

Welcome to Poughkeepsie, NY



“Living History, Day To Day”

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# LESSON PLAN

**Time:** One week

**Grade:** 4th

**Objectives:**

1. Students will learn about the history of Poughkeepsie.
2. Students will learn about the Tercentenary Celebration that took place in the city of Poughkeepsie.
3. Students will plan their own play that has to do with the Tercentenary Celebration as well as the Quadricentennial.

**Standards:**

History of New York State- Students will learn about the history of New York State.

**Materials:**

1. Instructional worksheets
2. Guide for writing a play
3. Costumes for play
4. Textbooks



# LESSON PLAN

## Motivation:

Students will be motivated to learn about the Tercentenary Celebration because they will know that soon after they will be learning about the Quadricentennial. They will also be able to go up on the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad bridge to look out on the Hudson River and learn about the boats that travelled the Hudson.

## Procedure:

1. The class will have an introductory lesson on the Tercentenary in Poughkeepsie.
2. The students will take a trip to the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge. Here they will further learn about the Tercentenary, and be able to see the trip that the boats made.
3. When students return to school the following day they will be split up into groups. Each group will be assigned a member from the Tercentenary Celebration.
4. Students will be given worksheets with information on their respective members and will be required to research their important person.
5. Students will work as a class to create a play about the Quadricentennial Celebration and the city of Poughkeepsie.



# LESSON PLAN

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## Summary:

This unit of lessons should take no more than a week. On the first day the students will be briefly introduced to the Tercentenary Celebration. Day two will consist of a field trip to the Hudson Highland Railroad Bridge. The bridge will be safely completed as a walkway at this point. On day three the students will be split up into groups. Each group will get a different person to study that was involved in the Hudson-Fulton Celebration. On the fourth and fifth days the class will write their own play with the help of the teacher.



## Closure:

Overall the students will be learning a lot about the history of Poughkeepsie. They will learn about Poughkeepsie's role in the Hudson Fulton Celebration. In addition, students will learn about and take part in the upcoming Quadricentennial Celebration. Along with researching their important people and some facts about the celebration, students will be expected to memorize their lines for the play.

# SAMUEL MORSE: LOCUST GROVE

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

Locust Grove, the Samuel Morse Historic Site  
2683 South Road Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



## Hours:

Daily 10 AM - 3PM, May-November

Visiting Center: Daily 10 AM - 5PM May-November

Phone: (845) 454-4500

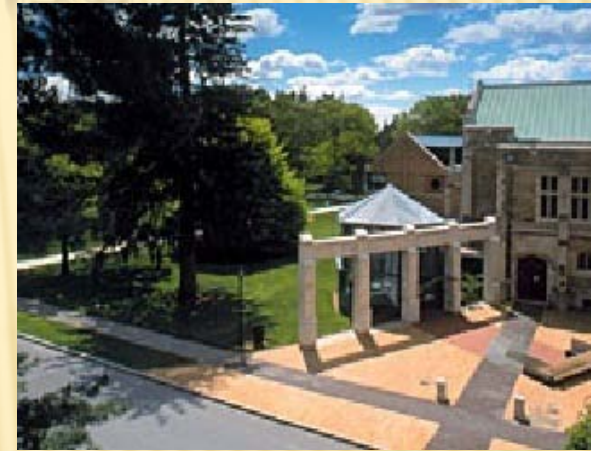
**Historical Description:** In 1847 Samuel F. B. Morse purchased the Locust Grove estate and moved to Poughkeepsie with his three children. Morse worked with well-known architect Alexander Jackson Davis to remodel the house into an Italianate villa. For the rest of his life, Morse continued to improve the landscape of his home. Morse died at the age of 80. His family spent a few more years at Locust Grove before moving and renting the estate. In 1901 William Young bought Locust Grove from Morse's heirs and realizing its historic importance, preserved it essentially as it had been in Morse's time.

**The Site:** The historic site's stately trees, rolling hills, and picturesque views from the house and gardens above the river all combine to create the natural landscape garden that Morse found so appealing. Locust Grove, open year-round, offers a beautiful setting for weddings and private parties. From May through October, the flowering trees and perennial gardens are especially lovely. Patrons can enjoy the romantic landscape of the past within a state-of-the art modern facility. Locust Grove is opened to the public, for tours, lectures, and special events.



# VASSAR COLLEGE

124 Raymond Avenue # 9  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12604-0009



## Hours for the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center:

Monday- closed

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday- 10am-5pm

Thursday- 10am-9pm

Saturday- 1pm-5pm

Phone: (845) 437-7400

**History:** A pioneer for women's education and liberal arts in the United States, Matthew Vassar founded Vassar College in 1861. Opening its doors to its first class of 353 students paying \$350 for tuition and "residence" on September 26, 1865, the college offered women a liberal arts education equal to the best men's colleges. Coeducational since 1969, Vassar College set the standard for higher education for women for more than 100 years. Recognized as one of the best liberal arts colleges in the country, Vassar has successfully fulfilled its goals. During the celebration of the Tercentenary there were speeches held at Vassar College.

