

HRVI



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

# Hudson River Valley Institute

## History Comes Alive in New Windsor

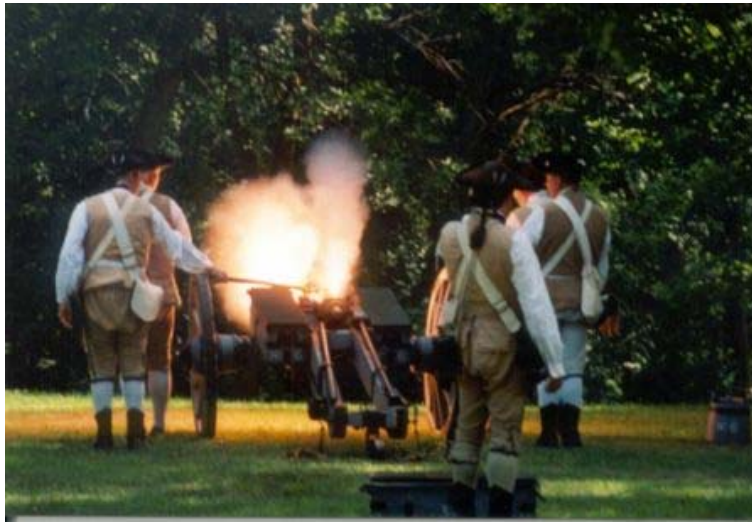
By late 1782, the Revolutionary War was coming to a close. The first of the final steps towards independence came when the young Americans fought and won the battle of Yorktown in 1781. In October 1782, General George Washington and his 7,000 soldiers in the Continental Army moved to New Windsor, New York to establish a base for the winter months. It is at this location, On April 19, 1783 that General Washington proclaimed a ceasefire, thereby ending the war and with the signing of the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783; the land which would become the United States of America was officially born.

The New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site will be celebrating its 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, October 27, 2007 and Sunday, October 28, 2007. The primary focus will be around reenacting the arrival of the General Washington's brigade at New Win-

dsor. As such, the reenactors will demonstrate what the soldiers did to set up the camp. There will also be mock battles put on to show what battles would have looked like during the American Revolution.

Saturday's events start at 10 a.m. and continue until 5 p.m. This will focus heavily on the life of a soldier in the Continental Army. At then end of

Admission to the events is \$4 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors. Beside the reenactments, there will be different competitions and celebrations put on such as a pumpkin carving contest, bobbing for apples, and other seasonal events. This is a great opportunity to get out with the family and have fun with the kids (who won't realize they're learning something.).



[www.friendsofpalisades.org/files/7d55232a.jpg](http://www.friendsofpalisades.org/files/7d55232a.jpg)

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the day, the soldiers will retreat and prepare for the next day. Sunday's events will start at noon and close at 3 p.m. These events will show other aspects of a soldier's life, and when the day ends, Patriots' Weekend 2007 will officially come to a close with the soldiers' final retreat.

The New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site is also home to the [National Purple Heart Hall of Honor](#). The Purple Heart, originally created by General Washington, is won by soldiers injured in the line of duty. Opened on November 10, 2006, the Hall of Honor attempts to preserve the stories of recipients

from each generation across service branches and honor their sacrifice.

For more information on the New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site, please visit their [website](#) or call (845) 561-1765.

Joe De Lisle Jr.

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- Meet more of HRVI's current interns on page 5
- See what's new on our Digital Library on page 4

## Featured Historic Website — Dutchess County Fairgrounds

“The promotion of agriculture, horticulture, mechanical and domestic arts, fine arts and allied sciences through education, instruction, display, and competition” ([www.dutchessfair.com](http://www.dutchessfair.com)). For 165 years this has been the mission for a group of individuals that work feverishly to preserve and protect the cherished Dutchess County Fairgrounds. Through their [website](http://www.dutchessfair.com) one can explore the unique ancestry of the Dutchess County Agricultural Society, which was formed in 1842 with a land grant from the New York State Legislature. The society held its first fair in Washington Hollow, though was occasionally held in Poughkeepsie, and finally, in 1919, the fair moved to Springbrook Park in Rhinebeck. The society, however, did not have a smooth road to success. The First World War, the Great Depression, and the Second World War took a heavy toll on the organization. It was not until 1945 with the end of WWII that the fair grounds finally

began to bounce back. Following in the trend of rapid growth in America during the 1950s, Springbrook was purchased by the society and renamed the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. The property was also expanded from 142 acres to almost



170 acres and the society itself was reincorporated as the Dutchess County Agricultural Society, Inc.

