

Courtesy of

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Women's History in the Hudson Valley

***Ten Stories from Columbia
and Dutchess Counties***

2023

Dear Friends,

January 1, 2023, marked the inauguration of Governor Kathy Hochul, the first woman ever elected to lead the great State of New York. It was an historic day. So to be clear, women's history is still being made! Today it gets covered in the news and across social media. But for centuries, women's accomplishments were not so widely recognized or written about. Women's stories were shared mostly in letters, journals, and by the remembrances shared amongst sisters, mothers, daughters, nieces, aunts, grandmothers and granddaughters.



The 2023 volume of *Women's History in the Hudson Valley: Ten Stories from Columbia and Dutchess Counties* features the stories of Sister Lillian Barlow, who challenged and broke through the gender norms of Shaker society to run a business traditionally only run by men; Rosanna Vosburgh, who was born into slavery but became a free woman and an abolitionist; Linda Louise "Elouise" Maxey, whose passion for civil rights and human rights for all made her a pillar of the community; Katharine Cramer Angell, co-founder of the Culinary Institute of America, and many more.

My office is honored to, once again, produce and distribute *Women's History in the Hudson Valley* in partnership with the Mid-Hudson Library District as part of Women's History Month. The 10 women highlighted in this year's edition made significant strides toward equality, helped others in times of need and shaped the Hudson Valley communities we call home. They are a part of history. Please enjoy their stories and find inspiration in their strength, determination and passion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Didi Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Didi Barrett
Member of the Assembly, District 106**



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Katharine Cramer Angell


*Hyde Park
1890-1983*

**Co-Founder, Culinary
Institute of America**

Born in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1890, Katharine was the daughter of Stuart Warren Cramer, a textile mill engineer and inventor, and Bertha Hobart Cramer. Katharine attended Queens College, a private all women's school in Charlotte, and the Finch School in New York City.

After the death of her first husband, Paul Woodman, in 1930, with whom she had six children, Katharine married Dr. James Rowland Angell, the president of Yale University in 1932. She was active in her support for the university and was said to be a gracious hostess who positively impacted the lives of both the faculty members and students; so much so that she was given the nicknames of "The First Lady" and "The Great Lady" of Yale. She also served on the New Haven Human Relations Council and Vocational Counseling Service, the Governor's Commission on Child Welfare, the Connecticut Citizens for Public Schools, and the board of the Metropolitan Opera Guild.

Ms. Angell suffered a terrible loss when her oldest son was killed in the last months of World War II. This loss prompted her to focus her energies on preparing veterans for useful employment and in May 1946, Ms. Angell co-founded with Frances Roth, a prominent Connecticut-based attorney, the



New Haven Restaurant Institute in New Haven, Connecticut. They opened the Institute with three faculty members and 16 students - all veterans. Katharine served as president and chair of the board from 1946 to 1966. The institute was the first school in the United States to emphasize practical training and taught culinary skills and the values of behavior, work habits, sanitation, and strict uniform standards that would ultimately elevate the image of American chefs.

Within four short years, the Institute graduated 600 veterans and by 1951, the school changed its name to the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). The CIA became the first institution to offer associate degrees, and later, bachelor's degrees in culinary arts, baking and pastry arts. The CIA continued to grow and by 1969, had 1,000 students enrolled, necessitating a larger campus. In 1972, the CIA moved to its home in Hyde Park, New York, and continues to grow and flourish.

Today, the Institute operates nine public restaurants and three U.S. campuses in New York, California, Texas, and an international campus in Singapore.

Katharine passed away on July 22, 1983, the day before her 93rd birthday.

*Photo Citation:
The Culinary Institute of America*



Sister Lillian Barlow

*New Lebanon
1876-1942*

Shaker and Business Operator

Sister Lillian Barlow was born in Greenville, Mississippi, on January 27, 1876. While the circumstances that brought her to live with the Shakers are at present unknown, by the time she was ten years old she had been placed with the Shakers at Mount Lebanon, New York. There, she was a resident of what was called the Second Family.

