

School Board Of Collier County Florida Manual

School Board of Collier County Florida: An In-Depth Overview

The **School Board of Collier County Florida** plays a vital role in shaping the educational landscape of one of Florida's most dynamic counties. Responsible for setting policies, overseeing budgets, and ensuring the delivery of quality education, this governing body is central to the success of Collier County's public school system. Whether you're a parent, educator, or community member, understanding the functions, initiatives, and structure of the Collier County School Board is essential to staying informed and engaged with local education issues.

Overview of the Collier County School Board

The Collier County School Board is a locally elected body that governs the public schools within the county. Its primary mission is to provide a safe, nurturing, and academically challenging environment for all students. The board operates under Florida's laws governing public education and adheres to policies designed to promote student achievement and community involvement.

Historical Background

- Established in the early 20th century as Collier County's educational needs grew.
- Transitioned from a small local school district to a comprehensive district serving thousands of students today.
- Continually evolving to meet modern educational standards and community expectations.

Board Composition and Leadership

- Comprised of five elected members representing different districts within Collier County.
- Members serve staggered four-year terms to ensure continuity.
- The Chair and Vice Chair are selected annually by board members.
- The current board members include:
- [Insert current member names and districts]

The Functions and Responsibilities of the School Board

The Collier County School Board holds a broad scope of duties, including policy-making, budgeting, staffing, and community engagement. Its responsibilities can be summarized as follows:

Policy Development and Oversight

- Establish policies that govern daily operations.
- Ensure compliance with state and federal regulations.
- Adapt policies to evolving educational needs.

Budgeting and Financial Management

- Approve annual budgets to allocate funds effectively.
- Oversee funding for programs, facilities, and staff.
- Ensure transparency and accountability in financial matters.

Curriculum and Academic Standards

- Approve curriculum frameworks and electives.
- Monitor academic performance and set improvement goals.
- Incorporate innovative teaching methods and technology.

Staffing and Human Resources

- Hire, evaluate, and support superintendents and key staff.
- Establish salary scales, benefits, and employment policies.
- Promote diversity and professional development.

Facilities and Infrastructure

- Approve new school constructions and renovations.
- Maintain existing school facilities.
- Plan for future growth and infrastructure needs.

Community Engagement and Communication

- Foster positive relationships with parents and community groups.
- Hold public meetings and forums for feedback.
- Promote transparency in decision-making processes.

Key Initiatives and Programs Led by the Collier County School Board

The school board actively pursues initiatives aimed at improving educational outcomes and fostering community involvement. Some of the notable programs include:

Academic Excellence and Support Programs

- Advanced Placement (AP) and honors courses.
- Dual enrollment opportunities with local colleges.
- Specialized programs for students with disabilities.

STEM and Innovation

- Integration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) curricula.
- Coding and robotics clubs across schools.
- Partnerships with tech companies for real-world learning.

Arts and Extracurricular Activities

- Visual and performing arts programs.
- Sports and athletic competitions.
- Clubs and leadership opportunities.

Safety and Well-Being Initiatives

- Implementation of security measures and protocols.
- Mental health resources and counseling services.
- Anti-bullying policies and programs.

Equity and Inclusion Efforts

- Equal access to educational resources.

- Culturally responsive teaching practices.
- Support for English Language Learners (ELL) and foster care students.

Engaging with the Collier County School Board

Community involvement is a cornerstone of the district's success. Residents and stakeholders can participate in various ways:

Public Meetings and Hearings

- Attend regular school board meetings held monthly.
- Participate in public comment periods.
- Review meeting agendas and minutes online.

School Advisory Councils

- Join school-level councils to influence local decision-making.
- Collaborate with teachers, parents, and students.

Volunteer and Partnership Opportunities

- Volunteer in classrooms, events, and extracurricular activities.
- Partner with local businesses and nonprofits for student programs.

Feedback and Communication Channels

- Contact board members directly via email or phone.
- Use social media platforms for updates and outreach.
- Participate in surveys and community forums.

Challenges Facing the Collier County School Board

Like many school districts nationwide, Collier County faces several ongoing challenges:

Funding and Budget Constraints

- Balancing limited resources with growing student populations.
- Securing additional funding through grants and partnerships.

