

**Decker Family Association**  
**2015 Reunion**  
*Life in Ulster & Columbia Counties in the 1700s*

**Program of Events**

**Thursday, October 1, 2015**

**7:00-9:00 pm                      Opening Reception**

Location: Lobby, Super 8 Motel, 487 Washington Ave

Meet the cousins at the opening reception. A chance to meet and greet your Decker cousins.

**Friday, October 2, 2015**

**8:30-9:00 am                      Kickoff Meeting – Outside the Old Dutch Church**

Bring your coffee and we'll meet outside the Old Dutch Church in Kingston (on Main St. across from the Post Office) for introductions, full details of the sites we'll visit, and kickoff the reunion.

In case of rain, we'll meet in the church at 9:00 am.

**9:00-10:30 am                      Visit to Old Dutch Church in Kingston**

Old Dutch Church  
272 Wall Street  
Kingston, NY 12401

<http://www.olddutchchurch.org/>

For over three and a half centuries, Old Dutch Church has been an institution of the community, standing as a symbol of faith and stability in an ever changing world. It's through the records of this church that we have learned about Jan Broersen and his family.

**11:00-12:30 pm                      Visit to Senate House**

296 Fair Street  
Kingston, NY 12401

<http://www.senatehousekingston.org/>

The building now known as the Senate House was built in 1676 by Wessel Ten Broeck. It was then a typical one room Dutch style house common at that time in the Hudson Valley. The foundation of the 1676 house is still extant and is beneath the middle section of the house as we see it today. Wessel Ten Broeck was the father of Elsie Ten Broeck, wife of Cornelius Decker.

Admission to Senate House included.

**12:30-2:30 pm**

**Drive to Kinderhook**

We'll drive to Kinderhook for the afternoon, with places to stop for lunch on your own. The drive to Kinderhook in Columbia County is about one hour from Kingston.

**2:30-5:00 pm**

**Visit to Luykas Van Alen House & Martin Van Buren Site**

1013 Old Post Road (Martin Van Buren site)

2589 Route 9H (Luykas Van Alen house)

Kinderhook, NY 12106

<http://www.cchsny.org/historic-properties.html>

<http://www.nps.gov/mava>

Meet at the Martin Van Buren Site at 2:15 p.m. with our tour starting at 2:30 p.m., then moving to the nearby Luykas Van Alen house.

Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1967, the Luykas Van Alen house (c. 1737) is a restored house museum representing 18th century rural Dutch farm life in the Hudson River Valley.

See the centerpiece of President Van Buren's Lindenwald farm. The mansion is also where Van Buren managed two presidential campaigns and entertained politicians and celebrities during the turbulent 1840's and 1850's.

Size limitations in the Luykas Van Alen house shouldn't be a factor (they can handle a group size of about 15), but we'll alternate with two groups between these sites if necessary.

Admission to Luykas Van Alen house and Martin Van Buren National Historic Site included.

**Saturday, October 3, 2015**

Shawangunk Reformed Church

1166 Hoagerburgh Rd

Wallkill NY 12589

**9:30-3:00, 5:00-7:00**

**Meetings, Workshops, Presentations**

The Shawangunk church was founded by early Deckers and other local residents, and is the the oldest church building in continuous use among American congregations of the Dutch Reformed Church. Many of our Decker ancestors were laid to rest in the churchyard.

Presentations from Lonnie Decker, Wayne Decker and several others on Decker family history and achievements. Decker Family Association Meeting, with election of new officers and consideration of association bylaws.

Sharing Time – Bring your family history records to share and get updates from other family members.

Lunch and dinner provided; served in the Fellowship Hall of the church.

**3:15-4:45 pm**

**Tea hosted by Anne Bienstock**

Shawangunk resident Anne Bienstock lives in a house originally built by our Decker ancestors. She has graciously invited all reunion participants to visit her home for tea.

The house has been carefully restored and maintained, with many beautiful period decorations.

Directions to Anne's home will be provided in the meeting at the Shawangunk Church. Her home is just a few minutes from the church.

This visit will be a highlight of our reunion; we'll return to the church for final presentations and for dinner.

## **Sunday, October 4, 2015**

Shawangunk Reformed Church

1166 Hoagerburgh Rd

Wallkill NY 12589

<http://www.shawangunkreformed.org/>

**11:00-12:00 pm**

**Worship service at the church.**

For updates, visit <https://www.facebook.com/DeckerJourney>