

Historic Site: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

HRVI



YOUR GATEWAY TO THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

Hudson River Valley Institute

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church actually had its beginnings with Saint Peter's Church. By 1888, many Catholics immigrating into the area were of Italian descent. In fact, the first of these immigrants, four families, settled at 109 Mill Street. This number increased to 150 families by 1905. Italians, however, were relegated to saying mass in the basement of Saint Peter's. Father James Nilan, who spoke Italian, arranged for father Iacobucci of West Park to say mass for them. Poughkeepsie Italians soon yearned for their own parish, believing an independent national church would preserve the cultural ties to their homeland. This dream became a reality with the construction of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in 1910. Father Nicola Pavone presided as the first pastor. By 1922, pastor Salvator Realbuto successfully paid off the debt

for the construction of Mount Carmel.

Another important aspect of the development of Mount Carmel parish was the establishment of the Mount Carmel School. This building, constructed during the Great Depression, was literally funded through pennies and nickels generated at fundraisers. For Italian Americans living in Poughkeepsie, the school, which opened in 1936, represented progress: their children could be educated in an environment which preserved cultural ties to their Italian heritage. When Salvatore Catatore became pastor, the school expanded in 1946 to include more classrooms as well as playground and parking area.

In 1966, the Archdiocese of New York relocated Saint Peter's to Hyde Park. As a

result of this move, Mount Carmel itself relocated to the former Saint Peter's; thereafter, parishioners rededicated the structure in 1968. This marked the transition of Mount Carmel from a national, or ethnic, parish to a regional one open to the community. It no longer served just the needs of Italian Americans, but of those living in the surrounding area. Consequently, the parish diversified, a trend that continues today. In addition, the church underwent renovations involving the replacement of a dilapidated stair case with a terraced walkway as well as the reopening of the church's main doors. Recently, the school witnessed a decline in attendance despite its admittance of non-parishioners. In 2006, the Archdiocese of New York closed Mount Carmel School after seventy-years of operation.

Mount Carmel is now in the

Inside this issue:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Historic Site: Our Lady of Mount Carmel | 1 | Maybrook Railroad Historical Society and Museum | 5 |
| Teaching American History | 2 | Meet the Intern: Andy Villani | 6 |
| Walkway Over the Hudson Update | 3 | Marist Special Collections Update | 7 |
| Spotlight: Adriance Memorial Library | 4 | Summer Writing Institute 2008 | 8 |
| Meet the Naturalist: Tom Lake | 4 | | |

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church (cont.)

process of making plans to celebrate its centennial. Marist professor Louis Zuccarello is working with a committee to collect an oral history of the parish. Since the project began they have spoken to approximately thirty individuals possessing important knowledge about the church. They hope to complete the interviews by the end of the summer; thus Mount Carmel will tell its history through the recollections of its parishioners. Interestingly, Poughkeepsie's newly elected mayor, [John Tkazyik](#), a Marist graduate, served as a sacristan and parish leader of Mount Carmel. Also, Marist's Father Richard La Morte served as the church's pastoral assistant and eventual pastor during the 1990s.

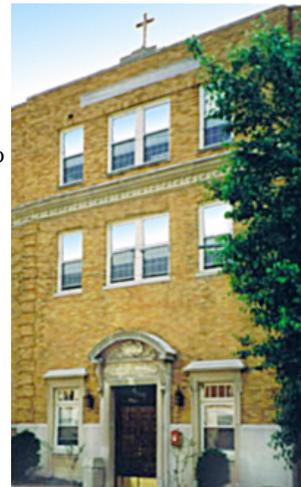
- Paul Contarino

For more information about Mount Carmel church please contact

Our Lady of Mount Carmel (845) 454-0340

Louis Zuccarello, Professor Emeritus at Marist (845) 575-2214

John Ansley at Marist Archives for the Catholic Studies Collection (845) 575-5217



Teaching American History 2008

The two institutes held on the weeks of July 7th and July 14th were another success for the Hudson River Valley Institute. Over thirty-five middle school and high school teachers from Dutchess, Ulster and Orange counties converged on the Marist College campus to participate in two Teaching American History institutes. Through the direction of members of the history department at Marist, each session resulted in positive gain for all those involved.

Week one, entitled "Presidential Leadership During Wartime," led by professors Nicholas Marshall and Robyn Rosen, explored the varying levels of success achieved by Lincoln, McKinley, Wilson and Roosevelt as United States Commanders in Chief.

