

HRVI



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

## Hudson River Valley Institute

### Hudson Valley

### Haunts

With Halloween fast approaching, the shadowy legacy of the Hudson River Valley begins to surface. An area so rich with history and culture in the daylight becomes a playground for the ghouls that have made the region their home for centuries once night falls.

The Hudson River Valley abounds with tales of restless spirits and mischievous phantoms that make their presence known to residents. Perhaps the most notorious haunt is that of

historic Huguenot Street. As one of the oldest continuously inhabited settlements in America, this New Paltz street carries legends of mystery and mayhem; from bones in a basement to a ghoulish ‘death coach,’ to an axe wielding apparition, correlating to a grisly murder that took place in the area over forty years ago, and the spirits of a family killed in a horrific murder/suicide, a visit to Huguenot street is sure to stir even the most steadfast skeptic.

**Visit:** <  
[www.huguenotstreet.org/](http://www.huguenotstreet.org/)>

Seated on the Hudson, just south of the

Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, the ruins of Bannerman’s Castle can be seen on Pollepel Island. The solitude of the island and the “ghost” of the grand Scottish-style castle that once stood are eerie enough, however, the lore surrounding this Hudson River gem go even deeper. The name of the island itself “Pollepel” is said to have come from a young lady “Polly Pell” who was rescued from breaking ice around the island, and married the man who rescued her. A less romantic view of the island comes from the Native American

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### Special points of interest:

- *Meet the Intern*



# Through the Eyes of Rhinebeck's Historian

The town of Rhinebeck contains immense historical significance from its Revolutionary War time descendants to its stone homes which date back to the first settlers in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Town historian and lifelong resident, Nancy Kelly, passionately works to preserve and open to the public the interesting and rich history of Rhinebeck. When asked about some of her most significant accomplishments, Ms. Kelly explained, "I recently finished writing a book called *Rhinebeck's Historic Architecture*, which examines the historic structures and homes of the town."

For Ms. Kelly, being the town historian is always an interesting experience, "Answering inquiries about the town and working to improve the Rhinebeck historical website is a big part of the job." However, Ms. Kelly really emphasized "the

most important part is making the history more accessible to the public." Along with being the town historian, Ms. Kelly is the chairman of the Consortium of Rhinebeck History which is composed of, "a number of



amazing and diligent historical organizations who utilize their resources to coordinate various activities and display interesting artifacts" for the benefit of the public. The consortium manages cemetery and tenant records as well as newspapers, maps, and postcards and has uploaded many

of them online. The historic town of Rhinebeck is in good hands with Ms. Kelly. Currently, the most important project on her plate is to scan the Rhinebeck Gazette, whose publication was stopped in 2003. As she said with a sad tone, "it's a shame to lose such a great part of Rhinebeck history and see it all come to an end." Ms. Kelly recognizes the importance of this newspaper and the "desperate need to preserve and upload these significant accounts of Rhinebeck's past." I was also informed that "the Gazette was an interesting part of

Rhinebeck and will be a big loss for the people of this town." This makes the task a top priority at the consortium.

The Historical Society of Rhinebeck is currently trying to receive a grant which will allow the most recent issues

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# Fantastically Fun Fall Festivities for Families

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It's that time of year again, the time when the air is crisp and chill, the time where the leaves on our monstrous trees change from green to orange, the time where there is only very little time until you can't get the kids to get out of the house. All along the Hudson River, towns and cities are celebrating autumn with fun activities the whole family can enjoy. Families residing in the Yonkers area of the Hudson Valley should take a look at the [New York Botanical Gardens](#) in the Bronx. Here, between October 20<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00pm families can enjoy their [Spooky Nighttime Adventure](#). Make sure to bring a flashlight and costumes as you get to see the botanical

gardens after dark. Decorate your own treat bag to help hold all the candy you will get from Whole Food Markets Trick-or-Treat Trail.



Once you're done filling your bag with goodies stop on by to the Visitor Center Café and decorate a pumpkin or two.

