

Issue 42

Summer 2007

HRVI



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Hudson River Valley Institute

The Academic Arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

Teaching American History Institutes 2007

These two weeks were another exciting and successful educational endeavor for the Hudson River Valley Institute. We were graced with the presence of 28 middle and high school teachers, from Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange counties as participants, as well as, Hudson River Valley historians and Marist College professors.

During week one we explored the early part of Amer-



ica and New York's history in "Henry Hudson and the Clash of Cultures in the New World" with wonderful presen-

tations by Dr. Charles T. Gehring, Director, [New Netherland Project](#); and Dr. Laurence Hauptman, Distinguished Professor, SUNY New Paltz, and Marist College professors: Charlie Stark and Dr. Fred Opie.



The approach for these participants

was to look at documents which could be used in the classroom in order to challenge their students. Some of the intriguing documents that emerged were the diary of the Robert Juet, first mate of the *Half Moon*, and the Creation Myth



of the Munsee. Week two of our workshops focused on "Social Move-

ments & the Expansion of American Democracy" during the 19th and 20th centuries. Marist College professors Robyn Rosen and Sally Dwyer-McNulty created a unique and engaging learning environment, providing new teaching ideas relating to labor unions, the peace movement, and women's suffrage.

As we say goodbye to our 2007 participants, we look forward to next summer with great anticipation. We hope to see many familiar faces, along with the new, for our final [Teaching American History Institute](#).

-Alyson Dodge, Marist, '07



Inside this issue:

Teaching American History	1
Wilderstein's Progress	2
Marist Archives Webpage	3
Historic Site: Clermont	4
Teaching the Hudson Valley	5
Meet the Intern	6

Special points of interest:

- Marist Environmental History Project*
- Marist Heritage Project*
- Meet the summer Intern*
- Local Scholars*

Wilderstein's Progress

Although Wilderstein did not receive many volunteers this summer, a lot of progress has been made on the property. The Arthur Ross Foundation funded the planting of Ginkgo trees that originally dotted the landscape from the Wilderstein mansion to the carriage road. This New York City based foundation provides funding for the preservation of historical sites, as well as grants for higher education and cultural institutions. A memorial fund established by the family and friends of Elizabeth Decker helped to restore the plant life next to the gazebo. On an interesting note, cashmere goats have been assigned the task of eradicating invasive plant life on the steep slopes of the Hudson River.

The restoration of the servants' wing has been going very well. By the end of Au-



gust the upper section of the wing will be completed. Work done in this room has included the restoration and reapplication of the color scheme originally assigned to this section. Revamping of the servant's wing has been made possible through a grant by New York State Senator Stephen Saland.



Next year the final project of the estate will involve its exterior, restoration of the glass section of the verandah. Wilderstein has been recently awarded a challenge grant from the Dutchess County Industrial Develop-

ment Agency. The IDA is a voluntary Board of Directors created in 1976 as a public benefit corporation. It is exempt from taxes and any property it assumes is in turn exempt from paying real estate tax. Funding, however, is still vital for Wilderstein important to initiate the work.

Wilderstein has a delectable array of upcoming events and exhibitions. An intriguing exhibition that ends on October 28th is "Hudson Valley Children Let Loose at Wilderstein." This display offers a radical interpretation of upper class life during the Victorian Era through the perspective of children residing at Wilderstein. Showcase items are toys, clothing, books as well as sporting equipment.



Starting Thanksgiving (November 23-25th) weekend through the last weekend before Christmas (December 22nd-23rd), Wilderstein will provide Victorian Holiday Tours for those interested in viewing decorations by important artists, designers, and florists. The times are between 1pm-4pm. On a final note, on Saturday, December 1st, there will be a Yuletide High Tea celebration held at 1pm designed to put any person in the holiday spirit. If any one is interested in visiting this lovely historic site, tours are ongoing through Sunday, October 28th. They are

