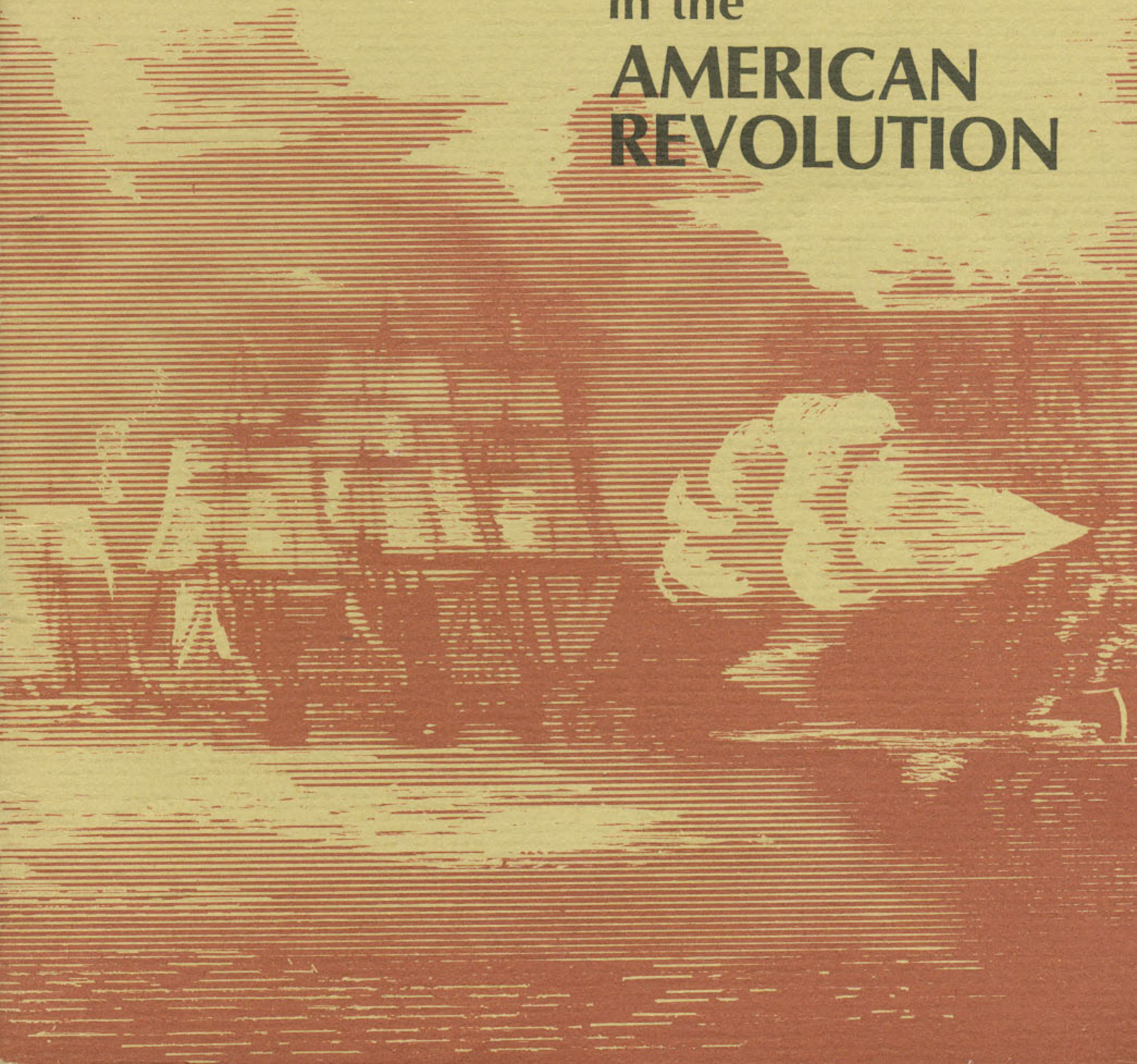


the
**HUDSON
VALLEY**
in the
**AMERICAN
REVOLUTION**



THE NEW YORK STATE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

John H. G. Pell, Chairman	New York City
Dr. E. K. Fretwell, Jr., Vice-Chairman	Buffalo
Walter Averill II	Poughkeepsie
Maj. Gen. John C. Baker	Troy
Mrs. Jeannette O. Baylies	Scarsdale
Mrs. Mary H. Biondi	Ogdensburg
J. Moreau Brown	Chappaqua
Rev. Laman H. Bruner	Albany
Mrs. Jane des Grange	Oneonta
Robert A. Fusco	Waterford
Judge Guy A. Graves	Schenectady
Nathan S. Langdon	Greenwich
Mrs. Patricia K. Lawford	New York City
H. Bert Mack	Maspeth
Steven L. Markowski	Brooklyn
Dr. I. Frank Mogavero	Grand Island
Robert Moses	New York City
Lester R. Mosher	Binghamton
Neal L. Moylan	Delmar
Sen. Dalwin J. Niles	Johnstown
Judge Nicholas M. Pette	Jamaica
Joseph Verner Reed, Jr.	New York City
Harry Rigby, Jr.	Kingston
Dr. Seth Spellman	Albany
Mrs. Mildred F. Taylor	Lyons
Col. Frederick P. Todd	Cornwall-on-Hudson

STAFF (Partial)

Louis L. Tucker	Executive Director
Thomas E. Felt	Deputy Executive Director
Paul Scudiere	Administrative Officer
Richard S. Allen	Program Director

William A. Polf, Senior Editor
Ruth Hewitt, Assistant Editor

Contact the Commission through the Office of State History, New York State Education Department, 99 Washington Avenue (Rm. 1807), Albany, New York 12230.

the
**HUDSON
VALLEY**
in the
**AMERICAN
REVOLUTION**

Text by:

Robert W. Venables

Published by:

New York State

American Revolution

Bicentennial Commission

Albany/1975

FOREWORD

The Hudson River Valley has a wealth of Revolutionary War history to interest residents within the region and beyond it. Rarely did an event take place along the Hudson that did not have broader implications for the entire American Revolutionary effort. Stretching from Manhattan Island nearly to Lake George, the Hudson was a main theater of war throughout much of the Revolutionary era. Had the British been successful in dominating it, the revolt of the mainland colonies might well have foundered. The major British effort to seize the river in 1777 failed, but the need of the Americans to hold it never ended, a fact attested to by Washington's decision to place a large army at West Point and to make the Hudson Highlands his headquarters after 1781.

For this booklet, Robert W. Venables, associate professor of history at the State University College at Oswego, New York, was asked to cover the highlights of the story in a very few pages. He has done that, and at the same time has enriched his narrative with frequent glimpses of the variety of inhabitants whose lives were changed by the violence of that time. He has given us an admirable introduction to the people as well as the events. The story he tells goes far to answer any question we may have as to why we observe the bicentennial of the American Revolution in New York State.

John H. G. Pell
Chairman
New York State
American Revolution
Bicentennial Commission

STRATEGIC VALLEY

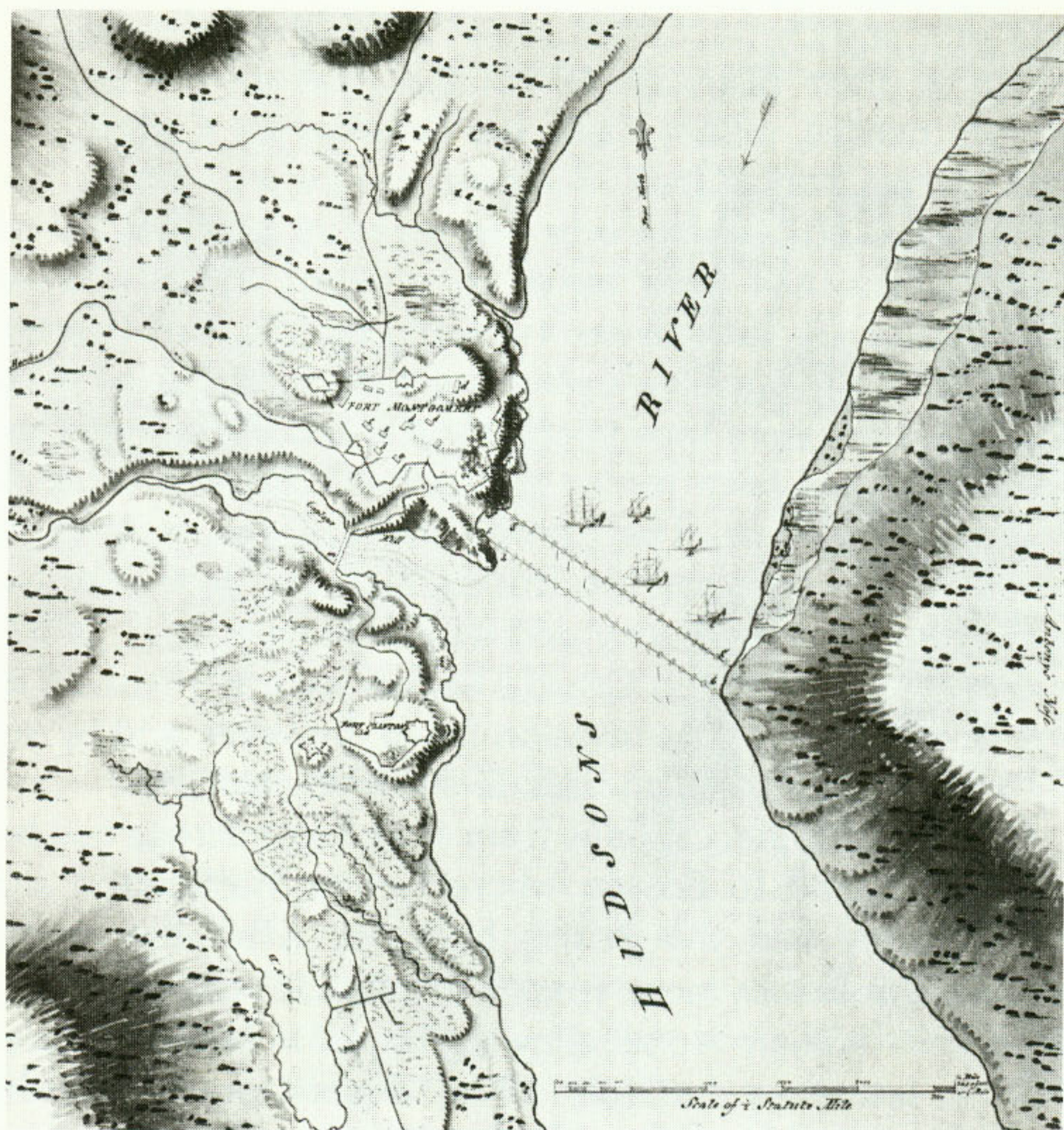
In the war for American independence, the Hudson Valley was both battlefield and prize. Battles there were not accidents of history or geography. The British army and navy fought their patriot counterparts to control a vital corridor of power, a river valley that for the previous century-and-a-half had been contested by Algonquins, Iroquois, French, Dutch, and English. During the second year of the Revolution, the patriots lost the southern end of the valley, including New York City. But they held onto the rest of the Hudson and turned the tide of the war at Saratoga. More years of struggle followed, including an intrigue by Benedict Arnold to betray West Point. The redcoats finally surrendered Manhattan to the victorious army of George Washington and sailed out to sea, leaving behind a new nation whose heritage would continue to be shaped by events along the Hudson.

