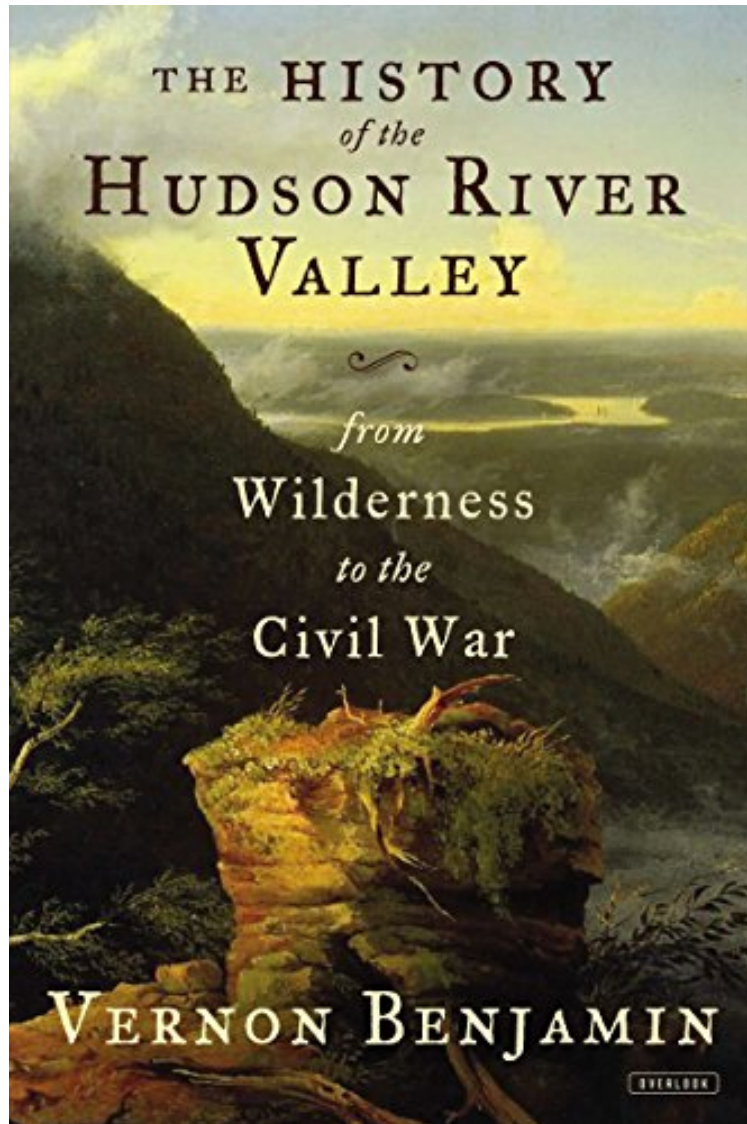


(Download ebook) The History of the Hudson River Valley: From Wilderness to the Civil War

The History of the Hudson River Valley: From Wilderness to the Civil War

Vernon Benjamin

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By Halyna A. Barannik This is a well-researched, intelligent account of the history of the Hudson Valley. At a special library lecture program, I listened to the author describe how he approached the topic, for example, starting with geology, which is how trails were made. Society grew around these travel routes. Totally fascinating, although a very dense read. I digest each paragraph slowly, but with great delight and satisfaction. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A great read.
By Jeanne Hunter A thoroughly researched and enjoyable book about a fascinating part of America....so loved by those who dwell there. Mr Benjamin is a true historian - able to present facts and material which fascinate.

Sailing down the river that would later bear his captain's name, explorer Robert Juet described the Hudson River Valley in 1609 as a "drowned land" submerged by a "great lake of water." Over the next two centuries, this drowned landscape would be the site of a truly historic flowering of art, literature, architecture, innovation, and revolutionary fervor?drawing comparisons to another fertile cultural haven built around a might mighty river in Western Europe. As historian Vernon Benjamin chronicles, the Hudson River Valley has been a place of contradictions since its first settlement by Europeans. Discovered by an Englishman who claimed it for the Dutch, the region soon became home to the most vibrant trading outpost for the New World colonies?the Island of Manhattan?even as the rest of the valley retained the native beauty that would inspire artists from James Fenimore Cooper to Thomas Cole. Because of its unique geography and proximity to Canada, the Hudson Valley became the major theater for the battle between empires in the French and Indian War. When the colonists united in rebellion against the British several decades later, conflict came to the region once again, with decisive military engagements from Saratoga to West Point to the occupied New York Harbor. In the aftermath, New York emerged as the capital of a new nation, and wealth from the city flowed north to the burgeoning Valley, leading to a renaissance of culture and commerce that is still evident today. Richly illustrated and scrupulously researched, Vernon Benjamin's magisterial new history will be the definitive text for years to come.

"Thoroughly informative, approachable . . . A model for how to enliven geography, anthropology and biography and weave them into a microcosmic account of America." —The New York Times "When describing the astonishing beauty of New York's Hudson River Valley, author Benjamin's prose (and those from whom he quotes) is suitably lyrical and eloquent." —Booklist
About the Author Vernon Benjamin has lectured on the history of the Hudson Valley at Marist College and Bard College since 2003. He holds a Masters in Literature from Long Island University and a Bachelors in Sociology from Siena College. A former editor of the New Saugerties Times, he has written extensively on the Hudson Valley for various publications and has appeared on C-SPAN. He lives in Saugerties, New York.