



Matthewis Persen House Museum & Cultural Heritage Center

Keeping Ulster County's
History Alive!



2016

Tour Season Schedule & Special Events

Tours, Exhibits, Events & More!

Michael P. Hein, Ulster County Executive
Nina Postupack, Ulster County Clerk



Matthewis Persen House Museum & Cultural Heritage Center

Keeping Ulster County's
History Alive!

Hours of Operation

May 28 – September 3:
Tuesday through Friday 9am–4:30pm &
Saturdays 9am–3pm

September 10 – November 19:
Saturdays Only 10am–2pm or by
Appointment



Take a self-guided tour or join one of our knowledgeable museum docents for a personal tour. The Persen House can also accommodate large groups. Please call to schedule a special group tour!

For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Nina Postupack, Ulster County Clerk at (845) 340-3040.

About the House



The Matthewis Persen House is one of Ulster County's oldest, most significant buildings.

Named after its longest residing owner, Matthewis Persen (1739-1819), the House is located within Kingston's Stockade National Historic District. Its earliest portions date from c.1661 and it is one of four landmark buildings on each corner of John and Crown Streets. This is the only known intersection in the United States with pre-revolutionary stone houses on all four corners.

The Persen House has been the home of doctors, tailors, innkeepers, druggists, grocers, and Ulster County government. It was burned at least twice, saw wars and revolution, and survived to tell its tale. To walk through this remarkable building, is to walk through Ulster County's rich local history!

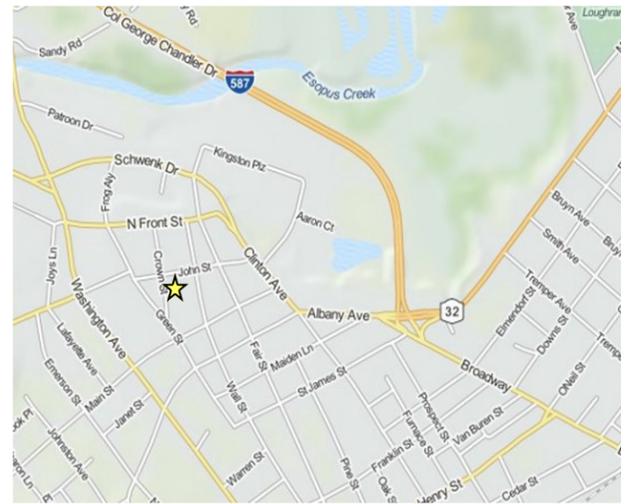
The Persen House functions as Ulster County's Heritage Gateway. Cultural heritage groups from throughout the county guest host at the House and share their treasure troves of history & culture with visitors. In the 2010 through 2015 tour seasons, the Persen House hosted over 15,500 visitors, including 483 international visitors from 34 different countries.

We look forward to a fun and educational tour season in 2016. Come visit us soon!



Come Visit Us!

74 John Street
Kingston, New York



From the NYS Thruway (I-87): Take exit 19 toward Kingston/Rhinecliff. Enter roundabout and take 2nd exit onto Washington Ave. After a half mile, turn left onto N. Front St. Take the 2nd right onto Crown St. The house is one block down, on the corner of Crown & John Streets.

From the North via 9W or Rt. 32: Take Ulster/Albany Ave. heading southwest past the Rt. 587 intersection. Turn right onto Clinton Ave. Bear left onto N. Front St. Turn left on Crown St. The house is one block down, on the corner of Crown & John Streets.

From the South via Rt. 32: Take Wall St. heading north. After about one mile, turn left onto North Front St. Turn left onto Crown St. The house is one block down, on the corner of Crown & John Streets.

Parking: Metered on-street parking is available throughout the uptown Kingston area. The Ulster County Courthouse on Wall Street has limited availability during the week, but is completely available on the weekends. The Ulster County Office Building on the corner of Main & Fair Streets offers free weekend parking. There is also free parking at the Kingston Plaza every day, less than a half mile walk from the house.



Nina Postupack, Ulster County Clerk, Presents Two Season-Long Dutch Heritage Exhibits

Nina Postupack, Ulster County Clerk, presents

Learn About Dutch Life in 1665...

GYSBERT'S INVENTORY: A Reflection of 1665 Dutch Life in Wiltwyck

An Exhibit at the Matthewis Persen House
Museum & Cultural Heritage Center
74 John Street, Kingston, New York

Gysbert Van Imbroch's inventory provides a window into the daily life of a 17th century Dutch colonial family. Through this record, we gain insights into their culture and the environment in which they lived.
— Nina Postupack, Ulster County Clerk

MUSEUM OPEN:
Memorial Day Weekend through
Labor Day Weekend,
Tuesday through Saturday
After Labor Day through
Pre-Thanksgiving Weekend,
Saturdays Only

For more information, contact Nina Postupack,
Ulster County Clerk, at [845] 340-3040.

Back cover: Map of New Netherland and New England, and also part of Virginia, by Willem Verelst, 1670. Reprinted by Frances Scholten, 1985, in *Wiltwyck: Images Observed from the Ulster County Clerk's Office*. The Metropolitan Museum of Art at www.metmuseum.org, and Wiltwyck Images. See www.gysbert.org for more info.

Gysbert's Inventory: A Reflection of 1665 Dutch Life

The legacy of the Dutch settlers of Wiltwyck lives on at the Matthewis Persen House. The house sits on Kingston's historic "four corners" and was originally owned by Gysbert Van Imbroch. An inventory listing Gysbert's possessions at the time of his death in 1665 is brought to life through illustrations of clothing, kitchen items, and other articles used in 17th century daily life. The inventory also depicts items Gysbert used in his profession as a barber-surgeon as well as his book collection, one of the largest book collections in the New World. Step back in time with *Gysbert's Inventory*.

This exhibit was made possible through a grant from the New York State Archives Records Management Improvement Fund in the 2015-2016 grant cycle. Learn about the importance

of protecting our documented history and how the Ulster County Clerk's Office safeguards the records by viewing the short film associated with the exhibit titled *The Ulster County Clerk's Office: Keeper of the Records*.

Daily Dutch:

Exploring Aspects of
Dutch Life through the
Records

Daily Dutch: Exploring Aspects of Dutch Life through the Records

Daily Dutch examines aspects of Dutch life in Wiltwyck in the 1660s. Learn about Dutch homes, leisure activities, everyday items and defensive fortifications. The exhibit features records from the Dutch Colonial Records Collection and artifacts found during an archaeological excavation at the Persen House. It is presented in conjunction with the grand opening of a new permanent exhibit titled *Gysbert's Inventory: A Reflection of 1665 Dutch*

Records...



Artifacts...



Special Exhibits

D&H Canal Historical Society Exhibit

June 1—August 20

The D&H Canal Historical Society was established in 1966 to preserve, protect and perpetuate the unique history of the Delaware & Hudson Canal, particularly in Ulster County. As part of fulfilling its mission, the Society operates a museum and maintains the Five Locks Walk, a National Historic Landmark. On exhibit at the Persen House this summer is a diorama showing a canal lock, pictures from our Archives, maps of the canal and more.

Images of America, Ellenville

September 24—October 15

Surrounded by the beautiful Shawangunk Mountains, Ellenville, New York, is a gateway between the Catskills, the Hudson River Valley, and New York City. Learn how this little village in Ulster County contributed to the growth of our nation with industry and innovation, and welcomed travelers along some of the nation's oldest roads. Originating over 200 years ago as Fairchild City, Ellenville retains its small-town character to this day.

Women of Ulster County

October 1—November 19

Ulster County Historical Society and Ellenville Public Library & Museum collaboratively present the exhibit "Women of Ulster County." This exhibit is the spring board for the year-long celebration of women's history and the centennial of women's suffrage and the right to vote in New York State. View photographs and short narratives of "women of note" from all walks of life and backgrounds in Ulster County. The exhibit will travel to libraries, historical sites and schools around Ulster County. The celebration will conclude with a re-enactment of a suffrage march and rally where the public will be invited to join a march through Kingston to the Ulster County Courthouse. Suffrage songs and chants will be integrated into the march and historic re-enactors will address the crowd. Join us at the Persen House for the unveiling of this exhibit and join the celebration!

