THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY REVIEW

A Journal of Regional Studies

MARIST

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From the Editors

It's been eight years since *The Hudson River Valley Review* has devoted an issue to the American Revolution, arguably the most pivotal event ever to occur in the region. Since there has been a wealth of intriguing new scholarship about the war's impact on the valley, the time seems ripe to revisit the topic.

The articles in this issue illustrate that no one living in the Hudson Valley between 1775 and 1783 escaped the Revolution. Every aspect of life—governance, the economy, even neighborly relations—was thrown into chaos by the conflict. Indeed, all that was certain was uncertainty. It held sway over everyone, from the privates in George Washington's Continental Army to the drafters of New York's Constitution to the farmers tending the region's fertile fields.

Perhaps most important, this issue adds a strong human dimension to the history of the war, giving names to many of the people who fought its battles or suffered on the homefront. Some, like Israel Putnam and Beverley Robinson, already are well known. But many others have been too long forgotten. Patriot or Loyalist, hero or scoundrel, they finally get their due in these pages.

On the Cover: *Soissonnais Regiment, July 16, 1781*, by David R. Wagner, from The Hudson River Valley Institute's Dr. Frank T. Bumpus Collection

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Frank J. Doherty is a retired Dutchess County businessman. He and his wife purchased the Buck farm, onetime home to Pearl Buck, in 1972 and his interest in the history of the home and the area began his literary career. He recently published his tenth volume on the 18th-century settlers of the Beekman Patent, from which many of the Loyalists on the prison ships came.

Thomas O'Keefe is a business lawyer who practices in the U.S. Virgin Islands and New York. His military experience consists of being drafted out of Cornell Law School to serve in the artillery in Vietnam with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, the 1st Cavalry Division and the 25th Division. Mr. O'Keefes home in Connecticut is adjacent to one of the Redding encampments, which sparked his interest in this subject.

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THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY REVIEW

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Regional History Forum

Each issue of The Hudson River Valley Review *includes the Regional History Forum. This section highlights historic sites in the Valley, exploring their historical significance as well as information for visitors today. Although due attention is paid to sites of national visibility, HRVR also highlights sites of regional significance. Please write us with suggestions for future Forum sections.*

DOUG KERR

Temple of Virtue

The New Windsor Cantonment and National Purple Heart Hall of Honor

In 1782, the Continental Army remained fully immersed in the Revolutionary War. That April, Commander in Chief George Washington established his headquarters at the Jonathan Hasbrouck house (today known as Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site) in Newburgh. In October, he assembled his troops in New Windsor, where some 7,000 soldiers and 500 women and children began erecting a cantonment, or military enclave.

Although the defeat of General Cornwallis's British army in the Battle of Yorktown had occurred in 1781, a year prior to establishment of the New Windsor Cantonment, the war would drag on for two more years. Thus it was necessary to set up camp in preparation for a possible spring campaign in the event that peace negotiations taking place in France proved unsuccessful. Since the British were still in control of New York City, it was imperative that Washington maintain his hold on the Hudson River. The Hudson Valley provided a prime location for the generals, their troops, and their families. The proximity of the river made obtaining military supplies and other necessities much easier. Also, the nearby mountains provided a sufficient degree of seclusion, should that be necessary.

The cantonment site needed to accommodate the New Hampshire, New York, and New Jersey troops along with the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Massachusetts Brigades. Beyond all of the soldiers, space was needed to house several officers and military families, plus buildings like a hospital and stables. Overall, it is estimated that there were about 700 well-constructed huts on the 1,600-acre site. In fact, the huts were extremely well-built. In a letter, General Horatio Gates wrote about the soldiers, "…I think they will be more comfortable and better Lodged, in the Quarters they built for themselves than in Those any City in the Continent would afford them." By the end of November 1782, the troops were settled in and well-stocked with necessary items such as food and clothing.

DOUG KERR

The Mountainville Hut

Despite the comfortable living conditions at New Windsor, the army was not entirely pleased. They had just suffered through two very severe winters, with shortages in every area: food, fuel, forage, and clothing. During that time, many men became disgruntled. Washington remarked upon the condition of his troops in his letters to other generals: "It is with the utmost regret I am compelled to represent to you the distressed situation of the Troops on this River for want of bread… unless some spirited exertions, or coercive means are immediately made use of for obtaining a supply, I can see nothing but ruin stares us in the face." Even though Washington knew his army was struggling, he maintained a strict regimen and went so far as to encourage officers to enforce more rules, like rationing alcohol and conducting frequent inspections of clothing and equipment.

It also did not help that the men were now inactive, without the excitement of battle, and weren't being paid or promoted in any way. The ongoing and still uncertain peace talks contributed to the troops' dissatisfaction, leaving them restless about what was to come. On top of this, they were still doing physical labor (cutting firewood, undertaking building maintenance, etc.) in preparation for another winter. Again, Washington addressed the poor state of his men in a letter, "… but you may rely upon it, the patience and long sufferance of this Army are almost exhausted, and … there never was so great a spirit of Discontent as at this instant…"

Still, both Washington and the men pressed on with the conditions at hand. However, the troops began to formulate their complaints. On November 16, 1782, a meeting was held between members of the Massachusetts regiments at which the representatives decided it would be best to invite others to join them in making a list of grievances. These ranged from the need to force officers to retire when regiments combined to the fact that the soldiers had to build their own cantonment yet received nothing in return. At this same time, a peace was being finalized, but the men would get no word of the treaty until March, 1783. As they waited, their spirits remained low.

By January of 1783, residents of the New Windsor Cantonment were primarily concerned with their mundane daily routine, until Reverend Israel Evans (a chaplain for the New Hampshire Regiment) suggested that Washington have the men build a large public building. The "Temple of Virtue," as the structure came to be known, was meant to hold Sunday services as well as other public meetings. While the building of the temple kept the men busy, the list of grievances had been finished and formally delivered to Congress on January 6, 1783.

By February, Congress began to express concern over the army's letter, which it referred to as a "memorial." On the 27th, Congressman Joseph Jones wrote

to Commander in Chief Washington, stressing to him the unstable situation of the army and its growing unhappiness with lack of pay and insufficient treatment. So it came to be that, in the very Temple of Virtue the men had just built, Washington addressed his army's complaints.

