

HRVI



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

## Hudson River Valley Institute

### Teaching the Hudson Valley Conference

From July the 28th to the 30<sup>th</sup> the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library & Museum hosted Teaching the Hudson Valley's annual conference. This year's Conference was entitled Beyond Field Trips: Teaching the Hudson Valley in Tough Times. One hundred twenty-nine educators, museum staff, and envi-



ronmentalists from schools and institutions around the Hudson River Valley attended the three day conference. The three days split into several workshops, which attendees



Teaching the  
HUDSON VALLEY

could choose from based on their interest and area of expertise.

#### DAY ONE:

At the start of day one everyone in attendance was welcomed by Cynthia Koch, director of the FDR Presidential Library & Museum; Carol Kohan, deputy superintendent of the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites; and Debi Duke, coordinator for Teaching the Hudson Valley. After the welcome the entire attendance participated with Bronwyn Bevan, director of the Center for Informal Learning & School,

and Stephen Mucher, Master of Arts in Teaching, Bard College, in their discussion and presentation called Schools and Informal Learning Sites: Partnering in Tough Times. Afterwards, all those present separated to attend the first workshop of the day. The first day's schedule included three workshops, in which participants had a choice of four programs to choose.

#### Workshop One:

**Getting to the Hudson without Leaving the Classroom.** Steve Stanne, interpretive specialist, Hudson River Estuary Program, NYS DEC, [www.dec.ny.gov/education/26.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/26.html)

**Hudson River Journey.** Daniel Wolff, author and activist; Tracy Brown, communications director, Riverkeeper, [www.Riverkeeper.org/Hudson-](http://www.Riverkeeper.org/Hudson-)

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#### **Special points of interest:**

- *Teaching the Hudson Valley 2009*
- *Quadricentennial Events*
- *Town of Clinton*
- *September Conferences*

Hudson  
River  
Valley  
Institute

# Coming this Fall

## Update on the Walkway Events

The one good thing about this wet summer coming to an end is the opening of the Walkway over the Hudson. If you pass under the walkway on your way to work every day, like I do, you can tell that the men in orange are coming close to the end. The Grand opening for the Walkway is currently set for October 3<sup>rd</sup>, although some of the scheduling for opening events is still up in the air there will be plenty of activities to do leading up to the grand opening.

In August and September there will be the opportunity to visit aboard several historic ships. In honor of Henry Hudson, Samuel de Champlain, and Robert Fulton historic ships will make port along the Lake Champlain, Champlain Canal, and the Hudson River. A few of these ships include *Urger* (a 1901 tugboat), *John J. Harvey* (a 1931 fireboat), *African Queen* (a steamboat), *Golden Re'al* (A Dutch barge), and the *Half Moon* replica. While these vessels are docked, the crew engages the public with educational programs, tours, rides and stories. For more information on the docking schedule of these ships please visit the website <http://www.workingonwater.org/>.



The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Hudson River Valley Ramble will be taking place during the weekends of September 5-7, 12-13, 19-20, and 26-27. This year's Ramble includes over 200 sites that stretch from New York City up to Saratoga. Depending on the site you can experience the beauty of the Hudson River Valley on a hike or learn about its extensive history on a historic tour. For more details and schedules please visit the Ramble website at <http://www.hudsonrivervalleyramble.com/home.aspx>.

Also in September is the very first annual Hudson River/Champlain Valley Heritage Weekend. On the weekend of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> over 100 sites around the Hudson River Valley will be participating, including the Albany Institute of History and Art, Fort Ticonderoga, Historic Huguenot Street, The Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, and Ten Broeck Mansion. What makes this weekend event something that shouldn't be missed is these sites will



be offering entrance, tours, or performances for free or at reduced rates. For more information

on the weekend and participating sites please visit <http://www.heritageweekend.org/>.

With the amount and scale of the events going on there will be no excuse to stay home this fall. For more information on the Quadrcentennial, upcoming events, or the Open-



ing of the walkway please visit:

<http://www.exploreny400.com/Home.aspx>, <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/>, and <http://walkway.org/>.

By Katie Garrison

Celebrate the Quadrcentennial with the commemorative edition of the *Review*!

Hudson . Fulton . Champlain



1609

Featuring articles on Hudson, Fulton, Champlain, Native Americans at Ticonderoga, the 1909 celebrations, local poetry, the 2009 Commission, and the Walkway over the Hudson.