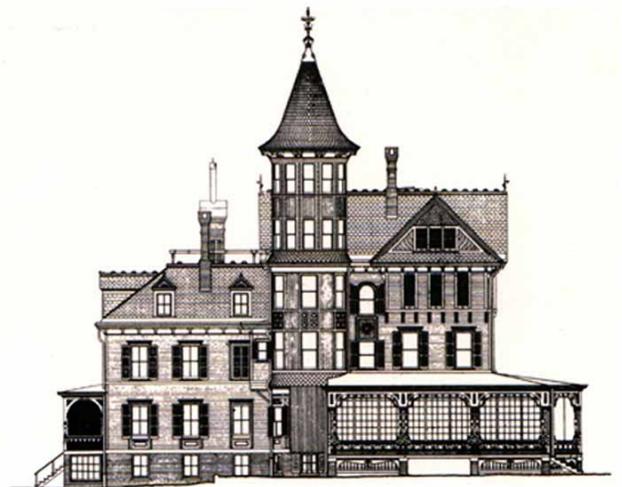
given Thursday through Sunday between 12pm-4pm.

For more information on the Wilderstein estates as well as its upcoming events please visit their website www.wilderstein.org.

Paul Contarino

These images are from the Wilderstein Estate itself. The first image is the goat is associated with the ongoing project of weed control around the perimeter of the property. Image number is consists of the current restoration of the servants' wing. The third picture is from the exhibit

"Hudson Valley Children Let Loose at Wilderstein". Finally, the last image is a sketch of the house itself.



Marist Archives Webpage

An interesting component of Marist is its great collection of archival material that is available online and in the office. The archives section contains numerous listings such as the Collection Overview and Collection Development, the Environmental History and Marist Heritage Projects, as well as online exhibits.

The main mission of its [Environmental History Project](#) section is to ascertain and identify materials historically significant to the Scenic Hudson Decision. This was a decision that ended a seventeen-year (1963-1981) dispute against Con-Edison over the development of Storm King Mountain. As a result Storm King was saved and turned into a park which is visited by many. On the website, there is a time line of events from the protest of 1963 until the 1981 decision not to develop Storm King. There is also a small gallery, extensive bibliography, and survey of additional Storm King Collections in other repositories. Thus it makes it a definitive resource on the subject. This decision is also credited as the "birth of the modern environmental movement."

In regards to the [Marist Heritage Project](#) there are two main areas of interest, the history of the college itself as well as its founders, the Marist Brothers. The Heritage page is subdivided into three areas, the online, oral, and written history. Online history contains substantial detail about the chronology of the college, important buildings and place names as well as symbols. In the oral history area, there are numerous interviews pertaining to the founders who played a key role in the establishment of Marist College.

The most extensive part of the Marist's Heritage Project is that is that of the written history. Brother Paul Ambrose's [Prayer and Work](#) discusses his experience with the establishment of the college also the worldwide missions the Marist brothers were engaged in. Another

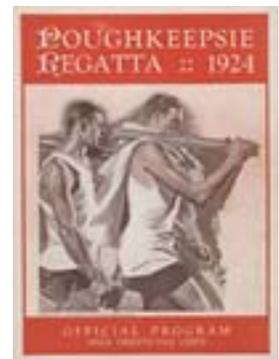
selection is [A Lasting Ideal in a Changing World A History of Marist College](#) (1989) written by President Murray, outlining the beginning of the Marist Brothers and their establishment of Marist College. [The Historical Growth and Development of the Marist Brothers in the United States](#) begins with the French foundation of the brothers and then follows them to the establishment of communities in Canada, the Northeastern United States as well as Japan and the Philippines. There is mention of the great change and transition within the American Marist communities. One section of chapter six describes the establishment of the Marist Brothers in the greater Poughkeepsie region. Within the written history segment a person can retrieve back issues of student newspapers dating from 1961 until 2000. There is also a brief history about the history of the Marist Theater.

A fascinating online exhibit is [Hidden in Plain Sight: A Brief History of Fore Edge Painting](#). This site clearly explains what fore edge painting is as well as its origins, techniques and subsequent influences and addendums. There are a lot of interesting patterns and designs that have been put into this particular showcase. The second exhibit is the [Intercolle-](#)

For more information please contact John Ansley at 575-5217. The hours of the archives office are Monday through Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm, by appointment only.

- Paul Contarino

<http://library.marist.edu/archives/index.html>



[giate Rowing Association \(IRA\)](#), particularly the Poughkeepsie Regatta. This section provides an extensive collection of photos, journals, newspapers, books, primary sources, and a full bibliography page as well as links for further exploration.

