



DAILY FREEMAN

[Lifestyle](#)

- [Weather](#)
- [Traffic](#)
- [Markets](#)

[Skip to Main Window](#)

- [News](#)
 - - [Local News](#)
 - [National Politics](#)
 - [Police Blotter](#)
 - [Nation](#)
 - [World](#)
 - [National News Video](#)
 - [Closings/Delays](#)
 - [Weather](#)
 - [Traffic](#)
 - [Blogs](#)
 - [Video](#)

[Philip Seymour Hoffman autopsy inconclusive](#)

NEW YORK >> An autopsy of Philip Seymour Hoffman's body was inconclusive, and tests will be needed to determine what caused his death, the city medical examiner's office said Wednesday.

- [Kingston warming center established at Clinton Avenue church](#)
- [Snowstorm closes I-84, schools; bus services halted; Gov. Cuomo declares emergency](#)
- [Kingston shooting: Workplace violence difficult to predict, experts say](#)



- [Sports](#)
 - [National Sports Video](#)
 - [Olympics](#)
 - [Blogs](#)
 - [Video](#)



[Huge crowd expected at Seahawks parade in Seattle](#)

SEATTLE >> Some people staked out spots overnight in freezing temperatures and thousands more crowded into downtown Seattle during morning rush hour Wednesday for the Seahawks' Super Bowl victory parade.

- [Female Athlete of the Week: Valerie Hinds, Kingston High School, indoor track and field](#)
- [SCHOLASTIC WRESTLING: Newburgh pins loss on Kingston](#)
- [Male Athlete of the Week: Justin Robinson, Monmouth College, basketball](#)
- [Business](#)
 - [Video](#)
 - [Blogs](#)
 - [Technology](#)
 - [Technology Video](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
 - [Events](#)
 - [TV Listings](#)
 - [Movie Listings](#)
 - [Blogs](#)

- [Video](#)



[‘Lego Movie’ built to be a better toy film](#)

NEW YORK — Toy movies occupy a spot on the respectability meter somewhere between talking dog films and “Showgirls.”

- [Philip Seymour Hoffman's death 'epitomizes the tragedy of drug addiction'](#)
- [Philip Seymour Hoffman’s death ‘epitomizes the tragedy of drug addiction’](#)
- [Jay Leno rules out return to late night](#)

- [Lifestyle](#)

- - [Health](#)
 - [Books](#)
 - [Blogs](#)
 - [Video](#)



[At The Anchor, plenty of music, food and beer](#)

KINGSTON>> A tap line with 20 craft beers, 16 burgers made with local grass-fed beef, and house cut fries gives diners plenty of options to pick and choose from at the Anchor at 744 Broadway, manager Brandy Walters said.

- [Philip Seymour Hoffman: Heroin found in his apartment tests negative for additive linked to overdose deaths](#)
- [Mixed media workshop in Woodstock](#)
- [Red Hook Rotary offers scholarships](#)

- [Obituaries](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Blotter](#)
- [Marketplace](#)
 - [Autos](#)

- [Jobs](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Shopping](#)
- [Local Guide](#)
- [Today's Ads](#)
- [Special Sections](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Public Notices](#)
- [Coupons](#)
- [Tools](#)
 - [Contact Us](#)
 - [Advertise With Us](#)
 - [Submit Announcements](#)
 - [Work for Us](#)
 - [Order Photo Reprints](#)
 - [Contests](#)
 - [Subscribe](#)
 - [Manage Your Subscription](#)
 - [E-Paper](#)
 - [Mobile](#)
 - [Text Alerts](#)
 - [RSS](#)
 - [Newspapers in Education](#)
 - [Gasbuddy](#)
- [Home](#) â†’
- [Lifestyle](#)

Old Dutch Church a symbol of Kingston's history



By [Paula Ann Mitchell](#), Daily Freeman

Posted: 12/28/13, 7:34 PM EST | Updated: on 12/29/2013



Interior of the Old Dutch Church in uptown Kingston. Tania Barricklo—Daily Freeman

KINGSTON >> Most familiar with Kingston lore have heard the one about the hobgoblin and the Old Dutch Church steeple.

According to an early church account, its minister was aboard a Dutch sloop near West Point when a storm erupted, tossing the boat about.

As the dominee knelt to pray, a churlish creature swooped down from the sky and swiped the cleric's hat.

The hobgoblin later decided to return it, and while flying around the steeple, he became entrapped in the 217-foot-high spire, where, according to legend, he remains to this day.

Like others, lifelong Kingston resident and author Pat Murphy is familiar with the centuries-old tale that persists to this day.

“Back in the 80s, there was a painter on the ladder, and he claims he felt someone tapping him on his shoulder, and he scampered down the ladder,” a bemused Murphy said.

“They also claim that’s when the face of the steeple clock changed. They say the goblin changed the Roman Numeral XII to the No. XIII.”

