



Press Release

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Dutchess County Launches First-Ever Quaker Meeting House Tour

Part of County-Wide Participation in National REV250 Commemoration

Dutchess County, NY — [May 12, 2025] — Dutchess County is proud to announce the launch of the **Quaker Meeting House Tour**, a first-of-its-kind public tour of four historic Quaker meeting houses, beginning Sunday, June 1. Funded by the Dutchess County Legislature and organized in partnership with 19 local historical societies, this initiative is part of **REV250**, the national commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The tour will run monthly on the **first Sunday of each month from June through November**, with sites open from **12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Participating meeting houses include:

- Oblong Meeting House (1764)** – Pawling
- Nine Partners Meeting House (1780)** – Millbrook
- Creek Meeting House (1777)** – Clinton Corners
- Crum Elbow Meeting House (1797/1810)** – Hyde Park

Each site will offer **free admission**, docent-led tours, and educational exhibits that illuminate the deep historical and social impact of Quaker communities in Dutchess County. Visitors will explore how Quaker values of pacifism, equality, and justice shaped local responses to the American Revolution and advanced the causes of abolition and women's rights. Interiors at Oblong, Nine Partners, and Crum Elbow remain largely unchanged from their 18th-century construction, offering visitors an immersive historical experience. At the Creek Meeting House, guests will enjoy a **special 3D video installation** recreating the building's 1777 interior.

Outside of tour hours, each site will feature a posted **QR code** linking to a dedicated Quaker Meeting House Tour website, providing virtual access to exhibits, historical context, and directions.

Please note: Due to the historic nature of the buildings, **handicap accessibility is limited**. Additionally, **restroom facilities are only available at the Creek Meeting House**.

Bill Jeffway, Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society, praised the effort, stating: "This tour offers a unique opportunity to explore four historic Quaker meeting houses that have shaped Dutchess County's legacy. It's a powerful American story of religious freedom, and a compelling local story about one of the most influential communities in our region's history."

The Quaker Meeting House Tour is **open to the public and free of charge**. For more information, visit www.MeetingHouseTour or call (845) 242-5789.