The flagship of the Dutchess County Fairgrounds is its six-day fair held annually each August. The event draws nearly half a million visitors. The fairgrounds, however, do not remain dormant for the re-

mainder of the year, as the society hosts an array of different off-season events. These have included: craft shows; classic car shows; antique shows; sheep and wool festivals; wine and food festivals; and livestock shows.

The latest upcoming event to hit the Dutchess County Fairgrounds is the Chrisjohn's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Iroquois Indian Festival. On October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., visitors can enthrall themselves in the culture of the Iroquois through: singing; social dancing; storytelling; historical demonstrations; food; and arts and crafts. The highlights of the festival will include the Allegany River Indian Dancers, the falconer Jennifer Pena, the Iroquois storyteller Vicky Shenendoah, and the Native American storyteller Eli Thomas. The celebration will also showcase a new children's craft area which will be held three times throughout the day. For more additional information on this Dutchess County Fairground event visit their [website](http://www.dutchessfair.com).

Jason C. Jacondin

## Featured Historic Site — Van Cortlandt Manor

Already underway, one of the main attractions this fall has been the Great Jack'O Lantern Blaze at Van Cortlandt Manor. This event is one of the most unique in the state, involving three thousand hand carved, illuminated pumpkins. Since the event has been so popular in the past, the site is extending the event to take place over nineteen evenings in October (5-7, 11-14, 18-21, and 24-31).

The event takes place on the grounds of the Van Cortlandt Manor. The Van Cortlandt's were one of New York's early prominent families. Acquiring their land in 1688, the family held onto their land until 1945. They are recognized for their roles in New York State history, especially the roles they played in events surrounding the American Revolution. Pierre Van Cortlandt, the original owner of the house, sided with the Patriots. He was a member of the Provincial Congress at White Plains, which gave New York's ratification to the Declaration of Independence on July 9, 1776. Pierre's son,

Philip, was also highly involved in the war effort. He was made Colonel of the Second New York Regiment, he commanded troops under Lafayette, and he was a member of the court that tried Benedict Arnold. After the war, Philip became the first Supervisor of the Town of Cortlandt, a State Assemblyman, a State Senator, and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The site itself is located at the place where the Croton River and the Hudson River meet. The manor was bought in 1953 by John D. Rockefeller Jr. who commissioned the preservation of the property. In 1959, the site was opened to the public, and is now operated by Historic Hudson Valley. The site includes the 18th century brick manor house. This house contains furnishings from both the Georgian and Federal period, as well as a kitchen that includes the original hearth. This kitchen is one of the largest colonial kitchens around and is where open hearth cooking and medical demonstrations take

place. The site also includes an 18th century Tavern, a Tenant House, and accurate period gardens. Outside, spinning, weaving, brick making, and blacksmithing demonstrations take place. The site is open from April to October, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Throughout the year, families can enjoy many special events, including 18th century dinner recipe over an open hearth (by reservation). Call for a calendar ((914) 271-8981 • 631-8200 Groups use ext. 618, School Groups ext. 628.) Visitors can walk around the grounds, or receive guided tours. Guided tours of the site for adults cost \$12, \$6 for children (ages five to seven, children under five are free), and \$10 for seniors. The ground admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, and \$5 for seniors. The Van Cortlandt manor site is a great place to visit for those of any age. For more information, call the Van Cortlandt Manor at (914) 271-8981 or visit their [website](http://www.vancortlandtmanor.org).

Colleen Ryan

## Historic Town — New Windsor

The historic town of [New Windsor](#) in Orange County New York is located sixty miles north of New York City. Its origins date back to 1694-1699 when land was granted to Captain John Evans. He was in charge of it until he vacated in 1699. The part of the town closest to the Hudson River organized under the Precinct of Highlands (1709). By 1762, separate precincts had been created from New Windsor and Newburgh.

One of the most prominent families of this town was the Clintons. Colonel Charles Clinton (1690-1773) fought as a commander in the French and Indian War. General James Clinton (1736-1812) led New York troops alongside General Montgomery during the Quebec campaign (1775). He also escaped British capture and was present when they departed from New York City. The next two members distinguished themselves in the political arena. George Clinton (1739-1812) served in the New York Assembly, the Continental Congress, Clerk of Ulster County, and as president of the New York State Constitutional Convention of 1788. In his final years he was vice-president under the Jefferson and Madison Administrations. DeWitt Clinton is best known for the commissioning of the Erie Canal, but he also was mayor of New York City, and a member of the New York Bar and

Senate.

