

HRVI October 2009 Newsletter

HRVI



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Hudson River Valley Institute

The Hudson River Valley Institute has seen many thrilling events over the past several months. What has been an eventful summer quickly turned into a landmark fall. This summer saw the release of our special Quadricentennial edition of the Hudson River Valley Review, as well as Quadricentennial events and a new website for HRVI.

This fall hosted the culmination of Quadricentennial events with the opening of the Walkway over the Hudson and the “New York’s 400 Years” Conference. This fall has also marked new publications by HRVI. America’s First River,

premiered at the “New York’s 400 Years” conference. America’s First River combines the best and greatest articles from the Hudson River Valley Review over the years into one book.

Now that it is late October, with a busy few months behind us, you would think that HRVI could take a moment to rest. No can do. We are devoted to letting everyone know about the splendors and history that the Hudson River Valley has to offer.

What’s next? Well, this week HRVI has just released it’s newest edition of the HRVR. This is another monumental edi-

tion for HRVI as it commemorates Eleanor Roosevelt on the celebration of her 125th birthday this fall.

If you would like to purchase your copy of the Hudson River Valley Review or River of Tides please contact Andrew Villani at (845)575-3052. Or if you would like to know more about any of the mentioned summer/fall events please visit our website at <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/>

By Katie Garrison

Play Review: “The River of Tides”

“The River of Tides: A Play about Henry Hudson’s Journey on the River That Came to Bear His Name” marked the conclusion of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Conference at Marist College on September 27, 2009.

Four-hundred years ago in 1609, Henry Hudson sailed up the Hudson River on the Half Moon in an attempt to discover the Northwest Passage, a shortcut to the East Indies. Although Hudson did not successfully find the passage, he



did discover the river that now bears his name. The journey from the New York Harbor to the Tap-

pan Zee and the return downstream is detailed in the journals of Robert Juet, Hudson’s first mate. The play illustrates a historical recreation based on stories from Juet’s Journal to reveal a dualistic interpretation of the events as told by a Dutch narrator, Henry, and a narrator who presents the perspective of the Native Americans, Hendrick.

The play opens with silence followed by a screen displaying a montage of Native American artwork, accompanied by drum and song-based music, which help the

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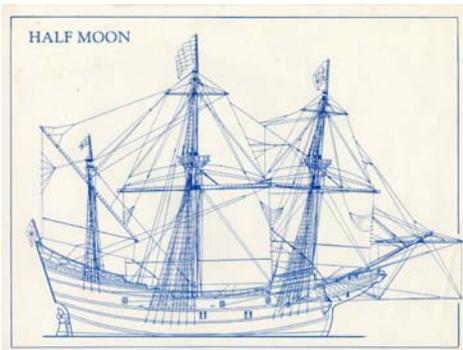
Special points of interest:

- *Catch-up with the HRVI*
- *Featured Historian and Historic Site*
- *New Hudson River Valley Review*

The Half Moon: Then and Now

The 1609 Journal of the Half Moon's First Mate Robert Juet

Henry Hudson's first mate Robert Juet kept a journal of the Half Moon's 1609 journey from Amsterdam, Holland, to what is now named Maine, the Delaware Bay, and the Hudson River Valley from Manhattan to Albany. Juet's



journal of Hudson's third voyage to the new world appeared in a 1625 London publication called *Purchase His Pilgrimes* by Samuel Purchase. A fully transcribed version of Juet's Journal from Purchase's 1625 Edition was prepared by Brea Barthel for the New Netherland Museum and its replica ship, the Half Moon. The New Netherland Museum's Web Site at <http://www.halfmoon.mus.ny.us/> allows

you to view two transcribed versions of Juet's Journal which have the same content but the "Revised Edition" is a little easier to read. The last journal entries just before the departure for England on October 4th reveal the tension that was building between the explorers and the natives.

Although Hudson's original mission of finding a Northeast Passage to the Orient for The Dutch East India Company didn't pan out, the potential of the Hudson River Valley to become an important trade center was realized very quickly. The Dutch settling of our region was more than just incidental and the entire region from the Delaware Bay up to Albany and over to the Connecticut River became New Netherland. However, the fate of Henry Hudson at the hands of his crew, including First Mate Juet, during the mutiny of the *Discovery* during the Arctic expedition of 1610-1611 is a reminder of the cost of exploration back then. Juet himself died of starvation in the Atlantic on the *Discovery's* return home.