The Second Family was a large communal family with considerable land holdings that they farmed quite successfully. Sister Lillian was known as a hard worker, growing, canning and selling a variety of vegetables. She was also an excellent seamstress, and as a member of a relatively small Shaker family – there were fewer than 20 members in the family when she lived there – she did what needed to be done.

Around 1910, the Shaker leadership decided to bolster the family's finances by reviving a once-thriving chair making business. Sister Lillian Barlow challenged gender norms by becoming the first woman to work in the chair shop at Mount Lebanon. From early on, the Shakers divided work between men and women, and chair making was considered men's work. Sister Lillian, first with the family's male leader, Elder Ernst Pick, and later with Brother William Perkins, ran Mt. Lebanon Woodworking Co. The prominent business created



patterns and models, produced cabinets and wood carvings, and restored antiques.

After Brother William's death in 1934, Sister Lillian continued the business on her own until the Shakers found it necessary to sell the Second Family property to non-Shakers in 1940. Sister Lillian moved to Mount Lebanon's North Family, where she died in 1942. Sister Lillian was the last Shaker to make chairs at Mount Lebanon – a business that had existed in one form or another since the late eighteenth century.

*Photo Citation:
Picture provided by Lisa Malone Jackson,
Deputy Director and Director of
Advancement, Shaker Museum*





Barbra Baker-Baylor

*City of Poughkeepsie
1953-2017*


Master Seamstress and Woman of Faith

Barbra Baker was born on August 12, 1953 to the late Reverend Woodrow W. Baker and Reverend Barbara E. Baker in Beacon, New York. She graduated from Beacon High School in 1971 and received an Assistant Teacher Certification in 1987. Barbra also participated in the Theatre Arts and Communications program at Dutchess Community College,

attended Florida A&M, and studied Fashion and Design at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and Theatre Arts at the New Day Repertory Theatre in Poughkeepsie.

During the 1980s Barbra worked as a Teaching Assistant at Warring Magnet Academy of Science and Technology in Poughkeepsie. Barbra's career expanded to include the entertainment industry, she was the Manager of BizBeat Entertainment, Producer/Director of Biz-TV, and Production Coordinator of PMG International Inc. Barbra and her husband James Baylor also owned and operated a community bookstore, Justice Nurturing Resource Center, Inc. This bookstore was the first African American bookstore in Poughkeepsie, and it specialized in African American culture and literature, and established the Rites of Passage program, a community outreach program for young African American males.

Barbra's career in the entertainment industry continued to expand and she moved to California where she collaborated with designer Tonny Bridge. She began her career as a



celebrity seamstress working as a Wardrobe Manager/Seamstress for numerous A-list artists, including Whitney Houston, Prince, Sade, Luther Vandross, James Brown, Angie B, MC Hammer, Vesta, Shanice, Jackie Clark-Chisholm, The Lovely Ladies of the Dave Matthews Band, and Marvelous Entertainment's national theatrical stage plays. Her professional career also includes her work as a seamstress with the Town Shop in Poughkeepsie.

Inspired by her grandmother, the Reverend Mattie Cooper, and driven by her lifelong membership in her family's church, Springfield Baptist Church in Beacon, Barbra was also dedicated to bringing about unity and social justice. She became involved with the Southern Dutchess Coalition, Inc., an alliance of churches and civic groups, which was begun by her mother Rev. Barbara Baker.

Through the coalition, Barbra collaborated with legendary folk musician, Pete Seeger to host the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. program. The annual MLK program gathered local leaders, the community, and churches together to participate in a parade and workshops to encourage unity in the community, as well as financial, spiritual, and physical education.

Barbra was a great supporter of the Springfield Baptist Church and worked as the Administrative Assistant and Director of the Cultural Arts Summer Break program. Barbra also supported the broader local community by advocating for, educating, and counseling individuals and families at risk and in crisis situations to help promote self-sufficiency. In 2015, she started the Urban United Performing Arts Think Tank (UPPATT) which combined the tenets of her faith with the performing arts and fashion.

