

HRVI



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Hudson River Valley Institute

Brisk air and the slight scent of snow means the Hudson River Valley is heading for the holidays, the time of year when the Valley's villages display some extra charm with the anticipation of Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas. A short drive will take you to any number of places where families can savor the beginnings of the most wonderful time of the year. New York's Hudson Valley is home to some of the region's finest architectural masterpieces. These elegant mansions are even more breathtaking when adorned with Christmas decorations.



Boscobel mansion

Boscobel, a Federal-style mansion in Garrison, NY, overlooking the Hudson River and West Point, will offer Traditional Candlelight Tours on the evenings of Friday, December 14 through Sunday December 16, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Hundreds of flickering candles, fresh greens, soft classical music, a roaring fire and a cup of wassail combine to make for an enchanting holiday affair. Daytime holiday tours of Boscobel are also

offered December 14-31 daily, excluding Tuesdays and Christmas Day. Visitors will have a chance to see the mansion decked out for the holidays and learn about holiday traditions as well as entertainment during the Federal period. For more information visit: <http://www.boscobel.org/main.html>



Clermont State Historical Site

The Clermont State Historic Site invites you to celebrate Christmas with the Livingston family on the first two weekends in December. "A Child's Christmas at Clermont" is the theme of the first weekend's program, featuring a reading of "The Night Before Christmas" and Christmas gifts for each child; reservations are required. On December 8-9, the mansion will be open throughout the day for a Christmas at Clermont Open House. Special candlelight tours of Clermont will also be offered from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on December 15. For more information visit: <http://www.friendsofclermont.org/events/christmas.html>

www.friendsofclermont.org/events/christmas.html



FDR Estate

Visit the Franklin D. Roosevelt Home in Hyde Park, NY, on December 8 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for a glimpse of how the president and his family celebrated the holidays. FDR's mansion will be decorated in World War II-era style, and a Roosevelt impersonator will read from Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," as the president traditionally did. Admission to the event is free. For more information visit: <http://www.nps.gov/archive/hofr/hofrhome.html>



Wilderstein Mansion

Wilderstein, an imposing Queen Anne Victorian mansion in Rhinebeck, NY, will be decked out in silver

splendor for the holiday season. For more than 20 years, Hudson Valley and New York City florists and designers have

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Featured Historic Site	2
Featured Historical Society	2-3
Featured Historian	3
Featured Website	3
Featured Event	4
Meet the Interns	5
Contact Us	6
Staff Listing	6

Special points of interest:

- Learn about the upcoming *Quadracentennial* conference on page 4
- Meet more of HRVI's current interns on page 5

Christmas continued

transformed the first floor of Margaret (Daisy) Suckley's home into a Victorian Christmas wonderland, and visitors can enjoy self-guided tours of the mansion on weekends from November 23-December 23. For more information visit:

<http://www.wilderstein.org/>

Locust Grove in Poughkeepsie, NY, is best known as home of telegraph inventor Samuel F.B. Morse, but the mansion's original owner, Henry Livingston, Jr., also has a claim to fame. Some scholars believe he is

the true author of the classic Christmas tale, "Twas the Night Before Christmas." On weekends in December, Locust



Locust Grove

Grove celebrates the magic

of Christmas past with special holiday

season tours. Each room of the mansion has a different Christmas theme, and treats will be served on the Museum Pavilion on Saturdays, while Sundays feature hunts for kids, with clues from "Twas the Night Before Christmas." For more information visit: <http://lgnny.org/>

Elizabeth Vieklend

Featured Historical Site — Crailo State Historical Site



Crailo State Historic Site

Located on the east side of the Hudson River in Rensselaer, N.Y., the Crailo State Historic Site, or Fort

Crailo, is a museum that represents the Colonial New Netherland history in the Upper Hudson Valley. Originally part of a landholding called the Manor or Patroonship of Rensselaerswyck, Crailo was named after the Van Rensselaer's estate in the Netherlands, with alternate spellings of Cralo or Crayloo in the 17th century, meaning "crows' wood" in Dutch. The house was built in the early 18th century by Hendrick Van Rensselaer, grand-

son of the First Patroon. In 1740, Hendrick died and his eldest son, Johannes, inherited the house, remodeling it and adding an east wing in the Georgian style, which reflected the growing English influence on the Dutch in the area.

