

The Henry Knox Cannon Trail

COMPILED FALL 2017; FOCUSING ON NEW YORK'S PORTION OF THE TRAIL

About Henry Knox and the Trail:

As the Patriot Militia and Continental Army besieged Boston in late 1775, General Washington recognized a dire need for artillery in order to force the British evacuation. Washington found Henry Knox to be well versed on the subject of artillery, and placed him in charge of moving cannon from recently captured Fort Ticonderoga in upstate New York to Boston. Knox departed Washington's encampment in November of 1775, traveling first to New York City to gather volunteers and supplies before arriving at Ticonderoga on December 5th. Knox assembled his "Noble Train of Artillery" with a total of 59 pieces from the fortifications at Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point on Lake Champlain. It is probable that General Philip Schuyler, commander of the North Department preselected these pieces to be sent to Boston. Knox and his men set out down Lake George to Albany and through the Berkshires before finally arriving at Dorchester Heights above Boston on January 24th, 1776. The heavy guns would force Lord Howe's evacuation on March 17, 1776.

In 1928, New York and Massachusetts, under the guidance of the Advisory Board of Battlefields and Historic Sites, placed 56 markers, 30 in NY and 26 in MA, along the route that Knox took from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston. Overtime, some markers have been destroyed or have gone missing — and some have been added to better reflect Knox's route.

To learn more about Henry Knox visit: <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.org/themes/pdfs/TheKnoxTrail-GeneralHenryKnox.pdf>

Click here for an online map of the trail and the markers: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1QFw4yylhSan368ta3ZHaffylzEleZV&usp=sharing>



About HRVI:

As the center for the study of the Hudson River Valley, the Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI) at Marist College is the central hub for information about the region that gives it its name. As an arm of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area (HRVNHA), the HRVI is increasing public awareness of America's First River's significant role in the history of New York and the United States. For example, it is leading the HRVNHA's commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. HRVI serves heritage tourists, scholars, elementary and secondary school educators, environmental organizations, the business community, and the general public seeking to know more about a region that has been called "the Landscape that defined America." Its Associates and interns use an interdisciplinary approach to produce new scholarly research and writing about the region that becomes content on HRVI's Digital Library. The web site also serves as a portal to other sources of information from libraries to historical societies to historic sites.

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Monument 0: Crown Point



Unbeknownst to many Americans, the Noble Train of Artillery begins just north of Fort Ticonderoga at the fortification of Crown Point on Lake Champlain. 29 guns from Crown Point were taken to Fort Ticonderoga before Knox arrived on December 5, 1775. The marker at Crown Point was placed in May of 2017 and is located outside the visitor center.

GPS Address: 21 Grandview Dr., Crown Point, NY, 12928

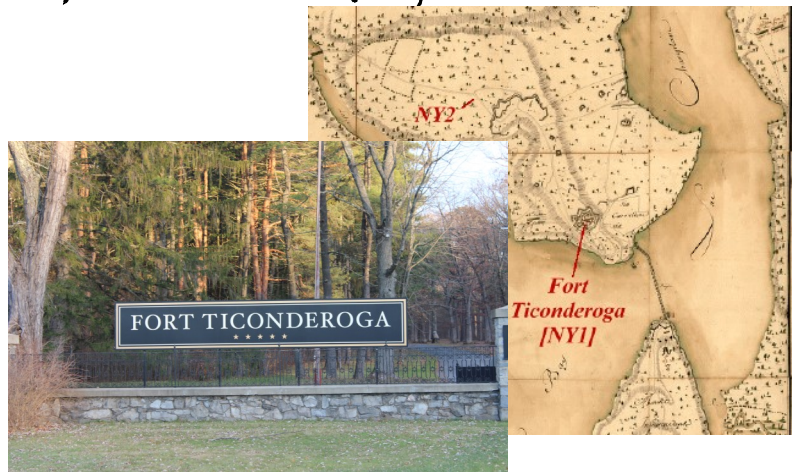
To learn more about Crown Point and plan your visit to the former British and French garrison, visit its website at: <https://parks.ny.gov/historic-sites/34/details.aspx>

Monument 1 & 2: Fort Ticonderoga

When Knox arrived at Fort Ticonderoga in December 1775, his Noble Train of Artillery was assembled and began moving on December 6. Originally, Marker #2 was located at the docks but has since been moved to the main route to the fort, past the entrance gate.

