



# Alexander Hamilton Exhibit Debuts in Poughkeepsie

Beginning on January 14th and concluding on February 24th, Poughkeepsie will host “Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America,” an exhibit which explores the Founding Father’s life and legacy. The traveling exhibit was organized by the New-York Historical Society, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and the American Library Association, with the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College providing lectures. The comprehensive exhibit traces Hamilton’s life from a poor immigrant through his legacy as a Founding Father.

Along with the exhibit are a plethora of activities and events that revolve around Hamilton’s life, achievements, and impact. As alluded to, these programs include the Alexander Hamilton Sunday Colloquia at the MHLS Auditorium. Standing in front of statues of Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton dueling, Willard Sterne Randall began this lecture series with his presentation, “Freedom of the Press and Liberty for All,” on January 15th. By recognizing that most Americans only know three facts about Hamilton (he was Secretary of the Treasury, he is on the ten dollar bill, and he died in a duel), Randall masterfully touched upon topics that only receive cursory attention in many history textbooks. In particular, Randall stressed Hamilton’s arguments for the manumission of slaves in the nascent nation. The lecture concluded with members of the approximately fifty-five



*Willard Sterne Randall’s lecture, “Freedom of the Press and Liberty for All,” at the MHLS Auditorium. Photo Credit: Debora Susan Shon*

person audience asking nuanced questions about Hamilton’s life. Other upcoming speakers include Dr. Joanne Freeman (“The Duel”), Dr. Martin Shaffer (“Alexander Hamilton: The Federalist”), and Dr. Nicholas Marshall (“The Finance of America”).

In addition to the lectures, the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, with the aid of the City of Poughkeepsie, is holding local history trolley tours on Thursday mornings as well as a book discussion on David McCullough’s *1776*. Furthermore, for families with young children, Jonathan Kruk and folk balladeer Rich Bala will tell the story of the Hud-

son River Valley on February 20th.

As the first lecture foreshadows, this exhibit’s time in Poughkeepsie promises to be exciting as well as educational. For more information contact the City of Poughkeepsie’s Event Line at (845) 451-4088 or <http://www.poklib.org>.

~Lauren Santangelo

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## Special points of interest:

- Please be sure to consult the HRVI website, as we are constantly updating our content
- A list of the new interns at the Hudson River Valley Institute can be found on page 3

## Featured Historic Site— Locust Grove

If a traveler on Route 9 in Poughkeepsie looks beyond the many fast food restaurants, stores, and businesses, she is sure to be amazed by the beauty of Locust Grove. Locust Grove, a National Historic Landmark since 1963, is most famous for being Samuel F. B. Morse's home. Morse, the inventor of the electromagnetic telegraph, lived in the home with his family from 1847-1872. Prior to the inventor's purchase of the land and remodeling of the home, the estate was owned by Henry Livingston Jr., and John and Isabella Montgomery.

Locust Grove is defined by its outstanding architecture and striking gardens. While the home Morse purchased was in the Georgian style, with the aid of the prominent architect Alexander Jackson Davis, Morse was able to create a villa in the Tuscan style. Besides witnessing the marvelous architecture, visitors to the home also have

the opportunity to view material culture from the 18th and 19th centuries. The Young family (the family who purchased the home from Samuel Morse's heirs) played a significant role in assembling this collection. Included in



*Library at Locust Grove*

<http://www.morsehistoricsite.org/history/library.html>

the collection of luxurious artifacts are mahogany chairs, splendid artwork, and beautiful vases. The house is further highlighted by the many gardens that surround it. Visitors can explore the gardens through self-guided and/or guided tours.

Finally, the visitor center provides a variety of opportunities for visitors to discover the history of the home and its residents. Significantly, this spring, the visitor center will host "Anne Frank in the World, 1929-1945." The exhibit is sure to draw more attention to the elegant home.

For information on tours, hours of operation, and fees visit <http://www.morsehistoricsite.org/visiting/hours.html> or call (845) 454-4500.

~Lauren Santangelo

## Featured Historic Website— Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, founded in 1994, has created an exceptional website that will benefit teachers, students, and the general public alike. The website showcases the many events, programs, and awards that the Institute has created and funded for the benefit of all persons passionate about history. Additionally, the website provides a helpful calendar of upcoming events on American history, particularly those at the New-York Historical Society.