The Half Moon on the Hudson Today

The New Netherland Museum operates their 1989 full scale replica of the "Halve Maen" as a living historical traveling museum dedicated to public education. The fully operational Half Moon spends

most of its time sailing throughout the historic waters of New Netherland on the Hudson River, venturing out to the Delaware Bay and the Connecticut River, and has been out as far as Lake Michigan and down to North Carolina. Down in the Half Moon's hold are a properly maintained diesel engine and the latest state-of-the-art navigational equipment to allow for modern safety coupled with authentically detailed and functional sail power.



The New Netherland Museum trains volunteer crew members of all ages for the Half Moon. Visitors are treated onboard to the accurate replication of the sea life of the Dutch East India Company as it was 400 years ago. Those interested in working with the Half Moon project should visit <http://www.hrmm.org/halfmoon/manual.htm> for a look at the Historical Interpretation Training

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Meet the Intern: Joe Ritchie

Joe Ritchie is one of our newest additions to the Hudson River Valley Institute intern team. An Accounting major at Marist College, in Poughkeepsie, Ritchie is a first-semester transfer student who recently graduated from Dutchess Community College.

Even though Ritchie has been interning for only six weeks, he has already contributed to the HRVI by writing biographies on local sports stars and volunteering at the Quadricentennial celebrations. He is interested in the history of warfare, including the rich history in our very own backyard. He enjoys talking pop culture and sports with other members of the HRVI team.



Recently finishing up a three-year stint at the Pepsi-Cola of the Hudson Valley plant in Newburgh, Ritchie is employed at the LaGrange A&P part-time during his hectic semester.

When Joe is not in school, interning for HRVI, or working at the A&P, he enjoys playing basketball with his friends, mountain biking, running, hanging out with his girlfriend, watching mov-

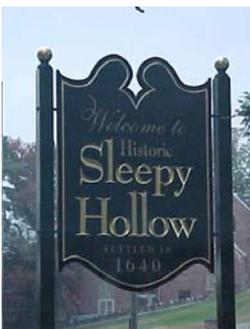
ies, and following his favorite sports teams. Ritchie is a die-hard Yankees and Knicks fan, but he cheers for most of the New York area-sports teams, such as the Nets, Jets, and Giants. Ritchie attends dozens of games a year with his friends and family.

Ritchie is currently researching other internships and job leads past his term at HRVI in the business and accounting field, with hopes of landing a job post-graduation in either New York City or Washington, D.C.

By Joe Ritchie

Featured Historic Site: Sleepy Hollow

The historic village of Sleepy Hollow lies on the eastern side of the Hudson River 25 miles north of Manhattan. The village was immortalized in Washington Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow".



According to the legend, a gawky young man by the name of Ichabod Crane was riding home one night after courting the lovely Katrina Van Tassel when he

encountered the ghost of a headless horseman and was never heard from again. However, in addition to its famous fictional residents, Sleepy Hollow was once home to some of the first



Dutch settlers in the Hudson Valley, and then later to millionaires like John D. Rockefeller. Centuries of history come alive for visitors of this quiet village.

In 1664, a Dutchman named Frederick Philipse purchased Sleepy Hollow and the surrounding areas as part of the Pocantico Purchase and became the village's first settler. The area remained an agricultural center until the 1800's when industry found its way to Sleepy Hollow with the opening of a GM plant. The newly industrial area was renamed North Tarrytown and began to attract affluent millionaires like

Anson Phelps and John D. Rockefeller. The increased industrialization caused many to fear that the village would lose sight of its historic past, so in the 1940's John D. Rockefeller began the Philipsburg Manor Restoration. This effort restored the old manor and mill that once belonged to the village's original resident, Frederick Philipse. In 1996, the village finally voted to restore the name of the area to Sleepy Hollow.

