



1709

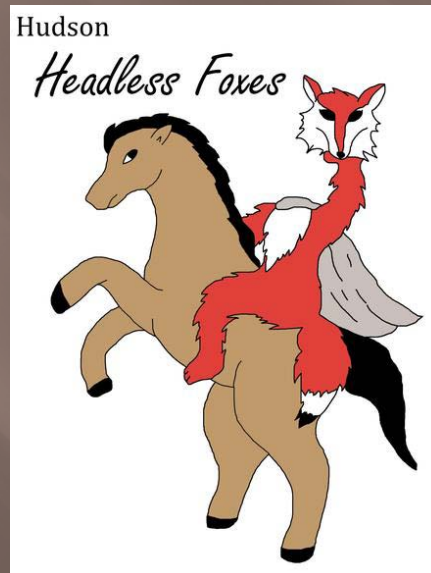
Celebrating 300 Years

2009

*Palatine
Germans
of Newburgh*

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Overview of Palatine Germans

The Palatine German migration to the New World rivaled the influx of Huguenot, Mennonite, Amish, and Quaker immigrants from Europe. In the early 1700s, hundreds of Germans poured into the Hudson River Valley, and more followed in later decades.

Named for the Palatinate region along the Rhine River in Germany, the Palatines were uprooted from their ancestral homes by the Louis XIV in the Thirty Years War. Most found safety in England, where Queen Anne was sympathetic to their plight. She offered them money and farmland in the New World, and in 1709 sent them to northern Dutchess and Ulster Counties to develop the region and begin a profitable community (McTamaney 2006, Oluwa 2004). Fifty of the first Palatines were settled on land that was bought by Governor Dongan from Native Americans in the mid-1600s; the land was then called the Palatine Parish Patent, and today hosts the Town and City of Newburgh (Desai 2002).

Britain had its own agenda. For one, the Lutheran Germans were seen as a strong counter to the largely French Catholic population of New York. Also, the crown wanted to build naval stores along the Hudson, and the Germans were tasked with one such project. The land they were given, however, was bare of the type of trees needed for pitch and shipbuilding, making a large naval store impossible. The Germans failed the British, and were abandoned (Oluwa 2004). By the 1740s, most of the settlers had died or moved west. Early that decade, the Palatine Parish Patent region began to attract a large Scottish population, and the Scots renamed it Newburgh (Desai 2002).

Overview of Palatine Germans



Most of the Palatine Germans went to New York for the chance to own land and live prosperously. The majority were farmers and tradesmen and had no experience with the sort of work Britain asked of them. When they failed and were abandoned, many found a home on the land of Henry Beekman, a wealthy landowner. He offered plots and let the Germans live as tenant farmers, urging them to develop the land and make it fruitful (Oluwa 2004).

Generally, the Palatine Germans were able to prosper even without Britain's sponsorship. They sent for relatives in Europe, and the German population grew steadily in the region. By 1750, the town of Newburgh was a model of German success, even in despite the dominant Scottish population: it had roads, working mills, fertile farms, two docks, and a public ferry. Other Europeans began to flood into the area, including English and Dutch immigrants, and in 1752 an English patent gave the town its official name to reflect what the residents had already called: the Parish of Newburgh. Inter-marriage between Germans and other Europeans was widespread, but Newburgh and other parts of Dutchess and Ulster counties still show visible German influence in architecture and culture (McTamaney 2006).

Overview of Palatine Germans



Before the revolution, Newburgh formed a Committee of Safety to govern the town in wartime. Hundreds of troops gathered in and around the city during the war. The population of Newburgh increased with refugees from New York City and elsewhere, and the Continental Army kept its headquarters in town for part of the revolution (McTamaney 2006). Washington's headquarters, which is a preserved landmark, represents the remnants of a house and land tract that was originally owned by Scottish businessman Jonathan Hasbrouck (Desai 2002).

Though not in Newburgh, an example of Palatine German architecture can be found in Rhinebeck, NY. A Palatine Farmstead is there, built in the same century the Palatines settled in Newburgh. It was built very simply with wood panels and a slanted roof (*Quitman Resource Center* 2007). It's a rare find, and probably is similar to what the Newburgh Palatines built when they settled there as well.

