

HRVI



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

# Hudson River Valley Institute

The Academic Arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

## Washington's Other Crossing: Franco-American Army Traverses the Hudson

Two hundred and twenty-five years ago, Generals Washington and Rochambeau's armies crossed the Hudson River on their way down to what was the decisive battle of the American Revolution: Yorktown. On the weekend of August 25-27, nearly 60 re-enactors and over 500 spectators came together to commemorate the Hudson Valley's pivotal role in this important campaign.

The weekend saw events scattered across such historic towns as Verplanck, Van Cortlandtville, and Suffern. Highlights included a lecture by Robert A. Selig, Ph.D., memorial services for French and American soldiers who died in the area, and the dedication of several plaques and historic markers associated with the allied army.

The centerpiece of the weekend occurred on Saturday afternoon. Braving a looming storm, re-enactors representing American and French boarded several bateaux and the sloop *Clearwater* and crossed the Hudson at Verplanck's Point. Several celebratory volleys and signal rounds were fired to honor the soldiers who made the same voyage in 1781 as the vessels approached King's Ferry on the opposite shore.

While the re-enactors represented only a small fraction of the thousands of troops who crossed the river during the Revolution, the day painted a vivid picture of what the



*Patriots aiding Washington as he crosses the Hudson.  
Photo Credit: Alexander*

armies must have looked like as they moved through the valley.

The astounding array of uniforms illustrated the diversity of the two armies. Soldiers from every state between Massachusetts and Virginia fought at Yorktown, and thus were involved in the crossing. The French army was not only composed of its native countrymen, but also included an international contingent called Lauzun's Legion (a predecessor to the famed French Foreign Legion).

While the soldiers would have been the most visible part of the army, any military force of the period traveled with a "baggage train." In addition to food, clothing, and other sup-

plies, this "baggage" included a large number of camp followers. These individuals, the wives and children of the enlisted men, accompanied the army from battle to battle largely due to economic hardships and a lack of security at home. An oft-forgotten part of all armies of the period, these family members also rode in the *Clearwater* along with their soldiers during the reenactment.

The historic display thus represented the full array of people who participated in the fight for America's independence, and again demonstrated why the Hudson River Valley is a salient part of American history.

~ Mike Diaz

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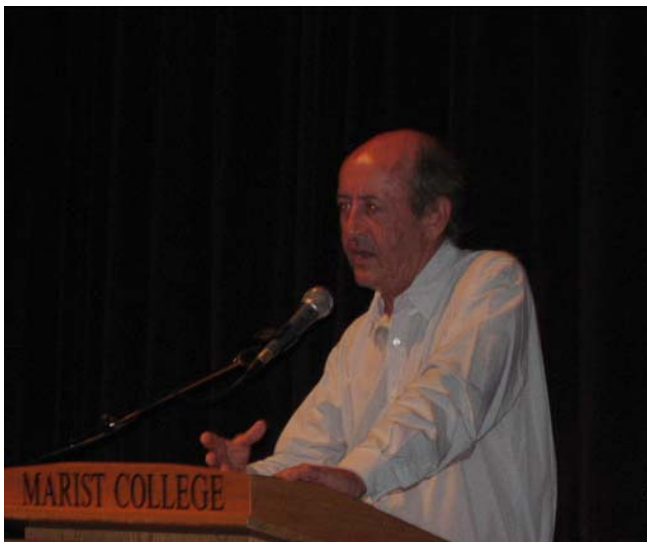
### Special points of interest:

- A list of the new interns at the Hudson River Valley Institute can be found on page 4
- Please visit our website as we are constantly updating content!

## Summer Writing Workshop a Success

The 2007 Marist Summer Writing Institute will offer daily workshops in fiction, poetry or playwriting, along with a four day schedule filled with panel discussions, readings, film screenings, and other exciting events for writers of all backgrounds and ability. Applications for 2007 will be accepted starting this winter—reserve your spot early!