**The Site:** For the first time in its history, Vassar College's Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center will feature a range of French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist holdings of works on paper created after 1850 through the early 1900s. From Manet to Picasso: Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Prints and Drawings, an exhibition drawn primarily from the permanent collection of the Art Center at Vassar College, runs from Friday, April 6, through Sunday, June 10.

# THE BARDAVON OPERA HOUSE



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

35 Market Street

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



**Hours:** Open year-round, performance times may vary

**Phone:** (845) 473-5288

**History:** Opened in 1869, The Bardavon was originally called the Collingwood Opera House. Incorporating elements from each era, The Bardavon has been providing the Hudson Valley with performing arts groups for over 130 years, making it the oldest continuously running opera house in New York. In 1923 it was converted from a 19th century performance hall to a movie theater. The building was saved from demolition in 1976 and has become the leading performing arts venue in the Hudson Valley.

**The Site:** The Bardavon presents artists in various arts including theater, dance, and music. Main stage shows, the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, educational daytime performances, and community service events are some of the types of performances that can be seen. Due to the amount of history connected with this building, efforts are being made to preserve and restore the Bardavon's National Register theater building. Prominent artists that have been showcased in the past include Mark Twain, Frank Sinatra and Bob Dylan.



# MID-HUDSON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

<http://www.mhcm.org/new/pages/home.htm>

75 North Water Street  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

## Hours:

Tuesday - Sunday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Infant/Toddler Area opens Thursdays 9:30 a.m.  
Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. for Early Explorers.

**Phone:** (845) 471-0589

**The Site:** The Mid- Hudson Children's Museum gives various opportunities for the growth and development of children. There are hands on activities and educational field trips provided to the public. There are many fun exhibits that focus on astronomy and history as well as Hudson River programs.



# MANSION SQUARE PARK

North Hamilton Street  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



**History:** During the Tercentenary celebration the parade through Mansion Square Park consisted of many historical floats put together by the parade committee. Colonel Henry E. Murray was the Grand Marshall of the two hour procession. When the parade was over the procession moved to Eastman Park for even more celebration. There were four hundred musicians from various bands and all the flags were massed at the Soldiers' Fountain. It was there that patrons awaited the arrival of Governor Hughes and his party.

**The Site:** Mansion Square Park is still a widely known establishment in the community. This valued open space in the city is used for children to play, picnics, and leisurely walks.



# TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION

Plans for the Tercentenary Celebration in Poughkeepsie began in December of 1908 with a meeting of the Mayors and other leading citizens held in the Nelson House. Here talks began about plans for the celebration. During this time Hon. John K. Sague, Mayor of the City began preparing for the celebration with the help of his Executive Committee; Peter H. Troy, William A. Adrienne, Charles F. Cossum, George V. L. Spratt, and Robert J. Harding. This Executive Committee was split up into sixteen sub committees in order to better organize the celebration (Hall, 940). The Executive Committee met with the chairmen of the sixteen different committees each month. As the celebration got closer the meetings were held each Tuesday afternoon (Hall, 941). The different committees had different tasks in order to make the celebration work. The Publicity Committee sent out 10,000 invitations to former people of Poughkeepsie to return for the celebration. The Old Home Week Committee assigned rooms to the returning visitors. The Entertainment Committee arranged a special program at the Opera House, as well as assorted entertainment for people attending the celebration. The Public Health and Safety Committee provided care in case of injury (Hall, 941). The Information Committee set up booths in various parts of Poughkeepsie to answer questions for the visitors (Hall, 942).



On October 2nd the celebration began. Captain William J. McKay sailed up the Hudson with the Half Moon and the Clermont, and the Executive Committee sailed down on the Nourmahal to meet them. When the two ships met the Nourmahal saluted McKay and sent out cutters to symbolize the start of the celebration. Later that evening there was a display of fireworks over the river front (Hall, 942-943).



# TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, October 3rd was day two of the celebration. Both the Clermont and the Half Moon were closed to visitors on this day. All the clergymen of the city were on the Religious Exercises Committee to plan this day. All church services held commemorative events. After the morning services ended, an open air service was held on College Hill at Vassar College, with several speakers such as Reverend Dean Daley of St. Mary's church, and President Taylor of Vassar College. After the speeches, Vassar students were invited to visit the ships of the Half Moon and the Clermont. Later that night various churches in Poughkeepsie held ceremonies. The Christ Church had written special music for the occasion (Hall 943).

