Issue 67 September 2010

HRVI September 2010 Newsletter

Glenn Curtiss Day



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The Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI) at Marist College and the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum have collaborated together to celebrate Glenn Curtiss Day, which will be held at the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome on October 9th in Red Hook, New York. Glenn Curtiss began his career building bicycles and motorcycles, which later landed him the name as the "Fastest Man on Earth" through attaining the speed of 134.6 mph. One hundred vears ago. Glenn Hammond Curtiss became distinguished for a different kind of feat when he undertook and succeeded in flying down the Hudson River Valley in his Albany Flyer from Albany to



Manhattan. This accomplishment gained him the accreditation as "The Father of Naval Aviation," "The Founder of the American Aircraft Industry," and for being instrumental in the emergence of inter-city aviation commerce.

The celebration will commence at 10:00 AM,

where guests will be able to explore and observe countless artifacts and antique airplanes which are enclosed in the realm of four hangars. Furthermore, at 2:00 PM the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome Pioneer Aircraft and Barnstorming Air Show will present a full featured event of the Curtiss "D" Pusher, flying exhibitions of an original Curtiss JN-4H Hisso Jenny built for the Great War in 1918 and a Curtiss Wright Junior CW-1 built as a recreational aircraft for those low budget flyers. At the closure of the air show. the Hudson River Valley Institute is sponsoring a lecture by Trafford Doherty, Executive Director of The Glenn H. Curtiss

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Special points of interest:

- Glenn Curtiss Day
- Celtic Day
- Twin Forts Day
- Meet the Intern



Celtic Day in the Park

Celtic Day in the Park, celebrated at the Mills Mansion in the Staatsburgh State Historic Site on Sunday, September 26th, featured music, dance, games, and demonstrations.

The Celtic nations of Ireland, Scotland, Brittany, Wales, the Isle of Man Galicia, and Cornwall offer a rich variety of traditions.

Local Celtic bands, including the Taconic Pipe Band, the MacLeods of Cornwall Pipe Band, Amerscot Highland Pipe Band and Mt. Kisco Scottish Pipes and Drums, paraded and serenaded in celebration of Celtic traditions and provided a festive accompaniment to the sheep herding demonstrations, bonniest knees contest, and Clydesdale horses. Other performers included Carl Peterson, Glenfolk, and the Brigadoons. The caber toss, in which contestants heft and throw a large wooden pole, was a highlight. Another competition was the haggis hurl (not an eating contest) in which contestants must toss a haggis, a boiled sheep's heart stuffed with oatmeal and spices as far as they can, while keeping its contents intact. Celtic Day in the Park also hosted Gaelic storytelling and a children's area to cultivate interest for younger participants.

Joanie Mac Irish Dancers, Braemar Dancers, Solas an Lae School of Irish Dance, and the Caledonian Dancers also performed.

Staatsburgh State Historic Site often hosts events, as it offers a stunning view of the Hudson River and Catskill Mountains. The Gilded Age-era mansion, built by Morgan Lewis, the third governor of New York State. Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills commissioned New York City architects McKim, Meade and White to renovate and enlarge the home, resulting in the structure seen by visitors today.

Their daughter, Gladys Phipps Mills, having donated the house and surrounding 192 acres to the state in 1938, has ensured that the public can continue to enjoy the house and grounds.

By Gail Goldsmith

Twin Forts Day

On Saturday October 2nd and Sunday October 3rd Fort Montgomery in will be host to Twin Forts Day. This year's event will mark the 233rd anniversary of the assault on Forts Montgomery and Clinton by British forces under the command of General Sir Henry Clinton. The main focus of the event will by a reenactment. The actual assault which took place on October 6th 1777 resulted in the capitulation of both forts to the British as well as the dismantling of the Hudson River Chain. Before the reenactment begins on the 2nd there will be a free lecture at the Fort Montgomery Visitor Center conducted by Todd Braisted on loyalist troops in General Clinton's army. Saturday will kick things off at around 9 AM with the opening of the camp. Featured throughout the day will be

troop formations, artillery firings, military music demos and an actual reenactment at 4 PM which will focus on the assault on the interior of Fort Montgomery. Sunday's focal point will be on the Crown Forces Occupation in the fort interior. The end of the day and the end of the weekend's event will culminate with an artillery firing of the grand battery. For more information please visit <u>http://</u> <u>www.palisadesparksconservancy.org/</u> <u>news/144</u>. The Fort Montgomery State Historic Site is located at 690 Route 9W, in Fort Montgomery, NY.

