



## Fall Semester Begins at HRVI

Welcome to another exciting semester at the Hudson River Valley Institute, as we enter our fourth year of operation at Marist College. We eagerly anticipate continuing to act as a portal site and digital library for resources throughout the Hudson River Valley.

We are also looking forward to the Fall publication of the *Hudson River Valley Review*. This issue of the *Review* will focus on the Hudson River Valley's contribution to the Union cause during the American Civil War. Among the features in this issue is an overview of the West Point Foundry in Cold Spring, a review of a Civil War-themed exhibit at Huguenot Street in New Paltz, and analyses of the contribution of area regiments to the war effort. A comprehensive

article on the *Review* will be forthcoming in the October issue.

Our staff will be especially busy during its annual Patriots' Weekend. In particular, the lectures to be hosted at Marist College on Thursday, September 29th will involve much activity by interns and volunteers as they work to welcome scholars from around the country. The conference will be focusing on the Arnold-Andre Conspiracy, which was featured in the August newsletter.

We also hope to increase our focus on the Hudson Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration, which will begin in 2007 to mark the important contributions of Herny Hudson, Samuel de Champlain, and Robert Fulton

to the history of the Hudson River Valley.

The Institute's Executive Director, Professor Colonel (U.S. Army, retired) James Johnson will be teaching two course: History and Culture of the Mid-Hudson Valley and Hudson River Valley Studies, which are required for primary school education majors at Marist College. There students learn how to identify resources for teaching local history, as well as gain essential practice in designing lesson plans for their future students.

~ Neil Bhatiya

## The Hudson River Valley Ramble and the American Revolution

Filled with over a dozen Revolutionary War-era themed events and ending with Patriot's Weekend, the Hudson River Valley offers countless opportunities for everyone to learn more about the birth of our country, whether they routinely slept through history class or proudly march around in their replica militia

uniform every chance they get.

Starting Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, tours, lectures, re-enactments, festivals, talks and walks scattered all over the Hudson River Valley will be offered at little to no cost

to the public to bring the Revolution to life. Topics vary from not just the War itself, but also how 18<sup>th</sup> century colonists lived.

By simply clicking on the "Events Calendar" on the top  
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### Special points of interest:

- Please be sure to consult the HRVI website, as we are constantly updating our content
- A list of the new interns at the Hudson River Valley Institute can be found on page
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- A Summary of Patriots' Weekend 2005 held later this month will be forthcoming in the October issue

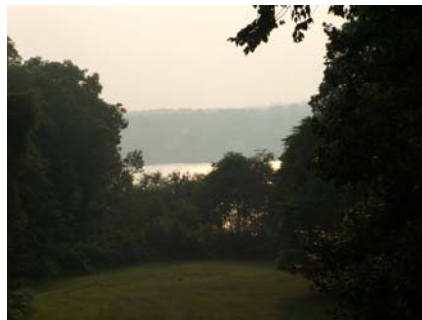
## Featured Historic Site— Mount Gulian

Nestled in a residential community, Mount Gulian, an 18<sup>th</sup> century Dutch Colonial Homestead, is a reminder of the Hudson River Valley's prominent role in our nation's history. Located on the border of Beacon and Fishkill, the house played host to prominent generals, an escaped slave, and continues to support and encourage the love of local history.

Around 1680, in partnership with Francis Rombout and Stephanus Van Cortlandt, Gulian Verplanck purchased 85,000 acres of land from the Wappingers Indians. Approximately fifty years later, the Valley witnessed the construction of a frontier home, which came to be known as Mount Gulian. In the years that followed, a working plantation and a dock on the Hudson were added.

Mount Gulian played a significant role in the American Revolution. The home was employed by the Continental Army; it was near the Fishkill Barracks and across from Newburgh, which was home to Washington's Headquarters. On a visit to the house, one can understand why the

house was employed by the army. In the backyard a visitor can witness the picturesque view that is created when the green lawn subtly turns into the Hudson River. Based on its strategic aspects, the house



*The view from Mount Gulian*

became the headquarters of General Fredrich Von Steuben, who is credited with instilling discipline in the Continental Army, from late 1782 until the summer of 1783. After the American Revolution, General Von Steuben and his fellow veterans formed the Society of the Cin-

cinnati, and thus created America's first fraternal veteran's association.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the conservative Verplanck family eventually sided with abolitionists and employed and aided James Brown, an escaped slave. Until 1931, the house provided a residence for the Verplanck family.

