

# HISTORIC CARNWATH FARMS



## Short History of Carnwath Farms

Mr. William Henry Willis built the Carnwath Manor Home in 1850, and called it Carnwath Farms. The name is derived from a Manor home set in Scotland. Property is located on Wheeler Hill Road.

Just after the ending of the Civil War, General Barclay purchased the estate from Mr. Willis. In 1870, Mr. Francis Robert Rives, who married the daughter of General Barclay, purchased Carnwath Farms. He added the east wing to the manor house, servant's quarters and the large rear kitchen. The formal Georgian appearance was changed to a less formal look which was preferred by late 19<sup>th</sup> century architects. In 1873, the Carriage House was built, modeled after French architecture, to hold Mr. Rives' horses. Years later his son, Reginald Rives, built the finest stable of harness and saddle horses in the county.

In the early 1900's, the property then known as Rives Hill, was purchased by a New York attorney named Untermeyer who was famous for defending William "Boss" Tweed. In 1925, the Order of the Brothers of Hermits purchased the property and built the Chapel in 1950, and the dormitory building in 1958. In 1980 the property was sold to Greystone Programs Inc. The Town of Wappinger purchased the property in 2000 and renamed it to its original name Carnwath Farms in 2003.

Carnwath Farms is located on 99.7 acres of Hudson River front property and recently became the new home of the *Sports Museum of Dutchess County*, housed in the Frances Reese Cultural Center building.