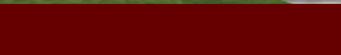


Issue 61

November 2009



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Hudson River Valley Institute

HRVI November 2009 Newsletter

The New HRVI Website

A couple of months ago the Hudson River Valley Institute was lucky enough to enter into the new information era. Armed with an update system and capable hands HRVI has been able to make changes and new additions to the website. Many of these new features have been possible, solely through the hard work and dedication of the HRVI interns.

One of the new additions to the website are several books about the Town of Clinton. Many of these books focus on the history, creation, and evolution of the town. The reason these books were able to added to the website

is thanks to Paul Contarino, A former HRVI intern and current Albany post-grad. Who spent his summer researching and scanning these books for us.

Another new feature to the website is the Hall of Fame section. The material found in this part of the website is all work done by HRVI's interns. Each intern is able to pick a topic at the beginning of the semester. They then research specific figures in their chosen topics that are linked to the Hudson River Valley. Topics in the Hall of Fame section vary from military figures to musicians to broadcasters.

Also added to the website is the Teaching American History lesson plans. Teaching American History is a fantastic program the brings teachers, institutes, and history together to create and provide to teachers the lesson plans, skills, and resources to help students understand American history on a greater level.

If you would like to view any of these new additions or learn more about these features and programs, please visit <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/>.

Commemorating the American Revolution

On November 25, beacons throughout the New York and New Jersey will be lit to celebrate the exit of the British after the Revolutionary War. During the war, beacon fires were used as a source of communication, primarily to warn the Continental Army of incoming British troops. It was under General George Washington that these beacons became a major means of communication.

A series of twelve beacons, seven in New Jersey and five in New York, stretched along

108 miles. The most southern beacon is located in Princeton, NJ with the most northern in Beacon, NY. The two states have joined together to commemorate these historic tools through the Beacon Project.

This year marks the 226th anniversary of the evacuation of the British. A celebration will be held November 25th with a ceremonial lighting of searchlights at Bear Mountain State Park, Cornwall on Hudson Landing, Boscobel Restoration, Constitution Island, and Scenic Hudson's Mount Beacon.

In addition, it is a celebration of the Palisades Park Commissions 100 year anniversary and of course the 400th anniversary of Hudson's first sail up the Hudson River. Please check back at our website for more information to come!

By Lindsay Moreau

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Special points of interest:

- *Special Edition of the Hudson River Valley River*
- *A tribute to the life of Lincoln Diamant*
- *226th anniversary of the evacuation of the British*

Grant Paves the Way for Digital Pathfinder Project

The National Endowment for the Humanities recently awarded a grant of nearly \$50,000 to HRVI's Digital Pathfinder Project. The project is collaboration of resources from the Hudson River Valley Institute, Marist's School of Computer Science and the Staatsburgh State Historic Site to develop an innovative new model for historic tours.

The Digital Pathfinder Project will give visitors at Staatsburgh the opportunity to use GPS enabled PDAs to explore interactive media and customizable tours at the site. The PDAs will be programmed with open source software and use "plug and play" technology allowing content to be updated frequently and efficiently.

This new technology will allow visitors to take customized tours of the site by selecting desired paths, duration, topics and level of detail. Through these PDAs, traditionally unseen archives will be made available to the public enhancing their experience at Staatsburgh.

The Staatsburgh Estate was once the country home of Ogden and Ruth

Livingston Mills. The mansion which features Beaux Arts architecture depicts the elegant lifestyle of industrial leaders during the Gilded Age. The current tour at Staatsburgh is available by limited appointment only. Despite this, the estate's grounds are used by 60,000 people each year, many of whom have never toured the site. The Digital Pathfinder Project will enable these visitors to take self-guided tours and thus open up the estate to a larger public.



The digital tours will explore the four main areas of the Staatsburgh estate; the mansion, waterfront, gardener's cottage and greenhouses. The tours will emphasize historic themes like Beaux Arts architecture, labor, agriculture and leisure activities of the day. In addition to interactive maps the presentation will include images, correspondence, journals, oral history and videos.