GPS Address: 102 Fort Ti Rd, Ticonderoga, NY 12883

Plan your visit and learn more about Fort Ti: <https://www.fortticonderoga.org/>



Monument 3: Fort Ticonderoga Portage Road



From Knox's Diary on December 7, 1775: *Employ'd in getting the cannon from the bridge to the landing at Lake George.*

Knox was supervising the movement of cannon down the Portage road where they would be placed on boats to be sent down Lake George. Marker is located in a triangular park with other commemorations across from water treatment facility on Route 74.

GPS Address: 137 Montcalm St.,
Ticonderoga, NY, 12883

Monument 4: Loaded onto Lake George vessels



Knox's Diary (December 9): *Employ'd in loading the scow, Pettyaugre and a battoe. At 3 O'Clock in the afternoon set sail down the lake in the Pettyaugre, the Scow coming after us run aground we being about a mile ahead with a fair win to go down but unfair to help the Scow. The wind dying away we with the utmost difficulty reach'd Sabbath Day Point about 9 O'Clock in the evening—went ashore & warm'd ourselves by an exceeding good fire in a hut made by some civil Indians...*

Marker is located at the Mossy Point Boat Launch, located at 651 Black Point Rd., Ticonderoga, NY, 12883

Monument 5: Sabbath Day Point

Knox stopped here on his way south and where he learned that the scow had run aground but was salvageable. He continued on in the bateau to Fort George at the southern portion of the lake.

The marker is currently located on private property, the address of which is 44 Sabbath Day Point Rd, Silver Bay, NY 12874.



Monument 6: Bolton Landing



Now located in Rogers Memorial Park near the town boat launch, this marker denotes the location where Knox and his men slept after a frustrating day with little progress down Lake George. Knox arrived here on December 10, and moved out before day break on the following morning to continue down the lake.

GPS Address: 19 Rogers Memorial Park Rd.
Bolton Landing, NY, 12814

Monument 7: Lake George Battlefield



Finally arriving at the southern point of the lake, Knox held up safely in Fort George awaiting the arrival of snow, oxen teams and sleds. Knox would stay here from December 11-23, assembling the necessities of the expedition. On December 17, Knox wrote to Washington that he hoped to reach him within 16-17 days; it would actually take until January 24, 1776, before they would meet in Cambridge., Massachusetts.

The marker is located on the Lake George Battlefield, accompanied by many monuments to the battle fought here during French & Indian War.

GPS Address: 75 Fort George Rd.
Lake George, NY 12845

Monument 8: Bloody Brook

Knox's artillery would have passed by this point when heading south to Albany, starting on December 23 after enough supplies and snow had arrived. During the next two weeks, all 59 pieces would be moved through the difficult terrain and challenging weather more than 60 miles from Fort George to Albany.

The area is named after a massacre during the French and Indian War which turned the pond blood red.

GPS Address: 1716 State Route 9.
Lake George, NY 12845



Monument 9: Glens Falls



Currently located in a public park, the marker follows the path that Knox took on his path south. The 1928 markers were placed in the aftermath of the nation's celebration of the 150th anniversary of the American Revolution.

GPS Address: 626 Glen St.
Queensbury, NY 12804

Monument 10: Hudson Falls

Knox's Noble Train passed by this position, now the Hudson Falls Public Library, sometime around Christmas. Included in the massive caravan were 42 sleds pulled by 80 yoke of oxen.

GPS Address: 220 Main St.
Hudson Falls, NY, 12839



Monument 11: Fort Edward



Located on the grounds of the high school, this marker is one of 32 current Knox Trail monuments extant in New York State. The entire trail, from Fort Ticonderoga to Cambridge, Massachusetts, was approximately 300 miles in length — about half in New York and half in Massachusetts.

GPS Address: 219 Broadway,
Fort Edward, NY 12828

Monument 11.5: Fort Miller

Knox went on foot to Fort Miller; where *“Judge Dewar procur’d me a sleigh to go to Stillwater.”* The Duer House is located a quarter of a mile from the Knox Trail Monument.

