



Summer Teaching Institutes End in Shadow of Supreme Court Announcement

The second week of the Summer Teaching Institutes occurred with coincidental timing, as the discussion of the Supreme Court's influence on American history coincided with President George W. Bush's nomination of Washington, D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge John Roberts as the next Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Roberts, if confirmed, will replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. It is the first Supreme Court vacancy since 1993.

The announcement, broadcast on primetime television, came on Tuesday night, July 19th, and was discussed by the teachers during the early morning session on Wednesday.

"The program took place at an opportune time. Weeks before the program, Justice O'Connor, the moderate swing vote on the Su-

preme Court, retired leaving President Bush to make an appointment that would likely change the ideological balance of the Court. Through a discussion of the Roberts appointment, we returned to some of the perennial themes about the place of the Court in our system of government, including a discussion of precedent, methods of constitutional interpretation, and the role of the Court in bringing about social change," said political science Professor Lynn Eckert.

Though the Roberts confirmation dominated Wednesday morning's discussion, the teachers soon moved on to the rest of their agenda for the week, involving analysis of landmark Supreme Court decisions in American history. The teachers looked at several

broad categories, including cases impacting civil rights, economic regulation, federalism, (the role of that national vs. state and local governments), and war powers.

Like the previous week's Teaching Institute, the teachers took the issues brought up through the discussions and applied them to the creation of curriculum plans. These will eventually be placed online at www.hudsonrivervalley.net/learning under the title "Freedom and Dignity Project". The Summer Teaching Institutes are funded by Dutchess and Ulster County BOCES and the Hudson River Valley Institutes through the Department of Education's Teaching American History grant.

~Neil Bhatiya

Preview of Patriots' Weekend Events

The biggest event of the Hudson River Valley Institute's year, the Patriots' Weekend will be held September 29 – October 2. The topic of this year's Patriots' Weekend is the "Treason! The Arnold-André Affair" perhaps the most notorious act of betrayal in American history.

The Weekend will commemorate the 225th Anniversary of Arnold and André's plot to surrender West Point, the linchpin of the colonial defense of the strategic Hudson River, to the British. The plot was foiled, however, when André was captured and Bene-

dict Arnold, formerly the hero of the American victory at the Battle of Saratoga, was forced to flee in disgrace to Britain. Activities during the weekend will include lectures at Marist College and the U.S. Military Academy at

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Special points of interest:

- Please be sure to consult the HRVI website, as we are constantly updating our content, a brief summary of which is on page 5
- On page 4 is a summary of the "Teaching the Hudson Valley" lectures. .

Featured Historic Site—DeWint House

As one of General George Washington's headquarters during the American Revolution, the De Wint House, located in Tappan, New York, witnessed the many life-and-death decisions that dominated Washington's generalship. It also played a part in the most famous treason case in America's history.

From September 28 to October 2, 1780, the De Wint House was the venue for Washington's supervision of the trial of British Major John Andre, who was Benedict Arnold's co-conspirator in the plot to betray West Point to the British (see Patriots' Weekend Events article on page 1). At the De Wint house, Washington heard the pleas from representatives of British general Sir Henry Clinton to spare Andre's life. Clinton argued that as an officer in the British armed forces, he should be executed by a firing squad, which was considered a more honorable method of execution. Washington was



De Wint House

<http://revolutionaryday.com/usroute9w/tappan/>

bound, however, by the rules of war which dictated that spies captured by the enemy were to be hung.

Washington headquartered in the De Wint house on three other occasions dur-

ing his time of service in the Continental Army. The first was from August 8 to 24, 1780; the second during the Andre trial; the third from May 4-8, 1783 when he was negotiating the final British withdrawal from New York City; and the fourth from November 11-14, 1783, on his way to New York City, where he would tender his resignation to the Congress.

The house itself, constructed in the Dutch style, dates back to 1700. Admission to the site is free and

open to the public from 10-4, thanks to the generosity of the Freemasons who have maintained the site.

