

THOMAS COLE



“A Something not found elsewhere”

Thomas Cole can truly be considered the “Father of the Hudson River School of Art” because his landscape paintings depicting romantic aspects of America best convey the unique place that Hudson River Valley scenery, and American scenery in general, has in the world.

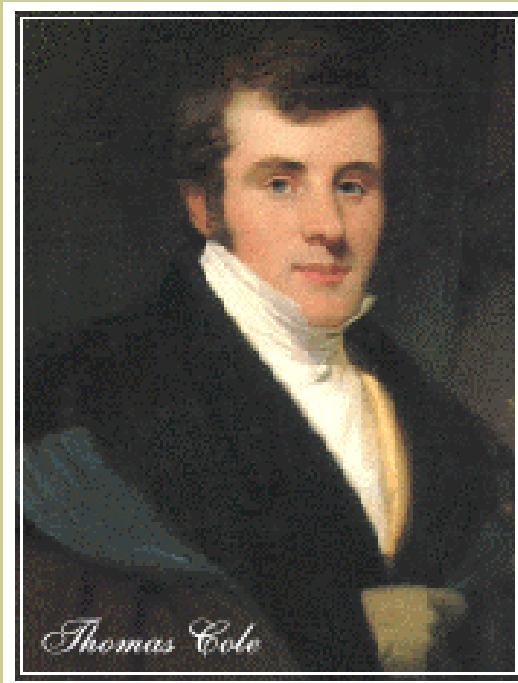
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[Biography]



Biography

- **Thomas Cole – The Hudson River School**
- **Early life and Cole’s move to America**
- **The beginning of Cole’s landscape painting**
- **A move to New York and the sketching trip on the Hudson River**
- **National acclaim - 1829**
- **Voyage to Europe and a refinement of style**
- **Cedar Grove – Catskill, New York**
- **Thomas Cole, environmentalist**
- **Romanticism: the “visible hand of God”**
- **Marriage and architecture**
- **Death – 1848, Catskill, NY**
- **Contribution to art - landscapes of Hudson River Valley and America in general**

Cedar Grove/Historical Context

- Old Studio
- Important Dates: 1815, 1825, 1836, 1965, 1999, 2000
- Olana
- Industrial Development

Cedar Grove

Thomas Cole's Studio
Catskill, NY
Tel.: (518) 943-7465

House hours are from 10am-4pm, Friday & Saturday.
From 1pm to 5pm on Sundays.

In addition, the house is open Memorial Day, Labor Day
& Columbus Day- from 1pm to 5pm.
Independence Day- from 10am to 4pm.

FEE:

There is a minimal \$5 admission fee

SEASON:

May 2 through October 26



Cedar Grove

Historical Description:

Cedar Grove, the home of Thomas Cole, is one of a very limited number of National Historic Landmarks having extraordinary significance in the cultural development of the United States. For it was here at Cedar Grove that Thomas Cole established a tradition of native American landscape painting which continues to grow in importance and has come to be identified as the Hudson River School of Art.

In 1825 Thomas Cole came up the Hudson to sketch the scenery of the Northern Catskills. Subsequently he would rent an outbuilding on John Alexander Thomson's country seat of 88 acres, become romantically involved with the owner's niece, Maria Bartow, and would be married in the west parlor November 22, 1836. The couple would take up permanent residency at Cedar Grove, a site Cole came to feel was the center of the universe.

The Site:

A major restoration project for Cedar Grove under state and national guidelines commenced in May of 2000 and while the Federal Style Brick House of 1815 and the family and servant's privy have been restored and the views westerly to the Northern Catskills has been reopened, Cole's old studio and the site's grounds are still in the planning stages of restoration.

Indoors there is much to see relating to the first and second generation artists of the Hudson River School; Cole memorabilia, family possessions, antique furniture, paintings and illustrated panels. There are both permanent and changing exhibits of interest.

Directions:

Take NYS Thruway (I-87) to exit 21 (Catskill). Make a left at the stop sign, then proceed 1,000 feet and make a left onto Route 23 East. Proceed 2 miles and make a right at the light onto Spring Street (Route 385). Cedar Grove is on the left, (use the shared driveway with Temple Israel).