Several local historic sites are open to the public. The Philipsburg Manor offers visitors a firsthand look at circa 1700's farming and milling center. The manor offers tours with guides dressed in period costumes



and hands-on traditional manor activities like biscuit baking and ox

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Featured Historian: David Hackett Fischer

David Hackett Fischer is one of the finest American history writers today. This veteran Professor of History at Brandeis University has turned out one dazzling study after another. Fischer received his B.A. from Princeton University and his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University. His major works have tackled everything from large macroeconomic and cultural trends illustrated eloquently in his books *Albion's Seed*, and *The Great Wave*; to narrative pieces of significant historical events including *Paul Revere's Ride* and *Washington's Crossing*; to explorations of historiography found in *Historian's Fallacies*.

Fischer is best known for his major study *Albion's Seed*, which argued that core aspects of American culture stem from several different British folkways and regional cultures. Another one of his major studies is the Pulitzer-Prize winning *Washington's Crossing*, which is a



narrative of George Washington's leadership of the Continental Army during the winter of 1776-1777 during the American Revolutionary War.

His most recent publication, *Champlain's Dream*, was published in 2008 and was an exploration of Samuel de Champlain, the French explorer and founder of Quebec City. David Hackett Fischer was the keynote speaker on Friday September 25, 2009 at a conference hosted by the Hudson River Valley Institute celebrating the 400th anniversary of Henry Hud-

son's voyage in 1609. The conference was held at the Henry A. Wallace Visitors and Education Center, within the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library in Hyde Park, New York. On Friday, there were sessions on the Hudson as "America's First River" as a "Corridor of Commerce," with the keynote speaker discussing Samuel de Champlain in his address entitled "War and a Dream of Peace." Fischer discussed the French explorer and navigator who mapped much of Northeastern North America and started a settlement in Quebec. After his lecture, Fischer took questions from the audience. Fischer helped celebrate the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage with his insight and expertise on Samuel de Champlain.

By Elizabeth Vielkind

Play Review: “The River of Tides,” Continued...

audience enter into the world that existed before Hudson’s discovery. The narrators, Henry and Hendrick, enter the stage; Henry, dressed in seventeenth century attire, and Hendrick, dressed in jeans and a t-shirt. The narrators discuss their different interpretations of Hudson’s voyage: Henry elaborates on the great and epic discovery of new land, while Hendrick acknowledges that the Natives perceived it as an arrival of uninvited visitors. The tension between the two men is made evident immediately.

The structure of the play provides a clear introduction and illustration of the conflict that existed on the Hudson in 1609. The excerpts from Juet’s journal and their re-enactment fully developed the contrasting perspectives of the Native Americans and Europeans in an effort to help the audience understand the deep-rooted, internal differences between the cultures. It becomes clear that the Hudson River is truly a river of physical and metaphorical tides.

There are two moments in the play, which drive the message of the play home. As Hendrick articulates the history of European mistreatment and slaughter

of Native Americans, a line of Native Americans walk silently between the two narrators, which provides the audience with a moving visual of the displacement and destruction of the indigenous culture. A bit later, a young Native American boy is shot and the audience is unsettled by the loud and unexpected sound of a fired musket. Henry Hudson’s laughter accompanies this scene. The jarring visual and audible nature of these two moments appeals to the senses of the audience, which evokes emotion that complements the largely intellectual nature of the play.

The resolution that follows the climax, embodied by the firing of the musket, is well-placed and reveals the carefully constructed narrative arc, as the tension between the two narrators is unraveled and the message of the play is explicitly revealed. This resolution is achieved by Henry’s visual and vocalized shame and Hendrick’s acknowledgement that the story must be told, in order to convey constructive messages, which prevent the repetition of cruel historical events.

Pace University’s Geoffrey L. Brackett commissioned Joseph Bruchac, who is of Abenaki descent and a professional storyteller of traditional Native American people. Bruchac received a number of awards including the 1999 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native Writers Circle of the Americas. Bruchac, along with the National Museum of the American Indian, seeks to preserve, study, and share the life and culture of the Native Americans. Dr. Ruis Woertendyke, Geoffrey L. Brackett, Eileen Curley and the cast successfully carried out this goal in the production and performance of “The River of Tides.”

For more information on “The River of Tides” please visit www.pace.edu. If you would like to know more about the “New York’s 400 Years” Conference or to view the webcast please visit <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/>.

By Maxine Presto

Fall Edition of the Hudson River Valley Review

Special Eleanor Roosevelt Edition

POUGHKEEPSIE—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. The issue contains 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.