2009

Call or Click Today!

845.575.3052 HudsonRiverValley.org

# Inside the Marist Archives

## What's New at Marist Archives

Marist Archives and Special Collections is pleased to announce the acquisition of the Reiss Papers. Director John Ansley hopes to begin processing the materials very soon. After two years, the archives is winding down its project on the famous national and international broadcaster Lowell Thomas (1892-1981). Ansley credits Angelo Galeazzi, who has proven himself instrumental in directing the arrangement of the collection as well as providing extensive knowledge on Lowell Thomas. In addition to having a well organized collection, a finding aid will go online on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Ansley expressed his excitement

the Environmental History Project. Next year, 2010 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the historic Scenic Hudson decision was rendered. This saved Storm King Mountain from being developed into a place of nuclear power for the Consolidated Edison Company. There have been several interviews conducted; the most recent were Ned Sullivan, president of Scenic Hudson and former Congressman Rich-



ard Ottinger. Ottinger ran on an environmental platform in 1964 to promote a general clean-up of the Hudson River with the Hudson River Compact Bill. Marist Archives has also continued with the Marist Heritage Project. The most current interview involved Mike Arteaga, owner of several health clubs in the area.

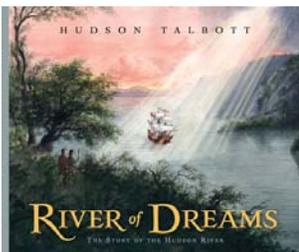
For more information please contact John Ansley at Marist Archives and Special Collections at (845) 575-5217.

By Paul Contarino

# Local Authors Attend Teaching the Hudson Valley Conference

## Local Authors Write for the Younger Generation

Local authors were present at the Teaching the Hudson Valley conference, which took place at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library & Museum this past July 28-30. The Teaching the Hudson Valley conference:



Beyond Field-trips, focused on bringing all kinds of educators together to discuss how to bring the

resources of the Hudson Valley into the classroom. Two of the authors present were, Hudson Talbott, author of *River of Dreams*, and Mitchell Bring, author of *My Mighty Hudson*. Both attended the conference to present and discuss their books with those in attendance.

*River of Dreams* is not Hudson Talbott's (Yes that is truly his real

name) first book. Talbott is well known for such books as *O'Sullivan Stew*, *Your Pet Dinosaur: an Owner's Manual*, and the *Tales of King Arthur* series. Talbott's most recent book, *River of Dreams*, masterly mixes autobiography, history, education, and supreme artwork together in a short 40 page storybook. The book begins with a young boy (Talbott) who wishes to visit the Hudson River. The history of the Hudson River Valley follows, including the Native Americans, Henry Hudson, the Great Chain, canals, railroads, and the current environmental issues. In writing and illustrating this book, Talbott says that the young boy now a grown man, has accomplished his childhood dream by keeping the river clean.

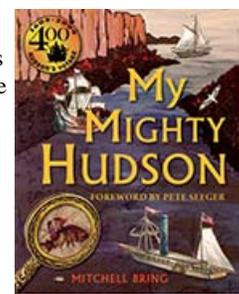
Mitchell Bring's *My Mighty Hudson* is more of a child's guide to the Hudson River Valley. The book encompasses the rivers history beginning with the Native Americans and Henry Hudson's discovery of the river to the current Clearwater efforts to clean up the river. Bring's book also goes into great specifics and details. In the book he illustrates the different kind of sizes and shapes of ships that were around in Henry Hudson's day and specifies on the ranging types of life that relies on the river.

Bring decided to create this book after discussions with his son's fourth grade teacher, Esra Murray, and with her help created *My Mighty Hudson*.

Both, Talbott and Bring, are perfect examples of what the Teaching the Hudson Valley conference has and is striving to achieve. Each author has brought the importance and brilliance of the Hudson River into the scope and education of today's youth.

If you would like to know more about these authors visits to the Teaching the Hudson Conference, please visit the website [www.TeachingtheHudsonValley.org](http://www.TeachingtheHudsonValley.org). To learn more about Hudson Talbott and any of his books please visit [www.HudsonTalbott.com](http://www.HudsonTalbott.com) or contact him via email: [HudsonTal@aol.com](mailto:HudsonTal@aol.com). For more information on Mitchell Bring's book, you can contact him via email: [Mitchell@bestweb.net](mailto:Mitchell@bestweb.net) or go to his website at [mymightyhudson.com](http://mymightyhudson.com).