~ Neil Bhatiya

Featured Historic Website— Historical Society of Rockland County

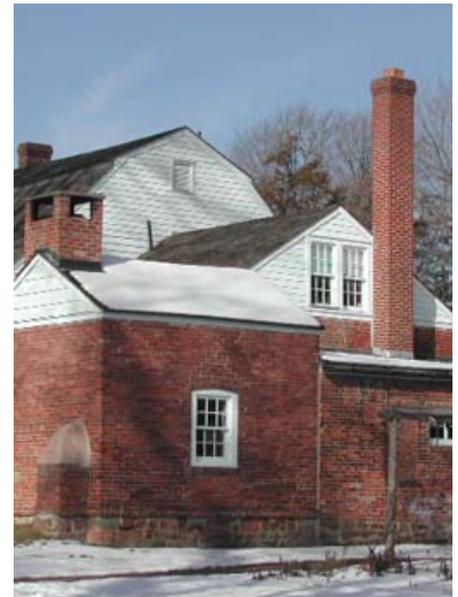
The Historical Society of Rockland County states its mission is to “acquire, preserve, document, and exhibit an historic object and archival collection that reflects the diverse societal fabric of Rockland.” The Society, though, has extended this mission to the Internet, enticing history buffs with their detailed pages to visit and learn.

The Historical Society of Rockland County actually possesses several buildings for public education and scholarly research. The History Center Museum is the central hub for the Society's interaction with the community, which the Historical Society considers to also be a crucial part of its mission. As its website (<http://www.rocklandhistory.org>) explains, the Historical Society of Rockland County has several educational programs for students that run throughout the year, such as “Life on the Family Farm;” in addition, it also holds many annual and special programs for the general public to become better educated on the diverse

history of the county. Those interested can read listings of events, past, present or future, on the website.

Other facilities include the Blauvelt House, through which guided tours are provided, and the Historic Barn, where the Historical Society of Rockland County houses their special collections and events/lectures are held. Here, collections reaching back to approximately 8000 B.C. are carefully preserved. For the less scholarly-inclined, topics of exhibits for the public range from Haitian immigrants to the area to war letters from local veterans. To see what exhibit is currently in display, a quick viewing of the website is recommended. For information on tours and other inquiries, the Historical Society can be reached at (845) 634-9269. The Historical Society is located at 20 Zukor Road, New City, New York, 10956.

~ Adrienne Harris



Jacob Blauvelt House—http://www.rocklandhistory.org/house_overview.htm

Featured Historic Town—Fishkill

The history of Fishkill, New York is a microcosm of the history of New York in general. From its Dutch roots to its role in Hudson River commerce, Fishkill's historical evolution parallels that of the state's. Even the town's name illustrates its ancestry; Fishkill means "fish creek" in Dutch and thus recognizes the contributions of its' first European settlers.

Fishkill was originally part of the Rombout Patent. In 1685, this patent was purchased and divided into three smaller land grants. Roger Brett owned the section that includes contemporary Fishkill. Roger Brett died soon after, leaving Catharyna Brett to be the sole provider for their children. Thereafter, Catharyna Brett sold tracts of her land as a source of income leading to the creations of homesteads in the burgeoning town.

Fishkill's strongest historical attachment is to the American Revolution. Be-

sides witnessing a military encampment, the town also temporarily housed prominent officials, including Baron von Steuben, a Prussian officer largely credited with instilling discipline in the American Army, George Washington, and John Jay, the first Supreme Court Justice. Paralleling Boston, albeit on a much smaller scale, Fishkill also hosted a Tea Party. However, in Fishkill's case, it was a group of women who were protesting the price of tea.

Many of the buildings still in use in Fishkill lay claim to a role in the American Revolution. Trinity Church was a hospital for soldiers, while the Dutch Reformed Church was the home of a prison for Tories and the New York Provincial Congress, making Fishkill the temporary capital of New York. Furthermore, George Washington's sword, depicted in *Washington Crossing the Delaware*, was made near present-day Maurer

Geering Park.

Fishkill also played an important role in industrialization, specifically with the Glenham Woolen Mill. The mill provided employment for many families in the 19th century, producing blue serge, a type of twilled cloth, for Union soldiers. However, like other industries, the business collapsed during the depression of the 1870s. In 1931, Texaco breathed new life into the area with the establishment of a research center.