Each day resulted in a combination of scholastic discussion and increasingly complex comparative analysis of each President as a military leader. In addition, the participants developed a wide array of potential lesson ideas and many were introduced to classroom resources that they were not previously aware of.

The session that took place during week two, entitled "Asian and Caribbean Emigration to United States in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries", was led by professors Kristin Bayer and Frederick Opie. Using a variety of resources including text, audio and video, each professor presented a different region of emigration that the participants were able to both compare with and ultimately relate to on a variety of

levels. The historical analysis of immigration from Asia and the Caribbean combined with the discussion of immigration issues experienced today led to the establishment of a wide variety of lesson plans being developed for use in middle and high schools.

All in all, the Teaching American History programs proved to be a great success, maintaining a standard of quality which satisfied returning participants while also exceeding the expectations of teachers attending for the first time.

- Andrew Villani

Poughkeepsie-Highland Bridge Project Progress Report



on the structure. To conclude the month of July, HRVI talked to [Bernard Rudberg](#) a leading scholar on Dutchess County railroads and principle organizer of Central New England Railway tours. Currently, the Institute is working with Rudberg as well the Maybrook Railroad Historical Society and Museum to obtain contacts for more oral histories.

Since January, HRVI has worked to obtain as much information about the Poughkeepsie-Highland Bridge as possible. The Adriance Memorial Library proved to be the largest repository of primary information the structure. The Adriance collection contains over 500 pieces of material about it. In addition, I created a small finding aid to the collection, and an annotated bibliography of books, articles and online sources pertaining to the bridge which will go online shortly. Interviews and transcriptions have continued

For the last six months, the Hudson River Valley Institute has been engaged in compiling an oral history of the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge.

Discussions have included construction, labor and maintenance, the fire, the transformation period (1974-1993), and people involved today with [Walkway Over the Hudson](#). On February 6th, the interviewing officially started with the president of Walkway, Fred Schaeffer. Since this time, the Institute has conducted more than 20 additional interviews: Edmond Loedy, an architect, sought to turn the bridge into a large shopping center; Dick Collier, a member of Walkway, discussed the transformation of the organization itself as well as the construction of the bridge; Shirley McClintock, a descendant of John F. O' Rourke, spoke about the chief engineer of the bridge structure; Michael Asbill provided an artist's point of view.

On April 26th HRVI conducted an interview fair which included former City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Nancy Cozean and two eyewitness accounts of the fire from Craig Fisher and Harold Tartell. In June, HRVI inter-

viewed Edward and David Ringwood who come from a family of firefighters that fought the bridge fire.

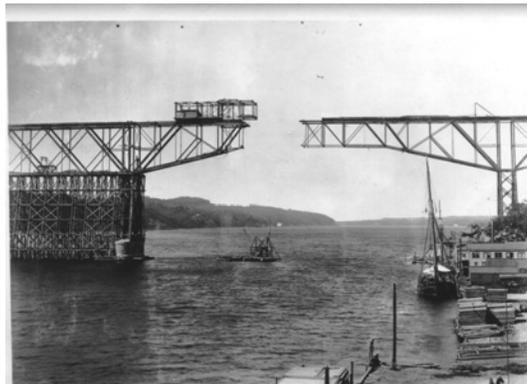
In July, former Marist President Richard Linus Foy shared his memories of the bridge including the fire and the regattas. Equally important, the Institute is working with Marist Professor Louis Zuccarello to obtain interviews about the Italian American community and their contribution to its construction. Tom Lake, an instructor at Dutchess Community College and editor of the [Hudson River Almanac](#), gave a unique environmental perspective



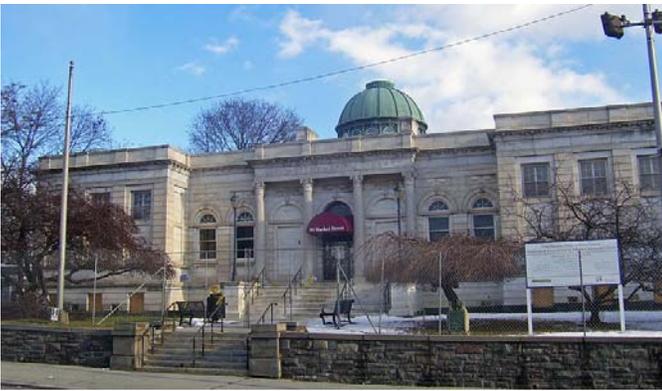
throughout this summer

Special thanks go out to James Duryea and his crew from the Lowell Thomas Media Center who have helped record all of HRVI's oral interviews. The Institute credits Ann Panagulias and myself for tenaciously working on coordinating times and dates for the interviews. On a final note, gratitude is extended to all those who participated in the interviews as well.

