

American Heritage River Initiative

The Hudson River Valley Institute is home to the Hudson River Navigator. Governor George Pataki nominated the Hudson River to become one of the nation's first American Heritage Rivers in 1997, and, at the Governor's request, President George W. Bush extended the Hudson River's heritage designation through July 2006.

In 2003 Governor Pataki appointed Mr. Vincent Tamagna as the Navigator and asked HRVI to host

his operations. The American Heritage Rivers Initiative has complemented New York's efforts to restore and protect the Hudson River's natural, scenic, historic, and economic resources in partnership with local governments and organizations along its banks.

The Hudson River Navigator is the liaison between New York State's Hudson River Heritage Council, federal and state agencies, and local governments and communities. In

this role the Navigator provides valuable assistance to the State, local governments, and communities along the Hudson in their efforts to preserve the unique historic and natural resources of the Hudson.

The Hudson River Navigator is funded by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service. To learn more, visit: www.hudsonrivervalley.net/navigator.

The 225th Anniversary Celebration of the American Revolution

The Hudson River Valley Institute has organized and coordinated lead events for the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution in New York State in partnership with the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Each year through 2008, HRVI will promote *Patriots' Weekend*, which focuses on significant historical events relating to the Revolutionary War in the Hudson River Valley 225 years ago.



Patriots' Weekend 2004 began with the dedication of the Stony Point Battlefield's refurbished museum on July 15, 2004.

About Us

The Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI) at Marist College is the center for the study of the Hudson River Valley, serving as the central hub of information about the region that gives the Institute its name. Its mission is to study and to promote the Hudson River Valley. As the academic arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, HRVI is

increasing public awareness about the significance of America's First River in the history of New York and the United States. By providing educational resources, including the *Hudson River Valley Review*, HRVI serves heritage tourists, scholars, elementary and secondary school educators, environmental organizations, the

to New York."

The Hudson River Valley Institute worked with Congressman Maurice Hinchey to gain passage of the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution Commemoration Act on November 20, 2004.

The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the M&T Bank Charitable Foundation, and the Charlotte Cunneen-Hackett Foundation have provided the funding to make Patriots' Weekend and other 225th anniversary events possible.



The 5th New York reenacting the founding of West Point. Patriots' Weekend 2002; West Point

business community, and the general public seeking to know more about the region that has been called "the Landscape that Defined America." The Hudson River Valley Digital Library serves as an online resource and portal to other information from libraries, historical societies, and historic sites.

DIRECTOR'S

UPDATE

2003-2004



THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY INSTITUTE
MARIST

A Message from the Director

As the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College completes its second full year of operations, we want to share this update of some of our recent activities and projects. It has been a very productive two years, as HRVI has taken a lead role in facilitating new programs promoting the study and enjoyment of the region's history and culture. The Hudson River Valley Digital Library has emerged as a leader in delivering information on the Valley, and the

Hudson River Valley Review is providing up-to-date scholarship to educators, students, and the general public. The annual celebration of the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution in the Hudson River Valley regularly attracts several thousand participants and viewers. In addition, our monthly lecture series, collaborative programs with regional historic sites, and the several hundred students the Institute teaches each year, has

helped to encourage the study of the "Landscape that Defined America."



Thomas S. Wermuth, Director, HRVI at Marist College

National Recognition of Hudson River Valley Institute

The Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College received national recognition in Washington, DC, for its role in preserving the history of the Hudson River Valley.

On January 15, 2004, First Lady Laura Bush presented a Preserve America Community Award to Hudson River Valley Institute's Executive Director James M. Johnson and Hudson River

Navigator Vincent Tamagna in a ceremony in the East Room of the White House. The award designated Putnam County, New York, as one of the first eight Preserve America Communities in the United States honored for their commitment to protecting their heritage. At the same time, the Hudson River Valley Greenway nominated the Hudson River Valley Institute

for one of the two Preserve America Presidential Awards.