On March 15, 1783, Washington ordered that the officers meet in the temple so he could address their letter to Congress. It was at this meeting (now known as the Newburgh Address) where the commander in chief won over residents of the Cantonment. In a vulnerable moment during his remarks, Washington revealed the toll the war had exacted on him: "Gentlemen, you will permit me to put on my spectacles, for I have not only grown gray, but almost blind, in the service of my country."

With this small gesture, many of the men were brought to tears, and the army's complaints were quickly resolved. Morale was restored at the Cantonment, and just weeks later, on March 28, the soldiers were informed of the signing of the peace treaty that had occurred on January 21. Washington ordered an official cease fire effective on April 19. For these men, as well as the rest of the Continental Army, independence had been achieved and their years of unfailing service had prevailed.

Two months later, the first two Military Badges of Merit were awarded to Sergeant Elijah Churchill and Sergeant William Brown at Washington's Newburgh headquarters. In June, a third badge was conferred upon Sergeant Daniel Bissel. The Badge of Military Merit is now known as the Purple Heart. Established by Washington in August 1782, it was meant to be a means of recognizing soldiers and non-commissioned officers. This was a tremendous honor: at the time, only officers were eligible to receive such recognition. The original design was a heart cut from purple cloth with a lace border. Presently, the Purple Heart honors those who have been wounded in battle. Since the award's revival in 1932, approximately 1.7 million men and women have been awarded it.

Today, the place where the 7,000 troops built the New Windsor Cantonment is a State Historic Site. Visitors may walk around the grounds and enter a reconstruction of the Temple of Virtue and the "Mountainville Hut," one of the few surviving examples of the Continental Army's timber work. Exhibits describe the daily routine of the men and women who built the cantonment and lived there. Military reenactments, including musket drills and blacksmithing demonstrations, also are offered frequently.

The grounds also are home to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor. In addition to exhibiting artifacts from every American War, recounting soldiers' contributions on land, sea, and air, it offers a database of nearly 168,000 Purple

COURTESY OF NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR

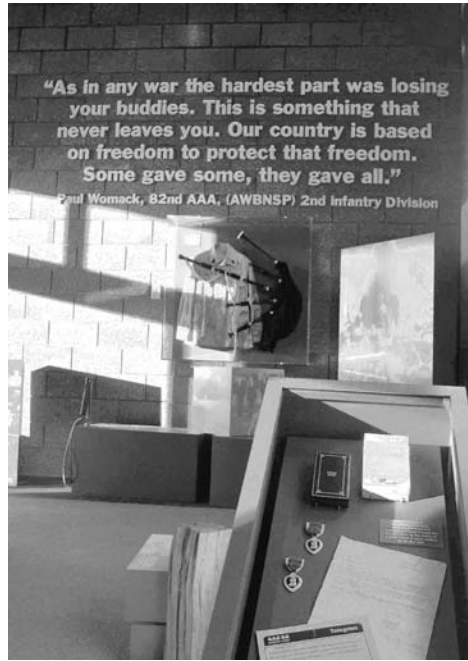
National Purple Heart Hall of Honor

COURTESY OF NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR

National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, Main Exhibit Gallery

Heart recipients. (Those not in the database who wish to be included need only provide proof of having received the award.) It also contains a theater and video interviews with nearly 150 veterans from every conflict from World War II on.

Both sites celebrate tremendous moments in the nation's history and honor the sacrifices made by so many to achieve them.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR

National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, Main Exhibit Gallery

Located at 374 Temple Hill Road (Route 300) in New Windsor, New Windsor Cantonment is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday from April-October. It is closed Monday-Tuesday and holidays except Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, and Presidents Day. Visitor Center exhibits are open year round from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. on Sunday. Based on staff availability, from November through March costumed interpreters will demonstrate 18th-century medical and surgical practices in the visitor center galleries and do musket firings. For more information, call 845-561-1765, ext. 22, or visit http://nysparks.state.ny.us/historic-sites/22/details.aspx.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is open seven days a week. It can be reached at 845-561-1765 or online at www.thepurpleheart.com.

Gabrielle Albino, Marist '11

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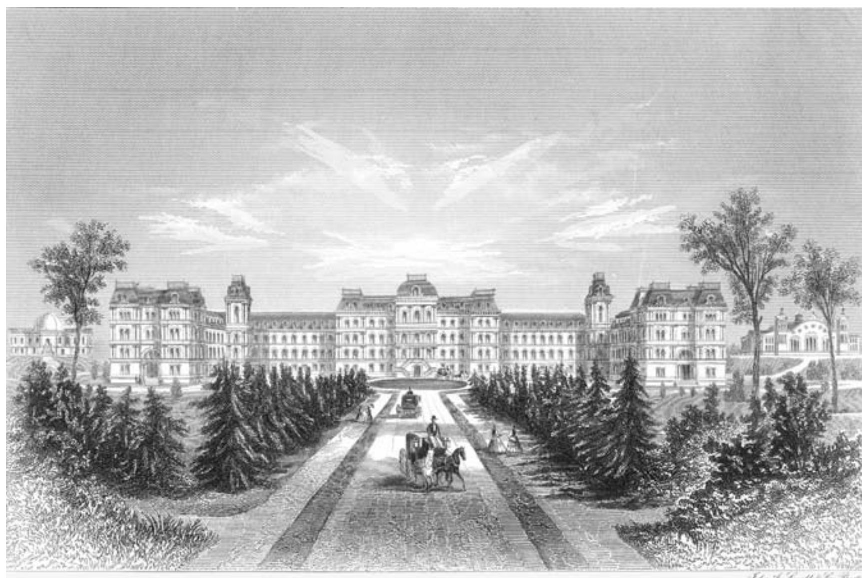
Charles Loring Elliott, *Matthew Vassar,* 1861, Oil on canvas, 96 x 63 in., The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York, Gift of the Board of Trustees, 1861.1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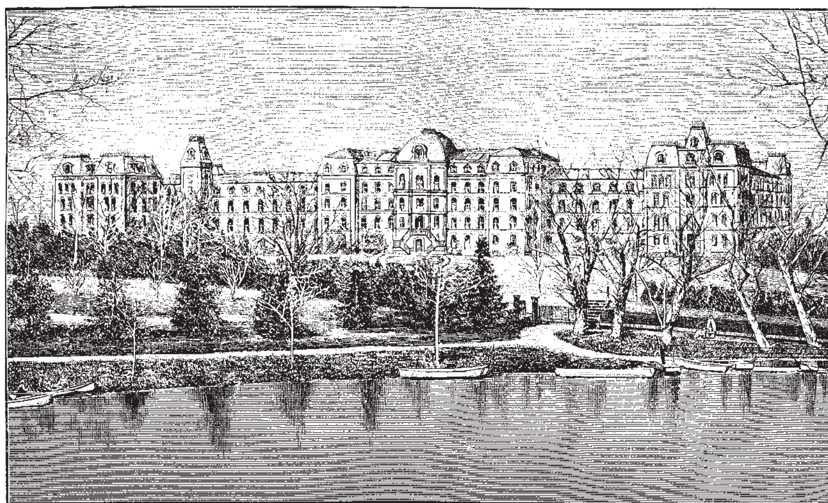
Engraving of Main Building with Carriage, c.1865

