

Issue 23
June 2005



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HISTORIC HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Hudson River Valley Institute

HRVI Sponsors Summer Teaching Institutes

During the month of July, educators from around the Hudson River Valley will arrive in Hyde Park, New York to take part in the Summer Teaching Institutes sponsored by the Dutchess and Ulster County BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) for teachers of American history. Support was also made possible through the U.S. Department of Education's Teaching American History Grant.

The Teaching Institutes will be run by Marist College faculty from the History and Political Science Departments. Participating faculty include Professors Frederick Opie of the History Department and Professors Martin Shaffer and Lynn Eckert of the Political Science Department.

Professor Opie's workshop, entitled "Commerce, Industry, and Immigration in the Nineteenth Century: The Case of the

Hudson River Valley" will provide an overview of the Industrial Revolution's effects on the region, including developments in transportation, the rise of factories, and the impact of these advances on the workforce. Another important theme is the rise in immigration occurring contemporary with these events.

Professors Shaffer and Eckert, in their workshop "American History Through the Lens of Supreme Court Cases" look at how the Supreme Court shaped the development of the federal government, the American economy, and the societal implications of Supreme Court rulings, especially race relations and civil rights.

The final product of these Institutes will be online accessible curricula targeted towards grades 7, 8, and 11. These will be available as a resource for educators across the country and around the world. These curricula will include lesson plans and recommendations for teachers.

The Hudson River Valley Institute is proud to host these invaluable workshops, which provide an opportunity for networking and mentoring that is vital to the continual improvement of the education of our communities.

~ Neil Bhatiya

HRVI Celebration a Success

On June 1, over a hundred people helped the Hudson River Valley Institute celebrate its third anniversary. During the donor reception, the Institute presented an evening based on its mission to highlight the culture and history of the Hudson River Valley. Among the features were: sam-

ples of work by local artist John Gould (1906-2006) from the Bethlehem Art Gallery presented by his son Robert (Marist 1965) and music by Jay Unger and Molly Mason.

The centerpiece of the commemoration was a

lecture by author and historian Russell Shorto. His talk centered around his new book, *The Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony that Shaped*

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Special points of interest:

- A Summary of the Summer Teaching Institutes will be forthcoming in the July issue.
- The Commemoration of the Battle of Pine's Bridge is discussed on page 4.
- Please be sure consult the HRVI website, www.hudsonrivervalley.net because we are always updating our content.

Featured Historic Site—Museum of the Hudson Highlands

The Museum of the Hudson Highlands, situated in Cornwall, is proud to serve all of those interested in the history—cultural and natural—of the Highlands region. Through its educational programs, geared towards students of all ages, it seeks to advance the cause of its mission statement, to “create responsible caretakers of our environment” and to promote “knowledge and appreciation of our natural world and the dynamic role of human interaction in its well-being.”

The programs are divided between the museum’s two sites: The Boulevard in Cornwall-on-Hudson and Kenridge Farm in Cornwall. Among



Kenridge Farm: Museum of the Hudson Highlands
<http://museumhudsonhighlands.org/>

the programs available to the public are fishing and hiking, guided by experts trained to help identify animal and

plant life and explain their significance to the larger ecology of the Hudson River Valley.

For educators, the Museum offers a Science Institute which provides seminars on how to use forest and aquatic areas as a venue for teaching students. Further information can be found on the Museum’s website:

www.museumhudsonhighlands.org

~Neil Bhatiya

Featured Historic Website—Hudson River Valley Heritage

Those seeking an electronic connection to the history of the Hudson River Valley have yet another resource to turn to thanks to the efforts of a collaboration of regional institutions brought together under the guidance of the Southeastern New York Library Resources Council.

The new effort, called Hudson River Valley Heritage, seeks to bring together and digitize the collections of libraries and historical institutions in the following counties: Columbia, Greene, Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan, Rockland, Orange, and Putnam.

Among the resources currently in the digital collection are documents and pictures from the libraries of Bard and Vassar College (located in Annandale-on-Hudson and Poughkeepsie), the Marlboro Free Library, the Wilderstein Preservation, the Consortium of Rhinebeck history, and the Hudson River Valley Institute. These documents and pictures cover a large chronological and topical span.