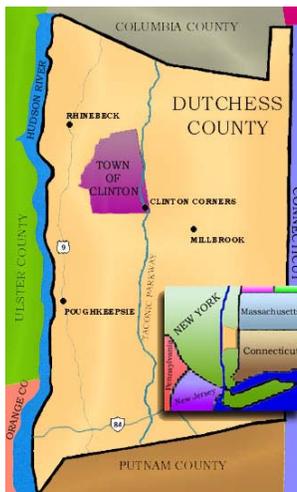
By Katie Garrison



## Town of Clinton History

### The Town of Clinton: A Very Brief History

The historic Town of Clinton has its origins with the Nine Partners Patent created by settlers in 1697. Throughout the middle eighteenth century mainly German, Dutch and English immigrants made this area home. In William McDermott's *Clinton Dutchess County New York: A History of a Town* he suggests that the town favored the American Revolution. He uses minutes of annual meetings as evidence and notes a change in elected officials. McDermott notes that the newly elected Isaac Bloom signed his name in the same manner as John Hancock. McDermott also points out that several signatures of town officials were missing such as Samuel Mabbett and Dirck Van Vliet. Shortly after the war and subsequent precinct realignments, the Town of Clinton officially formed on March 7, 1788. Residents chose this name in honor of Revolutionary War hero and New York Governor



that make up Clinton. They include Clinton Corners, Bulls Head, Clinton Hollow, Frost Mills, Hibernia, Pleasant Plains, and Schultsville. At least five of Clinton's hamlets originated as a mill on a creek. Mills proved to be economically vital through the middle nineteenth century for this area.

During the 1800s there were sev-

eral schools established such as the Mountain View, Oak Grove and Prospect Hill districts to accommodate the rural farming community. The grange also served as important gathering place for the community. With the onslaught of the Civil War, Clinton contributed with several men enlisting in the 128<sup>th</sup> and 150<sup>th</sup> regiments. The 150<sup>th</sup> regiment participated in Sherman's "March to the Sea" while the 128<sup>th</sup> fought at Vicksburg. Unfortunately several of the enlistees were killed. After the Civil War, the hamlet of Clinton Corners became an important stop along the Poughkeepsie and Eastern Railroad. In fact, Clinton's current firehouse used to be the station where the Poughkeepsie and Eastern loaded and unloaded freight and passengers. The Poughkeepsie and Connecticut also ran a line through the town. It served as an investor train to those affiliated with the Poughkeepsie Bridge. Additionally, some children took the train to attend school in Poughkeepsie. The rail activity prompted the development of The Grove amusement park around Upton Lake. This proved to be a financial success. However with the advent of the automobile and the demise of the Poughkeepsie and Eastern Railroad, the park closed during the 1930s.

Continued on page 7

# Teaching the Hudson Valley Conference, Continued...

RiverJourney.

**Reconnecting with Kids with Nature.** Tim Neu, Ashokan Environmental Education Center, [www.AshokanCenter.org](http://www.AshokanCenter.org)

**Using Ecology in the School Yard.** Cornelia Harris and Kim Notin, educators, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, [www.ecostudies.org](http://www.ecostudies.org)

## Workshop Two:

**Bringing the Roosevelts into Your Classroom.** Susanne Norris, educator and interpreter, Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites.

**Time Travel: Changing Hudson Coastlines.** Nordica Holochuck, New York Sea Grant, and Susan Hoskins, Cornell Institute for Resource Information Sciences.

**River of Dreams: The Story of the Hudson.** Hudson Talbott, author and illustrator.

**Near, On, and In the Hudson River at Yonkers.** Cliff Schneider, Beczak Environmental Educational Education Center; Lucille Catapano Sciacca and Kimberly Flook, Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, and Devon Spencer, Groundwork Hudson Valley's Science Barge.

## Workshop Three:

**River Studies with River Buddies.** Esra Murray, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Croton, and Mitchell Bring, parent and author of *My Mighty Hudson*.