During the French and Indian Wars and the American Revolution, the farms and fields at Crailo were used to quarter colonial troops. Any time an expedition to attack Canada was planned in the area, the lands were used for encampments for the troops.

The Van Rensselaer family, also known for entertaining officers, claimed that in 1758, British Army surgeon Richard Shuckburgh composed "Yankee Doodle" on their well to make fun of colonial troops.

In the late 18th century, Crailo was re-

fashioned to echo the Federal style. In the 1840s, it served as a boarding school for boys and eventually as a church rectory. Finally, in 1924, it was donated to the state of New York to be developed as a museum.

Today, the Crailo State Historic Site is open to the public from Mid-April-October, and by appointment only November-March. Its attractions include educational services, brochures, a visitor's center/museum, group tours, and guided tours. For more information about the site and its history, visit <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/sites/info.asp?siteID=7> and http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/forts/fortsA_D/crailoFort.htm.

Sarah Briggs

Featured Historical Society — The Holland Society



For over 130 years, The Holland Society has upheld the traditions of their Dutch ancestors.

The Society preserves important documents to shed light on the political, social, and religious patterns of the original New Netherland settlers. Many society members partake in the research and publication of their family genealogy to advance this zeitgeist. "The New Netherland Project" is one Holland Society program dedicated to translating and publishing 17th Century records held by the New York State Archives. Other

sponsorships include The Papers of Jacob Leisler Project, and Records of the Translations of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Flatbush, Kings County New York.

The Holland Society emerged in 1885 as a reaction to the new ideas and technologies sweeping New York City at the time. The idea for the organization emerged when George West Van Siclen appeared as a legal counsel against Lucas L. van Allen and Judge Hooper C. Van Vorst, all of whom were of Dutch lineage. This collection of Dutch ancestors decided to establish an organization for Dutch descendants to ensure the survival of their cultural heritage in the rapidly changing

American environment. By March of 1885, the group had grown significantly, and named their organization "The Holland Society." After writing their constitution that same year, the Society was incorporated by the State of New York with 46 members signing the Certificate of Incorporation.

Today, the Holland Society has branches in the United States, and Canada, as well as a collection of international members all over the world. Branches in the Northeast include Westchester, Connecticut, Dutchess County New York, Long Island, Jersey Shore, and New England. Regular members must be a descendant in the

(Continued on page 3)

The Holland Society— continued

direct male line of ancestry who lived in New Netherland before or during 1625. In order to achieve membership, prospective members must complete the Member Application form, available on the Holland Society website, and include reference letters from two regular members. For people interested in New Netherland history and traditions, the society offers a “Friend” membership that includes many of the same benefits as regular membership.

Currently, the Holland Society is concentrating on the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s landing on the shores of New Amsterdam, approaching in 2009. The

anniversary will take place all over New York. In the Hudson River Valley, a replica of Henry Hudson’s ship *Halve Maen* (*half Moon*) will sail up the Hudson River as Hudson did 400 years ago. Also in preparation for the Hudson anniversary, The Holland Society Membership Committee is dedicated to increasing the organization’s membership to 400, and to the Henry Hudson Capital campaign, proposed to increase the group’s annual capital gain.

Also in honor of Henry Hudson, the Society publishes a quarterly journal called *de Halve Maen*. Since 1922, the journal has furthered research on the Dutch in

American history, and included essays on New Netherland culture, agriculture, architecture, silversmithing, and the decorative arts. Members of The Holland Society receive the journal as part of their membership, but non-members can subscribe for \$28.50 for four issues (\$32.50 for international subscribers).

For more information on The Holland Society branches, membership, and activities, please visit their website at <http://hollandsociety.com>.