After a hard-fought battle with breast cancer, Barbra passed away on October 8, 2017. Following her legacy of giving back, Barbra's granddaughter, Niomi Hart, along with mother Kezia Euzhanne founded the Niomi's Heart Foundation; which donates beautifully crafted custom wigs to individuals with medically induced hair loss in honor of Barbra.

*Photo Citation:
Picture provided by family*



Mary Coffin Ware Dennett

Valatie
1872-1947


Women's Rights Activist

Mary Coffin Ware was born April 4, 1872, in Worcester, Massachusetts, to George Whitefield Ware, a wool merchant, and Livonia Coffin Ware. When Mary was ten years old her father passed away and in order to take care of the family, Livonia organized tours of Europe for women. Mary was able to attend public schools in Boston

and Miss Capen's School for Girls in Northampton, Massachusetts. Later, Mary would attend school at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Mary taught design and decoration at the Drexel Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from 1894 to 1897. In 1900, she married William Hartley Dennett, an architect, and between 1900 and 1905, she had three children, two of whom survived. Unfortunately, the pregnancies caused birth-induced lacerations and she underwent surgery to repair her uterus in 1907. Mary was cautioned about further pregnancy, and due to the lack of contraception, she and Hartley ceased being intimate. He then began having an affair with a close family friend, leading to the Dennetts separating in 1908 and divorcing in 1913.

Soon after their separation, Mrs. Dennett became an organizer for women's suffrage and eventually for birth control and sex education. She joined the suffrage movement



in 1908 in Massachusetts and two years later, she moved to New York as an officer of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA).

Under Dennett's leadership, seven states enfranchised women between 1910 and 1914. Dennett left NAWSA in 1915 and co-founded The National Birth Control League, later called the Voluntary Parenthood Association. At the time, all information about the prevention of conception was illegal under U.S. federal law. Known as the Comstock Laws, birth control was deemed "lewd, lascivious, and obscene." It was illegal for doctors to discuss contraception with their patients or for parents to discuss it with their adult, married children.

Dennett spent the next 10 years lobbying Congress to change the laws. In 1929, she was arrested and convicted for mailing an "obscene" pamphlet--an educational booklet on sex that she had written for her teenage sons. Entitled, *The Sex Side of Life: An Explanation for Young People*, Dennett had illustrated it with anatomically correct drawings.

The American Civil Liberties Union rose to Dennett's defense and in 1930, her conviction was overturned. Dennett's legal victory set a landmark precedent that soon enabled publication of previously banned books in the U.S., including James Joyce's *Ulysses*.

In 1945, Ms. Dennett moved to Valatie, where her granddaughter Sally Dennett lived. Mary died on July 26, 1947, at the age of 75.

Photo Citation:
Picture provided by the Dennett Family Archives



Dianne Kathryn Klinger

*Chatham
1934-2019*

Advocate and Business Owner

Dianne Kathryn Schmockmier was born in Central New York and grew up on a dairy farm in Marcellus, near Syracuse. She graduated from high school when she was just 16 years old. Not done with her educational pursuits, Dianne attended the State University

of New York at Buffalo, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Home Economics in 1954.

In 1957, she married John Rodney “Rod” Bass, a pilot in the United States Air Force. Rod’s military service required a great deal of travel, allowing the pair to travel across the globe. They also lived in many diverse places, including Japan. Dianne was an active Air Force spouse supporting the personnel and families of the 13th Bomb Squadron. Sadly, in 1964, Rod was killed during a training flight in the Philippines. Newly widowed, Dianne returned to her hometown, with her two young daughters and newborn son.

In 1965, Dianne was elected to serve as the Town of Marcellus’ tax collector. Her passion for politics turned into a lifetime commitment to the democratic process and she served as a poll watcher and managed voter registration drives.