The Hudson River Valley Institute is thrilled to be a recipient of the NEH grant which will allow for continued development

of the Digital Pathfinder technology. Recipients of NEH grants are selected based on their ability to enhance learning by connecting specific places with nationally historic themes. Applications are reviewed for intellectual content, historical significance and public appeal.

Once the initial digital tour is up and running at Staatsburgh additional tours will be developed to include the estate's riverfront trails and the surrounding hamlet. The ultimate goal is to provide the Digital Pathfinder technology to other Great Estates in the Hudson Valley and eventually historic locations nationwide.

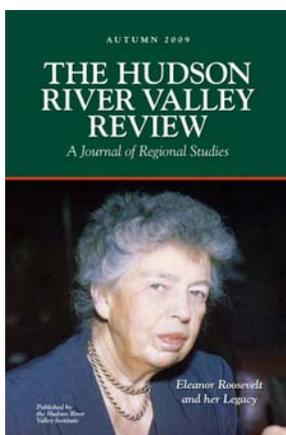
For more information on the National Endowment for the Humanities and any of their programs please visit <http://www.neh.gov/>. Or to learn more on the NEH grants and the HRVI please visit <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/about/pdfs/newscippings/nehgrant.pdf>.

By Gina Figler

Special Edition of the Hudson River Valley Review

The Hudson River Valley Institute is pleased to announce the upcoming release of the fall 2009 issue of The Hudson River Valley Review, dedicated to the life and legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt. This year marks the 125th anniversary of Eleanor Roosevelt's birth as well as the 60th year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of which she was the chief writer.

The fall 2009 issue of the Review features an introduction by JoAnne Myers, a professor of Political Science and Women's Studies at Marist College and Chair of the Board of the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill. Articles on life with Eleanor at Val-Kill, Val-Kill Industries, the planned community at Arthurdale, the impact of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and a memo to President Obama on its importance are contained within the issue.



In addition, several books on Eleanor Roosevelt are reviewed, including one written by Eleanor on her own life lessons. This special edition of the Hudson River Valley Review offers readers a comprehensive view of "The First Lady of the World" and her lasting legacy.

The symposia for this issue features a Val-Kill photo essay, excerpts from the unpublished autobiography of Lorena Hickok on living at the White House and a forum on the Val-Kill his-

The Hudson River Valley Institute, located at Marist College functions as the academic arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. HRVI publishes the Hudson River Valley Review twice a year.

Subscriptions are \$20 for one year and \$35 for two years. Visit [Hudsonrivervalley.org](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org) for more information.

To get your copy of this special edition or to subscribe to the Review please call Andrew Villani at (845)575-3052 or visit our website at <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/review/subscribe.html>.

By Gina Figler and Lindsay Moreau

“Revisiting the Hudson”

In conjunction with the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art "Hudson 400" exhibitions of the voyages of Henry Hudson, Robert Fulton and Samuel Champlain, and the Department of Art History at the State University of New York at New Paltz, an all-day symposium will focus on the exhibition "The Hudson River to Niagara Falls: 19th-century American Landscape Painting from the New-York Historical Society," now on view at the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art at SUNY New Paltz through December 13th, 2009. According to the New York Times review, "Every now and then, an exhibition comes along that is so perfectly lovely that you want to shout its merits from the closest rooftop, or in this case



mountain."

The keynote speaker at the symposium on November 7th, 2009 was Linda Ferber, Senior Art Historian, The New-York Historical Society. Invited speakers addressed the cultural and historical context of the exhibition, featuring experts in the areas of sociology, social history, cultural history, geography and literary history, as well as nature, transcendentalism and business. Participating speakers included Kevin Avery, Associate Curator, Dept. of American Paintings and Sculpture, Metropolitan Museum of Art; Harvey K. Flad, Emeritus Professor of Geography, Vassar College; Kenneth Maddox, Art Historian, Newington-Cropsey Foundation; Kenneth John Myers, Curator of American Art, Head, Department of American Art, Detroit Institute of Arts; Roger Panetta, Visiting Professor of History & Curator of Hudson River Collection, Fordham University;



Linda Ferber

Kerry Dean Carso, Assistant Professor of Art History, SUNY New Paltz, and others.