Special Events & Guest Hosts

- May 28**
10:00-2:00
Red Feather Singers & Drummers of the Association of Native Americans of the Hudson Valley (ANA)
The Red Feather Drummers invite children of all ages to join them at the House. The group will share Native American storytelling, singing, dancing, crafts & drumming. Members will be available for any questions regarding ANA. Come listen to traditional stories that teach respect for others, animals, nature and the earth.
- June 4**
10:00-12:00
12:00-1:00
1:00-3:00
D&H Canal Historical Society
Meet and greet with the society's president, Bill Merchant.
PowerPoint presentation "The Delaware and Hudson Canal- 19th Century Engine of Prosperity".
Questions and discussion. Informal talk on the recent donation of the journals of D&H Engineer Russell Lord 1848-1852.
- June 11**
9:00-3:00
The British Brigade/16th Queen's Light Dragoons
Interact with 18th re-enactors. See musket demonstrations and a period clothing display. Learn more about the regiment and the next Burning of Kingston event!
- July 2**
9:00-3:00
The Ulster County Clerk's Office presents Colonial Game Day
Try your hand at Colonial era games. Enjoy fun games like Jacob's Ladder, Cup & Ball, Game of Graces, Yo-Yo, Buzz Saw and more! Fun for children of all ages!
- July 9**
9:00-3:00
Klyne Esopus Historical Society Museum
The Klyne Esopus Museum has a mission to preserve, interpret and disseminate the history of the Town of Esopus. Join members as they distribute materials, answer questions about their mission and discuss activities planned throughout the season. View items of interest from their collection, including various Native American artifacts found in the town and examples of some local industries from the past.
- July 23**
9:00-3:00
Plattekill Historical Society
The Plattekill Historical Society presents *The History of Tourism in the Town of Plattekill*. Join members of PHS and view some of their extensive collection of postcards, poster and images that highlight the "golden era" of resorts, boarding houses and villas in the town (1930s-1980s).
- August 27 & September 3 Hurley Heritage Society**
9:00-3:00
10:30 & 1:00
Please join the Hurley Heritage Society as they share their museum's current exhibit *Hurley Harvest: By Hand and By Horse*. The exhibit features the history of local farms and farming equipment and includes items from the society's collection of 19th century farming equipment.
Video viewing and discussion.
- September 10 Friends of Historic Kingston**
10:00-2:00
Learn about Kingston's history and distinctive architecture! Members will also be discussing their new exhibit *The Friends of Historic Kingston Celebrates 50 Years: Treasures Great and Small from Our Collections*.
- September 17 The Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History**
10:00-2:00
12:00
The Reher Center is a historical and cultural center which seeks to build community by offering opportunities for members from different ethnic groups to work together to create programs which celebrate cultural diversity and our immigrant past. This year at the Persen House, we will be presenting highlights from three of our spring 2016 programs: An Immigrant History of Kingston, presented as part of the Lifespring Adult Learning Community's spring course offerings; Immigrant Gifts to America, a month long series of exhibits and special programs last May developed in conjunction with the Art Society of Kingston and the James Cox Gallery of Woodstock; and, our 4th annual Kingston Multicultural Festival. We are also inviting people in the community with memories of the Reher Bakery, the Reher Family, life in Rondout, or growing up with a strong connection to the ethnic community or communities into which they were born, to stop by and record their stories for our oral history archives.
At noon, a number of presenters from the Immigrant History of Kingston series will be present as a panel to share their stories about growing up in Kingston, with the public invited to join in the conversation. We hope to see you.
- September 24 Ellenville Public Library and Museum**
11:00
Join EPL&M for some great stories behind the historic photographs used in their new publication, "Images of America, Ellenville". Learn how this little village in Ulster County contributed to the growth of our nation with industry and innovation, and how Ellenville still serves as a link between New York City and the Catskills.
- October 8 Save Native Sites**
10:00-2:00
Join Save Native Sites for a day of excellent programming. Local indigenous history will be discussed regarding the Munsee way of life and the differences of cultures when the Dutch and English colonists came to Atharhacton (now Kingston) in the 1600's.
- October 15 1st Ulster Militia**
10:00-2:00
The original 1st Regiment, Ulster County Militia was composed of citizen soldiers from the area now within the boundaries of Kingston, Saugerties and Woodstock. Members promote the education of the public as to military and social life in the colonial and Revolutionary War eras through demonstrations of everyday crafts and skills and the typical life of the militiaman. So join the 1st Ulster Militia as they bring history alive! Firearms demonstrations will be done throughout the day.
- October 22 Ulster County Historical Society**
10:00-2:00
The Ulster County Historical Society, founded in 1859, will be hosting at the Persen House and sharing with guests many historical items from their collections. An exhibit will be on display titled "A Woman's Work is Never Done", featuring tools of house keeping and food preparation from early Native American stone tools to late 19th Century. For more information about the day's events please call (845) 338-5614 or find the society on Facebook.
- November 5 Hudson River Maritime Museum**
10:00-2:00
The Hudson River Maritime Museum is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the maritime and industrial history of the Hudson River and its tributaries. Starting in 2016, the museum will be open year-round. Come to the Persen House to learn about winter on the Hudson, including the ice harvesting industry and the rich history of ice boating on the river.