James Renwick Jr.'s Main Building at Vassar College Turns 150

This year Vassar College celebrates the sesquicentennial of its founding in 1861. It would be Poughkeepsie brewer Matthew Vassar's (1792-1868) grandest enterprise. Vassar devoted his remarkable energies and considerable fortune to found a college where women could obtain an education equal to that of the men's colleges such as Harvard and Yale.

Although Vassar had little formal education, his thirst for knowledge was insatiable. Books on history, literature, religion, and travel filled his library; he had traveled with his wife throughout Europe. Born in England, his family immigrated to the Hudson Valley when he was four years old. He became a lifelong resident of Poughkeepsie, and in 1851 purchased his summer estate, Springside, along Academy Street. (Initially planned as a rural cemetery, the landscape had been designed by renowned landscape designer Andrew Jackson Downing.) Among his intimates were Hudson River historian Benson Lossing and artist inventor Samuel F. B. Morse, Vassar's neighbor on the Hudson. Both served on the college's first Board of Trustees. College presidents, Baptist ministers, editors, publishers, and important residents of Poughkeepsie completed the board. Oddly enough, there



Engraving of Main Building with Vassar Lake in foreground

were no women. Also notable is the fact that Vassar, a Baptist, wished his board, and his college, to be nonsectarian.

Shrewd, energetic, and successful, Matthew Vassar was president of The Hudson Valley Railroad by 1860. He was undeterred by skeptics who were uncertain about education for women, as he was by challenges to his investments caused by the onset of the Civil War. By April 1861 he had contracts with New York architect James Renwick, Jr. (1818-1895), and Poughkeepsie builder William Harloe to design and build the grand and imposing Main Building at the college. He chose the site of the former Mill Cove Farm, known from his childhood, in Arlington, two miles east of the Hudson River.

From the start, Matthew Vassar was in close contact with his architect, insisting that Renwick be at the site at least once a fortnight, and that the building be completed in four years. Having decided to house all campus activities—classrooms, dormitories, faculty apartments, dining hall, chapel, and laboratories—under one roof, the size of the building would necessarily be grand. Earlier plans by Providence architect Thomas Tefft show one exceedingly long building, using the Italianate round-arched style. However, when Tefft died in 1859 on a European trip, Renwick was quickly chosen as his replacement.

An admirable eclectic, Renwick was celebrated for his 1846 Gothic-revival Grace Church on Broadway in New York, his 1847 Lombard-style Smithsonian Institution on the Mall in Washington, for the plans of New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral (then beginning to rise on Fifth Avenue), a small church in Albany, banks, hotels, hospitals, and a courthouse in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Renwick

had traveled to Paris in 1854 and 1855, where he was impressed by the Palace of the Tuileries and emperor Napoléon Bonaparte's building schemes for the New Louvre. The architect modeled his new building on these many-pavilioned, elaborately ornamented, and mansarded royal French monuments.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, VASSAR COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Engraving of original Main Building entrance, c.1893

Renderings now in the archive of the Loeb Art Center at Vassar show a U-shaped plan, projecting pavilions at either end of a central axis dominated by a larger, more important central pavilion. This central pavilion, whose main entrance was reached by an elegant divided stair anticipating the interior divided staircase, contained reception rooms on the principal floor, the library on the second floor (third story), and the art gallery on the third floor under the central mansard. Faculty apartments occupied the north and south projecting pavilions, while suites for students filled the connecting ranges. A rear

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, VASSAR COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Above, Lodge Building with attendant, 1873
Right, Main Building Exterior, Pach Brothers, 1878

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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, VASSAR COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Observatory Apartment

projection housed a two-story chapel, dining room, and kitchens below.

The exterior of the building is composed entirely of brick save the blue freestone accents of the capstones. Paired pilasters emphasize the pavilion corners and a variety of dormers enliven the steep pitched roof. Renwick's use of French Renaissance/Second Empire forms well served his intention to make the mass of the building, 500 feet in width, intelligible and commanding. He did this through recessing and projecting the wall planes, and by relieving them at the angle of the main horizontal core with matching towers that are nearly as tall as the central mansard.

The war, however, dictated changes and substitutions, including pine instead of walnut for the chapel pews. (Walnut was needed for gun stocks.) Other changes created even greater expense, such the use of galvanized iron, which was new on the market, and enthusiastically encouraged by Vassar. Glass for windows was imported from France throughout.

In June 1865 Matthew Vassar wrote to his trustees that the erection of the college edifice was about to be completed and its interior life as a great educational establishment to begin. In Charles Loring's portrait, Matthew Vassar points with justifiable pride to Renwick's Main Building. It stands today as a tribute to the college's founder.