Reflecting the growing trend towards digitization and the concerns that arise from such an effort, Hudson River

Valley Heritage provides links for resources explaining the ins-and-outs of the digitization process. Instructional materials suggest guidelines for other organizations to decide how best to make their collections available. Also discussed is the legal aspect of digitization, with an explanation of copyright implications. More information can be found on their website: <http://www.hudsonrivervalleyheritage.org/index.htm>

~ Neil Bhatiya



Overhead view of the Hudson River copyright Gary Agranat, used with permission.

Featured Historic Town—Cornwall

The city of Cornwall, situated on the very place which explorer Henry Hudson's voyage dubbed "a very pleasant place to build a town on," is nestled in the Hudson Highlands. The area which would eventually be known as Cornwall was first inhabited by Minisis Indians before English and Scottish settlers made it their home.

During the American Revolution, Cornwall sided with the Patriot cause, taking part in the crucial defense of Forts Clinton and Montgomery. Their success was vital in ensuring the failure of the British strategy to seize the Hudson River, and thus break the back of the American Revolution. Its military tradition continued during the American Civil War, raising troops for the Union Cause.

Like many villages up and down the

Hudson River, Cornwall benefited from the many transportation improvements—the canals and, eventually, railroads—that fed the Industrial Revolution and the economic development of New York State. Cornwall's major industry was agriculture, and it grew as produce was delivered more quickly to more markets throughout the country. Eventually, the area also developed a tourism industry, as wealthy city-dwellers sought escape in the beauty of the Highlands.

Cornwall and the surrounding area gained national prominence in the Storm King—Consolidated Edison legal fight during the 1960s. In 1963, Consolidated Edison declared their intention to build a power plant on Storm King Mountain. Opposition to the plan grew out of the fears of local residents that the power plant would

ruin the mountain's natural beauty.

A civic group calling itself Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference took the matter to federal court, where it ruled in 1965 that Scenic Hudson had a right to contest the construction. The grounds of the suit were unprecedented: that natural beauty and environmental protection constituted a significant and legally-recognized part of the public interest. Eventually, Consolidated Edison stopped its plans to build the plant. The Storm King case remains the genesis of the legal dimension of the modern environmental movement. Cornwall is proud to include this monumental event within its rich history.

~Neil Bhatiya



<http://www.cornwallny.com/>

Commemoration of the Battle of Pine's Bridge

On May 22nd, owners Craig Purdy and Jonathan Pratt hosted the 224th anniversary of the Battle of Pine's Bridge at Peter Pratt's Inn in Yorktown, New York. Some 500 spectators braved intermittent showers to observe the afternoon's encampment with over 70 re-enactors, craft-making, raptor demonstrations, and the re-enactment of the battle.

Members of the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th New York and Pawling's Levies defended the environs of the Davenport House near the Croton River when attacked by soldiers from Delancey's Loyalists, the 4th New York Regiment, and the mounted Queen's Rangers.

Sponsors included the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College, and the Yorktown Historical Soci-

ety.

The actual battle took place on May 14, 1781, between Colonel James Delancey's Westchester Refugees and Colonel Christopher Greene's 1st Rhode Island Regiment, comprising many former African-American slaves, who fought to the death rather than lose their new-found freedom. General Washington reported Greene's losses as forty-four killed, wounded, and missing. The Peter Pratt Inn will again host the 225th anniversary of the battle of Pine's Bridge on May 20-21, 2006.

More information can be found on the website for Peter Pratt's Inn:

www.prattsinn.com.

~ Professor Colonel (U.S. Army, ret.)
James Johnson, Executive Director of the
Hudson River Valley Institute



http://www.prattsinn.com/battle/battle_pines_bridge.htm

HRVI Third Anniversary a Success

(Continued from page 1)

America (Vintage Books, 2005), a chronicle of the Dutch settlement of New Netherlands and its principal metropolis, New Amsterdam (modern-day New York City).