**Using Film in the Classroom.** Jeff Urbin, education specialist, FDR Presidential Library & Museum, [www.FDRLibrary.Marist.edu](http://www.FDRLibrary.Marist.edu), National Records and Research Administration.



Stephen Mucher, faculty, Master of Arts in Teaching, Bard College

**Time Travel: Changing Hudson Coastlines,** continued.

**Everything you always wanted to know about THV.** Debi Duke, coordinator, Teaching the Hudson Valley,

[www.TeachingtheHudsonValley.org](http://www.TeachingtheHudsonValley.org)

## DAY TWO:

Day two was a new experience for the conference, as the workshop was instead a fieldtrip. Prior to the conference, each attendee was given a list of six sites to choose for their fieldtrip. This new program was a hit with all. Most participants were very knowledgeable on

the Hudson River, but were delighted and fascinated by what they found on these fieldtrips. The fieldtrips were also a great resource for all the educators, as they were able to see what kind of programs are available for their students and what a school fieldtrip would be like with their students. Educators were also able to pick up information on the Hudson River as well as ideas to bring onto their classrooms, which after all, is the goal of the conference. The offered sites for the fieldtrips included: Thomas Cole National Historic Site, New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site, Philipse Manor Hall with a walk to Beczak Environmental Center and the Science Barge, Norrie Point Environmental Center, and Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies & Elm Drive Elementary.



Debi Duke, coordinator, Teaching the Hudson Valley

## DAY THREE:

Day three offered three more workshops and a lunch with Mark Castiglione the acting director of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and Hudson River Valley Greenway. This time attendees had three choices to pick from for each workshop, which included:

### Workshop One:

**Creatively Integrating Contemporary Technologies with Writing and Art.** Linda Houlihan, magnet program coordinator, Beacon City Schools.

**Hands On! Engaging classroom activities and lessons to adapt to 'your place.'** Susan Hereth, educator, Scenic Hudson, [www.ScenicHudson.org](http://www.ScenicHudson.org)

**Share & Tell: Become a Pro at Teaching the Hudson Valley Online.** Kerri Karvetski, THV advisor and owner, Company K Media, [www.CompanyK.com](http://www.CompanyK.com)

### Workshop Two:

**Finding Free Primary Sources Online and Using them in Your Classroom.** Tessa Killian, SENYLRC and Susan Stessin-Cohn, archives specialist, Historic Huguenot Street

**The Quest to Crack Quadracentennial History Mysteries.** Cindy Slayton and Sue Peluse, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, Krieger Elementary School, Poughkeepsie.

**You and Your Students Are the Scientists: A Sampling of Citizen-Science Opportunities.** Chris Bowser, science education special-

ist, Norrie Point Environmental Center.

### Workshop Three:

**Servants and Stewards.** Tour of Vanderbilt Mansion with Allan Dailey, Supervisory Park Ranger, National Park Service, [www.NPS.gov/vama](http://www.NPS.gov/vama)

**Finding Free Primary Sources Online and Using them in Your Classroom,** continued.

**The Quest to Crack Quadracentennial History Mysteries,** continued.

The entire purpose of the conference was simply to educate people about the Hudson River. Who could thereby educate students K-12. To do this, the conference had several goals to meet. The first goal was to get together educators, museum staff, and environmentalists in the same room; the second was to then give the group information on the Hudson River and forge discussions. The third goal was to have the group share their different experiences and expertise with each other and therefore learn from one another. The fourth and final goal of the conference was to give the group the resources to bring that knowledge into the education of students K-12. Just from the excitement, group understanding, participation, and commitment that was displayed by the diverse group the conference was a success. The interest and desire shown by each of the attendees was both a pleasure to see and encouraging to know.

For more information on Teaching the Hudson Valley, the conference, or lesson plans please visit their website at <http://www.teachingthehudsonvalley.org/> Or if you have any questions about the program and its future events you can contact Debi Duke by email at [Deborah\\_Duke@NPS.gov](mailto:Deborah_Duke@NPS.gov) or by phone at (845) 229-9116, x35

By Katie Garrison



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## Row Over to the Boathouse