The [Collection Overview](#) lists over thirty collections that are available in the archives office. If a person clicks on the desired collection, it will be then broken down into its specific parts. Online finding aids are extremely helpful in ascertaining information about a particular collection.



Featured Historic



Clermont is a French term meaning clear mountain. For approximately 230 years, Clermont manor served as a place of great political and social prominence in the Hudson River Valley with the Livingston family. This entity was established in 1728 when Robert Livingston Jr. received 13,000 acres as an inheritance from his father Robert Livingston. At that time, the estate was the second largest private land holding in colonial New York, taking up about one-third of southern Columbia County. When Robert Livingston erected his Gregorian style house (1750) he earned the name Robert of Clermont.

Upon his death, his son Robert R. Livingston married Margaret Beekman who stood to inherit large tracts of land in Ulster and Dutchess Counties. Their son Robert R. Livingston, Jr. was part of the five member committee that drafted the Declaration of Independence and administered the oath given to President George Washington. During the American Revolution, the Livingston estate was attacked by the British much of Clermont was burned to the ground. Margaret Beekman, however, sought to rebuild the manor in the years between 1779 and 1782. Following American independence, the now Chancellor Livingston developed Clermont around an agricultural setting.

Chancellor Livingston's services were called upon during the Jefferson Administration (1801-1804). He played a key role in negotiating the sale of the Louisiana Purchase from France. It was also during that time that he encountered the ambitious young Robert Fulton. Robert R. Livingston, Jr. also had an interest in steam power and thus these two individuals created the *North River* (commonly referred to as *The Clermont*) that sailed up the Hudson River to Albany (1807).

Following the death of the Chancellor (1813) a series of addendums and alterations were made to the estate. The last significant changes were made when John Henry Livingston and his wife Alice Delafield Clarkson Livingston occupied the manor. It was then that the home was remodeled in a Colonial Revival Style. When Mrs. Livingston died in 1962 she turned the historic treasure to the New York State. In 1973, Clermont became a United States National Landmark.

The interior of the Clermont House is an exquisite masterpiece. In the center hall the highlight painting is of Chancellor Robert Livingston done by the artist Gilbert Stuart. A magnificent Louis XVI clock can be found in the drawing room. One copy Diderot's Encyclopedia is currently in the study room as well as some books dating to the late sixteenth century. It was in this room that Mrs. John Henry Livingston sculpted book



cases and fire place mantles. The entire collection at Clermont totals more than 12,000 objects such as paintings, furnishings, books, and textiles. Approximately sixty percent of them are on display.

There are a number of other buildings on the property that have their significance. Clermont Cottage constructed in 1840 served as a place for employees and was enlarged in 1945 and 1953. In 1996 it became a gift and will serve as a future site for Clermont's research library. Sylvan Cottage, located along the Farm Road Trail, was built during the late eighteenth century which later served as a gatehouse for recently married Livingston family. New York State acquired the building in 2000 following the



Site Clermont

death Honoria Livingston McVitty. Finally the playhouse was erected out of the garden shed during the early twentieth century for Janet and Honoria. It was restored in 1995 and 1996.

The landscape and garden scenery around the 500-acre estate is simply magnificent. Trees planted by the Livingston family members in the eighteenth century still dot the property today. During the 1830s Margaret Beekman Livingston created the 'Lilac Walk' attracting thousands of viewers throughout the month of May. Approximately eight miles of historic trails run throughout Clermont's fields and forests which are a delight for hikers, bird watchers and horseback riders. In the Sheepfold Picnic Grounds an individual can observe locust trees over 200 years old. This particular area also provides a great view of the Hudson River and Catskill Mountains.



There are a number of upcoming events at the Clermont manor. On Saturday, September 15 and October 13th there will be a guided bird walk beginning at 9 a.m. The 25th Annual Honoria Livingston McVitty Memorial Croquet Tournament will be held on September 22nd from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Legends by candlelight will be held on Friday, October 19th from 6 p.m.-7 p.m. followed by a Halloween Harvest on Saturday, October 20th from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Christmas open house begins the weekend of December 8th and 9th 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lastly, candlelight tours of Clermont will be held the weekend of December 15th and 16th 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information please contact www.friendsofclermont.org.