Fortunately, efforts have been made to restore and maintain this landmark of American history. Mount Gulian continues to play a significant role in the Hudson River Valley, promoting a love of regional history via tours and special events. Annually, it is the site of the Revolutionary War Living History Weekend. ([www.mountgulian.org/index.htm](http://www.mountgulian.org/index.htm)) ~ Lauren Santangelo

*Editor's Note: In the August issue of the newsletter, a question was raised over the omission of Mount Gulian from the Historic Fishkill article. The oversight was traced back to the fact that Mount Gulian has a Beacon mailing address. A previous Featured Historic Town article featured Beacon, so we focused on other aspects of Fishkill. However, since this is such an important site, we would be remiss in not highlighting it.*

## Featured Historic Website— New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation

Charged with the maintenance and promotion of New York State's Public lands, the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation maintains a website (<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/>) dedicated to this end, filled with enough information for even the most curious park enthusiast.

The many services offered on the site include a searchable database of all of New York's State Parks, indexed by region and desired activity. There are forty-two of these sub-categories, spanning activities from ice skating and cross-country skiing to beaches, golf, hiking, theater and campsites. Each individual site has a full list of attractions, direction to it using major roads, contact information, and a list of nearby state



*Chimney Bluffs State Park <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/>*

parks which might be of interest.

The websites has a repository of past issues of The Preservationist, the newslet-

ter of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/news/public/>). The back issues are available for download in PDF format. Each issue contains descriptions of various state parks, as well as delving into their fascinating history.

The New York State Historic Preservation Office has its own sub-site, with a wealth of information, including a register of historic sites in New York, assistance for those engaged in historic preservation, and links to other sites for further resources (<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/>).

~ Neil Bhatiya

## Featured Historic Town— Tappan

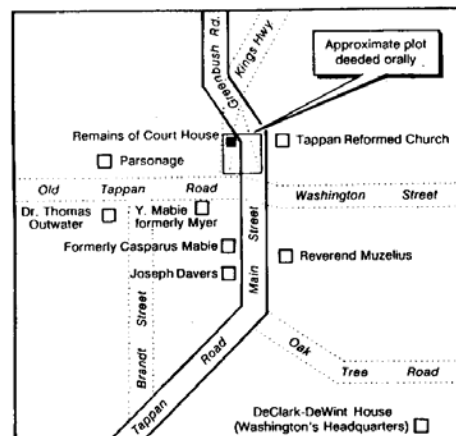
The town of Tappan, located in Rockland County in southern New York State, shares a very rich common history with its neighbors. According to “A Brief History of Rockland County” by Thomas Casey, the first residents were believed to be Native Americans of either the Delaware or Lenape nations. The first European visitors were the sailors of Henry Hudson’s first voyage to North America. The area was first settled by the Dutch, until the eventual English take over in the mid-seventeenth century. Permanent construction in the town of Tappan began in earnest in 1691, with the construction of a court house, and, nine years later, the DeWint House, which would come to figure so prominently in Tappan history.

Perhaps the most famous incident to occur near Tappan was the plot by British officer John Andre and American General Benedict Arnold to surrender West Point to the British. When Arnold was captured, he was detained, tried, and later hanged at the De Wint House

in Tappan (the De Wint House was Featured Historic Site in the August 2005 issue of the HRVI newsletter.

After the turn of the century, transportation improvements, alongside its proximity to New York City, meant the rapid development of towns like Tappan. Though in decline by the twentieth century, when industry became more geographically nationalized, these areas still remain vibrant communities, attached to the great metropolis to its south, but still retaining its country quality.