AMERICA REBELS

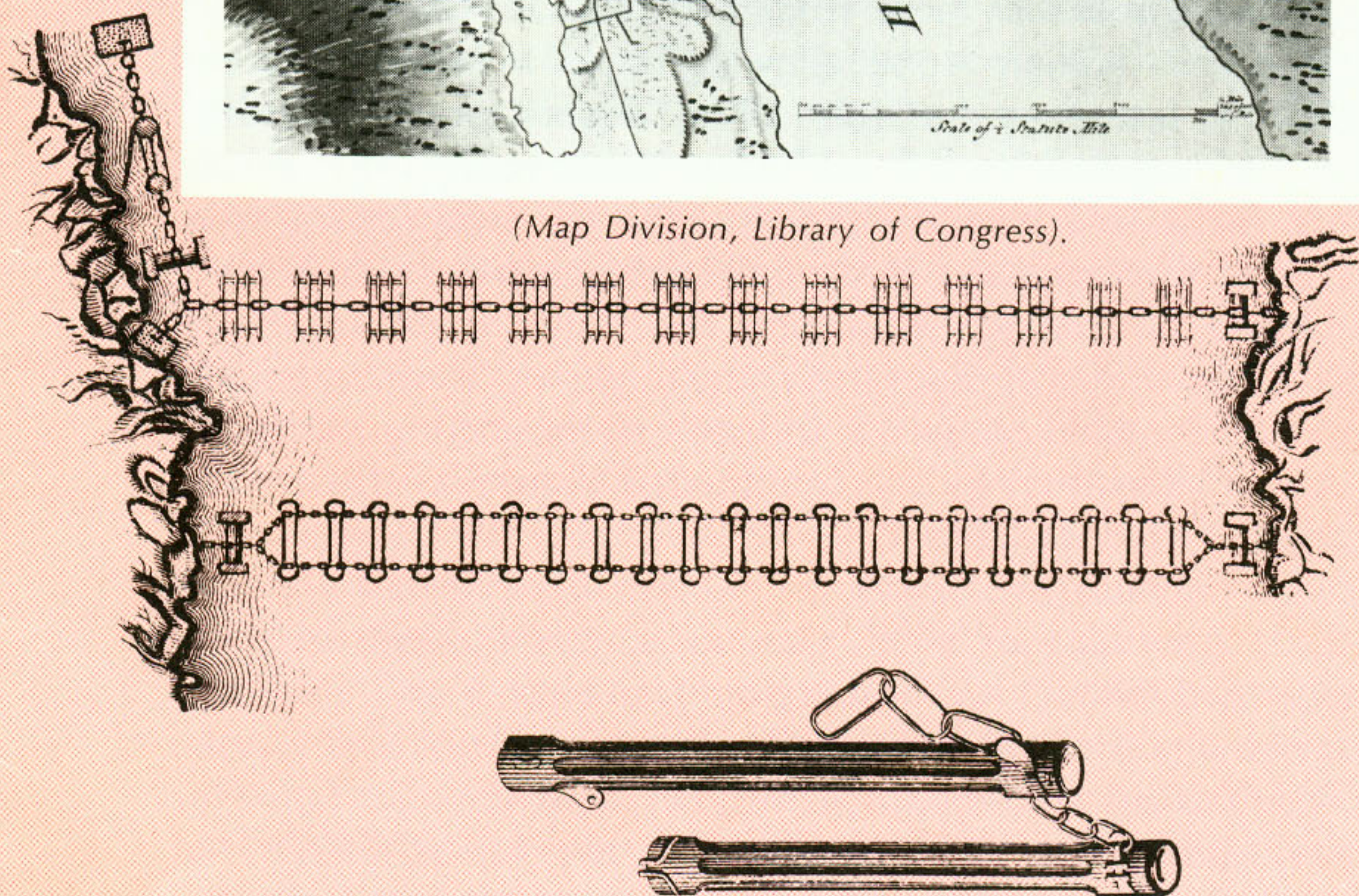
Fort Ticonderoga seized! In a surprise night attack led by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold, the small British garrison had given up the key to the northern defenses of the Hudson. News of this victory caused a stir of excitement in Philadelphia at the Continental Congress, the second congress convened since September 1774 by colonists disturbed over British imperial policy. It was May 1775. A month before, British forces had clashed with Massachusetts farmers at Lexington and Concord. Now at Ticonderoga patriots had gone on the offensive. Would the British retaliate by seizing New York City? Should the rebels, using Ticonderoga as a base, continue on the offensive by invading Canada? Initially the delegates decided to undertake defensive measures only, in the hope that the rebellious colonists could hold out long enough to work out a reconciliation with Britain. Convinced that New York was a likely location for early combat with the British, Congress ordered the fortification of the Hudson Highlands to control passage up and down the river. The patriots named the first post erected there Fort Constitution, as they saw themselves defending their British constitutional rights — independence was not yet a goal. Fort Constitution was located across from still-unfortified heights on the Hudson's west bank — West Point. By May 14, 1776, serious work on forts Clinton and Montgomery had begun five miles downriver. As the second year of revolution began, the patriots were pinning their hopes for the defense of New York on three strategic locations: Fort Ticonderoga, the Hudson Highlands, and New York City. Around these places, in a war that would last for more than eight years, swirled the currents of revolution and the tides of British attack.

When resting on the river bottom, Chevaux de Frise were supposed to puncture the hulls of enemy vessels coming up the Hudson. When put to the test, they failed.





(Map Division, Library of Congress).



Heavy chains supported by logs were stretched across the Hudson at forts Clinton and Montgomery to halt enemy ships, but proved inadequate. The famous chain at West Point was deployed on April 30, 1778, and remained there until 1783.

For all their plans to defend the Hudson, however, the patriots needed money, and the Continental Congress had little. New York City's defenses progressed slowly until March 14, 1776, when corps commanders were empowered to strengthen their labor forces by ordering all free and slave black males in their areas to work on the fortifications. Defenses in the Highlands were not only hindered by a lack of funds, they were incompetently planned. Most important, the patriots had been forced almost immediately to abandon defense for offense. The Continental Congress had learned late in June 1775 that the British intended to invade New York from Canada. Money and men were thus diverted from defense to an attack on Canada to deprive the British of this base of operations. The invasion failed, however, and by July 1776 the rebels had fallen back to Ticonderoga.

In the meantime, cannons from Fort Ticonderoga had been hauled overland to Boston where George Washington and a patriot army had the British besieged. After the cannons arrived, the British were forced to evacuate the city. Under General Sir William Howe, they regrouped in Nova Scotia and then, in late June and July 1776, began landing near their new target, New York City. George Washington had expected the move and had already brought his army down from Boston to defend the Hudson. With him were not only white soldiers but blacks, slave and free, and a contingent of Christian Indians. To fortify their spirits, Washington had them assembled on July 9 to listen to the stirring words of a new proclamation by the Continental Congress — the Declaration of Independence.

Howe, outmaneuvering the rebels, soon pushed Washington's army out of New York City, but the patriot army remained intact. As Washington left New York, he entertained the idea of burning the city, but patriot and loyalist New Yorkers alike opposed this. On September 21, fate — or some willful incendiaries — overtook the city as fire ravaged more than 400 buildings. The next day the British hanged a young schoolteacher, Nathan Hale, as a spy. Some historians now believe Hale may have been implicated in setting the terrible fire.

GENERAL HOWE



GENERAL WASHINGTON



On October 28 at White Plains, Howe attacked Washington again. But the rebel army, including some Christian Stockbridge Indians, held off the British. On November 1, Washington's army slipped away. On November 16, part of Howe's army successfully assaulted the last patriot bastion on Manhattan, Fort Washington. Among the wounded was Margaret Corbin. She had been at her husband's side at a patriot cannon when he was mortally wounded. She took his position until severely injured by grape shot. Granted a pension and enrolled in the Invalid Corps for disabled veterans, she was later stationed at West Point.