Trip Itinerary

- **TOUR INFO**

The house is open by guided tour.

Tours generally last about 30 minutes and are limited to approximately 12 people each.

The last tour begins 30 minutes prior to closing.

Tour groups are welcome 7 days a week but must be scheduled

- **FEE:**

There is a minimal \$5 admission fee

- **SEASON:**

May 2 through October 26

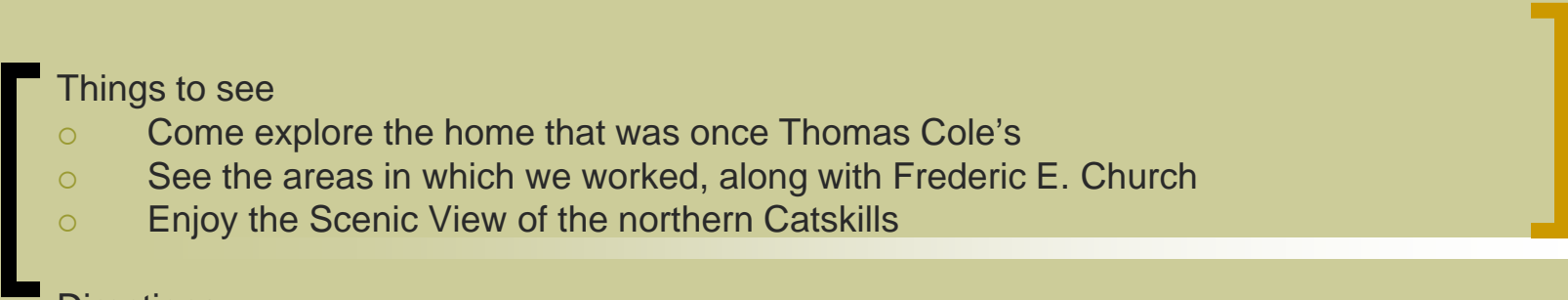
- **HOURS:**

House hours are from 10am-4pm, Friday & Saturday.

From 1pm to 5pm on Sundays.

In addition, the house is open Memorial Day, Labor Day & Columbus Day- from 1pm to 5pm.

Independence Day- from 10am to 4pm.



- Things to see

- Come explore the home that was once Thomas Cole's
- See the areas in which we worked, along with Frederic E. Church
- Enjoy the Scenic View of the northern Catskills

- Directions

- Cedar Grove is located at 218 Spring Street in the Village of Catskill approximately 100 yards south of the traffic light at the intersection of State Route 23 & 385. Ample parking is provided courtesy of Temple Israel located adjacent to Cedar Grove.
- From NYC & Points South
Take NYS Thruway (I-87) to exit 21 (Catskill). Make a left at the stop sign, then proceed 1,000 feet and make a left onto Route 23 East. Proceed 2 miles and make a right at the light onto Spring Street (Route 385). Cedar Grove is on the left, (use the shared driveway with Temple Israel).
- From Albany & Points North:
Take NYS Thruway (I-87) to exit 21 (Catskill). Make a left at the stop sign, then proceed 1,000 feet and make a left onto Route 23 East. Proceed 2 miles and make a right at the light onto Spring Street (Route 385). Cedar Grove is on the left, (use the shared driveway with Temple Israel).
- From Points West:
Take Route 23 East two miles East of the NYS Thruway exit, make a right at the light onto Spring Street (Route 385) Cedar Grove is on the left (use the shared driveway with Temple Israel).
- From Points East:
Take the Massachusetts Turnpike to the NYS Thruway (Route 90 West) to exit 2B (Taconic Pkwy.) Take Taconic Parkway South to Route 23 West. Continue on Route 23 West and cross the Hudson River over The Rip Van Winkle bridge. Make a left at the first light at the intersection of Route 23 and Route 385 (Spring Street). Cedar Grove is on the left (use the shared driveway with Temple Israel).