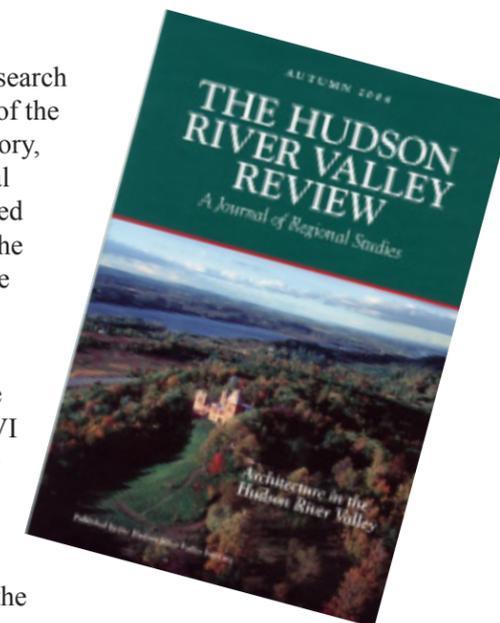


Jim Johnson, HRVI, and Vinny Tamagna, Putnam County Legislator, receive the Preserve America Award from First Lady Laura Bush in the White House.

The Journal of the Hudson River Valley

The Hudson River Valley Review provides recent research and writing on all aspects of the Hudson River Valley's history, culture, and people. Special themed issues have featured significant topics such as the American Revolution in the region.

The most recent issue, Autumn 2004, features the Valley's architecture. HRVI assumed publication of the journal from Bard College in 2003, and the number of subscribers has grown by almost 50%, revealing the



ongoing interest in the region's history. Subscribers range from university libraries and historic sites to scholars and local history enthusiasts.

Issues of The Hudson River Valley Review have been underwritten by the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, Furthermore, the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel, and C.H. Energy Group, Inc.

Hudson River Valley Education Programs

HRVI is entering the third year of two grant-funded opportunities for Valley teachers. Each summer we host two week-long workshops funded through the U.S. Department of Education, and one three-day workshop funded by the National Park Service.



HRVI's Teaching American History Institutes are funded by a Department of Education grant program. Thus far, we have graduated over 200 secondary education teachers in week-long, intensive examinations of the rich history of the Hudson River Valley and its significance for the history of the United States.

Members of the Marist faculty have developed and offered seminars over the last two summers on the American Revolution, slavery and the Underground Railroad, and the political and social world of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Participants in the Teachers' Institutes develop educational materials including lesson plans, historical resources, and educational portfolios, all of which are delivered electronically via the *Hudson River Valley Digital Library* for use in classrooms throughout the nation. Several thousand students and hundreds of teachers throughout the region are using the educational curriculum being developed.

Although the initial focus has been on teachers and students in Dutchess and Ulster Counties, the goal is to expand the educational programs providing every elementary and secondary school teacher in the Hudson River Valley with the opportunity to participate.



Hudson Valley Teachers visit the Wallace Center at the FDR Library.

"Teaching the Hudson Valley Institutes" are a collaboration of HRVI, the National Park Service, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area that focus on place-based education and our region's historic resources.

Teachers who attend the workshops develop lesson plans that are anchored on field trips to historic sites throughout the Valley. Finished, tested lessons are then made available online. This summer's session was organized around the theme, "The Landscape that Defined America: Hudson River Valley Communities Before 1825." Eighty-five teachers have attended these three-day conferences hosted at Marist College over the last two years.

The Teachers' Institutes have been made possible by a total grant of \$837,486 from the U.S. Department of Education for the project, "Freedom and Dignity: The Exploration of American Democracy." Additional funding is provided by the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and National Park Service.

Digital Library

HRVI Digital Library continues to serve as the gateway to information on the Hudson River Valley, serving educators, students, residents of the Valley and heritage tourists. The Digital Library contains thousands of pages of historical records and materials, educational curriculum, books, articles and historical images of valley, all of which are archived and searchable in the electronic archives.