Writers from the Hudson Valley and beyond are invited to spend what we call “four days of writing heaven” at the 2007 Marist Summer Writing Institute. The SWI was created to give *all* writers the opportunity to hone their personal craft as part of a true community of writers. Daily writing workshops are the centerpiece of the conference; workshops



New York State poet laureate Billy Collins speaking to a delighted crowd at the Nelly Goletti Theater.

at SWI are limited to ten, to ensure all participants have ample time to work directly with our distinguished faculty. Writing is all about finding your personal voice—next summer, come find *your* voice with us! The Hudson Valley’s Own Creative Writing Conference

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**For more information on the 2007 Marist Summer Writing Institute, call us at (845) 575-3000 ext. 2381 or e-mail us at [writing@marist.edu](mailto:writing@marist.edu).**

~ Thomas Zurhellen, Assistant Professor

## Featured Historic Town — East Fishkill

Having inherited a sizeable portion of the land known as the 1685 Rom-bout Patent, the widowed Madame Catherine Brett first began selling off plots of land to sustain her family in 1718. While many families rented or bought smaller parcels, one of the first large purchasers was a man from Long Island named Dirck Brinckerhoff. Although the 2,000 acre settlement began with only Brinckerhoff’s family, it gradually swelled in population. Eventually, several distinct rural communities emerged, including Gay-head, Hopewell Junction, Wicopee, Adriance, Stormville and of course East Fishkill. In fact, it was not until November 29, 1849 that the Town of East Fishkill was officially established from the eastern chunk of Fishkill.

East Fishkill’s name is actually a derivative of the Dutch “Vis Kill,” meaning “stream full of fish”—not, as PETA alleged in an 1996 lawsuit, an impetus to animal cruelty. Although the township was not formally established until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, it has several historic sites leading back to some of the earliest settlers in the Hudson Valley. Brinckerhoff’s brave decision to settle in the pristine wilderness is captured by the Brinckerhoff-Pudney-Palen House on North Kensington Drive. The home is one of



East Fishkill Historical Society; Photo credit: [www.wicopee.org](http://www.wicopee.org)

only two gambrel-roofed houses remaining in East Fishkill. In addition, with its small paneled windows, enclosed staircases, Dutch doors, built-in coat racks, and wrought iron “HL” hinges, the house is an important representation of the architectural style popular in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Today, the Brinckerhoff-Pudney-Palen house is also the site for the East Fishkill Historical Society.

Moreover, the town of East Fishkill was the site of some revolutionary activities. Moved by patriotic duty, the citizens of East Fishkill staged their own Tea Party in the 1770s, refusing to support British imports by dumping them much in the way of their Bostonian cousins.

Nearly two and a half centuries after its

initial settlement, the population of the Town of East Fishkill has blossomed to over 25,000 people, marking it as one of the most popular places to live in Dutchess County in 2006. Its current ties to the IBM Corporation also make it one of the most technologically connected areas in Dutchess County; the advanced automated processor fabrication facility is headquartered in Hudson Valley Research Park (formerly IBM East Fishkill).

Bridging local history with present technological advancement, all while maintaining a tight-knit community feel and set against the backdrop of one of the most charming areas along the Hudson, the Town of East Fishkill offers a variety of recreational and historical opportunities in which to explore and reside. Although the historical society charges a nominal admissions fee for group and school tours, all other visitors are admitted free. Call the East Fishkill Historical Society for its hours and current exhibits at (845) 227-4136.

~Jess Friedlander

Sources: <http://www.wicopee.org/history.htm/>  
and: <http://www.eastfishkillny.org/>



## Featured Historic Site— Stony Point Battlefield

In 1779, roughly 6,000 British and Hessian troops had captured Fort Lafayette and set up camp at Stony Point. Realizing the strategic importance of this spot along the Hudson River, British General Henry Clinton ordered the fortification of the garrison. However, determined to take back the pivotal encampment, Brigadier General Anthony Wayne led 1,200 infantry, armed with only bayonets and unloaded muskets on a surprise nighttime raid. Because the only advantage possessed by the Americans was the element of surprise, General Wayne had seen this as a doomed mission and left instructions for what he thought was his imminent death. While 15 American troops did die, and 83 were wounded, the 1,150-man Corps of Light Infantry was able to take back Stony Point within a half hour, killing 20 and wounding 74 British troops. After the victory, General George Washington decided not to maintain the fort, and had it destroyed and abandoned. It is this battle that gave the patriots definitive control over the Hudson River.

