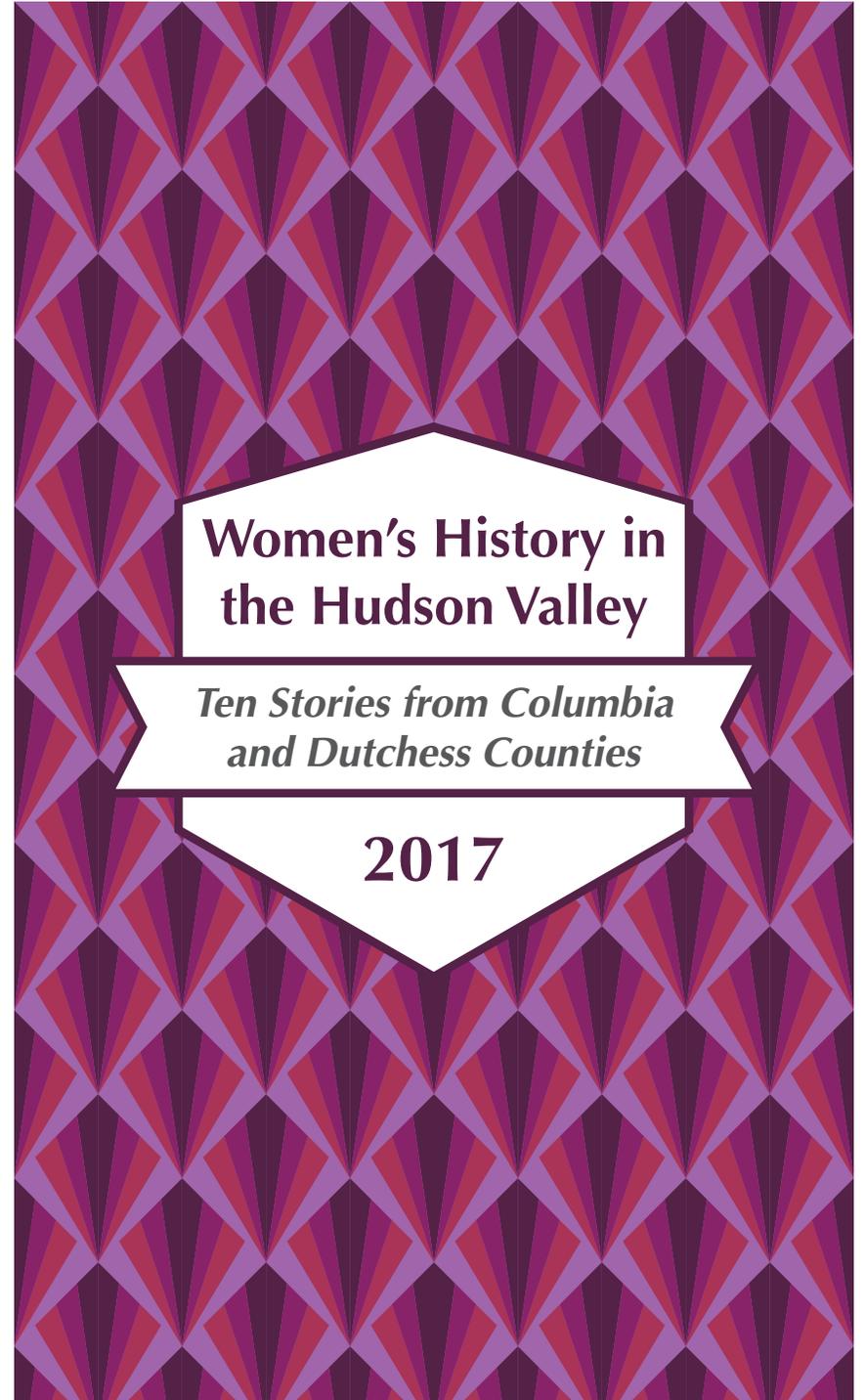


*Courtesy of*

**Assemblymember Didi Barrett**

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Dear Friends,

This year, 2017, marks the 100th anniversary of New York State signing women's suffrage into law. New York's legislation became law three years before the U.S. passed the 19th Amendment, ensuring the right to vote for women across the country, and is an example of the Empire State's ongoing role as a pioneering advocate for women's rights.