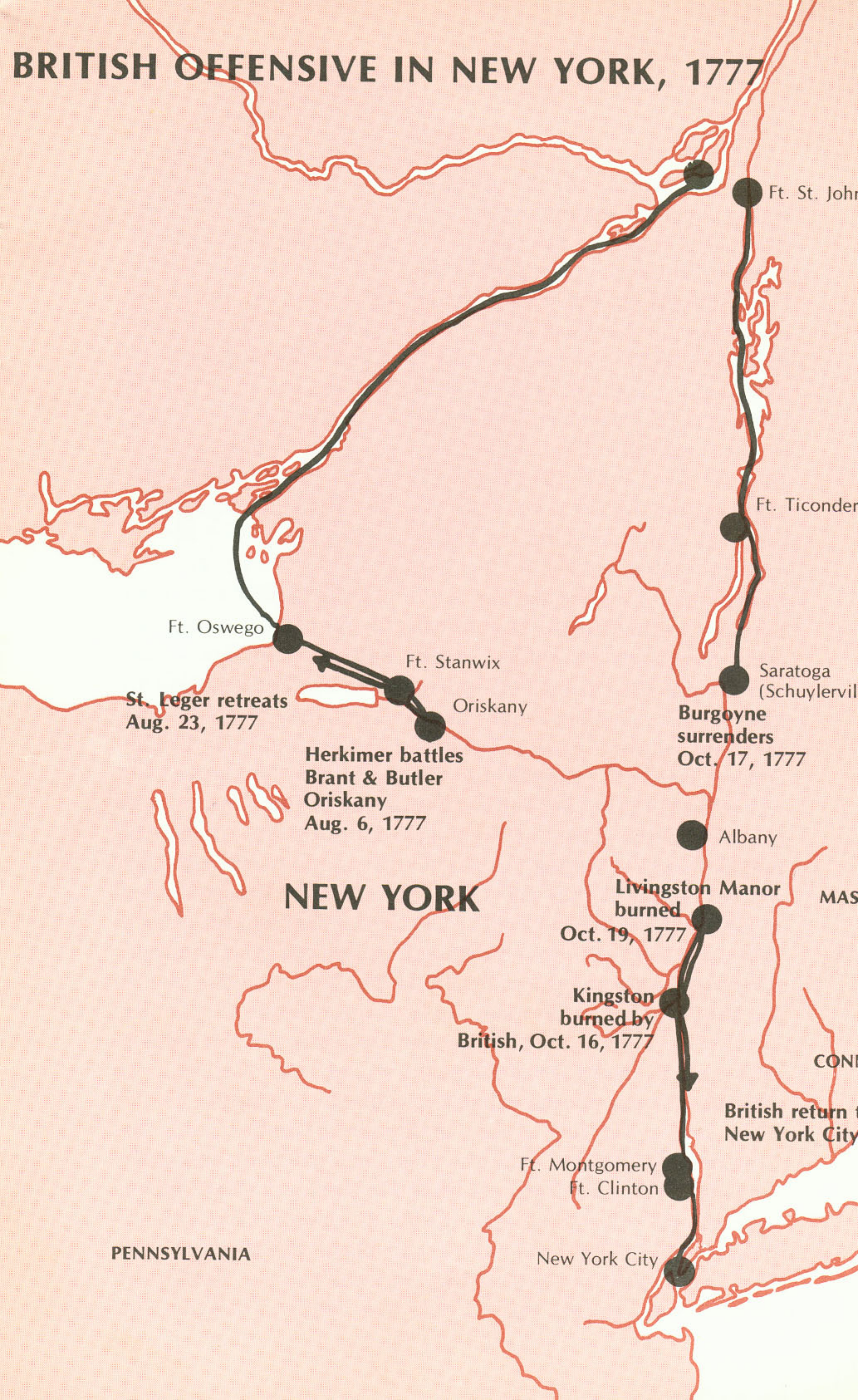
In the north, Guy Carleton hoped his invasion would impress both loyalists and the officially-neutral Iroquois Indians. But even though Carleton's fleet of lake warships defeated Benedict Arnold's fleet at Valcour Bay on Lake Champlain on October 11, 1776, the lateness of the season prevented them from proceeding any farther south. Carleton returned to Canada. The year 1776 ended with the British in control of New York City, but with the patriots still in command of Fort Ticonderoga and most of the Hudson River.

YEAR OF DECISION: 1777

In 1777 the British believed they had organized for the knockout blow. The campaign, approved in London, concentrated on assuring the success of a strategy that had failed the previous year — the thrust from Canada southward toward Ticonderoga and Albany. During the previous year, only one army had started south from Canada. This year there would be two, a major force under General John Burgoyne and a second army under Barry St. Leger. Burgoyne would strike directly at Ticonderoga from Lake Champlain, while St. Leger would divert patriot resistance by coming down from Oswego on Lake Ontario to the Mohawk River and then east to Albany. Both armies had Indian allies — Iroquois and other nations — who would accompany them, but St. Leger had the larger number, some 1,000. The Iroquois Confederacy was still divided in its councils as to whether neutrality or an alliance with one side or the other was the best policy for their people, but the willingness of over one thousand warriors to fight on the side of the British and the determination of hundreds of others to fight for the patriots overwhelmed the admonitions for neutrality.

The weakness of the British strategy lay in the inability of the commanders to decide which method would be best to handle the major problem of the war — George Washington's pugnacious army. If General Howe in New York City marched north along the Hudson, Washington would surely try to block him, and the Continental forces facing Burgoyne and St. Leger might be drawn with Washington into one great battle. On the other hand, it appeared good strategy to use the British fleet and army at New York to try to take the patriot capital at Philadelphia, forcing Washington away from the Hudson. The latter strategy was decided upon early in 1777. Howe marched into Philadelphia on September 26 after a series of battles with Washington, but by that time it was too late to offer any assistance to Burgoyne in New York. As it turned out, Burgoyne could have used that assistance.

BRITISH OFFENSIVE IN NEW YORK, 1777



A major setback for Burgoyne was the defeat of St. Leger's army, which was supposed to be coming down the Mohawk River. St. Leger's forces, including British and German soldiers, a loyalist corps, and Indians, had managed to besiege Fort Stanwix at the western end of the Mohawk and beat back General Nicholas Herkimer's militia at Oriskany when that force tried to relieve the fort. But a second expedition to relieve Fort Stanwix seemed to the Indians too powerful to resist, and St. Leger's entire force gave up the siege. Burgoyne in the meantime had captured Fort Ticonderoga. Then on July 27 near Fort Edward on the upper Hudson, a young loyalist, Jane McCrea, was killed as she was being escorted by some of Burgoyne's Indian scouts into the British lines. A captured rebel soldier in the group later reported that the Indians had shot the woman while arguing over the right to take her to the British. True or not, the report was enough to bring thousands of militia into the patriot camp. The rebels feared that if British-allied Indians were evidently willing to kill loyalist civilians such as McCrea, they would most certainly murder patriot families if they and their British cohorts were not stopped. But things were not going well for the British. Burgoyne, suffering a defeat at Bennington, was checked at the battle of Freeman's Farm on September 19, but expected to attack again after giving his troops one day of rest. He hoped that the Americans would be too exhausted to resist this second assault. On September 21, his troops were ready, but Burgoyne delayed, as an even greater opportunity seemed to present itself. He learned that Sir Henry Clinton was about to move against the Hudson Highlands. Burgoyne would wait until some of the Continental army was drawn off to fight Clinton. Then he would attack.

Clinton soon proved what the patriots had known since 1775 and what one visitor, Benjamin Franklin, had confirmed in 1776: the Hudson Highlands were inadequately defended. Clinton captured forts Montgomery and Clinton (named for the American General George Clinton) on October 6, taking both white and black prisoners of war. Two days later he forced the patriots to flee from Fort Constitution, which was across the Hudson River from



Sir Henry Clinton (1738?-1795), the son of George Clinton a royal governor of Colonial New York, succeeded William Howe as Commander-in-Chief. He fought at Bunker Hill, occupied Rhode Island and took part in the campaigns in the South.

still-unfortified West Point. But Burgoyne had waited too long, and even as Clinton moved toward Fort Constitution, Burgoyne was suffering defeat at Bemis Heights on October 7. Burgoyne's army — British and German regulars, loyalists, Canadians, a few Indians who had not already left the army in discouragement, a number of blacks (including drummers attached to a German unit), and wives and children of many of the soldiers and officers who had accompanied their husbands during the campaign — surrendered at Saratoga on October 17. Among the victors were troops from New York, other middle colonies, New England, the South (particularly Daniel Morgan's riflemen), some Stockbridge Indians, and 150 Oneidas and Tuscaroras.

Clinton held the Hudson Highlands for only twenty days before retiring to New York City. The patriots had thwarted the British campaign of 1777, but George Washington was even more determined to press ahead with what he had known for over a year was an absolute necessity — the fortification of West Point.

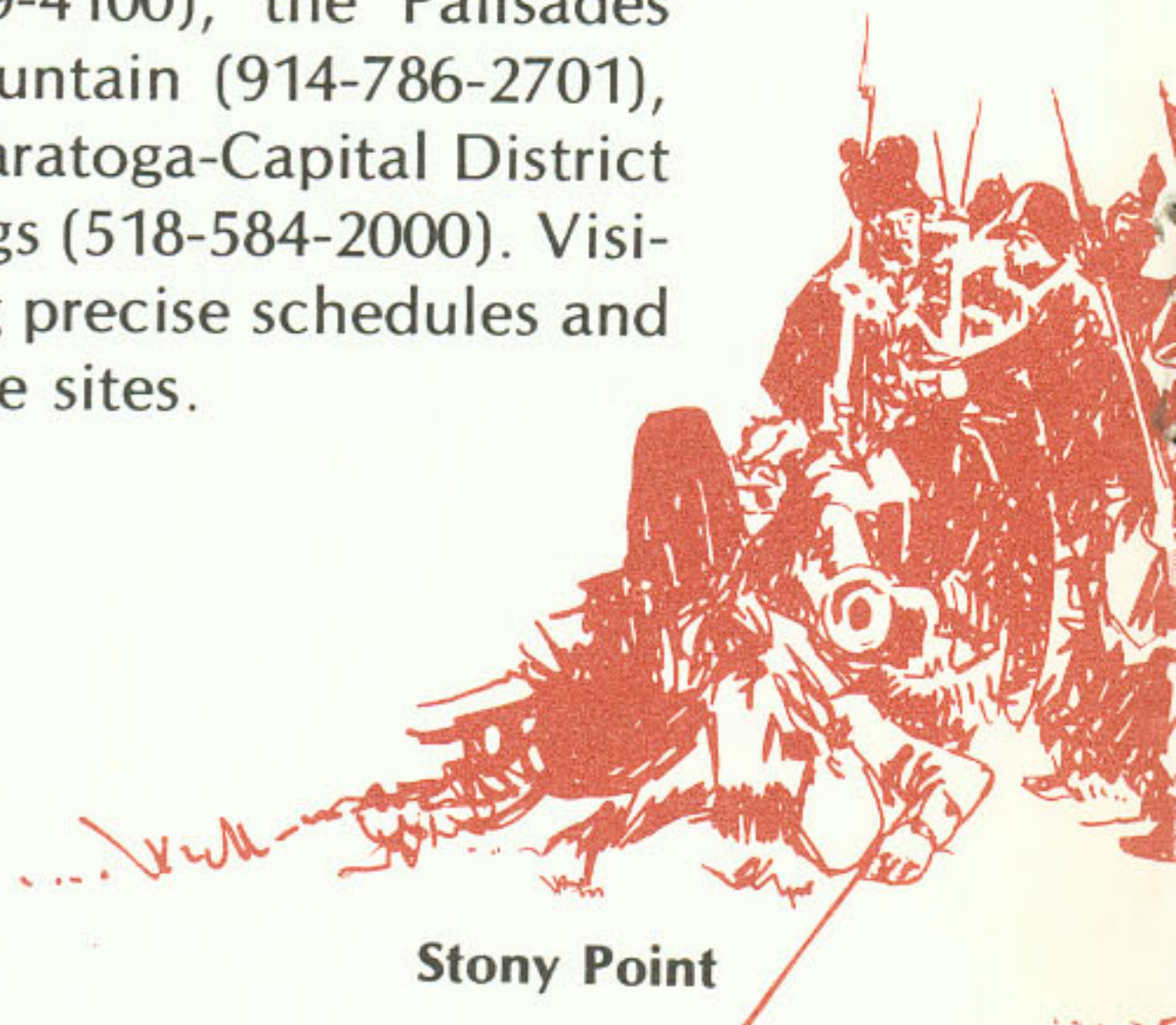
NEW YORK STATE-OWNED HISTORIC SITES RELATING TO THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD

From the time of the earliest European settlement, Hudson Valley inhabitants have been tenacious in defense of their liberty. In the 1770s, colonial patriots withstood what they believed to be an oppressive imperial British government, transforming their belief in fundamental liberties into a movement for independence. After the Revolution, that libertarian spirit found expression in art, literature, and music, as well as in government and other fields.