Bannon McHenry, Fordham University

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Eleanor Roosevelt and the Rooster

Heart of the Great Depression

My grandmother sits on the front steps, a little girl,
under the proud black sign for the Dutchess Tea Room.
Elbows to knees, chin in her hands, she watches her father
pump gas for a customer. She has just skipped out the door,
left her mother to scrape together a hot ham sandwich for the man
waiting at the counter. Soon she will head out past the beanfields
to a bit of woods where she can play. She glances at the woman
coming in with her daughter, notices her peering at the apple pie,
still steaming. The mother checks her pockets.
Route 9 is still the best way between Albany

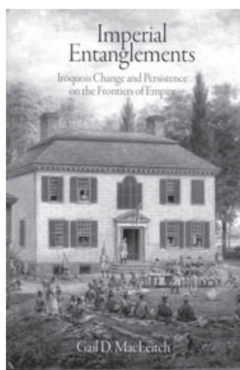
and New York, and my grandma is watching when
the car crunches gravel and brings Eleanor Roosevelt,
on her way to speeches, conferences, other important things.
Her brown wool suit is a little baggy; her skirt
ripples in a small breeze. She doesn't want any pies
or sandwiches, only the outhouse in the corner
of the yard, neat and whitewashed. Her oxford shoes,
one-and-a-half inch heels, fall quiet when they reach the grass.
Her pearls swing as she walks. She takes in the apple trees,
the sweep of Concord grapevines, how they soften the yard.

My grandma's parents keep chickens. Watching
Eleanor Roosevelt, my grandma worries about the rooster
who always torments her: running, hopping, flapping
at her heels, chasing her as she runs for the house.
This rooster sees the tall figure closing the white door
of the outhouse behind her, doesn't know
she is Eleanor Roosevelt. He eyes the impertinent
sway of her skirt from across the yard.
The lazy afternoon sun feels especially warm
on his black plumage. He considers not moving at all.

But she is too good a target to resist. He cocks his head,
gathers his strength. She laughs to hear the raspy squawks
behind her, the angry rush of wings. She pushes her hair back,
laughs harder; notices how his shiny black feathers smolder
in autumn's crystal sun, how the heavy scent of grapes
encumbers her steps even as she hurries to the car.
She leaves the window down; my grandma listens
to her laugh linger as she drives away. The rooster
retreats to his shrinking patch of sun, not entirely
disappointed. He has done his duty.

Kateri Kosek

Book Reviews



***Imperial Entanglements: Iroquois Change and Persistence on the Frontiers of Empire,* Gail D. MacLeitch. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvannia Press, 2011. 352 pp.**

For ages before any historical record and up through the end of the seventeenth century, the Five Nations of the Iroquois were sovereign over the territory they called their own in what is now New York State. By the end of the eighteenth century, the United States of America, representing the white European immigrants and their descendants who were its citizens, were sovereign. This much most of us know. But in the roughly 100 years between, the Iroquois engaged the rising British—soon to be American—Empire in a complex dance of economic, political, and cultural accommodation, in which neither side had the power to dictate terms to the other, and modes of existence and exchange were alternately shared, tolerated, and resisted in ways that were just as often cooperative as conflicted. This is the much less well-known story that Gail MacLeitch illuminates in *Imperial Entanglements.* Central to this story is the Seven Years War (1756-1763), which precipitated a change in Britain's orientation toward its North American colonies and therefore toward their Iroquois allies, and the person of William Johnson, who served as the primary liaison between the British and the Iroquois for almost thirty years.

MacLeitch's efforts mark an important contribution to the regional history of New York. Additionally, while the pattern of cooperation giving way to conquest through years of increasing demand for land and resources will be familiar to anyone acquainted with Native American history, the Iroquois experience in the late colonial period is unique and deserving of wider interest as a comparative study. In the Southern colonies and New England in the seventeenth century, Anglo-Indian relations turned overwhelmingly violent soon after white settlement—witness the wars with the Powhatan (1622) and Wampanoag (1675) confederacies, respectively. By the nineteenth century, racial attitudes and imperial ideologies had crystallized into the policies of Indian Removal in the East and the reservation system in the West; for many Americans, peaceful coexistence was no longer considered a live possibility. But in the eighteenth century, the Iroquois' cultural flexibility, martial prowess, and geographic and geopolitical situation allowed them

to maintain a degree of autonomy and a culture that, while not unchanged, was at least changing on terms that they could negotiate for themselves. MacLeitch's subject matter should net a large audience.

But her writing style will limit that audience considerably. This work is decidedly academic in tone, rife with such jargon as *othering, commodification*, and *gender*, a noun used as both past and present participle. Though the processes she describes encompass many remarkable stories and truly fascinating characters, the book is not narrative or even chronological in structure. Instead, the organizing principles are the social history lenses of race, class, and gender.

For the first century and a half of the colonial era, "Iroquoia" was what MacLeitch calls a "culturally ambiguous human landscape" (150). It was not entirely harmonious, but the Iroquois had a group identity based on flexible and inclusive notions of kinship and they were desirous of European trade goods. And while many English thought of the Iroquois as primitive and heathen, they had not yet developed a racial ideology to account for these shortcomings and they needed Indian allies for their economic and military aspirations. In this environment, intercultural exchange and cooperation were more common than violence and exploitation. But MacLeitch convincingly demonstrates that as the British expulsion of the French in the Seven Years War and the decline of the eastern fur trade led to more competitive relationships, both sides quickly began to develop racialized discourses to conceive of the other as inherently separate and incompatible.

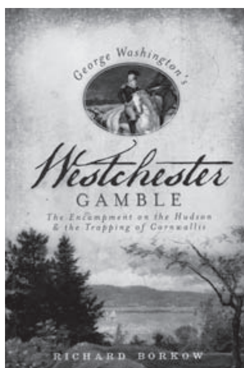
While class makes its appearance throughout the book, the excellent economic chapters focus more broadly on the Iroquois absorption into a monetized, transatlantic commercial network. Gradually through the century, the Iroquois transitioned from subsistence farming and hunting on communally held lands to hunting furs for market, selling and renting land, laboring for wages, and purchasing imported goods with cash. For the most part, they did this voluntarily and shrewdly, making the most of the changing economic opportunities around them. But it led inevitably to cultural turbulence and ultimately to a loss of their autonomy as they became dependent on foreign currencies and markets while the markets were simultaneously becoming less dependent on them for furs, labor, and land. MacLeitch makes clear that the fundamental reasons for the Iroquois loss of sovereignty were economic.

