

New Additions To Bumpus Collection To Be Exhibited at Duxbury, MA Gallery

The Hudson River Valley Institute is pleased to announce the opening of an exhibition of paintings in the Dr. Frank T. Bumpus Collection at the Helen Bumpus Gallery in Duxbury, Massachusetts. The collaborative exhibition will debut nine newly commissioned paintings by artist David R. Wagner depicting Revolutionary War-era scenes related to the march of French General Rochambeau's expeditionary force to Yorktown, Virginia, from locations in Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. The exhibit will be opening in July with a reception from 2:00-4:00 P.M. on July 16, 2011. The paintings will remain on display through the end of August. The Helen Bumpus Gallery is located at the Duxbury Free Library, 77 Alden Street, Duxbury Massachusetts, www.helenbumpusgallery.com, and info@helenbumpusgallery.com.

The Frank T. Bumpus Collection of the Hudson River Valley Institute:

The Hudson River Valley institute at Marist College functions as the academic arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, www.hudsonrivervalley.org. Its mission is to study and to promote the Hudson River Valley and to provide educational resources for heritage tourists, scholars, elementary school educators, environmental organizations, the business community, and the general public. Its many projects include the publication of *The Hudson River Valley Review* and the management of a dynamic digital library and leading regional portal site. The Institute began building the Bumpus Collection in order to promote the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail (W3R) and to interpret through art the importance of the contribution of the French *Expédition Particulière* to America's independence. The first paintings purchased for the collection, in 2009, are on display in the gallery at Boscobel Restoration, www.boscobel.org/, located on the Hudson across from West Point.

The Artist:

David R. Wagner is a lifelong resident of Scotland, Connecticut. A trained historian, he is also a self-taught and versatile artist. Mr. Wagner's media include acrylic on canvas paintings and pen and ink illustrations. His paintings have included portraits, still-lives, landscapes, Native American scenes, and historical events, most notably his historical series depicting the activities of the French and Continental Armies during the American Revolution and a collection of 102 paintings depicting the history of the Eastern Woodland peoples, commissioned by the Mohegan Tribe in Uncasville, Connecticut. The finished W3R collection will cover all nine states

and the District of Columbia traversed by Washington and Rochambeau during their campaigns and will number well over 100 paintings (ongoing).

The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R):

General George Washington and the Continental Army and Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau and his French Expeditionary Corps took part in the French-American campaign in 1781 first to lay siege to General Sir Henry Clinton's army in New York City and later to surround the main Southern British army under General Charles Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia, and the return marches in 1782.

The Franco-American journey was an amazing feat of endurance and military achievement. Elements of the French Army marched and then sailed to their destiny at Yorktown from June until September 1781. The Continental Army also made the march and then voyage from Philipsburg, New York, to the York River. It was at Philipsburg, on August 14, that Generals Washington and Rochambeau learned that the fleet of French Admiral François Joseph Paul, Comte de Grasse, was sailing to the Chesapeake Bay.

In 1782 the French Army retraced its steps back to Boston, Massachusetts, to board ships for the Caribbean; the Continental Army returned for its final encampment at Newburgh and New Windsor, New York. The French Expeditionary Corps used thirty-eight camps in its march to Virginia and fifty-four for the return. Of these, there were eight camps in New York in 1781 and five in 1782.

This Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area's initiative for a National Historic Trail officially started at Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh on December 16, 1999. With the support of key members of the New York Congressional delegation, led by Congressman Maurice Hinchey, then Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, and the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College, Congress passed the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail Designation Act, which was signed by President Barack Obama on March 30, 2009. As a result, the Hudson River Valley is now a part of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail.