



Institute Awarded Prestigious Grant

The Hudson River Valley Institute, along with several partner organizations, has secured a second three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education, allowing it to continue its Teaching American History (TAH) program.

TAH has been a cornerstone of HRVI's outreach to educators in the Hudson River Valley. This grant allows us to continue our excellent working relationship with our consortium partners.

For the 2006 TAH seminars, these include: the Dutchess, Ulster, and Orange County Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), the History Faculty of Marist College (HRVI's host institution), the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, the Karpeles Library, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and the

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.

The theme for the 2006 TAH seminars will *America's Promise: 400 Years of Defining the American Dream*. The theme of the "American Dream" has been a constant aspect of American history. But through what values do Americans identify that dream? The seminar participants will hope to answer these questions.

In order to focus this line of inquiry, the seminars will focus on several sub-themes. These include "Henry Hudson and the New World: The Meeting of Many Cultures," which will address the melting pot of the period of early exploration, when Native Americans interacted with settlers from England,

France, the Netherlands, and Africans forcibly imported as slaves.

The second sub-theme, "Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, and the Birth of Modern America," will examine the political ideas of these two arch-rivals. Participants will have the extraordinary opportunity to view a Hamilton exhibit, curated by the New York Historical Society.

The third sub-theme, "Presidential Leadership During Wartime: FDR, Abraham Lincoln, and Lyndon Johnson," will analyze crisis-era leadership and its impact on America's political values. Participants will benefit from the proximity of the FDR Presidential Library for researching primary sources.

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Navigator Conference to Focus on Environmental Protection

On March 29, 2006, county legislators, executives, business owners, and citizens will descend on Pace University in White Plains, New York for the American Heritage Rivers Initiative "A Regional Summit to Address Air Quality: Smart Fuels."

The Summit is sponsored by

the American Heritage Rivers Initiative, HRVI, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Hudson River Boat and Yacht Club.

The Summit will address strategies for the implementation of clean fuel strategies. For

more information in the next month, please see the website of Vincent Tamagna, the Hudson River Navigator (hudsonrivervalley.net/navigator/).

~Neil Bhatiya

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Special points of interest:

- Please be sure to consult the HRVI website, as we are constantly updating our content
- A summary of the new issue of the Hudson River Valley Review can be found on page 4
- An introduction of Lauren Santangelo as the 2006 Internship Coordinator can be found on page

Featured Historic Site—Mills Mansion

Staatsburgh State historical site, also known as Mills mansion, was donated to New York State in 1938 by Gladys Mills Phipps. The house was built as a 25 room Greek revival structure by the governor of New York, Morgan Lewis, and his wife Gertrude Livingston in 1832. Lewis lived at Staatsburgh from 1807 to 1912, where he devoted much of his time to agriculture. He died in 1844 in New York City, leaving Staatsburgh to Ruth Livingston Mills and her husband Ogden Mills. Mills inherited his fortune from his father, a wealthy investor. In 1895 the Mills' enlarged the existing 25 room home and hired the prestigious architecture firm of McKim, Mead, and White. When completed in 1896, it had 23 fireplaces and 47 bedrooms. The house has not undergone any major renovations since. Almost all of the interior furnishings, including artwork, are originals.

There is not a single room that is not

elaborately decorated. A visitor could wander through the house for hours, absorbing the rich details of the intricately carved furniture, purposely shabby books in the library, or the numerous pieces of art. The grounds are designed in the picturesque landscape fashion, with many rolling hills, clumps of trees, and small bodies of water. When the Mills' inherited the land, there were 334 acres included. By 1929 the estate had grown to over 1600 acres.

During the holiday season they offer a "Gilded Age Christmas Tour" which runs almost every day from late November to Christmas. In the summer a visitor could attend a Celtic Day on the lawn with music and dance, a golf and tennis, environmental education programs, and concerts from their "Music in the Parks" concert series, which takes place on the lawn.

Staatsburgh also offers themed tours

every year (April to October). The last themed was the "House of Mirth Tour," based on Edith Wharton's famous novel which turned 100 in 2005. This tour allows the visitor to see what life would have been like for Lilly Bart, the main character in Wharton's novel.

There are opportunities for school trips to Staatsburgh with numerous programs for all ages that range from servant's life on a large estate during the Gilded Age to environmental programs. School tours are offered at Staatsburgh year round. ~ Sarah Gunner

Mills Mansion is located on Old Post Road in Staatsburgh New York, online at <http://www.staatsburgh.org/>, by phone at (845) 889-8851. Open from January to March on Sundays from 11am to 4pm, April 1st to October 31st Tuesday to Sunday, and open daily from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, students, and groups, \$1 for children 5-12, and free for children under 5.

Featured Historic Website-Heritage New York



A Panorama of New York State History. <http://www.heritageny.gov/home.cfm>

Governor George E. Pataki established the Heritage trail system New York in an effort to preserve and recognize the historical significance of the state. Through its website, <http://www.heritageny.gov>, Heritage New York has provided a comprehensive tool for both residents and visitors to understand, explore, and navigate the history and culture of the state.

Importantly, the website allows the visitor to direct and plan his/her visit based on particular interests. By providing three themes to explore the state, Revolutionary War, Underground Railroad, and Theodore Roosevelt, the site allows a person to easily navigate through the historical possibilities of New

York State. With each theme, the website supplies a list of trail sites and additional information on each particular attraction. Furthermore, the website also provides a series of suggested itineraries for people planning a visit to the state.

However, the site does not only present specific information on sites. Through linking the sites into thematic units, the website is able to provide an overview of New York State's role in historically significant events. Additionally, the website also provides a comprehensive timeline to allow visitors to chronologically understand New York's role. In essence, this site both provides information to understand and explore the state, and the tools necessary to enable visitors to plan a worthwhile visit.

~ Lauren Santangelo

Featured Historic Town— Woodstock

The town of Woodstock was incorporated in 1787. Almost from the time of its founding, its beautiful landscapes and proximity to the Hudson River have attracted countless artists. It housed several painters of the Hudson River School, known for their beautiful renditions of the river.

In fact, Woodstock is home to the country's oldest artists' colony, the Byrdcliffe Art Colony, founded in 1903. The colony is currently operated by the Woodstock Guild, which was founded in 1939, and is currently on the National Register of Historic Places.

The town has also been the home of bustling tanning and glass industries. The city expanded after the War of

1812 and throughout the course of the late 19th century. It became a favorite vacation spot for wealthy New Yorkers trying to escape the city.

Woodstock also has the dubious distinction of being the namesake of the famous music and arts festival in 1969. The festival featured such groundbreaking rock musicians as Jimi Hendrix, Joan Baez, Janis Joplin, the Who and the Grateful Dead. It was originally supposed to take place in the town of Woodstock, hence the name. Residents, however, objected to it being held there, and so the acts were forced to move to Bethel in nearby Sullivan Country.

~ Neil Bhatiya



Church on the Mount to receive historic designation

Teaching American History Grant (from Page 1)

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“Coming to America: 400 Years of the Immigrant Experience” will tackle the various population movements to America.

The last sub-theme, “Martin Luther King and the Promise of the Founding Fathers: The Civil Rights Movement,” will address how the themes of America’s founding—including the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and the proposition, enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, that all men are created equal—were reflected in the 1960s Civil Rights struggle.

The result of these seminars will be lesson plans geared towards the increasing use of primary sources in document-based questions for students. These DBQ’s, as they are referred to

commonly, are meant to help refine students reading , writing, and reading comprehension skills.

Marist College and HRVI host the seminars over the summer, provide follow-up during the school year, and technical assistance.

~ Neil Bhatiya

Holiday Season Events in the Hudson Valley

Need some warm places to escape from an icy December in the Hudson Valley? Our events calendar provides information for all of the holiday fun happening in the Hudson River Valley.

On Thursday, December 15, The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck will present *A Christmas Carol-The Musical*. The run of the musical will last until December 23. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$15 for children. For more information, please call the Box Office at (845) 876-3080 between 11:00AM and 5:00PM or you can visit their website: www.centerforperformingarts.org.

On Friday, December 16, the Clermont State Park in Germantown will conduct a tour of the Livingston home, festively decorated for the season. The tour will last from 4:00PM to 7:00PM. The fee is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors/college students, \$1 for children 5-12, and children

under five are admitted for free. For more information, please contact Bruce Naramore at (518) 537-4240 or visit their website: www.friendsofclermont.org.

For families with amateur detectives among their younger members, Mills Mansion (Staatsburgh State Historic Site) will be offering a "Holiday Whodunit." Someone has stolen a valuable belonging of one of the guests of the Mills family. It's up to the children to piece together the clues to solve the mystery. The event will be held on December 18 and December 23. The Sunday time is from Noon till 5:00PM; Friday is from 6:00PM to 8:00PM. Admission is \$5 adults, \$4 seniors/college students, \$1 children 5-12, and free for children under 5. For more information, please call the Historic Site at (845) 889-8851 or visit their website at <http://www.staatsburgh.org/>.

On December 17, Knox's Headquar-

ters in Vails Gate will host a Christmas-themed tour of the 1754 mansion. The tour will run from 5:30 to 8:30PM. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for senior citizens, and \$1 for children ages 5-12. For more information, please contact Knox's Headquarters at (845) 561-5498, or visit their website at www.nysparks.com/events/.

Please visit our events calendar (www.hudsonrivervalley.net/calendar/php#) to learn about these events and many more that are being offered all around the Hudson River Valley during the holiday season.

~ Neil Bhatiya

New HRVI Website Content

The Hudson River Valley Institute has spent much of the busy Fall

semester posting new content to its website (<http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org>).

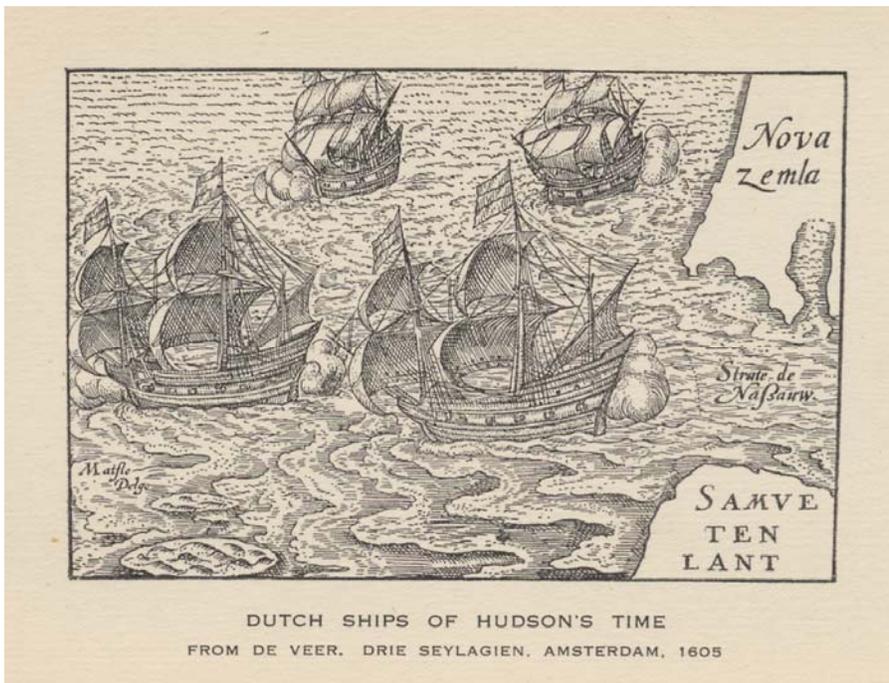
www.hudsonrivervalley.org).

Our homepage menu bar has been simplified to allow visitors to more easily access site information. Our "Newsclippings"

([.hudsonrivervalley.org/presscenter/newsClippings/newsClippings.php](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/presscenter/newsClippings/newsClippings.php)) section has been updated with coverage of Patriots' Weekend. Photographs from Patriots' Weekend events are also in our "Photo Gallery Page" ([hudsonrivervalley.net/gallery/](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net/gallery/)).

By the end of the semester, we will have added our student research projects. Over the course of the semester, our student interns have been conducting independent research on a variety of subjects. Many of the projects were geared towards the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial, to be celebrated in 2007.

~ Neil Bhatiya



Meet the Interns—Lauren Santangelo

HRVI would like to introduce Marist College Senior Lauren Santangelo as the 2006 Internship Coordinator. The Internship Coordinator is responsible for managing the student interns at HRVI, for drafting the monthly newsletters, and working with our Program Director Christopher Pryslopski and Executive Director Professor Colonel (U.S. Army, ret.) James Johnson, PhD.

Reprinted here is her updated biography from a previous issue of the newsletter:

Lauren Santangelo is a senior double majoring in Political Science and History. As an intern for the Hudson

River Valley Institute in Spring 2005, she compiled primary and secondary sources for the teachers who will attend the summer Teaching American History program. The majority of this work revolved around Supreme Court cases, specifically placing them within a historical context.

