



BUILDING COMMUNITY WITH PLACE-BASED LEARNING
#THV2017 | WED., JULY 26, 9:15 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.

The Great Newburgh History Adventure **A How-To Field Experience**

Logistics: Depart at 9:30 from the Newburgh Ferry Terminal, 2 Washington Street. (Round-trip ticket included with registration.) The half hour trip will allow us to see the city and its surroundings from the water. Please wear comfortable shoes as we will be on our feet and walking. Plan to bring your lunch or be prepared to purchase from a local food truck or restaurant.

Your guide: Ginny McCurdy, 845-527-2955, vmccurdy@necsd.net, ELA teacher at Newburgh Free Academy. She has organized this day for students for four years. The day was sparked by a 2013 NEH workshop, *The Hudson River in the 19th Century and the Modernization of America*. You will experience what Ginny's students do during this day and learn how she does it.

Sites you'll visit: [Washington Headquarters State Historic Site](#); [Safe Harbors](#), [the Ritz Theater](#), and [Ann Street Gallery](#), and [Newburgh Brewing Company](#), [Crawford House/Historical Society of Newburgh Bay and Hudson Highlands](#). Time permitting, you may also visit [2 Alices Coffee Lounge](#) and/or [Karpeles Manuscript Museum](#).

The plan. Sites to be visited reflect Newburgh's colonial, shipping, and industrial past. Ginny will explain of how the day has been organized and evolved and will help participants think about what a day in their own communities might look like for their students.

Most high school students are unaware of Newburgh's diverse past or the Hudson Valley's important role in the development of our country's history, art, and literature. After weeks of classroom activities involving Washington Irving's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, the Hudson River School artists, and newspaper articles by local historian, Mary McTamaney, students spend a day exploring important sites, viewing their surroundings through a historical lens in order to gain a new appreciation for their hometown.

Take home. Ginny will share resources and materials from the NEH workshop she attended along with classroom articles and images collected over the years. After the field experience, she will be happy to offer participants advice via phone or email.

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THV is a program of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area and Greenway Conservancy | Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, National Park Service | Hudson River Estuary Program, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation | Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College Additional institute sponsors FDR Presidential Library, National Archives & Records Administration | Roosevelt-Vanderbilt Historical Association

Crossing Brooklyn Ferry

BY WALT WHITMAN

FROM *LEAVES OF GRASS*

1855

1

Flood-tide below me! I see you face to face!
Clouds of the west—sun there half an hour high—I see you also face to face.

Crowds of men and women attired in the usual costumes, how curious you are to me!
On the ferry-boats the hundreds and hundreds that cross, returning home, are more curious to me than you suppose,
And you that shall cross from shore to shore years hence are more to me, and more in my meditations, than you might suppose.

3

It avails not, time nor place—distance avails not,
I am with you, you men and women of a generation, or ever so many generations hence,
Just as you feel when you look on the river and sky, so I felt,
Just as any of you is one of a living crowd, I was one of a crowd,
Just as you are refresh'd by the gladness of the river and the bright flow, I was refresh'd,
Just as you stand and lean on the rail, yet hurry with the swift current, I stood yet was hurried,
Just as you look on the numberless masts of ships and the thick-stemm'd pipes of steamboats, I look'd.

I too many and many a time cross'd the river of old,
Watched the Twelfth-month sea-gulls, saw them high in the air floating with motionless wings, oscillating their bodies,
Saw how the glistening yellow lit up parts of their bodies and left the rest in strong shadow,
Saw the slow-wheeling circles and the gradual edging toward the south,
Saw the reflection of the summer sky in the water,
Had my eyes dazzled by the shimmering track of beams,
Look'd at the fine centrifugal spokes of light round the shape of my head in the sunlit water,
Look'd on the haze on the hills southward and south-westward,
Look'd on the vapor as it flew in fleeces tinged with violet,
Look'd toward the lower bay to notice the vessels arriving,
Saw their approach, saw aboard those that were near me,
Saw the white sails of schooners and sloops, saw the ships at anchor,
The sailors at work in the rigging or out astride the spars,
The round masts, the swinging motion of the hulls, the slender serpentine pennants,
The large and small steamers in motion, the pilots in their pilot-houses,
The white wake left by the passage, the quick tremulous whirl of the wheels,
The flags of all nations, the falling of them at sunset,
The scallop-edged waves in the twilight, the ladled cups, the frolicsome crests and glistening,
The stretch afar growing dimmer and dimmer, the gray walls of the granite storehouses by the docks,
On the river the shadowy group, the big steam-tug closely flank'd on each side by the barges, the hay-boat, the belated lighter,
On the neighboring shore the fires from the foundry chimneys burning high and glaringly into the night,
Casting their flicker of black contrasted with wild red and yellow light over the tops of houses, and down into the clefts of streets.

9

Flow on, river! flow with the flood-tide, and ebb with the ebb-tide!
Frolic on, crested and scallop-edg'd waves!
Gorgeous clouds of the sunset! drench with your splendor me, or the men and women generations after me!
Cross from shore to shore, countless crowds of passengers!
Stand up, tall masts of Mannahatta! stand up, beautiful hills of Brooklyn!
Throb, baffled and curious brain! throw out questions and answers!
Suspend here and everywhere, eternal float of solution!
Gaze, loving and thirsting eyes, in the house or street or public assembly!

Sound out, voices of young men! loudly and musically call me by my highest name!
Live, old life! play the part that looks back on the actor or actress!
Play the old role, the role that is great or small according as one makes it!
Consider, you who peruse me, whether I may not in unknown ways be looking upon you;
Be firm, rail over the river, to support those who lean idly, yet haste with the hasting current;
Fly on, sea-birds! fly sideways, or wheel in large circles high in the air;
Receive the summer sky, you water, and faithfully hold it till all downcast eyes have time to take it from you!
Diverge, fine spokes of light, from the shape of my head, or any one's head, in the sunlit water!
Come on, ships from the lower bay! pass up or down, white-sail'd schooners, sloops, lighters!
Flaunt away, flags of all nations! be duly lower'd at sunset!
Burn high your fires, foundry chimneys! cast black shadows at nightfall! cast red and yellow light over the tops of the houses!

What Do You Know About Your Hometown?

Directions: For homework, ask friends, family, teachers, and Newburgh residents (or go on line) to answer as many questions as you can.

1. Name the 19th century Newburgh resident who greatly influenced architecture and landscape design during the 1800's. (Hint: a local park was named after him.)

2. Name one of the group of artists who were associated with the Hudson River School painters; the Newburgh Bay area was a popular subject for many of their works.

3. New York City and most of the Hudson Valley region was different from the other 13 British colonies because of its original Dutch settlers. Newburgh was neither British nor Dutch. What other European country originally settled in what is now the city of Newburgh?

4. At the turn of the nineteenth century, an amusement park at this lake in Newburgh became known as the "Playground of the Hudson Valley." An electric railway and trolley line from Broadway made this area accessible to residents and visitors for only 10 cents a ride.

5. In the mid 1700's, Cadwallader Colden, the current mayor, named the growing settlement after the European town where he was born. What country has a city called Newburgh in County Fife?

5. What building that was originally called the Church of America is on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Save America's Treasures tour? In 1998, First Lady Hillary Clinton spoke in front of this site in recognition of its historical/cultural importance and Mrs. McCurdy was in the crowd listening.

6. What was the purpose in the late 1700's/early 1800's for making Broadway so wide?

7. There is a famous 1963 documentary entitled "The Battle of Newburgh." What was major conflict in Newburgh at that time?
