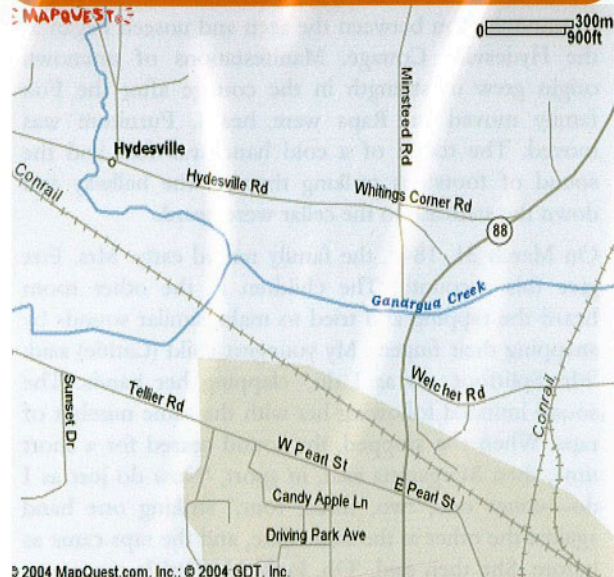


MAP TO HYDESVILLE MEMORIAL PARK



GENERAL INFORMATION

Spiritualism is distinguished by its uniquely egalitarian approach to spirit communication, affirming that it is equally accessible to everyone. By the 1880's Spiritualism became recognized by leaders in the women's rights movement as "The only religious sect in the world . . . That has recognized the equality of women . . ."

MISSION STATEMENT

Hydesville Memorial Park

seeks to inspire appreciation and knowledge of the origins of one of our uniquely American religious traditions by providing public access and maintenance of the site where the continuity of life was demonstrated in 1848.

Would you like to help preserve and maintain this remarkable part of our American heritage? Donations are welcome. Send your tax deductible donation by check, money order, Visa or Master Card in US funds to:

National Spiritualist Association of Churches
 Fox Property Project
 13 Cottage Row, PO Box 217
 Lily Dale, NY 14752



Hydesville Memorial Park

Proposed paths, monuments, and cottage housing
 (Not to scale)

REVISED 2005

PRINTED BY:
 Stow Memorial Foundation

PUBLISHED BY:
 National Spiritualist Association of Churches
 P. O. Box 217
 13 Cottage Row
 Lily Dale, New York 14752
 Phone: 716-595-2000 Fax: 716-595-2020
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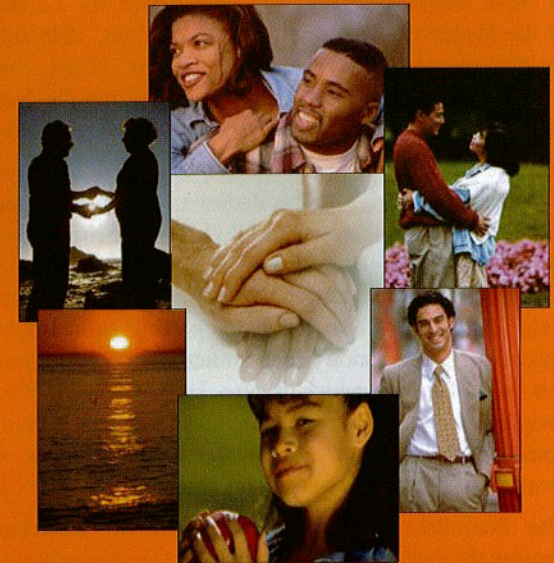
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Special

Hydesville Memorial Park

Preserving our heritage...



National Spiritualist Association of Churches

A community with spirit...



SPIRITUALISM

• Philosophy • Science • Religion •

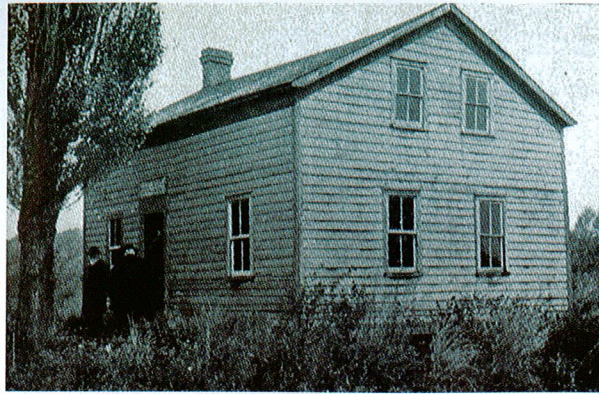
Hydesville Memorial Park

Preserving our heritage...