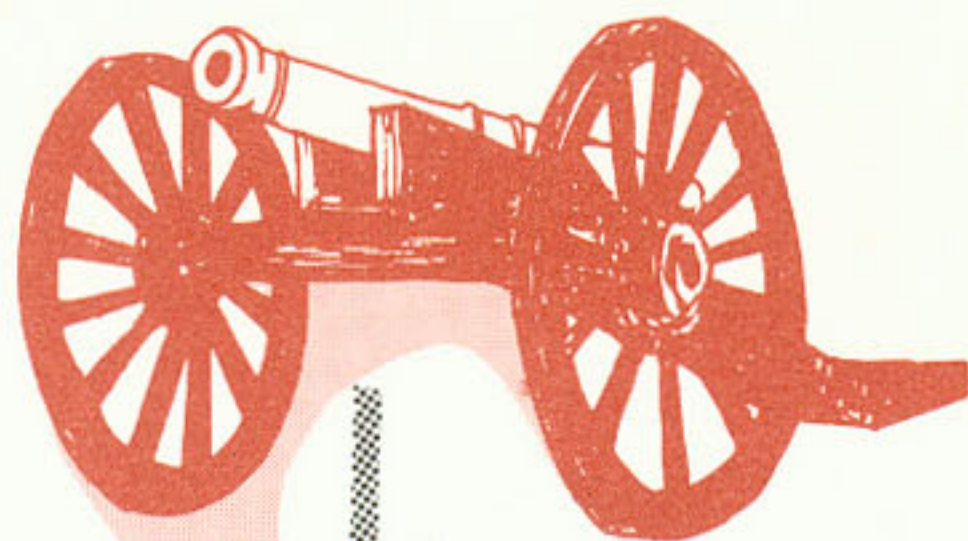
Throughout the Revolution, the British and Americans contended for control of the Hudson. With British forces headquartered in New York City and a large portion of the Continental army encamped in the Hudson Highlands, troops frequently battled for key locations. At Kingston, New York's infant government, although harried and pursued by enemy forces, still managed to adopt the state's first constitution.

Today, the revolutionary past is preserved at the official New York State Historic Sites pictured on the accompanying map. The center of New York's Heritage '76 program for state historic sites is in the Hudson Highlands where special exhibits at Washington's Headquarters, at Newburgh, and a diverse schedule of demonstrations at the New Windsor Cantonment augment the regular historic sites program.

Large groups may schedule guided tours by contacting sites directly or by writing the headquarters of the Regional Park Commissions that administer historic places for the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation. These include the Taconic State Park Commission, Staatsburgh (914-889-4100), the Palisades Interstate Park Commission at Bear Mountain (914-786-2701), and for sites in Albany and north, the Saratoga-Capital District State Park Commission at Saratoga Springs (518-584-2000). Visitors should check in advance concerning precise schedules and availability of interpretive material at the sites.



