

Volume 22  
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YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

# Hudson River Valley Institute

## Spring Issue of *Hudson River Valley Review* Published

The Hudson River Valley Institute is proud to announce the publication of the Spring 2005 issue of the *Hudson River Valley Review*. Originally founded and published by Bard College in 1984, it has been housed at Marist College since 2002. Our most recent issue comes to us with the generous support of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and Sotheby's. We thank them for their dedication to continuing historical scholarship.

The current issue discusses a wide variety of themes related to the Hudson River Valley which, according to editors Reed Sparling and Christopher Prysloski "truly represents the diversity of thought and activity that has always been a distinguishing characteristic of life in the Hudson Valley."

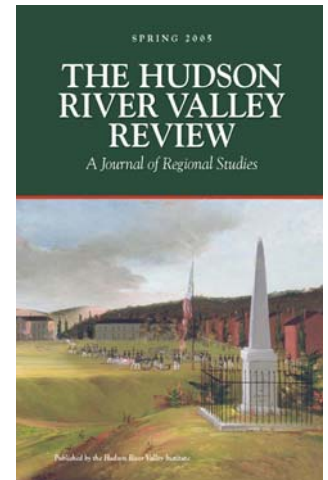
Among the articles are two pieces on Engineering Education in the Valley. The first, "Hudson River Valley's Influence on Engi-

neering Education in the United States" was authored by Bruce Keith and James Forest both of whom are sociologists teaching at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The second, "Dennis Hart Mahan and the Early Development of Engineering Education" was written by Colonel Kip Nygren, who is head of the Department of Civil & Mechanical Engineering at West Point and an expert on education and emerging technologies.

Two of the *Review* articles relate to the Patriots' Weekend: Edward Cashin's "Three Officers and a Lady: The Hudson Highlands and Georgia During the Revolution" coming from the 2004 Patriots' Weekend on Georgia and the Hudson River Valley during the Revolu-

tion; the second—John Walsh's "John Paulding and the Ten Seconds that Saved the Revolution" is an introduction to the topics to be discussed at our

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## HRVI to Celebrate Third Anniversary

The Hudson River Valley Institute is proud to be celebrating its third anniversary celebration on June 2005.

A lecture commemorating this momentous occasion will be given on June 1, 2005 by author and historian Russell Shorto. The topic will be the "Accidental Legacy of Henry

Hudson." Mr. Shorto is the author of *Island in the Center of the World*, which focuses on New York City when it was a Dutch Colony. Mr. Shorto is also a contributor to the *New York Times Magazine*. The lecture will take place at 7:00

pm at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor & Education Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Historic Site in Hyde Park, New York.

- Neil Bhatiya

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### Points of Interest:

- A feature on the HRVI and Dutchess and Ulster County BOCES sponsored Summer Teaching Institutes will be forthcoming in the June issue
- Congratulations to departing seniors (page 3)
- Please be sure to consult the HRVI website, [www.hudsonrivervalley.net](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net), as we are constantly updating our online content.

## Featured Historic Site—Yorktown Museum

“The Yorktown Museum... where history comes alive. Visit an 18th century home and an early Mohegan Indian settlement. Discover the Old Put Railroad and see how local farms operated. Find unique gifts, enjoy fascinating and detailed miniatures, conduct research – all in their convenient location in Yorktown Heights.



The Museum's collections provide valuable information and artifacts for area school children studying local history, genealogical researchers, scout troops working toward community service and merit badges, train buffs, miniature enthusiasts and visitors who just want to know "the way it was."

The Museum houses a research center with valuable resources for genealogical research, a Gift Shop with a collection of gift items and reproductions for the home, garden and entertaining. In addition to five permanent exhibit rooms, several changing exhibits are presented in the main hall during the year.

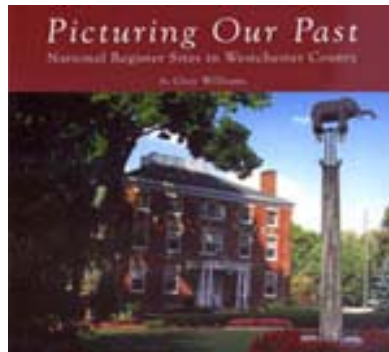
Yorktown Community and Cultural Center - Top Floor  
1974 Commerce Street, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

### Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday - 11 AM to 4 PM  
Sunday - 1 PM to 4 PM  
or by appointment.