Julia D’Angelo

Featured Historian— Dr. James M. Johnson



Dr. James M. Johnson

The Hudson River Valley Institute stepped onto the international stage September 12 when Dr. James M. Johnson, the HRVI’s Executive Direc-

tor, was appointed a “chevalier” in the *Ordre des Palmes academiques* by the French Ministry of National Education for lifelong contributions as an educator and historian. Jim officially received his award from Cultural Counselor Kareen Rispal at a ceremony held at the headquarters of the French Embassy’s Cultural Services in New York City. Three

others were also honored.

Established in 1808, the *Palmes Academiques* (Academic Palms) was created by Napoleon Bonaparte to honor eminent members of the University of Paris. In 1866, the scope of the award was widened to include major contributions to French national education made by anyone, including foreigners. It is one of the world’s oldest civil awards.

One of our country’s leading military historians, with a particular interest in the American Revolution, Jim has taught undergraduates and graduate students for 23 years at the United States Military Academy at West Point, the Naval War College and Marist. Over the past nine years, working with the Hudson River National Valley Heritage Area and others, Jim has been leading the cause to designate the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Trail as

a National Historic Trail. Linking nine states and 685-miles long, the route commemorates the French-American campaign, starting in Rhode Island and ending in Virginia, which resulted in British General Cornwallis’ historic surrender at Yorktown. Without this American-French alliance, historians believe there might not have been an American republic and maybe not even a French republic. We congratulate Jim on this great honor and salute his many achievements in keeping our country’s and region’s history alive.

Shaileen Kopec, Senior Development Officer for Planned Giving and Endowment Support

Featured Website — “The Sound and Story Project of the Hudson”



Eileen McAdam and Jim Metzner started “The Sound and

Story Project of the Hudson” to use today’s technologies to foster a greater sense of environment and community along the Hudson River. McAdam inter-

views people living on the Hudson River and hears stories on a variety of topics: the old ferries that crossed the Hudson before the bridges were built, the building of the thruway, one room school houses, walking across the Hudson when it froze, living in a lighthouse, crab fishing, rescuing a barge, or starting the first Meals on Wheels. By interviewing people with a sound recorder she picks up ambient noises that add another dimension to the stories.

The “Sound and Story Project” also searches conscientiously for the important aspect of sound around the Hudson River. This area is often overlooked and McAdam credits “Jim [Metzner]’s years of work in sound and his belief that sound tells us something about a place that words can’t” with that important emphasis on the audio. They look for sounds like old tractors, bats, ice

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

breaking, crabs breathing, amphibians, dawn choruses, and church bells – anything that speaks about the local flavor of the Hudson River Valley.

McAdam is currently developing an audio tour project that incorporates the stories she has collected with the scenery of the Hudson River. Signs will be added to key locations on the mid-Hudson waterfront that have a question and cell phone number. Calling the number provides an answer in the form of a local resident telling a story. She hopes that with projects like these, more communi-

ties will become involved. As McAdam's puts it, "In the end, we hope that people do more story telling and listening." The "Sound and Story Project" recently received an IMLS grant, which the Hudson River Valley Institute is a part of, to identify and preserve recordings collected by others. Organizations like schools, libraries, and historical societies have had similar oral history projects, but have not digitized their findings putting them at risk of losing the audio. Ultimately, it is a collaboration project that depends on contributions from individuals as well as organizations.

If you're interested in the "Sounds and Stories of the Hudson River," please visit their site at: <http://www.soundandstory.org/getonthemap.html>. Any questions or comments for Eileen McAdam or Jim Metzner Eileen McAdam can be sent to: <http://www.soundandstory.org/contactus.html>

Alexander Shippee

America's First River: The Hudson



The Hudson River

This coming September, the Hudson River Valley is celebrating New York's 400 years of history with a conference

entitled *America's First River: the Hudson*. The Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College, as well as the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadracentennial office, and the National Parks Service, are collaborating on this two-day Quadracentennial Signature event, which will be held on September 25th and 26th in 2009. This commemorative weekend will feature eminent international scholars and regional historians known for their in-depth knowledge and research of the various dimensions of this historic and captivating region.