In 1971, Dianne married Daniel Klinger, an architect and Air Force



reservist, and the family moved to Chatham. She and Daniel renovated a house, called Rose Hill, and she became an active member of the community.

Dianne joined the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, now the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, where she was a case manager and advocate for more than 22 years.

Dianne was again widowed when Daniel passed away in 1984. After she retired, she spent her time running a successful business, the Rose Hill Bed and Breakfast, and volunteered for the Cornell Cooperative Extension. She also supported many organizations enriching the lives of people across the Hudson Valley and Berkshires, especially local arts, Borden's Pond, and the Columbia Land Conservancy. In her last years, Dianne continued her interest in politics, moved to Camphill Ghent, and took pride in her children, her step-grandchildren, and her adopted grandchildren.

Dianne passed away on November 27, 2019 at the age of 85.

*Photo Citation:
Picture provided by family*



Linda Louise “Elouise” Maxey


*Wappingers Falls
1944-2021*

Civil Rights Activist

Linda Louise “Elouise” Bess was born on October 25, 1944, in Savannah, Georgia, to Charles Bess, a brick mason and Georgia Bess, a nurse. She was raised in Atlanta and married her high school sweetheart, John Maxey. She earned a degree in Culinary Arts/Food Service and opened a

soul food restaurant in the Bronx in the late 1980s.

Early in her life, Elouise became involved in the civil rights and human rights movement, joining the NAACP as a teenager. Together, she and her family attended the March on Washington in 1963, where Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his “I Have a Dream” speech. At 20 years old, in 1965, to protest the suppression of Black votes, she and her parents were among the 600 people who marched over 50 miles from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. During this march, the protesters had to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge where police and police dogs were waiting on the other side. The dogs were let loose and proceeded to attack and bite the protestors. Elouise was one of the people who was bitten on her legs and rear end and had to have rabies shots. This incident, though traumatizing, didn’t stop Miss Elouise from standing up for civil rights.



While Miss Elouise was passionate about cooking and baking, helping people was her true calling. She went back to school to obtain a master's degree in Social Work and was subsequently employed by the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health Services, where she won Social Worker of the Year during her 10 years there. In the 1990's she became the President of the Northern Dutchess NAACP, a position she held for two decades.

Elouise was often called upon to intervene and provide advice in racially motivated situations. She was adept at pulling people of different backgrounds together, to talk about social justice and equality, and learn from each other; and was heavily involved in several high-profile racism cases in Dutchess County.

She believed in and facilitated civil discourse to defuse tensions, and foster understanding and mutual respect in the community. Miss Elouise was a driving force behind the successful efforts to re-establish the Commission on Human Rights and diversify the workforce with the expansion of the Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion Officer role in Dutchess County.

Miss Elouise passed on June 15, 2021 at the age of 76.

*Photo Citation:
Picture provided by family*



Anna Bishop Schultz

*Rhinebeck/Red Hook
1810-1884*


International Opera Star

Anna Bishop was born Ann Rivière in London, England, on January 9, 1810. One of 13 children of a London drawing-master, she entered the Royal Academy of Music in 1824 where she studied singing, piano and composition. In 1831, after her musical debut, she married her former professor, the most popular English musician of

the time, composer Henry Bishop who was twenty-four years her senior.

Although Anna's initial professional engagements focused on the works of Handel, Mozart, and Beethoven, she transitioned into the Italian school. She sang at the Italian Opera House in London and through an extensive repertoire, she developed into what was then termed a soprano sfgato - with a high and brilliant voice. By the mid 1830s, she was one of London's leading oratorio sopranos.

In 1839, she left her husband, who passed away in 1855, and their three children for one of her fellow performers, the harpist, Nicolas-Charles Bochsa who already had a reputation as a forger and bigamist and was twenty-one years her senior. This caused a huge scandal and effectively banned Anna from performing in London. She and Bochsa spent the following seven years making appearances in Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Austria, and Germany.