One of the many freedoms upon which our nation was founded is the freedom of Religious Pursuit. For nearly four centuries a diversity of religious movements and institutions have been founded on American soil. One of these religions, Spiritualism, began here on the site of the Hydesville Memorial Park, New York, 1848 and rapidly spread nationwide. Learn more about this amazing part of American History by visiting the Fox Property History, www.nsac.org, and other web sites available on this topic.

Hydesville Memorial Park is dedicated to the founding of Modern Spiritualism. The Philosophy, Science and Religion of Spiritualism is based on providing proof that "there is no death." The National Spiritualist Association of Churches, the oldest and largest Spiritualist organization in the United States, now owns this beautiful site, which is also known as the "Fox Property," after the family that gave Modern Spiritualism its roots. Hydesville Memorial Park is located in Newark, New York on Hydesville Road.

The National Spiritualist Association of Churches became the owner of the Fox property in December of 1999. The stone foundation of the original Fox Cottage has been re-excavated, revealing the second inner stone wall that for many years concealed the bodily remains of an itinerant peddler. In 1848, through a series of percussive raps, this peddler identified himself as Charles B. Rosna to members of the Fox family and offered a report of his own murder to a wide gathering of witnesses. This proof of the continuity of life was further confirmed by the eventual discovery of a male skeleton and a peddler's trunk hidden behind the false foundation wall. A permanent structure is being built over the excavated foundation to protect this site for future generations. The public is invited to visit this unique memorial.



The Fox Cottage, Hydesville, New York

THE FOX FAMILY AT THE HYDESVILLE COTTAGE

The Fox Family moved to the hamlet of Hydesville to build a new family home on land adjoining an elderly uncle's property. During construction, the family temporarily moved into a nearby cottage on December 11, 1847. This cottage property was the setting for the historical foundation of Modern Spiritualism.

THE FOX FAMILY



Mrs. Margaret Fox

John Fox and Margaret Smith began their life together in 1812 in Rockland County, New York. The Fox's first child, Emily, was born in 1813 and passed in infancy. In 1814, Ann Leah was born followed by Maria, Elizabeth, and David. In 1834 Margaretta Fox was born, followed in 1836 by the birth of Catherine Fox.



Leah
Fox-Underhill



Kate
Fox-Jencken



Margaretta
Fox-Kane

THE ADVENT OF MODERN SPIRITUALISM

Communication between the seen and unseen began at the Hydesville Cottage. Manifestations of unknown origin grew in strength in the cottage after the Fox family moved in. Raps were heard. Furniture was moved. The touch of a cold hand was felt, and the sound of footsteps walking through the hallway and down the staircase to the cellar were heard.

On March 31, 1848, the family retired early. Mrs. Fox give this account: "The children in the other room heard the rapping and tried to make similar sounds by snapping their fingers. My youngest child (Cathie) said: 'Mr. Splitfoot, do as I do,' clapping her hands. The sound imitated following her with the same number of raps. When she stopped, the sound ceased for a short time, then Margaretta said, in sport, 'Now do just as I do—count one, two, three, four,' striking one hand against the other at the same time, and the raps came as before. She then said, 'Oh, look. Mother! It can see as well as here!'"

Thus the two girls of the Fox family, Margaretta and Catherine, ages fourteen and twelve, are credited with initiating the unusual communication that came to be witnessed by hundreds, bringing the advent of Modern Spiritualism.

THE COTTAGE

The Hydesville Cottage was constructed in 1815 by Dr. Hyde, who left it to his son. Subsequent occupants were the Bell, Weekman, and Fox families. In April of 1916, Benjamin Franklin Bartlett of Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania, had the cottage moved to Lily Dale, New York. The cottage burned to the ground on September 12, 1955. A stone marker now stands in its place in memory of the Fox sisters and the cottage. At the original site of the cottage in Hydesville, an exact replica of the cottage was constructed on the original stone foundation through the efforts of John Drummond. This replica burned beyond repair in 1983.