# Westchester County

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The River Hawks

# WESTCHESTER COUNTY "A períod of change" 1865-1920



Peekskill Cortlandt Buchanan

Yorktown

Somers

North Salem

Lewisbore

Pound Ridge

Bedford Croton-on-Hudson Mount Kisco

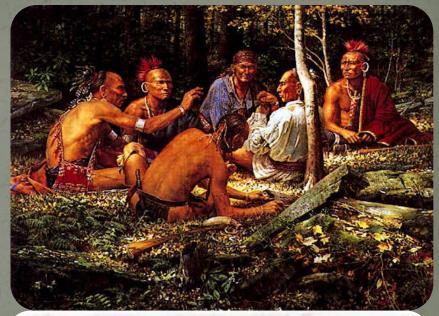
Ostining Town New Castle Ostining Village Briarcliff Manor North Castle Mount Pleasant

S eepy Hollow

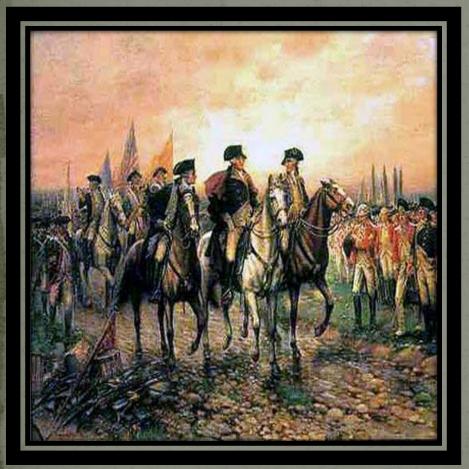
Tarrytown

Irvington White Plains Greenburgh Rye Brook Harrison Dobbs Ferry Hastings-on-Hudson Eastchester Yonkers New Rochelle Pelham Larchmon Felham Marco

- Earliest Inhabitants were the Algonquian Native Americans.
- Verrazano and Hudson were the Europeans explorers who discovered the Hudson River Valley. • Dutch were the 1<sup>st</sup> permanent settlers Many disagreements with the Native Americans.







George Washington and his troops at the Battle of Yorktown.

The English and some French Huguenots took over the area of Westchester and forced the Dutch out around 1664. Once the Revolution started, Westchester suffered a lot of damage. Washington marched his troops through Westchester in 1776. The Revolution left many Westchester homes burnt and decreased the population

significantly.

After the war, Westchester rebuilt their county by building more roads, producing more agriculture, & creating small businesses.

Major structures

- Croton Dam
- New York City Rail Road

Most of the residents were farmers or businessmen but there were a few nationally known very wealthy individuals. Such as, Washington Irving, John Jay, and Robert Havell,







Westchester supported the union after the south succeeded from the union. Many men volunteered to fight and many were also drafted. Westchester citizens did whatever they could to support the war effort.

After the Civil War, Westchester was affected by returning soldier's trauma, increased cost of living, and a decrease in the population growth.

#### **Volunteer Regiments**



The firing on Fort Sumter galvanized a change in the public feeling.

Newspapers rallied behind the idea of keeping the union intact.

Three days after Fort Sumter Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers, 13,280 of them from New York State.

#### Volunteer Regiments

 Many Westchester men responded to the call for volunteers.

Nelson Bartram organized
 Company B, 17th Infantry,
 which came to be known as
 the "Westchester Chausseurs."



They were the banner
 company of Westchester County

#### **Volunteer Regiments**

#### • The 17<sup>th</sup> contained

- 4 companies from Westchester
- 2 from New York city

- 1 from each of the counties of Rockland, Chenango, Wayne and Wyoming

• During the two years' service, the 17<sup>th</sup> Infantry lost 42 men by death from wounds and 48 by death from other causes.

• Other companies associated with Westchester include

- The 6th New York Heavy Artillery
- The 4th New York Cavalry

- The 5th Independent Battery and the 1st Mounted Rifles.



The "Westchester Chasseurs" received the regimental color seen here on June 17, 1861, at Camp Washington from patriotic ladies of Westchester County. Painted in the center is the Arms of the State of New York. The regiment's designation is painted above and below the Arms.