Monday, October 4th was the greatest day of the celebration, the land parade. Monday's festivities began with the submarine boats' exhibition of diving off of Kaal Rock. This was followed by the land parade. The crews of the Half Moon and the Clermont were all part of the parade. This parade consisted of historical floats that the Parade Committee put together. Col. Henry E. Murray was the Grand Marshall of the two hour procession in Mansion Square Park. When the parade was over the procession moved to Eastman Park for more celebration. Here there were four hundred musicians and all the flags were massed at the Soldiers' Fountain. Around four that afternoon Governor Hughes arrived with his party. Music was played all night and there was much excitement (Hall 948-950). The party at Eastman Park was followed by the official banquet held at Nelson House. There was also a separate banquet at the Morgan house and lectures given at area schools as well as Vassar College (Hall, 966).



THE CLERMONT PROCEEDING WITH STEAR AND SAIL MEN VIEW



SAILING IN THE CLERMONT

On Tuesday the Clermont and the Half Moon sailed with the Superintendent of Schools, Professor Walter F. Knowlson, Principal of the High School and eighteen boys and girls who won the prize of sailing on these ships. During this last day of the celebration there were concerts held around the city. The celebration closed on the following Saturday, with a firework show. Medals were presented to Col. John Jacob Astor, Governor Hughes, Rev. Charles Seymour Bullock and Lieut William Lam (Hall, 967).



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-Provides a description of John J. Astor's funeral.

"Col. Astor Weds Madeline Force." New York Times 10 Sept. 2011. 8 Mar. 2008

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-A brief article on the wedding of John J. Astor and Madeline Force, his second wife.

Dutchess County, American Guide Series William Penn Association 1937 p 24-34

Dyson, John S. Our Historic Hudson. Roosevelt: James B. Adler Inc., 1968.

-An overview of the settlement of Hudson River Valley towns

Hall, Edward Hagaman. The Hudson-Fulton Celebration, 1909. [www.hudsonrivervalley.org](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org). 9 March 2008. pg. 940-968.

-Provides a detailed description of what took place during the three days of the celebration in Poughkeepsie.

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- A history of Poughkeepsie beginning with its founding and highlighting prominent citizens.



# WEBSITE LINKS

- ~<http://www.cityofpoughkeepsie.com/> – Poughkeepsie City's Official Website
- ~[www.townofpoughkeepsie.com/](http://www.townofpoughkeepsie.com/) -- The Town of Poughkeepsie's Official Website
- ~<http://www.poughkeepsie.com/> -- A Website for What Poughkeepsie Offers
- ~[www.poughkeepsiejournal.com](http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com) -- The Poughkeepsie Journal Home Page
- ~<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ny/county/dutchess/dutch/Hist/index.html> --History and Biographies of Dutchess County Towns
- ~[library.vassar.edu/research/guides/courses/urbanstudies/pkhistory.html](http://library.vassar.edu/research/guides/courses/urbanstudies/pkhistory.html) -- Poughkeepsie Research Archive
- ~<http://www.poughkeepsieschools.org/> -- Poughkeepsie City School District
- ~[http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&um=1&ie=UTF-8&q=city&near=Poughkeepsie,+NY&fb=1&view=text&sa=X&oi=local\\_group&resnum=4&ct=more-results&cd=1](http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&um=1&ie=UTF-8&q=city&near=Poughkeepsie,+NY&fb=1&view=text&sa=X&oi=local_group&resnum=4&ct=more-results&cd=1) -- Public Service Listings for Poughkeepsie
- ~[www.poughkeepsieday.org](http://www.poughkeepsieday.org)- Poughkeepsie Day school Home page.
- ~[www.poklib.org](http://www.poklib.org)- Poughkeepsie Public library District Home Page
- ~<http://www.dutchesscountyhistoricalsociety.org/> - List and description of historical sites in Dutchess County
- ~[www.vassar.edu](http://www.vassar.edu) - Vassar College's Official Website
- ~[www.bardavon.org](http://www.bardavon.org) - The Bardavon Opera House's Official Site
- ~[www.mhcm.org](http://www.mhcm.org) - Mid-Hudson Children's Museum
- ~[www.walkway.org](http://www.walkway.org) - Tours of the Poughkeepsie Highland Railroad Bridge
- ~<http://www.lgny.org/> - Official Website of Locust Grove
- ~[www.riverstationrest.com](http://www.riverstationrest.com) - Oldest continuously running restaurant in Poughkeepsie
- ~<http://www.pokgrand.com/> - The Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel
- ~[www.hudsonrivervalley.org](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org) - The Hudson River Valley Institute- Info on the Tercentennial
- ~[www.hrmm.org/quad.html](http://www.hrmm.org/quad.html) - Hudson River Maritime Museum