The Golden Eagles

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Albany County

“The CAPITAL place and historic space for family, business, and fun!

Team 1
USS Slater
Thesis Statement

The county, originally settled by the Dutch and later the English, is a major center of political, military, industrial, and historical enterprises, making it a valuable asset to not only New York State but also the entire country.
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History of Albany County

- Oldest settlement in the United States
- **1525** – Verrazano sails his ship La Dauphine to Castle Island
- **1609** – Henry Hudson sails up the Hudson looking for trade routes
- **1624** – French Walloons build Fort Orange in honor of the House of Orange family (royal family of the Netherlands)
- **1629** – Dutch West India Company establishes a trading post at Fort Orange (later named the Village of Breverwyck in 1652)
- **1664** – Dutch surrender to the British
- created on November 1, 1683 by New York Governor Thomas Dongan; later confirmed on October 1, 1691
- Albany County’s location served as a hotspot during the latter half of the eighteenth century when the French and Indian War and Revolutionary War was taking place.
1. Erastus Corning II – born October 7, 1909; elected mayor of Albany in 1941 and served as mayor for eleven more terms until his death in 1983; longest serving mayor of a major American City

2. First Shaker Settlement – established by Ann Lee; still has the original Shaker meeting house, cemetery, orchard, and neighboring farm still stand in the Town of Colonie

3. 1866 – found mastodon bones in Cohoes

4. USS Slater – last WWII Destroyer Escort that remains afloat in the United States; stationed on the Hudson River at Albany

5. Build in 1755, the Van Schaick Mansion received such visitors as the likes of George Washington

6. Watervliet Arsenal – founded in 1813 to help support the war of 1812; continues today as the sole manufacturing facility for large caliber cannons in the United States
History Continued

- Town of Berne – Supreme Court Justice Joseph B. Bradley; Rutherford B. Hayes and Samuel J. Tilden
- Town of Bethlehem – where Henry Hudson’s ship *Half Moon* landed in September of 1609
- Town of Coeymans – named after Barent Pieteres Koijemans who purchased the land
- City of Cohoes – industrial boom that led to the expansion of 150 in 1840 to over 4,000 ten years later
- Town of Guilderland – dates back to the 1700’s; included Hamilton Glass Works est. 1775; by 1880 the town had clothing factory, button factory, knitting mill, and grist mill
People in Colonial Albany

1) Daughter of Huguenot-ancestry Albany native Catalina De Wandelaer and Albany brewer Leendert Ganskevoort, Sara Ganskevoort was the eldest of her siblings, whom she took care of. Unfortunately, over the winter of 1731-32, a sickness (most likely small pox) taking the life of Sara and her younger sister Agnietie.

2) William Bancker Winne was just one of the many visible members of the everyday community. He was well known in the city for holding many part-time jobs that together helped him make ends meet.

3) Robert Livingston was born in Scotland in 1654 and moved to Boston in 1673 to find his fortune. He held many jobs such as clerk or secretary of the town of Albany, tax collector, and secretary of the Albany Indian Commissioners. He was the author of the so-called Dongan Charter which established Albany as an early American city. He was elected to the New York General Assembly in 1709 and elected speaker of the provincial Assembly and served until retirement in 1726.

4) Samuel Stringer was born in 1734 in Annapolis, Maryland where his father worked as a physician. He later become one as well. During the French and Indian Wars, he moved to Albany where he married Rachel Vanderheyden in 1758. Stringer’s education and skill attracted many patients and he was widely known as an innovator who dared to inoculate for smallpox.
The Van Schaick Mansion is one of the most historic homes in New York State. It was built in 1755. The house was used as military headquarters during the French and Indian War. There was also a Revolutionary War camp that was situated just behind the mansion. The mansion later served as military headquarters during the American Revolution. Generals Montgomery, Schuyler, Gates, Stark, Morgan, Gansevoort, St. Clair and Benedict Arnold planned the Battle of Saratoga at the mansion.
The Van Schaick Mansion

Phone: (518) 235-2699
Email: mansion@VanSchaickMansion.org

Tours:
Thursdays and Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Address:
1 Van Schaick Avenue
Cohoes, NY 12047
Historical Description:

The house was used as military headquarters during the French and Indian War. The mansion later served as military headquarters during the American Revolution. Generals Montgomery, Schuyler, Gates, Stark, Morgan, Gansevoort, St. Clair and Benedict Arnold planned the Battle of Saratoga at the mansion and in the days leading up to the battle, stationed 5,000 continental soldiers around it. At this same time, Colonel Thaddeus Kosciusko constructed the breastworks located on adjacent Peebles Island. General Burgoyne and 20 of his staff officers were brought to the mansion before being returned to Albany as prisoners of war.