## Featured Historic Website—Westchester County Historical Society

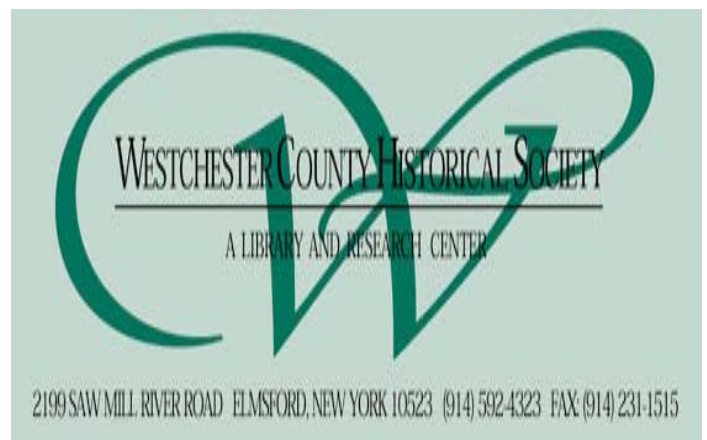
The Hudson River Valley Institute is proud to be among the many organizations that promotes the history of local areas. The Institute feels it is necessary to highlight, wherever possible, the ongoing efforts of these organizations.



The Westchester County Historical Society, or WCHS, is one such example. This society, founded in 1874, promotes the history of Westchester County. It sees its mission as three-fold: “collect and preserve books and pamphlets, maps, manuscripts, photographs, newspapers, and periodicals”, “promote the knowledge and understanding of that history” and “advocate for the preservation of the county’s architectural heritage.”

Their site, [www.westchesterhistory.com](http://www.westchesterhistory.com), has online resources and pictures, as well as more information on the materials stored in their library archives. They have a current events calendar as well as research center and education resources.

Beginning with the Dutch settlers of Yonkers, and ending with the new corporations in White Plains, WCHS is an excellent source for the history of Westchester County.



## Featured Historic Town—Yorktown

The town of Yorktown Heights, located in Westchester County, provides those who are eager to study it a window into the history of New York State. From its earliest settlers to its recent inhabitants, the past has always been a part of Yorktown's identity .

The Algonquin Mohegans are believed to be the Native American tribe to have lived closest to present-day Yorktown. In 1683, Stephanus Van Cortlandt, a Dutch settler, bought from the Mohegans the first parcels of what would become approximately 80,000 acres of land. Fourteen years later, King William III of Great Britain granted the patent for Cortlandt.

It was not until the end of the American Revolution that the town that is now Yorktown was given that name. Yorktown, Virginia was the site of the last great battle of the War for American Independence, when General George Washington, alongside French General Rochambeau and Admiral De Gras, trapped British forces under General Lord Cornwallis and forced his surrender. To commemorate this momentous victory, the name of the town was changed.



Yorktown Historical Society  
<http://www.yorktownhistory.org/>

During the nineteenth century, Yorktown was affected by three important events. The first was the American Civil War. 133 recruits from the town were mustered for service. The number was supposed to be higher—281 soldiers—but many Yorktown residents took advantage of the ability to buy their way out of enlistment.

The second great development had to do with the construction of railroads throughout the North. The railroad was built through Yorktown in 1881. It gave farmers and businessman in the area greater access to markets in New York City. The last significant event was the construction of the Croton Reser-

voir, built to provide fresh water to the burgeoning population of New York City. Residents of the area in which the reservoir was to be built were opposed to the damming of the river, but construction was completed anyway.

Contemporary Yorktown has benefited from a post-War World II boom in construction and population. Today it is a predominately residential community with a large section of its population commuting to New York City. In the hustle of modern life, however, it has not lost sight of the importance of preserving its history and it continues to work towards educating others of the many facets of its past.

