

HRVI November Newsletter

HRVI



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Hudson River Valley Institute

HRVI Interview: David Osbourne, Curator of St Paul's Church

I recently spoke to David Osbourne, the museum curator, and manager of St. Paul's church in Westchester, New York about some of its featured exhibits, as well as other relevant about the Hudson Valley. Anyone interested in visiting the national historic landmark should go to their [website](#).

Q: Hello Mr. Osbourne. Can you explain your role at St. Paul's Church.

A: I am the site manager, responsible for preservation of its resources, as well as the church itself. In addition, I also plan and

conduct the events the church hosts and manage the five-acre cemetery.

Q: Can you explain a little bit about the battle of Pell's Point?

A: In October 18, 1776, very near by [St. Paul's Church] a small American brigade attacked a British army after the troops landed in Westchester. While the main body of the American forces was retreating, this small brigade engaged in the military tactic of 'rear guard action' against the large British force. Pell's Point is significant because Westchester was largely used as a neutral territory between the British to the

south in New York City, and the American forces up near you [Poughkeepsie].

Q: What can you tell me about your welcome center exhibition?

A: Well there are two exhibitions, which are also featured on our website. One is 'A Clash of Cultures' exhibit on Anne Hutchinson, who moved to the area seeking religious tolerance after being exiled from Massachusetts. The exhibit examines how the Dutch settlers, the Algonquin natives, and how [her] followers lived together in the area.

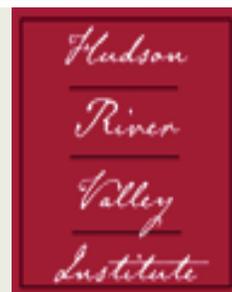
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Special points of interest:

- *Interview with curator of St. Paul's Church*
- *Thanksgiving in Hudson River Valley*
- *Army Football*
- *Meet the Intern*



Hopewell Junction Depot Undergoes Restoration

Bernard “Bernie” Rudberg is practically a descendant of the railway itself. For three generations now, his family has been fully integrated into the industry. Rudberg published a book, *Twenty-Five Years on the ND&C*, detailing the history of the Hudson Valley rail line. These rails brought the Hudson Valley to life; transforming a traditionally rural area to a place suitable for commuters. Rudberg hopes to keep the family tradition alive by pursuing the restoration of Hopewell Junction’s last remaining railroad structure.



The depot was constructed in 1873 and functioned until the Maybrook Line was removed. In 1984, it was abandoned. Just two years after, it was set on fire by an arsonist. Rudberg and the grassroots [Hopewell Depot Restoration Corporation](#) have been organizing fundraisers since 1996 with the

hopes of bringing the station back to life as a museum and historical site to promote public education.

The current HDRC board consists of President Richard M. Taylor, Vice President Mike Thomas, Treasurer Jaqueline Prusak, Secretary Celeste Rudberg, and Bernard Rudberg as the Historian Emeritus, although members have changed their various positions since the initial formation.

Their recent successes have been picked up by some press, most notably in local newspapers and in *Preservation Magazine*. The Hudson

River Valley institute has [previously interviewed Rudberg](#) on the developments of the HDRC. With generous donations and serious fund raising, the group has been able to make incredible strides. [The](#) Town of East Fishkill has recently provided a grant to finish the roof.



With this final development, the depot is nearing final completion. [These photographs, provided to the HRVI by Bernie himself](#), show just how much progress they have made. The projected completion date is in 2012.

There are a number of ways to stay informed on the progress of this project or offer your assistance. You can find detailed forum posts [here](#). Or, if you prefer, you can like them on [Facebook](#) or follow them on [Twitter](#).

By Peter Rottenbucher

Gomez Mill House: Jewish History in the Hudson Valley

The [Gomez Mill House](#), located in Marlboro, New York, is one of the many [historical landmarks](#) located in the Hudson River Valley. Founded in 1714, this house has been called home by several influential people of the region.

The first owner and founder was Luis Moses Gomez, a Jewish man who had fled from Spain with his family during the Spanish Inquisition. After purchasing 6,000 acres along the Hudson Highlands, Gomez built a trading post along a stream that today is known as “Jew Creek”.



The trading post flourished for over 30 years and provided commodities for local residents, travelers, and Native Americans alike. Gomez was also a leader of the Spanish Congregation, helped to support the creation of the Mill Street Synagogue. In the process,

Gomez assisted in the creation of a colonial Jewish America.

The Gomez House was purchased by Wolfert Acker before the Revolutionary War. Acker was a lieutenant of the New Marlborough Company of Minute Men as well as a chairman on the Committee of the Safety, and his home became a central meeting-place for the American Patriots. After the war, Acker build a ferry landing and packet line along the Hudson.

The third owner of the [Mill House](#) was William Henry Armstrong. A gentleman and conservationist,

The Gomez Mill House, cont.

