

## Remembering the Revolution

In September 1778, George Washington turned his attention from New York City to the northeast. Beginning his march at 7 a.m. on September 16, he moved his headquarters from White Plains to Fredericksburgh (now Patter-son); from there, he posted troops from Quaker Hill (Pawling) to West Point to Danbury, Connecticut. He planned to accomplish "two capital objects: 1st. the maintaining a communication with the divisions between you [Maj. Gen. Horatio Gates at Danbury] and the North [Hudson] River, for mutual support and the security of the Posts in the highlands. 2dly. The facility of moving farther eastward, to be in measure for opposing the enemy, in case they should direct their operations that way."

First from the Reed Ferris and then the John Kane houses near present-day Pawling, Washington positioned his forces in an arc to respond to British operations in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York. The Commander in Chief articulated his strategy in a letter to Maj. Gen. John Sullivan: "I intend to place the whole [army] in such a position in a day or two, that they may either march to the Eastward, or be within supporting distance of the posts on the North River, as appearances may require." The potential "march to the Eastward" might have been necessary to aid Adm. D'Estaing's French naval squadron in Boston or to support Gen. Sullivan's force in Providence after their unsuccessful attack against Maj. Gen. John Pigot's garrison on August 29.

Washington remained in the Fredericksburgh encampment until November, trying to divine British intentions in a situation that he described to Richard Henry Lee of Virginia as "mysterious, indeed totally incomprehensible." Finally, he moved his army to winter quarters in Middlebrook (present-day Bound Brook), New Jersey.

Patriots' Weekend 2003 will be held at the Kane House in Pawling from September 19 to 21 to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the Fredericksburgh encampment. The regiments of the Brigade of the American Revolution will interpret a military camp and conduct troop drills and musket and artillery demonstrations. For a full schedule of events, visit [www.hudsonrivervalley.net](http://www.hudsonrivervalley.net).

—JIM JOHNSON

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