However, the most enthralling aspect of the website is the many primary sources that the Institute has digitally archived. More specifically, included under "Treasures of the Collection" is a list of chronological eras, which are illuminated through primary sources, including Paul Revere's "The Bloody

Massacre." The sources the Institute has digitally archived on its website are all easily navigable and many are transcribed for ease of reading.

Besides the rich online collection, the website is also an extraordinary tool for teachers of American history. Most significantly, for educators, the Institute has compiled a plethora of modules for teaching American history. The modules, prepared by Steven Mintz (the John and Rebecca Moores Professor of History at the University of Houston), explore every period of American history from "the Revolutionary War" to "September 11<sup>th</sup>," and include such interesting themes as "the Tumultuous 1960s" and "America at the End of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century." Each module contains a brief overview, a link to worthwhile primary sources, a

quiz, a timeline, and a recommended list of other sources.

In sum, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History's website, [www.gilderlehrman.org](http://www.gilderlehrman.org), provides an outstanding avenue through which to explore American history. The website masterfully interweaves information on upcoming events, opportunities for awards, as well as provides access to important primary sources, which reflect significant time periods in American history.

<http://www.gilderlehrman.org>

~Lauren Santangelo

## Featured Historic City— Newburgh

Newburgh, New York, a city on the west side of the Hudson River, has witnessed and played a role in the evolution of New York State as well as the United States. Before Europeans traversed the Atlantic Ocean, Newburgh was home to the Waoranek people of the Algonquin nation's Lenape tribe. In 1609, Henry Hudson was the first European to explore the area. Exactly a century after Hudson's exploration, the first European settlers, the Palatines, arrived in Newburgh.

However, Newburgh is likely best known for the city's role in the American Revolution. With the outbreak of radical fervor, Newburgh created a Committee of Safety to govern the city for the remainder of the war. During the last year of the Revolution, General George Washington made Newburgh his headquarters. In Newburgh, Washington squelched a boiling military rebellion, and also awarded the first Badge of Merit, the forerunner to the Purple Heart.

In the 19th century, Newburgh rapidly grew in population. Based on its strategic transportation location, New-

burgh also flourished as a commercial center in the Hudson Valley, becoming important for both international and regional trade. During the Civil War, industries, especially in cannon carriages and woolen blankets, thrived. Besides Washington, in the 19th century, Newburgh has also welcomed such prominent Americans as Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony.

During the early 20th century, manufacturing and industry continued to grow in Newburgh. However, with new transportation technology and the rise of chain stores, Newburgh quickly witnessed a severe decline.

Fortunately, in the past few decades, Newburgh has been restored. Through this restoration, many historic homes have been salvaged, allowing future visitors and residents to have an opportunity to explore the past. Most remarkably, Newburgh's waterfront has been transformed to again allow people to enjoy

the majesty of the Hudson River's beauty. Notable historic sites and research facilities in Newburgh include: The Historical Society of Newburgh Bay and the Highlands at the Crawford House ([www.newburghhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.newburghhistoricalsociety.com)), The Newburgh Free Library ([www.newburghlibrary.org](http://www.newburghlibrary.org)), and Washington's Headquarters ([www.nysparks.com/sites/info.asp?siteID=30](http://www.nysparks.com/sites/info.asp?siteID=30)).

~ Lauren Santangelo



<http://www.newburgh-ny.com/hist/today.htm>

*Editor's Note: This information was synthesized from <http://www.newburgh-ny.com/hist/index.htm>*

## Spring 2006 Interns

The Hudson River Valley Institute is proud to introduce its roster of Interns (and the topics they are studying) for the Spring 2006 semester:

Lauren Santangelo—Internship Coordinator

Christine Caiazzi— Native Americans

Daniel Calandro — Henry Hudson

Jessica Campilango — *The Hudson River Valley Review*

Gemma Edwardo— Slavery

Matthew Hittenmark— Robert Fulton

David Sabatino— Samuel de Champlain

Jennifer Webber—*The Hudson River Valley Review*

Part of their internship will involve revising and expanding the content of the HRVI's website and its digital library. This includes digitally archiving issues of *The Hudson River Valley Review*, updating the events calendar, and creating new web pages and links.

