

The Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society	Chronology of the Village of Briarcliff Manor	(ca. 10,000 B.C.E-2013 C.E.):	By: Alexander Vastola
Date (Year):	Month and Day (If Available):	Subject:	Description of Event:
Pre-History (B.C.E.):			
ca. 10,000 B.C.E.		Native Americans	The ice sheet retreats and the ground warms in the area that would become the Village of Briarcliff Manor, and the forest changes gradually from tundra-spruce to pine to oak-chestnut to maple-hickory-hemlock. The first people of the forest (the Native Americans) whose ancestors are believed to have travelled on foot from Asia, hunted the caribou and the woolly mastadon. (1, page 5)
The Archaic Period (10,000-8,000 B.C.E)		Briarcliff Archeology	Most of the tools found in an archeological dig in Briarcliff Manor in the 1960s and 1970s date to this period, showing that at this time in the Archaic Period, Native Americans in the area that would become the Village of Briarcliff Manor used tools. These tools were preserved from the destructive acidity of the soil by the lime content of the oyster shells found at the site. Later sites, specifically the one on the cultivated uplands, have been mostly obliterated. (1, page 5)

pre-1498		Native Americans	<p>The first peoples of the forests of the region that would become the Village of Briarcliff Manor joined by others of various skills, developed a complex culture over the centuries. When the first European explorers sailed up the river, the inhabitants were no longer wandering hunter-gathers, surviving the cold in rock shelters, but citizens of an established social order rich in tradition and lore. They believed in a colorful hierarchy of spirits, from powerful Creator to the smallest animals and plants. They were governed by councils on which women and youths might sometimes sit with the men. Their chiefs, sachems and sagamores, were first among equals, distinguished for wisdom as well as leadership in war and the hunt. Local tribes--Wiechquaskeck, Sintsinck, Kitchawanck, Wappinger and others--united against more warlike tribes to the north in what came to be called the Wappinger Confederacy. (1, page 5 at the end of this section.)</p>
pre-1498		Native Americans	<p>The peoples of the Wappinger Confederacy cultivated beans, squash, pumpkins, sunflowers and corn, from which they made bread. They stored quantities of provisions, dried and smoked venison, fish and shellfish, and vegetables, as well as grain for the winter months. In winter they gathered in houses built of hickory saplings and sheets of chestnut bark. Some of the lodges were communal "long houses," sixty to one hundred feet long, partitioned with hides and woven matting, in which as many as sixteen families might live, each around a small fire with a smoke hole in the roof above it. During the cold months, they fashioned tools and weapons, bowls and spoons of stone and wood, baskets and clay cooking pots. (1, pages 5-6)</p>

