



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY
Hudson River Valley Institute

Patriots' Weekend 2005

The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College commemorated the 225th Anniversary of the Benedict Arnold-John André Conspiracy with Patriots' Weekend, 2005 from September 29th to October 2nd. Some 300 people attended the opening conference, entitled "Treason!: Benedict Arnold, John André, and the Plot to Betray West Point" at Marist College on September 29th to learn from seven historians and biographers why Major General Benedict Arnold turned from Revolutionary hero to traitor and about the roles played by Major John André and three volunteer militiamen, John Paulding, Isaac Van Wart, and David Williams. On the 30th Dr. James Kirby Martin, Distinguished University Professor of History at the University of Houston, delved into Arnold's disillusionment in his lecture to some 125 guests, faculty, and

cadets at the United States Military Academy, and Professor Willard Sterne Randall, Historical Scholar in Residence at Champlain Col-

Society, Inc, serving Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown.



Professor James Johnson, Executive Director HRVI

lege, explored Arnold's career and treason in his lecture at the Tarrytown Music Hall sponsored by the Historical

On October 1st the Van Cortlandville Historical Society hosted a wreath-laying ceremony at the Old Cemetery at Van Cortlandville honoring André captor, John Paulding. The Village of Elmsford also laid a wreath at the grave of captor, Isaac Van Wart, at the Elmsford Reformed Church Cemetery. Both events drew local officials, interested public, and honor guards of three officers and eighteen cadets from the United States Military Academy, reprising attendance by cadets at these two Patriots' funerals. Mott's Artillery
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Aboard the H.M.S. Vulture

On Saturday, October 1st, I had the pleasure of sailing on the Hudson River aboard the sloop *Clearwater*. The *Clearwater* usually serves as a science and education vessel, teaching groups of schoolchildren about the history and ecosystem of the Hudson River. On Saturday, however, the *Clearwater*

took on the role of the HMS *Vulture* as part of Patriot's Weekend.

After his treason was discovered, Benedict Arnold fled to the *Vulture* during his escape from West Point. During the escape, the *Vulture* en-

gaged a battery of American artillery on Croton Point. 225 years later, it was the crew of the *Clearwater* and myself engaging Mott's Artillery and a detachment of the Brigade of the American Revolution
(Continued on page 2)

Special points of interest:

- Please be sure to consult the HRVI website, as we are constantly updating our content.
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- A recap of Patriots' Weekend content to be added to our website is on Page 2.
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H.M.S. Vulture, continued

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on the shore of Croton Point Park. Dressed in an 18th Century military uniform, I was armed with a small (yet surprisingly loud) signal gun in order to fire back at the “rebel” battery. After a hot and furious exchange of musket and cannon fire, the “Vulture” turned about and sailed back down the river. In sharp contrast to the sound and fury of the morning’s re-enactment, the cruise back down to the *Clearwater*’s berth in Alpine, NJ was exceedingly peaceful. Whenever possible, the crew cut the engines, and



“H.M.S. Vulture” (the sloop *Clearwater*) engaging Mott’s artillery and the 5th New York from the Brigades of the American Revolution.

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relied on sail power to glide the ship down the river. The entire day was a unique and unforgettable experience, and one that I am deeply honored to have had.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to the entire crew of the *Clearwater* for their help and hospitality, and to Barbara Talasco at the New Windsor Cantonment for making the aforementioned regimental coat.

~Michael Diaz



The mustering of the 4th New York Regiment, Tappan

Patriots’ Weekend Website Content

In order to help continue to celebrate Patriots’ Weekend 2005, the Hudson River Valley Institute is in the process of adding much event-themed content to our website and Digital Library.

Already, you can view photographs from the Weekend by following the link for the photograph gallery : www.hudsonrivervalley.net/gallery/. You can also read local news account of the many re-enactments at our Press Center’s News Clippings page : www.hudsonrivervalley.org/presscenter/newsClippings/newsClippings.php.

In the near future, we will be adding videos of our conference lectures, which

will be available for download. We will also be introducing a new initiative which we hope to make a permanent part of our public offerings. We will “podcast” our lectures, allowing anyone with a computer to listening to streaming audio of the conference. For those who own the ubiquitous iPod, they will be able to download the audio streams directly to it, allowing them to listen to Patriots’ Weekend on the go. Podcasts, however, can be played with free software on any computer. For more information, please see www.apple.com/itunes.