In its two years of operations, more than 300,000 visitors have used the Digital Library, downloading close to 60,000 historical records, pamphlets, books,

articles, and images. The site has recorded over 5 millions "hits." That translates into 6,498 hits, 365 visitors and 66 "downloads" every day. Web users from 95 countries have visited the site and used its resources.

HRVI interns have converted into digital format thousands of pages of historical articles and pamphlets this year, including materials relating to the West Point Chain and the Bicentennial of the American Revolution (for commemoration planners), major out-of-print books related to Hudson River Valley History, and the personal journal

of renowned Hudson River Valley author Susan Warner from the collection of the Constitution Island Association. In addition, new scholarly articles have been written and published for the first time on the Digital Library.

The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency, and the DJMcManus Foundation have provided generous support for the development of the Digital Library.

www.hudsonrivervalley.org

Thomas W. Casey Fellowship in Hudson River Valley Studies

Before the Hudson River Valley Institute, Marist had Professor Thomas W. Casey.

Professor Casey was a devoted scholar of our region and offered numerous courses in Valley history. After his passing, Professor Irma Blanco Casey and her children, Karen and Robert, established an endowed fund to support the Thomas W. Casey Fellowship stipend for research about

the Hudson River Valley.

Professor Mark Morreale, Department of English, was the first recipient of this stipend to support his research about the Hudson River Valley's contributions to the war effort in the American Civil War. Professor Morreale presented a preliminary discussion of his research on October 6 at the monthly Hudson River Valley Colloquium.



Professor Thomas Casey with students.

225th Anniversary of the American Revolution Commemoration Act

On November 20, 2004, the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution Commemoration Act introduced by U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY-22) passed both houses of Congress as a part of the omnibus appropriations bill. Twenty-two cosponsors joined Congressman Hinchey in his efforts in the House of Representatives, including fellow Hudson River Valley Representatives Michael McNulty (D-21-NY), Sue Kelly (R-NY-19), John Sweeney (R-NY-20), and Nita Lowey (DNY- 18). Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) and John W. Warner (R-VA) had introduced identical legislation in the Senate.

The Hudson River Valley Institute had been working with Congressman

Hinchey and Legislative Director Paul Brotherton since 2002 to pass legislation to establish a program in the National Park Service to promote the celebration of the 225th anniversary of the American Revolution since New York and its Hudson River Valley were instrumental in the winning of the American Revolution. With the help of Governor George Pataki, New York has led the campaign since 2000 to remember and to celebrate our Revolutionary heritage. Under Congressman Hinchey's leadership, the American Revolution has been a critical theme of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area as well.

Congressman Hinchey's bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish a national program within the Park

Service authorizing the additional resources and partnerships necessary to improve their stewardship of Revolutionary War sites and treasures through improved interpretation, education, outreach and protection.



Executive Director Jim Johnson and Congressman Maurice Hinchey testified before a Congressional subcommittee on behalf of the 225th Anniversary of the American Revolution Act.

Undergraduate Internship Program

As the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College enters its fourth school year, the newest team of interns is working hard. The internship program at HRVI has graduated 30 interns—history, communications, computer science, English, environmental science, and political science majors.

Internship duties include: scanning historical documents; researching and writing articles for the *Review*, the monthly newsletter, and digital library; assisting at events such as Patriots' Weekend and other historical

celebrations throughout the Hudson River Valley.

The Internship program provides an assortment of opportunities for undergraduate students at Marist. Students have the opportunity to work on independent projects, which are "published" on-line at www.hudsonrivervalley.org. Interns digitize documents and work on their projects during weekly office hours.

Each semester, a senior is chosen as Intern Coordinator, acting as a liaison between the interns and the program

director. Students involved in this program get class credit, internship credit, and valuable work experience.

The D.J. McManus Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education grants have assisted with the funding of interns.