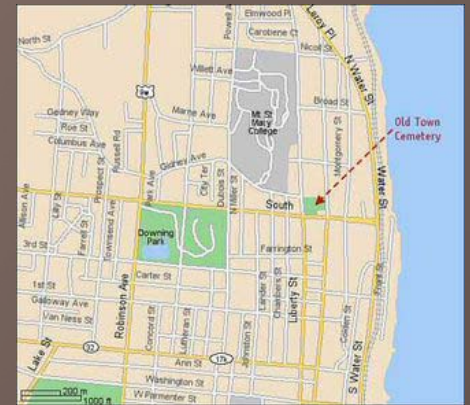
Lesson Plan

Background: There is visible record of the Palatine Germans in several places in the Hudson River Valley, as long as an observer knows where to look and what to look for. This heritage tour visits three sites, beginning in Rhinebeck, Dutchess County and ending with two sites in Newburgh, Orange County. The transit time between Rhinebeck and Newburgh provides tourists a chance to view printed resources that give in-depth explanations of the sites, while time spent at the sites will provide a hands-on experience. The tour also includes hotels and restaurants.

Objectives: While a lesson plan for a young audience might include guided activities and learning exercises, the Palatine Germans tour is best suited for adults. The one hour bus trip between Rhinebeck and Newburgh allows adults to become familiar with the city they are traveling to, but would probably bore children. Thus, this is not a formal lesson plan, but an illustration of how a visitor might expect a tour to progress. The primary objective of the tour is to gain an appreciation for a little-known group of immigrants who greatly influenced the development of the Valley and the development of the nation at large. The tour is intended to guide visitors toward important details of their sites, but actual interaction with those sites is a freedom allowed to the visitors themselves.



Lesson Plan



Procedure: From the departure point at Marist College, Rhinebeck is 18 miles north. There, visitors will see the Quitman House, a pair of 1798 cottages built for the Reverend Frederick H. Quitman. The Reverend was pastor of Lutheran Palatines until he took ill in 1828. He is remembered as a leading Lutheran thinker, and he was honored with a degree from Harvard University. Elsewhere in Rhinebeck is an 18th century Palatine farmstead, managed by the overseers of the Quitman House.

The Quitman House is the main attraction in Rhinebeck, and visitors can see how important religion was to the Palatine Germans in America. The Palatines fled their Old World home because of religious persecution; they were sent to America as a foil to the Catholics living there. Their faith continued in the New World where they treated their religious leaders with respect and privilege. Tourists will be left on their own at the Rhinebeck site to ask questions of the staff, read the various pamphlets and signs, or simply absorb the scenery and architecture.

En route to Newburgh, tourists are provided with brochures printed by the City of Newburgh. The brochures outline the city's history, and sites that date from the colonial era through the Industrial Revolution and into the present day. Included are maps with the dozens of sites indicated, allowing a tourist to explore independently if he is interested in anything he finds.

The tour is paused for lunch in Newburgh, and continues at the Old Town Cemetery. Visitors are invited to do rubbings or take pictures of monuments. Of particular interest are the oldest decipherable headstone, dated 1759, and a unique Egyptian-style monument from 1853.

Lesson Plan

Procedure Continued: Continuing to the Washington headquarters, tourists can see how the modern city of Newburgh still contains the subtle indicators of a three-century-old German migration. The Hudson River is visible from many points in the city, and it is interesting to imagine that the view from modern Newburgh is a view that is shared with some of the earliest Americans, and Washington himself.

Arriving at the headquarters, visitors first notice the view. There is an unobstructed vista of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge and the City of Beacon; the view of the river was a reason Washington used the house as his headquarters. While the site may not seem to offer much in the way of Palatine culture, the house was built in a Palatine style by the early residents of Newburgh; it is an example of understated German architecture. Tourists are invited to approach the headquarters however they wish, whether by speaking to the staff, consulting the available literature, or simply reflecting on the vast riverscape. The tour concludes with dinner and, finally, lodging at a bed and breakfast.