[Lesson Plan]

During a trip to Cedar Grove students could....

- Each pretend to be Thomas Cole
- Paint landscapes in his style
- Understand the correlation between Cole's environment and his art

The World of Thomas Cole

- [History](#)
- [Biography](#)
- [Art Gallery](#)
- [Cedar Grove](#)
- [HRV Painters](#)

Welcome to the world of Thomas Cole. Feel free to explore all the different aspects surrounding Thomas Cole, his life, and the Hudson River Valley. Seen Below to the left is Cole's house, Cedar Grove, which you may further explore by clicking the Cedar Grove link to the left. To the right is The Savage State, one of Cole's paintings in his famous collection, The Course of Empire.



[

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Inventory of Works

The Course of Empire: The Savage State, 1836



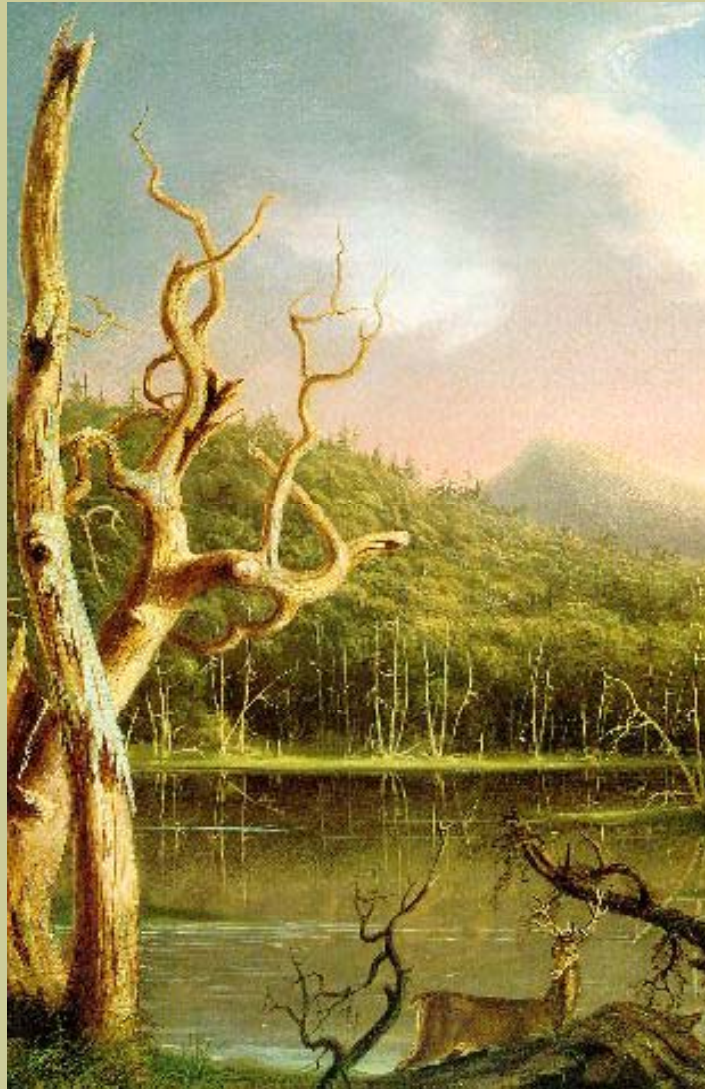
The Course of the Empire: Desolation, 1836



The Falls of Kaaterskill, 1826



Lake With Dead Trees, 1825



View from Mount Holyoke, Norhampton, Massachusetts,
after a Thunderstorm (The Oxbo), 1836



Catskill Scenery, 1833



Catskill Mountain House: The Four Elements, 1843-44



The Voyage of Life: Manhood, 1842



[Summary]

Thomas Cole, the “Father of the Hudson River School of Art”, conveyed through his landscape paintings the importance that Hudson River Valley scenery, and American scenery in general, had in the overall scope of art and aesthetics. His paintings from his Cedar Grove period best exemplify this in that they illustrate the correlation between Cole’s art and the environment in which he existed.

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