SCHUYLerville



Bennington Battlefield

WALLOOMSAC

Saratoga
Battle Monument

Schuyler Mansion

ALBANY

RENSSELAER

Ft. Crailo



Senate House



Clermont Mansion

TIVOLI



ton's Headquarters

KINGSTON



New Windsor Cantonment

NEWBURGH

NEW WINDSOR

VAILS GATE



Knox Headquarters

STONY POINT

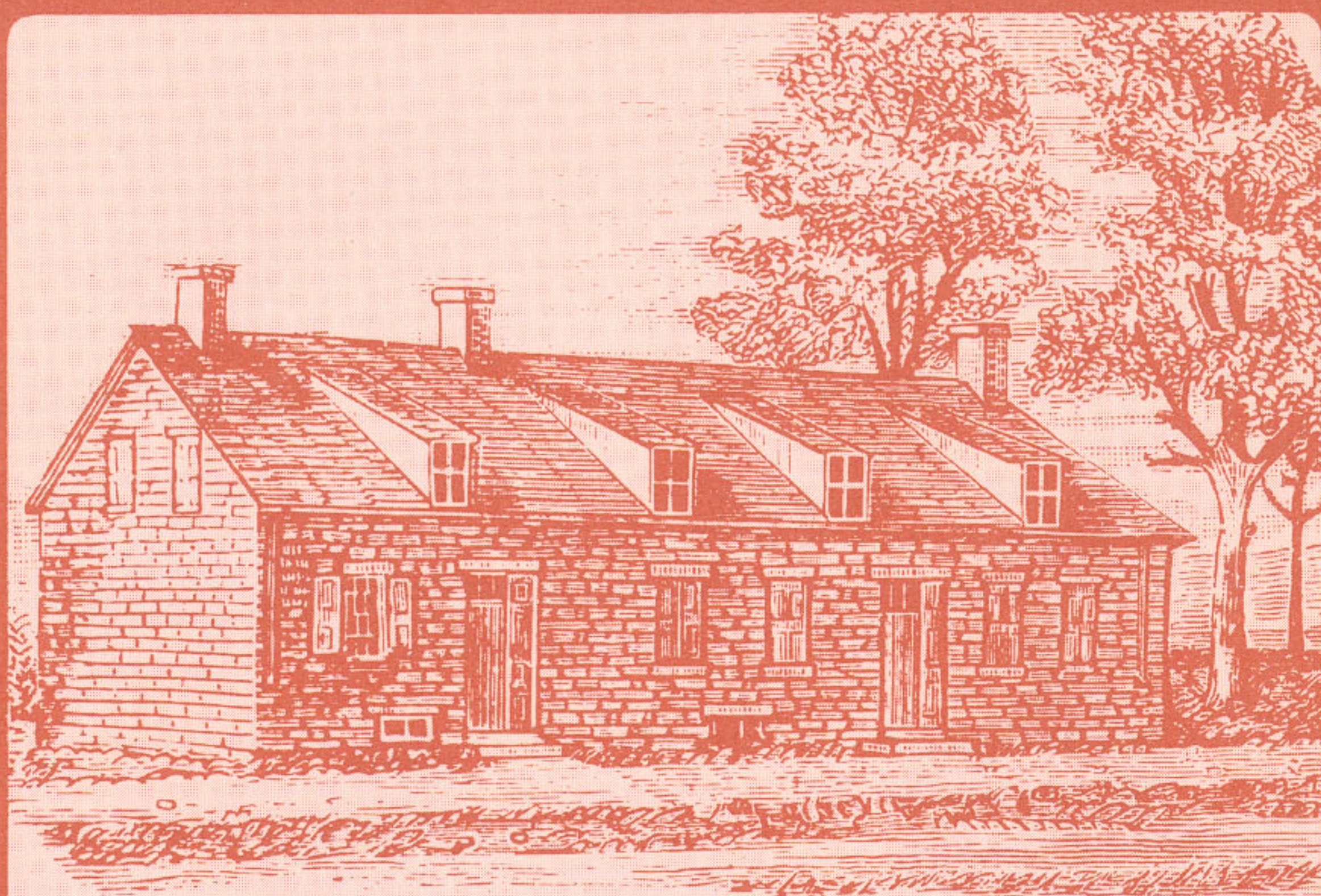
KATONAH

John Jay Homestead

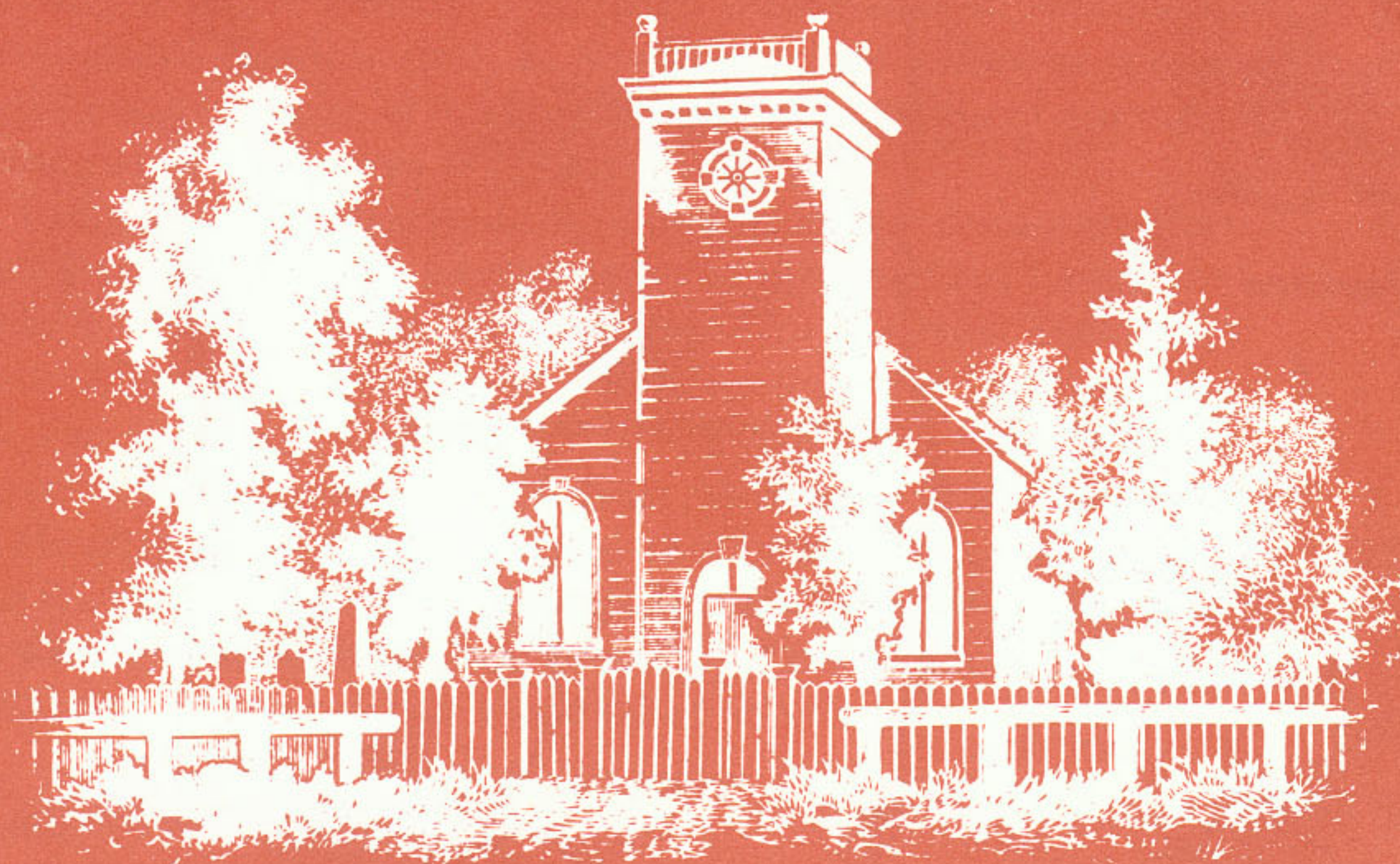


Philipse Manor

YONKERS



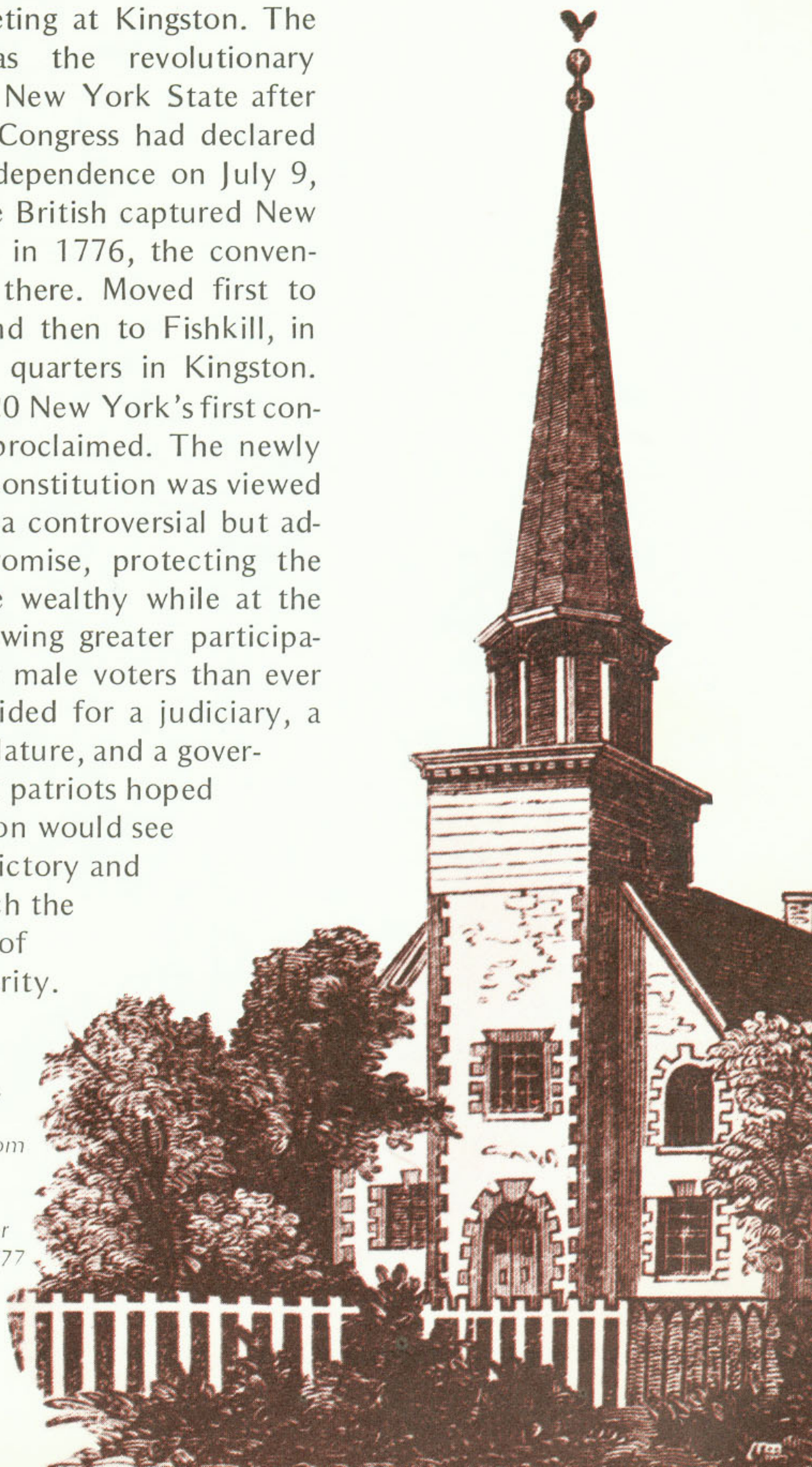
The New York State Senate held its first meetings in the room at the left side of this stone house built in Kingston about 1676. When a British force set fire to Kingston on October 16, 1777, the new State government moved to Hurley, which became, for a short period, the State Capital. Other buildings associated with the beginning of New York State government no longer exist in Kingston.



Trinity Episcopal Church in Fishkill was erected in 1769. After the Revolution, the church was paid £350 for damages caused during its use as a hospital. The original steeple was removed in 1803.

Another decisive action along the Hudson River in 1777 came not on the battlefield but in the Convention of Representatives of the State of New York meeting at Kingston. The convention was the revolutionary government of New York State after the Provincial Congress had declared New York's independence on July 9, 1776. Until the British captured New York City late in 1776, the convention had met there. Moved first to White Plains and then to Fishkill, in 1777 it found quarters in Kingston. Here on April 20 New York's first constitution was proclaimed. The newly adopted state constitution was viewed at the time as a controversial but admirable compromise, protecting the interests of the wealthy while at the same time allowing greater participation of eligible male voters than ever before. It provided for a judiciary, a two-house legislature, and a governor. New York patriots hoped their constitution would see them through victory and thereafter launch the state on a path of peaceful prosperity.

The First Reformed, or Dutch, Church in Fishkill dates from 1731. Here the Provincial Congress met from September 1776 to February 1777.



Anthony Wayne (1745-1796), a native of Pennsylvania, led the attack on Stony Point. Wounded in the head by a musket ball, he was carried into the British fort, taken by surprise during the night attack. The brilliant feat was widely acclaimed although Washington soon ordered the post at Stony Point abandoned.

THE CONFLICT CONTINUES

Construction of the fortifications at West Point began on January 20, 1778. When the weather warmed, two able military engineers, Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Rufus Putnam, added their skills. Farther down the valley an irregular war raged, especially in Westchester County. Brigands — some claiming allegiance to no one, some to the king (called “Cowboys”), and some to the Continental Congress (called “Skinners”) — harassed and murdered farmers and merchants. They also disrupted the lines of communication of both armies. The violence of these outlaws matched the violence occurring that year between Indians and whites at frontier settlements such as Cherry Valley.

George Washington returned to the Hudson Valley with his army in July 1778 to take up a position north of New York City at White Plains. The British army at Philadelphia had been forced to leave that city and return to Manhattan lest it be caught by the ships and soldiers of the patriots’ new ally, France. The next year, on June 1, General Sir Henry Clinton seized two fortifications in the Hudson Highlands just to the south of West Point — Stony Point and Verplanck’s Point. Washington ordered General Anthony Wayne to retake Stony Point. In a surprise attack on the night of July 15, Wayne and his troops stormed the slopes leading to the fort, breached the defenses, and overwhelmed the British garrison with a bayonet charge. During previous years, it had been the British whose bayonet attacks had been dreaded. Now the Continental army proved it had equal discipline.

Stony Point, situated on a high bluff above the Hudson River was separated from the mainland by a deep morass. The British considered the works almost impregnable. (New York State Library.)