Today, this dazzling American victory over the British is commemorated at the Stony Point Battlefield State Historic

Site, located off Route 9W in the town of Stony Point, New York. Also on site is the Stony Point lighthouse; built in 1826, it is the oldest on the Hudson River. It was decommissioned in 1925 after 99 years of guiding vessels, but then was restored and re-lighted in 1995. Now, visitors can tour the recently renovated museum on the Stony Point grounds, which features exhibits including archaeological artifacts and three British guns from the battle. Afterwards, they can explore also the battlefield grounds with the help of several numbered signs explaining key points. Visitors can also interact with eighteenth-century re-enactors on the weekends, who demonstrate the basics of soldiers' lives— from cooking to firing muskets.

The museum is open from mid-April until the end of October, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm. Sunday, 1-5 pm. On Monday and Tuesday, visitors are in-

vited to visit the grounds only from 10 am – 5 pm. During the winter, it is open Monday through Friday, 10 am to 4 pm. Those interested in viewing the lighthouse should call the Stony Point staff to reserve space on tours. The site can be contacted at 845-786-2521.

~Kate Giglio

Sources: <http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/sites/info.asp?siteID=29> and <http://www2.lhric.org/spbattle/spbattle.htm>.



Stony Point Battlefield Entrance; Photo Credit: Prudential Rand Reality.

## Featured Historic Website— Expédition Particulière

As many historians have acknowledged, France's aid to budding Americans was instrumental in the War for Independence. *Expédition Particulière*, the French expedition formed to aid American colonists during the American Revolution, arrived in Newport, Rhode Island in 1780. Comprised of roughly 5,500 soldiers from several different French regiments, its most significant contribution was its leader: le Comte de Rochambeau. Rochambeau, a decorated lieutenant general in the French army, had many years of campaigning experience from the Seven Years' War in Europe. Equipped with the additional French infantry and Rochambeau's tactical guidance, Washington's forces successfully defeated the British in the Battle of Yorktown, which eventually led to Cornwallis' (and England's) surrender.

Sponsored by Expédition Particulière Commemorative Cantonment Society

based in Mt. Vernon Va., "Expédition Particulière" provides visitors with a wealth of information about the actions, importance and influence of the identically-named French military. Directing the viewer to valuable scholarly accounts that detail all important aspects of *Expédition Particulière*, the website seeks to examine the reasons for France's involvement in the American Revolution and to show just how imperative this expedition's support was to the American cause.

To achieve this end, the website provides many historical documents and extensive essays in connection to *Expédition Particulière*. The website includes many secondary sources that cover a breadth of topics from Comte de Rochambeau, French enlisted soldiers, troop movement, naval leaders, France's connection to George Washington, and more. Some primary sources included are maps used by Rochambeau to direct troops.

The website also links to several larger essays that contribute to the historiographical debate over France's motivation to aid America. Also included on the website is a study sponsored by the Hudson River Valley Institute written by Dr. Robert A. Selig; it details *Expédition Particulière's* movements throughout the Hudson Valley and the state of New York.

This French military expedition forms a unique chapter of American history and the American Revolution; those interested in developing their understanding of France's support of early America, can visit "Expédition Particulière" at [http://xenophongroup.com/mcjoynt/ep\\_web.htm](http://xenophongroup.com/mcjoynt/ep_web.htm).

~Tom Clancey

## Fall 2006 Interns

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The Hudson River Valley Institute is proud to introduce its roster of interns (and their topics) for the Fall 2006 semester:

Chris Canale— Brewing and Malting

Tom Clancey — Hudson River Valley Psychiatric Center

Mike Diaz — Shipbuilding

Lauren Duggan — HRVI Art & Advertising

Jess Friedlander — Thomas Cole

Kate Giglio— Hudson Maritime Museum

Kelly Glynn— *Hudson River Valley Institute* Newsletter

Sarah Gunner— Historic Troy

Darian Milera-Rivera — Lowell Thomas Collection

Rebecca Pugliese — HRVR Marketing and Distribution

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 the Corridor of Commerce. In addition, select interns will research local painters and historic sites. In upcoming newsletters, each intern will have an opportunity to more fully introduce herself/himself.

~ Adrienne Harris

## Meet the Intern — Kelly Glynn

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This semester the Hudson River Valley Institute boasts many talented interns. Kelly Glynn is a senior journalism major with a minor in history, at Marist College. She will be graduating at the end of this semester, although looks forward to coming back in May to participate in the graduation ceremonies with her classmates.

