

Maritime Commerce in the Hudson River Valley



Kingston, NY

Agenda:



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- ❖ Project Logo–Lauren
- ❖ Place–Lauren
- ❖ Brief History of Kingston
–Allie
- ❖ Natural Ice Industry–Allie
- ❖ Rondout Creek: Lighthouses
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- ❖ Hudson River Maritime
Museum–Lauren
- ❖ Conclusion–Lauren

Thesis



Kingston is a critical component of maritime commerce in the Hudson River Valley and the state of New York because of the location, transportation, natural resources and trading potential of the river. The Hudson River Maritime Museum has served as a focal point because it is the only museum in New York State that exists for the sole purpose of preserving the maritime history of the Hudson River and its industries.



Kingston, NY

Rondout Lighthouses and Sloops

Steamboat Companies

PLACE



300 Years of New York History

300 Years of New York History

300 Years of New York History

A Brief History of Kingston



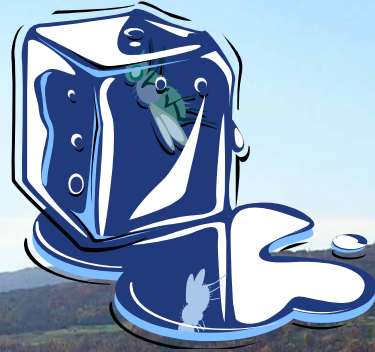
- ❖ 1652– Kingston = Esopus
- ❖ Indians vs. Dutch...re-named the land Wildwyck meaning “wild woods”
- ❖ 1658– Stockade
- ❖ 1664– English Colony finally named Kingston
- ❖ 1777– Changes made to the quiet country town...burning of Kingston’s houses in response to the establishment of a New York State Senate and the declaration that Kingston would be the first capital

History Continued...



- ❖ 19th century change from farming town to transportation center
- ❖ Industry increase
- ❖ Rondout merges with Kingston
- ❖ Vital river industries faltered with new transportation
- ❖ New Industries: garment-making, machine manufacture, and the newest computer manufacturing; the beginning of IBM

Natural Ice Industry



- ❖ One of Hudson's first industries
- ❖ Mechanical Refrigerators did not exist
- ❖ Preserved food, cooled drinks in homes, hotels, restaurants, etc.
- ❖ 1855– the 1880s NYC's population increased causing a high demand of ice
- ❖ Increased from 75,000 tons to 1.5 million tons
- ❖ Harvested the frozen waters of the river itself
- ❖ Standard sized cakes of ice stored in icehouses
- ❖ 135 icehouses lined the river

Rondout Creek and Lighthouses



<http://www.ulster.net/~hrmm/lighthouses/frame.html>



<http://www.ulster.net/~hrmm/lighthouses/frame.html>

Rondout Creek

In 1820, there were two active sloop landings:

- ❖ The two sloops were:
 - ❖ Twaalfskill
 - ❖ Kingston Landing
- ❖ Southbound cargoes
- ❖ Return freight
- ❖ The Delaware and Hudson Canal
- ❖ The Canal Company
- ❖ Rondout Creek offered the best deep water in the Hudson Valley
- ❖ The Hudson Valley was the center of maritime activity between New York and Albany

Lighthouses

- ❖ The maritime activity called for the building of a lighthouse
- ❖ First lighthouse was built in 1837
- ❖ Replacement lighthouse was built in 1867
- ❖ Light in the lighthouse
- ❖ Primary Mission: NEVER LET THE LIGHT GO OUT
- ❖ Famous keepers of the Rondout lights were the Murdocks
- ❖ Electricity: 1940's

Industries From the Rondout Creek



- During the construction of the Delaware and Hudson Canal: lime and cement
- Cargos leaving the Rondout area needed towage
- In 1980, the area of Rondout began to develop

Fishing on the Hudson River

Quick Facts:



- Staple of the Hudson Valley Communities
- Most people fished locally and sold locally

Types of Fish

- ❖ A man by the name of Gus Zahn, 93-years old, said, “Poughkeepsie was the world. Everybody liked it.”
- ❖ He remembers a booming industry, boat races in the summer, music and dancing at night, and the abundance of the Hudson River fishing.
- ❖ Poughkeepsie was known as the “shad row” because of all the commercial fishermen’s shacks that lined the waterfront.

