“Westchester: The American Suburb” opens at Hudson River Museum

Not only is the Hudson River Museum the largest and oldest museum in Westchester, it now is also the home of an exceptional and unique exhibit. Through a grant from the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, as well as with support from the Office of the Westchester County Executive and the Westchester County Board of Legislators, this exhibit, “Westchester: The American Suburb,” will run from late January until May 28, 2006. By opening the presentation with the Dick Van Dyke Show, the exhibit is able to masterfully reflect and examine the community which surrounds it, Westchester County, an archetype of suburbia.

While many people today take the existence of suburbs for granted, this exhibit explores critical questions about the reasons for the growth of suburbia. Most importantly, the exhibit asks, “How, when, and why did the suburbs grow.” In an effort to answer this fundamental question, the Hudson River Museum is displaying photography, paintings, memorabilia, and even a model kitchen. Through these relics and recreations, the exhibit illuminates social culture and history, particularly in Westchester. However, the most provocative question that the exhibit elicits is “What will happen to the American Dream in the years ahead.”

Besides the exhibit itself, there are a plethora of activities that further investigate issues revolving around suburbia. These include the Family Workshops. For families with young children, some of the upcoming workshops feature such exciting activities as appliance sculptures, postcard designs, and “pop-up neighborhoods,” an activity that encourages participants to design their own neighborhoods.

Students and adults will likely enjoy the many lectures that the museum is hosting. In addition, the Katonah Museum of Art, the Westchester Arts Council, and the Jacob Burns Film Center are all holding events that complement the Hudson River Museum’s presentation.

The exhibit promises to excite and educate both residents of the region as well as people interested in understanding the transformation of American communities. Furthermore, with all the events that surround and complement “Westchester: The American Suburb,” the exhibit guarantees to be an outstanding opportunity for teachers, students, and the general public alike.

~Lauren Santangelo

For more information on the exhibit, fees, and hours visit http://www.hrm.org/exhibits.html or call (914) 963-4550.
Historic Huguenot Street in New
Paltz, NY is pleased to present the
online exhibit, “I’m now in Rebeldom”:
New Paltz Soldiers in the Civil War at
www.huguenotstreet.org. Visitors will
experience a captivating collection of
photographs, letters, propaganda, and
other documents that describe the im-
pact of this great American conflict on
the New Paltz community. Viewers
will enlist with the boys and travel with
them to the exotic world of the war-
torn American South; work with local
women to provide soldiers necessary
supplies; weep with mothers, wives,
and sisters upon receiving news of the
deaths of beloved sons, husbands, and
brothers; and proudly march with veter-
ans to ensure that their service would
not be forgotten. (In addition to the
online presentation, original weaponry
and accoutrements carried by local sol-
diers are currently on display in His-
toric Huguenot Street’s Grimm Gal-
tery.)

Historic Huguenot Street, a Na-
tional Historic Landmark, is the site of
a collection of colonial and early Na-
tional period stone houses owned and
operated as historic house museums by
the Huguenot Historical Society in the
Village of New Paltz, New York.
Originally the home of a group of
French Protestants who fled northern
France because of political and reli-
gious persecution, the town was
founded in 1677 after the purchase of
nearly 40,000 acres along the Wallkill
River from the native Esopus Indians.
Tours of the houses are available from
May through October. Visitors are also
encouraged to take advantage of the
picnic facilities, museum shop, educa-
 tion programs, and special events held
throughout the year. Both the library
and archives are open year-round by
appointment.

For more information call (845)
255-1660 or email
info@huguenotstreet.org.

~Eric Roth
Archivist/Librarian,
Huguenot Historical Society

HTTP://WWW.HUGUENOTSTREET.COM/ASSETS/
huguenot2.pdf

Featured Historic Website –
The Lower East Side Tenement Museum

The rigid life of a 19th century, and
early 20th century, immigrant is hard to
capture by mere words alone. Nonethe-
less, in an effort to understand this ex-
perience, the Lower East Side Tene-
ment Museum, located at 97 Orchard
Street in New York City, has preserved
tenements, as well as artifacts of immi-
grant life. Besides the museum’s many
physical learning opportunities, its
website is an exceptional electronic
source for people interested in 19th cen-
tury life. In essence, the website suc-
cessfully fulfills the museum’s mission
“to promote tolerance and historical
perspective through the presentation
and interpretation of the variety of im-
migrant and migrant experiences on
Manhattan's Lower East Side.”

The website’s most impressive fea-
ture is its virtual tour, which allows a
person to digitally explore the mu-
seum’s many potentials. This includes
the opportunity to navigate through six
different apartments. In the process of
navigating, a visitor is also able to learn
about the immigrant families who in-
habited the tenements. Another impres-
sive interactive feature is the “Folk
Songs from the Five Points” section of
the webpage. By employing audio re-
cordings of mundane sounds, this sec-
tion enables visitors to feel as if they
are standing at the center of the Lower
East Side.

In addition to visitors’ ability to
virtually explore the museum, the web-
site provides educational resources for
teachers and researchers, information
on visiting the museum, an activity
analyzing primary sources, and
“tenement e-cards.” In sum, the website

http://www.tenement.org/rogarshevsky/

~Matthew Blair Hittenmark and
Lauren Santangelo

http://www.tenement.org
6PM. The Historical Society hosts many cultural events throughout the year. Every December the Society holds a Candlelight House Tour, which features tours of unique and historic homes in and around Newburgh. Every second Saturday during its open season, the Society offers Music on the Lawn featuring the jazz ensemble “Crawford on Montgomery.” People are encouraged to come and enjoy the great music on the sprawling lawn of the Crawford House. On April 22, 2006, the Society will host a benefit art auction to feature local artists at Union Presbyterian Church in Balmville.

