

Points of Interest



Old Rich Tavern

Route 79. Early settler David Rich put up a small tavern about 1810 to serve travelers on the Catskill Turnpike, which ran through his farm. After 1812 he built this larger building that remained in the family for more than 100 years. It is a private home today.

Cantine Mansion

Brooktondale. The mansion was built by General John Cantine in 1804 on the site of a log cabin.



Saint Thomas' Episcopal Church

Slaterville Springs. The Gothic-style church was built in 1894; renovated in 2005. Listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*.



Photo courtesy Creative Commons

Census

Caroline's population rose in the early 19th century and then declined. It took just over 120 years for Caroline's population to surpass its 1840 level.

Town of Caroline	Tompkins County
1840: 2,457	32,296
1920: 1,542	35,285
1960: 2,118	66,097
2010: 3,282	101,624

Residents of Note

Maria Johnson Earsley (1746-1836) Arrived in area 1794 to purchase land; settled parcel with her family March 1795. Buried on family farm off NYS Rt. 79 near Tompkins-Tioga county line.

David Rich (1762-1852) Early settler March 1795. First tavern keeper. He is buried in the Caroline Grove Cemetery.

General John (Johannes) Cantine (1735-1808) Commander of 3rd Ulster Regiment in the Revolutionary War. For his services as a land claims court judge, he received 3,000+ acres including Slaterville and Brooktondale. He is buried at Quick Cemetery.

Peter Webb (1792-1868) Brought as a slave from Virginia to Caroline by James Speed; worked to purchase his freedom in 1818 and then brought freedom for his wife, Phyllis; purchased the homestead where he had been enslaved. The property is still owned by family members. Many Webbs are buried at the Caroline Grove Cemetery, but headstones for Peter and Phyllis are not among them.



Dr. Mary Davis Ridgway Tinker (1908-2014) Private practice 60+ years; town, school physician; in 1961 named "Outstanding General Practitioner of New York State." Buried in Lane Cemetery.

Cemeteries

Old Dutch Reformed - Rt. 79, across from Caroline School.

Roe - Brooktondale Road, between Rt. 79 and Besemer Road.

Yates - Harford Road, at Route 79.

Charles Mulks - Route 79, West of Slaterville Springs.

Caroline Center - Buffalo and Taft Roads.

Speedsville - Speedville Commons.

Quick - Lounsberry and Landon Roads.

Morris Chapel - Middaugh Road, near Coddington Road.

Caroline Grove - Rt 79, West of Caroline hamlet.

Central Chapel - Central Chapel Road.

Lane - White Church Road, N of Coddington Road intersection.

Cooper - White Church Road.

There are many inactive small cemeteries and family plots in the town.

For details on Caroline and other county cemeteries:

www.nytomпки.org/tcem.htm

For more local history:

- www.carolinehistorian.org
- www.tompkinscountyny.gov/historian
- www.thehistorycenter.net

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Town of Caroline

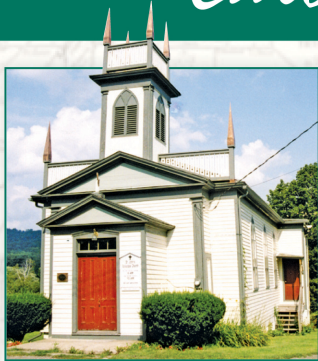


The Town of Caroline was organized in 1811 from the Town of Spencer, Tioga County, and was annexed to Tompkins County March 22, 1822. The final transfer occurred one year later. This area was developed because of its farmland and water power. As many as 23 mill sites were in operation on Six Mile Creek over the years. The mineral properties of the water was used to produce "ambered glass" and brought health spa tourism to the area.

The town is part of two watersheds. Six Mile Creek empties into Cayuga Lake and then to Lake Ontario, while West Owego Creek flows into the Susquehanna River to the Chesapeake Bay. NYS Route 79, formerly the Catskill Turnpike, is the town's major highway.



Caroline Points of Interest



■ **Saint John's Episcopal Church**
Speedsville. Built in Richford, Tioga County in 1835, moved to Speedsville in 1842. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

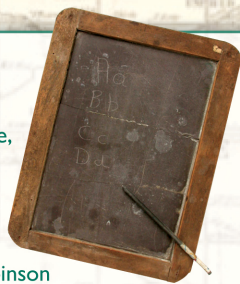
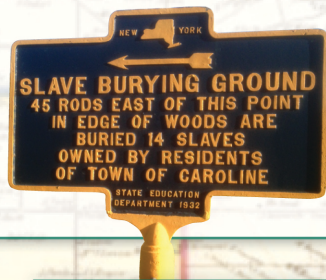
■ **Town Hall**
Slaterville Springs. Built 1869 as a two-room school; currently houses the town court and the historical room. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



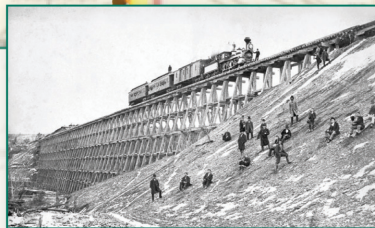
■ **Brooktondale Store**
491 Brooktondale Road. This site first housed a tin shop and a plaster mill. The Mulks brothers, Frank, Charles and Fred, operated the store from c. 1860 into the 1920s. New owners continue to run the store as Brookton's Market.



■ **Slave Burying Ground**
Ellis Hollow Road, half mile north of Route 79. NYS historic sign marks the cemetery located about 250 yards east of Ellis Hollow Road where 14 slaves owned by Caroline residents are buried.



■ **1802** First schoolhouse, a small addition to the residence of John Robinson in "Dutch Settlement" (now Slaterville), erected.



■ **1874**
The Utica, Ithaca & Elmira railroad completed wooden trestle over Six-Mile Creek near Brooktondale.



■ **1930**
Abandoned farmland reclaimed by state to become Shindagen Hollow State Forest, Hammond Hill State Forest and Potato Hill State Forest.



■ **Eastern Bluebird**
Found in local woodlands, farmlands, and orchards, the Eastern Bluebird is the state bird of New York. Photo by Gary Mueller.

■ **1993** Buffalo Road bridge replaced and pressure in the aquifer released, causing the wells in Slaterville Springs to go dry. Water trucked in until the engineers could rebuild the aquifer wall and restore pressure.

■ **1804** Catskill Turnpike (Route 79) chartered.



■ **1871**
Water with mineral properties discovered in Slaterville; the Fountain House and the Magnetic Springs House opened as health spas. Glass colored amber by the water became collectors' items.

■ **1879** Caroline had 20 school districts, 38 teachers, and 614 students.

■ **1936**
Brooktondale trestle torn down.



■ **1946**
Brooktondale Volunteer Fire Company organized

■ **1956** Ithaca City School District consolidated some of the Town of Caroline school districts. Today, Caroline students attend four school districts: Ithaca City, Candor Central, Newark Valley Central and Dryden Central.



■ **1975**
Volunteers remodeled former Slaterville Springs school as a bicentennial project; building becomes town hall.