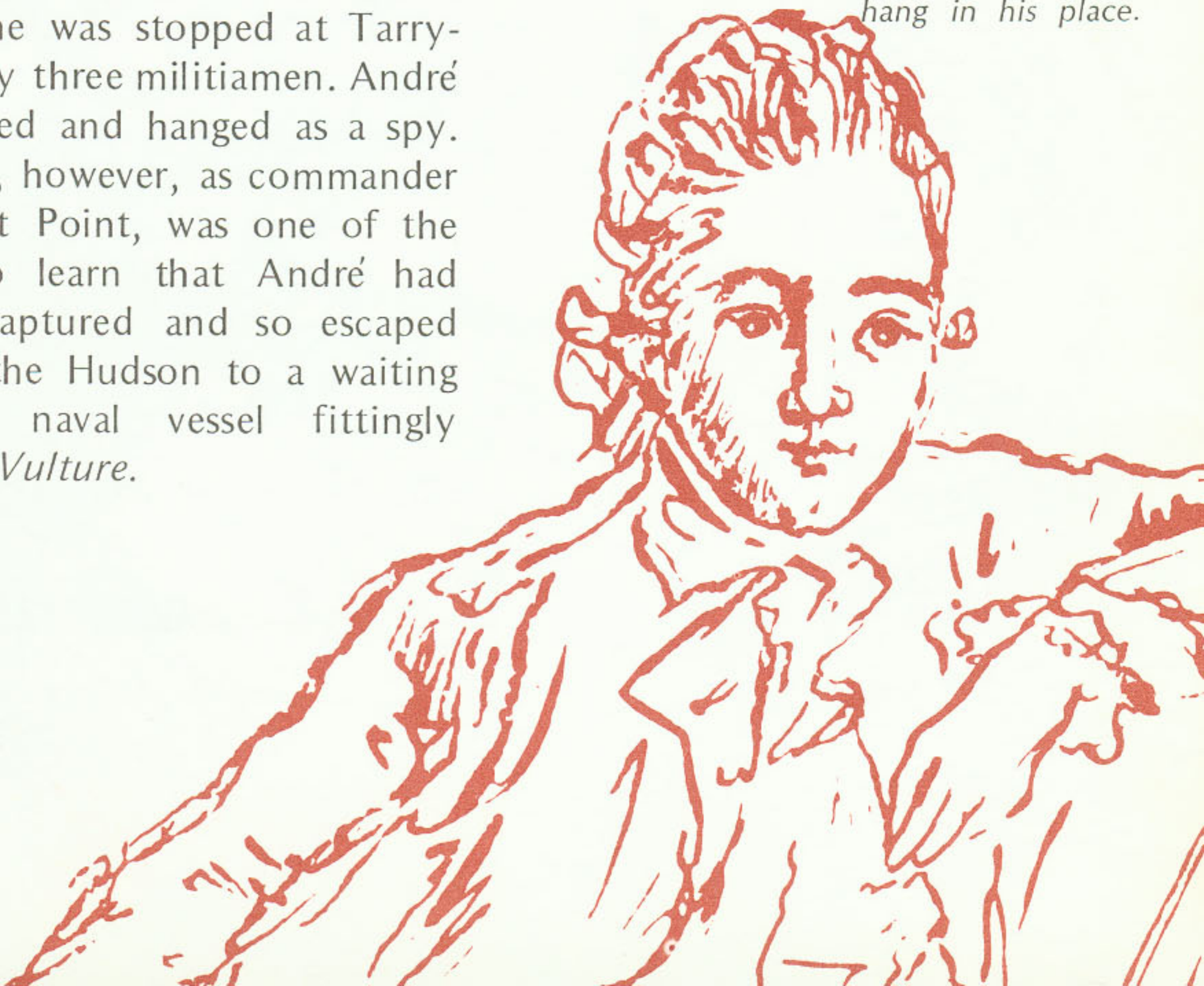


During the next year, 1780, the commander of West Point, Benedict Arnold, conspired to turn the post over to the British. The populations of both England and America were tired of the war, and a dramatic stroke of victory now by either side might turn the tide. The patriots were not doing well in the South, and inflated Continental currency had demoralized all the rebel states. Arnold supplied documents describing the fort and the troops deployed within it to British Major John André, who met with him one night about two miles below Haverstraw. The major was carrying the documents back to General Clinton when he was stopped at Tarrytown by three militiamen. André was tried and hanged as a spy. Arnold, however, as commander at West Point, was one of the first to learn that André had been captured and so escaped down the Hudson to a waiting British naval vessel fittingly named *Vulture*.

Fort Putnam, probably named for Colonel Rufus Putnam (1738-1824), was constructed on the highest point of land overlooking West Point. Fort Clinton, at the eastern angle of the plain, was originally called Fort Arnold but was renamed after Benedict Arnold committed treason. This French map was printed in Paris in 1816.

Benedict Arnold was born in Norwich, Connecticut, in 1740. He felt his brave deeds at Quebec, Valcour Island and Saratoga were not appreciated. After securing the command of West Point, he conspired to allow the British to capture the fortifications there in return for a payment of £20,000 (£10,000 if the plot did not succeed). As a Brigadier General in the British army, he led attacks on Virginia and Connecticut. Following the war, he was an unhappy exile and died in London in 1801.

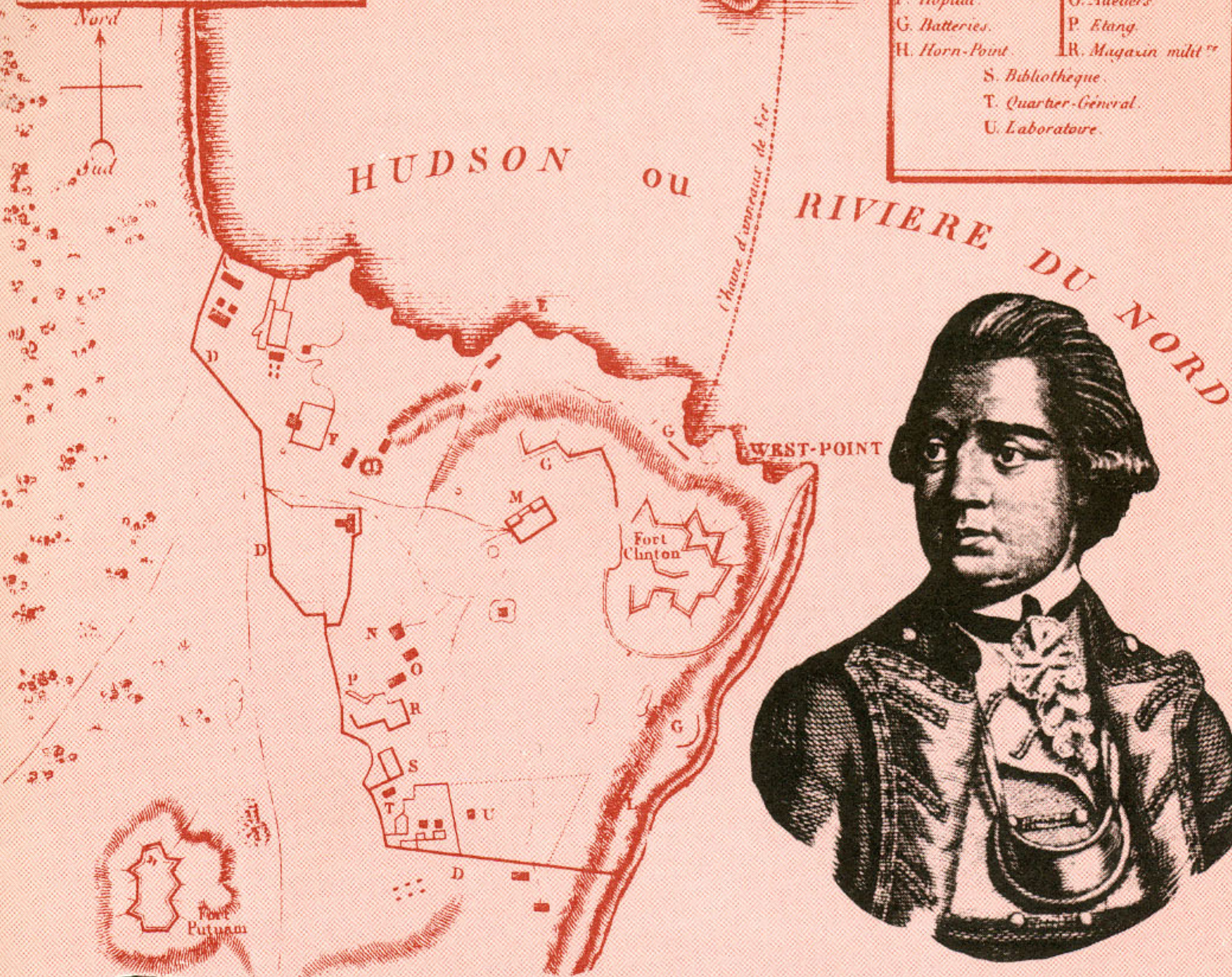
The 29-year-old Major John André made this pen and ink sketch of himself before he was hanged in Tappan on October 2, 1780. A member of Sir Henry Clinton's staff, he was appointed adjutant general of the British army. Sympathetic Americans grieved over his death and would have preferred that Arnold hang in his place.



PLAN
des Forts, Batteries
et Poste de West-Point.
1780.

PARTIE
de l'Isle de
la Constitution.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. Magasin detruit. | I. Colline de Bunker. |
| B. Vieilles Casernes. | K. Duck-Point. |
| C. Magasin militaire. | L. Jardin de Kosciusko. |
| D. Muraille. | M. Prisons, Casernes. |
| E. Embarcaderes. | N. Ecole du Genie. |
| F. Hôpital. | O. Ateliers. |
| G. Batteries. | P. Etang. |
| H. Horn-Point. | R. Magasin milit ^{re} . |
| | S. Bibliothèque. |
| | T. Quartier-General. |
| | U. Laboratoire. |



Head Quarters Operations
Horn Sept. 22. 1780

Permit Mr. John Anderson to pass the
Ground to the White Plains, or below, if the
Chances. He being on Public Business by my
Direction