Directions:

Take I-787 North to Cohoes. Watch for the brown historic marker signs. Turn right on to Bridge Avenue. Go to end of street at the park. Turn left, then right (1/2 block) on to Van Schaick Avenue. The house is two blocks at the bottom of the hill, on the left.
Van Schaick Mansion

-Erected 1927 by Cohoes Historical Society
-Marker is at the intersection of Van Schaick Avenue and Delaware Avenue.

The Van Schaick mansion is one of the most historic homes in New York State. The mansion is located on Van Schaick Island at the junction of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers at Cohoes, New York.
Van Schaick Mansion

The Van Schaick Mansion is located in Cohoes, New York, near the junction of the Hudson River and the Mohawk River. The Mansion is one of the most historic homes in New York State. It was built by Anthony Van Schaick in 1755. Its architecture was unique at the time since it was one of the first gambrel roofs in Upper Hudson.

The Mansion was used as military headquarters during the French and Indian War, and again later during the American Revolution.

The mansion was the capitol building for four days. Governor Clinton made the house his temporary capitol from August 22-25, 1777.

The house was not left with all its Dutch colonial furnishings, but there are several display collections that change throughout the year.

Tours are available in the mansion by appointment. Any size groups are welcomed. The Mansion contains many of its original features, and is a sight to see!

For group tours or more information, contact us by email: info@VanSchaickMansion.org or by phone at: (518) 235-2699
Fort Frederick was a fort in Albany, New York from 1676-1789. It sat at the top of State Street Hill, and later replaced the earlier decaying Fort Orange along the Hudson River. Fort Orange was originally constructed more as a trading post along the Hudson River, but the new fort was designed to protect Albany from the Native Americans to the west and by overlooking the riverside community from atop a steep hill it was a constant reminder of English rule over the dominant Dutch population. During the American Revolution what remained of the fortifications was used as a jail to house those loyal to the British. After the war the fort became an obstacle to the development of the city to the west up the hillside.
New York State Capitol

For Guide Tours Call: (518) 474-2418
Address:
25 Quackenbush Square,
Albany, NY 12207
Tours:
Available Monday- Friday
(excluding holidays!)
**Historical Description:**

The present Capitol was constructed between 1867 and 1899. Three teams of architects worked on the design of the Capitol during the 32 years of its construction. The single largest room in the Capitol building is the vast Assembly Chamber. Designed by American architect Leopold Eidlitz, it was the first of the building's "grand spaces" to be completed and occupied. The original Assembly chamber was designed in a Moorish Gothic style and characterized by the period's architectural critic, Henry Van Brunt, as "the most monumental interior in the country".

**Directions:**

From the North: Take Interstate 87 (Northway) to Interstate 90 (East) exit, proceed east to Interstate 787 and take Empire Plaza exit. From the South: Take New York State Thruway (Interstate 87) to Exit 23 - straight through Toll Booth to Interstate 787, then take Empire Plaza exit. From the East: Take Interstate 90 and cross Hudson River. Take exit to Interstate 787 South, along river. Take Empire Plaza exit. From the West: Take the New York State Thruway (Interstate 90) to Exit 24 (Albany), proceed east on Interstate 90 to Interstate 787 South, along river. Take Empire Plaza Exit.

**Need a Hotel or Restaurant?**

Fort Frederick

Fort Frederick stood in Albany County from 1676-1789

- Frederick Lewis son of King George II
- Housed most troops during Seven Years War
- Used during American Revolution as a jail
FORT FREDERICK & CAPITOL BUILDING

State Street Hill

historic fort and political building
Construction of Fort Frederick was started in 1676, in Albany, New York. It was built to replace the Dutch trading fort, Fort Orange (located on the river), that was taken over by the British in 1664. It was rebuilt as a masonry fort between the years of 1702-1735, on State Street Hill. It has been referred to as Fort Albany. For example, in the song “Drums along the Mohawk” in which Fort Albany is mentioned.

