

HRVI February 2011 Newsletter

HRVI



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Hudson River Valley Institute

HRVI puts focus on Civil War Sesquicentennial

The Civil War was a pivotal time in American history that changed the course of the nation. To celebrate the sesquicentennial, there are several projects in the works at the [Hudson River Valley Institute](#) to share stories of the Hudson River Valley's involvement during the Civil War.

The War began in 1861 with the firing upon fort Sumter in South Carolina and ended in 1865 with a Union victory. While the people of the Hudson River Valley were far from the front lines, they were close to the action through correspondences from the local men who had selflessly volunteered to fight in regiments in the war, and

the views and outlooks they held towards the conflict.

The Poughkeepsie Eagle Weekly and The Poughkeepsie Eagle Daily were the major newspapers of the day during the war and profiled stories of great controversy, with a focus on the issue of slavery and tensions in the nation before the outbreak of war.

With a look at these articles, the Hudson River Valley's history comes to life for people today to see what their ancestors did for the nation in this National Heritage Area.

Many photographs survive from the days of the war, showcasing the men and women involved in the con-

flict. With these photographs, it is possible see into the past and examine the dress, weaponry and emotions of the war. A specific project to be begun this spring will look into the photographs of the Hudson River Valley to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

HRVI's bi-annual publication, the *Hudson River Valley Review*, scheduled for a May release, will include newly collected information concerning the actions of these brave men and women during this tumultuous time. The articles range from a discussion of New York's battle flags during the Civil War, to a profile of the

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Special points of interest:

- *HRVI Prepares for Sesquicentennial*
- *NYS Museum- "Not Just Another Pretty Place"*
- *Valentine's Day in The Hudson River Valley*
- *Meet the Interns*



NYS Museum Promotes Beauty, Landscape of Hudson River



At the beginning of March, the New York State Museum is hosting an exhibit focusing on the landscape of New York. Titled “[Not Just Another Pretty Place](#),” the exhibition intends to capture the unique beauty of the state of New York through nearly 100 paintings, photographs, prints, ceramics, and furniture.

The exhibit is broken down into four different themes: Recording, Romanticizing, Utilizing, and Imagining the

landscape of New York.

The first section, Recording, focuses on the physical features of the landscape. This also includes pieces such as “Bird’s Eye Views,” a lithograph of Jamestown, as well as a section dedicated to New York captured on film.

The second section, Romanticizing, which emphasizes artistic expression, focuses on actual artists such as Asa W. Twitchell and Jasper Cropsey. Cropsey’s 1883 painting “Storm across the Hudson” is featured as well. Also included in this section is a 20 foot painting of New York Harbor in 1976, the state’s bicentennial.

The third section, Utilizing, displays numerous pieces such as a lithograph of Blondin Crossing Niagara Falls for Lloyd’s News, and Sixth Avenue II by

Fairfield Porter. Included in this section is a display titled “New York as Seen by WPA Artists,” which focuses on pieces created by artists hired by various WPA programs in the 1930s.

The final section, Imagining, expands to include furniture and decorated plates as well as portraits of Samuel F.B. Morse. A snow covered image of New York City captured in silkscreen by Thomas McKnight highlights in this section.

The exhibit is displayed in the West Gallery through March 3 and is free to the public. For an in-depth review of the exhibit, including images of the artwork itself, visit David Brickmans’ “[Get Visual](#)” [Blogspot](#)

By Sean Vitti

New Windsor Cantonment Celebrates Washington’s Birthday

In October of 1782, the Continental Army under General George Washington camped at New Windsor in Orange County. The army remained there for the last winter and spring of the Revolutionary War, and eventually housed 7,500 soldiers and 500 women and children in 600 log huts. The cease-fire orders that ended the Revolutionary War were issued by Washington from the New Windsor Cantonment on April 19, 1873.

February 22, 2011 marks George Washington’s 279th birthday, and the New Windsor Cantonment, now preserved by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, is celebrating in a historically accurate style.

The events begin on Sunday, February 20 at 1 p.m. and end the following day at 4 p.m. Continental Army reenactors will fire muskets and cannon at 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and again on

Monday at 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. Children can enlist in the army, learn how to drill with wooden muskets, and receive pay in Continental currency for their service. There will also be blacksmithing and period medicine demonstrations throughout the day.

[The New Windsor Cantonment](#) opens under regular operating hours from mid-April to October, with costumed staff demonstrating a variety of 18th century craftsmanship.

The two exhibits at the site’s Visitor Center are open year-round, which focus on the lives of men and women in the encampment and on General Henry Knox’s New Windsor Artillery Park, which was close by.