Live in the Monroe area? Are you and the family a fan of the

paranormal? Then do I have the weekend activity for you! Check out the [Evening of Ghostly Delights at the Spooktacular McGarrah's Stagecoach Inn](#). Fortunes will be told and spirits will be summoned at the Hudson Valley's most haunted stagecoach inn (as documented by Syfy Channel's "Ghost Hunter" TV show). The \$25 dollar admission includes all the evening's entertainment, a full guided tour of the haunted inn, and desserts. Explore 18<sup>th</sup> century inventions by Tesla or try your hand in Victorian glass reading. The program may be too intense for children under 12 so this one looks to be an older family affair. Get in touch with your local farmers at the

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## Through the Eyes of Rhinebeck's Historian (Cont)

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of the newspaper to be put on microfilm for eventual scanning. There is an understanding that besides just preserving the town's historic value, an important mission is to allow such interesting and valuable history to reach the ears and eyes of the public. That is one of the reasons why Ms. Kelly and her husband are working on the genealogy in Rhinebeck. Ms. Kelly recognizes that "it is a difficult challenge but the people in the town are very interested in this and I'm glad to help." Everyone is interested in their family's past, their roots, and their upbringing and through the research of church records; Ms. Kelly and her husband are making this knowledge accessible.

The historic town of Rhinebeck is becoming better preserved everyday and from the drive of Ms. Kelly, more projects will continue to shape the town and bring some well deserved history to its people. Nancy Kelly can be reached at the email address [kinship@hvc.rr.com](mailto:kinship@hvc.rr.com) or through the Consortium of Rhinebeck History. Their website is [www.rhinebeckhistory.org](http://www.rhinebeckhistory.org).

By David Babetski

**A secluded Rhinebeck trail**  
photo credit: Francesco Lagnese from  
<http://www.townandcountrytravelmag.com/vacation-ideas/best-vacations/hudson-valley-new-york-fall08>



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## Hudson Valley Haunts (Cont)

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tribes that believed the island to be crawling with goblins and supernatural entities, and therefore refused to set foot on it. This made the island an ideal spot for European settlers to hide from the Native tribes during times of hostility.

**Visit:** <

[www.bannermancastle.org/](http://www.bannermancastle.org/) >

There are countless other “haunted” locations in the region, where specters of the past emerge from the shadows, and make their presence known to residents and visitors of the Hudson River Valley. But for those more careful souls that don’t want to seek out the unknown alone, many historic haunts in the area host Halloween events:

**Boscobel:**

***Investigative Ghost Tours***

October 18 & 19

Join paranormal investigator Linda Zimmerman for a spine chilling hunt of Boscobel, and learn about previous findings at the mansion.



***Halloween with Edgar Allan Poe***

October 20, 26, 27, & 28

“Once upon a midnight dreary...” Edgar Allan Poe will be visiting Boscobel to tell his terrifying tales and answer questions about his life.

<<http://www.boscobel.org/events-and-exhibitions/calendar-of-events/>>

**Clermont State Historic Site**

***Legends by Candlelight***

October 19, 20, 26, & 27

6:00 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00pm

Tour the house and grounds by candlelight, and learn of the spirits that are said to haunt his historic estate.

<<http://www.friendsofclermont.org/legends-by-candlelight-ghost-tours/>>

**Fort Montgomery Battlefield**

***Battlefield Lantern Tour***

October 20

Tour the site of a bloody battle in the Hudson Highlands in the dark of night. The dark history of the site will come to life as reenactors depict scenes from the Fort’s harrowing history.

<<http://nysparks.com/events/event.aspx?e=28-6527.0>>

By Christina Ritter

## The Inaugural Handel-Krom Lecture with Dr. David Schuyler

Tonight was a historic night for Marist because it was the night of the Inaugural Handel-Krom Lecture. These lectures will bring authors and professors from the surrounding area to Marist and let them talk about their works that deal with the Hudson River Valley. The first ever lecture was sponsored by Gilbert Krom, Shirley Handel and Bernard Handel. Tonight’s speaker was Dr. David Schuyler and he came to discuss his new book *Sanctified Landscape: Thinking and Writing about the Hudson River Valley 1820-1909*. He was a very gifted speaker for he presented his topic precisely and warmly, with just a dash of humor to lighten up the crowd. The main point of his book was the intersection of landscape and history in the valley. When he began to work on his book, he started by reading a lot of books about other rivers in order to systematically figure out how to properly write about them. So he decided to take a part of the Hudson River and looked in depth on a given area, which were the historical sites. Dr. Schuyler went over three important artists for the Hudson River Valley, Washington Irving, Thomas Cole and BJ Lossing. Schuyler’s favorite author is Washington Irving and he discussed how Irving’s stories such as Rip Van Winkle and Knickerbocker’s History influenced the Hudson River Valley and how it made a great impact on its historic sites. He also went over how Thomas Cole and Lossing’s paintings and prints set a beautiful image of the Valley and made it an area worth treasuring. Dr. Schuyler even got his title from one of Cole’s speeches that he made in order to preserve or “sanctify” the area. Overall, it was an excellent lecture, and it has undoubtedly set the bar high for the next speaker.