Addressing Educational Disparities

- Supporting students from diverse backgrounds.
- Closing achievement gaps among different demographic groups.

Integrating Technology and Innovation

- Ensuring equitable access to devices and internet.
- Keeping curricula current with technological advancements.

Managing Growth and Infrastructure

- Planning for new school constructions to accommodate population increases.
- Upgrading existing facilities efficiently.

Ensuring Safety and Well-Being

- Maintaining secure campuses.
- Providing mental health support and resources.

Future Outlook and Strategic Planning

The Collier County School Board is committed to continuous improvement and future planning. Key focus areas include:

Strategic Goals

- Enhance student achievement and graduation rates.
- Expand vocational and career technical education.
- Increase community engagement and transparency.

Innovative Educational Models

- Explore online and hybrid learning options.
- Implement personalized learning strategies.

Environmental Sustainability

- Incorporate green initiatives into school facilities.
- Promote environmentally responsible practices.

Partnerships and Collaborations

- Strengthen ties with local businesses, higher education institutions, and community organizations.
- Leverage partnerships to enrich educational opportunities.

Conclusion

The **School Board of Collier County Florida** plays an essential role in shaping the future of education within the community. Through diligent policy-making, community engagement, and strategic initiatives, the board strives to provide a high-quality, equitable education for all students. Staying informed about their activities and participating in local governance helps ensure that the district continues to grow and adapt to the changing needs of its students and community. As Collier County continues to develop, the school board's leadership and vision will remain vital in fostering an environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

School Board of Collier County, Florida: A Comprehensive Overview

Introduction

The School Board of Collier County, Florida stands as a pivotal institution in shaping the educational landscape of one of Florida's fastest-growing and most dynamic counties. Responsible for overseeing the operation of public schools, setting policies, and ensuring that students receive quality education, this governing body plays a critical role in fostering community development and preparing future generations for success. As Collier County continues to evolve, understanding the structure, functions, and challenges faced by its school board offers valuable insights into the broader educational system of the region.

The Role and Responsibilities of the Collier County School Board

Governance and Policy Making

At its core, the Collier County School Board functions as the primary policymaking authority for the county's public schools. The board establishes policies that guide daily operations, curriculum standards, and district priorities. These policies are designed to ensure compliance with state and federal laws while reflecting the community's values and aspirations.

Budget Oversight and Funding Allocation

Financial stewardship is a fundamental responsibility of the school board. It oversees the district's budget, which encompasses salaries, infrastructure, technology upgrades, and educational programs. The board works closely with the district's finance department to allocate funds efficiently, often advocating for increased funding from local, state, and federal sources.

Curriculum and Educational Standards

The board plays an influential role in approving curriculum frameworks, ensuring they meet educational standards and reflect current best practices. While curriculum development is often led by district educators and administrators, the board's approval process ensures transparency and alignment with community expectations.

Personnel and Staffing Decisions

Decisions related to hiring, employment conditions, and staff evaluation are within the purview of the school board. They appoint the superintendent, who serves as the district's chief executive officer, and oversee personnel policies that impact teachers, administrators, and support staff.

Student and Community Engagement

Beyond administrative functions, the school board serves as a bridge between the community and the educational system. It seeks input from parents, students, teachers, and community organizations to make informed decisions that meet local needs.

Composition and Election of the School Board

Board Members and District Divisions

The Collier County School Board comprises five members elected by district-based voting. Each member represents a specific geographic division within the county, ensuring localized representation. Members serve staggered four-year terms, promoting continuity and stability.

Election Process

Candidates for the school board run in non-partisan elections, meaning they are not officially affiliated with political parties. Elections are held every two years, with some members' terms overlapping to prevent sudden shifts in policy direction.

Qualifications and Requirements

To qualify for candidacy, individuals must be residents of Collier County, registered voters, and meet specific criteria set by Florida law. Campaigning and voter engagement are integral parts of the electoral process, often involving community forums and outreach efforts.

Recent Election Trends

In recent years, Collier County has seen increased interest in school board races, reflecting heightened public attention to education issues such as school safety, curriculum content, and district funding. The elections often attract a diverse pool of candidates, representing various perspectives and community priorities.