-Paul Contarino

Teaching the Hudson Valley

(Continued from page 3)

The 2007 Teaching the Hudson Valley conference for local area school teachers was a great success. Taking place over July 31 – August 2nd, the theme of this year's conference was Explore, Innovate and Inspire. As such the three days were divided up according to theme with an overall principle to bring together local educators and experts to educate attendees on how the Hudson River Valley can be utilized as a tool to inspire grade school students.

The first day focused on the "Exploration" of the Hudson Valley. Under this theme topics such as early European exploration and settlement as well as Native American life were addressed. To begin the conference, Chip Reynolds of the [New Netherlands Museum](#) and cap-



tain of the replica *Half Moon* talked about Henry Hudson's first voyage to the Hudson



Valley and the technology required for such an adventure. Additionally local scholars like Laurence Hauptman of SUNY New Paltz discussed the culture of regional Native Americans before and after the European settlement. The workshops scheduled for later in the day followed a historical progression to discuss how the Hudson Valley rapidly developed into an important trade center for the early modern world with an eye towards the coming [Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Celebration](#).

The second day's focus was on the Hudson Valley as a center scientific innovation. The workshops included trips to historical sights such as [Vanderbilt Mansion](#), the [Norrie Point Environmental Center](#) and [Locust Grove](#) to demonstrate the history of innovators in the Hudson Valley. Furthermore workshops on the use of trail maps and air-photos and how to map the Hudson River bottom were offered.

The final day of the conference had the theme of "Inspire". The workshops spoke to how the Hudson Valley is remembered in art and story. As such musicians such as Betty and the Baby Boomers spoke to the

incorporation of lyrical interpretation. Jan Hanvik talked about the incorporation of art and place and how the environment contributes to the work of the Columbia County Center for the Arts. Furthermore a workshop by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation spoke about the need to create a working model for preserving the qualities of the Hudson River Valley that makes it so inspirational.

With Conferences such as the THV, it gives local educator from a variety of school the chance to come together and network. The THV does a great job of offering a variety of activities to pull people together. Everything from Kayaking on the Hudson and lunch talks, to tours of the FDR library and hikes on the property are offered. Furthermore, being a conference for teachers, it was important to keep in mind that education is largely about informed inspiration. To this extent the THV conference does a great job of pulling together local teachers in the study of the heritage beauty of culture of the Hudson Valley.

To learn more about Teaching the Hudson Valley visit their website.

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

Jason Schaaf



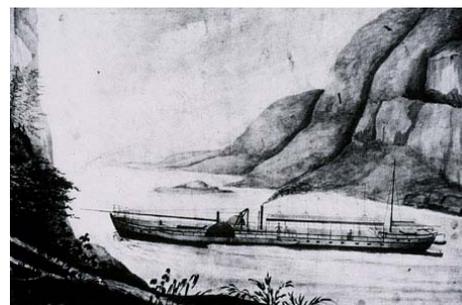
The Hudson River Valley Review Autumn 2007, Volume 24, Issue 1...out September 15th!

Commemorating Robert Fulton and the Steamboat Bicentennial, *Cynthia Owen Philip Westchester County Parkway That Never Was, Eleanor Philips Brackbill*

An Account Book of the Indian Trade in Ulster County, New York, 1712-1732, *Kees-Jan Waterman & J. Michael Smith*

Full Steam Ahead at the Albany Institute of History and Art, *Amanda Hurlburt, Marist '08 Hudson River Maritime Museum, Kate Giglio, Marist '07*

Hidden History at Storm King Mountain, *Kris A. Hansen*



The North River, Robert Fulton

Meet the Intern

Katy Feirman is a junior majoring in History Secondary Ed with a Minor in Art (specifically photography). Katy plans on becoming a high school teacher bestowing historical wisdom upon the masses (one can hope can't they?). Katy's soul was owned this past year by the History Club of which she was the president. As president, along with her fearless executive board, she brought the club back from almost certain death with monthly movie nights, trips to historical museums and game nights proving that history can be fun. She also is a member of the Marist LGSA and conquered the daunting task of bring the AIDS Quilt to Marist with her fellow AIDS Quilt coalition members. In May she started her summer by traveling to China on a Marist short term program where she ate a lot of rice, climbed the Great Wall (none of this silly walking people speak of), visited the For-

bidden City, Temple of Heaven (to name a few) and got run over by a bike (that hurt!). She returned to Marist to spend the rest of the summer with the amazing HRVI staff.