Her sections on gender, however, are not nearly so clear. It is easy enough to understand that the traditional Iroquois kinship system was matrilineal and that Iroquois women did all of the farming and child-rearing while men were usually away hunting and making war, and that clan matrons traditionally had a large

voice in diplomacy and politics. And it is clear enough that this traditional balance changed as the Iroquois adapted to the imperial system and the market economy. But the author wants to stretch her gender theory to include all hierarchical arrangements, discussing the "gendered" nature of the relationships between the British and the Iroquois, between the Iroquois and other native peoples, and even between older and younger Iroquois males. She even seems willing to contradict herself to try to make her gender model work: First she argues that British soldiers tolerated female camp followers as laundresses or consorts, while for Iroquois warriors battle was a strictly male pursuit that the presence of women could only contaminate; later, she argues that Johnson transgressed Iroquois gender traditions by barring Indian women from the camps which he considered a wholly masculine terrain (144). All of this might be comprehensible enough to readers with a deep background in gender theory, but anyone else will find it confusing.

The Iroquois experience of the eighteenth century is an incredible story of persistence and accommodation in the face of cataclysmic change. It is also a story of great importance, both regionally and comparatively. It is somewhat unfortunate that MacLeitch chose not to present it simply as a story, letting the interpretive lessons rise naturally from the evidence. By choosing instead to adhere so rigidly to an interpretive framework, she might lose some otherwise interested readers. Nevertheless, her book is a meticulously researched and extremely valuable contribution to understanding the history of a people and their place.

Maj. Ryan L. Shaw,
United States Military Academy at West Point



***George Washington's Westchester Gamble: The Encampment on the Hudson & the Trapping of Cornwallis*, Richard Borkow. Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2011. (189 pp.)**

For six weeks in July and August 1781, the center of gravity in America's bid for independence from Great Britain was in Philipsburg (present-day Greenburgh) in Westchester County, New York. Here General George Washington and the Main Continental Army and General Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau, and his French Expeditionary Corps—the *Expédition Particulière*—encamped while contemplating besieging General Sir Henry Clinton's British army in New York City and awaiting news of the strategic intentions of French

Admiral Francois Joseph Paul, Comte de Grasse, and his Caribbean fleet. In his book, *George Washington's Westchester Gamble: The Encampment on the Hudson & the Trapping of Cornwallis*, Dr. Richard Borkow has demonstrated the significance of this part of the Hudson River Valley in the decisions by these generals and admirals (including Admiral Jacques-Melchior Saint-Laurent, Comte de Barras, who delivered the critical siege guns from Rhode Island) to meet in Virginia.

For Dr. Borkow, the true center is his beloved Dobbs Ferry, for which he is village historian. His account demonstrates the tug he felt between the Dobbs family's ferry and its few associated buildings and the present-day village of Dobbs Ferry. To give the village added weight within the Philipse patent, he even coined a new name, the "Lower Hudson Encampment." It is unfortunate that Borkow chose to abandon the use of the historical Philipsburg for his own ahistorical label, since Frederick Philipse's patent extended from Spuyten Duyvil in the Bronx to the Croton River, and encompassed the camps of both armies up to the Bronx River. While the focus of Borkow's interest is Dobbs Ferry and its vicinity, the bulk of his book is the military history of the American Revolution through the lens of America's longest ally, France. Interspersed in this macro-narrative of events from 1776 to 1783 are vignettes relating to happenings and personalities in Westchester from the submarine *Turtle* to Westchester Guide John Odell's miraculous escape from DeLancey's Refugees on the ice of the Hudson.

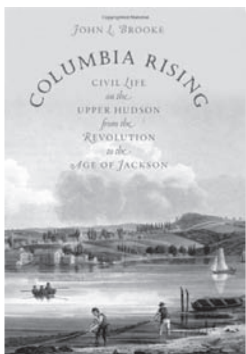
Since Borkow's study is for the general reader, he chose to rely on secondary sources for his building blocks. His narrative flow unfortunately is disrupted by the sub-chapter headings and the Westchester vignettes. Only Chapters 7 and 8 focus on the "Encampment by the Hudson." Since Borkow poses no overarching historical question nor argues a thesis, in a sense the majority of the book is the context for these penultimate chapters. The reader is led to wonder if this survey of the entire war in so much detail is necessary to the Westchester story, since even it slights the details of the French presence. Borkow's failure to flesh out the French march may simply be because Rochambeau's four regiments neither camped in nor crossed at Dobbs Ferry. Borkow also missed some nuances of the military campaigns. For example, Lieutenant General John Burgoyne was the architect of the Saratoga campaign of 1777, and two battles were fought near Stillwater—Freeman's Farm on 19 September and Bemis Heights on 7 October. General Washington did not lose the battle of White Plains but checked Lieutenant General William Howe, forcing him to abandon an aggressive strategy that might have destroyed Washington's army and led him into New England and the upper reaches of New York. Stony Point was in Orange County at the time of the battle there in 1779 and the crossing of both armies in August 1781.

For Dr. Borkow, the parading and routes of march of the American regiments encamped at or near Ardsley are critical to Dobbs Ferry's role in the American Revolution. While it is clear that Brigadier General Moses Hazen's Canadians and the New Jersey Line crossed the Hudson at Dobbs Ferry, the author chose to portray the entire Main Army as marching down Dobbs Ferry's Broadway. Until someone discovers Washington's detailed order of march for the American army comparable to that for Rochambeau's army given on 17 August, scholars are forced to piece it together from the commander in chief's diary—"Passed Singsing with the American column"—and the actual commanders who executed the movements. The maps of the period offer their own insights, as the road networks would have dictated which regiments marched where. In fact, the map opposite page 126 in Dr. Robert Selig's *The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route in the State of New York,* 1781-1782, shows the axes of advance for elements of Washington's army. French Colonel Louis-Alexander Berthier's map of the encampments indicates that a number of the regiments would have moved in formation (paraded) right onto the Tarrytown Road. This would have jibed with Washington's desire for operational security and lessened the exposure of his force of some 2,500 soldiers to observation and a possible attack by British naval forces. It also would have made the forces from Dobbs Ferry sent across the Hudson early on 19 August a flank guard. Major General William Heath, the commander of the Hudson Highlands for the operation, would have been a more reliable source upon which to anchor his account than Surgeon James Thacher, whose description of the route he traveled is a bit ambiguous. In his journal, Heath reported that on 21 August, "a little after noon, our General ordered off the baggage to the strong ground near Young's, which at about 6 o'clock was followed by the army, marching by the left in one column, which took a strong position during the night." On the 21st, according to Heath, "Col. [Rufus] Putnam, with 320 infantry, Col. Sheldon's horse, and two companies of the New York levies, were ordered to form an advance for the army…. About 12 o'clock at noon, the army took up its line of march, and halted at night on the lower parts of North Castle. Two regiments had been detached on the march to Sing-Sing church, to cover a quantity of baggage belonging to the French army…." On the 22nd, "the army marched from North Castle, and encamped at Crom Pond…." Because of his deception plan and the roads available, Washington sent his units on multiple routes to cross at Kings Ferry.