On Saturday November 7th, the symposium began with a

welcome address at 8:30 a.m. Then from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. the symposium focused on "Scenes 'most impressive and delightful': Nineteenth-century Artists and Tourists in the Shawangunks, Catskills, and Hudson River Valley," by Harvey K. Flad, Professor Emeritus of Geography, from Vassar College. Also, the morning session had "Glories of the Hudson," by Evelyn Trebilcock, Curator, from Olana State Historic Site. Finally, the morning session had "The Hudson Highlands: 'A Fifty-mile

Continues on pg. 6

Featured Historian

Kyle Williams, a senior at Marist College, loves history and it seems history feels the same.

Learning about why nations developed the way they did, why policies were made the way they were, and why nations rise and fall are the main reasons why Kyle finds history fascinating. His biggest interests are in military history, which is where he believes "you see patriotism and heroism at its best." The best learning strategy, for Kyle, is trying to put himself in the shoes of soldiers and attempts to see what they saw. To do this he reads battle reports, draws maps of the military engagements, and reads letters. "I like to honor those who were before us and bring their memory alive," Kyle says of his work.

In his spare time, Kyle enjoys conducting family research. The reason and goal for doing research on his family history is to know where he's come from and what his family has done and been through. Collect-

ing old photos, letters, and military records are Kyle's main source of information and it gives him the biggest picture of his family history. At Marist College Kyle is currently taking "Introduction to Public History" with Dr. Steve Garabedian this semester, and for his final project, he scripted, filmed, and edited a short documentary.



The documentary was an annual Civil War reenactment at the Orange County Farmers' Museum in Montgomery.

Kyle is a Civil War re-enactor himself, but plays the part of the uninitiated TV reporter. Kyle says, "I've always been fascinated with the American Civil War and once my professor gave me the okay, I decided to proceed with the documentary immediately." Kyle has been a re-enactor for about seven years and when asked the question "why do re-enactors do what they do?" Kyle answers, "you learn how passionate and how serious these individuals are about authentically bringing the Civil War alive and expressing how the times where and what military life was like." He has posted the 10-minute film for viewing on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ny124th>). The video was produced entirely on his own, drawing on skills from an internship with a TV station and filmmaking classes at NYU for one year. Kyle Williams is a fascinating Marist undergrad, longtime re-enactor, and a talented filmmaker that has a bright future ahead of him as a historian.

By Joseph Ritche

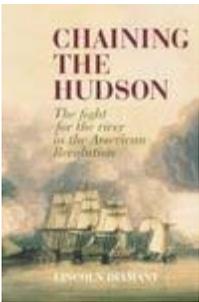
Remembering Lincoln Diamant

Lincoln Diamant. January 25, 1923 - October 20, 2009

A great author, publicist, historian and scholar of the American Revolution, Lincoln Diamant passed away on October 20, 2009, and our condolences go out to his family and friends.

Lincoln Diamant most recently authored a fine book, *Hoopla on the Hudson*, which covers in detail the 1909 Hudson-Fulton Celebration which ran from September 25 to October 9, 1909. The highlight of that Hudson River festival was Wilbur Wright's 20 mile demonstration flight over Manhattan in his Flyer on October 4, 1909. Daimant recounts how the Flyer ran into some turbulence trouble near 23rd Street at an altitude of less than two hundred feet.

