24 Lewis Road, Irvington, NY 10533

Larchmont Historical Society ([Website](#))

Colette Rodbell, President
Lynne Crowley, Archivist
(914) 381-2239
archives@larchmonthistory.com or lhs@larchmonthistory.com
Mamaroneck Town Center, 740 Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Mamaroneck Historical Society ([Website](#))

Donald R. March, President
P.O. Box 776, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Mount Kisco Historical Society ([Website](#))

mcctney@prodigy.net
P.O. Box 263, Mount Kisco, NY 10549-0263

Mount Pleasant Historical Society

Patrick Raftery, President
1 Town Hall, Valhalla, NY 10595

New Castle Historical Society ([Website](#))

Betsy Towl, Director
(914) 238-4666
director@newcastlehs.org
Box 55, 100 King Street, Chappaqua, NY 10514

(New Rochelle) Huguenot and New Rochelle Historical Association ([Website](#))

John Wright, Director
(914) 633-1776
20 Sicard Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10804

North Castle Historical Society

(914) 273-4510

Smith's Tavern, 440 Bedford Road, Armonk, NY 10504

North Salem Historical Society ([Website](#))

Debby Moore, President

northsalemhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

PO Box 31, North Salem, NY 10560

Ossining Historical Society ([Website](#))

John Wunderlich, President

(914) 941-0001

info@ossininghistorical.org

196 Croton Avenue, Ossining, NY 10562

Peekskill Museum ([Website](#))

(914) 736-0473

P.O. Box 84, 124 Union Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566

Port Chester Historical Society (Bush Homestead)

(914) 937-8085

P.O. Box 1511, Port Chester, NY 10573

Pound Ridge Historical Society & Museum ([Website](#))

(914) 764-4333 / Fax (914) 764-7642

Queries: P.O. Box 51, Pound Ridge, NY 10576

Museum: 255 Westchester Avenue, Pound Ridge, NY 10567

Ridge Historical Society

Catherine Lederer-Plaskett, President

(914) 421-0075

40 Birchwood Lane, Hartsdale, NY 10530

Rye Historical Society ([Website](#))

Sheri Jordan, Executive Director

(914) 967-7588 (Square House)

(914) 967-8657 (Knapp House)

afford@ryehistoricalociety.org

1 Purchase Street, Rye, NY 10580

Scarsdale Historical Society

(914) 723-1744

history@cloud9.net

P.O. Box 431, 937 Post Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583

Somers Historical Society ([Website](#))

Grace Zimmermann, President
(914) 277-4977
P.O. Box 336, Somers, NY 10589

(Tarrytown) The Historical Society, Inc. Serving Sleepy Hollow & Tarrytown ([Website](#))

Sara Mascia, Director
(914) 631-8374
historyatgrove@aol.com
1 Grove Street, Tarrytown, NY 10591

Van Cortlandtville Historical Society ([Website](#))

(914) 736-7868
297 Locust Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566

Westchester County Historical Society ([Website](#))

Katie Hite, Executive Director
(914) 592-4323
info@westchesterhistory.com
2199 Saw Mill River Road, Elmsford, NY 10523

White Plains Historical Society (Jacob Purdy House) ([Website](#))

Rob Hoch, President
(914) 328-1776
60 Park Avenue, White Plains, NY 10603

Yonkers Historical Society ([Website](#))

(914) 961-8940
Box 190, Yonkers, NY 10710

Yonkers Police Historical Society ([Website](#))

George Rutledge, President
104 South Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701

Yorktown Historical Society ([Website](#))

(914) 962-5722 ext.440
P.O. Box 355, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

ii. Other Local History Resources

American Veterans Historical Museum ([Website](#))

Alycia J. Mellgren, Secretary/Treasurer
ajmellgren@hotmail.com
P.O. Box 115, Pleasantville, NY 10570

Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, Inc. ([Website](#))

Oreon Sandler, President

(914) 422-4053

info@fcwc.org

E House, 78 North Broadway, White Plains, NY 10603

Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct ([Website](#))

Gwen Thomas and Mavis Cain, Co-Presidents

(914) 693-4117

15 Walnut Street, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

Greater Hudson Heritage Network ([Website](#))

Priscilla Brendler, Administrative Consultant

(914) 592-6726 / Fax: (914) 592-6946

2199 Saw Mill River Road, Elmsford, NY 10523

Historic Hudson Valley (Philipsburg Manor, Sunnyside, Union Church, Van Cortlandt Manor, and Kykuit) ([Website](#))