- Paul Contarino



Adriance Memorial Library



in the Poughkeepsie Lyceum. For the next eleven years this library operated under several names, the Public School Library, the Public Library, as well as the School Library. A short time later, it reorganized in response to Poughkeepsie's evolution from a village into city following an 1854 charter. The Pough-

The notion of a public library for the Poughkeepsie area first arose in 1790. At this time, the Dutchess County Academy possessed a small book collection and Jacob Radcliffe served as the librarian. In 1805, Bernard Dornin started a circulating library. In 1815, Mr. Paraclete Potter established his "Reading Room," consisting of circulating books in his Main Street shop. This idea received further impetus in 1838 by the New York State Legislature; it allocated public money for the initiation of a school and books which lead to the development of the Lancaster School, which fostered the creation of the Lancaster School Library. Three years later, on January 19, 1841, the Lancaster School opened its doors and 680 volumes to the public. After 1843, the Lancaster Board of Education assumed control over the library and the books were shelved

keepsie Board of Education presided over the City Library until 1900.

The library itself moved numerous times before settling on its present location on 93 Market Street. At one point it occupied two rooms of the County Courthouse before moving to the first floor of Poughkeepsie High School, then to the corner of Washington and Layette Streets. In 1895 however, a committee formed vowing to find a suitable building for the growing number of volumes. The following year, plans for an independent building were discussed before the Poughkeepsie Common Council at which point the children of John P. and Mary R. Adriance agreed to finance its construction with the understanding that it would be named in honor of their parents. The family assisted in the acquisition of

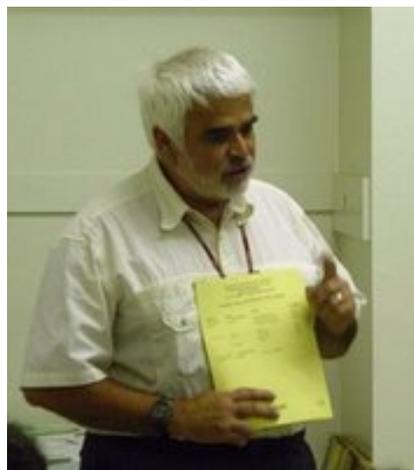
the Kuhner property on Market Street. The Adriance family chose Charles Frederick Rose to design the magnificent structure and Titus and Round to construct it. On October 18, 1898, the [Adriance Memorial Library](#) officially opened with Poughkeepsie's Mayor, John Frank Hull, presiding over the celebration. Hull himself delivered a speech discussing the importance of the library to the community. Now that Poughkeepsie possessed an independent library building, the next step was to break with the Board of Education; a separate board of directors would manage affairs. In fact, John P. Adriance's grandson, also named John P. Adriance, served as its president from 1900-1923.

The building style of Adriance is Beaux Arts, combining Greek and Roman architecture with concepts of the Renaissance. This architecture was a popular style from the late nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries. The exterior walls of the library are composed of solid marble block fronted by four marble Corinthian columns. The Adams Marble Company in Massachusetts supplied the marble for the exterior. Inside the entranceway, bronze plates commemorate the legacy of John P. Adriance and his wife Mary R. Adriance. Another interesting component of the library is the dome decorated with ornamental plaster work as well as interior support columns surfaced with (continued on page 5)

Featured Naturalist — Tom Lake

Tom Lake has been a life-long resident of the Hudson River Valley who currently lives in Wappingers Falls. He specializes in five subject areas, Native Americans, fish, bald eagles, anthropology and archaeology, having earned his Bachelor's and his Masters degree in Anthropology.

