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**Name:** Clayton "Peg Leg" Bates

**Years:** 1907-1998

**Residence:** Owned and operated the Peg Leg Bates Country Club in the Catskill Mountains, Kerhonkson, Ulster County New York from 1951 to 1987.

**Brief Biography:** Clayton Bates was born in 1907 and lived in Fountain Inn, South Carolina until a tragic cotton gin accident claimed his left leg at the age of 12. This event had the potential to devastate Bates's ambitions to become a dancer. Nonetheless, he persevered and taught himself how to tap dance with a wooden leg, giving himself the nickname "peg leg." Venues such as vaudeville, clubs, motion pictures, television and, stage musicals, allowed Bates's performing career to last seven decades, rendering him world famous, specifically for his appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show." In his old age, he was active in the Ellenville Lions Club and traveled, giving inspirational speeches about his life at schools and senior citizen homes. In 1998 on a trip back to his hometown he collapsed and passed away.

**Major Achievements:** By the Tap Dance Hall of Fame, Bates was acclaimed to be "the undisputed king of one-legged dancers." He made a record of twenty-one appearances on "The

Ed Sullivan Show;” the most for a tap dancer. He was also the first African American resort owner in the Sullivan County, Catskill Mountain Borscht Belt of Jewish Resorts, Hotels and Bungalow Colonies.

**References:** <http://search.eb.com.online.library.marist.edu/eb/article-9123798>,

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