#### **Key Mustering Sites**

#### Yonkers

Sixth Heavy Artillery (Anthony Wayne Guard) September 2, 1862 By Caption Edgerton Fourth New York Cavalry August 10, 1861 By Captain Parnell • Port Chester Seventeenth Infantry (Westchester Chasseurs) June 2, 1863 By Captain Bartram



#### Fort Slocum

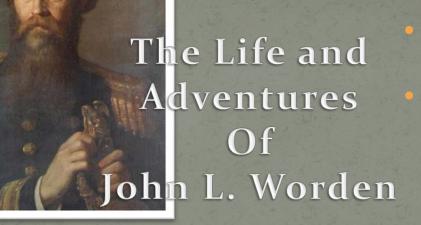
• Key Location -- David's Island De Camp General Hospital closed in 1866 Island was still used for: Prison **Training Station Artillery Fortification** Recruitment Mustering

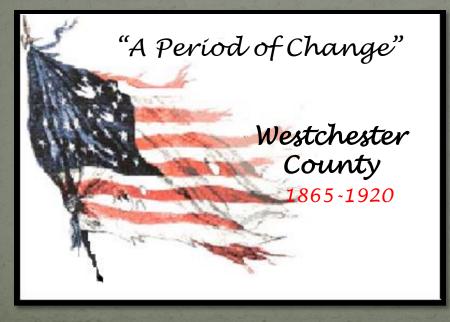
#### **Industrial Sites**

- Key Location in Peekskill
- Iron
  - Stoves
  - Plows
- Gun Factories
- Paper
- Saw Mills
- Gin Distilleries



#### \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*





He was born on March 12, 1818 in a town called Mount Pleasant, in Westchester County, New York, which today we know of Ossining. He became a U.S. Navy Midshipmen at the age of sixteen. On March 9, 1862, Worden took the ironclad USS Monitor up against CSS Virginia in this historic battle. This battle of Hampton Roads marked the turning point in naval history in the American Civil War.

He was promoted to Commander in July of 1862, and then further promoted to Captain in the beginning of 1863.

At the end of the Civil war he spend most of his day administrating new Ironclads, for the duration of which he was positioned to Rear Admiral.



# Mock of Highway Sign

Route

9

Historic Birthplace of John L. Worden 1818-1897 Civil War Hero This is an example of a sign you would see leading you to a historic landmark in Ossining, New York.

Located on Rote 9

# Mock of Interpretive Markers

#### history.navy.mil / suvcw.org

#### Admiral John L. Worden

#### Commanding Officer of USS Monitor

This historic landmark identifies the birthplace of Admiral John L. Worden.



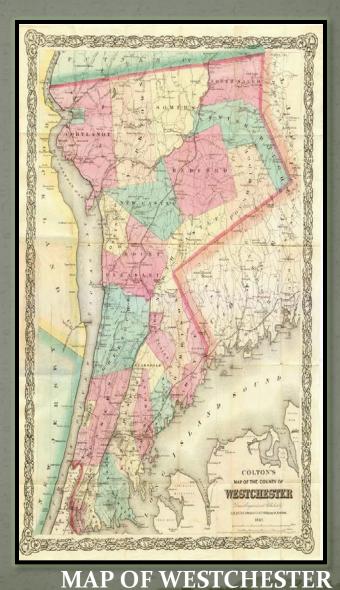
Worden entered the U.S Navy at age 16 and made many heroic statements during the Civil War.

Birthplace of Admiral John Worden

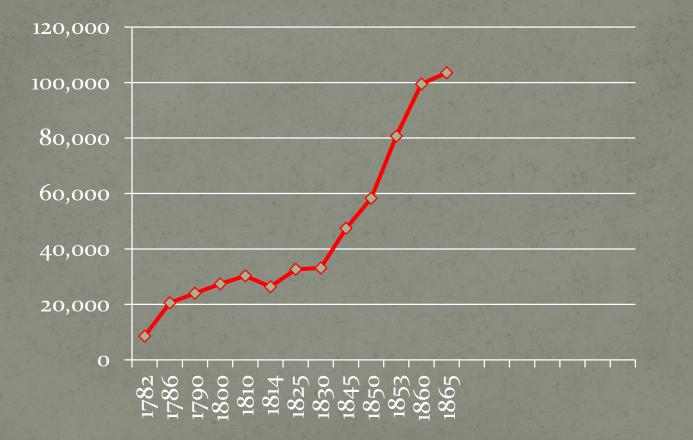
#### Demographics

- The 1860 census stated that the population of Westchester was **approximately 100,000 people**
- Westchester spanned approximately 914 miles of land
- The northern part of the county consisted mostly of farmlands and was considered to be rural territory.
  - The different areas of Westchester were politically split during this time.

Popular industries of time included iron foundries as well as tobacco and gun factories. Other people found occupations in paper mills, saw mills and gin distilleries.



#### Demographics



WESTCHESTER POPULATION OVER TIME

#### Westchester Demographics: Africans and Women

- The African American population was approximately 2000
  - African Americans comprised 2% of Westchester's total population.
    - Some occupations included labors gardeners or no occupation at all. The largest populations of African people in Westchester were found in New Rochelle, Ossining, Rye, and Yonkers and especially in Harrison, (The Hills)
- Women got involved in many activities during the Civil War era.
  Nurses in army hospitals & various charity work.
  Drs. Emily & Elizabeth Blackwell started the Woman's Central Association for Relief (WCAR)
  - This organization evolved into the United States Sanitary
     Commission.



# Bibliography

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