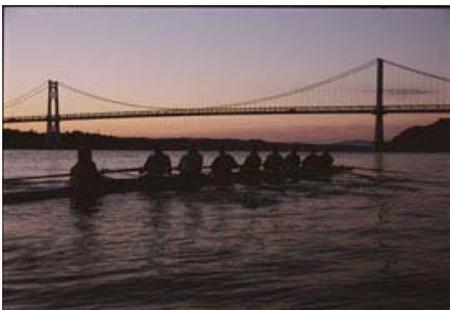
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### Poughkeepsie Regatta Returns after Fifty Years

The Hudson Valley is rich with rowing history, as the largest crew event in the country was hosted on the Hudson River for over fifty years. Starting in 1895, the Intercollegiate Rowing Association, comprised of just three schools, Columbia, Cornell and the University of Pennsylvania, held the toughest rowing event in the nation on the Hudson River. It all started with the three teams racing their varsity eight boats for four miles along the Hudson.

As time went on, the race became more popular and prestigious, and schools across the country would hope for an invitation to the annual regatta. While the early years saw only East coast schools competing, by the 1920s, the University of Washington and the University of California not only entered, but became major competitors. As more schools participated, additional races were added to the program. A two mile freshmen race and three mile junior varsity race were added to the annual event.

Spectators came from across the country to watch the best of the best compete to be the number one crew team in the nation. Grandstands were placed on train flatbeds which



would roll along on pace with the race allowing spectators a spectacular view. The banks of the Hudson were filled with onlookers, all amazed by the strength and endurance of the athletes.

Each school built a boathouse along the river to house the athletes, coaches, and the boats. Some of these structures are still alongside the Hudson today. The Cornell boathouse has just been refurbished by Marist College.

The race moved from Poughkeepsie

to Ohio in 1948. Ohio boasted they could raise more money and host the race on a lake. As the river's tides sometimes caused difficulties, the Intercollegiate Rowing Association felt the move was necessary. The race never returned to Poughkeepsie, until this year.

The Quadricentennial Poughkeepsie Regatta will be held October 3. The races will begin at 9am and will include Heavyweight Men's, Lightweight Men's, and Women's Eight. While, there will not be grandstands on train beds, there will be plenty of riverside seating along Marist's waterfront park. Experience a Hudson Valley tradition by cheering on the Marist crew teams this October!

If you would like more information on the regatta please visit the website: <http://goredfoxes.cstv.com/sports/m-crew/quad-regatta2009.html>. Or if you would like more information on Poughkeepsie's Regatta History please visit: <http://library.marist.edu/archives/regatta/index.html>. For more information on Marist's Historic Cornell Boathouse go to the website: <http://goredfoxes.cstv.com/facilities/boathouse-row.html>.

By Lindsay Moreau

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## Mission Statement

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### Mission of the Clinton Historical Society and Its Archives

There are many fascinating materials housed at the Clinton Historical Society. Clinton is also the proud home of a substantial railroad collection. The society houses the Carleton Mabee Collection. These materials are principally related to his book *Bridging the Hudson: The Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge and Its Connecting Rail Lines*. There are materials that range from papers by Leroy Beaujon, Nathaniel Blodgett and Donald Pevsner followed by correspondences from Walkway over the Hudson. Also there are several folders worth of copied newspaper articles surrounding the entire history of the bridge from the inception to its future as a walkway. This collection includes information on New England railroads as well as pictures of the rail lines and stations. In addition, Clinton houses Penn Central/ Conrail materials related to the Poughkeepsie Bridge. Most of the material is related to the constant repairs of the bridge and holds copies of annual reports from the Modeski firm hired to do inspections. Some of these items date

back to the early part of the twentieth century. Also included are the reports by the DeLew and Cather Company regarding the repair cost of the bridge following the 1974 fire. Finally there are back and forth corre-



spondences with Conrail over whether or not to demolish the Poughkeepsie Bridge.

A good portion of Clinton's archives are railroad collections donated by Austin McEntee as well as William McDermott. The McDermott Collection has information on the Central New England, the Poughkeepsie and Eastern, Housatonic as well as the Philadelphia and Reading and the Newburgh and Fishkill railroads. Equally

important most of these materials are in excellent condition despite being in some cases over 140 years old. McDermott and McEntee have also donated considerable information on northern Dutchess railroads such as the Rhinebeck, Millbrook and Pine Plains.

