

## Remembering the Revolution

In March 1778, Patriot leaders in New York moved to stabilize the government of the state and its relationship with its 12 state allies. The foundation had been laid on April 20, 1777, in Kingston, when the New York Convention had approved the state constitution. Flushed from Kingston by the British that October, the renamed legislature reconvened in Poughkeepsie on January 15 to continue its work. It first turned its attention to suppressing Loyalists who threatened to undermine its authority. On February 5 it voted to reappoint a board of commissioners who would hear cases and set punishments for Loyalists in each of the seven counties. The legislature then ratified the Articles of Confederation, tying its fate to the rest of the United States of America. On March 27, it ensured "the purity and freedom of elections" by passing a law enumerating detailed provisions to regulate them. Finally, on March 28 the legislature passed an act to raise taxes to support the civil government and to prosecute the war.

On March 25, Maj. Gen. Alexander McDougall arrived to assume command in the Hudson Highlands. Gen. Washington related to him "the vast importance" of his new post and the confidence in him that had "determined me to confide it in you." He instructed the new commander that his attention should "be turned, as much as possible, to the completion of the Works or at least to putting them in such a state that they may be able to resist a sudden attack of the Enemy." Under McDougall's guidance, Brig. Gen. Samuel Holden Parsons, French Col. Louis de la Raudière, and later Polish Col. Tadeusz Kosciuszko would comply with Washington's orders.

To keep track of future events of the 225th anniversary of the American Revolution in the Hudson Valley, check [www.hudsonrivervalley.net/calendar.php](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net/calendar.php).

In the meantime, huzzah from the Hudson Highlands! - JIM JOHNSON

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