Shorto described to his audience how New York City's openness to immigrants and tolerance for the cultural expressions of other peoples finds its roots in New Amsterdam's Dutch character. While it was being settled, New Amsterdam attracted settlers and traders from all corners of Europe's transatlantic empires. The lecture was a fitting inauguration to the Institute's participation in the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Henry Hudson, which is to occur in 2009 (see centennial article on page 5).

The Institute would like to thank Mr. Shorto for helping us mark this momentous occasion. We also want to offer recognition to the National Park Service and the National Archives and Records Administration for allowing us the use of the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center on the Franklin Roosevelt Historic Site in Hyde Park, New York. The sumptuous Hudson River – themed cuisine and libations were provided by Marist Col-

lege's Sodexo food service.

~ Neil Bhatiya

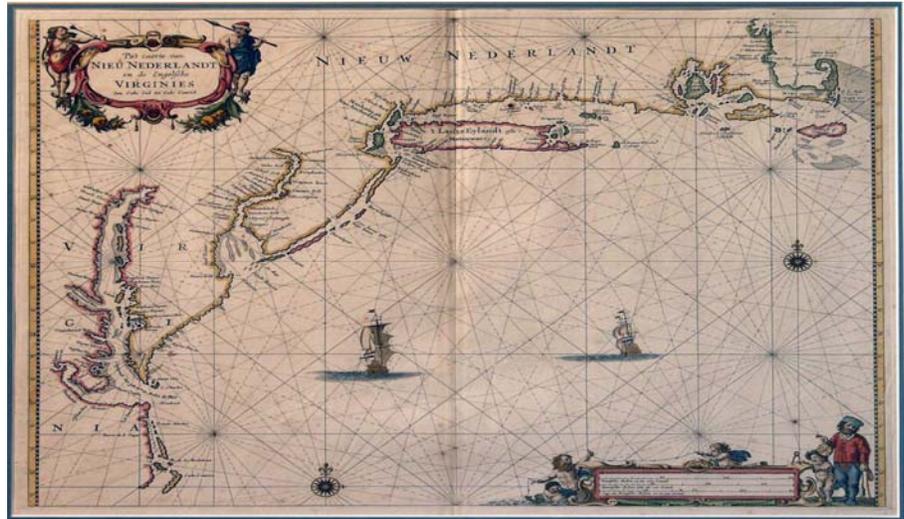


Author Russell Shorto. Photo copyright Marmie Henricksson, used with permission

Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Anniversary

Governor George E. Pataki signed into law legislation establishing the new Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission on February 13, 2002. This Commission will plan and develop the 400th anniversary celebrations of the voyages of discovery made by Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain, as well as 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton's steamship voyage along the Hudson River. Similar legislation has been proposed at the federal level as well.

This is the beginning of our own efforts on the Quadricentennial. We will be adding original essays, primary documents, and more in upcoming months. For now, please join us in reviewing the wealth of information that is already available – and in visiting the many dedicated individuals and organizations who have kept these explorer's legacies alive.



Pieter Goos—Chart of New Netherland and the English Virginias from Cape Cod to Cape Carrick—from the Fordham University Libraries Map Collection in collaboration with the New Netherlands Project http://www.nnp.org/Maps_files/descriptions.htm

Meet the Interns—Lauren Santangelo

Lauren Santangelo, a junior who is double majoring in Political Science and History, will be working at the Summer 2005 Teaching American History Institute. 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 program. The majority of this work revolved around Supreme Court cases, specifically placing them within a broad historical context.

During the teaching institutes, she will be working with Professors Martin Shaffer and Lynn Eckert from the Marist College Political Science Department. Her research will go toward their presentations, entitled “American History Through the Lens of Supreme Court Cases.”



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. She looks forward to her future involvement with the Hudson River Valley Institute.

~ Lauren Santangelo

Lauren also plans to declare a dual minor in American Studies and Women's Studies. She is particularly interested in the role of women in American political movements. After graduation, Lauren aspires to attend graduate school, focusing on women's political involvement in the American

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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.

The Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College is the academic arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Its missions is to study and to 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 publication of the *Hudson River Valley Review* and the management of a dynamic digital library and leading regional portal site.

<http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net/>

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