By Sean Vitti



HUDSON RIVER VALLEY INSTITUTE

The 9th Annual Haverstraw International Street Festival

On Sunday, September 26th, the town of Haverstraw once again celebrated Rockland County's cultural landscape with their International Street Festival. Presented by the Historical Society of Rockland County, this community event was full of activities and arts for the whole family. Face painting, crafts, and non-traditional forms of entertainment such as Irish Dance, master folk artists, and Indian henna hand painting were only some of the many events of the day. Live music was provided by Cloud-NYne, a high-energy band playing popular music from today and yesterday, with food venders throughout. For those who enjoy local nourishment, the Haverstraw's Harvest Farmer's Market had extended hours during the event.

The Festival was held on Broadway, Maple, and New Main Street in Haverstraw NY. Running 11 am to 5 pm, there was plenty of time to enjoy the many street vendors and activities. The festival was be free of charge and open to the general public.

Having a great reception in years past, this event is always a wonderful time- especially with the new "International Food and Music Court" that occupies the whole street. Directions to the event can be found at <u>www.rockland.org</u>, under "Haverstraw International Street Fair". For more information about the festival, volunteering or being a sponsor, contact <u>info@haverstrawchamber.org</u> or call the chamber office at 845-947-5646.

By Samantha McNerney

Van Wyck Homestead

On September 18th and 19th Fishkill Historical Society and the Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot cosponsored a Revolutionary War weekend at the Van Wyck Homestead Museum. The event spanned two days, Saturday and Sunday, and included a wide selection of events and activities. Saturday featured an encampment of the 5th New York Regiment throughout the day. Tours of the Homestead were given up until 4 PM. Interpretive Walks of the Fishkill Supply Depot and Continental Army Burial Grounds were also held throughout the day. Various presentations and

discussions were held on subjects that included "Importance of the Fishkill Supply Depot to the American Revolution", "Fishkill during the American Revolution", and "Land in Crisis- Saving the Fishkill Supply Depot." Also featured was a dramatization of the Major John Andre-Benedict Arnold Conspiracy. This month marked the 230th anniversary of the meeting between the two conspirators. Had they succeeded Benedict Arnold would have surrendered West Point to the British. The encamped regiment. the 5th New York contributed to the festivities with music, campfires,

musket firing demonstrations and TAPS to signal the end of each day. The Museum is open from 1-4 PM on Saturdays and Sundays from June to October. For more information on the Van Wyck Homestead and the Fishkill Historical Society visit <u>http://</u>

www.fishkillhistoricalsociety.org/ index.html

By Sean Vitti

Glenn Curtiss Continued...

Museum of Hammondsport, New York in addition to a special exhibit that will feature the Curtiss aircraft.

This celebration will exhibit Curtiss' ambition, innovation and brilliance, which will inevitably resonate in those who attend. "We will be making this day a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Curtiss' historic flight in his Albany Flyer down the Hudson River Valley from Albany to Manhattan. We will also recognize those who strive to preserve the memory of his innovative spirit," said HRVI Executive Director Colonel (Ret.) James Johnson. The memory of Curtiss'

For further information regarding Glenn Curtiss, please visit the website of the Glenn Curtiss Museum at <u>http://www.glennhcurtissmuseum.org/</u> <u>index.shtml</u>. Also, for more details about the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome, you can visit <u>http://www.oldrhinebeck.org/</u>.

By Andrew Loveland



Meet the Intern: Andrew Loveland



Andrew Loveland, born and raised in the suburbs of Hartford, Connecticut, spent a significant portion of his teenage years exploring the historical aspects of the Farmington Val-

ley, which included the Freedom Trail, the Farmington Canal, and the Amistad sites to name a few. Entering Marist College as a Business Marketing major, Andrew has rediscovered his childhood passion for History and has since declared a dual major in both Business Marketing and History.

Although his primary focus and interest in history pertains to modern Germany, Andrew joined the HRVI in order to broaden his knowledge in American history, and learn more about the area he has become accustomed to calling home for the past three years.

As a junior at Marist College, Andrew enjoys spending his time away from his studies as a member on the board of the Marist Student Programming Council, Circle K International, and in addition to attending various Marist sporting events. Apart from his extracurricular activities, his interests and hobbies include skiing, rowing, biking, water-skiing, cooking and playing the guitar and piano. Andrew plans to graduate from Marist in the spring of 2012, but his path for the future is still a little murky. Possibilities upon graduating range from attending law school to pursing an M.B.A in marketing.

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

www.hudsonrivervalley.org

The Hudson River Valley is one of only 37 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."

THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY INSTITU

Your Gateway to the Historic Hudson River Valley

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