Key Issues and Challenges Facing the Collier County School Board

Growth and Infrastructure Development

As Collier County experiences rapid population growth, the school district faces challenges related to expanding infrastructure. New schools must be built, and existing facilities upgraded to accommodate increasing student enrollment.

Diversity and Inclusion

With a diverse student body, the district is tasked with implementing inclusive policies that respect cultural differences and promote equity. Discussions on curriculum content, disciplinary policies, and access to advanced programs are ongoing.

School Safety and Security

Ensuring a safe learning environment remains a top priority. The board has adopted measures such as enhanced security protocols, mental health resources, and emergency response plans to address concerns over school violence and student well-being.

Curriculum and Content Debates

Controversies surrounding curriculum content, especially related to topics like history, social issues, and health education, have occasionally sparked debates within the community. The board must

balance educational freedom with community standards and legal mandates.

Funding and Resource Allocation

Securing adequate funding remains a perennial challenge. The district relies heavily on local property taxes, state allocations, and federal grants. The board continually advocates for increased resources to meet educational needs.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention

Recruiting qualified teachers and staff in a competitive job market is vital for maintaining high educational standards. The board supports initiatives such as professional development programs, competitive salaries, and supportive work environments to retain talent.

Engagement and Transparency Initiatives

Public Meetings and Comment Periods

The Collier County School Board holds regular meetings that are open to the public. These sessions provide a platform for community members to voice opinions, ask questions, and participate in decision-making processes.

Online Resources and Communications

To promote transparency, the district maintains a comprehensive website featuring meeting agendas, minutes, budget reports, and policy documents. Social media channels and newsletters further disseminate information and solicit community feedback.

Partnerships and Community Outreach

The board fosters partnerships with local organizations, business leaders, and parent groups to enhance educational programs and support services. Outreach efforts include workshops, town halls, and school visits.

Future Outlook for Collier County Schools

Adapting to Demographic Changes

As demographic shifts continue, the district anticipates evolving needs related to language support services, special education, and extracurricular offerings. The school board is committed to adapting policies to serve an increasingly diverse population.

Embracing Technology and Innovation

The integration of technology in classrooms, such as digital learning platforms and STEM initiatives, is a focus area. The board aims to modernize infrastructure and training to prepare students for a digital future.

Sustainable and Equitable Growth

Strategic planning efforts are underway to ensure that growth is sustainable and equitable. This includes equitable resource distribution, maintaining high standards, and fostering inclusive environments.

Addressing Educational Equity

Closing achievement gaps and providing equal opportunities for all students remain central goals. The district is implementing targeted programs and policies to support underserved communities.

Conclusion

The School Board of Collier County, Florida stands as a vital institution guiding the educational journey of thousands of students and shaping the future of the community. Through its governance, policy decisions, and community engagement, the board endeavors to create a safe, inclusive, and high-quality educational environment. While facing numerous challenges—from rapid growth to evolving societal expectations—the board’s proactive approach and commitment to transparency position Collier County schools to thrive in the years ahead. As the community continues to grow and change, the school board’s role in fostering educational excellence remains more important than ever.

Question What are the main responsibilities of the Collier County School Board? The Collier County School Board oversees public education policies, budgets, curriculum standards, school safety, and evaluates superintendent performance to ensure quality education for students. **Answer** How can residents participate in school board meetings in Collier County? Residents can attend school board meetings held regularly at the district offices, provide public comments during designated times, and stay informed through the district's website and social media channels. Who are the current members of the Collier County School Board? As of 2023, the Collier County School Board members include Chairperson, Vice Chair, and other elected trustees representing different districts. For the most up-to-date list, visit the official Collier County Public Schools website. What initiatives has the Collier County School Board recently implemented? Recent initiatives include expanding STEM programs, enhancing mental health services, improving school safety measures, and increasing support for English Language Learners. How does the Collier County School Board handle curriculum decisions? Curriculum decisions are made through a collaborative process

involving recommendations from district staff, input from community stakeholders, and adherence to state education standards. What measures are in place to ensure student safety in Collier County schools? The district has implemented safety protocols including school resource officers, safety drills, security upgrades, and mental health resources to maintain a secure learning environment. How can parents and community members run for a seat on the Collier County School Board? Interested candidates must meet eligibility requirements, file candidacy during designated periods, and participate in local elections. Details are available on the Collier County Supervisor of Elections website.