GPS Address: 1061 State Route 4
Greenwich, NY 12834



Monument 12: Northumberland



This marker was originally located on the river to denote the point where Knox crossed; it is now, however, located on the corner of Route 32 and Starks Knob Road, a mile north of Schuylerville. Knox would set out from here after eating at 3 o'clock reaching Ensign's Tavern by nightfall on December 24. A modern art memorial to the Train is now located here.



GPS Address:
107 Starks Knob Rd,
Schuylerville, NY 12871

Monument 13: Schuylerville

Knox passed through this point on his way to Ensign's Tavern, where he stayed on Christmas Eve, with all 59 pieces of artillery ultimately traversing this location. The entire weight of the artillery pieces was 119,900 pounds — or close to 60 tons.

The marker can be found in a park with monuments to other wars and an unknown soldier's grave. The Saratoga Battle Monument is located just east of the Knox Trail Marker.

GPS Address: 3 Pine Lane
Schuylerville, NY 12871-1711



Monument 14: Ensign House



Located on the grounds of Saratoga National Historic Park

The original marker has been missing for more than 50 years (and may never have even been erected). Ensign's Tavern hosted Knox on Christmas Eve, and he awoke on Christmas morning to a new layer of snow two feet high. Knox and the artillery continued south.

Ensign's Tavern would be later used as a field hospital by General Burgoyne's British Army during the Battle of Saratoga. The blood of the dying soldiers would permanently stain the floor of the tavern, which burned years later. Ezekiel Ensign's tavern was located just below the Great Redoubt, a key position for the British during the Battle.

GPS Address: 513 Saratoga County Veterans Memorial Hwy
Stillwater, NY 12170-1510

Monument 15: Bemis Heights

After setting out from Ensign's Tavern on December 25, Knox passed through this point on his way to Stillwater and later Albany, 9 miles to the south. The marker is located in a park on the corner of Route 4 and Route 32. The entire Noble Trail of Artillery would pass this point in late December 1775.

The Battle of Bemis Heights, occurring not far from the monument location, was one of two engagements during the Battle of Saratoga.

GPS Address: 1173 Old Route 32
Stillwater, NY 12170



Monument 16: Stillwater



Knox received a new sleigh here and continued on to the New City, as Albany was then called. He was just 25 years old when the expedition began, and had been a book seller in Boston before the Revolution. Knox was a Colonel at the time he led the trail but would be promoted to a Major General by the conclusion of the war.

The marker is located in a small park across from the public library not far from the Schuyler House.

GPS Address: 75 Hudson Ave
Stillwater, NY, 12170



Monument 17: Mechanicville

This marker denotes the path that Knox had taken on Christmas Day down to Albany. His sleds with all 59 pieces of artillery would have passed by this same point later on.

The marker is located between the Mechanicville Post Office and Community Center.

GPS Address: 6 S Main Street
Mechanicville, NY 12118



Monument 18: Waterford

This marker denotes the path that Knox continued along on Christmas Day. The New York markers feature bronze bas reliefs that were designed by Henry James Albright. The State of New York funded their erection.

Marker # 18 is located in Rogers Memorial Park, which has multiple monuments dedicated to the veterans of Waterford, including an unknown soldier of the American Revolution.

GPS Address: 55 1st Street
Waterford, NY 12188



Monument 19: Klaus' Ferry



Near here, Knox's Train crossed the Mohawk River. On January 5, near Cohoes, a sled crashed through the ice bringing a cannon with it. Once recovered, Knox commanded his men to cross the river at a safer point not far from this marker, located across from Arrowhead Lane.

GPS Address: 1258 New Loudon Rd.
Cohoes, NY 12047

Monument 20: Latham

This marker, located on the Free Mason Lodge property, marks the road taken by Knox and his Noble Train from the ferry across the Mohawk as they progressed south. In all, the trip through the wilderness would take a total of 50 days.

GPS Address: 99 Purtell Ave.
Latham NY, 12110-2928



Monument 21: Albany



Knox's Noble Train of Artillery passed this point on its way to crossing the Hudson River during the first frigid week of January 1776. General Schuyler had provided 124 pairs of horses with sleighs to expedite travel through the frozen wilderness.

The marker is located across the street from Albany's Memorial Hospital on a small grass median between a parking lot and highway.