~David Sabatino

Visit the Society’s website at www.newburghhistoricalsociety.com for information on program dates. Additional information will be made available in the Society’s 2006 Program Brochure, which is scheduled for print and distribution in March.

Editor’s Note:
This information was taken from www.newburghhistoricalsociety.com and provided by Lisa Silverstone, Director of the Crawford House

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Feature Historic Site—The Crawford House

When looking out at the Hudson River today, it would be rare to see a steamship. Tugboats pulling and pushing larger ships, freight and passenger trains moving up and down the banks, are now the more common scene. Although it may be hard for us to imagine fleets of steamships navigating the river, at one time it was very common.

The Crawford House, located on Montgomery Street in Newburgh, is one window to this era of Hudson River Valley history. Built in 1830, the Crawford House is an outstanding example of classic revival architecture. First situated on five-hundred acres of land, the Crawford House was built for Captain David Crawford and his family. Owning one-third of the waterfront, Crawford’s docks were in constant use by the sloops sailing along the Hudson. As sloop navigation declined in the 1820s, more steamships were appearing on the Hudson. Crawford amassed his wealth in the steamship transport business, using his ships to move produce and dairy products from Orange County to New York City and Albany.

The Crawford House today is the headquarters of the Historical Society of Newburgh Bay and the Highlands. Fully furnished as a house museum, it also holds a collection of Hudson River Art. Besides the art, the Crawford House has a permanent collection that features scale models of sailing and steam-powered vessels, entitled Flyers of the Hudson.

The Crawford House is open for tours to the public from April through October, Sundays 1-4PM and every last Saturday of the month from 4-6PM. The Historical Society hosts many cultural events throughout the year.

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Feature Historic Town—Red Hook

Red Hook’s history begins with its early Native American inhabitants and reflects many important historical moments in the Hudson River Valley’s past, including the Dutch settlement, American Revolution, and the transportation revolution. The Native Americans that made Red Hook their residence included the Esopus and the Sepasco.

The town’s name reveals its Dutch heritage. The local lore is that Dutch navigators came upon Cruger’s Island, which is actually a peninsula or hoek, during the autumn, when leaves were beginning to change to vibrant reds, yellows, and oranges, and thus gave the town its name, Red Hook. In the late 17th century, Colonel Pieter Schuyler bought the land from the Native American inhabitants. Thereafter, Red Hook and the surrounding towns quietly developed an agricultural economy. In 1737, Red Hook became a part of Dutchess County.

(Continued on page 4)
Featured Historic Town (Continued) – Red Hook

(Continued from page 3)

During the Revolutionary War, the British destroyed some of the mills that were built in the town. Nonetheless, Thomas’ Tavern in Upper Red Hook and Elmendorph’s Inn in “lower” Red Hook continue to stand as testaments to the town’s Revolutionary past. In the following century, sporadic industries dotted the town. For example, the wool industry flourished in Tivoli during this century and ice harvesting grew in both Barrytown and Tivoli.

More recently, since the 1850s, new means of transportation, including the Hudson River Railroad and Route 9G, have brought commerce and residents to the area. In 1988, Montgomery Place, an architectural marvel designed in part by Alexander Jackson Davis, was opened to the public as a museum. Red Hook now has many fine restaurants, pick-your-own orchards, antique shops, and beautiful paths for tourists and residents alike to enjoy.

~Adrienne Harris

Editor’s Note: This information was synthesized from http://www.redhook.org/history.htm

Meet the Interns—Christine Caiazzi

As a senior history major at Marist College, Christine Caiazzi has joined the Hudson River Valley Institute as an intern. Along with her history major, Christine is working toward completing a concentration in public history and a minor in women’s studies. Christine is acting as the history/English intern for the Hudson River Valley Institute, where she will be engaged in historical research, as well as composing an article for The Hudson River Valley Review.

Christine hopes to pursue a graduate degree following graduation in May, as well as obtain a position with a publishing company. As an active member of the Marist College community, Christine has served as a Student Justice for three years, and participated in the History Club, Campus Ministry, Dean’s Circle, and Phi Alpha Theta. She is excited to be joining the HRVI team for her final semester.

~Christine Caiazzi

Meet the Interns—Jessica Campilango

Jessica Campilango, a senior at Marist College, has joined the interns at the Hudson River Valley Institute. Jessica is majoring in English, with a concentration in writing, as well as working toward a minor in psychology. At the Hudson River Valley Institute, Jessica will act as the writing intern. Her many responsibilities include editing other interns’ works and writing for The Hudson River Valley Review.

Following her graduation in May, Jessica hopes to acquire a job at a publishing company. As a member of the Marist College community, she has studied abroad in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, has served as vice president for the Resident Student Council, and plans on studying abroad in London in May. She looks forward to her upcoming semester at the Hudson River Valley Institute.

~Jessica Campilango
An interdisciplinary journal dedicated to our region

publishing essays, poems, photographs, paintings, documents, and book and art reviews, ready to consider all forms of intellectual achievement...

As the academic arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College is increasing public awareness about the significance of America’s First River in the history of New York and the United States. Its mission is to study and to promote the Hudson River Valley.

To subscribe or learn more, visit www.hudsonrivervalley.org/hrvr.php or call 845-575-3052

Hudson River Valley Review
Hudson River Valley Institute
Marist College
3399 North Rd.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-1387
The Hudson River Valley is one of only 23 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, to preserve, to protect, and to interpret the nationally-significant history and resources of the Valley for the benefit of the nation.

As the center for the study of the Hudson River Valley, the Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI) at Marist College is the central hub for information about the region. HRVI serves heritage tourists, scholars, elementary and secondary school educators, environmental organizations, the business community, and the general public seeking to know more about the region that Congress called "the Landscape that defined America."

www.hudsonrivervalley.net

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