Fittingly, our 2017 volume of *Women's History in the Hudson Valley: Ten Stories from Columbia and Dutchess Counties* includes the story of Lucretia Coffin Mott, a Quaker minister and abolitionist who helped organize the Seneca Falls Convention and fought for women's suffrage. Several women included in our booklet this year were activists on other fronts: Gail Webster was an affordable housing advocate; Earline Patrice was a community activist who raised money, collected holiday gifts and prepared meals for her city's needy residents. Susan Nye Hutchinson and Ida Helen Ogilvie were pioneering educators who taught advanced math and broke ground in science when there were very few women drawn to these fields.

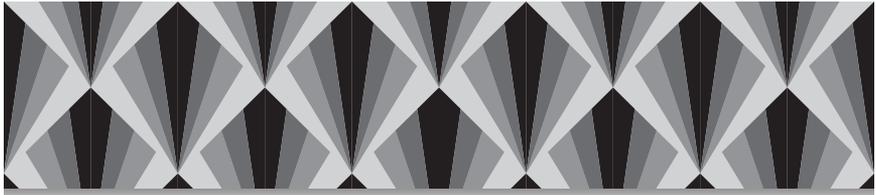
It has been said that those who record history control what gets remembered. Our office, in partnership with the Mid-Hudson Library District, produces and distributes these booklets as part of Women's History Month to do our part to ensure that the lives of women and girls from our region do get remembered. Please enjoy these stories of 10 Hudson Valley women who made a difference. We stand on their shoulders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Didi Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent loop at the end of the name.

Assemblymember Didi Barrett





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## Mary Childs Black

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*Town of Germantown*  
1922 – 1992

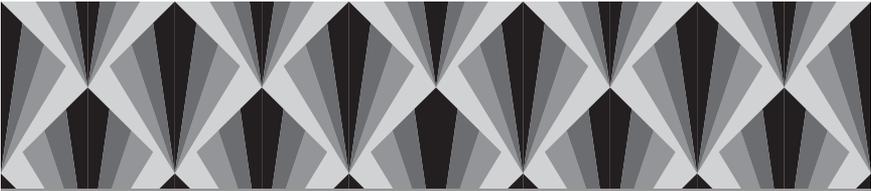
### **Art Historian**

Mary Childs Black was an art historian and folk art expert who worked up and down the East Coast and eventually made Germantown her home.

Born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, she

earned a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina and a master's degree from George Washington University. Black had a successful museum career, working at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Center in Virginia, the Museum of American Folk Arts and the New-York Historical Society. After being abruptly dismissed from her curator position at the historical society, she filed a complaint that she was discriminated against based on her age and gender. It was settled in her favor.

She authored several



seminal books on American art; one of her biggest achievements was identifying several anonymous 19<sup>th</sup>-century paintings as the work of itinerant painter Ammi Phillips.<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> [nytimes.com/1992/02/29/arts/mary-childs-black-69-is-dead-art-historian-and-museum-head.html](https://www.nytimes.com/1992/02/29/arts/mary-childs-black-69-is-dead-art-historian-and-museum-head.html)

<sup>2</sup> [nytimes.com/1992/03/17/arts/mary-childs-black-tribute.html](https://www.nytimes.com/1992/03/17/arts/mary-childs-black-tribute.html)

<sup>3</sup> [encyclopedia.jrank.org/articles/pages/4550/Black-Mary-Childs-1922-1992.html](https://encyclopedia.jrank.org/articles/pages/4550/Black-Mary-Childs-1922-1992.html)



## Flavia Marinda Bristol

---

*Town of Hillsdale*  
1824 – 1918

### **Businesswoman**

Flavia Bristol was devoted to the Hillsdale community. She owned and operated a dry goods business after the death of her brother and used her earnings to generously

support many local efforts.

She funded the Methodist Episcopal Church's renovation and repairs and bequeathed \$30,000, which is about \$500,000 today, to build a free library in Hillsdale. The library was built in the 1920s and also served the towns of Ancram and Copake.