GPS Address: 389 Northern Blvd,
Albany, NY, 12204-1001

Monument 22: Albany Riverside Park

Here Knox crossed the Hudson River with much difficulty. On January 7, he wrote, *"The cannon which the night before last came over at Sloss's Ferry we attempted to get over the ferry here, which we effected excepting the last which fell into the River notwithstanding the precautions we took."*

On January 8 the lost gun was recovered and most of the sleds crossed safely over the ice, thanks in part to the good people of Albany, who numbered about 6,000 people at the time.

Interactive displays are located here highlighting the trail. This marker was replaced in Fall of 2017 after it had been lost for decades.

GPS Address: 191 Broadway
Albany, NY 12202-1002



Monument 23: Rensselaer



On January 9, with all sleds and 59 pieces safely across, Knox rode ahead toward Claverack, arriving by late afternoon.

The marker, located on a small grass median on Aiken Avenue and Columbia Turnpike, is on the same path that the expedition would have taken as it headed southeasterly toward Massachusetts.

GPS Address: 30 Aiken Ave.
Rensselaer, NY 12144-2909

Monument 24: East Greenbush

Located on the property of the Dutch Reformed Church, this marker commemorates the location reached by Knox and his Train on approximately January 10. The artillery included 43 brass and iron cannons, six cohorns, eight mortars and two howitzers.

GPS Address: 688 Columbia Tpke.
East Greenbush, NY 12061-2218



Monument 25: Schodack



Located at the junction of Routes 20 and 9, this marker notes the train's slow-but-steady progress toward Massachusetts. Washington had allocated 1,000 pounds for expenses; by the end of the 50-day journey, the total cost was reported at just 521 pounds and change.

GPS Address: 1972 Route 9,
Castleton on Hudson, NY 12033-9620

Monument 26: Kinderhook

Located in the village park, with other monuments to veterans, this marker shows the point where the Train would have turned east down the Kinderhook Creek on its way to Washington's encampment in Cambridge, Mass.

Kinderhook is also home to the 8th President of the United States, Martin Van Buren; you can see his home, Lindenwald, two miles south of the village.

GPS Address: 1 Hudson St
Kinderhook, NY 12106-9998



Monument 27: West Ghent



Knox and his artillery train passed through this location during the second week of January. Two primary sources provide historians a record of the journey; in addition to Knox's own diary, John P. Becker wrote an account of his experiences many years later. Becker was a 12-year-old who accompanied his father along the trail.

GPS Address: 6 Snyder Rd.
Ghent, NY 12075-2523

Monument 28: Claverack

Located at the intersection of Harlemville Rd and the Taconic State Parkway, Knox passed through this point during the second week of January with the rest of his men and artillery following behind.

All along the route, local citizens, militia and supporters would provide support to Knox and his men as they dragged the guns forward.

GPS Address: 1202 Harlemville Rd
Ghent, NY 12075



Monument 29: Old Nobletown



Located in a small park at the intersection of Routes 22 and 71 some 140 miles away from the beginning in Fort Ticonderoga, this marker testifies to the rugged determination of the soldiers to provide Washington with the ammunition the Commander so desperately needed to defend Knox's native Boston.

GPS Address: 40 Nobletown Rd
Hillsdale, NY 12529-5711

Monument 30: State Line



Located on the State Line the monument is unique in that it has both the NYS plaque (shown left) and the Massachusetts style marker (shown below). Knox would have followed Route 71 through this point on his way to Boston, reaching this point in the middle of January. It is also the half-way point of the march — 144 miles from Fort Ticonderoga and 140 miles from Boston.

GPS Address: 179 Valley Rd.
Great Barrington, MA 01230



In Massachusetts:

The Trail of Henry Knox follows through the Berkshires into Massachusetts with markers along the way. Knox would arrive in Cambridge, Mass., at Washington's encampment on January 24, 1776. The 59 pieces of artillery that he brought would be pivotal in forcing the British evacuation of Boston in March. It would take nearly 3,000 men to move the canons the final two miles to Dorchester Heights.

Knox would go on to be in charge of all artillery in the Continental Army and his pieces would travel with Washington's Army throughout the duration of the war.

Some of these cannons can be seen at Knox's Headquarters near the New Windsor Cantonment in Vails Gate, NY, plan your visit and learn more at: <https://parks.ny.gov/historic-sites/5/details.aspx>



"The Noble Train of the Artillery" (1946)
Thomas Lovell
Courtesy of Dixon Ticonderoga Company

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