Dr. Richard Borkow has given readers interested in the American Revolution another short survey of its major events and the French role in them. Westchester County rightfully deserves the central role that he gives it because Generals

Washington and Rochambeau made a decision at Philipsburg that ultimately led to the capture of the main southern British army under General Charles Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia. The allies' successful siege there was the last decisive battle of the war, which changed the political and military landscape forever. The new Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail will benefit from the attention this study will bring to it. As is the case with history, readers will have to wait for a more balanced and detailed published work of the experiences of the two armies that met in Philipsburg that summer 230 years ago. I applaud Dr. Borkow for continuing the historical debate with his Westchester gamble.

COL (Ret.) James M. Johnson, Military Historian, Hudson River Valley Institute



***Columbia Rising: Civil Life on the Upper Hudson from the Revolution to the Age of Jackson,* John L. Brooke. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press (2010). 656 pp.**

John Brooke has produced a comprehensive study of the tumultuous struggle to define the meaning of the Revolution and discern the boundaries of civil life in the early republic. *Columbia Rising* not only places Columbia County within a broader national context but also puts the Upper Hudson on the national stage. For Brooke, the roots of the democratic Jacksonian—or Van Burenite—revolution of the antebellum period are to be found not in western frontier regions or in urban working-class neighborhoods but in Columbia. According to Brooke, the first county to be organized in post-Revolutionary New York provides an extraordinary perspective into the "critical fault lines" in post-Revolutionary society—ethnicity, race, gender, and class. The deeply rooted political conflicts among conservative landed elites, fiercely independent freeholders, frustrated tenants, and dependent laborers in the Upper Hudson provide unique insights into the contested meanings of citizenship and democracy during and after the Revolution.

Although the residents of the Upper Hudson were originally slow to embrace the Whig cause during the imperial crisis, the War for Independence and the subsequent popularization of politics challenged the oligarchic rule of the region's landed elite. Through militia service and participation in popular committees, aspiring men from the middling sort usurped political power traditionally wielded by the landed gentry. Although notably weakened during the Revolutionary

crisis, however, the region's traditional oligarchy remained powerful. Divided and equivocal allegiances, ethnic pluralism, the political influence of conservative Whig leaders, and the persistence of tenancy undermined the popular tide of radical committee politics in the Upper Hudson. While a radical "leveling spirit" predominated in eastern hill towns along the Massachusetts border, the Van Rensselaers and Livingstons continued to wield political control elsewhere in the county.

In the years after the Revolution, a new political culture and civic life of bourgeois sensibility served to mediate the unresolved conflict between popular Revolutionary politics ("Demo") and traditional politics of deference and condescension ("Aristo"). New institutions such as benevolent organizations, schools, libraries, improvement societies, churches—and especially Masonic lodges and newspapers—shaped a new civil landscape defined by respectability and improvement. Nonetheless, there were clear limits to the politics of sentiment in Columbia; the fires of religious revival and reform burned less brightly in the Upper Hudson than in New England and in the "Burned-Over-District" along the Erie Canal. Moreover, the post-Revolutionary political settlement in Columbia County remained tenuous. The unresolved conflict between popular politics and oligarchic rule intensified in the decades after the ratification of the Constitution. Indeed, Martin Van Buren's early political battles against Columbia's Federalist Junto and the landed oligarchy in the Upper Hudson directly informed his later campaigns against the nation's "money power—as Andrew Jackson's vice president and then president. Forever a "plain man of plain purposes," Van Buren personified the "new middling culture" of the post-Revolutionary era. Having experienced the corrosive factionalism, vindictive partisanship, and corruption of politics in Columbia and New York, Van Buren came to champion a negative liberal state of limited government and an organized party system as safeguards of the common good from selfish private interest.

Nevertheless, there were clear limits to the democratic Van-Burenite insurgency in Columbia. The defense of the people against a landed oligarchy and the capitalist "money power" never questioned the fundamental right to private property. Moreover, the boundaries of post-Revolutionary public life in the Upper Hudson were increasingly circumscribed by sex, class, and race.

Constrained by law, women remained largely silent. Literate women gained access to a burgeoning print culture, but post-Revolutionary literature cast female characters as passive victims and confirmed women's powerlessness. Moreover, newspapers, almanacs, magazines, and novels excluded illiterate and non-English speakers and further isolated rural women of Dutch and German descent from

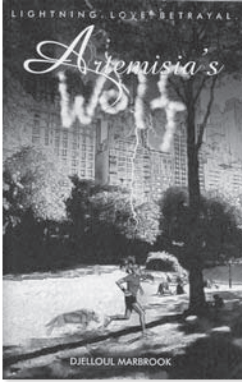
the emerging public realm. A few "insurgent" women who nurtured an individual consciousness (such as Catherine Livingston) did so privately, while two notable women who did express a public voice—Shaker Lucy Wright and Quaker Hannah Barnard—by definition occupied the social fringe.

Tenants remained poor and dependent. Access to land contributed to the principal source of political conflict in Columbia for decades after the Revolution. Although Clintonians abolished primogeniture and entail in the wake of the Revolution, landlords retained life-leases that restricted tenure to the last surviving name on a lease. Landlords' control of local politics stunted civic and associational life in manor towns, where the leasehold system discouraged economic improvement. Denied access to post-Revolutionary civil society, tenants resorted to violence on multiple occasions in the decades following the war.

