

## Remembering the Revolution

In late June 1778, the Hudson Valley stood at the brink of resuming its place in both American and British strategy as the chief theater of the war. Reacting to the Franco-American Treaty of Amity and Commerce, the Colonial Secretary, Lord George Germain, ordered Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, the new Commander in Chief as of May 8, to evacuate Philadelphia and move his army to New York City to facilitate operations against the French island of St. Lucia. On June 18, Clinton abandoned Philadelphia and began his march through New Jersey. Gen. George Washington's army followed the same day, and on June 28, he sent Maj. Gen. Charles Lee's advanced guard against Clinton's rear guard at Monmouth Court House. Washington himself assumed command of the American defense as Clinton mounted a counterattack.

Monmouth was the last major battle of the war in the North. It was fought on a day so hot that almost 100 men on both sides died of sunstroke. The performance of the American troops under such difficult conditions and against a determined British attack was a testament to the training they had received from Inspector General Friedrich von Steuben the preceding winter at Valley Forge. After a battle that effectively ended in

a draw, Clinton broke contact that night and by July 5 was back in New York City. The 225th anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth will be held on June 28-29 at Monmouth Battlefield State Park in Manalapan, New Jersey. For details, see [www.monmouth225th.com](http://www.monmouth225th.com).

Washington followed Clinton to New York, winding up at Stony Point and King's Ferry. From Peekskill, Col. William Malcolm, Deputy Adjutant-General of the Northern Department, wrote to Gov. George Clinton on June 29 that "In a few hours we shall move on to our old ground at W't plains — but our force is not much to raise your expectations very high — it is in your power to make us sufficiently formidable, to disturb the grand nest [by calling out the militia]." Washington followed Malcolm's troops and established his headquarters at White Plains on July 20, where he controlled between 11,000 and 12,000 troops oriented on "York Island," on which there were some 14,000 British soldiers. The Hudson was once again the pivot point for future operations.

To keep track of the important events in the Hudson Valley, see [www.hudsonrivervalley.net](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net). — JIM JOHNSON

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