The fort was symbolic of Britain’s commitment to defend her colonies. The fort lasted throughout the colonial wars, until, in 1785, Albany’s Common Council agreed that the fort was no longer needed and should be torn down. The stone left over was taken for other building purposes. Fort Frederick was torn down in 1789, and currently standing in its place is St. Peter’s Episcopal Church.
The New York State Executive Mansion is the official residence of the Governor of New York. It has housed 31 governors and their families. The Executive Mansion has been the home of three men who became president: Grover Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt, and Franklin Roosevelt.
New York State Executive Mansion

Phone: (518) 473-7521
Fax: (518) 474-0984
Address: 138 Eagle St
Albany, NY 12202

Tours:
Tours are offered September- June
Thursdays: 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.,
12:00, 1:00, and 2:00 p.m.
Groups of 10 or more, up to a maximum of 30 visitors (including chaperones).

Admission:
All tours are free of charge.
Reservations are required and must be made at least two weeks in advance.
Historical Description:

Since 1875, this house has been home to New York's governors and their families. It is a house that is eclectic in style, filled with history and rich with tradition. It remains a fitting symbol of the variety and greatness of the Empire State.

Directions:

The New York Executive Mansion is a short walking distance from the Empire State Plaza. Starting on Madison Avenue in front of the State Museum, walk down the street to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and turn right onto Eagle Street. Entrance to the Mansion is through the front center (pedestrian) gate. Parking is not available at the Executive Mansion. Buses may unload passengers at the front gate.

Need a Hotel?
Built in 1875

Samuel Tilden first resident

Housed 31 governors and families

Located at 138 Eagle St. Albany, NY
The New York State executive mansion is the official residence of the New York State governor. It was originally constructed in 1856 as a private home for a banker. The architecture is based off the Italianate style. In 1875, Governor Samuel Tilden resided in the house. Two years later it was officially purchased by the state. Since then, it has housed 31 governors and their families.

There have been many famous individuals that have lived in the mansion. Three United States presidents once lived at the house, Grover Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt, and Franklin Roosevelt. Two vice presidents, Levi Morton and Nelson Rockefeller, lived in the mansion at one point as well.

There was a fire in 1961, starting a debate on whether to purchase a newer building uptown or not. Governor Nelson Rockefeller fought to restore the original mansion, and helped to name it to the National Register of Historic Places. In the early 1980s, the Executive Mansion Perseveration Society was established to organize the restoration process.

The mansion is located at 138 Eagle Street, in Albany, NY. Free guided tours are available through reservations on Thursdays from September to June every hour from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Tours for school groups are welcomed as well!

Contact us at: (518) 473-7521
Lesson Plan: Field Trip
(Governors Mansion)

Pre-Trip: Students will be aware of different ideas relating to the mansion and its history. Architecture of the building, icons who lived in the mansion, and vocabulary relating to both of those sections will be focused on.

While at the Mansion: A guided tour will be given and the tour guide will go through the history of the mansion. Students will have a handout and they will have to complete a handout. Information will be given chronologically to keep everyone on track.
Lesson Plan: Field Trip (cont.)

Activity:

Grade Level: 4-5

Objectives:
1. A guided tour will focus on the history and occupants of the mansion
2. The tour will go chronologically through the ages of the mansion
3. Students will learn about some of the people, issues and events which shaped public and private activities at the Executive Mansion

Materials: Writing utensils, activity handout

Procedure: A guided tour will be led and students will have to complete it as they are listening to the tour
Field Trip Location

New York State Governors Mansion
2978 Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12242
(518) 473-7521

*Tours are by appointment and appointments have to be made two weeks in advance
*Tours are only run on Thursdays at 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, and 2pm
The USS Slater is the only World War II Destroyer Escort that still remains afloat in the United States. These ships fought and battled Nazi U-Boats on the North Atlantic and defended naval task forces from Japanese attacks in the Pacific. The USS Slater has undergone an extensive ten-year restoration that returned the ship to her former glory. The ship is open to the public from April through November. Tourists are also able to take hour-long guided tours.

Visiting this boat has also become a popular destination for naval reunion groups, because this ship is has played a huge role in our country’s history.
The USS Slater

Phone:  
518-431-1943  

Address:  
Broadway and Quay  
Albany, NY 12202

Open to Visitors:  
April-November, Wednesday-Sunday,  
10AM-4PM  
Closed: Easter, Thanksgiving Day

Admission:  
Adults: $7  
Seniors (65+) $6  
Children 6-14: $5  
Children 5 and under: Free with family  
Free admission for new members who join on the day of their visit.