The Quitman House



7015 Route 9
Rhinebeck, NY 12572



Hours: From mid-June to the last weekend of October, open from 2-4 every Saturday and Sunday or by appointment. Call (845) 871-1798 or email info@quitmanpreservation.org to make an appointment.

Website: <http://www.quitmanpreservation.org/>

Information: A house was built for Reverend Frederick H. Quitman in 1798 by the Palatine congregation he was pastor of. It was an Adams style house that went along nicely with the Stone Church which had been there since 1786. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Peter the Apostle of Rhinebeck, NY was served by Quitman from 1798 until 1828 when his health failed. Since 1986, the house has been known as a local landmark for Rhinebeck. The Quitman Resource Center for Preservation had it named for the first person to live in it in 1976, and they also have been working on other projects, such as preserving a Palatine farmstead from the 18th century located on Old Post Road in Rhinebeck.

Washington's Headquarters



84 Liberty St.
Newburgh, NY 12550



Hours: From mid- April to October, open Monday and Wednesday-Saturday, 10am- 5pm and Sunday from 1-5pm. November to March open by appointment. Call (845) 562- 1195 for more information.

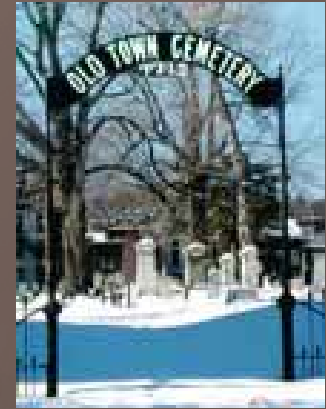
Website: <http://www.nysparks.com/sites/info.asp?siteID=32>
<http://www.hvva.org/hvvanews6-7pt2.htm>

Information: It is thought that this historic landmark's origins were built by a Palatine German. In 1724, three-room stone houses were built in a place that a Palatine farmer may have been responsible for. Because of its three-room structure, as well as other features such as banked cellars and double-pad hinges on a two- part door, it's hinted that it might be German built. George Washington spent time here making many important decisions that helped America to succeed. It is currently owned by the New York State Department of Parks and Historic Preservation and in 1850, it became the first building in the country to be preserved as a historic monument.

Old Town Cemetery



120 South Street
Newburgh, NY 12550



Information: The original Palatine Germans who settled in Newburgh came in 1709, and in 1719, the Queen of England granted a charter to the land for the people who settled. With that land came 500 acres, called the glebe, for public use. This cemetery is all that remains from their time on that land, and it was their first burial ground. Today, there are about 1300 gravestones on the site and the Calvary Presbyterian Church shares its land. Call (845) 562-8730 for more information.

Website: <http://www.oldtowncemetery.org/home.html>

Bibliography

2007. *Quitman Resource Center for Preservation, Inc.* [online history]. Accessed 12 December 2007. Available from <http://www.quitmanpreservation.org/>. Internet.

A website about the organization and their restoration projects, including the Quitman House and the Palatine Farmstead.

Desai, Neil. 2002. *Newburgh Revealed*. [research paper online]. Accessed 9 December 2007. Available from <http://www.newburghrevealed.org/historypalatine.htm>. Internet.

A collection of information originally intended as a university student's research paper about Newburgh, adapted for the Internet. The author was attending the University of Pennsylvania at the time of his writing, and he provides references to support his information. The most relevant pages on the site are those that pertain to Newburgh in the colonial era, though the site does follow the city to the present day.

Image Credits

Palatines: Summary

First: Taken by Buddy Marsico

Second: <http://www.quitmanpreservation.org/>

Palatines: Guidebook

First: <http://www.quitmanpreservation.org/>

Second: <http://www.hvva.org/hvvanews6-7pt2.htm>

Third: <http://www.oldtowncemetery.org/home.html>

Palatines: Tourist Itinerary

First: <http://www.quitmanpreservation.org/>

Second: <http://www.oldtowncemetery.org/home.html>

Third: <http://www.colonelhaydenhouse.com/>

Palatines: Lesson Plan

First: <http://www.quitmanpreservation.org/>

Second: <http://www.preservenewburgh.org/cem/cem1.htm>

Third: Taken by Buddy Marsico