Armstrong owned the land for five decades until Dard Hunter took it over in the twentieth century. Perhaps the most famous owner, Hunter built a paper mill on the property and taught the art of making paper to students from all over the globe. The mill still exists today.

The Gomez Mill House is open for visitors April through November, Wednesday through Sunday. For the 2011 season the House will be open through November 7. Guided tours are offered at 10:30 a.m., 1:15 p.m., and 2:45 p.m., with a small admission fee required. [Special events are offered throughout the](#)

[year](#), which can be found along with discount admission information and directions at.

By Samantha McNerney



Thanksgiving in the Hudson River Valley

As we approach the holiday season again this year, the Hudson Valley will host numerous events and activities celebrating a Thanksgiving season that the entire family can enjoy. On November 5, St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Beacon will host the [3rd Annual Harvest Celebration & Auction](#) from 7-10 p.m. The event will feature a live and silent auction, hor d'oeuvre's, wine and live music. Proceeds from the event will be donated to Beacon's Common Ground Farm.

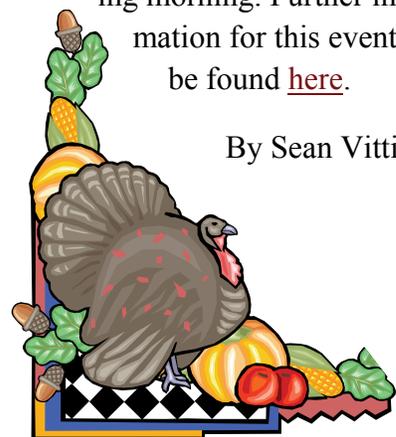
On November 20, Rhinebeck will host a Pre-Thanksgiving Market at the Rhinebeck Farmer's Market. There will be live music, free butternut squash soup, and a wide selection of Thanksgiving meal ingredients for purchase from local farms.

Two local museums will also provide Thanksgiving themed festivities in the early weeks of November. Museum Village in Monroe is offering a Thanksgiving Tasting on the weekend of November 12. The main draw for this event is the traditional Thanksgiving meals, cooked over the open hearth at Museum Village. More information on the event and location is available at the [Museum Village website](#).

The Hill-Hold & Brick House Museum in Campbell Hall will host a Harvest Festival on November 13 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The museum will provide candlelight tours, a silent auction, and refreshments. A flier for the event can be found at the [Hill-Hold & Brick House website](#).

Once Thanksgiving Day finally arrives, a few locations in the Hudson Valley will allow you to take part in a pre-Thanksgiving meal calorie burn. Rhinebeck will once again host [its annual 5k Turkey Trot](#) to benefit Ferncliff Forest. In a similar fashion, New Paltz will host its 8th annual Turkey Trot this year on Thanksgiving morning. Further information for this event can be found [here](#).

By Sean Vitti



Army Football Intends to Capitalize on Armed Forces Bowl Win

Army football is looking for success for their 121st season on the gridiron. Head Coach Rich Ellerson returns for his third season. Ellerson looks to capitalize [on the success of Army's 16-14 win over SMU](#) in the Armed Forces Bowl, their first bowl win since 1985. Ellerson brings back 11 starters from this team and Army looks to dominate their last five games.

Offensively, he runs a triple-option offense which confuses opposing defenses each week. This run-heavy offense allows for Army to control the tempo of the game. This leads to an overall greater time of possession for the Black Knights. The team is aided in part by past talent, with the return of junior Quarterback Trent Steelman, who finished with seven TD



passes and three interceptions.

The team is also returning three skilled players: Junior running back Jared Hassin, wide receivers Davyd Brooks, and Austin Barr. Hassin looks to improve on his 1,013 rushing yards in 2011. Brooks looks to eclipse 238 yard, 15 catch season and Barr hopes to improve on his 3 touchdown, 14 catch season. The lone returning starter on the offensive line is left guard Frank Allen. This offensive unit looks to pound the ball the majority of

the game on the ground.

On the defensive side of the ball, Payam Saadat and Chris Smeland's unique double-eagle flex defense features five men on the line of scrimmage. Three men are down and there are two standup players. There are three linebackers and one safety. There will always be eight men in the box. Therefore, Army's run defense is very stout. They only return their two cornerbacks, Senior Richard King and Junior Josh Johnson.

Currently, Army sports a 3-6 record. Their remaining games include: Rutgers, Temple, and Navy. This includes the famous Army vs. Navy game, to be held on 10 December on FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland.

By Travis Fink

HRVI interview, cont.

Q: What kind of information do you give students on trips to your historic landmark?

A: We have an American Revolution learning station, which provides a video giving students information on the American Revolution, as well as St. Paul's connection to the war. The learning station video also talks about the church, the museum and the historic cemetery, all of which are on our property.

Q: What types of events did St. Paul's church host for the 235th anniversary?