Recently, more space was needed for the book collection and the needs of the towns, so the library was relocated and the road leading up to it has been named "Flavia Bristol Drive" in her honor. The original library now serves as the town hall.<sup>4, 5, 6, 7</sup>



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<sup>4</sup> [hillsdaleny.com/2016/04/library-will-dedicate-flavia-bristol-drive-to-honor-early-benefactor](http://hillsdaleny.com/2016/04/library-will-dedicate-flavia-bristol-drive-to-honor-early-benefactor)

<sup>5</sup> [hillsdaleny.com/home/flavia-marinda-bristol](http://hillsdaleny.com/home/flavia-marinda-bristol)

<sup>6</sup> [registerstar.com/news/article\\_547322f2-fa70-11e3-bece-0019bb2963f4.html](http://registerstar.com/news/article_547322f2-fa70-11e3-bece-0019bb2963f4.html)

<sup>7</sup> [registerstar.com/news/article\\_237647be-2326-11e3-93be-0019bb2963f4.html](http://registerstar.com/news/article_237647be-2326-11e3-93be-0019bb2963f4.html)



## Mary Shepard Hallenbeck

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*City of Hudson*  
c.1931 – 2015

### **Nurse and Preservationist**

Mary Hallenbeck graduated from Hudson High School and was trained as a nurse at Columbia Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, St. Joseph College of Maine and

The College of St. Rose. She was an educator and program developer, finishing her career in Kinderhook.

Hallenbeck worked tirelessly to preserve Hudson's history. Not only was she a founding member of the Hudson Preservation Commission and historian for the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack, she also helped update the inventory of buildings in the Union-Allen-South Front Street Historic District. She was also a volunteer at the Hudson Library and a member of both the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Fortnightly Club.<sup>8,9</sup>



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<sup>8</sup> [cityofhudson.org/content/MeetingCategories/View/1/2015:field=meetings;/content/Meetings/View/244:field=documents;/content/Documents/File/2576.pdf](http://cityofhudson.org/content/MeetingCategories/View/1/2015:field=meetings;/content/Meetings/View/244:field=documents;/content/Documents/File/2576.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [registerstar.com/obituaries/article\\_ef13246e-1c44-11e5-9ca7-475c49576908.html](http://registerstar.com/obituaries/article_ef13246e-1c44-11e5-9ca7-475c49576908.html)



## Lorena Hickok

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*Town of Hyde Park*  
1893 – 1968

### **Journalist**

Lorena ‘Hick’ Hickok overcame an abusive and tumultuous childhood to become a successful reporter. Her career started at the Battle Creek Evening News, and she moved on to

the Milwaukee Sentinel, the Minneapolis Tribune and The Associated Press (AP), where she covered important stories.

It was during her time at the AP that she met the Roosevelts and became a close friend of Eleanor’s.

Hickok was then hired by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration to investigate living conditions across the country during the Great Depression.

Eleanor Roosevelt and Hickok reportedly shared an intimate relationship, the depth of which was revealed in their correspondence. Their



letters spoke of an emotional attachment and a physical attraction.

As her health deteriorated because of diabetes, she moved to Hyde Park to be closer to Eleanor Roosevelt.

Before her death, Hickok wrote a number of children's books and a biography of the former first lady.<sup>10, 11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> [www2.gwu.edu/~erpapers/teaching/glossary/hickok-lorena.cfm](http://www2.gwu.edu/~erpapers/teaching/glossary/hickok-lorena.cfm)

<sup>11</sup> [time.com/4276317/lorena-hickok](http://time.com/4276317/lorena-hickok)



## Susan Nye Hutchison

---

*Town of Amenia*  
1790 – 1867

### **Educator**

Susan Nye Hutchison was born in Amenia and traveled across the South as a teacher. At the age of 25, she oversaw the female department of the Raleigh Academy and was one

of a few instructors who taught women higher mathematics. She taught in Georgia and North Carolina, receiving acclaim as a teacher.

Throughout her travels she kept extensive diaries, giving us a peek of what life was like in her day.

Despite living in the South, her northern values held strong and she remained opposed to slavery.

Hutchison reportedly openly prayed in Raleigh with slaves and free blacks. She also broke the law by teaching slaves how to read.