Glynn will be taking over the responsibilities of editing and designing the layout for the newsletter. She has a background in editing and recently finished a term as the editor-in-chief of the campus literary magazine, *The Mosaic*. During high

school, she discovered her passion for editing when she spent two years as the editor of the school newspaper, literary magazine and yearbook. For the past three years she has worked in the Academic Learning Center at Marist College as a tutor and proofreader, and was recently promoted to the Online Proofreading Coordinator.

She comes to the HRVI after completing an internship this summer in the promotions department of Clear Channel Communications. She had the opportunity to work hands-on in a fast paced environment while learning the structure of a large

media corporation.

Glynn is active in her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and currently holds the position of new member chairman. She is also very involved in many other campus activities including her position as Vice President of The National Communications Honor Society, Lambda Pi Eta.

Glynn said she is unsure what her plans for the future will include but she loves to write and enjoys learning about history, making this internship is a wonderful opportunity for her.

~Kelly Glynn

## Meet the Intern — Darian Milera-Rivera

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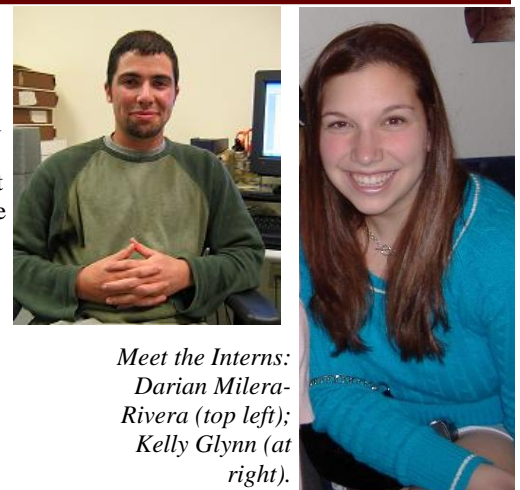
Darian Rivera is a senior, who is studying business and communications in the Marist College Integrative Studies program. As a first year intern for the Hudson River Valley Institute, Darian is responsible for processing and updating audio and visual recordings for the Lowell Thomas Collection located in the Special Collections and Archives Department.

As an active member of the Hudson Valley community, Darian has been involved with the Hyde Park Historical Society, FW Vanderbilt Garden Association, and the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he plays baseball in a local men's wood bat league and has produced

documentaries for the Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt Institute's Pare Lorentz Film Center.

As he pursues a career in history and public affairs, Darian plans to continue his work with the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library & Museum in Hyde Park, New York.

~Darien Milera-Rivera



Meet the Interns:  
Darian Milera-Rivera (top left);  
Kelly Glynn (at right).

# Contact Us

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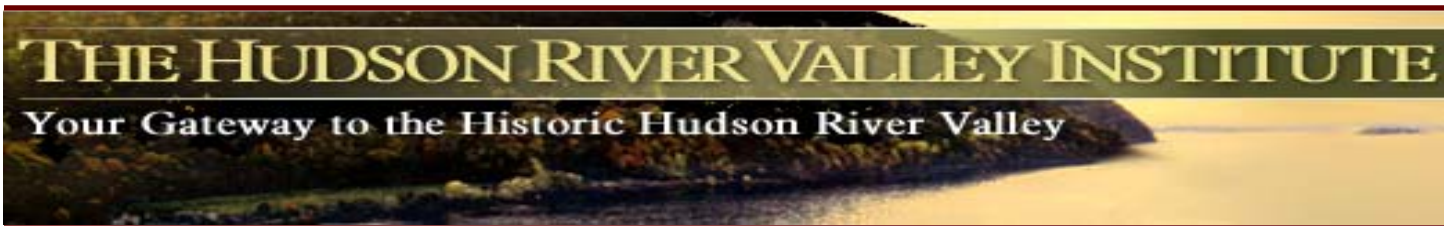
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***The Hudson River Valley:  
"The Landscape that Defined America"***

**| [www.hudsonrivervalley.net](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net) |**

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."



## Staff

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Dean of the Marist College School of Liberal Arts Thomas Wermuth, PhD, Director Hudson River Valley Institute

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