A: We hosted a reenactment and encampment of the Battle of Pell's Point which included musket

demonstrations, and crafts demonstrations such as weaving lessons, blacksmiths, and outdoor cooking.

Q: Can you tell me a little about the upcoming speeches by Richard Borkow and Mark Morreale?

A: Richard Borkow will be discussing Washington plans to march from Westchester to Virginia during the American Revolution, and fight the British army in the Battle of Yorktown, 400 miles to the south of their camp.

Mark Morreale will also be speaking but on the Civil War instead of the Revolutionary war being it is the up-coming 150th anniversary of the war. He will discuss how the cemetery holds 55 Union veterans

originally from the area around St. Paul's.

Q: What can you tell me about Dr. Firth and his exploration of "Patrons and Plowmen, Pietism and Politics: Dutch settlers in the Hudson Valley in the 17th and 18th centuries"?

A: This will also be one of our contributions to the understanding of Anne Hutchinson whose Dutch followers settled in the area. Dr. Firth will discuss the Dutch colony of New Netherlands, as well as the 400th anniversary of the Half-Moon exploration. This first rate speaker will also discuss what happened to the Dutch colony, and where some of the descendants could be today.

Boscobel Lights up the Night

As daylight savings time ends and the nights grow longer, people become increasingly aware of the changing of the seasons. To celebrate this event, [Boscobel Home and Gardens is putting together a special event](#) for novice and veteran stargazers alike.

On Friday 18 November, Boscobel welcomes Jim Witt and Joe Rao for an evening of astronomical fun, coinciding with the Leonids Meteor Shower. Telescopes will be provided, and participants are encouraged to bring their own to witness this captivating event.



Witt, weather forecasting expert and member of WHUD radio will provide background information about the weather within the Hudson River Valley, as well the historical relevance of the meteor shower. Rao, a meteorologist at News 12, will speak about the various celestial bodies and what allows them to all work together.

The [Leonids Shower](#) is famous for its regularity and sheer number of meteors present at the peak time each year. For the previous three years, this has occurred during the middle of November. The number of meteors visible to the aided eye can be upwards of 2,000, with the larger ones visible without the use of a telescope.

This particular shower has been of historical importance for almost 200 years, with the 1833

storm delivering [tens of thousands of meteors per hour](#), the vast majority of which were visible to the naked eye within the Hudson River Valley.

Search the Skies promises to be an exciting event, suitable for astronomers of all ages.

Tickets are available for purchase immediately, and space is limited. Those interested in a truly awe-inspiring outdoor event are advised to call Boscobel at (845)-265-3638 or visit [their website](#) for further information.

By Brian Rees



Photo Courtesy: Boscobel.org

Meet the Intern: Christina Ritter

Christina is in her second year at Marist, after transferring from New York University. She is a Psychology/Special Education major, pursuing a concentration in Public History, with hopes to be certified in elementary education, as well as Secondary History Education.

Christina has lived in the Hudson River Valley her entire life, growing up in Dutchess County. She has long had a passion for history, and has taken a special interest in the military history of New York and the Hudson River Valley in

particular.

She is enjoying her first semester with the HRVI and is currently working on a project concerning the effect of the American Civil War on the United States Military Academy at West Point. Christina has always held a special interest in the Academy and the role it has played in the Hudson River Valley and the United States Military as a whole.

Since elementary school, Christina has been fascinated by the impact of military affairs on the course of history. The evolution of military

strategy, weaponry, and diplomacy, as well as the fluctuations of American public opinion regarding the military, are primary areas of interest.

After Marist, Christina plans to pursue a Master's degree in Military History or War Studies.



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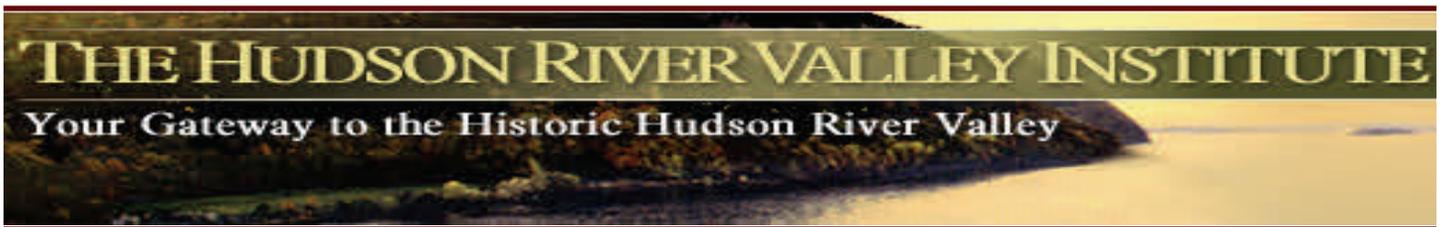
*The Hudson River Valley:
"The Landscape that Defined America"*

The Hudson River Valley is one of only 49 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



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