Only black Columbians occupied a more inferior social and political space. Opposition to emancipation was strong in the Upper Hudson, where slaves provided valuable labor on farms, in workshops, and in the homes of the region's slaveholding elite. African Americans in the Upper Hudson remained a degraded and dependent caste during the long transitional period from slavery to freedom prescribed by the state's gradual abolition statute. The 1821 state Constitution codified the increasing racialization of democracy in New York; while providing for virtual white male suffrage, it imposed a hefty property requirement on African American voters that effectively disqualified the overwhelming majority of black New Yorkers. The triumph of Van Buren's democratic Regency over old Clintonians, Federalists, entrepreneurial Republicans, and Whigs came at the expense of former slaves.

Characterizing his study as ethnography, Brooke skillfully weaves theory and political, economic, social, and cultural, religious history into a rich narrative. *Columbia Rising* is not for the faint of heart; more casual readers might find Brooke's book dense, unwieldy, and repetitive. However, his sophisticated interpretive scope provides the historian with an extraordinary perspective into the contested struggle to define citizenship and chart a new "civil geography" for a new nation. *Columbia Rising* is essential reading not only for students of Hudson Valley and New York State history but also for any serious scholar of the early republic.

Michael E. Groth, Wells College



Artemisia's Wolf, Djelloul Marbrook.
New Delhi: Prakash Books (2011) 136 pp.

Young artist Artemisia Cavelli wakes up in a hospital in Kingston, New York; parts of her memory are missing but her sense of humor is still very much intact. She's been struck by lightning, but that may be the least of her problems. As she tries to piece both her memory and career back together, there's no shortage of people standing in her way, namely the insidious Nuala Gwilt, a New York art dealer described as the "terrorist in chief of postmodern art" who seems almost programmed to ruin the lives of people like Artemisia. And then there are the boys: Artemisia is a beautiful girl, and she is never without male admirers, even in recovery.

So begins Djelloul Marbrook's impressive novel *Artemisia's Wolf*, a book that successfully blends humor and satire (and perhaps even a touch of magical realism) into its short length. It's an engrossing story, but what might strike the reader most throughout the book is its infusion of breathtaking poetry. This refreshing emphasis on language and description should come as no surprise, since Marbrook is already the author of two award-winning books of poems, including *Far From Algiers*, winner of the 2010 International Book Award for poetry.

The Hudson Valley depicted in *Artemisia's Wolf* is rich with both austere natural beauty and obtuse loneliness. Marbrook, born in Algiers but a longtime resident of the valley, perfectly captures the region's unique charm. Consider the following passage where Artemisia playfully offers her reply to Redmond Hazard, a vain doctor who calls her on the telephone, to find out where she is:

> Okay, just this once. I'm thirty-two-hundred feet up on Slide Mountain. There's three inches of snow disguising an ice slick on the ground, so I'm still wearing my instep crampons. The sun looks like a cooling ember, but I can still see the Esopus Valley. The wind bonsais the balsams up there, so the ledge looks like a Japanese stone garden. There's a hundred-and-eighty-foot drop off the ledge onto the forest. The plastic windows of my octagonal blue tent are blood-red. The wind is rising behind me and when I turn into it I see a snow squall. It looks like a whirling dervish, stepping from one rise to another. Night is dropping around it like a stone … So that's where I am, Doctor Hazard, up there on Slide Mountain thinking I'll never again have to think anything anticlimactic like this. (77)

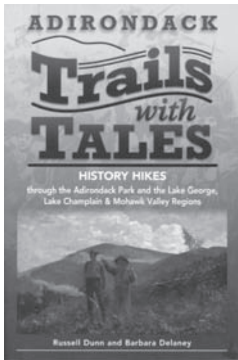
But this novella is more than simply a poetic exercise. *Artemisia's Wolf* takes us deep into the ugly underbelly of the art world in New York and the Hudson Valley, a world where jealousy, not talent, often decides the lives of budding artists like Artemisia. The book also serves as a stunning rebuke to notoriously misogynist subcultures like the New York art scene, showing us just how hard it is for a young woman to be judged on her creative talent alone.

The character of Artemisia is brilliantly drawn: she's funny and smart, and the reader empathizes with her plight throughout. Her razored sense of humor rubs other characters the wrong way, and we absolutely love her for it. But perhaps the book's most stunning achievement is the sharply drawn character of Nuala Gwilt. She is a woman who has somehow survived for decades in the male-dominated art world, and she certainly has the battle scars to prove it. More than merely a one-dimensional villain, she displays her flesh wounds along with her fangs, so her contempt and jealousy of Artemisia come as no surprise. This is no Cruella de Ville: by the end of the story Nuala rises above stereotype, even though she spends so much of her life trying to be seen (and feared) as just that.

Rich with layers of mythology and symbolism, *Artemisia's Wolf* is Marbrook's first novel, although readers may already recall his name from a long and illustrious career as a reporter and editor at such places as *The Baltimore Sun* and *Washington Star. Artemisia's Wolf* is published by Prakash Books in India, which speaks to Marbrook's worldwide reputation as a painstakingly precise wordsmith.

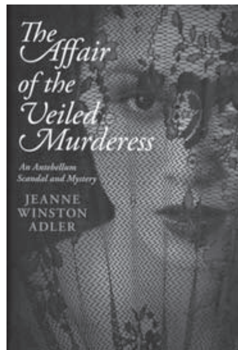
Tommy Zurhellen, Marist College

New & Noteworthy Books Received



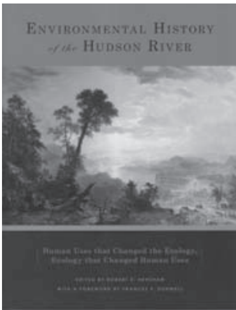
Adirondack Trails with Tales
By Russell Dunn and Barbara Delaney
(Hensonville, NY: Black Dome Press, 2009).
296 pp. $17.95 (softcover). *www.blackdomepress.com*

A follow-up to Dunn and Delaney's first *Trails with Tales* from 2006, *Adirondack Trails with Tales* expands the geographic scope of history hikes to include Adirondack Park, the Mohawk Valley, and the Lake George and Lake Champlain regions. The guide categorizes the hikes by difficulty as well as into nineteen themes, allowing hikers to choose from battle sites to lighthouses to mines, and everything in between. Complete with photographs, maps, and highlights for each hike, this guide provides everything necessary for hikers of all skill levels and interests.