pre-1498		Native Americans	<p>According to the written and oral communication account by Nicholas A. Shoumatoff, <i>He Who Stands Firm, Tukswit (Wolf Clan), Eastern Oklahoma Delaware (Lenape) Tribe, Unami Division</i>, the coming of a travelling storyteller to the villages of the Wappinger Confederacy, a "Grandfather" or "Grandmother" carrying a bag of "winter stories," was a great event. All the children crowded around to listen. The stories carried lessons about courage, kindness, moral purity and reverence for all the natural world. They went on for hours and included many songs which the listeners joined in singing. The storyteller started each one by opening his bag, saying, "I open this story..." and taking out an object--a reed for the story of the wily fellow who hid under the water and sang a warning song through a reed to his unkind mother-in-law--a tooth or a scrap of scaly skin for the story of the water monster, in which some boys climbed the long shadows to the sky and asked the sun for some sun-dust to defeat the monster. (1, pages 6 and 229)</p>
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pre-1498		Native Americans	<p>Some of the peoples of the Wappinger Confederacy lived in villages near the present (ca. 1990) hamlet of Sparta and Sing Sing Kill (Killbrook) in Ossining, a named derived from their words <i>asin</i> (stone) and <i>asinesing</i> (place of stones). These words were, by early accounts, even more descriptive than now of the country, especially along the river shores. The tribe, or tribes, that sometimes lived here came to be called the Sint Sincks or Sing Sings-spelling varied, as spelling did in those times. They spoke coastal Munsee, a dialect of the Algonkian language, reported by William Penn and others to be beautifully musical. They believed their language was understood by plants, animals and deities. They called themselves "Lenape," the People. These Lower River Indians were peaceable, perhaps because they believed the Creator intended his bounty for all his people equally, a belief easy to hold in this country, for here was God's plenty--the forest alive with game, with "fruits in great profusion," and nuts and berries." (1, page 6)</p>
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pre-1498		Native Americans	At this time, long before the arrival of the white settlers to the areas that would later become the Village of Briarcliff Manor, the rolling countryside along the Hudson River that is today Westchester, was inhabited by the Mohegan Indians, who were part of the Algonquin nation. A tribe known as the Sint Sincks occupied the land along the river north of the present day Tarrytown and south of Croton. Little is known of the Sint Sincks other than that they derived a secure living from the river which they called the <i>Muhheakunnuk</i> (more scientifically, it is an <i>estuary</i> , a place where salt tides meet fresh water) or "the river that flows both ways" because of the tide from the ocean just thirty miles to the south. In addition, another tribe, known as the Tankitekas, lived a few miles inland as far west as the Pocantico River, or a "run between two hills." Early European settlers named the Pocantico the Mill River, but the new name did not take. (1, page 6) (15, page 8) (17, page 3)
1400s:			
1498		Hudson River History	The European explorer, John Cabot, was one of the first European explorers to see the Hudson River as he passed it as one of several European explorers sailing along the coast to search for a northwest passage to the riches of India. (1, page 6)
1500s:			
1521		Hudson River History	During this year, the Dutch West India Company was established and trading posts were set up from New Amsterdam (New York City) to Fort Orange (Albany). One of the earliest historians of the New World, Adrian Van der Donck, put at eighty thousand the number of beaver taken annually for their pelts. Otter, mink, bear, elk and deer also were taken. (1, page 7)
1521-1571?		Hudson River History	During this period of the fifty-odd years of Dutch rule, the region which would later become the Village of Briarcliff Manor was largely unsettled and would remain so until after the American Revolution. (1, page 7)

1524		Hudson River History	Giovanni da Verrazano, a Florentine, provides the first recorded entrance to the Hudson River, writing to his patron, King Francis I of France, that his ship "being anchored off the coast in good shelter [in present-day New York Harbor]," he and some of his crew entered the river in "the small boat....The people, clothed with the feathers of birds of various colors, came toward us joyfully, uttering great exclamations of admiration, showing us where we could land with the boat more safely....They exceeded us in size, and they were of a very fair complexion: some of them incline more to a white, others to a tawny color, their faces are sharp, their hair long and black....Their expression [is] mild and pleasant....Their women are of the same form and beauty, very graceful, of fine countenances and pleasing appearance in manners and modesty." However, a gale blew up and Verrazano and his sailors were forced to return to their ship. (1, page 6) (17, page 2)
1600s:			
1600		Native Americans	At this time, the entire Wappinger Confederacy was estimated as less than five thousand in terms of population. (1, page 8)
1600-1605		Native Americans	Within this five-year period, some sixteen hundred Indians were killed out of a group estimated at less than five thousand in 1600. Congtagious diseases brought from Europe (smallpox, cholera, malarial, measles, bubonic plague, alcoholism) against which the Indians had no immunity, wiped out whole villages. Settlers and Indians were soon at war and "the fields of the Dutch", as one settler wrote, "were laid waste. Our dwellings and other buildings are burnt, not a handful can be planted or sown this fall on all the abandoned places. All this through a foolish hankering after war, for it is known to all right-thinking men here that these Indians have lived as lambs among us until a few years ago, injuring no one and affording every assistance to our nation." (1, page 8)

