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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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“Up and Down the River” Guest Speakers to Address the Fight for Public Access to Waterfront; and a Crusading Irish Priest

Exhibit, talks celebrate the quadricentennial of Henry Hudson’s voyage of discovery;

Heirloom Garlic Festival and Hoboken House Tour celebrate fall

Hoboken, N.J. – October 6, 2009 – The Hoboken Historical Museum continues its celebration of the quadricentennial of Hudson’s voyage up the river with two new free lectures in the yearlong exhibition, ***Up and Down the River: A History of the Hudson, 1609 – 2009***. In addition, the Museum invites the community to enjoy two of our most anticipated annual fall events, the Heirloom Garlic Festival on Oct. 18, and the Hoboken House Tour on Oct. 25.

The exhibit recalls a two-week-long public celebration of the anniversary (along with the near-centennial of Robert Fulton’s steam-powered ferry launch in 1807) hosted by New York in 1909. One of the largest public anniversaries in the country’s history, it featured banquets, parades, historical floats, lectures, fireworks and an airplane flight by Wilbur Wright around the Statue of Liberty. The Museum adds a uniquely Hoboken flavor by highlighting the many contributions to maritime science by Colonel John Stevens and his sons, the founding family of Hoboken, and of the Stevens Institute of Technology, as well as the area’s original inhabitants, the Lenni Lenape Indians.

Oct. 11: On the Waterfront: 1989 – 2009: Paving the Way for a Public Park

In the first half of the 19th century, before Central Park was completed, Hoboken was popular with New Yorkers for its recreational waterfront, which included such attractions as a River Walk, Elysian Fields and Sybil’s Cave. But by the late 1800s, Hoboken’s

waterfront was transformed into a bustling maritime port, serving passenger ships and, later, cargo vessels, which dominated the water’s edge for most of the 20th century. By 1990, these waterfront industries had virtually disappeared, creating a once-in-a-century opportunity to reclaim the Hudson River waterfront for public recreation.

In a referendum in July 1990, the voters of Hoboken rejected a massive development proposal for Hoboken’s south waterfront, opening the way for the Fund for a Better Waterfront (FBW) to propose a new vision, which called for a continuous public park from the Hoboken Train Terminal to the Weehawken Cove, clearly delineated from the upland private development on new, Hoboken-sized blocks. Today, much of this plan has been realized after many successful legal battles to preserve the water’s edge for the public. On **Sunday, Oct. 11, at 4 p.m.**, come hear **Ron Hine, Executive Director of FBW**, relate this history and the tantalizing opportunity to finish the missing links.

Nov. 1: “On the Irish Waterfront: The Crusader, the Movie, and the Soul of the Port of New York”

As one of the world’s busiest harbors in the first half of the 20th century, the Port of New York, including Hoboken’s waterfront, attracted gangsters, politicians and union leaders, each fighting for a piece of the huge economic pie, as depicted in the movie “On the Waterfront.” A key character in the movie, a crusading priest who risked his own career to help improve conditions for the dockworkers and their families, was based in large part on a real historic figure, John M. “Pete” Corridan.

Historian and Fordham University professor James Terence Fisher visits the Museum on **Sunday, Nov. 1, at 4 p.m.**, to talk about his latest book, *On the Irish Waterfront: The Crusader, the Movie, and the Soul of the Port of New York*, which tells the story of Corridan’s ferocious advocacy and his role working with screenwriter Budd Schulberg in shaping the film. A Jesuit labor school instructor, not a parish priest, Corridan was resisted by the very men he sought to rescue from the violence and criminality that ruled the waterfront.

The Museum’s exhibit, made possible through a special project grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, extends through the end of the year to accommodate a full agenda of talks, events, educational programs and art celebrating our city’s relationship with the river that shaped its fortunes.

Fall Favorites Return: Heirloom Garlic Tasting

They’re back! Dozens of garlic varieties—cultivated for their distinctive taste by generations of gardeners—will again be available for tasting in the walkway outside of the Museum’s front door on **Sunday, October 18, from 1 – 5 p.m.** The tasting event is

free. For those interested in taking some home Jersey-grown garlic and other produce, a stand will be set up for purchases.

Farmers Sue and Rich Sisti of Catalpa Ridge Farm in Wantage Township, N.J., are offering many old-time garlic varieties for sampling, from the mellow, pink-streaked “Red Toch,” which originated in the village of Tochliavri, Republic of Georgia, to the spicy “Lorz Italian,” which the Lorz family brought to Washington State from Italy before 1900. Immigrants often brought treasured herbs and seeds with them when they came to America, seeking familiar tastes in their new home. The Sistis will also bring dips made with their own fresh garlic and other farm ingredients for tasting and purchase.

Annual Hoboken House Tour

Each fall, the Museum invites the community to peek inside a new crop of homes sure to surprise and delight even the die-hard tour goers on the Annual Hoboken House Tour. On **Sunday, October 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, eight generous homeowners will open their doors to visitors as a benefit for the Museum. Tour goers will be treated to an array of styles, from faithfully restored Victorians to contemporary adaptations and creative hybrids. Photos from previous tours are on view at www.hobokenhousetour.com. The tour is self-guided and typically takes between two and three hours.

Advance-purchase ticket vouchers are available for \$25 at the Museum and at the following locations: **Brian David Realtors**, 1001 Bloomfield; **Prudential Castle Point Realty**, 203 Washington; **Sparrow Wine & Liquors**, 1224 Shipyard Lane (checks only); **Amanda’s**, 908 Washington; **Fleet Feet Sports**, 604 Washington; **Sparrow Wine & Liquors**, 126 Washington (checks only). On Oct. 25th, ticket vouchers are exchanged for a tour booklet at the Museum. Day-of-tour tickets are \$30 (\$25 for members).

A small army of volunteers is needed to help staff the tour; please call 201-656-2240, or send an e-mail to volunteer@hobokenmuseum.org, if you’re interested in helping out with a three-and-a-half-hour shift as a host in exchange for a free ticket.

About the Hoboken Historical Museum

Founded 1986, the Museum’s mission is to educate the public about Hoboken’s history, diverse culture, architecture and historic landmarks. In 2001, the Museum moved into one of the oldest buildings on the waterfront, in the former Bethlehem Steel shipyard, at 1301 Hudson St., Hoboken, where it maintains a series of rotating exhibits. The Museum is open six days a week, 2 – 7 pm on Tues. – Thurs., 1 – 5 pm on Fridays, and noon – 5 pm on weekends. It offers special exhibits, tours, events and lectures, as well as educational programs for adults and children on a weekly basis. An updated schedule of events and an online catalog of many items in its collections are available at www.hobokenmuseum.org. The Museum is a not-for-profit tax-exempt 501(c) entity.