Today, the town is attempting to balance the desire to grow with the need to preserve its history. Many of the farms have now given way to residential neighborhoods and commercial development. Similar to New York, the struggle between past and future will continue in Fishkill.

~ Lauren Santangelo



Van Wyck/Wharton House, center of major Continental Army supply depot. photo credit: Lauren Santangelo

Consortium Hosts Teaching Symposium

While the Hudson River Valley Institute was hosting its own Summer Teaching Institutes at Marist College, a partnership of local educational organizations was also holding programs on teaching issues related to the area, entitled “From Erie Canal to the New Deal: The Hudson Valley and the Rise of the Empire State.” Over 100 educators attended over the course of the three-day program. The Teaching the Hudson Valley Institute represented the combined efforts of the National Park Service, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Hudson River Valley Greenway, the Hudson River Valley Institute, the Hudson River Estuary Program, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Additional support was provided by the MidHudson Teachers Center and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, which acted as the host site for the event. Additional funding was provided by the Malcolm Gordon Charitable Trust. More information can be found at the website, www.teachingthehudsonvalley.org.

The lecturers included professors, educators, and specialists from numerous fields across New York State. The subject areas covered were a refreshing blend of standard historical issues, including the impact of the Roosevelts, the Vanderbilts and the Civil War, and unique areas of inquiry, such as the use of photography to enhance student literacy, landscaping at the Vanderbilt Mansion, archaeology at the West Point Foundry, and the ecology of the Hudson River Valley. Among those presenting were representatives of Marist College faculty. English Professor Mark Morreale discussed “Civil War and the Valley”, which is also the topic of his forthcoming article in the Fall issue of the *Hudson River Valley Review*. Professor Robyn Rosen, chair of the History Department at Marist, gave a lecture entitled “From the Progressive Era to the New Deal: An Overview” which centered on the impulse for government activism in social reform and was an important aspect of the early twentieth century. Professor Thomas Wermuth, Dean of the Marist College School of Liberal Arts and Director of the Hudson River Valley Institute, focused his talk, “The Economic Transformation of the Valley,” on the various factors which led to the industrialization and expansion of the Hudson River Valley region during the early 19th century.

In addition to the lectures and workshops, grants were given to several area schools to work with historic sites to create curriculums embracing the diverse array of cultural, environmental, and historical resources in the Hudson River Valley. The grant recipients were: the Brendon Montessori School, in Lagrangeville; Chancellor Livingston School, Rhinebeck; Foxfire School, Yonkers; Haldane Elementary School, Cold Spring; Hoosick Falls, Rensselaer; New Paltz Middle School, New Paltz; Philip Livingston Academy, Albany; Sargent Elementary School, Beacon; and Taconic Hills, Craryville. Greenberg-Graham, Hyde Park Central Schools, and Saint Dominic’s received scholarship funds to attend the institute.

~Neil Bhatiya



Marist College Professor Robyn Rosen lecturing. Photo Credit: Bill Urbin, NPS

New Web Content on HRVI Website

In addition to the many other activities which consume the Hudson River Valley Institute during the summer, we have been constantly updating our web content. Among the new items are electronic copies of our monthly newsletters for the past few months, available for download as a PDF (link:

www.hudsonrivervalley.net/presscenter/newsletters/newsletters/php). We have also begun a new index page for the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial. As the anniversary in 2009 approaches, we will be adding new content to that page, including links and primary sources (www.hudsonrivervalley.net/themes.HFCQ.php).

Teachers looking for additional resources can find them under "Learning," which provides teachers with lesson plans, guidebooks, and primary docu-

ments to aid them in teaching the history of the Hudson River Valley (www.hudsonrivervalley.net/learninghome.php).

The Digital Library menu includes a link to "Student Works." Upon opening the page, over twenty PowerPoint presentations on a variety of subjects are available for downloading or opening for classroom use. Although some may already be aware that HRVI had these presentations open for use, they were recently edited to ensure a quicker download time and more classroom-friendly look. Student-made lesson plans that can be used without or in conjunction with these presentations are also in development and will soon be posted (www.hudsonrivervalley.net/students).