Related keywords: Collier County School District, Florida Education, Collier County Public Schools, School Board Meetings, Collier County Schools, Florida School Board, Collier County School Policies, School Board Members, Collier County Education Governance, Florida School District

history of orange county new york

History of Orange County New York

Orange County, New York, is a region rich in history, culture, and influence that dates back centuries. Located in the southeastern part of the state, it has played a pivotal role in the development of the United States, from Native American settlements to colonial expansion, and through industrialization and modern growth. Understanding the history of Orange County provides insight into the shaping of this vibrant area and its contributions to the broader history of New York State and the nation.

Early Inhabitants and Native American Heritage

Indigenous Peoples of Orange County

Long before European settlers arrived, the region now known as Orange County was inhabited by Native American tribes, primarily the Lenape (Delaware) people. These Indigenous communities thrived in the area, utilizing the abundant natural resources for sustenance and trade.

- The Lenape people were semi-nomadic, engaging in hunting, fishing, and agriculture.
- They established villages along rivers and lakes, taking advantage of the fertile land.
- Their culture was deeply connected to the land, with spiritual and social practices centered around nature.

Native Influence on the Land

The Lenape's presence influenced the geography and early use of land in Orange County, with trails and settlements that later European settlers would encounter and utilize.

European Settlement and Colonial Era

Early European Exploration

The 17th century marked the beginning of European interest in the region, primarily by the Dutch and the English.

- The Dutch were the first Europeans to explore the area, establishing trading posts in the 1600s.
- The area was part of New Netherland, a Dutch colony that included parts of present-day New York, New Jersey, and Delaware.
- Dutch influence is still evident in place names, such as "Haverstraw" and "Kingston," the latter serving as the first capital of New York State.

English Control and Colonial Development

In 1664, the English seized control of New Netherland, renaming it New York. This transition significantly impacted Orange County's development.

- The region was primarily used for agriculture, with settlers establishing farms and small communities.
- Land grants and treaties with Native Americans facilitated European settlement.
- County boundaries were initially fluid, with areas being subdivided as populations grew.

Formation of Orange County

Orange County was officially established in 1798, carved out from portions of Ulster and Rockland counties.

- Named after Prince William of Orange, later King William III of England.
- The county seat was established in Goshen, which remains a central hub.
- Early administrative structures laid the foundation for growth and governance.

19th Century: Growth, Industry, and Civil War Impact

Development of Transportation Infrastructure

The 1800s saw significant advancements in transportation, fueling economic growth.

- Construction of roads, bridges, and canals, including the Delaware and Hudson Canal.
- The arrival of the railroad in the mid-19th century connected Orange County to larger markets.
- These developments facilitated the movement of goods and people, attracting industries and settlers.

Industrialization and Economic Expansion

Orange County's fertile land and transportation networks fostered a robust industrial economy.

- Key industries included textiles, ironworks, and paper manufacturing.
- The county became a hub for agriculture, with dairy farming and fruit orchards thriving.

Role in the Civil War

During the Civil War (1861-1865), Orange County contributed manpower and resources.

- Many residents enlisted in Union Army regiments.
- The war impacted local economies, causing shifts in labor and production.
- Post-war, the county experienced growth as industries expanded.

20th Century: Modernization and Suburban Development

Transition to Suburban Community

The 20th century marked a transition from predominantly rural to suburban landscapes.

- Post-World War II suburbanization led to population growth.
- Development of commuter towns, especially due to proximity to New York City.
- Expansion of transportation corridors, including highways and rail lines.

Industrial Decline and Economic Shifts

Like many regions, Orange County faced industrial challenges.

- Decline of traditional manufacturing industries in the mid-1900s.
- Growth in service sectors, healthcare, education, and tourism.
- Preservation of historical sites and natural parks became priorities.

Notable Developments and Attractions

Orange County developed a reputation for its natural beauty and cultural heritage.

- The emergence of parks such as Storm King Art Center.
- Growth of historic towns like Goshen and Newburgh.
- The establishment of educational institutions contributing to local culture.

Key Events Shaping Orange County's History

Revolutionary War Significance

Orange County played a strategic role during the American Revolution.