1609		Hudson River History	According to the Journal of Robert Juet, "of Limehouse," officer of Hendrik Hudson's <i>Half Moon</i> , (edited by J. Franklin Jameson, in <i>Narratives of New Netherland</i> . 1609-1664. New York, 1909.) Juet wrote that the river teemed with fish-"Salmons, and Mulletts, and Rayes very great." (Juet probably mistook striped bass for salmon, which never swam in the Hudson River). There were also striped bass, shad, eel and sturgeon. (1, pages 6 and 229) (17, page 3)
1609	September	Hudson River History	Hendrik Hudson, an English captain in employment of the Dutch East India Company, goes on the first recorded voyage up the Hudson River (the "Great River of the Mountains") between the Palisades in his high-poooped Dutch yacht, the <i>Half Moon</i> , and claimed his discovery. Robert Juet, a member of Hudson's crew, wrote in his journal that "This is a...pleasant land to see...as pleasant with grass and flowers and goodly trees as ever we had seen," and described the several meetings of Hudson and his men with the people of the forest. These were at first very amiable, for the Indians were generous and kindly hosts, "a very good people," Hudson later called them. However, before the <i>Half Moon</i> set sail again over the ocean one Englishman and at least ten Indians had been killed. (1, pages 6-7) (15, page 8) (17, page 3)
1629		Hudson River History	During this year, in an effort to promote settlement, the Dutch West India Company granted members of the company the right to purchase from the Indians a tract of land above Manhattan extending sixteen miles on one side of the river or eight miles on both sides and "so far into the country as the situation of the Occupyers will permit," provided they plant on the tract a colony of fifty persons. Within their domains these landlords, called patroons, had near-feudal powers. (1, pages 7-8)

1634		Philipse Family	It is possible that both Vredryck Flypsen (Frederick Philipse) and Stephanus Van Cortlandt were both driven to emigrate to the New World in the aftermath of a tidal wave which struck and damaged the northern coast of Europe during this year. (1, page 8)
1640		Hudson River History	The Hudson River region is largely trapped out of animals hunted for the fur trade by this date. The hunters, who were mostly Indian, were forced far afield, and many never returned. (1, page 7)
1646		Hudson River History	Even with inducements, only one patroonship was established in the present county, that granted in 1646 to Adrian Van der Donck (known as <i>Jonckheer</i> , or young sir), in acknowledgment of his services as peacemaker between the Indians and Company Director Willem Kieft. This tract extended from Spuyten Duyvil sixteen miles north along the Hudson and east to the Bronx River. Donck's Colony, where that gentleman settled, was called Yonkers (<i>Jonckheer's</i>) after him. (1, page 8)
1647		Philipse Family	Vredryck Flypsen (Frederick Philipse) emigrates from Friesland, in the Netherlands, to the New World, probably with Peter Stuyvesant, during this year. (1, page 8)
1664		Hudson River History	Exhausted by the Indian wars and under pressure from expanding English settlements in Connecticut and Long Island, during this year, the Dutch surrendered easily to an English squadron of four ships under the command of Richard Nicolls. New Amsterdam becomes the Province of New York and Nicolls its first governor. (1, page 8)
1664		Philipsburgh Manor	During this year, the name Vredryck Flypsen was changed to Frederick Philipse when the British forces took New Amsterdam, and Upper Mills at the intersection of the Pocantico and Hudson Rivers (now Sleepy Hollow) became headquarters for the Philipse estate. (1, page 8) (15, page 8)

1664?		Hudson River History	The terms of the English takeover were liberal, and prominent Dutch citizens, particularly Vredryck Flypsen (his name anglicized to Frederick Philipse) and Stephanus Van Cortlandt, Philipse's future brother-in-law and neighborhood in Westchester, retained their property and took places in the new colonial government. Philipse was a carpenter, not the grandson of a refugee Bohemian nobleman, and his skill in building during his first years in the colony earned him the nickname of Stuyvesant's "architect builder." He also became a merchant, trading with the Five Nations (Iroquoian Indian tribes), England, the East and West Indies and Africa, exchanging furs and timber for woven goods and slaves for sugar and rum. He also manufactured wampum. He married Margaret Hardenbroek, widow of the wealthy merchant Pieter R. DeVries, "a very desirable business partner as well as wife." When she died, he married Catherine Van Cortlandt, widow of John Derval. (1, page 8)
1664?-1698		Philipse Family	Frederick Philipse serves as a member of the governing council of the New York colony during this period. (1, page 8)
1672		Philipse Family	During this year, Frederick Philipse added a portion of Donck's Colony to his property in Manhattan. (1, page 11)
1674		Philipse Family	Both of Frederick Philipse's marriages increased his already considerable wealth, and during this year, he was rated the richest man in the Province. (1, page 8)
1676-1690		Native Americans	Sachem/cheif "Weskora" (probably Wessecanow, "identified as Wiechquaskeck, Wappinger or Kitchawank, depending on where he happended to be living...") serves as the principle agent between his people (the Native Americans living in the New York Colony area) and the English colonists during this period. (1, page 11)