Two student articles from the previous semester have also been made available online. Dan Calandro's history of the ice industry and Neil Bhatiya's survey of the West Point Foundry are both accessible under the "Articles/Essays" link under Digital Library (www.hudsonrivervalley.net/books/articles/php).

We have also added numerous events to our Events Calendar, covering the remainder of the year 2005. We are proud to offer this clearing house for community activities throughout the Hudson River Valley (www.hudsonrivervalley.net/calendar.php).

~ Adrienne Harris

Patriot's Weekend

(Continued from page 1)

West Point, as well as re-enactments of Major André's capture and execution in Tappan.

The four-day weekend will begin Thursday, September 29, with a conference at Marist College. Professor Thomas Wermuth, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Marist College and Director of the Hudson River Valley Institute, and Professor Colonel James Johnson (U.S. Army, retired), Executive Director of the Hudson River Valley Institute will conduct a lecture entitled "The American Revolution in the Hudson Valley."

These will be followed by talks on Benedict Arnold by Dr. James Kirby Martin, Distinguished University Professor of History at the University of Houston and author of *Benedict Arnold: Revolutionary Hero*; Clare Brandt, author of *The Man in the Mirror: A Life of Benedict Arnold*; Professor Willard Randall of Champlain College and author of *Benedict Arnold, Patriot and Traitor*; and John Walsh, author of *The Execution of*

Major André. On Friday, the lectures will continue at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with another lecture by Dr. Martin and at the Tarrytown Music Hall by Professor Randall.

The re-enactments take place Saturday and Sunday, beginning with wreath-laying ceremonies at the Elmsford Reformed Church Cemetery and Croton Point Park. There will be a re-enactment of the capture of Major André at Patriots' Park in Sleepy Hollow. These will be followed by recreations of colonial life, and encampments by Revolutionary War re-enactors. On Sunday, Patriots' Weekend participants will recreate the trial and execution of Major André for his role in the attempt to betray West Point to the British.

Funding for this year's Patriots' Weekend is provided by the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Hudson River Valley Institute, Marist College, and the Kenyon and Novenster families. Other sponsors include: the Charlotte Cunneen-Hackett Charitable

Trust, the M&T Bank Charitable Foundation, the Brigade of the American Revolution, Croton Friends of History, the George Washington Masonic Historic Site at Tappan, Historical Society, Inc, Lower Hudson Conference of Historical Agencies & Museums, the Croton Point Park Material Archives and Laboratory for Archaeology, the Mount Pleasant Historical Society, the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives, Samuel Adams, the Tappantown Historical Society, Department of History, United States Military Academy at West Point, and the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society. This schedule is tentative and subject to change. Further information can be found at the HRVI website, www.hudsonrivervalley.net, and the website for the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, www.hudsonrivervalley.com

~Neil Bhatiya

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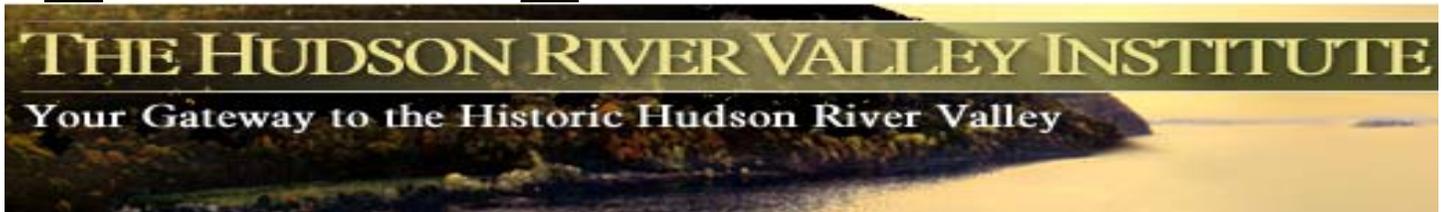
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***The Hudson River Valley—“The
Landscape that Defined America”***

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.

The Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College is the academic arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Its mission is to study and to promote the Hudson River Valley and to provide educational resources for heritage tourists, scholars, elementary and secondary 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.



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