Lake currently teaches anthropology and behavioral science courses at Dutchess Community College. Throughout his eight years with Dutchess, he has taught courses such as "The Prehistory of the Hudson Valley" and "The Prehistory of the Southwest," as well as "An Introduction to World Archeology." In addition, he has taught natural history for the [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#) since 1994. His main focus with the NYSDEC is the examination of humans and their relation to the surrounding



environment. Also at NYSDEC, he is a biological researcher of bald eagles as well as fish, and is publisher and editor of a weekly newsletter called the [Hudson River Almanac](#)

pertaining to the area's natural history. His main area of interest involves the Hudson Valley's prehistory, having extensively studied the indigenous people, flora, and fauna that existed throughout the region. He finds himself utilizing all five of his areas of expertise to examine the time frame from the end of the last ice age, about 12,000 years ago, to shortly before the arrival of Henry Hudson in 1609.

The writings of Lake have been published in various journals including [New York State Conservationist](#), [Northeast Anthropology](#) as well as science journals pertaining to fish and several lecture papers. Lake recently delivered an archeological paper in March 2008, at the 7th annual Algonquian People's Conference titled (continued on page 6)

First Nations and Last Elephants.

Adriance Memorial Library (cont.)

faux marbling. The hallway is adorned with Tennessee variegated marble. There are heavily paneled ceilings in the north and south front rooms. Quarter sawn oak combined with cornices and elaborate moldings give the interior of Adriance a highly ornate appearance.

In 1923, a substantial addition was built to accommodate the growing collection. It included a Children's Room and Local History collection. A branch library opened in January 1926 at 635 Main Street which remained in operation until 1981. In 1937, the Adriance Library participated in the 250th anniversary of Poughkeepsie's founding. In 1941, the library celebrated its centennial. The New York Times ran an article marking its 125th anniversary in 1966, noting that Adriance is the oldest library in New York State and the third oldest in the United States. At that time, the idea of doubling Adriance's size entered discussion, and they acquired more land behind their building for future expansion. The Red Oaks Mill branch opened in 1973, operating until 1991. In that same year, the Arlington Branch opened its doors. In 1981, the Maplewood Branch established itself on Maple Avenue.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s the Poughkeepsie Public Library District experienced a shift in the relationship between the Town and City of Poughkeepsie.

During this period Adriance underwent small renovations. After several decades of debate, a public referendum allowed the library to proceed with new building plans. The purpose was to make the structure more capacious and state-of-the-art. Another building will finally be added behind the original; the 1898 structure will receive minor renovations as well. This is the biggest project in the 110 year history of the building, expected to be completed by the summer of 2009. The library has temporarily relocated to Bancroft Road.

In the last six months, The Hudson River Valley Institute has made extensive use of the Adriance Memorial Library's material on the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge. This extensive collection contains two large boxes of photographs and postcards of the bridge during and after construction and images of the Central New England and New Haven Railroads. Also, there are two boxes containing folders of various court cases involving the Poughkeepsie and Eastern, Hudson River, and New York Central Railroad Companies as well as bills, receipts, telegrams, payroll information, and property deeds of individual parcels sold to the railroad companies of Dutchess County. Several slender boxes contain numerous pamphlets, some include early proposals detailing the benefits of having a railroad

bridge over the Hudson. There is also a small pamphlet on the laying of the cornerstone for the Poughkeepsie Bridge, and one authored by John F. O'Rourke, the chief engineer of this structure. There are also some small books about the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge, examples include one pertaining to the 1980s inspection, another, from 1889, briefly mentions the people involved with the bridge such as John Adriance himself.

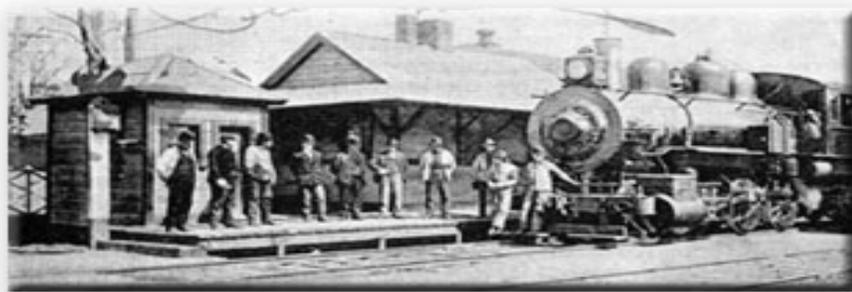
The Institute would like to thank Adriance's local historian, Ms. Lynn Lucas, who graciously and patiently answered all of our questions.

