

Friends of The Andries DuBois House of the Hamlet of Wallkill

The Andries DuBois House is one of the hamlet's oldest and most historical houses. It was immortalized in Clearwater's "History of Ulster County" as a house along the "Plant Road" that ran from Newburgh to Bank's Bridge, crossing the Wallkill River near the house. It predates the Revolutionary War (1776) and has a long history of fires (1800), rebuilding to Federal Style (1810) and major renovation to Greek Revival Style (1840).

The original house was built by Andries Dubois, great-grandson of Louis DuBois, the original patentee of 1677. Andries DuBois owned a 636 acre farm with barns, sheds, fields, and orchards that included most of present-day Wallkill to the top of Kings Hill. The house was remodeled in the mid-1800s and may have been an inn for the busy stage coach route to Albany and later during the 1860s when the Wallkill Valley Railroad came through the hamlet.





The house was occupied for 250 years by DuBois descendants, with little maintenance during the last 100 years, so it is not surprising that the house had become derelict and in danger of falling down. The tin roof leaked, shingles were missing causing massive water damage, and plaster and lath ceilings were falling down. Second floor supports had rotted and started to fall and support posts in the cellar were sinking into the ground; 250 years of history were being consumed by neglect.

In 2000, the Historical Society of Shawangunk

and Gardiner purchased the Andries DuBois House to restore as a museum and began the long process of restoration. The Society won grants and raised money from the community through contributions and fund-raisers to pay for rebuilding the building foundation and stabilizing the structure.





Almost 15 years later, the Historical Society has refurbished the downstairs rooms for a museum open to the public. With hard physical labor and careful attention to authenticity, members have established a one-room schoolhouse with period furniture and books in one room and prepared an additional room for the display of historical items.

To continue the momentum, we have formed the "Friends of the Andries DuBois House" whose mission is to preserve and maintain this local treasure and National Historic Landmark. The Society continues to seek grants for major projects, but it is the Friends who have contributed materials and labor that have enabled on-going restoration. Now additional funds are needed for necessary renovation materials and continued maintenance.

Continued funding is solely reliant on the support of history



buffs, descendants, local families, and businesses. We hope you will make a tax-deductible donation to the Friends of the Andries DuBois House to help with continued restoration and preservation work. Please complete and return the form below or visit <u>http://WallkillHistory.com/friends</u> and select the "Donate" button. With a contribution of \$25 or more, receive as a gift, "History of the Andries House." a soft-cover book that describes the DuBois owners and their relationship to the house and lands.

To be a Friend of the "Andries DuBois House" and FRIENDSHIP LEVELS mail this form with your donation or visit <u>http://WallkillHistory.com/friends</u>

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| Historical Society of Shawangun PO Box 570 Wallkill, NY 12589 | k & Gardiner | | Family Friend \$50 Good Friend \$100 Other \$ |
| Name | | | Enclosed is my check to: Historical Society of Shawangunk & Gardiner |
| Address | | | Please send me a copy of "History of the DuBois House" |
| City | State | ZIP | |