Clinton also has minutes of meetings going back to the late eighteenth century. Some of them are originals, while others are photocopies or on microfilm. Also rather fascinating is primary source information pertaining to slavery in New York State, journal entries of the town doctor Edwin Hoyt and military records going back to the French and Indian War. Furthermore there are records of normal business transactions of the town, old homes, schools such as Prospect Hill, the post offices of Schultzs and Hibernia, accounts of millers and blacksmiths, deeds, cemetery records and an assortment of pamphlets and birth/death records related to the Quakers. There are also papers pertaining to the Cookingham, Rogers, Robbins, Schultz and Van Vliet families. Finally in the second floor bay area, there is an array of interesting artifacts including a spinning wheel, eighteenth and nineteenth century farm equipment as well as an

*Continued on pg. 8*

# Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadracentennial Conference

## HRVI to Host Quadracentennial Conference in September

This fall, the Hudson River Valley Institute, in conjunction with the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, the Hudson River Valley Greenway, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the National Park Service, and the New York State Hudson-Fulton Champlain Quadracentennial Commission have put together a conference to celebrate New York's past 400 years and America's first river, the Hudson.

The conference will be held on September 25 at the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Historic Site and September 26 at the Student Center at Marist College. Over thirty speakers are participating in panel discussions and presentations. Topics include the significance of the Hudson River, Dutch-American relations, Hudson Valley artists, architecture and landmarks, and the valley's first inhabitants among others. Several participants come from Marist College, with many others coming from colleges, universities, historic sites and institutes in the Hudson River Valley.

Dr. David Hackett Fischer will be Friday's keynote speaker. Fischer won a



**FRIDAY, Sept. 25**  
FDR Presidential  
Library and Historic Site  
Hyde Park, NY

**SATURDAY, Sept. 26**  
Marist Student Center  
Marist College  
Poughkeepsie, NY

[HudsonRiverValley.org](http://HudsonRiverValley.org) 845.575.3052

Keynote Speaker:  
Pulitzer Prize  
recipient,  
Dr. David  
Hackett Fischer



Conference participants will be able to choose from several sessions to attend on Saturday. Sessions will be held in the Performing Arts Room and the Nelly Goletti Theater on the third floor of the Student Center. Lunch can be purchased from Marist's deli-style Cabaret or the cafeteria. The night will conclude with a reception in Marist's Historic Cornell Boathouse along the banks of the Hudson River.

For those interested, there will be a performance on Sunday at 2 in the Nelly Goletti Theater. "The River of Tides: A Play About Henry Hudson's Journey on the River That Came to Bear His Name" is a play written by Joseph Bruchac and will be put on by Marist College, Pace University, and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

All are welcome to attend the conference. While there is no fee for attending, please call ahead and reserve a spot so that accommodations can be accurate. Call HRVI at (845) 575-3052 or send an email to [HRVI@marist.edu](mailto:HRVI@marist.edu).

By Lindsay Moreau

Pulitzer Prize for his novel, *Washington's Crossing*, and has recently published another titled, *Champlain's Dream*. A reception will follow his presentation where he will be available for book signing.

## Steaming on the Hudson

### Steamboats of the Hudson River

The Clinton Historical Society is currently running the exhibit *Steamboats of the Hudson River* in conjunction with the Quadracentennial. There is a panel containing information as well as posters from the 1909 Hudson-Fulton celebration as well as small biographies of both Robert Fulton and Henry Hudson. Other interesting aspects of this showcase are the model steamboats such as *Robert A. Snyder* which came to Saugerties in 1865 and the *William F. Rame*. An attention-grabbing model is the twelve-foot *Berkshire*. In addition, there is a display of a vertical beam engine showing the type of steam generated in the early days of steamboats. Another section discusses the decline of steam power during the middle twentieth century. There are several original newspaper clippings about the retirement of the *Alexander Hamilton* in 1971. Next to this is a list of major Hudson River Steamboats which have information

about the years of operation as well as final status i.e. whether a boat sank, burnt, became scrap metal or simply entered retirement.

Next, a small section mentions several steamboat accidents such as the *Henry Clay* (1852) and the *Thomas Cornell* (1882). This exhibit also focuses on the apex of steamboats which proved to be significant economic boon in the Hudson Valley with the shipping of goods. There is information on the Fishkill landing regarding its importance



with hauling coal via steamboat. In fact there are many images of steamboats with the Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge in the distance or background.