The weekend will commence at the Henry

A. Wallace Center at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, with a panel on the Hudson followed by a panel by the Chamber of Commerce leading up to an address from Dr. Cornelis A. van Minnen, the director of the Roosevelt Studies Center in Middleburg, Netherlands. He will debut his new book, *Four Centuries of Dutch – American Relations, 1609-2009*, and hold a book signing during the reception. After the opening, the weekend will move to the Marist campus where there will be various panels throughout Friday and Saturday discussing the vast array of topics the Hudson River Valley has to offer.

There will be five sessions discussing the pivotal role the Hudson River Valley has had on a wide range of scholarly topics. On Saturday, there is a panel presenting on the Hudson River School of Art. Other panels throughout the weekend will focus on the Hudson Valley Dutch, the first colonists in the valley, Native American relations, and will take a look at the historical imagination of the

area. The conference will then come to a close on Saturday evening with a reception and dedication of the Longview Park on the Marist College Waterfront. In May 2009, the Hudson River Valley Institute will release a special Quadracentennial issue of *The Hudson River Valley Review*, distributed widely to libraries, educational institutions, and historical groups to commemorate the anniversary. This issue will not only document the broad scope of the Quadracentennial year, but will also address the roles of the governor and the Commemorative Commission. The articles will focus on Hudson, Fulton, and Champlain, their legacies, and more.

For additional information, or if you are interest in attending the conference, you can contact the Hudson River Valley Institute on our website at <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/>. You also can find additional commemorative events at <http://www.exploreny400.com>.

Elizabeth Baldetti

Featured Event—The 225th Anniversary Lighting Display



From 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on November 25th, people along the Hudson River

were witness to a spectacular lighting display to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the evacuation of the United States of America by British troops. At 12 different spots (five located in New York and seven in New Jersey) along the river starting in Princeton, NJ, and leading up to Beacon, NY, Xeon beacons were lit with the rays of light protruding into the heavens. The dis-

play stretched a total of 108 miles up the Hudson with each light being lit sequentially, one after the other. Initially during the Revolutionary War, beacon fires were used to communicate across large distances. The smoke and fire allowed local militias and Continental Army soldiers to prepare for the British

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

while at the same time alert civilians of the impending army. However, Washington realized that such a system could be prone to sabotage by a loyalist or British Redcoat. He then recommended cannons be brought to each beacon site to be fired off in case of any British advancement. The smoke combined with the sound of the cannon fire would allow all soldiers and civilians to prepare accordingly knowing that the warning was not a false

alarm.

The event was put on by a plethora of groups working together including the [Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area](#), [Palisades Parks Conservancy](#), Palisades Interstate Park Commission, [Scenic Hudson](#), [the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation](#), and [Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area](#).

For more information on this and other events, please visit the Hudson River Val-

ley Institute's website at <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/>.

Joseph De Lisle Jr.

Meet the Intern — Joseph De Lisle, Jr.



Joseph De Lisle Jr. is a Political Science major and Business minor at Marist College. He is in the middle of his senior year and remains, as in every other year, a very active member

of the Marist Community. He has served the students as a Resident Senator in the Student Government Association, as well as the Executive Vice President. To go

along with this, he is also the Chairman and one of the founding members of the Marist College Republicans and a leader on the Catholic Student Association's planning team. A regular member of the Dean's List, Joe has co-authored a paper with a professor and then presented it to the New York State Political Science Association. He has also had the honor of being selected to serve as Marist's lone representative to the 59th Annual Student Conference on United States Affairs (SCUSA) at the United State Military Academy, where delegates from around the world come together looking to solve some of America's most

pressing issues.

After growing up in a small, blue collar, family oriented town in Connecticut, Joe understands the importance of hard work, responsibility, and ethics. As a devoted family member who is a Knight of Columbus and a loyal friend, he seeks to give back to the community and help make America a better place. He never gives up, never gives anything less than his best, and will always stand up for what is right.

Joseph De Lisle, Jr.