- Neil Bhatiya



Davenport House. Photograph courtesy of the Dutchess County Historical Society



Old Dutch Mill  
<http://www.yorktownhistory.org/photoarchive/crompond/dutchmill.htm>.



## Spring 2005 Semester-in-Review

It has been another exciting and successful semester at the Hudson River Valley Institute, and we are proud to highlight the many accomplishments of the past few months.

We are also in the process of reviewing our students' completed independent research projects. Many of the projects have followed the National Heritage Area theme of the Hudson River Valley being the "Corridor of Commerce". Among the projects that await placement on HRVI's Digital Library are essays on: the West Point Foundry, Bannerman's Castle, Icehouses, and Music in the Hudson River Valley.

Our intrepid internship coordinator Kimberly Wilson has also been compiling lesson plans on the transition from the Articles of Confederation to the Constitution., which are now on our "Learning" page.

We have also added several guidebook pages related to the "Corridor of Com-

merce". The historic sites we have profiled include: West Point Foundry, Hudson River Maritime Museum, Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum, and the Haverstraw Brick Museum.

The content on the websites dedicated to remembering the Franklin D. Roosevelt Era has also been updated. There is a new "Themes" page that introduces the reader to FDR's connection with Hyde Park, New York. It also provides a list of links to other sites dedicated to the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. The lesson plans page has also been reorganized in order to better highlight the work done by the "Freedom and Dignity" Institutes.

HRVI is also proud to announce a new project developed this semester. Working with faculty members of the Marist College Department of History, we plan to place full text copies of senior term papers on HRVI's Digital Library. These works, known to the Marist College community as capping papers, represent the

best in historical research. The topics were chosen by the students, though they all fall within the chronological or thematic span of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Era. The students have had the unique opportunity of doing primary source research at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library. By putting these papers on our Digital Library, we are highlighting their great effort.

Looking back on this flurry of activity, we can only hope for more of the same this Summer and Fall. Once again, we'd like to thank all those who have made this productive semester possible.

-Neil Bhatiya

*"I am very proud of what our interns have been able to accomplish this semester."*

*-Professor James Johnson, Phd,*

*Executive Director of the Hudson River*

*Valley Institute*

## Spring 2005 Issue of *Review*

*(Continued from page 1)*

Patriots' Weekend this Fall.

Two other articles deal directly with the field of human geography: Warren Broderick's "A Mountain with an Unusual Name" and Harvey Flad and Craig

Dalton's "A Tree and Its Neighbors." Eric Roth, archivist and librarian of the Huguenot Historical Society, adds an article dealing with language use and ethnicity by Dutch settlers in New Paltz. Louise North has written "Sarah Jay's Invitations to Dinner/Supper, 1787-

1788" a survey of the relations among the social and political elite and how they used informal gatherings (dinner parties, for example) to engage in political discussions and deal-making. Concluding our selection of articles is a Regional History Forum piece on the D&H Canal Towpath, which highlights the educational and historical resources available from the D&H Canal Museum. John Aldrich also provides a review of *The Saratoga Reader*.

## Congratulations to our Departing Seniors

We would like to take this opportunity to wish a heartfelt congratulations to all of our departing seniors. Their service to the Hudson River Valley Institute has been invaluable and much-appreciated. We also wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

Class of 2005:

<b>Kimberly Wilson</b>	<b>Jessica Baldwin</b>	<b>John O'Fallen</b>
<b>Will Salluzzo</b>	<b>Kristen Alldredge</b>	<b>Tony Messina</b>
<b>Andrew Combs</b>	<b>Rory O'Brien</b>	<b>Steve Foceri</b>

We are also currently in the planning stages for the Fall 2005 issue of the *Hudson River Valley Review*, which will focus on the Civil War and its effect on the Hudson River Valley.

Those who wish to subscribe to the *Review* can enroll on the website: <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net/hrvr/subscribe/index.php>.

- Neil Bhatiya

# Contact Us

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***The Hudson River Valley—“The  
Landscape that Defined America”***

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.

The Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College is the academic arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. Its missions 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.

[www.hudsonrivervalley.net](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net)

## HRVI Staff

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