Diamant also wrote *Chaining the Hudson: the Fight for the River in the American Revolution* and *DIVE! The Story of DAVID BUSHNELL and his Remarkable 1776 SUBMARINE (and TORPEDO)*. Listings of these and other works by Lincoln Dia-

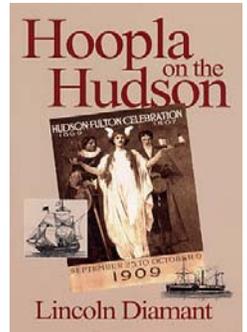


mant can be found at the Barnes and Noble site:

<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/booksearch/results.asp?ATH=Lincoln+Diamant>.

Born in New York City in 1923, Lincoln Diamant graduated from Columbia University cum laude in 1943 with a major in American History. He was a writer for CBS News before becoming a biographer and historian on the American Revolution. Daimant was a "Renaissance man" whose interests extended beyond those in the American Revolution to include golf, television broadcasting, humor, cartography, and hiking the trails along the Hudson. For his last working career, Diamant became a cost control consultant for several large corporations, drawing on his earlier experiences in radio and television advertising. This new and lucrative profession afforded him time and resources to devote to his historical research and he began a project that had always fascinated him. In 1909 Diamant's father, 23 year old freelance journalist Rudolph Diamant emigrated to America from Holland and he sent a series of news dispatches to the Dutch financial daily newspaper, *Nieuwe Rotter-*

damsche Courant. In 2003 Lincoln Daimant transcribed and transformed his father's twenty three thousand words of that first hand accounting of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration into *Hoopla on the Hudson*. This fascinating book contains many rare photographs of the celebration because most of the known ones were destroyed in the fire of 1911 in the New York State Library in Albany.



Lincoln Diamant is someone that every student of American History, especially American Revolution buffs, should look into. There is a very detailed eulogy to Diamant by a close friend that can be viewed in the online magazine, *Post-scripts*, "Larger than Life: Remembering Lincoln Diamant", (Saturday, October 31, 2009), at: <http://notorc.blogspot.com/2009/10/larger-than-life-remembering-lincoln.html>.

By Steve Grim

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The Autumn issue of the
Review is here!
Eleanor Roosevelt & her Legacy



Featuring articles on Eleanor's life, lessons, and legacy here in the Hudson Valley and around the world. Includes book reviews, photographs and an in-depth look at Eleanor's friends and family.

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Meet the Intern

Gina Figler joined the Hudson River Valley Institute this fall as a communications intern. She is a junior at Marist College and is majoring in Communications with a concentration in creative advertising and certificate in art and advertising design.

Originally from the Albany area, Gina has grown up in the Hudson Valley. She is excited to have the opportunity through HRVI to learn more about the area's rich history. At HRVI Gina is responsible for public relations and research on notable communications figures from the Valley.

In addition to her internship at



HRVI, Gina spent last summer interning at the National Museum of Dance in Saratoga Springs where she worked on marketing for the museum. This allowed her to combine her love of dance with advertising while

having the opportunity to attend a variety of amazing performances.

Gina is also a student secretary for the School of Liberal Arts and Vice President of Marist's Advertising Club. She has spent five summers working for the Big Scoop, an ice cream shop in her hometown. Gina hopes to pursue a career in copywriting for an ad agency in Manhattan upon graduation.

By Gina Figler

Heroes and Hope in the Hudson River Valley

19 year old Kevin McPartland is from Brewster, New York, has recently been elected as the 2009-2010 New York State President of the National Society of the Children of the American Revolution. The theme Kevin has chosen for his project this year is "Heroes and Hope". The project is multi-faceted and aims to achieve a number of goals: to honor Native Americans and Revolutionary War heroes, raise funds to develop the Chief Daniel Nimham memorial, raise awareness and support for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and give hope to children and adults who are living with Cystic Fibrosis.