~ Neil Bhatiya



Dean Thomas Wermuth, PhD, Director of the Hudson River Valley Institute, speaking at the conference at Marist College

Patriots' Weekend

(Continued from page 1)

lery Company and the 5th New York Regiment fired on the Hudson River sloop, *Clearwater*, playing the Sloop of War *Vulture* from Croton Point Park after historian Lincoln Diamant explained the role of the *Vulture* and John André to spectators including the Board of Directors of the *Clearwater*. Joined by the full contingent of West Point cadets and over thirty re-enactors from Pawling's Levies, Mott's Artillery, the 2nd New York, and the 5th New York, some 500 people



Professor James Kirby Martin . Photo Courtesy Katy Feirman

watched the recreation of the capture of André (John Lopez) by the three volunteer militiamen played by Sean Grady, George Bock, and Dan Hess at Patriots' Park in Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown hosted by the Historical Society, Inc, serving Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown. To set up the event, Hugh Francis in the guise of John André had already re-ridden the route from the Underhill House in Yorktown to Patriots' Park on September 17th, sponsored by the Kenyon and Muenster families.

The rest of the weekend's events took place at the George Washington Masonic Historic Site (de Wint House) at Tappan. More than 1,500 people attended the 21st Annual Colonial Day sponsored by the Tappantown Historical Society and the encampment by the Brigade of the American Revolution at the de Wint House. Lecturers John E. Walsh, Lincoln Diamant, Carl Oeschner, and Dennis Corcoran explained different aspects of Arnold's treason and André's capture.

Re-enactors performed drill and fired muskets and a cannon; the highlight of the exercises came when American re-enactors repelled an attempt by Crown forces to free Major André. Proprietor Robert Norden, Jr. hosted the re-enactors and their guests at an eighteenth century dinner at the Old '76 House restaurant, bringing to life Mabie's Tavern where André had been imprisoned.

On Sunday a crowd gathered to watch the recreation of the trial of Major John André by actors from the Brigade of the American Revolution on the front porch of the Tappan Reformed Church's Manse. Just as it happened in 1780, American troops marched "André" to the top of the hill that now bears his name and a monument to his memory where he confronted a hangman and a cart provided by the New Jersey Militia, Heard's Brigade. At noon an announcement was made that André had been executed 225 years ago to the date and time, followed by remarks and a wreath-laying by Dr. Ray Raymond, former Political Officer at the British Consulate in New York City, and three volleys from the Brigade. As the smoke cleared, it was clear that the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area had brought to life for almost 3,000 people one of the most important chapters in American history. You too can soon hear the lectures and view video and photographs of Patriots' Weekend, 2005 at www.hudsonrivervalley.org.

As a part of your holiday travels, visit an historical site or a colonial house near you that is decked out in its holiday finery so that you can reflect on the sacrifices made by the Continentals and militiamen 225 years ago; remember especially the history-changing roles played by the captors of André, John Paulding, Isaac Van Wart, and David Williams. For example, relive Christmas at the John Jay Homestead on December 11th and with the Ellisons by candle light at the Knox Headquarters State Historic Site on December 17th (<http://>

www.nysparks.com/events/). To learn more about the Revolution in the Hudson River Valley, log onto www.hudsonrivervalley.net and www.hudsonrivervalley.com. Huzza and happy holidays from the Hudson Highlands.

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



Major John Andre

Featured Historic Site—Historical Society, Inc.

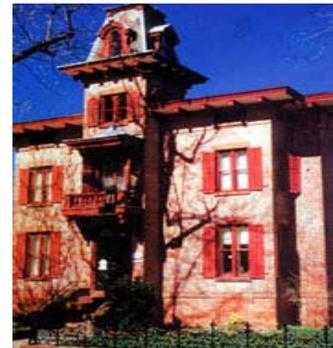
Made famous by the writings of Washington Irving, the Tarrytown – Sleepy Hollow region has a special place in America’s cultural mythos. In addition to being the backdrop for one of America’s most famous tales, the region was one of the first in New York to be colonized by the Dutch, and had been inhabited by Native Americans long before that. Today, the Historical Society Inc., Serving Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown preserves the region’s rich and colorful history.

Located at #1 Grove Street, the Historical Society building houses a museum that features items from every era of the town’s occupation, ranging from Native American artifacts to WWII

memorabilia. Special attention is paid to the capture of John André, the British spy who conspired with Benedict Arnold to surrender West Point during the Revolutionary War. In addition to operating a fine museum, the Historical Society organizes special programs that celebrate the towns’ history.

The museum of the Historical Society Serving Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown is open from 2pm to 4pm, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

~ Michael Diaz



Historical Society, Inc.
<http://www.tarrytown.americantowns.com/servlets/WebPage?actionid=950&eid=50891>

Featured Historic Town—Tarrytown

Washington Irving once described the historic village of Tarrytown as being situated in “the bosom of one of those spacious coves which indent the eastern shore of the Hudson, at that broad expansion of the river denominated by the ancient Dutch navigators of the Tappan Zee.” Located twenty-five miles north of New York City, Tarrytown has been a gem of the lower Hudson Valley for centuries.