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 historic site. 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 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 www.hudsonrivervalley.org for more information.

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

The Hudson River Valley Institute

The Half Moon: Then and Now, Continued...

Manual prepared by the New Netherland Museum for docents working out of the Hudson River Maritime Museum. The New Netherland Museum has its headquarters in Albany at: New Netherland Museum P.O. Box 10609 Albany, NY 12201

If you would like to visit the Half Moon, the Fall 2009 schedule from the Museum's Web Site at <http://www.newnetherland.org/> includes the following dates for public viewing:

October 17-18, 24-25 and 31: Yonkers Public Tours. The Half Moon will be open on Saturdays and Sundays in Yonkers NY.

November 2-8: Newburgh Half Moon Public Tours.

Readers might also be interested in checking these following sites for more information about the history of New Netherland and the Half Moon:

The Hudson River Maritime Museum at <http://www.hmmm.org/halfmoon/1609moon.htm>

The Holland Society of NY at <http://www.hollandsociety.com/index1.html>

The New Netherland Project at

<http://www.nnp.org/>

The Half Moon and New Netherland Museum at <http://www.halfmoon.mus.ny.us/livinghistory.htm>

Poughkeepsie Journal Interactive site of the Half Moon up the Hudson at <http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/hudson/media/journey.shtml>

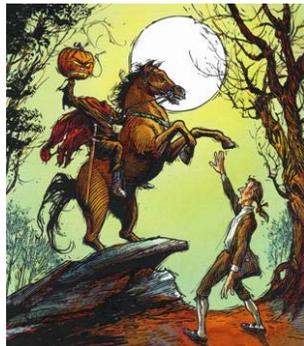
By Steve Grim

Featured Historic Site, Continued...

grooming. Additionally, the manor was once home to 23 slaves, and is one of the few places where the story of slaves in the colonial north can be heard. Kykuit, the mansion home of John D. Rockefeller is open for tours. Visitors get the chance to explore the six story house, sculpture gardens and coach barn that once belonged to the richest man in the world. Guided, informational tours are available.

The Old Dutch Church and burial grounds are also popular attractions. The church, which is the oldest in New York, was the backdrop for Ichabod Crane's fateful encounter and is still used on holidays and special occasions. Three

centuries of memorabilia are on display in the balcony. The church's burial grounds are home to some of the oldest Dutch settlers, including Eleanor Van Tassel Butch, Irving's inspiration for Katrina Van Tassel. Irving himself is buried in the newer, adjacent Sleepy



Hollow Cemetery.

In addition to the traditional historic sites, Halloween brings this quiet village to life. A Haunted Hayride based on Irving's legend follows Ichabod Crane's path through town. The Phillipsburg Manor hosts Legend Weekends in October, where guests are invited to wander the manor by candle light and hear the tales of the Headless Horseman and other local haunts. For more information on Sleepy Hollow tourism and events visit www.sleepyhollowny.gov.

By Gina Figler

HAPPY 125th BIRTHDAY ELEANOR ROOSEVELT!!!



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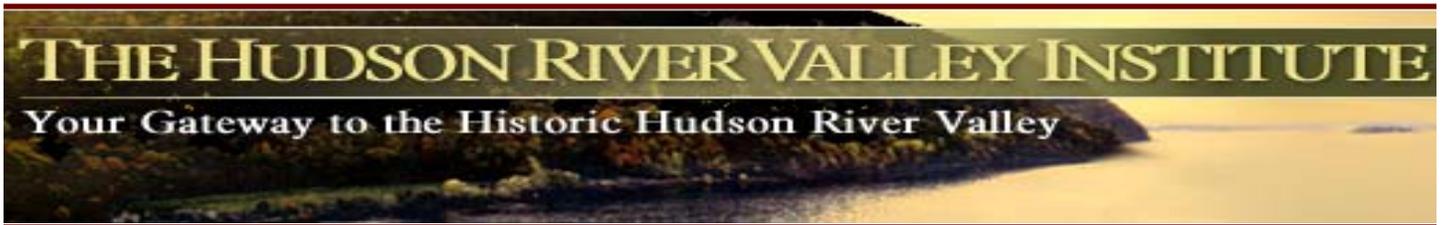
*The Hudson River Valley:
"The Landscape that Defined America"*

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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