Revolutionary War reenactors visit the encampment every April, and again on Memorial Day and Independence Day. The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is also on the

grounds of the encampment, as the ubiquitous Purple Heart medal was inspired by General Washington’s original award of the purple Badge of Military Merit to a select number of his troops.

For more information on the New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site and for a complete calendar of events, visit:

<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/historic-sites/22/details.aspx>.

By Amy Jacaruso



Fredric Church Exhibit Comes to Olana State Historic Site

This coming weekend, February 18-20, 2011, the [Olana Historic Site](#) will be hosting tours to commemorate the works of American landscape painter Frederic Church. These tours will guide visitors through Olana, bringing to light the impact of the Civil War on Church's life and works.

In 1860, Church and his wife Isabel Carnes bought farmland and moved to Hudson, New York. He named his farmstead "Olana" after his hill-top fantasy of a "Persian" villa, writing: "I can make more and better landscapes in this way than by tampering with canvas and paint in the studio."

Just 12 days after the firing of Fort Sumter that began the Civil War, an exhibition of Church's new painting of Icebergs opened in New York

City. Although Church intended the painting to be a demonstration of the wonders of God and nature, the exhibition opened with a new title reflecting Church's sympathies toward the Union cause: The North – Church's Picture of Icebergs.

Church's work with the Hudson River School is incredible and Church still remains one of the most influential American painters of his time. Found within the second generation of painters in the school, Church became somewhat of a celebrity in his time for his landscapes.

By capturing America's finest landscapes, Church was able to capture the hearts of not only New Yorkers but of anyone interested in aesthetic beauty.

The event will take place from Feb-

ruary 18 to February 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The last "Lincoln, Church, and Civil War Tour" begins promptly at 3 p.m. each day. Come enjoy the landscape and partake in history as the [Olana Historic Site gives a rare tour](#) into the life and works of Frederic Church during the Civil War.

By Christine Jarvis



Hudson River Historian to Publish New Book



With over 400 years of history, the Hudson River Valley is due for a book which collects its storied past together. *The Hudson*

River Valley: From Wilderness to 9/11 by Vernon Benjamin seeks to consolidate this history into one authoritative volume.

Benjamin, an experienced writer, researcher, administrator, public official, Marist College lecturer and community and environmental advocate is a man who knows the importance of Hudson River Valley quite well.

It is no surprise, then, that he set out to write a detailed book on the his-

tory of the Hudson River Valley. *The Hudson River Valley: From Wilderness to 9/11*, published by [Overlook Press](#) is a comprehensive narrative history of the Hudson River Valley that takes an objective look at the area starting as far back as its geological origins.

Since beginning the process 17 years ago, Benjamin has done extensive research, ranging from interviews with specialists in the Valley, considering secondary literature, and working with as many primary documents as possible.

Benjamin modeled his take on the history of the Hudson Valley after another comprehensive history on a different region. *The Catskills:*

From Wilderness to Woodstock (1972), by Alf Evers successfully took on this area, detailing a history from simple origins to the impact of the most famous concert in rock history.

Benjamin's narrative account will provide a useful source not only for scholars, but also for readers interested in the area. With this over 1000-page history, Benjamin seeks to answer any questions about the Hudson River Valley, all while providing an engaging read.

The Hudson River Valley: From Wilderness to 9/11 has definite potential to become a lasting account in the history of the area.

By Gabby Albino

HRVI focuses on Civil War continued...

“Christian General,” Oliver Otis Howard. The publication will also detail sesquicentennial-specific events taking place at the various historic sites throughout the Valley.

This will be the second of two issues dedicated solely to the Civil War. [A selection of this previous issue is available on HRVI’s website.](#)

Research is underway at the HRVI, tracking down the various Hudson River Valley regiments involved in the war. It is now possible to follow a single regiment’s story from its founding to the end of the war, or discover the various areas from which regiments were mustered and marched to the front lines to defend a nation.

With the publication of the newest *Hudson River Valley Review*, comes the newest addition to HRVI: A pod-

cast system is to be made available online, with topics ranging from wine in the Hudson River Valley to the Orange Blossoms, Orange County’s famous Civil War regiment.

These audio recordings of a lesson given by Professor Jason Schaaf will lend insight into the Hudson River Valley during the Civil War through pointed discussion. The podcasts are a valuable resource to gain knowledge of the Valley and learn about what made the Hudson River Valley the historic area it is today.

By Matt O’Brien



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Valentine’s Day in the Hudson River Valley

The Hudson River Valley, from Albany to Cornwall, brimmed with Valentine’s Day spirit on the most romantic holiday of the year.

Falling on a Monday in 2011, [Valentine’s Day in the Hudson River Valley](#) presented a host of offerings for the weekend, as well as the week leading up to the holiday. The star attractions were romantic restaurant offerings, arts and entertainment, and activities aimed at family fun.