Meet the Intern — Elizabeth Vielkind



Achieving academic excellence and becoming a teacher have always been important to me. My admiration for Audrey Hepburn and the impact she has had on my decision to become a teacher has helped me grow into the person I am today.

As a young girl growing up, I loved watching movies such as "Breakfast at Tiffany's," "Roman Holiday," and "My Fair Lady," starring Audrey Hepburn. I know it is cliché to have a famous actress as a role model, but Ms. Hepburn was more than a star; she was a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Ambassador who opened the public's eyes to the plight of children living in impoverished countries throughout the world.

Although I do not plan on becoming a famous actress or a Good Will Ambassador for UNICEF, I would like to be admired and respected in another way—I want to teach. From the time I first started learning history, I loved it and my passion has never faded. As a teacher, I will be teaching because I want to work with adolescents and have a positive impact on their lives, so they too can fulfill their dreams. For the past three summers, I have worked as a camp counselor at the YMCA in my town in Upstate New York. This last summer, I became a Unit Leader for one of the units at the YMCA summer camp program, which had me step into more of a leadership role. This job has given me the opportunity to bring my desire to educate children to life by allowing me to work with adolescents.

I am in my Junior year at Marist College where my dream of teaching is becoming a reality. I am double majoring in History and Secondary Education, as well as mi-

norning in Political Science. Besides being a member of Teachers of Tomorrow at Marist, I am involved in a variety of other clubs on campus, including the Marist College Dance Club, and Resident Student Council. I am also a Marist Ambassador as well as an Emerging Leader. This will be my third semester interning at the Hudson River Valley Institute. This semester, I am thrilled to be doing research on the Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge in preparation for the quadricentennial celebration of Henry Hudson sailing up the Hudson River in 2009.

The academic and social experiences that I have had while at Marist have been amazing and this knowledge that I have accrued can only continue to grow. I hope to stay active and participate academically and socially on campus for the remainder of my time at Marist.

Elizabeth Vielkind

Contact Us

The Hudson River Valley Institute
Marist College
3399 North Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-1387

Phone: 845-575-3052
Fax: 845-575-3176
E-mail: hvri@marist.edu

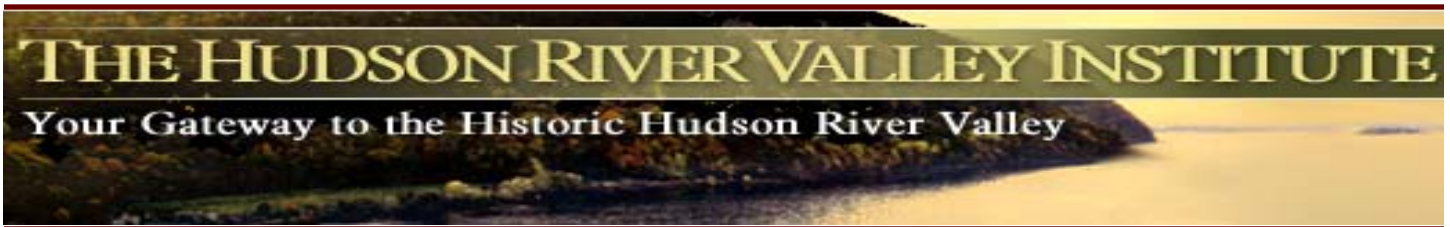
***The Hudson River Valley:
"The Landscape that Defined America"***

The Hudson River Valley is one of only 37 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



Staff

Dr. Thomas Wermuth, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, Director, Hudson River Valley Institute

Dr. Colonel James M. Johnson (U.S. Army, ret.), Executive Director, Hudson River Valley Institute

Christopher Pryslopski, Program Director

Andy Villani, Hudson River Valley Institute Coordinator

Contributors to this issue:

Joe De Lisle, Editor-in-Chief

Julia D'Angelo, Intern

Sarah Briggs, Assistant Editor

Alexander Shippee, Intern

Elizabeth Vielkind, Intern

Elizabeth Baldetti, Intern