First of April: trout season

First Saturday in May: northern pike, pickerel, tiger muskellunge, and walleye season

Third Saturday in June: bass season (good eating fish and cannot be sold)

June through October: Blue Crabs
Introduced in New York in 1831:
Carp

Mid-summer to late fall: Bluefish

First of April: trout season

Sturgeon and Shad Fishing

These two types of fish were shipped to other markets on sloops and schooners, and finally by steamboats.



Sturgeon

- ❖ Heavy and big fish (i.e. 178 pounds, 7-foot)
- ❖ Popular industry in New York
- ❖ Sturgeon population needs to recuperate and become plentiful again
- ❖ People make their living by capturing and selling sturgeon
- ❖ Young fish in the Hudson are begin to replenish

Shad

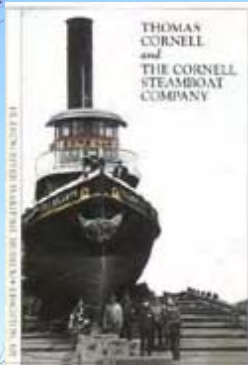
- ❖ Largest of New York's herring (i.e. 5 or 6 pounds, 30 inches)
- ❖ Anadramous
- ❖ Lifespan and Spawn
- ❖ Colonial Times, Mid 1800's, Late 1800's, and Modern Times
- ❖ Most important commercial fish in the Hudson River
- ❖ Oldest traditional industries on the coast of North America
- ❖ Native Americans and European colonists netted American shad
- ❖ Spawned a variety of traditional arts and occupational skills

Hudson River Steamboat History



- ❖ 1807 Robert Fulton 1st practical steamboat
- ❖ Fulton/Livingston monopoly
- ❖ 1824 Ogden vs. Gibbons
- ❖ 1825 Erie Canal
- ❖ 1828 D&H Canal
- ❖ 1830's Rondout Creek
- ❖ 1840 100 Steamboats on Hudson

Cornell Steamboat Company



picture

- ❖ “Leading Figure in New York and the Nation”
- ❖ 1837 freight business
- ❖ Cornell Steamboat Company Headquarters Rondout Village
- ❖ Kingston–Rhinecliff Ferry
- ❖ Demand in the New York metropolitan for natural resources from D&H Canal and Erie Canal
- ❖ Built his fortune on tugboats
- ❖ Towing on the river
- ❖ Most powerful towing operation on the Hudson River
- ❖ Largest maritime organization of its kind in the nation

Sloops



- ❖ The English Sloop came from the Dutch Sloep of the mid-seventeenth century
- ❖ The various Dutch and English small craft types evolved over time
- ❖ The Sloop predominated in numbers among all the vessels.
- ❖ Two kinds of sloops; transporting and armed
- ❖ The general length on deck of the unarmed sloops were about 50–65 feet.

Significance of the Sloops



<http://www.clearwater.org>

- ❖ European Exploration of the Hudson River
- ❖ It served as the point of initial importation for European goods, the place of arrival for new settlers, and the principle center for the export of the regions riches.
- ❖ The United States in the nineteenth century.
- ❖ Significance of Hudson River Sloops



Hudson River Maritime Museum

- ❖ Located in Kingston, NY on the Historic Rondout Waterfront
- ❖ Founded in 1980
- ❖ Contains paintings, prints, photographs, vessel blueprints, artifacts, and ship models
- ❖ The museum's collection is related to commerce, transportation, and industry
- ❖ Attracts over 20,000 visitors annually and 2,000 are NYS students
- ❖ Only museum in New York State that exists for the sole purpose of preserving the maritime history of the Hudson River and its industries

Conclusion

One can see by considering all of the major aspects Kingston has to offer; such as its prime location between Albany and New York City, and its major industries, Kingston grew to be an integral component of the Hudson River Valley and its history. To this day, it remains a vital place and offers many historical sites that allow for the outstanding qualities of this area to be preserved and treasured. The history of the maritime commerce industry thrives through the Hudson River Maritime Museum, by continuing to display the significance of this area.