- The Hudson River Valley was a critical military route.
- Several battles and skirmishes occurred in the area.
- The county served as a base for Patriot operations.

Historic Landmarks and Preservation

Many historic sites are preserved in Orange County, reflecting its rich past.

- The Orange County Courthouse (built in 1912).
- historic homes and districts such as the Philipse Manor House.
- The National Register of Historic Places lists numerous sites.

Modern Contributions

Today, Orange County continues to honor its history through museums, festivals, and preservation efforts.

- The Orange County History Center and Museum.
- Annual events celebrating local heritage and history.

- Ongoing efforts to preserve historic architecture and sites.

Conclusion: The Legacy of Orange County

Orange County, New York, embodies a unique blend of Native American heritage, colonial history, industrial growth, and modern suburban development. Its strategic location along vital transportation routes, rich natural resources, and vibrant communities have shaped its evolution over centuries. Recognized for its historical landmarks, cultural contributions, and natural beauty, Orange County remains a testament to the enduring legacy of American history. Visitors and residents alike can explore its past through numerous historic sites, museums, and festivals, ensuring that the story of Orange County continues to be celebrated and preserved for future generations.

History of Orange County, New York: A Deep Dive into Its Rich Past

Orange County, New York, is a region steeped in history, from its indigenous roots and colonial settlement to its role in the American Revolution and industrial development. Its landscape, diverse communities, and evolving identity have made it a microcosm of broader American history. This comprehensive exploration traces Orange County's journey from ancient times to the modern era, highlighting key events, figures, and milestones that have shaped its unique identity.

Pre-Colonial and Indigenous Roots

Native American Presence

Before European settlers arrived, Orange County was inhabited by indigenous peoples, primarily the Lenape (Delaware) tribe. The Lenape were part of the larger Algonquian-speaking peoples and occupied much of the region, including present-day Orange County, for centuries.

- Lifestyle and Culture:
 - Semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers with seasonal settlements.
 - Engaged in fishing, hunting, and agriculture.
 - Utilized the fertile lands along the Hudson River and its tributaries.
- Settlements and Trails:
 - Established villages along waterways.
 - Used extensive trail networks connecting different parts of the region.
- European Contact:

- First contact with Europeans occurred in the early 17th century through explorers and traders.
- The impact of European arrival led to significant displacement and conflict over the subsequent centuries.

European Exploration and Colonial Foundations

Early European Exploration

Dutch explorers were among the first Europeans to explore the region, with Henry Hudson's voyage in 1609 marking a pivotal moment.

- Hudson River Exploration:
- Hudson's voyage laid the groundwork for Dutch claims in the area.
- The Dutch established trading posts and fur trading operations along the river.

Dutch and English Colonial Settlement

The region was initially part of New Netherland, a Dutch colony, before becoming English territory.

- Dutch Influence (17th Century):
- The village of Newburgh and other settlements emerged.
- The Dutch introduced advanced farming techniques, trade practices, and land grants.
- Transition to English Control (1664):
- The English seized New Netherland without significant conflict.
- Renamed the area from New Netherland to New York.
- Early Colonial Development:
- Land grants and patents encouraged settlement.
- Agriculture, especially grain and livestock farming, became vital.

Revolutionary Era and Early American History

Orange County's Role in the American Revolution

During the late 18th century, Orange County was a hotbed of revolutionary activity.

- Patriot Support:
- Many residents supported the Patriot cause.
- The county supplied troops, munitions, and supplies.

- Key Events:
- The Battle of Minisink (1779), a significant skirmish, took place near the county.
- The county's proximity to New York City and other strategic locations made it vital during the war.

Post-Revolutionary Developments

After independence, Orange County experienced growth and restructuring.

- Formation of Counties:
 - Created in 1683, originally as part of Dutch and later English governance.
 - Officially organized in 1798, carving out distinct communities.
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- Settlement Expansion:
 - Land grants to Revolutionary War veterans spurred settlement.
 - The development of small towns and villages along trade routes.

19th Century: Industrialization and Growth

Industrial and Economic Development

The 19th century was a transformative period for Orange County.

- Transportation Infrastructure:
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- Canal System:
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- The Delaware and Hudson Canal (1828) connected the region to New York City, facilitating trade.

