



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Hudson River Valley Institute

The Academic Arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

Illuminating the Overlooked: Workers' History in the Hudson River Valley

Magnificent mansions dot the Hudson River Valley's landscape. From the Staatsburgh State Historic Site to Springwood, estates of the region reflect many important historical eras. However, by only focusing on these estates and their affluent owners, people fail to take into account the many laborers who toiled to ensure their beauty.

Scholars have been diligently uncovering these workers' stories, and their research will be the focus of a symposium. On April 1 The Great Estates Consortium will present "Below Stairs: In Service to the Great Estates," at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, located in Hyde Park, New York. The event was organized in cooperation with the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, with additional funding provided by the Hudson River Valley Greenway, Stair Galleries and Restoration, and Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation.

Participants in this symposium will have the opportunity to listen to and learn from eminent scholars and historians. Such scholars in-

clude Dr. Robin D. Campbell of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Professor Myra Young Armstead of Bard College, Dr. Margaret Lynch-Brennan of the New York State Education Department, Mr. Frank Futral of the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, and Mr. J. Winthrop Aldrich of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.

The topics range from a general examination of services provided by these workers, to a study of Irish immigrant women who were em-

ployed as domestic servants. Additionally, the symposium will analyze the work performed by African Americans on these estates prior to the Civil War era, as well as explore how the architects designed the mansions' domestic spaces.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to tour Springwood, the home of Franklin D. Roosevelt. For more information on this exceptional opportunity call (845) 889-8851.

~ Lauren Santangelo



<http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net/presscenter/newsClippings/Estatesflyer.pdf>

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Special points of interest:

- Please be sure to consult the HRVI website, as we are constantly updating our content.

Featured Historic Town—Haverstraw

The town of Haverstraw, New York sits about 45 minutes north of New York City, on the west bank of the Hudson River. However, the town's distance from this vital port city has not prevented it from playing a prominent role in the region's history.

In 1609, employed by the Dutch East India Company, Henry Hudson navigated the Hudson River in search of the northwest passage. On his return trip, he anchored his boat at Haverstraw Harbor. It was during this voyage that Hudson claimed the region for the Dutch. Soon after, in 1616, the Haverstraw area appeared on an early map with the name Haverstroo, the Dutch word meaning oat straw.

During the American Revolution, the town played a role in the infamous André-Arnold plot. In 1780, General Benedict Arnold and Major John André of the English Royal Army furtively met in the town to negotiate André's purchase of the plans for West Point. If this strategy had gone according to

plan, the American Revolution might have had a very different outcome.

Beginning during this era and continuing to World War II, Haverstraw was at the heart of brick production for the nation. Jason Van Dyke started the industry in 1771 by making brick from hand, using the naturally abundant clay located under the banks of the Hudson River. By 1883, there were 42 brickyards in the area, shipping over 300 million bricks in a given year. Brickyards flourished until 1941, when the last brickyard was closed due to increased competition, the Great Depression's effect, and the invention of more versatile building materials.

Finally, by helping to establish the New York State Hospital for the Care of Crippled and Deformed Children in 1900, Governor Theodore Roosevelt influenced the social history of Haverstraw. The hospital opened in 1905 and soon became renowned for its rehabili-

tation and research programs; it is now Helen Hayes Hospital.

Haverstraw's history is one filled with inspiring tales of discovery and gripping stories of betrayal. Haverstraw, the town that was key in the discovery of colonial America, important to the American Revolution, and also influential in the development of industry, manifests the important role that the Hudson River Valley has played in the nation's growth and evolution.

Additional sites of interest include the Haverstraw Brick Museum, <http://www.haverstrawbrickmuseum.org/pages/1/index.htm>.

~Christine Caiazzi

Editor's Note: This information was synthesized from www.townofhaverstraw.us/toh_main.php?history=2&ourHistory=1&home=1§ion=history

Featured Website – Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum contains over 17,000,000 pages of documents, over 150,000 photographs, thousands of hours of recorded speeches, several motion pictures, and other various printed materials. In order to allow people to easily engage these documents, the FDR library has created an outstanding website, www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/index.html.

This digital archive consists of over 9,000 documents, including incoming and outgoing correspondence, memoranda, newspaper clippings and other printed materials from 1933 to 1945. The majority of the documents that have been digitized are from the President's Secretary's file, including: The Confidential Files, The Diplomatic Files, The Department Files, The Subject Files, and The Safe Files. The digitized documents appear as the original version as well as a

transcription.

Furthermore, the digital archive holds over 2,000 photographs illustrating Franklin's and Eleanor's lives, the Great Depression, and World War II. Additionally, the collection provides 15 selected speeches and a wide array of video clips. Finally, it also contains a reference to other sites that have documents pertaining to Roosevelt, such as the F.D.R. Cartoon Library and the National Archives and Records Administration.

Besides providing a wealth of primary sources for historians, the site is also a useful tool for teachers and students. For ex-

ample, in the education section, a visitor is able to find items ranging from timelines to the Roosevelt rap.

While the museum and research library merit a visit, the website provides people with an exciting way to explore the 1930s and 1940s by simply logging onto the internet.

~ Matthew Hittenmark



ER and Eisenhower at Hyde Park
<http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/images/photodb/09-2430a.gif>

Featured Historic Site—Cedar Grove

Tucked away amid the Catskill Mountains is Cedar Grove, the home of Thomas Cole. Cole was a famous poet and artist who sought inspiration in this region throughout the mid-19th century. Significantly, his artwork fostered the growth of the Hudson River School of Art.

Due to its remarkable beauty, Cole began to frequent the village of Catskill in 1825. Soon after, he rented a small outbuilding on the Cedar Grove property. At the time, Cedar Grove was a farm owned by the local merchant, John A. Thomson. Cole made Cedar Grove his permanent home in 1836 when he married Maria Bartow, one of Thomson's nieces.