This summer Katy worked with the Teaching American History Summer Institute. She made PowerPoint's about Henry Hudson's sail up the river and his encounters with the Natives (and mermaids). She did research for some of the lecturers' presentations during which she found a wicked awesome (yes she is from Mass and she says wicked) map of the Hudson River that shows each day where Henry Hudson stopped and what he did that day. In addition, she assisted with the inevitable crises that accompany any major production, and was on hand to help the teachers with any problems they were having. She was also the resident photographer extraordinaire for the TAH summer institute as well the Summer Writing Institute that HRVI cospon-

sored with the English department at Marist. She stalked her subjects catching candid photos of teachers working hard on there lesson plans and writers gaining inspiration from the nature around them on there scenic salons excursions around the Hudson Valley.

When she was not busy with research, preparing presentations, taking an absurd amount of photos and infinitely clicking on links she added to the eclectic atmosphere of HRVI with random quotes from movies and TV shows alike ("I am a leaf on the wind - watch how I soar"). She is going to miss HRVI this fall as she is spending the semester abroad in Prague, Czech Republic. While abroad she plans to indulge her travel bug (she has already visited France, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, England and Scotland) by roaming all over Europe and promises to return with many a thrilling tales.

- Katy Feirman



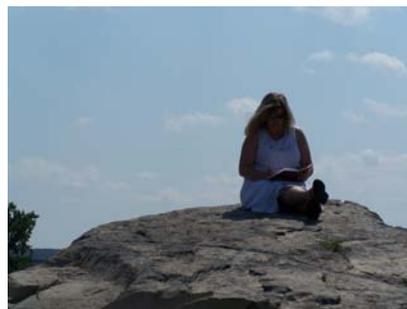
This summer marked the second Marist College Summer Writing Institute, adding creative nonfiction to the first year's roster of poetry and fiction. Enrollment doubled to 35 writers this year, fairly divided between each of the three disciplines, and many of last year's beloved faculty returned.

Michael Theune, Elizabeth Hogan, and Christopher Bakken worked with poets, Kerry Neville Bakken and Baker Lawley with Fiction writers, and Andy Duncan

Marist College's Summer Writing Institute 2007

lead the Nonfiction class. In addition to faculty readings and panel discussions, there was a screening and discussion of *The English Patient* and author Michael Ondaatje presented the well-attended keynote reading to attendees and the general public.

HRVI's own contributions included sponsoring two Scenic Salons, one of which participants visited Samuel F.B. Morse's Locust Grove estate and grounds. Additionally, we will be publishing some writing done in response to the salons and our inspirational Hudson River Valley.



(far left) Marist College Vice President of Academic Affairs *Emeritus* welcomes SWI '07 to campus

(left) Katy, our staff photographer introduced in the article above, felt as poetic as the writer photographed here on another scenic excursion!

Anyone interested in learning more about the 2007 Summer Writing Institute, or to sign up for an announcement of the 2008 SWI, can do so at: <http://www.marist.edu/liberalarts/english/swi/>.



(left) Dr. Moira Fitzgibbons leads writers on an exploration of olde English and new

(right) Writers inspired by the Picturesque gardens and grounds of Locust Grove



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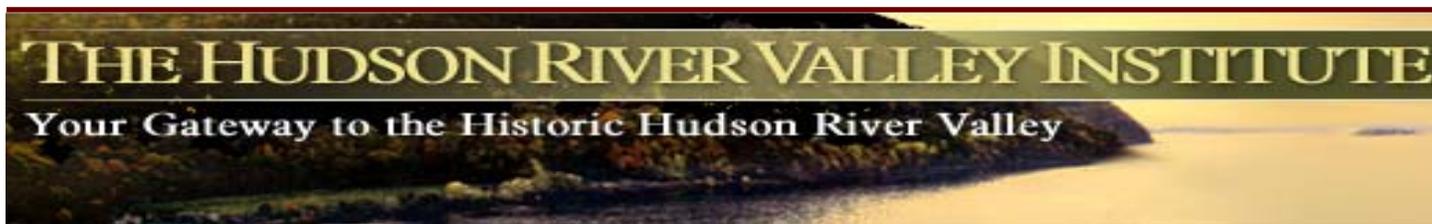
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*The Hudson River Valley:
"The Landscape that Defined America"*

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."



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