The Tarrytown area was first inhabited by the Weckquaesgeek tribe of Native Americans, who both farmed and fished to provide sustenance. In 1645, the first Dutch settlers arrived, and they quickly found the area’s loamy soil ideally suited for the cultivation of wheat. It was the wheat trade that brought the wealthy Fredrick Philpse to the area in 1681. Philpse

eventually purchased 90,000 acres of land in the region, and built a large manor and grist mill in what is now the neighboring town of Sleepy Hollow.



Tarrytown,
www.hudsonriver.com/rivertowns/tarrytown

The mill became a focal point of the local economy, serving the numerous wheat farmers and providing cargo for the river-based shipping industry.

During the American Revolution,

the British spy John André was captured around Tarrytown by three local militiamen; John Paulding, Isaac Van Wart, and David Williams. A monument was erected in 1853, inscribed with a quote from Washington praising these men’s accomplishments.

Since the mid-1800’s, Tarrytown has been increasingly tied to New York City via railroad and the auto industry via several General Motors facilities built in the area. Today, Tarrytown offers a host of historic sites, local attractions, and scenic views of the Hudson Valley. Highlights include Washington Irving’s home of Sunnyside, the Captor’s Monument at Patriot’s Park, Tarrytown Music Hall, and numerous fine restaurants and shops.

~ Michael Diaz

Marist College Patriots' Weekend Conference



In celebration of Patriot's Weekend and the 225th anniversary of the Arnold-Andre Conspiracy, the Hudson River Valley Institute and Marist College hosted a series of lectures well-attended by many historians, students and faculty. The conference began with a lecture appropriately titled "The American Revolution and the Hudson River Valley", in which Dr. Thomas S. Wermuth, of Marist College, stressed the important role women, farmers and the wealthy had on the revolution in the Hudson River Valley. Dr. James Johnson, also of Marist College, then high-

lighted the military strategic significance of the area and in particular the Hudson River itself.

The conference hosted a variety of world class historians who treated listeners to enlightening lectures on Benedict Arnold, Major Andre, and the scandal that deemed the once heroic figures as traitors. Historians such as Willard Sterne Randall and John Evangelist Walsh stressed issues of espionage and conspiracy in their respective lectures. Yet an effort to present Arnold's transition from hero to traitor was made as well.

Dr. James Kirby Martin presented Arnold as a commendable patriot who was disillusioned by treatment from his fellow generals in his lecture entitled "Benedict Arnold: Revolutionary Hero." Ms. Clare Brandt emphasized Arnold's conversion from a patriotic general to a spy for the redcoats as well.

The Arnold-Andre Conspiracy was one of the most infamous cases of es-

piionage in American History, and a vital event in the American Revolution. The Hudson River Valley Institute's conference to commemorate this historic occasion was a great success, and a great kick-off to an eventful weekend to honor Patriot's Weekend in the Hudson River Valley.

~ Megan Lavery



Meet the Interns—Michael Mauro

Michael Mauro is a senior history major here at Marist College from Morristown, New Jersey. Michael works as a digital archivist scanning pertinent materials on Hudson River Valley history. Michael is currently researching Robert Fulton's life and career as an engineer and inventor. His paper is going to also focus in on his work with steamboats and the effect that work had on the Hudson River Valley. After graduating he plans to pursue a career in the Foreign Service with the U.S. Department of State.



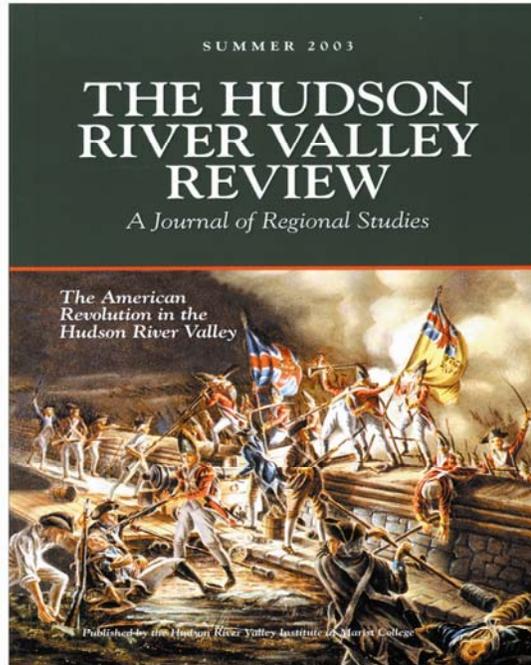
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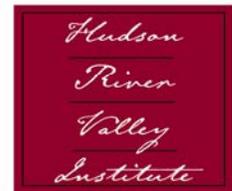
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The Hudson River Valley is one of only 23 Congressionally designated National Heritage Areas in the United States. As one of the most important regions in the United States, it is the fountainhead of a truly American identity. Recognizing the area's 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."

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