(914) 631-8200

info@hudsonvalley.org

150 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591

Hudson River Museum ([Website](#))

(914) 963-4550

511 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, NY 10701

Jay Heritage Center ([Website](#))

(914) 698-9275

jayheritagecenter@gmail.com

210 Boston Post Road, Rye, NY 10580

John Jay Homestead ([Website](#))

Heather Iannucci, Site Manager

(914) 232-5651

400 Jay Street (Route 22), Katonah, NY 10536

The Lincoln Society in Peekskill ([Website](#))

Anthony J. Czarnecki, President

P.O. Box 2097, Peekskill, NY 10566

Lyndhurst ([Website](#))

(914) 631-4481

635 South Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591

Maryknoll Mission Archives

(914) 941-7590 ex.2500

55 Ryder Rd., Maryknoll, NY 10545

Mailing address: PO Box 305, Maryknoll, NY 10545

Mormon Family History Centers

Westchester Family History Center: (914) 723-4022

60 Wayside Lane, West Entrance, Scarsdale, NY 10583

Yorktown Family History Center: (914) 941-9754

801 Kitchawan Road (Rt. 134), Ossining, NY 10562

Museum of Arts and Culture ([Website](#))

(914) 576-6518

265 Clove Road, New Rochelle, NY 10801

National Maritime Historical Society ([Website](#))

(914) 737-7878

5 John Walsh Blvd., Peekskill, NY 10566

Mailing address: PO Box 68, Peekskill, NY 10566

New York Genealogical & Biographical Society ([Website](#))

(212) 626-6850

36 West 44th Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036-8105

New York Public Library Local History & Genealogy Division ([Website](#))

Ruth Carr, Chief

(212) 930-0829

476 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018

Newington-Cropsey Foundation ([Website](#))

(914) 478-7990

25 Cropsey Lane, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706

Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site

(914) 965-4027

29 Warburton Ave. Yonkers, NY 10701

Rockefeller Archive Center ([Website](#))

Jack Meyers, President

(914) 631-4505

archive@rockarch.org

15 Dayton Avenue, Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591

St. Paul's National Historic Site ([Website](#))

David Osborn, Director
(914) 667-4116
897 South Columbus Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550

Town of Yorktown Museum ([Website](#))

Susan Turnley
(914) 962-2970
1974 Commerce Street, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Trailside Nature Museum

(914) 864-7322
c/o Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Box 461, Cross River, NY 10518

Westchester County Department of Planning ([Website](#))

(914) 995-5166
Room 418, Michaelian Office Building (148 Martine Avenue), White Plains, NY 10601

Westchester County Genealogical Society ([Website](#))

P.O. Box 518, White Plains, NY 10603

Westchester County Archives and Records Center ([Website](#))

(914) 231-1500
2199 Saw Mill River Road, Elmsford, NY 10523

iii. Municipal Historians

In 1919 the New York State Legislature passed a law requiring municipalities to appoint a municipal historian. These historians form a network of people charged with preserving the history of their communities. It is the largest and most extensive network in the country.

Ardsey Village Historian

Walter Schwartz
(914) 693-3548

Bedford Town Historian

John Stockbridge
(914) 666-4745
321 Bedford Rd., Bedford Hills, NY 10507

Briarcliff Manor Village Historian

Karen K. Smith

mail@briarcliffhistory.org

c/o Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society
1 Library Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510

Bronx County Historical Society ([Website](#))

Dr. Gary Hermalyn, Executive Director

Dr. Lloyd Ultan, Borough Historian

(718) 881-8900

3309 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467

Bronxville Village Historian

Eloise Morgan

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rcmelm@aol.com

c/o Village Hall of Bronxville, 200 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, NY 10708

Buchanan Village Historian

Vacant

Cortlandt Town Historian

Laura Lee Keating

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12 Cross Lane, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567-5108

Croton Village Historian

Dorothy Dymes Pezanowski

(914) 271-4574

[Croton-on-Hudson Historical Society](#)

1 Van Wyck Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

Dobbs Ferry Village Historian

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11 Deerfoot Lane, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

Eastchester Town Historian

Richard Forliano

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clancy5@optonline.net

26 Dogwood Drive, Scarsdale, NY 10583

Elmsford Village Historian

Vacant

Greenburgh Town Historian

Frank S. Jazzo

(914) 993-1641

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Harrison Town Historian

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Charles Dawson History Center, 1 Park Lane, West Harrison, NY 10604