By Joe Palaia

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# Fantastically Fun Fall Festivities for Families (Cont)

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New York State Sheep and Wool Festival. Held in Rhinebeck on October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, this festival has some great kid's activities. Children can watch a demonstration of sheep dogs herding, participate and marvel at the Mad Science Show, watch the Leaping Lama Contest, or participate in the Pumpkin Chuckin Contest. When telling the kids where they are going this weekend, just say Disney World, the Sheep and Wool Festival is just as fun! Reside in the Catskill Mountain's? You didn't think you'd be left out of these fall excursions did you?

The Catskill Mountain Railroad is offering their annual Fall Foliage rides until October 28<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy the scenic views of Ulster County's amazing natural beauty from within vintage coaches and open air train cars. FDR built the Taconic State Parkway as way to see Hudson Valley's scenery from a car but along this railway witness the autumn beauty you can only get



from a train! Rounding out our fall travels along the Hudson River, we stop at fresh water mouth of the Hudson. In Castleton-On-Hudson, visit the corn mazes of Goold Orchards. Also offering hay rides and serving up delicious food, Goold Orchards is just the place to relax with the family on the weekend. They also have weekly festivities like the Halloween Pet Parade on October 20<sup>th</sup>. If you're looking for something to do this autumn, look no further than the Hudson Valley!

By Andrew Mikolajczyk

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## Meet the Intern

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Hello, my name is David Babetski. I am a History Secondary Education Major and if all goes as planned I should be graduating in the spring! I began my Marist College career pursuing a major in psychology, but quickly realized psychoanalyzing people of the past is much more interesting. Storytelling is really my passion and as a teacher I will constantly have a group of kids who are forced to listen to my historical tales. I am originally from Westfield, New Jersey, where my cousin, two aunts, and mother all teach. It is safe to say that the profession runs in the family.

The interning process has allowed me to learn so much about what the Hudson River Valley has to offer historically and aesthetically. From the FDR museum to old historic homes, there are some really dedicated people preserving and making history something everyone can enjoy. Am I one of them? Of

course I am. One of my jobs at the HRVI has been to contact the town historians in the area. They usually discuss the various projects they are working on or have completed, but I especially enjoy learning what interests them the most about their job. Personally, I love talking and reading about military history. Consequently, the papers I write for the institute deal with the New York infantry regiments during the Civil War.

Although my job is to reveal the past, we must all look towards the future sometimes. Being a social studies teacher after college would unify my passion for history with my desire to work with children. I would love to teach at a middle school, despite everybody telling me "the kids are monsters." Also, being able to coach baseball would allow me to express my love for sports in ways other than simply watching them

on television or playing them with friends. So far the HRVI has been a blessing in my last year. Of course I am jealous that my New Jersey hometown is not a goldmine of history, but thankfully I currently live in both areas.



# Contact Us

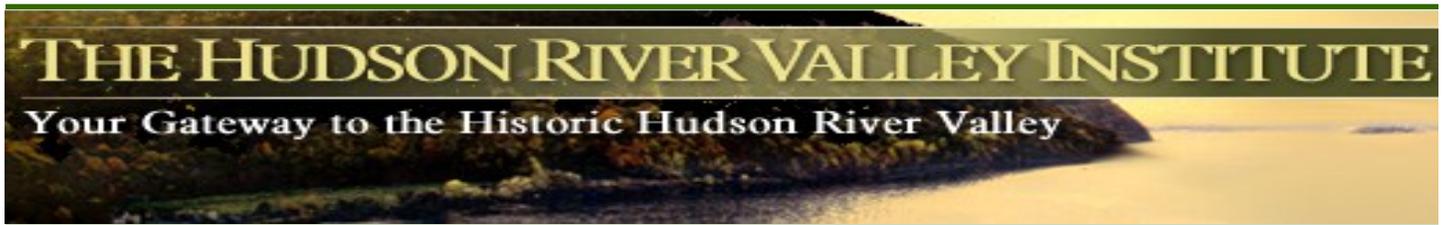
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*The Hudson River Valley:  
"The Landscape that Defined America"*

[www.hudsonrivervalley.org](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org)



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