**Admission prices subject to change without notice.**
Historical Description:
The USS SLATER DE766 is a CANNON class destroyer escort that served in the United States Navy during World War II. One of 563 similar ships constructed between 1943 and 1945, the SLATER is the last destroyer escort remaining afloat in the United States today. Destroyer escorts were built as a result of a critical shortage of anti-submarine vessels in the Atlantic at the outset of World War II. At the request of the British Navy, American designers developed a new type of warship, based on the British HUNT class destroyer, which combined heavy anti-submarine and anti-aircraft weapons with the latest electronic equipment for detecting enemy vessels. In addition, destroyer escorts were designed to be maneuverable, high speed, long ranged vessels that could be built quickly due to their all-welded construction.

Directions:
From the south:
Take I-87 N/NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY N toward ALBANY (portions toll). Merge onto I-787 N via EXIT 23 toward DOWNTOWN ALBANY/ RENSSELAER/TROY. Take EXIT 2 toward PORT OF ALBANY. Stay STRAIGHT on the exit ramp to the stop sign. Turn RIGHT onto CHURCH ST and cross the railroad tracks. Turn LEFT onto BROADWAY. Just past the large U-Haul storage building on the left there will be a traffic light. Turn right into the parking lot next to the river. The USS SLATER is situated at the left side of the lot.
USS Slater

- Cannon Class Destroyer Escort
- Built by the Tampa Shipbuilding Company
- Launched February 13, 1943
- Served mainly in the South Atlantic
- Final use was by the Hellenic Navy (Greece), transferred under the Truman Doctrine
Docked on the Hudson River at the end of Madison Ave:  

**USS Slater**  
♦ World War II Destroyer
USS Slater

The USS Slater was a ship used during World War II to battle Nazi U-boats. It was a cannon class destroyer escort. Destroyer escorts were named after Naval heroes. USS Slater was named for Frank O. Slater, a sailor killed aboard the USS San Francisco in 1942.

The USS Slater was built with the latest electronic equipment to be an anti-submarine and anti-aircraft weapons vessel for detecting enemies. It was designed to be a maneuverable, high speed, long ranged vessel.

The USS Slater remains the sole ship that is still in its World War II form. It was constructed to defend naval task forces from Japanese submarines and Kamikaze air attacks. In the U.S., it is the only destroyer escort afloat.

After World War II, the ship was deactivated until 1951. It was then renamed AETOS and was in Greek service until 1991. The Destroyer Escort Historical Foundation took control of the ship and began its restoration. It has undergone a 15 year restoration to appear as it did originally.

The USS Slater is docked on the Hudson River in Albany, New York. The docking of the ship allows a historic location for naval reunions. The museum also welcomes youth group overnight camping. The museum offers hour long guided tours from April through November, Wednesdays through Sundays from 10AM to 4PM.
USS Slater
The Watervliet Arsenal, is located on the Hudson River, just north of Albany County. It is the nation’s oldest manufacturing arsenal. It was founded in 1813 to support the War of 1812. It later became known as the nation’s “Cannon Factory” in 1887. Today it still remains to be the sole manufacturing facility for larger caliber cannons in the United States.
The Watervliet Arsenal

Phone: (518)266-5805 or (518)266-4772

Address: Building 38, Watervliet Arsenal, Watervliet, New York, 12189.

Tours & Hours of Operation:
Open year-round
Sunday through Thursday
10:00 am to 3:00 pm
**Closed on Federal Holidays**
Reservations are recommended for group tours!

FREE ADMISSION!
Historical Description:

Watervliet Arsenal, known as "America's Cannon Factory" is an Army owned and operated manufacturing facility located in New York, just outside of Albany. Constructed in 1813, the Arsenal has played a vital role in America's defense throughout its long history, producing large bore cannon and a wide variety of other products for military needs. The billion dollar Arsenal manufacturing complex is situated on a 42 acre site and spans 72 buildings with 1.2 million square feet of manufacturing space. It is also home to the Army's Benet Laboratories, whose mission includes the development of arsenal products and technology.