In addition, the interns will also conduct individual research projects. These topics will largely revolve around the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial, to begin in 2007. In addition, select interns will research slavery and Native Americans in the Hudson River Valley. In upcoming newsletters, each intern will have an opportunity to more fully introduce herself/himself.

~ Lauren Santangelo

## Highlights of the HRVI's Website

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The Hudson River Valley Institute is currently working on increasing and improving our website content. In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to focus on a few highlights of the website that are presently available.

In particular, the guidebook section of the digital library is a useful tool for both visitors to and residents of the Hudson River Valley. By selecting an area of the region as well as one of four different themes, a person is able to easily navigate

through the many historic sites that define the Hudson River Valley. Additionally, once a site is selected, the guidebook provides a succinct synthesis of pertinent information about the historic site, including contact information, directions, and background information. We are constantly augmenting this section, specifically adding to the Great Houses and the Corridor of Commerce themes, and creating a new theme, Hudson River Art.

As always, we are also working to

develop the lesson plans that are offered on our website. The current lesson plans range from Colonial America to FDR and the Great Depression. The primary sources that the lesson plans employ to introduce students to the study of history promise to both challenge and captivate.

We will continue to build upon the current information on the website over the next several months.

~ Lauren Santangelo

## Plans for Spring 2006

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For Spring 2006, we are excited to be working on a new issue of *The Hudson River Valley Review*. This issue will contain a variety of topics, including articles on 19th century travels in the Hudson River Valley, the Albany area's response to the Irish famine, and the Leislerian rebellion.

Besides *The Hudson River Valley Review*, the Hudson River Valley Institute is working to research and help plan

the Quadricentennial. This event commemorates the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's and Samuel de Champlain's exploration of the region, along with the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton's steamship voyage on the Hudson River. In order to facilitate the HRVI's participation in this celebration, interns will be working on projects that tie into the anniversaries. These projects will ultimately be placed on our website to

introduce the public to the life and legacy of these men.

Both projects, the *Review* and the Quadricentennial, ensure that the Hudson River Valley Institute will be assiduously working throughout the upcoming semester to promote knowledge about the Hudson Valley's significance.

~ Lauren Santangelo

## Meet the Professor—Jason Schaaf

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Professor Jason Schaaf has recently joined the staff at the Hudson River Valley Institute. As a member of the HRVI, he will be directing interns' projects.

Jason Schaaf is a Marist graduate from 1997 in history. He went on to study medieval History at the University of Wales, Swansea and has continued his post graduate work at Norwich University in Military History. For the last five years he has taught various history and liberal arts courses at Dutchess Community College and is enjoying his first year returning to Marist College as a lecturer in the History department.

In addition to teaching in the area, he ran the fitness program for special needs populations at the YWCA and ran the Dutchess Community College fitness center. He is rumored to have a decent mid ranged jump shot, a shocking lack of skill in baseball, and an encyclopedic knowledge of Star Trek.

~ Jason Schaaf



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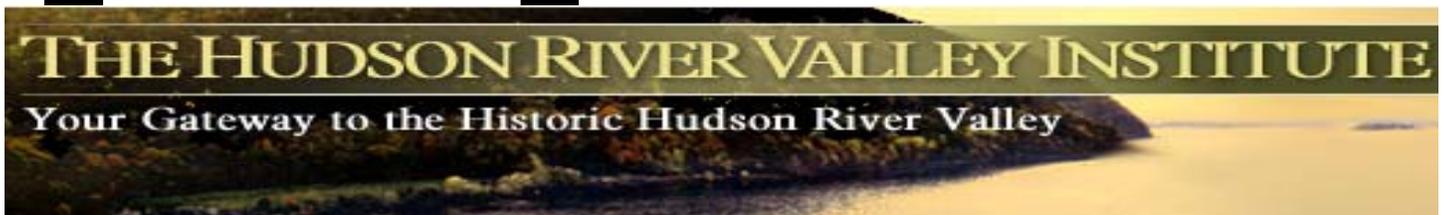
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***The Hudson River Valley—“The  
Landscape that Defined America”***

The Hudson River Valley is one of only 23 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 information 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.net](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net)



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