ca. 1680		Philipse Family	By around this time, Vreddyck Flypsen had begun amassing his lands between Spuyten Duyvil on the south and Croton on the north; from the Hudson River on the west to the Bronx River on the east. It was a particularly placid and beautiful place, known to the Dutch settlers as "Die slapering haven," a name Washington Irving rendered as "Sleepy Hollow" years later. (1, page 11) (15, page 8)
ca. 1681		Philipse Family	Around this year, Frederick Philipse began of clear the land at the mouth of the Pocantico River. When this land clearing started, the government of Connecticut complained to the officials of New York that the land that Philipse was clearing and developing was not included in his grant, but was in Connecticut. Through a series of political moves, which were apparently quite persuasive, Mr. Philipse saw to it that the boundary line was moved eastward to the Byram River, which today divided Port Chester, New York, from Greenwich, Connecticut. According to <i>A Village Between Two Rivers, A History of Briarcliff Manor</i> , published in 1977, it is reasonable to assume that if such political arm bending had not taken place, present day Briarcliff Manor would be divided between two states instead of two townships. (15, page 8)

1685	August 4th	Philipse Family	<p>On this date, the exact price for the eleventh and final parcel of land that Mr. Frederick Philipse would purchase for his landholdings, which was bounded by the Kitchawan (Croton River) on the north, the Shattemuc (Hudson River) on the west, the Pocantico River on the east and Mr. Philipse's land on the south, was recorded as follows: fifty feet of black wampum, one hundred feet of whit wampum, eleven small kettles, twelve large kettles, fifteen fathoms of trade cloth, twelve guns, fifteen shirts, twelve pairs of stockings, two ankers of rum, twelve drawing knives, six cooper adzes, twelve blankets, twelve blankets twelve fathoms of stoud water, fifty pounds of powder, thirty bars of lead, twenty axes, fifteen hoes, forty knives, twenty stone jugs, one iron chain, two rolls of tobacco, and two pistols. Inflation had clearly hit, as the price was considerably more than that paid for Manhattan Island some years earlier. (15, pages 8-9) (17, page 3)</p>
1685	August 12th	Philipse Family	<p>The land of the future Scarborough, Briarcliff, and Ossining area ("that tract or parcel of land commonly called by the Indians Sinck Sinck"), and the eleventh and final parcel of land that Philipse would purchase, is purchased by Vredryk Flypsen (Frederick Philipse) at a land transaction meeting on a hill east of the present Scarborough railroad station and in the presence of eight Indian chiefs, (one of whom was named "Weskora"), from the Sint Sinck (Mohegan) Indians. This meeting ended in the exchange of the land along the eastern edge of the Shatomuc River, 'the stream which flows both ways,' as the Indians called the Hudson River. Thus did Vredryk Flypsen (Frederick Philipse) buy the land that would eventually become the Village of Briarcliff Manor, paying for it in wampum, axes, blankets and trade cloth, shirts and stockings, stone jugs, firearms, iron kettles, hoes, knives, and rum. This land became part of Philipse's ca. 156,000-acre estate. (1, page 11) (2, pages 11-12) (15, page 8)</p>