- Paul Contarino

Contact the Adriance Memorial Library at: (845)-485-3445; For the local history room please contact Lynn Lucas (845) 485-3311



The Maybrook Railroad Historical Society and Museum



The Maybrook Historical Railroad Society and Museum was established in 1989 through the tenacious efforts of Maybrook's mayor, Robert Brown, and Maybrook Switchyard veterans Danny Sara-

cino and Ed Lown. This in turn sparked the interest of former workers Tony Marano, Albert Alexander, and Samuel Christian.

Eventually the town provided a 400 square foot room in the back of the Maybrook Library. Today, well over a hundred images dot the wall of this room, including those of the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge, the Maybrook Switchyard, locomotives, and various railroad companies, including the Lehigh, Hudson, and Erie that made use of this interchange. There are wall images of the Walden Derailment of October 1953, switchyard workers, copies of train schedules and newspaper articles. There are interesting artifacts such as the telephone used to commute the trains entering and leaving the Maybrook, railroad rivets, lanterns and (continued on page 9)

Tom Lake (cont.)

Lake expresses the belief that if a person likes his/her profession, more often than not, leisurely activities will mirror. Thus in his spare time, he likes to read mystery novels that relate to his profession as an archeologist. He views archeological work as a puzzle, trying to piece together the events of the past. He likes to immerse himself in writings on natural history from bears to bald eagles. He enjoys hiking in the Hudson Highlands, having also trekked in the Catskills and Mount Marcy in the Adirondacks. Moreover he feels connected with the prehistory of the state when he climbs the mountains.

Lake has also traveled to Asia, Australia, and South America. In Asia, he spent about thirteen months in Vietnam (1968-1969) and while on a few weeks leave he went to Queensland, Australia. There he spent time on the beaches and equated the climate to that of southern California. Finally the place where Lake has traveled with Dutchess Community College students is Ecuador and Peru. While there he enjoys the ability to be taken 500 years back to the indigenous cultures that dot the Andes

Mountains. He believes that by traveling to this area, individuals temporarily break from Western culture and are introduced to a different way of life and cuisines; in Ecuador and Peru some of the natives eat llamas and guinea pigs.

Lake is very concerned about the ecology of the Hudson River. In recent years, there have been three alien species introduced into this estuary. The first is the Asian clam which, according to Lake, has the potential to outcompete native species. Next, the Northern Snake Head Fish species will eat all other fish and has the capacity to remain out of water for three days and will walk on land to find another body of water. Third, the Chinese Mitten Crab has the ability to destroy the tide water marshes of the Hudson. For Lake, these marshes are analogous to the kidney as they help to clean the river; if they are undermined, it will severely impact the water quality of the river.

Interestingly, Lake has an affiliation with the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge as well. He first went on this structure in the winter of 2006 and is glad to see it being converted into a walkway, where one will

be rewarded with the beauty of the valley whether on a hazy day in the summer or a crystal clear winter day. The bridge offers a chance to appreciate the physical aspect of the Hudson River itself, such as observing the tides as well as the movement of ice during the winter. Lake participated in providing free samples of shad fish, with Bill Sepe, to help raise awareness of their efforts to save the bridge. On a final note, the Hudson River Almanac ran a story about Peregrines nesting on the Poughkeepsie Bridge itself. According to Lake these birds were discovered following the change of a navigation light bulb.

- Paul Contarino

For more information please contact Tom Lake, trlake7@aol.com

Meet the Intern — Andy Villani



As an intern at the Hudson River Valley Institute, my summer has been a collection of tasks and projects. Primarily, my time has been focused on the organization

and coordination of over twenty student projects dealing with a number of different aspects of the Hudson River Valley including historically significant gardens and religious groups who have had ties to the region. The projects will serve as a resource for those who wish to visit the Hudson River Valley as well as residents who have an interest in learning more about where they live. On a personal level, reviewing and editing the projects has provided me with a great deal of interest and motivation to investigate places that I was previously unaware of, some of which are literally in my own back yard.

In addition to editing student projects, I spent a good deal of time on the two Teaching American History institutes that are put on by the Hudson River Valley Institute. In addition to assisting in the coordination and planning, I was able to participate in one of the institutes, an opportunity that I found to be both enriching and rewarding. My

interest in the topic of immigration combined with the interaction I had with local area social studies teachers made the experience unique and created a learning atmosphere that I had not been exposed to previously.