Eventually, she returned to Amenia in 1846 and died in 1867.<sup>12, 13, 14</sup>



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<sup>12</sup> [jstor.org/stable/10.5149/9781469624341\\_tolley](https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5149/9781469624341_tolley)

<sup>13</sup> [digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll15/id/557](https://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll15/id/557)

<sup>14</sup> [amazon.com/Heading-South-Teach-Hutchison-1815-1845-ebook/dp/B00W1VH82Y](https://www.amazon.com/Heading-South-Teach-Hutchison-1815-1845-ebook/dp/B00W1VH82Y)



## Lucretia Coffin Mott

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*Town of Washington*  
1793 – 1880

### **Quaker Minister and Women's Rights Activist**

Lucretia Coffin Mott was a leading civil rights activist who attended Nine Partners School, a Quaker boarding school in Dutchess County. She went on to become a Quaker minister who

fought to end slavery and secure the right to vote for all. As part of her work, she helped fugitive slaves, collaborated with abolitionists like Frederick Douglass and founded the Philadelphia Female Anti-Slavery Society. Although she was denied an official spot after arriving in London for the World Anti-Slavery Convention, she preached equality outside the convention.

Mott became actively involved with the suffrage movement and helped organize the Seneca Falls Convention. She explored feminism in her book "Discourse on Women," which discussed political and economic equality.



She was an activist throughout her entire life. Mott was in her 70s when she was chosen to be the first president of the Equal Rights Association, and she gave her last public address at the age of 85, only two years before her death.<sup>15, 16, 17</sup>



## Women's History in the Hudson Valley

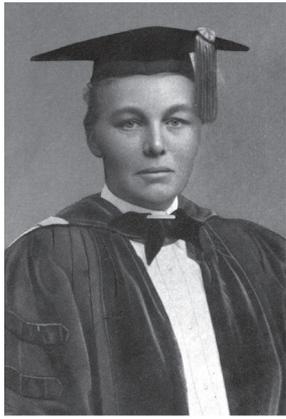
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<sup>15</sup> [nps.gov/wori/learn/historyculture/lucretia-mott.htm](https://www.nps.gov/wori/learn/historyculture/lucretia-mott.htm)

<sup>16</sup> [biography.com/people/lucretia-mott-9416590#civil-rights-activist](https://www.biography.com/people/lucretia-mott-9416590#civil-rights-activist)

<sup>17</sup> [history.com/topics/womens-history/lucretia-mott](https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/lucretia-mott)



## Ida Helen Ogilvie

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*Town of Germantown*  
1874 – 1963

### **Geologist**

Ida Ogilvie earned her doctorate from Columbia University in 1903 and became a geologist who investigated past glaciation of the continent and volcanic activities.

She was one of the few female scientists who appeared multiple times in “American Men of Science,” and was as a Barnard College faculty member. She began at Barnard in 1903 and was running the geology department by 1911, serving in that capacity for more than 30 years.

She wrote extensively on the geology of the Paradox Lake Quadrangle in the Adirondacks.

During World War I, Ogilvie began the Barnard Women’s Land Army. They worked at Bedford Camp, a farm in Westchester County. Since many men



were in the war, the women ran the farm. After the war, the farm was moved to Germantown, where she ultimately died.<sup>18, 19, 20</sup>



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<sup>18</sup> [125.barnard.edu/notable-people/ida-h-ogilvie](https://125.barnard.edu/notable-people/ida-h-ogilvie)

<sup>19</sup> [books.google.com/books?id=rUCUAgAAQBAJ&pg=PT257&lpq=PT257&dq=Ida+Helen+Ogilvie&source=bl&ots=7dU\\_z8jggY&sig=e6O0QtNihuUq5eLV1CkbBDZqdtU&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewi81d\\_t6pTSAhXE5yYKHsWBYkQ6AEIWTAO#v=onepage&q=Ida%20Helen%20Ogilvie&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=rUCUAgAAQBAJ&pg=PT257&lpq=PT257&dq=Ida+Helen+Ogilvie&source=bl&ots=7dU_z8jggY&sig=e6O0QtNihuUq5eLV1CkbBDZqdtU&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewi81d_t6pTSAhXE5yYKHsWBYkQ6AEIWTAO#v=onepage&q=Ida%20Helen%20Ogilvie&f=false)

<sup>20</sup> [babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015063438512;view=1up;seq=6](https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015063438512;view=1up;seq=6)



## Earline Patrice

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*City of Poughkeepsie*  
1918 – 1993

### **Community Activist**

Earline Patrice was named “Woman of the Year” in 1988 for her decades of service to Poughkeepsie’s children, elderly and poor by the Poughkeepsie Branch of the AAUW.

She began the tradition of hosting holiday dinners on Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, which she continued for more than 20 years. She originally cooked the dinners in her own home, and as they grew local restaurants helped.