The town of New Windsor is home to many historical places. In 1755, James Edmonston built a stone house which is known today as the [Edmonston House](#). Plum Point is a county and state park that first opened in 1996. This park provides a spectacular view of Newburgh as well as Cornwall. Another interesting site is Moodna Creek is the legendary place where the Stacy family was murdered. During the American Revolution, Captain Thomas C. Machin was given the task of building fortifications along the Hudson River to halt the British from advancing north. Today it is known as Machin's Battery. The intriguing Rock Tavern received its name from the large boulder it was constructed on in 1740. Vail's Gate (a part of New Windsor) was once a hamlet and was also part of the nineteenth century turnpike system. Lewis Hall; the original town hall is all that remains of the busy community of today. Clancyville was an area built around a mill and was established by Poles, Italians as well as other immigrants. A final place is Stewart International Airport also home to the New York Air National Guard and the Marine Corp Refueling Wing.

The two most famous sites in this historic town are [Knox Headquarters](#) and the [New Windsor Cantonment](#). Knox Headquarters was a Georgian style house built by John

Ellis in 1754. It served as a major stopping place for the Continental Army during the War of Independence. General Knox took up residence a total of four times through the conflict (1779-1781). Today the 167-acre estate is home to over one hundred species of wildflowers as part of the Jane Colden Native Plant Sanctuary.

New Windsor Cantonment remembers the last encampment of the Revolution. This place was chosen because of its close proximity to New York City, the last stronghold of the British in late 1782. Here, soldiers constructed over 600 huts that spanned an incredible 1600 acres. It housed between 6,000-8,000 men, women, and children from New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, as well as Maryland and Massachusetts. Also designed was the Temple of Virtue. Shortly after the conclusion of the war, New Windsor sought to acquire the encampment as a measure of preservation. At the cantonment today exists a log cabin built of the wood used to erect the huts. Two buildings also house artifacts from archeological digs associated with the American Revolution. Since 1936 the National Temple Hall Association and [New Windsor](#) have teamed up to protect this historical monument.

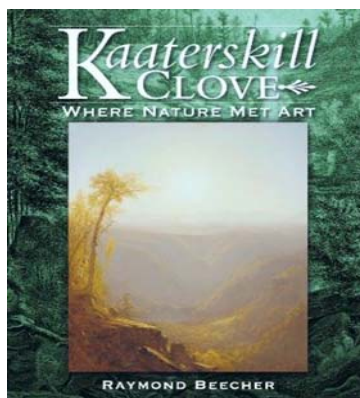
Paul Contarino

## Featured Historian—Raymond Beecher

For almost fifteen years now, Raymond Beecher has served as the Greene County Historian. Appointed to the post in 1993, Beecher had already been acting as the town of Coxsackie's historian since the 1970s. With such an impressive history of service, it can be assumed (and rightfully so) that Raymond Beecher has had quite an impact on preserving and educating the public about the history of the Hudson River Valley.

In addition to serving as historian, Beecher has been part of the Greene County Historical Society for more than fifty years, serving as both President and Chairman of the Board for the organization in the past. He worked on the Greene County Bicentennial Committee. He was also instrumental in the procuring and restoring of

artist Thomas Cole's home, Cedar Grove, in Catskill; Cedar Grove has since successfully evolved to become an active cultural



*Kaaterskill Clove: Where Nature Met Art*, which was published in 2004.

center that attracts casual visitors and art historians alike. In 2002, Beecher was named a Greene County Treasure, and he received the Alf Evers Award for Excellence from The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development this past year.

At the age of 90, Beecher is modest about his deeds, quietly humble about his ever-increasing accomplishments. In addition to his community involvement, Beecher has also written several books, which include *Kaaterskill Clove: Where Nature Met Art* and *Under Three Flags*. Furthermore, he speaks regularly at events and conferences. Raymond Beecher is truly an impressive individual, a man who imparts a wealth of history to the people of this region.

Amanda Schreiner



# Digital Library— Marist College's Summer Writing Institute 2007

This summer, Marist hosted the second annual Marist College Summer Writing Institute (MCSWI), which invited writers from the Hudson Valley and beyond to come together for a week of workshops and discussions that will help participants hone their craft as writers. The Institute opened its doors to double the number of participants with thirty-five writers this past summer. These writers were divided between three disciplines: poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction, which was a new addition for this past summer. No only were the writers treated to a third discipline, but many of the Institute's esteemed faculty returned for a second summer.

Some of the participants worked with poets, including Michael Theune, Elizabeth Hogan and Christopher Bakken.

While other members worked with Fiction writers, such as Kerry Neville Bakken and Baker Lawley. Finally, Andy Duncan led the third group of participants in the non-fiction class.

The Marist College Summer Writing Institute organized faculty readings and panel discussions; in addition, [The English Patient](#), which is the moving story of a Hungarian mapmaker and his dying memories of the romance that tragically alters his life, was viewed and discussed as part of the program. Author Michael Ondaatje also gave the keynote reading to participants and the general.

The Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI) supplied the Institute with two Scenic-Salons, where participants traveled to locations to write within the scenery. At one of these salons, the writers

visited Samuel F. B. Morse's Locust Grove Estate and grounds, where they wrote towards the history and aesthetics of this magnificent place. HRVI has also published excerpts composed by the writers in acknowledgement to the salons and the influential Hudson River Valley. To read any of these pieces of writing go to [http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/themes/SWI07\\_index.php](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/themes/SWI07_index.php).

For more information on the 2007 Marist College Summer Writing Institute or to register to receive an announcement for the upcoming 2008 Summer Writing Institute go to <http://www.marist.edu/liberalarts/english/swi/>.

Elizabeth Vielkind

## Meet the Intern — Robert Harvery

A Marist senior with a major in English and a concentration in writing, Rob is the most reluctant writer this world has ever seen. Yet, he maintains a certain flair that allows him to squeak by most of his assignments. Rob's writing pushes the boundaries between reality and art. He is currently working on a longer work of non-fiction called *Everytown, USA: an Exhausting Expedition encompassing Everytown* and a work of short



fiction entitled *Lavender Kiss*.

He also has the distinct recognition of having two middle names: one fake and one real. Robert Cornelius Harvery is the doppelganger. Meanwhile, mild-mannered Robert James Harvery is the beloved Marist student and assistant editor of this fine publication.

Rob's main college success is not his fluency in two modern languages (German and Spanish) or his acquisition of three medieval languages (Anglo-Saxon, Middle-English, and Mit-

telhochdeutsch) but, rather, his victory over Diablo II: Lord of Destruction on hardcore. Sadly, this is the defining moment in his college career and he celebrated his victory the only way he knew how via interpretative dance.

Rob's future seems bleak at best but his ability to rapidly acquire new languages will prove useful in his pursuit to find an interesting and more dangerous job. His college career could not have come to fruition without the help of his loving family, especially the assistance of his parents Stephen and Mary Harvey.

## Meet the Intern — Amanda Schreiner

Amanda Schreiner is an English Literature/Secondary Education student from Denville, NJ. Now a senior, Amanda is currently immersed in her last semester of classes at Marist, as she will be student teaching in the spring (and is very excited about it!).

On campus, Amanda is a highly involved member of the student body. She dedicates a great deal of time to the Marist College Singers, having served as President of the organization in 2006-2007. She is also part of the Marist College Council on Theatre Arts, Marist Theatre, Campus Ministry, Teachers of Tomorrow, four honor societies, and is a former re-

treat leader. She participated in a short term abroad program through Marist in 2006, which allowed her to spend three weeks in Italy. Amanda also works as a student assistant in the Music Department and as a tour guide for the office of Admissions.

Amanda is excited to be working as an intern for HRVI this semester, and has been hoping to do so since first learning about the organization during her freshman year. Amanda will be writing for the monthly newsletter this semester, as well as reviewing lesson plans for historic site visitations and



writing a piece on her main assignment for the fall, the Wilderstein Estate in Rhinebeck, NY.

Amanda has grown to love the Hudson River Valley immensely-it is a beautiful and historically integral part of our country, and she is thrilled to be able to spread the word about this region as her JOB!

Amanda hopes to eventually live in the Hudson Valley and be able to call this place home.

Amanda Schreiner

# Contact Us

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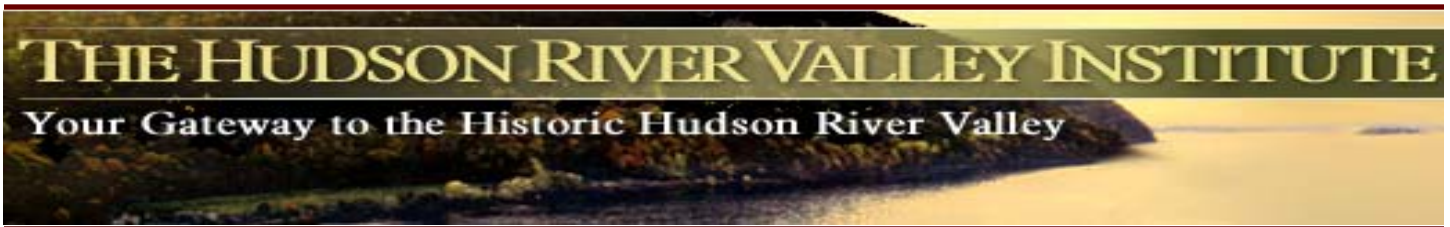
*The Hudson River Valley:  
"The Landscape that Defined America"*

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](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org)



## Staff

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The newsletter is the production of the interns of HRVI