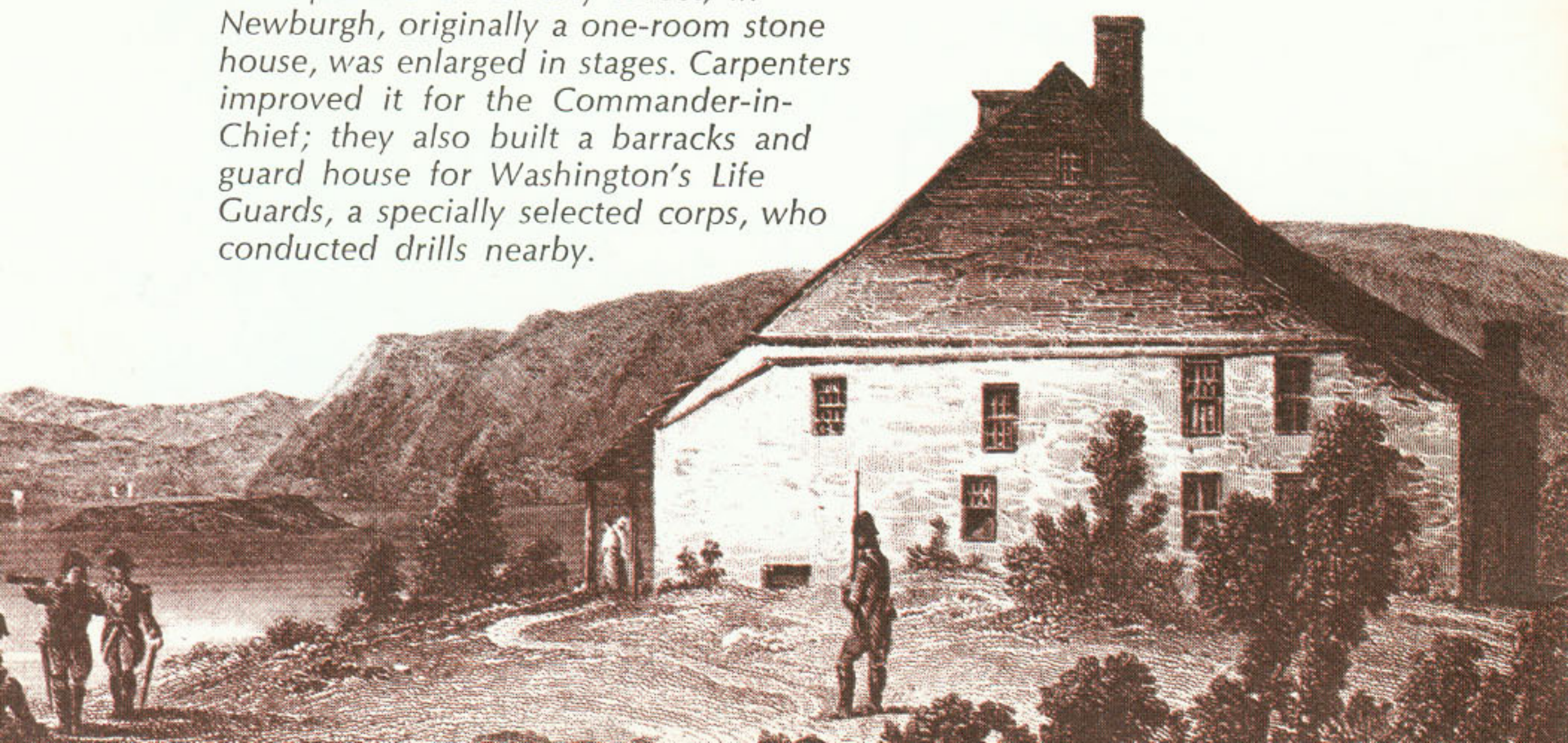
B. Arnold Major

SECURING VICTORY

The year 1781 did not begin well for Washington. He was forced to dispatch some of his troops from the Hudson down to Pompton, New Jersey to quell a mutiny of his own underpaid men, two of whom were executed. In the hope of insuring better discipline in the army, the disabled veterans' Invalid Corps, founded in 1777, was brought to West Point in the summer of 1781 to provide military training and to perform light garrison duty, its presence intended as an inspiration to the army. These veterans set a precedent for the military academy established at West Point in 1802. During that summer, the Hudson became the center of great activity. To British General Clinton in New York City, it seemed that Washington's army, together with a French army, was about to attack Manhattan. Only too late did Clinton realize that all the activity on the Hudson and then in northern New Jersey was a feint: Washington and the French were off to trap General Cornwallis in Virginia at a place called Yorktown.

After the victory at Yorktown, Washington and his army returned once again to the Hudson to await the outcome of the negotiations that were to end the war. Washington took up headquarters north of West Point at Newburgh with his troops encamped at nearby New Windsor. Martha Washington, who frequently had joined her husband during the war, now joined him at Newburgh.

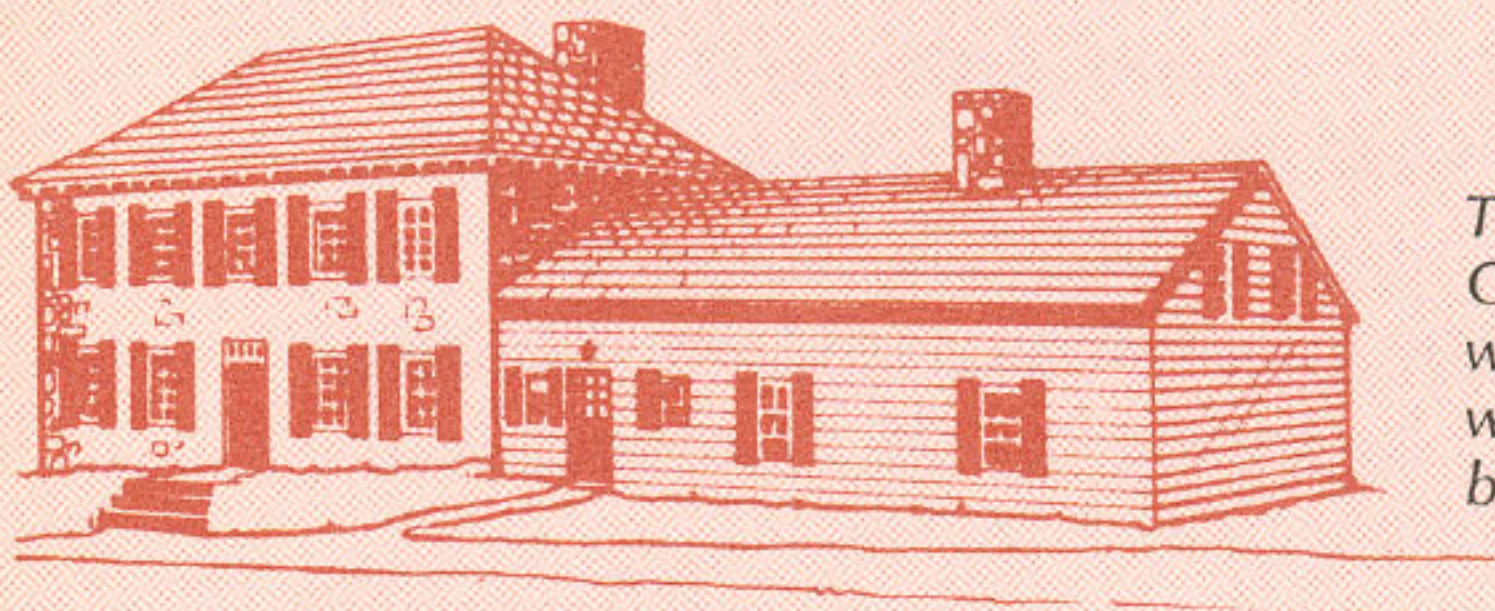
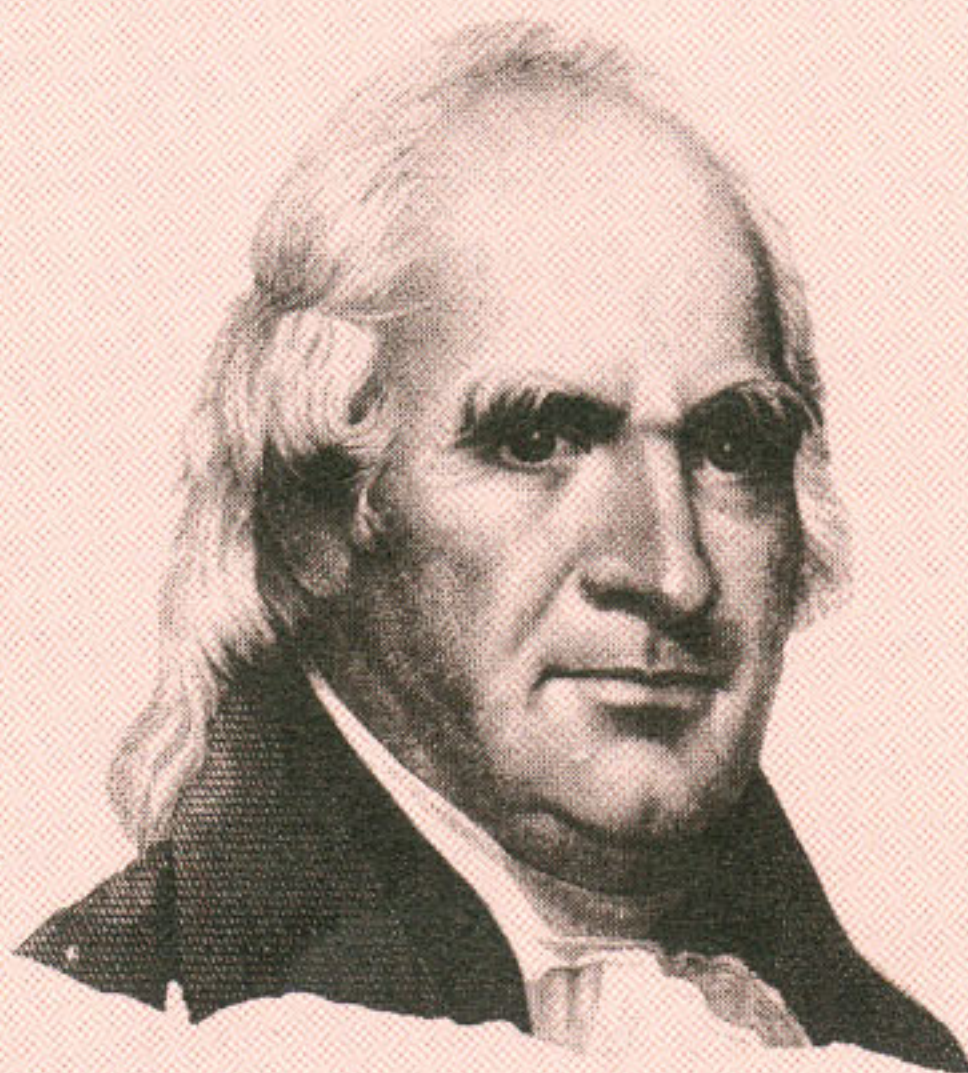
The Hasbrouck House, Washington's Headquarters on Liberty Street, in Newburgh, originally a one-room stone house, was enlarged in stages. Carpenters improved it for the Commander-in-Chief; they also built a barracks and guard house for Washington's Life Guards, a specially selected corps, who conducted drills nearby.





Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834), a member of a prominent French family was inspired by news of the American Revolution to offer his services to the American cause. He was commissioned a major general and distinguished himself in the final campaign of the war. He became active in the French Revolution. When Lafayette returned to the United States for a visit in 1824-1825, he received an unparalleled welcome wherever he went.

George Clinton (1739-1812), born in what is now Orange County, unsuccessfully tried to prevent the capture of Forts Montgomery and Clinton. The first governor of New York State, he served six additional terms. Also a leader in the new Nation, he was twice elected Vice President of the United States.