Then, in 1855, Anna became one of the first world-famous European opera stars to perform in Sydney, Australia. On the ship to Australia she met Martin Schultz, a diamond merchant and investor from New York City. While she intended to give a series of concerts in Sydney, Mr. Bochsa fell seriously ill and died on January 6, 1856, cutting her tour short.

Mr. Schultz supported Anna while she was in mourning and she asked him to become her business manager. The two would marry on December 20, 1858. Anna and Martin enjoyed traveling, and Anna toured incessantly, performing in Italy, New York, San Francisco during the Gold Rush, Mexico, Cuba, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil; also in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), and New Zealand. The two would often return to Dutchess County and Anna would perform in churches and other venues, including the Starr Institute in Rhinebeck.

In 1866, Anna and Martin survived a shipwreck while crossing the Pacific Ocean from Honolulu to Hong Kong on the ship *Libelle*. They spent three weeks surviving on seabirds and fish on a coral atoll, until they and their fellow survivors recovered two small rowboats from the ship and sailed 1,400 miles, ultimately reaching the tiny island of Guam. After a short period of recovery, Anna resumed her tour of Asia.

The iconic soprano died in March 1884 at age 74 and is buried at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Red Hook, New York.

Photo Citation:
Public Domain



Katharine Livingston Timpson

*Clermont
1873-1933*

Socialite, Wife and Mother

Katharine was the only child of John Henry Livingston and his first wife, Catherine Hammersley. Katharine was born on April 10, 1873, but her mother died just a few days later due to complications from delivery.

An amateur photographer and

art enthusiast, Katharine was a fast favorite of her grandfather, Clermont Livingston. Before he died in 1895, he changed his will to leave the Clermont mansion to her. Shortly thereafter, Katharine sold the house to her father for \$1.00, out of love.

In the early 1890's, following the sudden deaths of both her beloved stepmother Emily Evans Livingston, and her dear cousin Clermont Livingston de Peyster, John Henry took Katharine on a world tour. Beginning their journey in Japan, the two traveled through Asia, the Middle East, and Europe for 3 years. Their tour ended in England, where Katharine was presented to Queen Victoria.

In their travels abroad, Katharine had fallen in love a few times, but her father rejected every match. After their return to Clermont, Katharine married Lawrence Timpson of Red Hook in 1901. The couple had three children in quick succession: Theodore Livingston Timpson, Katharine (Kay)



Livingston Timpson, and Robert Clermont Livingston Timpson.

Shortly after the birth of her third child, Katharine's relationship with her father soured when John Henry announced his engagement. His soon-to-be third wife, Alice Delafield Clarkson was one of Katharine's childhood friends. Betrayed by the engagement, the Timpson family pulled up roots and moved to England in 1905.

Her family grew again with the arrival of twins John Alastair Timpson and Helen Rosamund Timpson. In 1924, Katharine was able to purchase her own medieval castle, Appleton Manor, in Oxfordshire. Katharine spent the rest of her life, and much of her inheritance from her mother's family, restoring and modernizing the 12th century structure.

Katharine never truly repaired her relationship with her father or his new family. After John Henry's death in 1927, Katharine would visit her father's grave in Tivoli and spend time with her now teenage half-sisters Honoria Alice Livingston and Janet Cornelia Livingston. However, she would never return to Clermont. Katharine went back to England to continue her restoration of Appleton Manor, where she would pass away suddenly on February 1, 1933.

Photo Citation:

Picture provided by Susan Boudreau, Historic Site Manager, Clermont State Historic Site





Katharine Lent Stevenson


*Amenia
1853-1919*

**Theologian and
Temperance Reformer**

Katharine Adelia Lent was born on May 8, 1853 to Marvin Richardson Lent and Hannah Louzada Lent in Copake, New York. At the age of fourteen, Katharine joined the International Order of Good Templars, an organization committed to the temperance movement.