Some individuals looked to this type of transportation for recreation with service to parks such as Kingston Point and Woodcliff Pleasure (now Marist College property). In fact, this exhibit includes a list of fares to particular destinations. Also during the golden age, steamboats such as the *Hendrick Hudson* and *Albany* were decorated with lavish furnishings. There are several visuals of these interior furnishings.

This showcase will go on through September 6th. It is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from 12-4pm. For more information please call the Clinton Historical Society at (845) 266-5494

Craig Marshall

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By Paul Contarino

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# Meeting at the Creek

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## Creek Meeting House:

The Town of Clinton's Creek Meeting House has its roots with the meeting of Friends at Nine Partners in Millbrook in 1762 and 1770. During that period, Friends allowed eight individuals to hold worship meetings at Jonathan Hoag's house just slightly north of the current building. Throughout the course of the middle to late eighteenth century, the Quaker population steadily grew throughout Dutchess County. As a result, this group of Friends seized the opportunity and formed a committee to investigate a permanent place on the opposite side of the creek. [Wappingers Creek, which divided several Dutchess County towns including Clinton] In 1776, Abel Peter sold them land for 10 British pounds. This met the approval of the Nine Partners Monthly Meeting.

Although construction began in 1777, it did not finish completion until 1782. The primary reason involved the uneasy times of the American Revolution. Principal builders George Harris, Isaac Hallock, and Paul Upton envisioned a building not only to serve as a church but also a public meeting place. Equally important, they wanted the building to mirror the simplistic lifestyle of Quakers. This structure is designed in a rectangular frame ranging from one and a half to two stories high. At that time, there were two entrances created; one for men and one for women with

a small porch to protect a person from the elements. Interestingly, the designers chose to construct the building from stone as opposed to wood. Some speculate that the building stones came from a quarry from the nearby hamlet of Hibernia.



During the early part of the nineteenth century, the Quakers in Clinton Corners split evenly into the Hicksite and orthodox group. This had been part of a trend with in the Society of Friends. The Hicksites named after Elias Hicks, sought to de-emphasize the authority of the Scriptures as well as Jesus Christ's role. In fact, he frequently visited the Creek Meeting House as well as the Nine Partners in Crum Elbow. Eventually the Hicksites took possession of Creek (1828) forcing out the orthodox. However, by the close of the century, Quakerism generally declined in Clinton Corners. During this time, the meeting house received a slate roof with the founding date of 1777

etched in.

Citing a loss of significant membership, Hicksite Quakers deeded the building to the Upton Lake Grange in 1927. Shortly thereafter, the Creek Meeting House underwent significant changes which involved the lowering of ceilings, the addition of a kitchen, the lengthening of windows, as well as gutters and the placing of new floors on existing ones, and new stairs going to the second floor. The Upton Lake Grange held square dances on the second floor. This required the removal of two support beams and strengthening of the attic. During the 1980s, roof repairs resulted in the removal of the 1777 etching.

At the close of the decade, Creek was named to the National Historic Register of Historic Places. In 1995 the Clinton Historical Society acquired the structure and began the task of upgrading it to current building codes. In 1997, town officials converted the second floor into an archive repository and office area. In 1999 a local donated a copper roof. A few years later (2003) the beams were put back in [albeit not the originals]. Now the Creek Meeting House serves as a tool for educating the public about the Town of Clinton's historical importance.

For more information please contact the Clinton Historical Society at (845) 266-5494

**By Paul Contarino**

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## Town of Clinton, Continued...

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In the last century the town has undergone significant changes. The first half of the twentieth century, it like other towns, benefited from the introduction of modern technologies. After and even before World War II, Clinton began the transition from an agricultural self sustaining community to a

residential one. To preserve the Clinton's heritage, officials initiated the annual Clinton Community Day in 1917. This tradition continues today but it is now known as Clinton Heritage Day. Each year it successfully draws in crowds and even attracts outsiders looking for something to do on a weekend.

Society.

In addition, McDermott has written a good book about Dutchess titled *Dutchess County's Plain Folks: Enduring uncertainty, inequality and uneven prosperity, 1725-1875* (2004)



For more information about Clinton's rich history please consult William McDermott *Clinton: Dutchess County, NY: A History of a Town* (1987). He focuses on the political, economics, religious and social aspects that shaped and transformed the Town of Clinton. Include in his work are great anecdotes from residents. McDermott has done excellent and rather extensive primary and secondary research on Clinton. He relies on materials such as minutes, census and tax records, diaries and deeds. Some of these can be found at the Clinton Historical

Contact town historian Craig Marshall

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**By Paul Contarino**

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## Mission Statement, Continued...