Superstitions aside, the towering, old structure in the Stockade District holds a deep, rich history that began with the Dutch colonists in New Netherland’s third oldest settlement.

In fact, the Old Dutch Church, established in 1659, often serves as a symbol of Kingston and a place where people find a connection to the past.

For more than 175 years, Old Dutch was the only church in Kingston, and throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, it spawned close to 50 daughter churches throughout the Hudson River Valley.

Because of its place in history, the Old Dutch Church, a National Historic Landmark, represents our final stop in the yearlong series "Destinations."

In our travels, we have looked at some of the top tourist draws in the Hudson Valley and Catskill region.

Along the way, we have visited area castles and museums, historic streets and sculpture parks.

We have popped in on a seasonal horse show and even toured an outdoor haunted attraction.

Our final destination is a fitting place to round out the experience because, in many ways, the Old Dutch Church is a cradle from which everything else locally sprang.

Each year, thousands visit the church and its burial ground, where a monument to soldier and statesman George Clinton is among the 71 tombstones of Revolutionary War veterans.

Clinton was New York's first governor and the vice president of the United States under Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

He died in office and was laid to rest in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C., but was re-interred in the Old Dutch Burial Grounds in 1908, according to the website www.olddutchchurch.org.

"People are drawn to the building by its architecture and are surprised by its history," said Rob Sweeney, a social historian and ruling elder at the church. "It's sort of a jewel within the Stockade District."

The founding of Old Dutch in 1659 was a direct result of the settlers' direct solicitation to Gov. Peter Stuyvesant, the church's website notes.

The present structure is the third to be sited on the same plot of land inside the Stockade area established by Stuyvesant and later confirmed by the first British governor of New York in 1664.

In 1719, a charter of incorporation was granted to the church by King George of England, confirming title to the half acre of land on which the church and cemetery are located.

At the outset of the Revolutionary War, the pulpit was used to zealously advocate the cause of liberty, but the church paid a price for that, its website says.

In retaliation for its spirit of independence, the British sacked and burned the city in 1777, including the church, which was later rebuilt by 1790.

It is noteworthy that the Old Dutch congregation had between 1833 and 1852 worshipped at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church across the street from where it stands today.

It later was used as an armory and drill hall for the church's regiment prior to and during the Civil War, the church website says. It also served as a temporary hospital for regimental casualties during the war.

The current Renaissance Revival structure, designed by renowned 19th-century architect Minard LaFever, is constructed from native bluestone. It was completed in 1852 at a cost of about \$33,000.

The steeple bell was cast in Amsterdam in 1794 from molten copper and silver baby spoons and cups given by families at baptismal rites, according to Murphy, who often acts as a guide for the Friends of Historic Kingston's outdoor walking tours.

Over the years, she said, the church has been noted for its structural integrity and pleasing aesthetics—both inside and out.

In fact, noted 19th-century designer Calvert Vaux called the architecture “ideally perfect,” Murphy pointed out.

Almost all of its interior features are original, Sweeney added.

“That’s one thing we’re especially proud of. The interior of the church...really does harken back to 1852,” he said.

“The stain-glass window by Tiffany (depicting the presentation of Christ at the Temple) was added in 1893. Other than that, everything remains pretty much intact, and it’s one of the few places you can go and still see that.”

Beyond its physical marvel, the Old Dutch Church possesses that sense of place and history, Sweeney said.

It has been visited by numerous dignitaries over the years such as Gen. George Washington in 1782. The commander of the Continental Army later sent a letter acknowledging his stop.

To this day, it has been preserved, and his visit is commemorated each year by the Washington Day Dinner, a longstanding tradition that has featured such notable speakers as Franklin D. Roosevelt and Dr. Vincent Peale.

Over the years, other presidents like Martin Van Buren, Ulysses S. Grant and Chester Arthur have worshiped at Old Dutch.

The church, often referred to as “Kingston’s Cathedral,” also has served as a place to mourn in times of grief such as the aftermath of 9-11.

Its doors are further open to nonprofit groups like Alcoholics Anonymous as well as cultural pursuits such as the Mendelssohn Club of Kingston, which routinely rehearses there.

During the winter, Old Dutch hosts the indoor winter Farmers’ Market, and in past summers, it has featured afternoon organ recitals.

Beyond all that, the church is noted for its community outreaches—the most recent being the Christmas Day dinner for the needy held at Bethany Hall last week.

“We don’t think of this church as some small chapel that belongs to some of us,” Sweeney said. “The building is a big gift to the community. It belongs to all of us.”

The church just celebrated Christmas with a Living Nativity and candlelight service, longstanding and cherished traditions in the city.

Murphy said, overall, the Old Dutch Church is one of Kingston’s most beloved institutions, even for those who don’t worship there.

“For me, it connects me to the early history of Kingston,” she said. “I like to go there by myself and wander through, even though I’m not a member of that congregation. It has a lot of significance for me.”

Sweeney seemed please that the Freeman chose to close its “Destinations” series with Old Dutch.