Katharine attended the Amenia Seminary and graduated in 1875 as valedictorian of her class. During this time, she served as temporary president of the Dutchess County, New York Union of Good Templars. She then entered the Boston University School of Theology, a unique act as she was the only woman in the class. In 1881, she completed her studies becoming a “Graduate of Theology” and served as an associate pastor of the Allston Methodist Episcopal Church. The refusal of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to recognize women as preachers terminated her ministry. Katharine married James Stevenson, a merchant from Boston, on February 14, 1883 and lived in Newton, Massachusetts.

In 1887, Katharine joined the Brighton Allston branch of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). She would become an active member and spend most of her life promoting the mission of the WCTU throughout the United States and abroad and hold many



offices within the organization. In the same year, Katharine was appointed the Suffolk County Superintendent of Evangelistic Work, and later became State Superintendent of Franchise for Massachusetts and served as State Corresponding Secretary for Massachusetts.

Katharine moved to Chicago in 1893, where she became the Editor of Books and Leaflets for the Women's Temperance Publishing Association and a contributing editor to the WCTU's *The Union Signal*. She served as National Corresponding Secretary from 1894 to 1898, and in 1898, became President of the Massachusetts WCTU. Katharine would spend the next 20 years of her life in this position.

In addition to promoting the mission of the WCTU in the United States, Katharine was heavily involved in the World's WCTU. She served as Superintendent of the Promotion of Good Citizenship Department of the World's WCTU and later as Superintendent of the World's Missionary Fund. From 1908 to 1910, she took a two-year hiatus from her position as President of the Massachusetts WCTU to travel around the world to promote temperance on behalf of the World's WCTU. Focusing her efforts on educational institutions, she visited Hawaii, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Burma (now Myanmar), India, Egypt, Palestine, Greece, and Italy.

In 1918, Katharine ended her time as President of the Massachusetts WCTU, accepting the position of Superintendent of Americanization for the WCTU of the United States. Katharine served in this position less than a year and died on March 27, 1919 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Photo Citation:
"Katharine L. Stevenson."
The Union Signal, April 10, 1919



Rosanna Vosburgh

*Kinderhook
1800-1884*

Enslaved Woman to Abolitionist

Rosanna Vosburgh was born in the Town of Kinderhook, Columbia County, New York on June 17, 1800. She was most likely born into enslavement to the Vosburgh Family, descendants of Dirk Vosburgh, whose family had been in northwestern Columbia County since the 1720s.

Rosanna gained her freedom at age 21, at which time she joined the African Baptist Church and began paid employment with Thomas Worth Olcott, President of the Mechanics' and Farmers' Bank of Albany, and his family, who were from Hudson, New York. Olcott's father and other family members were Quaker, a religious group opposing slavery. As the paid household manager for the Olcotts, Rosanna trained and supervised a staff of Irish servants, managing the Ten Broeck Mansion in Albany's Arbor Hill neighborhood, the expansive home and gardens of Revolutionary War General Abraham Ten Broeck.

On June 19, 1833, Ms. Vosburgh helped found the Female Lundy Society of Albany, named in honor of Benjamin Lundy, a Quaker abolitionist. Serving to fund education for Black children, the Lundy Society also supported abolition efforts and assistance to its members. Prior to her



death, Rosanna set up a philanthropic trust for African American women in Albany. She worked for the Olcott family for 63 years, until her death on September 25, 1884. She was buried in the Olcott Family Plot in the Albany Rural Cemetery.

Rosanna was a leader, abolitionist, philanthropist, and manager. Her story is shared during all tours at the Ten Broeck Mansion, a nonprofit community-centered museum run by the Albany County Historical Association. Historic spaces where she worked daily, such as the 1850 Butler's Pantry, remain largely intact, and help illuminate the lives of those who transformed African Americans' experience in the Hudson Valley from a place of enslavement into a place of possibilities, growing freedom, and opportunity.

*Photo Citation:
Rosanna (or Rosannah) Vosburgh
Woods Gem Gallery, Albany, NY
c.1870, tintype Albany Institute
of History & Art, LIB 2003.178*