One final project that I have been involved in this summer is preparing material to display and highlight historical significance of the Poughkeepsie Waterfront, which is going through ongoing revitalization. Through the assessment of current documents as well as historic material the prospect of historic preservation being combined with modernization has become a realistic possibility. Each of these projects has been rewarding for me in different ways, and I am proud to be able to say that I have made a small contribution to the task of preserving the legacy of the Hudson River Valley for years and generations to come. I have greatly enjoyed my time at the Hudson River Valley Institute and the skills I have developed will be invaluable in my future endeavors.

Marist College Archives and Special Collections



16. Milestone 82 is located on the edge of the park and can be seen from the sidewalk.

Throughout the spring and summer, [Marist College Archives & Special Collections](#) has continued to process the Lowell Thomas Collection. This project is being funded by a [National Historical Publications and Records Commission \(NHPRC\)](#) grant; the arrangement and description of the collection will be completed by August of 2009. Since work began on the collection, over 28,000 images have been identified, including hand painted lantern slides, glass plate negatives, and photographic prints. John Ansley, Head of Archives & Special Collections, expressed his excitement over the discovery of two documents, a T.E. Lawrence letter to Lowell Thomas and a letter from General Edmund Allenby, one of Britain's most successful commanders during World War I. Also, Ansley received a grant from the [National Film Preservation Foundation \(NFPF\)](#) to save a portion of Lowell Thomas's Tibetan film of 1949. This film includes the first footage ever taken of the Dalai Lama. In addition, the Lowell Thomas Collection continues to receive international attention. The Ruhr Museum in Germany is currently using photos in its exhibit [The Great Game: Archaeology and Politics in the Time of Colonialism](#). The Australian Imperial War Memorial Museum has used images for its exhibit [Lawrence of Arabia and the Light Horse](#).

The Archives & Special Collections continues to work on the Marist Heritage Pro-

ject, dedicated to documenting the history of our campus. It is in the process of conducting several more oral history interviews with long-time members of the Marist community. The Head of Archives & Special Collections has also interviewed Mr. Viggo Rambusch, a relative of Edward Bech, from whom the college purchased land in 1905. At that time, the Marist Brothers purchased the northern section of the property; they purchased the remaining portion on August 27th 1908. Ansley, alongside former Marist president Richard Foy, has initiated a project tracing the history of the Marist College property.



The head of archives has also paired recent Marist graduate Paul Contarino with Dr. Foy; together they have traced various parcels of the college's land such as the Bech estate, where [Saint Peter's, Grey-stone](#), and the Kieran Gatehouse are currently situated, as well as the McPherson property. At one point an amusement park called Woodcliff Pleasure Park existed on the northern end of campus where Gartland Commons is located today. Originally, this parcel of land belonged to John Flack Winslow, the first president of the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge Company. Foy and Contarino have discovered deeds from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. This process involved many hours of thumbing over deeds

at the Dutchess County Clerk's Office as well as the Marist Business Office. The method of tracing ownership involved looking at an index of grantors and grantees.

Often when tracing back the various deeds of the land, they discovered parcels were subdivided over time between many owners. A tentative Microsoft Database document of all deeds collected to the various sections of the college's property is being developed. Currently, Contarino is researching the deeds to the Newbold land. Foy expresses his interests in tracing back land owners along the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge route, the Poughkeepsie and Eastern Railroad, as well as the sale of the Poughkeepsie-Highland Bridge Company. They are also investigating the consolidation of many of Dutchess County railroads which created the Central New England Railroad Company (1907).

The [Poughkeepsie Regatta online exhibit](#) has received a complete renovation in the last few months. The [Hudson Valley Connoisseur](#) made use of this collection for an article titled, "Renaissance for River Recreation Celebrating the Hudson: Past, Present and Future." The home page provides a complete time line of photographs from 1895 to 1949; if one clicks on the desired year, the results of that year's regatta, photographs and related articles as well as the regatta program are displayed. The "about" section gives a brief history about the regatta and Marist's emphasis on the importance that Poughkeepsie played in the races. The "bibliography" section is a compilation of articles, books, and newspaper clippings with annotations provided; one can select either an alphabetical or chronological order for viewing the information. The "browse" section allows the viewer to choose from journal and newspaper (continued on page 8)



Marist Archives (cont.)

articles, websites, press releases, letters, regatta programs, books and collections. The photo gallery supplies snapshots of the regatta from 1912-1949 can be enlarged by clicking on the image. Finally, the “related links” section provides hyperlinks to regattas of other colleges and universities.

