

Explore the Henry Knox Trail

One of the Revolutionary War’s greatest adventures, the Noble Train of Artillery, was an epic mission that helped force the British evacuation of Boston and changed the course of the American Revolution.

Henry Knox, a 25-year-old former Boston bookseller and self-taught military strategist, volunteered for a mission many believed was impossible—transporting 58 cannons and 60 tons of artillery more than 300 miles from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston in the dead of winter. This 40-day expedition crossed the frozen Hudson River four times, climbed mountain passes and traveled through what is now the Town of Hillsdale in Columbia County.

The artillery was strategically placed on Dorchester Heights, forcing the British to evacuate Boston on March 17, 1776, without a major battle—a crucial victory that bolstered morale and showed that the Americans had a chance of winning the war. Knox went on to become one of George Washington’s most trusted generals, serving as the nation’s first Secretary of War from 1789 to 1795.



Questions? Concerns? Contact my office anytime!

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Assemblymember Didi Barrett

Look inside
for historic sites to explore
in our beautiful Hudson
Valley dating back to the
American Revolution!

Dear Neighbor,

As we continue the yearlong celebration of our nation’s 250th birthday, let’s make sure we don’t overlook the history in our own backyard. Long before our Hudson Valley region became known for its scenic landscapes and world class farmland, it played an important role in the fight for American independence and the formative years of our new nation.

Take a look inside for some remarkable Revolutionary-era sites across Columbia and Dutchess counties. These local treasures offer a unique opportunity to step back in time,

learn something new, and to connect with the people and events that shaped our country. I hope this season you will make time to check out our region’s rich history and create lasting memories with family and friends.

Warmly,
Didi Barrett
Member of Assembly,
106th District



HUDSON VALLEY HISTORIC SITES & MUSEUMS

Clermont State Historic Site

1 Clermont Ave., Germantown, NY 12526

Mansion Tours: Thursday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visitor Center: Thursday-Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Gardens & Grounds: daily, 8:30 a.m. to sunset

parks.ny.gov/visit/historic-sites/clermont-state-historic-site | **518-537-4240**

Clermont State Historic Site was the Hudson River seat of New York's politically and socially prominent Livingston Family. Its most famous resident was Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, a drafter and signer of the Declaration of Independence. When the British invaded the Hudson Valley in 1777, they targeted the Livingston estate and burned it to the ground. Margaret Beekman Livingston oversaw the evacuation of Clermont and eventual reconstruction of the house during the American Revolutionary War.



Copake Falls Area at Taconic State Park

253 Route 344, Copake Falls, NY 12517

Visiting Hours: daily, sunrise to sunset

parks.ny.gov/visit/state-parks/taconic-state-park-copake-falls-area | **518-329-3993**

Historic ruins from an 1800s complex are visible in the park, but the surrounding area is part of a four-state region known as the "Salisbury Iron District." Various mines and ironworks across the district produced war material for the Patriot cause during the American Revolution.

Luykas Van Alen House

2589 NY-9H, Kinderhook, NY 12106

House Tours: Saturdays in July & August, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

cchsny.org/visit/luykas-van-alen-house | **518-758-9265**

Built in 1737 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1967, the Luykas Van Alen House is located on land formerly used by the native Mohican people for hunting and seasonal camping. The building is recognized as a prime example of a historically intact Dutch Colonial house in the region. The site is claimed to have inspired Washington Irving's short story "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow."

Madam Brett Homestead

50 Van Nydeck Ave., Beacon, NY 12508

Home Tours: every second Saturday, May-December, 1 to 4 p.m.

www.melzingahnsdar.org/madam-brett-homestead | **845-831-6533**

The oldest house in Dutchess County, the Madam Brett Homestead was built in 1709 for Roger and Catheryna Brett, their children and slaves. The property remained in the family until 1954. Today the house is maintained by the Daughters of the American Revolution and features countless artifacts and five acres of perennial gardens.

Mesier Homestead & Museum

2 Spring St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Public Tours: Once a month from 1 to 3 p.m.

Private Tours: Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment

www.wappingershistoricalsociety.org/mesier-homestead | **845-632-1281**

Built in 1741, the Mesier Homestead was sold in 1777 to Peter Mesier, a Tory loyalist merchant from New York City who fled the city to escape anti-British sentiment. Mesier operated a store from his home selling tea at a price so high that his infuriated neighbors reportedly broke into the store, beat and tied up Mesier and his wife, locked them in the basement, drinking their wine and stealing their tea. The incident became known as the Wappingers Tea Party of 1777.

Staatsburgh State Historic Site

75 Mills Mansion Dr., Road #1, Staatsburgh, NY 12580

House Tours: Thursday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Grounds: sunrise to sunset

parks.ny.gov/historic-sites/staatsburgh/maps.aspx | **845-889-8851**

This historic 1792 mansion belonged to Morgan Lewis, son of U.S. Founding Father Francis Lewis, and his wife Gertrude Livingston, sister of U.S. Founding Father Robert Livingston. Morgan Lewis had a distinguished military career, including serving on the force that helped slow the British advance into upstate New York in 1776. He was later elected Governor of New York State.



Van Wyck Homestead Museum

504 Route 9, Fishkill, NY 12524

House Tours: Saturdays & Sundays, June-October, 1 to 4 p.m.

Visiting Hours: daily, dawn to dusk

fishkillhistoricalsociety.org | **845-896-9560**

Built by farmer Cornelius Van Wyck from 1732 to 1757, this home became the headquarters of a sprawling supply depot serving the northern branch of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. It was visited by numerous dignitaries, including George Washington, Marquis de Lafayette, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay.