

Why Is The City of Poughkeepsie Seal ...a *Bee Hive*?



Four out of the five men who met in 1799 to establish the Village of Poughkeepsie (now the City of Poughkeepsie) were not only Masons, but were *leaders* in the Masonic Order. One of the two laws they passed at the first meeting was to set the bee hive as the seal. One of those five men was Andrew Billings. On the document below you will see Billings' signature on a Poughkeepsie Masonic document from nine years earlier, 1799. The image of the bee hive was important to Masons as it illustrated a cooperative labor for the greater good. We believe the bee hive was adopted as a familiar symbol from the Masonic Order. *DCHS Masonic Collections, gift of Jim and Gina Sullivan, 2019.*