Directions:

From the South:

North on NYS Thruway to exit 23, Exit 23 to I-787 North toward Albany/Troy, Stay on I-787 past Albany and exit at 23rd Street exit (Watervliet), Left at stop light remain in left lane and turn left at next stop light (Broadway), Main gate for the arsenal is approximately 1¼ miles on the right after the stop light on Broadway. You will go past the Main Gate. One more right turn and you are at the South Gate.
Watervliet Arsenal

- Founded in 1813
- Originally created to support the War of 1812
- Nicknamed America’s “Cannon Factory”
- Still supplies arms to American forces
The Watervliet Arsenal, or “America’s Cannon Factory,” is a symbol of the Americans who have served this country since 1813. For over 200 years, the workers at the arsenal have supported American soldiers. The arsenal is owned by the U.S. Army as an operating manufacturing facility. It is ISO 9001:200 and is Army Contracting Performance Certification Program Certified. It has been used to provide for defenses and military needs, with its major job being to produce large bore cannons.

The arsenal is a billion dollar manufacturing complex sitting on 143 acres with 72 buildings & 2.1 million square feet of manufacturing space.

The Army’s Benet Laboratories is located here at the arsenal. Their mission is to develop arsenal products and technology for future combat systems. It involves research, development of ideas, and manufacturing.

In addition to material needed for wars, the arsenal provides manufactured goods for non-defense industries, such as the New York State Department of Transportation.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>1860 Census:</th>
<th>2010 Census:</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Race:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Native born whites</td>
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<td>- Native born blacks</td>
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<td>- Native born mulattoes</td>
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<td>- Asian</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>113,917</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total acres of farm land</td>
<td>304,843 acres</td>
<td>60,000 acres</td>
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<td>Primary Ways of Making a Living:</td>
<td>Farming and Shoe making</td>
<td>Management, business, science &amp; arts occupations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Family Size:</td>
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<td>2.95</td>
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</table>
Similarities

- Caucasians comprise the majority of the population
- African Americans constitute a large amount of the population
- Male to female ratio close to 50-50%

Differences

- Farms are not as important for making a living
- Smaller families (from 5 1/2 to less than 3 per family)
- People are living longer, and the population has grown
- Less land is used for farming
Websites for Albany County

AlbanyCounty.com
Albany.org

History of Albany County
- Click on the links below for links relating to the history of Albany County
  Click Here!
  Click Here!
  Click Here!
  Click Here!
  Click Here!
  Historic Albany Foundation
  Historic Cherry Hill
  Colonial Albany Image Gallery

Highway Route Markers
  Click Here!

• For State Historic Markers, Click Here!
More Websites

Geneology and History of Early New York State
•Click Here!
Old newspaper articles from or about New York & New York families
•Click Here!
Links for the City of Albany
•Official Site of the City of Albany
1720 Albany County Census
•Click Here!
•http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ny/county/albany1/towns/albanycity.html
Cities, Towns, and Villages of Albany County

Below are some links to webpages related to specific places in Albany County:

- Albany (city)
- Altamont (village)
- Berne (town)
- Bethlehem (town)
- Coeymans (town)
- Cohoes (city)
- Colonie (town)
- Green Island (town and village)
- Guilderland (town)
- Knox (town)
- Menands (village)
- New Scotland (town)
- Ravena (village)
- Rensselaerville (town)
- Voorheesville (village)
- Watervliet (city)
- Westerlo (town)
- Colonie (village)
Research Links for Albany County

Click Here for research links!

Albany County Public Library

To learn more about Fort Frederick...  Click Here!

Click Here!

To learn more about the Van Schaick Mansion...  Click Here!

Click Here!

To learn more about New York State Executive Mansion...  Click Here!

Click Here!

To learn more about the Watervliet Arsenal...  Click Here!

Click Here!

To learn more about the USS Slater...  Click Here!

Click Here!
Bibliography

Julia Levitan:


Scott Schachter:
The historical markers database includes all historical markers throughout NY State as well as many other landmarks around the country.

Caitlyn Schilling:
This website was useful because it gave me information on markers for certain historical sites in Albany County. I was able to get information on Fort Frederick, USS Slater, the Van Schaick Mansion, and the Mohawk Hudson Railroad. It provided me information on location, what the parkers said, and when they were erected. It also provided me with various pictures of the markers.

Kerry Young:

Each of these websites individually contributed useful knowledge and information about Albany County and the key historical, cultural and industrial areas that are in Albany County.
Additional Websites


• [http://www.ussslater.org/history/history.html](http://www.ussslater.org/history/history.html)