~ Neil Bhatiya



*Tappan in 1779, a revision of a George Budke map. Present street names, and dotted lines added for orientation. Not indicated on original map.*

[http://www.dutchdoorgenealogy.com/images/map\\_tappan\\_1779.gif](http://www.dutchdoorgenealogy.com/images/map_tappan_1779.gif)

## Fall 2005 Interns

The Hudson River Valley Institute is proud to introduce its roster of Interns for the Fall 2005 Semester:

- Neil Bhatiya—Internship Coordinator
- Lauren Santangelo—Assistant Internship Coordinator
- Michael Diaz—studying the Forts of Lake Champlain
- Sarah Gunner—working on the *Hudson River Valley Review*
- Megan Lavery—the mutiny and death of Henry Hudson
- Michael Mauro—the career of Robert Fulton
- Rory O’Brien—the career of Samuel de Champlain

Part of their internship will involve working on content for the HRVI website and its digital library. This includes scanning previous issues of the *Hudson River Valley Review*, maintaining our Events calendar, and expanding our Learning section ([www.hudsonrivervalley.net/lessonplans.php](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net/lessonplans.php)).

The Interns will also be conducting individual research projects. Their topics will all relate to the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial, to begin in 2007 and run until 2009.

## Meet the Interns— Sarah Gunner

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Sarah Gunner is a junior at Marist College majoring in English writing and literature. She works at the James A. Cannavino library while she lives on campus. When she is home she works as a substitute teacher as well as a street outreach worker with a community not-for-profit organization. She plans on studying abroad in Florence next semester. Her internship at the Hudson River Valley Institute is focused on our biennial journal, the *Hudson River Valley Review*. She plans to continue her academic interests at a presentation at National Collegiate Honors Council in October. Her lecture is on Issues in Homosexual Equality. After finishing at Marist, she plans to attend graduate school.

~ Sarah Gunner

## Revolutionary War Events

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*(Continued from page 1)*

bar of the Hudson River Valley Institute's website, even technophobes will be presented with a detailed description of the day's itinerary and other useful information. Several of the events are even timed so that history buffs can hop onto the next tour or performance held at that facility.

All of these events are family (and student) friendly and promise to be not just educational, but also fun for all. At

the very least, September looks as if it will be good preparation for what will be an amazing Patriot's Weekend.

~ Adrienne Harris

## Meet the Interns— Michael Diaz

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Michael Diaz is a junior at Marist College, pursuing a degree in history. He was born and raised in the Hudson Valley, and built a love of history by visiting the region's numerous museums during his youth. He is now especially interested in military history, most specifically that of the American Revolution.

Originally planning to become a high school teacher, he now plans to go on to graduate school (maybe even post-graduate if he feels particularly ambitious) and either get involved in the museum field or teach at the collegiate level. When not attending classes, Michael acts as the Vice-President of the Marist College Fencing Club. He also works as an historic interpreter at the New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site.

During his internship at the Hudson River Valley Institute, Mike will be looking at the importance of Lake George and Lake Champlain during the French and Indian War and the American Revolution.

~ Mike Diaz

# Contact Us

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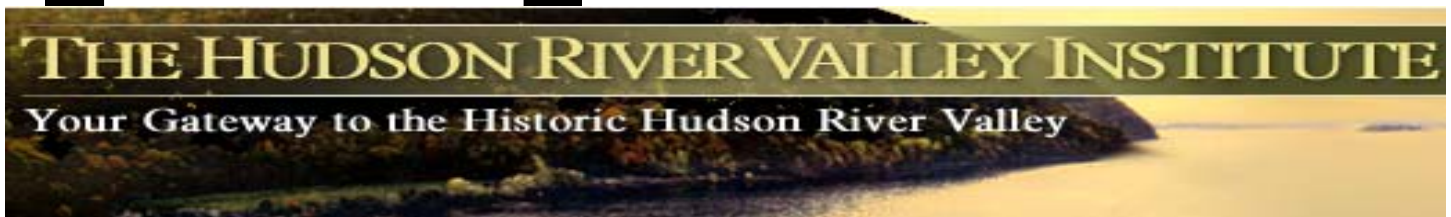
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***The Hudson River Valley—“The  
Landscape that Defined America”***

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.

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



## Staff

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