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Barbara Thompson

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407 Broadway, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706

Irvington Village Historian

Vacant

Larchmont Village Historian

Vacant

Larchmont Village Hall, 120 Larchmont Avenue, Larchmont, NY 10538

Lewisboro Town Historian

Maureen Koehl

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funnyfarm.ss@verizon.net

141 Spring Street, South Salem, NY 10590

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740 West Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

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Mount Kisco Town/Village Historian

Harry McCartney
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Mount Pleasant Town Historian

Vacant

Mount Vernon City Historian

Dr. Larry Spruill
163 Beechwood Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550

New Castle Town Historian

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32 Gray Rock Lane, Chappaqua, NY 10514

New Rochelle City Historian

Barbara Davis
bdavis@nrpl.org
New Rochelle Public Library, 1 Library Plaza, New Rochelle, NY 10801

North Castle Town Historian

Doris Finch Watson
(914) 234-7845
Town Hall, 15 Bedford Road, Armonk, NY 10504

North Salem Town Historian

Susan J. Thompson
home: (914) 276-2523
town hall: (914) 669-8439
susiejt@optonline.net
11 Cotswolds Drive, North Salem, NY 10560

Ossining Town Historian

[Martha Mesiti](#)
c/o Town of Ossining
16 Croton Avenue, Ossining, NY 10562

Peekskill City Historian

John Curran
c/o Peekskill Museum, P.O. Box 84, Peekskill, NY 10566-0084
<http://peekskillmuseum.org>

Pelham Town Historian

Blake A. Bell
34 Fifth Avenue, Town Hall, Pelham, NY 10803

Pleasantville Village Curator

Carsten Johnson
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PO Box 399, Pleasantville, NY 10570

Port Chester Village Historian

Port Chester Historical Society
(914) 939-6040
6 Puritan Drive, Port Chester, NY 10573

Pound Ridge Town Historian

Philip Pessoni
(914) 764-5967
19 Pound Ridge Road, Pound Ridge, NY 10576

Rye City Historian

Daniel Kelly
(914) 967-7588
c/o Rye Historical Society, 1 Purchase Street, Rye, NY 10580

Scarsdale Village Historian

Eric Rothschild
Village Hall, 1001 Post Road, Scarsdale, 10583

Sleepy Hollow Village Historian

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nevsteiner@aol.com
129 Farrington Avenue, Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591

Somers Town Historian

Doris Jane Smith
office: (914) 277-4977
335 Rte. 202, Somers, NY 10589

Tarrytown Village Historian

Richard Miller
(No phone number available, but he is frequently at the Historical Society Inc. Serving Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown)
63 Riverview Avenue, Tarrytown, NY 10591

Tuckahoe Village Historian

Vacant

White Plains City Historian

Vacant

White Plains City Archives

Elaine Massena, Archivist
(914) 422-1450

Yonkers City Historian

Vacant

Yorktown Town Historian

Vacant

iv. Locations of Records

Selected Records Held by the Westchester County Archives:

Board of Supervisors Proceedings, 1772-1969 (Series 145)

Budgets, 1930-1991

Census Rolls, 1905, 1915, 1925

Court Records (span varies by type of record requested)

Deeds

- Grantee Index, 1680-1907
- Grantor Index, 1680-1931
- Records, 1684-1930

District Attorney Case Files, 1892-1948 (bulk 1906-1949)

Estate Records, 1775, 1782-1921

Incorporation Records, 1848-1926 (Bulk: 1878-1926)

Marriage Certificates Index, 1908-1935 (gaps)

Naturalization Records Index, 1808-1972

Religious Societies Incorporations, 1784-1909

Surrogate Records, Index, 1787-1983

Veterans' Cemetery Index, Revolutionary War to World War I

Voter Registration Books, 1925-1956

Wills, 1775-1784 (gaps), 1787-1941

Westchester County Archives

2199 Saw Mill River Road

Elmsford, NY 10523

Tel: (914) 231-1500

Fax: (914) 231-1510

<http://archives.westchestergov.com/>

Modern Records Held by the Westchester County Clerk, e.g., Deeds from 1930–present

Westchester County Clerk,

Office of the Westchester County Clerk

110 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., White Plains,

NY 10601 Phone: (914) 995-3080 Fax: (914) 995-4030