

Allegany COUNTY

OUR COUNTY'S HISTORY

is a colorful one, from our Native American heritage to the Seneca Oil Springs, the sight of the first oil discovery on the continent. Allegany County citizens are diverse in background and heritage. Enjoy the ambience of our unique villages and hamlets, or marvel at the scenic vistas in our rural countryside.

There is an abundance of charming, Victorian villages and towns as well as historic districts in Alfred, Angelica, Canaseraga and Cuba. Our County showcases a variety of architectural styles that has emerged over the years, while our neighborhoods and small museums preserve our past.

If you're in search of history, you'll find there's a great deal of it to be discovered here in Allegany County.

Museums

Alfred Historical Society
P.O. Box 1137, Alfred, NY 14802
607-567-8358

Terra Cotta Museum
Box 1137
Alfred, NY 14802
607-567-4313

Allegany County Museum & Historian's Office
Court Street
Belmont, NY 14813
585-268-9293

Angelica Free Library Colonial Rooms
Main Street
Angelica, NY 14709
585-466-7880

Baker's Bridge Historical Association
5971 Hamilton Hill Rd.
Alfred Station, NY 14803
bakersbridge.org

Bare Knuckle Boxing Hall of Fame
5 West Hughes St
Belfast, NY 14711
585-610-3326
bareknuckleboxinghalloffame.com

Canaseraga Shawmut Station & Museum
193 Ames Nichols Road
off County Road 15A
Canaseraga, NY 14822
607-545-6527

Colonial Library - Historical Room
61 Main Street
Richburg, NY 14774
585-928-2694

Cuba Historical Society Museum
12 Genesee Street
Cuba, NY 14727
585-968-2633
Fri. 2-4 or by appt.

Cuba Cheese Museum
20 Water Street
Cuba, NY 14727
cubacheesemuseum.org

Cuba Military Museum
33 Genesee Street
Cuba, NY 14727
585-968-3679
Wednesday or by appt.

Dyke Street Museum
116 East Dyke Street
Wellsville, NY 14895
585-593-1404 or 3069

Friendship Library Baxter Room
40 West Main Street
Friendship, NY 14739
585-973-7724

Hagadorn House Museum
Box 98, 7 North Main
Almond, NY 14804
607-276-6465
Friday 2-4 or by appt..

Ortlip Art Gallery
Houghton College
One Willard Avenue
Houghton, NY 14744
585-567-9421
Mon.-Sat. 9-6 p.m.

Pioneer Oil Museum
Main Street
Bolivar, NY 14715
585-928-1344
Contact Ray Payne-call ahead

Richburg Wirt Museum
Main Street Rt. 275
Richburg, NY 14774

Rushford Museum
Main Street
Rushford, NY 14777
(seasonal)

The Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art
Binns Merrill Hall
Alfred University Campus
Alfred, NY 14802
607-871-2421
ceramicmuseum.alfred.edu

Town of Hume Museum
The first town-owned museum in Allegany County
10842 Claybed Road
Hume, NY 14745
Rondus Miller, Historian/Curator
585-567-8399
www.humetown.org

Town of Willing Museum
Located in the Willing Town Hall,
Route 19
Wellsville, NY 14895
585-593-6145

Other Points of Interest

Allegany County Agricultural Society
Allegany County Fair
Angelica, NY 14709
585-466-7670
(July only)

Almond Historical Society
7 Main Street
Almond, NY 14804
607-276-6781
www.rootsweb.com/~nyahs

Davis Memorial Carillon
Alfred University Campus
Alfred, NY 14802

The Horn Room Village Hall
Belmont, NY 14813

Pittsburgh Shawmut and Northern Railroad Historical Society Exhibit
Allegany County Fairgrounds,
Angelica, NY
By appt.
1-800-936-1869

Thelma Rogers Historical Society
Dyke St. Wellsville, NY 14895

Seneca Oil Spring
Cuba Lake Road
Cuba, NY 14727
585-268-9293

Southern Tier Antique Equipment Society, Inc.
585-365-2409

Stull Observatory
Alfred University Campus
Alfred, NY 14802
607-871-2270

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Historic Allegany County

A visit to Allegany County, NY is like a walk through American history. Allegany County, located in New York State's Southern Tier, approximately 90 miles south of Rochester, home to about 50,000 citizens in 29 townships, 10 villages and numerous hamlets.

Gradually, Europeans ventured into the area, exploring and settling. In 1782 Moses Van Campen, a frontiersman and scout for American Revolutionary forces, was captured by the Seneca and forced to run the gauntlet in Caneadea. He did and survived the run so bravely that he eased the ordeal for the others in his party.

In 1795, Nathaniel Dyke, a member of Washington's staff, built a home in what is now Elm Valley near Wellsville. Near Angelica, Phillip Church, nephew to Alexander Hamilton, owned thousands of acres of land and built Villa Belvidere, an outstanding example of Federal architecture.

In the years after the Revolution, veterans of General Sullivan's Army, and other settlers began to move into the Genesee River Valley. In 1806 Allegany County was created by an act of the State Legislature. At that time, the county's population was just a few hundred people, but that would grow to 30,000 by 1860.

In the first half of the 19th century, timbering, leather tanning and agriculture were the primary businesses of the county. These were so important that the Genesee Valley Canal was built through a number of the towns to transport the wood and agricultural products to northern points. Later, railroads, such as the Erie in 1851, also provided transportation.

Many of the county citizens were antislavery and supportive of the efforts of the Underground Railroad which wound its way north, down the Genesee River the length of the county and beyond. Two documented stations are still standing in Almond and Belfast with many supposed stations scattered in other towns.

Also, in the 1850s, an antislavery political group, the future Republican Party, was organized. Angelica and Friendship both claim to be the "birthplace" of the Republican Party. Friendship may have held the first Republican caucus in 1854 with Angelica holding the first Republican Convention that fall.

During the Civil War, over 3,700 Allegany County men served in the Union Forces. They fought at Gettysburg, in the battle of the Wilderness, and in numerous other battles where approximately 600 of these men were killed during these conflicts. Today there are 1,400 Civil War veterans buried in cemeteries all over Allegany County, and we are finding more all the time.

During and after the war, heavy industry grew with many facilities located in the Wellsville area. The oil boom of the late 1800s and again in the 1920s brought great prosperity to the southern part of Allegany County. This gave rise to many "spin off" industries such as oil refineries, steam turbine manufacturing, pipeline supply businesses and narrow gauge railroads serving the oil fields. In the 20th century, many people of Allegany County served their country in World Wars I and II and other conflicts. They also suffered through the Great Depression, as did the entire country. Yet, in the last half of the 20th century, industry and retail business grew and prospered.

Come and visit Allegany County. Explore our many museums, historic buildings and districts, and 200 year old cemeteries where you can find some of the names of the men and women who, from humble environs, helped to carve a nation out of the wilderness. Check out our calendar link at www.discoveralleganycounty.com for historic lectures at the local universities or step into history in September at our Civil War Re-enactment in Angelica. Walk through our shared American History in Allegany County.

Allegany COUNTY
The Greater Allegany County
Chamber of Commerce and Office of Tourism
Crossroads Commerce Center
6087 Side Rt. 19N,
Belmont, NY 14813



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