- Railroads:

- The Hudson River Railroad and other lines expanded connectivity.
- Enabled movement of goods and people, fostering economic growth.

- Manufacturing and Industry:

- Textile mills, ironworks, and breweries emerged.
- The county became a hub for agricultural processing.

- Agriculture:

- Continues to be vital, with dairy farming, apple orchards, and other crops.

Settlement Patterns and Communities

- Growth of towns such as Newburgh, Middletown, and Port Jervis.
- Development of villages and rural communities.

Social and Cultural Changes

- Immigration increased, with Irish, German, and Italian settlers.
- The population diversified, leading to an evolving cultural landscape.

20th Century: Modernization and Transformation

World Wars and Economic Shifts

The two World Wars had profound impacts on Orange County.

- World War I and II:
 - Increased industrial production.
 - Military training and installations established in the region.

- Post-War Boom:
 - Suburbanization accelerated.

- Growth of commuter towns for those working in New York City.

Environmental and Preservation Movements

- Recognized the importance of natural landscapes.
- Establishment of parks and historic sites to preserve heritage.

Technological and Educational Advancements

- Expansion of educational institutions.
- Development of healthcare and technological infrastructure.

Key Historical Landmarks and Cultural Heritage

- Goshen Historic District: Showcases 18th and 19th-century architecture.
- Woodbury Common Premium Outlets: Reflects modern commercial development but located near historic sites.
- Mills at Port Jervis: Industrial remnants illustrating the 19th-century manufacturing boom.
- The Newburgh Trust: Preserves Revolutionary War history.

Contemporary Orange County: A Blend of Heritage and Modernity

- The county today balances its rich history with modern growth.
- Preservation efforts maintain historic districts, while new industries and developments flourish.
- Active cultural festivals, reenactments, and museums celebrate its diverse history.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of Orange County's Past

Orange County, New York, stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of American history. From its indigenous roots and colonial foundations to its pivotal role in the revolution and industrial revolution, the county's past is woven into its present identity. Its landscapes, historic sites, and communities continue to reflect the layers of history that have shaped it. As it moves forward into the future, Orange County remains a vibrant mosaic of tradition and innovation, deeply rooted in its storied past.

In summary, understanding the history of Orange County, New York, requires appreciating its layered evolution—from native settlements to a key player in national events. Its strategic location,

diverse communities, and resilient spirit continue to define its character today, making it a fascinating subject for history buffs and casual visitors alike.

Question What is the historical significance of Orange County, New York, in the American Revolution? Orange County played a vital role in the American Revolution, serving as a strategic location with several important battles and skirmishes, including the Battle of Minisink. Its residents actively supported the Patriot cause, and the county's rugged terrain provided defensive advantages. How did Orange County, NY, develop during the 18th and 19th centuries? Initially settled by Dutch and English colonists, Orange County developed as an agricultural region. In the 19th century, it experienced growth with the expansion of the Erie Canal and the rise of industries such as textiles, ironworks, and manufacturing, contributing to its economic development. What impact did the Erie Canal have on the growth of Orange County? Completed in 1825, the Erie Canal significantly boosted Orange County's economy by facilitating the transportation of goods and people. It opened up markets, encouraged settlement, and helped establish the county as an important hub for commerce and industry in New York. Who were some notable figures in Orange County's history? Prominent figures include Philip Schuyler, a Revolutionary War general and senator; and William Lewis, a lawyer and politician. Additionally, Orange County was home to many early settlers and influential families who shaped its development. How has Orange County, NY, preserved its historical sites? Orange County has preserved many historical landmarks, including the clearly marked Revolutionary War sites, historic districts, and museums like the Orange County Historical Society Museum. These efforts help maintain its rich history for educational and tourism purposes. What role did Orange County play in the industrialization of New York State? During the 19th century, Orange County contributed to New York's industrialization through manufacturing, ironworks, and milling industries. Its strategic location and transportation networks allowed it to become a vital center for regional economic growth during this period.

Related keywords: Orange County history, Orange County NY past, Orange County New York heritage, Orange County NY settlement, Orange County historical sites, Orange County NY development, Orange County NY landmarks, Orange County NY pioneer history, Orange County NY archives, Orange County NY early settlers

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