The Children of the American Revolution was chartered by the Continental Congress in 1895. According to the official website of the N.S.C.A.R. the society is "the nation's oldest, largest, patriotic youth organization, offers membership to anyone under the age of 21, lineally descended from someone who rendered material aid to the cause of American Independence as a soldier, sailor, civil officer, or recognized patriot in one of the several Colonies or of the United States." Kevin, presently a sophomore at Boston College, became involved with the C.A.R. and the Highland Pass Soci-

ety at a young age thanks to the encouragement of his grandmother and mother, both active members of the Daughters of the American Revolution and organizers for the development of the C.A.R. chapter that covers Westchester, Putnam, and Dutchess counties. The Highland Pass society, which Kevin and his brother have been actively involved in, is another organization which is focused on American history education and the promotion of patriotism. After only a short time of existence, the Highland Pass Society was awarded the third best society in the country and this past year, when Kevin was sworn into the Presidency of the C.A.R. and his brother was sworn into the Presidency of the Highland Pass Society.

Native Americans played a significant role in American history and Kevin hopes to increase public education regarding the history and stories of the Native Americans who served our country. Chief Daniel Nimham Sachem is just one of the Native Americans war heroes who fought for the cause of independence in the Revolutionary War. Chief Daniel Nimham, of the Wappinger Indians, served as chief for thirty-eight years and fought with American forces at the battle at Kingsbridge and sided with the British in the French and Indian War. Despite their service, the Wappinger tribe was refused lands along the Hudson and forced to relocate to Stockbridge, Massachusetts. As such of the Wappinger tribesman sided with the colonies in the American Revolution. Led by Nimham, they returned

to the Hudson Valley with a company of troops. On August 31, 1778, in an attempt to drive back the British and Loyalist troops, Chief Nimham and his company were massacred by the British at what is now the Town of VanCortlandt. In Carmel, NY, there is a memorial for Chief Daniel Nimham and Kevin hopes to raise \$2,500 to add a fire pit to the memorial in order to authenticate the council circle and honor Nimham and the other Revolutionary War heroes. In a similar effort, the C.A.R. also supports Bacone College and Chemewaw Indian School, which educate American Indians.



As the state president, Kevin wanted to create a project that would impact the local Putnam and Dutchess area so that everyone can learn more about American Indians and the impact of their efforts on the United States, especially in New York State. Recently, a prayer ceremony was *Continued on pg. 6*

“Revisiting the Hudson” Continued...

Extension of Broadway," by Kenneth W. Maddox, Art Historian, from The Newington-Cropsey Foundation.

From 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. there was a lunch break as well as tours of the exhibition *The Hudson River to Niagara Falls: 19th-century American Landscape Painting from the New-York Historical Society* were available at the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art. The keynote address occurred at 1:00p.m.

The keynote was entitled: "A Geography of the Ideal: Thinking about the Hudson River and the Hudson River School," given by Linda Ferber, Senior Art Historian, from the New-York Historical Society. Finally, the symposium concluded with different lectures from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. that included: "Maya on the Hudson: Frederic Church's Cayambe and the 'Folly' of Cruger's Island," given by Kevin J. Avery, Associate Curator, Department of American Paintings and Sculpture, Metropolitan Museum of Art; Adjunct Professor, Hunter College, City University of New York. Also addressed was "Ruins on

the Hudson and Beyond: The Nineteenth-century Delight in Decay," given by Kerry Dean Carso, Assistant Professor of Art History, SUNY New Paltz; "Thomas Cole: The Artist as Conservationist," David Schuyler, Arthur and Katherine Shadek Professor of the Humanities and Professor of American Studies, Franklin and Marshall College; "The Parlor in the Landscape: Nineteenth-Century Picnic Paintings and the Invention of a Middle-Class National Identity," Reynolds J. Scott-Childress, Assistant Professor of History, SUNY New Paltz; "William Wade's 1847 Panorama of the Hudson River from New York to Albany: Reading the Land-

scape," Roger Panetta, Visiting Professor of History, Fordham University. Promotional support for this symposium was given by the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art. To view the program and schedule for this event please visit <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/about/pdfs/newsclippings/symposium2.pdf>. To learn more about the State University of New York at New Paltz please visit their website at <http://www.newpaltz.edu/>. If you would like to learn more about the Samuel Dorsky Museum, including their exhibits and programs, please go to <http://www.newpaltz.edu/museum/>.