In Poughkeepsie, the Shadows on the Hudson restaurant offered a spectacular prix-fixe menu, accompanied by a romantic view of the Hudson. Moving across the river to New Paltz, the Village Tearoom

also offered a prix-fixe menu specific to Valentine’s Day, alongside their regular menu. Kingston’s Bistro-to-Go had an especially rich menu, as well as chocolate tastings on the evenings of the 11th and 12th.

The Bar at the Rhinecliff Hotel introduced another mysterious element to dinner by hosting “[A Wedding in Trantsylvania](#),” a murder mystery dinner show.

For a show without dinner attached, the Kings Theater Company of Sugar Loaf produced the comedic “[I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change](#).” Albany, however, was the place to be for Valentine’s Day entertainment. The Palace Theater hosted its [annual Valentine’s Day show](#), “The Laugh

Staff,” on February 12, and showed “Dirty Dancing” the following evening. February 13 featured another annual show, with Jane Monheit’s performing love songs at The Egg.

For family fun, the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center offered a look into animal courtship on the February 5, where kids had the opportunity to play games and create music and their own valentines.

In Cornwall, the Hudson Highlands Nature Museum had a “Lovey-Dovey Valentine” program on the February 12, featuring doves and a special Valentine’s Day photo opportunity.

By Mary Kaltreider

Meet the Intern: Catherine Wiacek

Catherine Wiacek is a junior accounting major with minors in Business and Hudson River Valley Studies. Originally from the Buffalo area, Catherine has always been interested in history.

This is Catherine's first semester interning with the Hudson River Valley Institute and she is very excited for the opportunity. This semester Catherine will focus her efforts on researching Hudson River Valley Civil War Reenactment groups to coincide with the celebration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

Catherine has been a member of the Women's Rugby Club team at Marist since her freshman year. The sport and her teammates have been integral to Catherine's suc-

cess and happiness at Marist. Last year, Catherine served as the club's President for two semesters and the role, while stressful, was overall very rewarding. Additionally, Catherine enjoys trout and salmon fishing during the summer and, hailing from Buffalo, is a hopeless Bills and Sabres fan.

Upon graduating from Marist, Catherine wishes to obtain an MBA, possibly become a CPA and work in the accounting or finance field. Catherine, who has visited Europe before, would like to find a job that allows her to travel often.



Meet the Intern: Brian Rees

Brian Rees is a junior journalism major at Marist College, with a minor in Hudson River Valley Studies. In addition, Brian heads up Generator Magazine's Photography section, as well as serving as Public Relations Director.

Brian is a recent addition to the Hudson River Valley Institute, but is excited to begin his duties as Newsletter Editor for the semester.

Brian hopes to gain valuable first-hand editing experience with this internship, to apply to later work as a copy editor.

Besides serving as editor, Brian will attempt to provide a journalistic perspective for other interns, to give

a Communications-oriented approach to stories in the newsletter.

When not at Marist, Brian calls Monmouth County, New Jersey home. He enjoys crabbing, late nights at the beach, and driving with the top down. He's fascinated by the culinary arts and likes to consider cooking as a hobby.

Upon leaving Marist, Brian hopes to capitalize upon his editorial experience and find a career at a notable journalistic institution. Ever pragmatic, any job that will allow him to pursue writing and pay the bills will do just fine.



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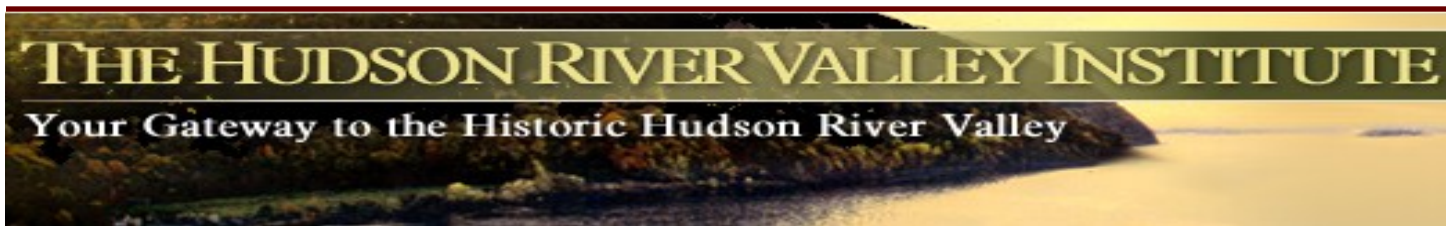
***The Hudson River Valley :
"The Landscape that Defined America"***

The Hudson River Valley is one of only 49 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



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