

For Immediate Release

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New Book Features Mount Vernon History

City historian uses vintage photographs to tell story of Mount Vernon's past

Known as the "city of happy homes," Mount Vernon has a young history dating back to the late 1850's when overcrowded New York City began to expand out. Years later it became a bedroom community for the region's most prominent upwardly mobile movers and shakers. Today, Mount Vernon continues to be a thriving Westchester County community.

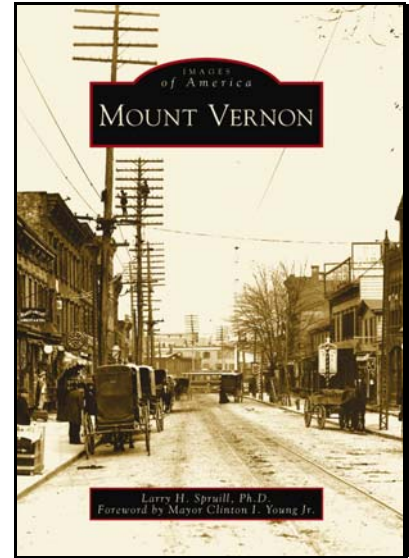
In over 200 vintage photographs, Mount Vernon city historian Larry H. Spruill, Ph.D., brings readers on a nostalgic journey down memory lane, documenting the people and places that shaped the formative and golden years of the community.

Highlights of *Mount Vernon*:

- Features images from the Virginia L. Moskowitz Local History Room of the Carnegie-built Mount Vernon Public Library and the collections of local residents
- Showcases some of the highly historic buildings, Mount Vernon founder John Stevens' home, The Proctor Building, the McClellan Real Estate Building and others that still exist today
- Provides a quintessential look at the most dynamic small city in New York
- Includes snapshots of the city's elegant spacious homes, tree-lined streets, progressive schools and businesses and more

Available at area bookstores, independent retailers, and online retailers, or through Arcadia Publishing at (888)-313-2665 or www.arcadiapublishing.com.

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Larry H. Spruill, Ph.D., a lifelong Mount Vernon resident, has served as city historian for the past 20 years. He is an author, award-winning photographer, and he has a professorship at Morehouse College. His commitment to local historical preservation has kept Mount Vernon's incredible past alive.

Mount Vernon

By Larry M. Spruill, Ph.D., Foreword by Mayor Clinton J. Young Jr.

Images of America Series

Price: \$21.99

128 pages/ softcover

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About the Author of *Mount Vernon*



From time to time, every community celebrates the life of a native son who exemplifies the strength, values and opportunities that make it a unique municipality. Mount Vernon is such a city and Dr. Larry H. Spruill is one of its dutifully recognized sons and daughters. He is a historian, theologian, author, media consultant and educational leader.

Dr. Spruill graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 1967. He later received his bachelor's degree in American History with a certification to teach Social Studies. He was accepted into the Harvard University's history graduate program, but declined and remained at Stony Brook because his wife was still pursuing her degree. In 1972, Dr. Spruill earned a master's degree in Latin American History and began his career as a college instructor. His major areas of study were Brazil and Mexico, and he spent next decade working as a criminal justice lobbyist, developing community organization skills and conducting his doctoral research.

In 1983, Stony Brook University awarded Dr. Spruill a Doctor of Philosophy degree (Ph.D.) in American History. His dissertation, *Southern Exposure, Photojournalism and the Civil Rights Movement, 1955-1965*, has been highly acclaimed. For 11 years, Dr. Spruill was the founder and educational tour leader of Wider Horizons, an educational travel program for elementary and secondary students, teachers and parents. In 2002, the program was revived at Mount Vernon High School with a tour to three West African nations. He served as a consultant to the new project.

Dr. Spruill was appointed Mount Vernon City Historian in June 1988 and was the first African American to hold such a post in New York. He has worked with the city to establish a historical district and a city museum at local historical site, John Stevens House.

From 1993 to 1994, Dr. Spruill was a weekly columnist for the *Daily Argus* of the Westchester-Rockland Gannett Newspapers. He also hosted Multi-Cultural Television (MCTV), a weekly cable television program featuring city and county diversity issues.

In 1994, Dr. Spruill wrote, *Making Progress, A History of the Mount Vernon School Board, 1894-1994*. He redesigned the 2002-2003 Mount Vernon School calendar to reflect its 150 years of public education in the city. He also designed the local historic exhibition for the McDonald's restaurant on Gramatan Avenue.

For the year 2001-2002, Dr. Spruill was awarded by County Executive Andrew Spano the John Harmon Award as the inaugural Westchester County Trailblazer in History. He was the lead historical consultant for the Westchester County African American Historical Trail.

Dr. Spruill continues to present and promote the preservation of the rich history of Mount Vernon and the Town of Eastchester. His pioneering book, *A Time to Remember: A Portrait of the African American Community of Mount Vernon, New York*, is a major contribution to the historiography of Westchester County.