“I think it is a destination because so many people find a connection to the church through their genealogy because the church has been around since the 1660s,” he said.

“Another is that we’re a vibrant Christian community, where everyone is welcome. It’s like the home you grew up in, and we love it that people sense they are home when they come.”

As for the tale of the hobgoblin, Sweeney summarily dismisses it as 18th-century superstition and prefers to think of the church in a no-nonsense way.

“We’re about the present and we’re about moving forward,” he said. “Truly, the church has a role in modern society, and when you’re part of it, you will sense it. There is something here.”

About the Author



Paula Ann Mitchell has been a multimedia journalist at the Freeman since March of 2010. She has an extensive background in television, radio, newspapers and magazines. Reach the author at pmitchell@freemanonline.com or follow Paula Ann on Twitter: [@anchoratfreeman](https://twitter.com/anchoratfreeman).

- [Full bio and more articles by Paula Ann Mitchell](#)
- [Back to top](#)
- [Comments](#)
- [Print](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Recommended](#)

Others also read...

- [Repair Cafe 'what the world needs'](#)
- [Drug overdose suspected in Philip Seymour Hoffman death](#)
- [How to Make: Roasted Chicken Wings with Buffalo Sauce](#)
- [90 Miles Off Broadway marks 50 years of community theater](#)

Also recommended...

- [Philip Seymour Hoffman autopsy inconclusive](#)
- [Kingston warming center established at Clinton Avenue church](#)
- [Snowstorm closes I-84, schools; bus services halted; Gov. Cuomo declares emergency](#)
- [Kingston shooting: Workplace violence difficult to predict, experts say](#)

TRENDING NOW

ADVERTISEMENT



20 celebrities we didn't know were gay before they came out.

Controversy over new skinny pill -- Is it too strong for store shelves?...

3 Innocent questions that make your ex-girlfriend miss you like crazy

Must read if your car is over 3 Years old! You are probably being ripped off by your insurance agent

1 Tip for a tiny belly :



Cut down a bit of your belly everyday by following this 1 weird old tip

Tip ▶

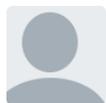
RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

-- SPONSORED LINK --



Join the Conversation

0 comments



Start the discussion...

Best ▾

NY - Daily Freeman

Share ↗

Login ▾

Be the first to comment.

ALSO ON NY - DAILY FREEMAN

WHAT'S THIS?

General Electric accused of misleading in its Hudson River cleanup report

3 comments • a day ago

truthtim — GE: Evil, just Evil!

Rhode Island Farm Bureau boycotts Albany event over Gov. Andrew ...

2 comments • 19 hours ago

Varmintt — According to Andrew Cuomo, anybody not likely to vote for him is unwelcome in NY State. It ...

Driver accused of killing Bard College students surrenders license; case ...

12 comments • a day ago

grandmalucy — She must go to jail, 2 lives wiped out.

LETTER: NY 'Property tax relief' is nothing of the kind

2 comments • 12 hours ago

sondra3955 — Well isn't that interesting. You checked property and school? I've never looked at tax rolls. Does it show ...

[Subscribe](#)

[Add Disqus to your site](#)



Happening Now in Kingston



Mary Pineiro
@Mary_P2239



Snow Storm Nika said "Take the Day Off, why dontcha!" #fishkill #hudsonvalley #instagram #mary #nika...
[instagram.com/p/kC1FANHe4Z/](https://www.instagram.com/p/kC1FANHe4Z/)

11m

TU James M. Odató

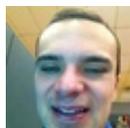
Court leader eyes JP Morgan settlement money

Chief Administrative Judge Gail Prudenti told

[Crowdynews](#)



Video News Feed



10m

[Brian Hubert](#)

Snow day in [#saugerties](#) means work for some, play for others [#dfsnow](#)

This comment is BLOCKED from showing in the widget.

This comment is APPROVED from showing in the widget.

Tout by [@brianatfreeman](#)

"Snow day in [#saugerties](#) means work for some, play for others

" "



HHA's, PCA's

WILLCARE Currently has openin...

Direct Support Professional " Respite; Community Habilitation Specialist

Part Time 5-20 hrs/week Direct Suppor...

Substitute Teacher Vacancy

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER VACANCY Wallkill C..

[View More](#)

[Place a Classified](#)

Featured Hotels in Los Angeles Airport, El Segundo



Sheraton Gateway Los

Guests of this elegant executive-class hotel benefit [More](#)



Radisson Hotel at Los

Less than one mile from the Los Angeles International [More](#)

[powered by Orbitz.com](#)

Kingston Local Guide

Featured Businesses

Basch & Keegan

Brad's Barns

Find Kingston Attractions

Search for a business

DAILY FREEMAN

The Daily Freeman

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [RSS Feed](#)

Copyright © The Daily Freeman [Copyright notice](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Site Map](#) [21st Century Media](#)

Search by keyword or Zip



Add your business here +