By Elizabeth Vielkind



Heroes and Hope, Continued...

held as part of the Nimham Intertribal PowWow, which C.A.R. members attended. The ceremony was led by Gil "Cryinghawk" Tarboxx, the leader of the Nimham Mountain singers, which is a group that began the Chief Daniel Nimham Intertribal Powwow nine years ago in order to educate the public about Native Americans and raise funds for the Chief Daniel Nimham Wappinger memorial. The prayer ceremony preceded and blessed the Powwow, the earth, the Wappinger Memorial, and the veterans of all wars including Native American veterans. Kevin hopes that Gil "Cryinghawk" Tarboxx's dedication will increase the amount of visitors and support needed to ensure that Putnam and Dutchess Counties always remember its Wappinger heritage and Chief Daniel Nimham.

Kevin's project seeks to not only honor war heroes, but also children



and adults who are battling Cystic Fibrosis daily. This year the 1st Annual Great Strides Walk to Cure Cystic Fibrosis was held at Putnam Veterans Memorial Park in Kent, NY on May 30, 2009, which rose over \$10,000. Kevin sells silk roses as part of a project that is aimed at finding a cure for Cystic Fibrosis." The rose simultaneously represents local efforts as the state flower of New York and also a universal symbol of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The pins that Kevin sells are also a comprehensive symbol with significant meaning. On the pin there are thirteen gold stars, which represent the thirteen original colonies, the

Hudson River, which celebrates the quadricentennial event, the rising sun and soaring eagle, which represents Native Americans, and red, white, and blue, which represent the United States.

Heroes and Hope is an ambitious project, which aims to honor those who have fought for our country and those who continue to fight Cystic Fibrosis daily. The project owes its ongoing success to Kevin's enthusiasm and dedication and the participation and support of members of the C.A.R. and Hudson Valley community who have so graciously contributed their time and energy. If you are interested in purchasing Heroes & Hope items, Kevin can be reached at nysscarnpres@aol.com.

By Maxine Presto

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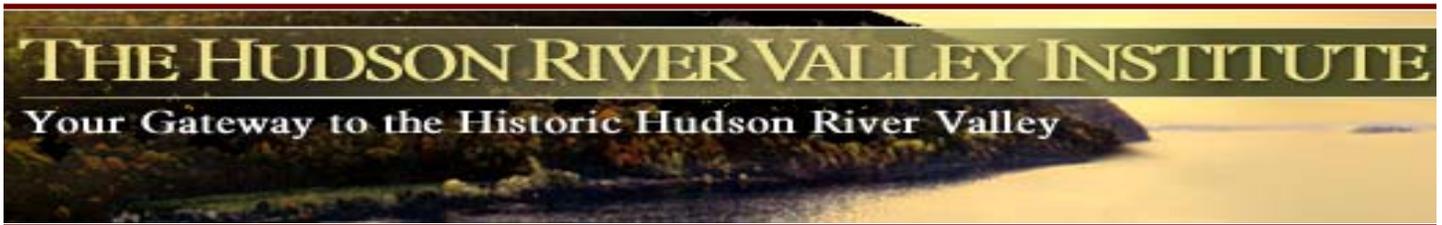
*The Hudson River Valley:
"The Landscape that Defined America"*

The Hudson River Valley is one of only 37 congressionally designated National Heritage Areas in the United States. As one of the most important regions in the United States, it is the fountainhead of a truly American identity. Recognizing the area's national value, Congress formed the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area in 1996 to recognize, preserve, protect, and interpret the nationally-significant history and resources of the valley for the benefit of the nation.

The Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI) is the academic arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Its mission is to study and 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.

As the center for the study of the Hudson River Valley, the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College is the central hub for information about the region that Congress called "the Landscape that defined America."

www.hudsonrivervalley.org



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