1689	January 2th	Philipse Family	Philipse's purchase of this land is confirmed by Royal Patent, in the County of Westchester, Colony of New York, under the seal of Thomas Donegan, Governor of the Province and inscribed as from "his Royal Majesty of England, Scotland, France and Ireland." Vreddryck Flypsen (Frederick Philipse), through a series of purchases on this date, had extended his holdings to all land from Spuyten Duyvil north to the Croton River and east from the Hudson to the source of the Bronx River. Flypsen also later purchased land from the Pocantico stream to the Croton River, and from the Hudson River to the Nepperhan Creek (now Saw Mill River). Altogether, his lands consisted of the area of the present Village of Briarcliff Manor, and, at the manor's height, it consisted of about 52,000 acres. (1, page 11) (2, page 11) (14, page 1) (15, page 9) (17, page 3)
1693		Philipsburgh Manor	The patent of the English monarchs William and Mary make Frederick Philipse "Lord of the Mannour of Philipsborough," lands which were to become Scarborough, Sparta and Briarcliff Manor. However, at this time, no more than twenty families were living on some fifty thousand acres, which included land on the western shore of the Tappan Zee and a larger part of what is now the Bronx. Philipse Manor was both owned and governed by Philipse and his heirs, in succession, Adolph, Frederick II, and Frederick III, known as Colonel Philpse. Philip Philipse, the oldest son of the first Frederick Philipse, first purchased the Sing Sing tract, and later deeded it to his father, who survived him. (1, page 11) (17, page 3)
1693-1775(?)		Philipsburgh Manor	During this period, Philipse Manor enjoys nearly a hundred years of relative peace. (1, page 12)

1698		Hudson River History	During this year, Frederick Philipse is dismissed from his position as a member of the governing council of the New York colony, due to the English Lords of trade finding out that he was reportedly connected to Captain Kidd's illegal commerce with pirates was clear enough to warrant his dismissal. Philipse, who was by this time more than seventy years old, retired (originally, Captain Kidd's enterprises were legitimate and Philipse was not the only leading citizen who cooperated with him). (1, page 8)
The late seventeenth century		Sparta	During this time, Sparta was first settled by a French Huguenot named Carel Davids, who settled near the foot of Liberty Street in what is now the Village of Ossining. Sparta was a busy river port and a stable small-industrial and middle-class community. (1, page 97) (15, page 9)
Works Cited:			
1			Mary Cheever, <i>The Changing Landscape</i>
2			The Briarcliff Semi-Centennial Book
3			Vicki A. Mack, <i>Frank A. Vanderlip: The Banker Who Changed America</i>
4			Historical Profile: Sleepy Hollow Country Club
5			Transcription of notes made by Char Harden about the Harden Family, builder of "The Wilderness" Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510: Originally written October 29, 1992: Transcription made 9-30-2013
6			Obituaries: <i>The New York Times</i> , "Frank Vanderlip, Philanthropist and Investment Banker, at 86." by Wolfgang Saxon, from April 27th, 1993.
7			"Geneology of the Washburn Family," by Ada C. Haight, published 1937, page 247.
8			<i>Images of America: Briarcliff Lodge</i> , by Rob Yasinsac
9			"Rockwood Hall at Sleepy Hollow," page 1
10			<i>The New York Times</i> , "Speyer Home Opened to Working Girls." from June 5th, 1910.

11			<i>Special to The New York Times</i> , "Briarcliff Manor: Many New Yorkers Are Prominent Among the Early Arrivals." from June 9th, 1912.
12			Summary Sheet for the 1974 The Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society Minutes, page 1.
13			Account of Sergeant Mike Bassett of The Briarcliff Manor Police Department (June 18th, 2014).
14			Pattison, Rev. Robert B. <i>A History of Briarcliff Manor</i> . Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.: William Rayburn, 1939.
15			Presented By The Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society, <i>A Village Between Two Rivers: Briarcliff Manor</i> . 1977.
16			Account of Fred Becker.
17			Briarcliff Centennial Committee, <i>The Briarcliff Family Album: Celebrating a Century</i> . Cornwall, New York: Auric Information Packaging, 2002.
18			Biography of Joan and Keith Austin from The Briarcliff Manor-Scarborough Historical Society's 3rd Annual Harvest Dinner Journal, 2014.
			*(Two or more numbers together means that the information was cited from more than one source).