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old desk and chairs and numerous pictures and glassware donated by the Van Vliet family.

A recent project has involved the cataloguing of over 300 books. There are numerous books on the Palatines in Dutchess County as well as Dutch architecture. In addition, Clinton has many old textbooks from Quaker schools. Some of them are in excellent condition for being in some instances over 160 years old. This repository also has a large collection of railroad books pertaining to the northeastern region such as the Lehigh and Hudson, as well as the New York and Ontario and New Haven. Likewise there is information on the significance of locomotives as well. Also Clinton has published primary source information on Crum Elbow and Nine Partners. There is a fairly large collection of the Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors of Dutchess County. Finally there are manuscripts pertaining to New York State and Dutchess County history.

Since 1976 the Clinton Historical Society has worked hard to preserve the community record. It received a lot of assistance from Eleanor Rogers and William McDermott. About ten years ago, CHS raised \$35,000 in the restoration/preservation of the 1865

Quaker Meeting House in Schultzville. Now Clinton is in the process of transitioning leadership that is looking to upgrade its archival institution to the twenty-first century. It is



tentatively looking to embark on digitization projects in the near future. MaryJo Nickerson, the current president and other board members are open to many suggestions. A current board member, Noreen

Coller, has begun the process of mapping out the old mill sites and old houses that dot the Town of Clinton. Coller is working with older maps but is finding that some mills and structures have been overlooked. She is looking to create a new map and hopes that some of the aged structures are placed on the National

Register of Historic Places.

For more information on Clinton's Historical Society, its archives, or its mission please visit their website at: <http://www.clintonhistory.org/>

Or contact Board Member MaryJo Nickerson by Phone: (845)-266-3066 or

Email: [nickersonmaryjo@gmail.com](mailto:nickersonmaryjo@gmail.com)

**By Paul Contarino**

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### Up Coming Events at Clinton

#### Historical

The Clinton Historical Society will be participating in Clinton Heritage Day scheduled for Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. This annual event focuses on the history of Clinton and offers pony and hay wagon rides, animals, live music old tyme crafts, children's games and food. On Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm there will be a September Program Meeting. Right now this is still in the determining process. As part of the opening of the Poughkeepsie-Highland Bridge, Clinton will host "Hudson River Steamboats" on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm. It is a slide presentation prepared by steamboat historian Robert Jordy.

**By Paul Contarino**

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## Look for in the Next Issue of the HRVI Newsletter

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A celebration of Eleanor Roosevelt's life in the Fall 2009 edition of the Hudson River Valley Review as her 125th birthday approaches.

**By Katie Garrison**

# Contact Us

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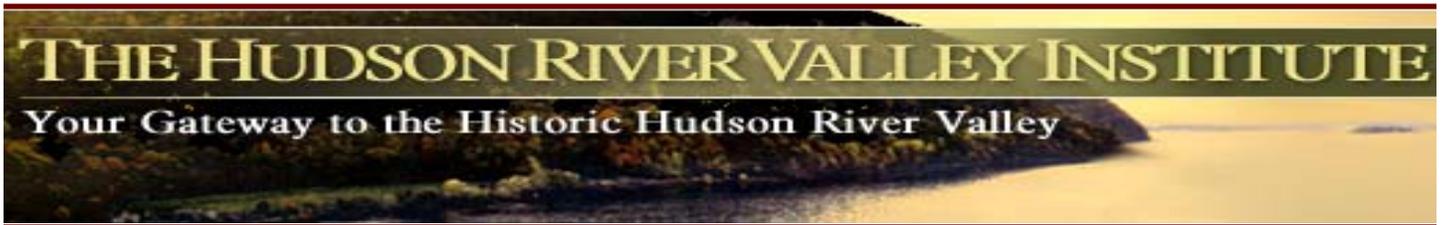
*The Hudson River Valley:  
"The Landscape that Defined America"*

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)



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## Hudson River Valley Events

For more information on events in the Hudson River Valley please visit <http://www.dutchess400.com/>  
or <http://exploreny400.com/Home.aspx>