Cole found inspiration in the radiance of Cedar Grove and its grand view of the Catskill Mountains. He became increasingly concerned with the impact of industrial growth on his muse—the Catskills—and created paintings to help capture the beauty of the Hudson River Valley region.

To assuage financial anxieties, Cole also instructed students in the 1840s. Importantly, his first student was Frederic E. Church, another renowned



http://www.hudsonrivervalley.com/index.cfm?section_id=6&page_id=68

Hudson River School of Art painter, who studied with Cole for two years at Cedar Grove.

After Cole's death on February 11, 1848, his descendents tried to preserve the painter's legacy at Cedar Grove. Ultimately, their work proved to be fruitful and in the late 1980s the National Park Service recognized Cedar Grove's importance. On Cole's 200th birthday in

2001, Cedar Grove was opened to the public.

Cole's home, a Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area site, now hosts a series of exhibits. For instance, opening on May 7, 2006 is an exhibit that focuses on another 19th century American landscape painter, Jasper Cropsey. Additionally, the site is now part of the Hudson River School of Art Trail, linking it to other sites important to regional art history.

For more information on exhibits, operating hours, and fees visit <http://www.thomascole.org/index.html> or call (518) 943-7465. Information on the Hudson River School of Art Trail can be found at http://www.thomascole.org/follow_introduction.htm, and more information about the Hudson River School of Art is located at <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net/themes/linksearch.php?id=6>.

~ Gemma Edwardo

Upcoming Historic Hudson Events

During the upcoming months, the region will begin to host a plethora of historic events, reenactments, and lectures, which will continue throughout the summer months. However, the beginnings of this flood can be witnessed in the month of April. History enthusiasts can find a listing of many of these events at the Hudson River Valley Institute's website, <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net>.

Included in these worthwhile April activities are "Sheep-to-Shawl" at the Philipsburg Manor from April 22-23. At this event, instructors will demonstrate sheep shearing techniques, and help visitors follow the necessary 18th century steps to turn wool into cloth. Besides this exciting and informative event, the Van Cortlandt Manor is hold-

ing cooking workshops. On April 22, the Manor will hold a workshop that will instruct participants how to create 18th century pies and dishes. Additionally, on April 29-30, the Van Cortlandt Manor will host "Hands-on-Heritage Crafts." Participants will have the opportunity to engage in a number of crafts, including spinning, weaving, candle-making, quilting, and butter churning.

Information on all these events can be obtained at www.hudsonvalley.org/calendar/index.htm. These enthralling April events foreshadow the many Hudson River Valley happenings that will take place in the upcoming months.

~ Lauren Santangelo



<http://www.hudsonvalley.org/calendar/index.htm>

Meet the Interns— Jennifer Webber



Jennifer Webber is a senior, who is majoring in digital media and pursuing a certificate in art and advertising design. As a first year intern for the Hudson River Valley Institute, Jennifer is responsible for producing their media materials. She has designed and created invitations, gathered images for *The Hudson River Valley Review*, produced a press kit, and served as the newsletter's Art Director.

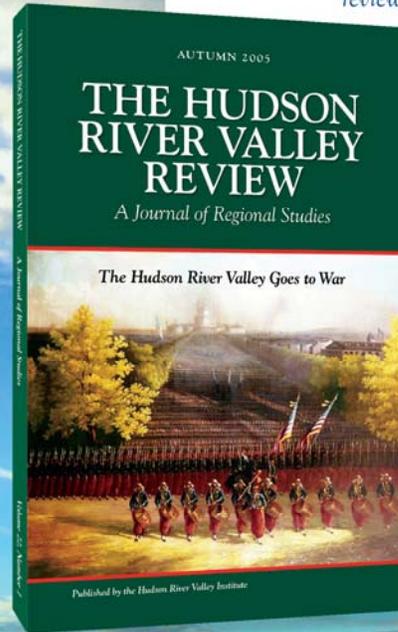
In the Marist community, Jennifer has been involved with Campus Ministry, Resident Student Council, and Intramural Volleyball. Additionally, she is dedicated to her studies, achieving Dean's List every semester.

Upon graduating in May, Jennifer plans to pursue a career in print production. She hopes to begin this career with an advertising agency or a magazine publisher, working with photo corrections and print layouts.

~ Jennifer Webber

An interdisciplinary journal dedicated to our region

publishing essays, poems, photographs, paintings, documents, and book and art reviews, ready to consider all forms of intellectual achievement...



As the academic arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College is increasing public awareness about the significance of America's First River in the history of New York and the United States. Its mission is to study and to promote the Hudson River Valley.

To subscribe or learn more, visit www.hudsonrivervalley.org/hrvr.php or call 845-575-3052

Hudson River Valley Review
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Meet the Interns — Gemma Edwardo

Gemma Edwardo, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a junior economics major pursuing a minor in public history. As an intern at the Hudson River Valley Institute, Gemma creates informational guidebooks on historic sites throughout the Hudson River Valley. Upon completion, these will be available on the HRVI's website.

In addition, Gemma's individual project focuses on researching the many as-

pects of slavery in the Hudson Valley. After graduating from Marist College, Gemma plans to pursue a master's degree in economics.

~ Gemma Edwardo



Contact Us

The Hudson River Valley is one of only 27 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, to preserve, to protect, and to interpret the nationally-significant history and resources of the Valley for the benefit of the nation.

As the center for the study of the Hudson River Valley, the Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI) at Marist College is the central hub for informa-

tion about the region. HRVI serves heritage tourists, scholars, elementary and secondary school educators, environmental organizations, the business community, and the general public seeking to know more about the region that Congress called "the Landscape that defined America."

www.hudsonrivervalley.org

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