The community dinners have continued, long after her death. In 2014, 1,000 meals were served to community members on Thanksgiving. She also worked on a toy drive, wrapping hundreds of presents to be distributed locally.

Despite several health problems, her dedication



to the city never wavered.

She was honored by many area organizations for her work helping the city's underserved.

Today, a City of Poughkeepsie park is named in her honor. It is located on the north side of Mansion Square Park.<sup>21, 22, 23, 24</sup>



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<sup>21</sup> [ancientfaces.com/person/earline-w-patrice/64648465](http://ancientfaces.com/person/earline-w-patrice/64648465)

<sup>22</sup> [poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/news/local/2014/11/27/thanksgiving-day-help-meals/19583419](http://poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/news/local/2014/11/27/thanksgiving-day-help-meals/19583419)

<sup>23</sup> [aaupoughkeepsie.org/index.php?page=history](http://aaupoughkeepsie.org/index.php?page=history)

<sup>24</sup> [poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/news/local/2016/11/18/eileen-hickey-holiday-dinners-focuses-bringing-community-together/93648148](http://poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/news/local/2016/11/18/eileen-hickey-holiday-dinners-focuses-bringing-community-together/93648148)



## Gail Webster

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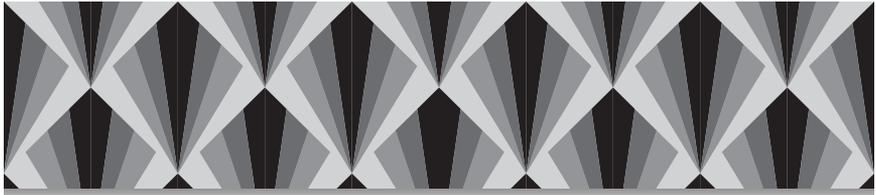
*City of Poughkeepsie*  
1942 – 2013

### **Housing Advocate**

Gail Webster served more than two decades as the executive director of Hudson River Housing. The organization grew under her leadership, and she spearheaded the majority of the agency's current housing programs.

Webster also oversaw many preservation projects, including the rehabilitation of the Queen Anne Row townhouses and Harlow Row. The agency's emergency shelter is now named the Webster House in her honor.

Webster was recognized for her numerous contributions, being named "Poughkeepsian of the Year" in 2000 and "Woman of the Year" in 2004. Under her direction, Hudson River Housing received the prestigious Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal in 2008. <sup>25, 26, 27</sup>



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<sup>25</sup> [legacy.com/obituaries/poughkeepsiejournal/obituary.aspx?pid=165644530](http://legacy.com/obituaries/poughkeepsiejournal/obituary.aspx?pid=165644530)

<sup>26</sup> [hudsonriverhousing.org/afservices\\_emerg.html](http://hudsonriverhousing.org/afservices_emerg.html)

<sup>27</sup> [hvinsider.com/articles/former-director-of-hudson-river-housing-gail-webster-has-died](http://hvinsider.com/articles/former-director-of-hudson-river-housing-gail-webster-has-died)





## Lucy Wright

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*Town of New Lebanon*  
1760 – 1821

### **Shaker Leader**

Lucy Wright was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and converted to Shakerism in the 1780s. The Shakers' leader, Joseph Meacham, brought her to New Lebanon as part of an effort to instill gender parity in the society.

Wright became his female counterpart, known as "Mother Lucy," leading the women's order.

Eventually, she became the leader of the central Shaker ministry following his death, and the phrase "petticoat government" was coined. Under her 25-year leadership, new Shaker villages opened in Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana as part of a westward expansion.

There were more than 4,000 Shakers in the mid-1800s at the movement's peak.

She is credited with creating a rigid form of dance that was used for worship.



She preached unity within the society and encouraged kindness to all. Her work encouraged many to accept gender equality.<sup>28, 29</sup>



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<sup>28</sup> [shakerheritage.org/archives/petticoat-government-women-in-shaker-society](http://shakerheritage.org/archives/petticoat-government-women-in-shaker-society)

<sup>29</sup> [shakerheritage.org/mobile/biographies\\_lucy\\_wright.html](http://shakerheritage.org/mobile/biographies_lucy_wright.html)

<sup>30</sup> [hancockshakervillage.org/shakers/history](http://hancockshakervillage.org/shakers/history)