The [Milestones of Dutchess County](#) has recently been added to the online exhibit section as well. During the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, these sentinels of sandstone served as markers along mail routes to measure distance and determine postage fees. Benjamin Franklin is credited with establishing postal routes and said milestones; he helped establish the Albany Post Route (today’s Route 9) stretching from Colonial New York City to Albany. Of the 159 milestones erected, forty were located in Dutchess County, of which twenty-eight remain. The efforts of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, then James Spratt and his wife, made the public aware of the importance of the County’s milestones.

The “research material” section consists of three parts, “audio,” “documents,” and “slides.” “Audio” includes a lecture by James Spratt at the Hyde Park Visual Environmental Meeting in October 1995. The “documents” section contains his lecture notes, and “slides” contains photos of each

milestone.

Next, the “slide show” combines Spratt’s lecture notes, the Hyde Park lecture, and individual slides from the research material section in a short online movie. In the beginning of the film, he credits both the [Dutchess County Historical Society](#) and president Franklin Delano Roosevelt for the preservation of the milestones. There is also information about the importance of the Albany Post Road during the eighteenth century and discussion of each milestone.

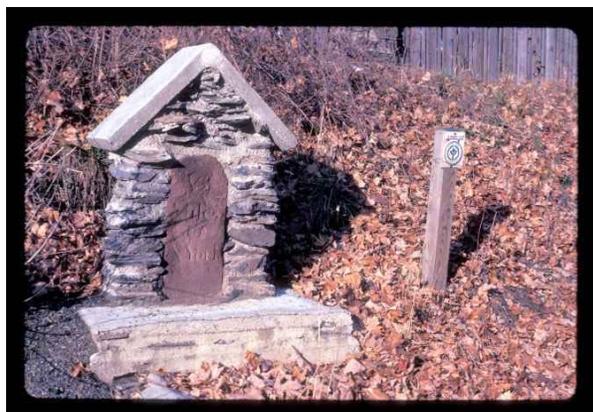
Lastly, the “related sites” section provides annotated hyperlinks to various articles about milestones, the construction of Albany Post Road, and Franklin’s contribu-

tions.

Ansley will be giving a talk at the conference for The American Association for State and Local History scheduled for September. His talk is entitled, “Using Digital Surrogates to Expand Your Audience.”

Also, Special Collections received play scripts from Mr. Edouard De Soto, a well-known theatre actor who also appeared on television. Ansley believes this recent addition will complement the highly used [James T. Cox Collection](#), which consists of twentieth century plays (both professional and amateur), musicals, and screenplays.

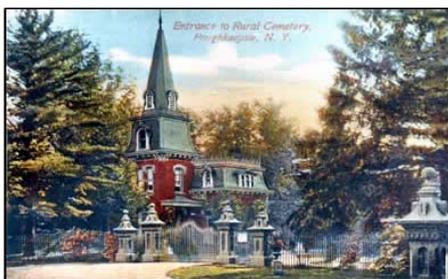
- Paul Contarino



22. Milestone 84 was repaired by the Youth Corp in 1981.

For more information please call John Ansley at (845) 575-5217 to schedule an appointment

Marist College Summer Writing Institute 2008



This year’s [Summer Writing Institute](#) (SWI) again featured workshops on poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction. In addition to workshops, panel discussions, and readings, attendees were treated to two Scenic Salons at nearby historic sites.

SWI is organized by Marist’s Thomas Zurhellen and Leah Graham—who also teach creative writing and poetry during the academic year. As cosponsors, HRVI

organized the two trips and brought a regional voice to the publishers’ panel from Cod Hill Press—publishers of [Riverrine: An Anthology of Hudson Valley Writers](#).

Our Scenic Salons introduce writers to historic resources nearby. In years past, we visited Vanderbilt Gardens, Locust Grove, and Marist’s waterfront park; this year we visited the [Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery](#) and Bard Rock, the waterfront park at the north end of the Vanderbilt estate.