Lauren also plans to declare a dual minor in American Studies and Women's Studies. She is particularly interested in women's roles in American political movements. Her senior thesis addressed issue of male/female roles in the Great Depression, as evidenced by letters sent to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. As part of her work with the Institute, she is currently

working on a research paper discussing the role of women in the Fishkill Tea Party.

After graduation, Lauren aspires to attend graduate school, focusing on women's political involvement in the American Revolution, and earn a PhD. In an effort to begin research on women's roles, Lauren plans to intern at the Hudson River Valley Institute next year and discover the role local women played in the American Revolution.

~ Lauren Santangelo

New Issue of *Review* Available

The Autumn 2005 issue of the *Hudson River Valley Review*, the biennial academic journal published by HRVI and entitled "The Hudson River Valley Goes to War," is now available for purchase.

Focusing on the role of the heartland region of the Union's biggest state, this issue addresses what editors Reed Sparling and Christophe Pryslopski call the Civil War's "profound impact" on the Hudson River Valley.

Many of the articles address the role of soldiers who enlisted (or were conscripted) from local Hudson River Valley towns. These include: Michael McAfee's "The Sons of Friends and Neighbors: Orange County's 56th and 124th Regiments of New York Volunteer Infantry," Laurence Hauptman's "The New Paltz Times Reports the Civil War: Sergeant Rooster Ackert in Cajun Country," Charles LaRocca's "'but alas! our Country calls': The Formation of the 124th New York State Volunteers, July 1- September 6, 1862," Warren F. Broderick's "'I Owe you this for Appomattox': U.S. Grant's Mystery Visitor at Mount McGregor,"

and Mark James Morreale's "'Awful beyond description': The Ordeal of the Hudson Valley Regiments in the Army of the Potomac in 1863."

A fascinating primary source document was graciously furnished by the Senate House State Archives. It is the firsthand account of a British subject forcibly conscripted into the Confederate Army. The article was originally published in the Port Royal, South Carolina *Palmetto Herald* on June 23, 1864.

The Regional History Forum includes an article on the Huguenot Historical Society's exhibit on New Paltz residents in the Civil War, authored by the Institute's internship coordinator, Neil Bhatiya. HRVI's Program Director, Christopher Pryslopski, wrote an article on the Senate House State Historic Site in Kingston, New York, which has many Civil War-related holdings. Lastly, a group of academics, local historians, and site managers collaborated on an article on the importance of the West Point Foundry.

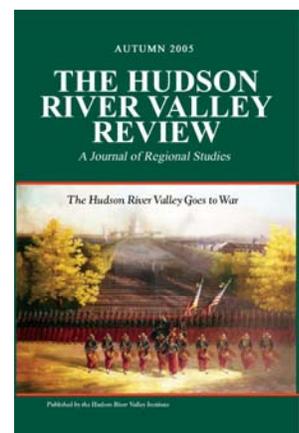
Completing the features of this issue, Susan Ingalls Lewis, Assistant

Professor of History at the State University of New York, New Paltz wrote a review of the recently published *Empire State: A History of New York*.

Sponsorship for this issue of the *Review* was generously provided by: the CH Energy Group, U.S. Calvary, Brinckerhoff & Neuville, Inc., and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.

For more information on how to subscribe, please see our *Review* website: hudsonrivervalley.net/hrv/contents/current.php.

~ Neil Bhatiya



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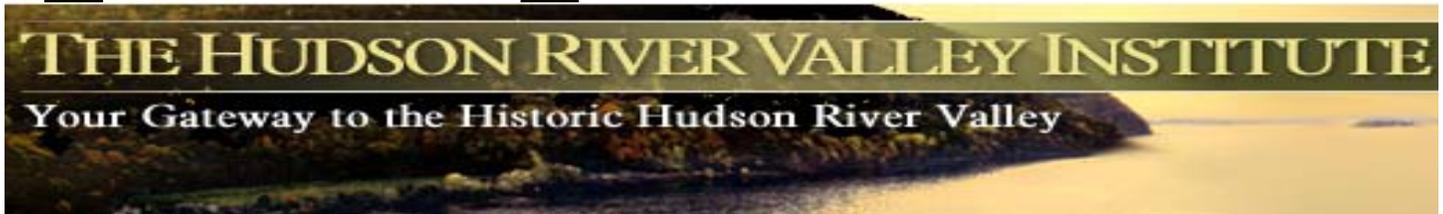
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***The Hudson River Valley—“The
Landscape that Defined America”***

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."

www.hudsonrivervalley.net



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