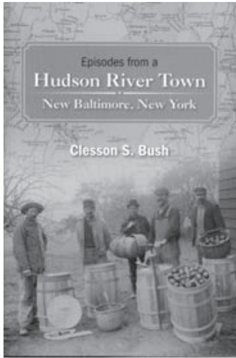
The Affair of the Veiled Murderess: An Antebellum Scandal and Mystery
By Jeanne Winston Adler
(Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2011).
313 pp. $24.95 (hardcover). *www.sunypress.edu*

Based on the true story of two mysterious deaths in 1853 Troy, this book tells the tale of possible murder and the complex situation surrounding it. Adler uses a variety of historical records from the time period to build her case and set the social and political scene for the deaths and the trial that followed. This is a must-read for mystery fans or anyone who enjoys the culture of mid-nineteenth-century New York.



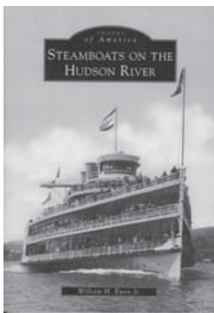
Environmental History of the Hudson River
Edited by Robert E. Henshaw
(Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2011).
376pp. $29.95 (softcover). *www.sunypress.edu*

A collection of over twenty essays, *Environmental History of the Hudson River* examines the river from a number of perspectives. Editor Henshaw divides the essays into history and biology, the resources of the river, the river as a key component to commerce, and the river as inspiration. Featuring articles by researchers and educators throughout the region (including Marist College's Geoffrey L. Brackett), the collection captures the Hudson's complex identity and defines the importance of the river both as its own entity and to the region it supports.



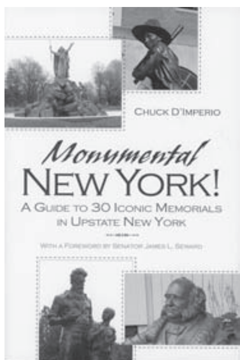
Episodes from a Hudson River Town: New Baltimore, New York
By Clesson S. Bush (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2011).
268 pp. $24.95 (hardcover). *www.sunypress.edu*

New Baltimore's town historian, Bush captures the charm and character of this Hudson River town from prehistory up through the modern day. Through agriculture and numerous industries (including ship building and ice harvesting), New Baltimore has had its share of successes and failures. Using a wide variety of primary documents, Bush captures the town's history through multiple wars, booms, and busts, and eventual inclusion as a key part of the New York State Thruway project.



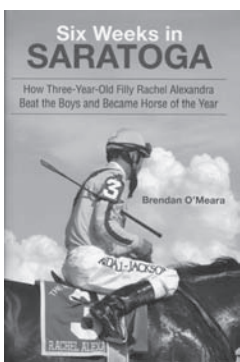
Images of America: Steamboats on the Hudson River
By William H. Ewen Jr.
(Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2011).
128 pp. $21.99 (softcover). *www.arcadiapublishing.com*

Another in the ever-growing Images of America series, *Steamboats on the Hudson River* documents a period when travel on the Hudson River was at its peak. From majestic day liners carrying over 5,000 passengers to night boats and freight haulers, Ewen presents an array of historic photographs and other images. Combined with detailed text captions, these images succeed in depicting the various steamboats that helped to make the Hudson River into the corridor of commerce that it continues to be today.



Monumental New York:
A Guide to 30 Iconic Memorials in Upstate New York
By Chuck D'Imperio
(Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2011).
189 pp. $19.95 (softcover). *www.syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu*

More than just a guide to monuments, *Monumental New York* presents the selected statues and memorials in detail, paying special attention to both the context in which the monuments were built and the importance of place. D'Imperio includes valuable information about the surrounding area of each monument and even offers suggested reading material to maximize a visit. Complete with images of each monument, this book sheds light on some overlooked stops throughout New York State, and captures all of the local character that makes them special.



Six Weeks in Saratoga:
How Three-Year-Old Filly Rachel Alexandra
Beat the Boys and Became Horse of the Year
By Brendan O'Meara (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2011).
267 pp. $24.95 (hardcover). *www.sunypress.edu*

Six Weeks in Saratoga is the story of Rachel Alexandra, the three-year-old filly and Preakness winner who strived to cement her claim as Horse of the Year through a victory at Saratoga Race Course. O'Meara narrates the drama-filled story with behind-the-scenes details that will grab the interest of racing enthusiasts and non-fans alike. Over the course of a six-week period, trainers, owners, and riders all play a part in the unfolding of Rachel Alexandra's story and the evolution of her legacy in horse racing.

Andrew Villani

Call for Essays

The Hudson River Valley Review is anxious to consider essays on all aspects of the Hudson Valley—its intellectual, political, economic, social, and cultural history, its prehistory, architecture, literature, art, and music—as well as essays on the ideas and ideologies of regionalism itself. All articles in *The Hudson River Valley Review* undergo peer analysis.

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HRVR prefers that essays and other written materials be submitted as two double-spaced typescripts, generally no more than thirty pages long with endnotes, along with a computer disk with a clear indication of the operating system, the name and version of the word-processing program, and the names of documents on the disk. Illustrations or photographs that are germane to the writing should accompany the hard copy. Otherwise, the submission of visual materials should be cleared with the editors beforehand. Illustrations and photographs are the responsibility of the authors. Scanned photos or digital art must be 300 pixels per inch (or greater) at 8 in. x 10 in. (between 7 and 20 mb). No responsibility is assumed for the loss of materials. An e-mail address should be included whenever possible.

HRVR will accept materials submitted as an e-mail attachment (*hrvi@marist.edu*) once they have been announced and cleared beforehand.

Since HRVR is interdisciplinary in its approach to the region and to regionalism, it will honor the forms of citation appropriate to a particular discipline, provided these are applied consistently and supply full information. Endnotes rather than footnotes are preferred. In matters of style and form, HRVR follows *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

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The Hudson River Valley Institute

The Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College is the academic arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Its mission is to study and to 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 publication of the *Hudson River Valley Review* and the management of a dynamic digital library and leading regional portal site.

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