The cemetery visit may sound strange to anyone unfamiliar with the Rural Cemetery Movement or our own example of it. If you are familiar with the movement, you’ll recall that it was in part a response to the urbanization of the nine-

teenth century and combined needs to secure burial grounds and insure some park space within our growing cities. The Poughkeepsie Rural has done both for more than 150 years with aplomb; you will find many familiar names and a few surprises amongst their [estate-like grounds](#).

And we again issued a challenge to our writers—we will publish the best examples of writing in response to these places or our valley on a [page dedicated to the SWI](#) on our website. We’ll add this year’s selections and alert you in an upcoming newsletter.

Finally, the week was capped by a reading and discussion with Ron Carlson, author, most recently, of [Five and Skies](#), and writing instructor at UC Irvine.

The Maybrook Railroad Historical Society (cont.)



lights from the yard. There are also several photo albums, videos of the train interchange itself and maps of the old railroad routes with the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge and the Lehigh and New England Railroads. The museum houses a small collection of books, a few of which are about the Central New England Railroad Company that operated its trains through Maybrook. The museum is located approximately one mile from the bright red caboose and railroad crossing sign on route 208, and has set up an operational model train to entertain visiting children and adults alike.

The mission of the Maybrook Railroad Historical Society and Museum is to raise awareness of the importance of the railroad industry, not just in Maybrook but in the Hudson Valley as a whole. A main goal of the museum is to compile an oral history of those who worked at the Maybrook Switchyard as well as its connecting lines. Unfortunately, time is against the society as many of these individuals have relocated or died. Suzanne Isaksen, the town of Walden historian, is trying to find individuals willing to participate in these interviews.

On Thursday, August 14th the Hudson River Valley Institute had the privilege of interviewing Tony Marano, as part of its

on going oral history project about the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge. In this interview, he shared his experience of his forty-one year career with the Maybrook Switchyard, involving countless trips over the bridge to Danbury, Connecticut. Throughout his story, Marano stressed the importance of this structure as an economic artery for Maybrook as it provided many jobs for its residents. Once the bridge closed in 1974, Maybrook felt the impact as many railroad workers were laid off. Likewise, Marano acknowledged the switchyard's significance as a hub for small railroads such as the Ontario and Western, as well as a regional link connecting



industrial New England with the western United States. This proved especially critical during the Second World War, when a record number of 3,491 train cars carrying troops and war supplies, entered the yard on March 20th 1943. Finally, Marano talked about his friendship with the late Albert Alexander as well as his interaction with fellow co-workers. Also, his friend Alexander wrote a small pamphlet on the rise and fall of the Maybrook Switchyard, which discussed the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge fire as well as the various railroad companies which consolidated to become the Central New England Railroad.

On Sunday August 17th railroad educator Peter Brill gave a talk on the importance of the Maybrook Yard and its connection with the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge. Brill is currently in the process of writing a book about the Central New England Railroad Company which will discuss Maybrook and the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge. The publication is expected before the reopening of the bridge in the summer of 2009.

-Paul Contarino

The Museum is open Saturday and Sunday from 1-4pm April through October, however special appointments can be made.

For more information please contact Tony Marano (845) 457-3744

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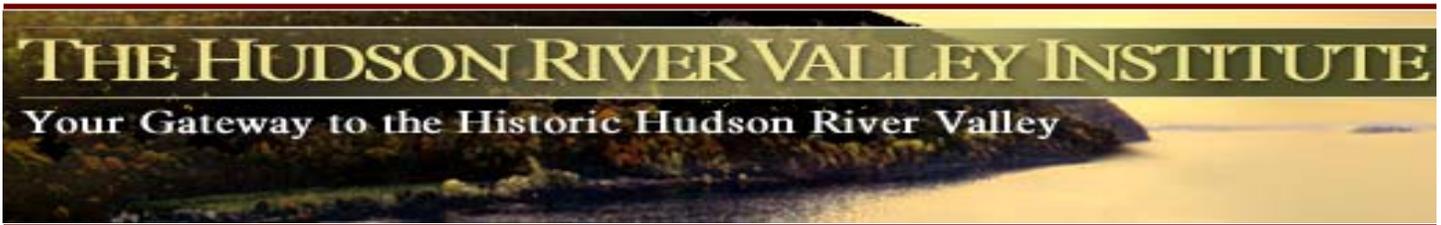
***The Hudson River Valley:
"The Landscape that Defined America"***

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."

www.hudsonrivervalley.org



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