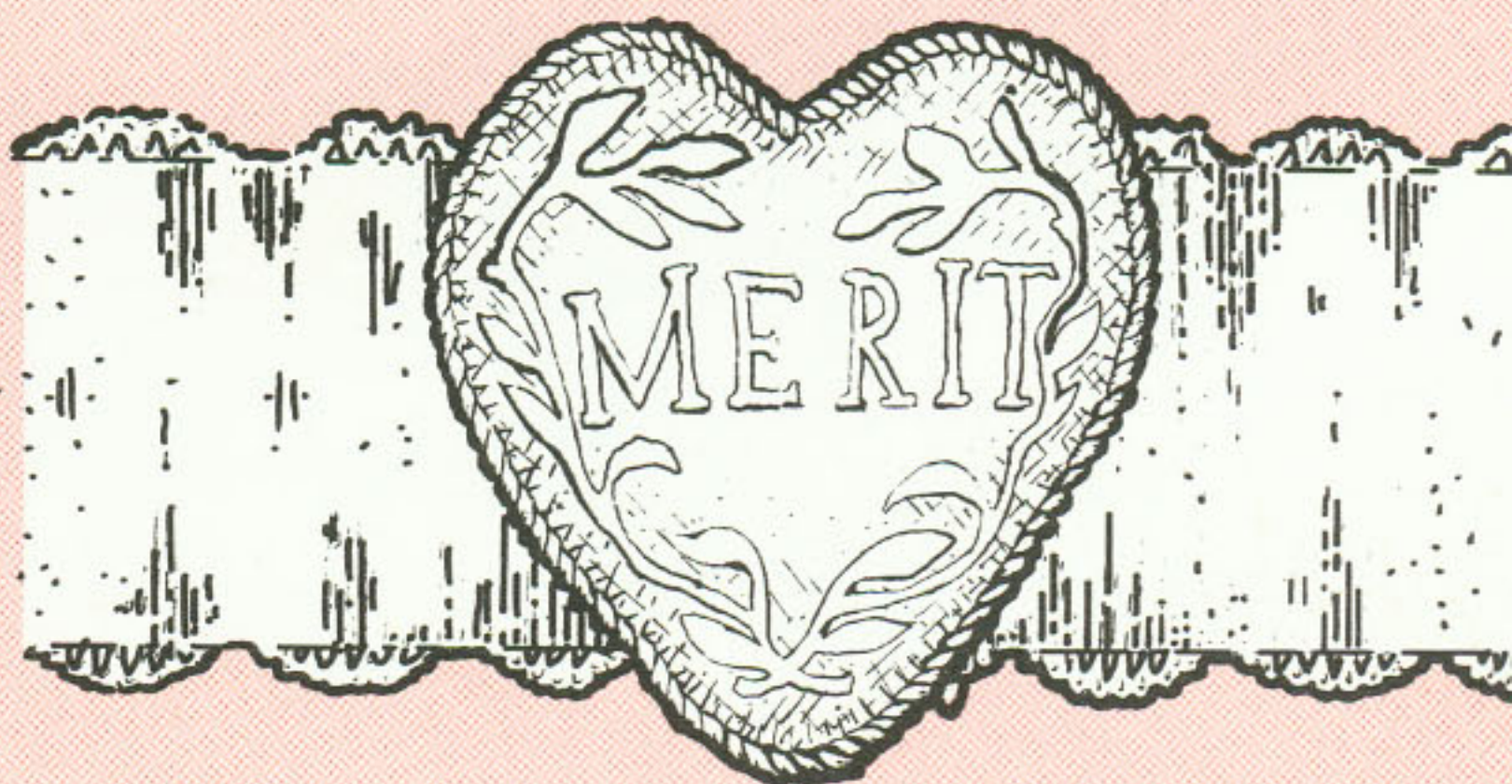


The John Ellison House in Vails Gate became General Knox's Headquarters. It featured a wide hall, large fireplaces, high ceilings and windows with 24 glass panes. The long clap-board extension was added later.

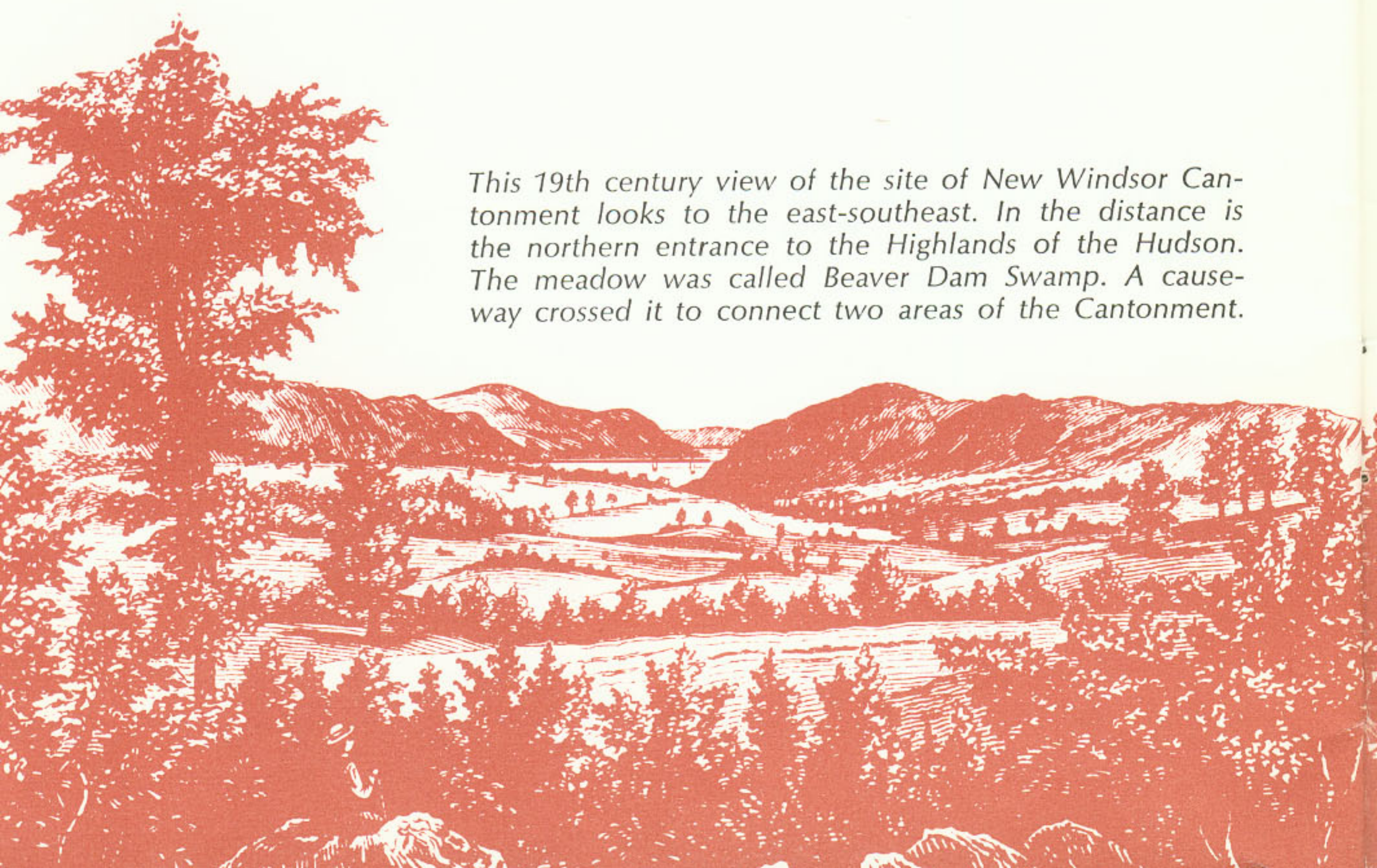
Henry Knox (1750-1806), a Bostonian, directed the removal of cannon and mortars from Ticonderoga to Boston. He became one of Washington's most trusted officers and was placed in charge of artillery. Knox served as United States Secretary of War from 1789 to 1794.



George Washington awarded this original Badge of "Military Merit" for "conspicuous and singularly meritorious" service. In 1932 the medal was revived; since then the Purple Heart has been given to members of the armed services wounded in action.



Awaiting the end of the war was not easy for either side. Around New York the British troops lived in log huts and followed a monotonous daily routine, while their American counterparts at the New Windsor Cantonment lived in similar huts and led a similar routine. Fights and petty jealousies occasionally interrupted the boredom. But there were also real tensions at both places. Two groups in the city viewed the end of the war with increasing apprehension. Loyalists comprised one group. Men, women, and children from New York City and many other parts of the thirteen colonies despaired at losing their homes and property. For many, embarkation with the British army to other points in the empire was the inevitable outcome. The other group was made up of thousands of blacks, former slaves who had been granted their freedom by the British in return for services to the army as laborers and, in the case of some of the men, as soldiers. Would they be returned to slavery? And among the American soldiers at Newburgh, demands for back pay increased. At the base of the problem, many soldiers thought, lay an inept government. In the spring of 1782 Colonel John



This 19th century view of the site of New Windsor Cantonment looks to the east-southeast. In the distance is the northern entrance to the Highlands of the Hudson. The meadow was called Beaver Dam Swamp. A causeway crossed it to connect two areas of the Cantonment.

Lewis Nicola seriously proposed that the country's and the soldiers' problems could be solved if Washington were crowned king of America. Washington rejected the idea as inappropriate to the principles underlying the Revolution. During the winter of 1782-1783, a delegation of soldiers went to Philadelphia, demanding their pay from Congress. Then in March 1783 some officers proposed a *coup d'etat*. In a moving speech to his officers on March 15, Washington dissuaded them. A trickle of money from Congress helped to calm passions further. Finally, on the eve of the anniversary of the battle of Lexington, April 18, 1783, the end of hostilities was announced. On June 13, most of the army went home. Home, too, went hundreds of women who had ably served as nurses, cooks, and laborers. Families of soldiers frequently found it necessary to accompany the troops when the army went into the field, and women served in many different kinds of support activities. Their contribution to the war effort was matched by those women who ran households and farms while husbands and kin were away at war.

The "Publick Building" at the New Windsor Cantonment was originally named the "Temple of Virtue." It was built of rough hewn logs and measured about 80 feet long by 40 feet wide. At one end was a small gallery, or raised platform, for speakers or presiding officers.

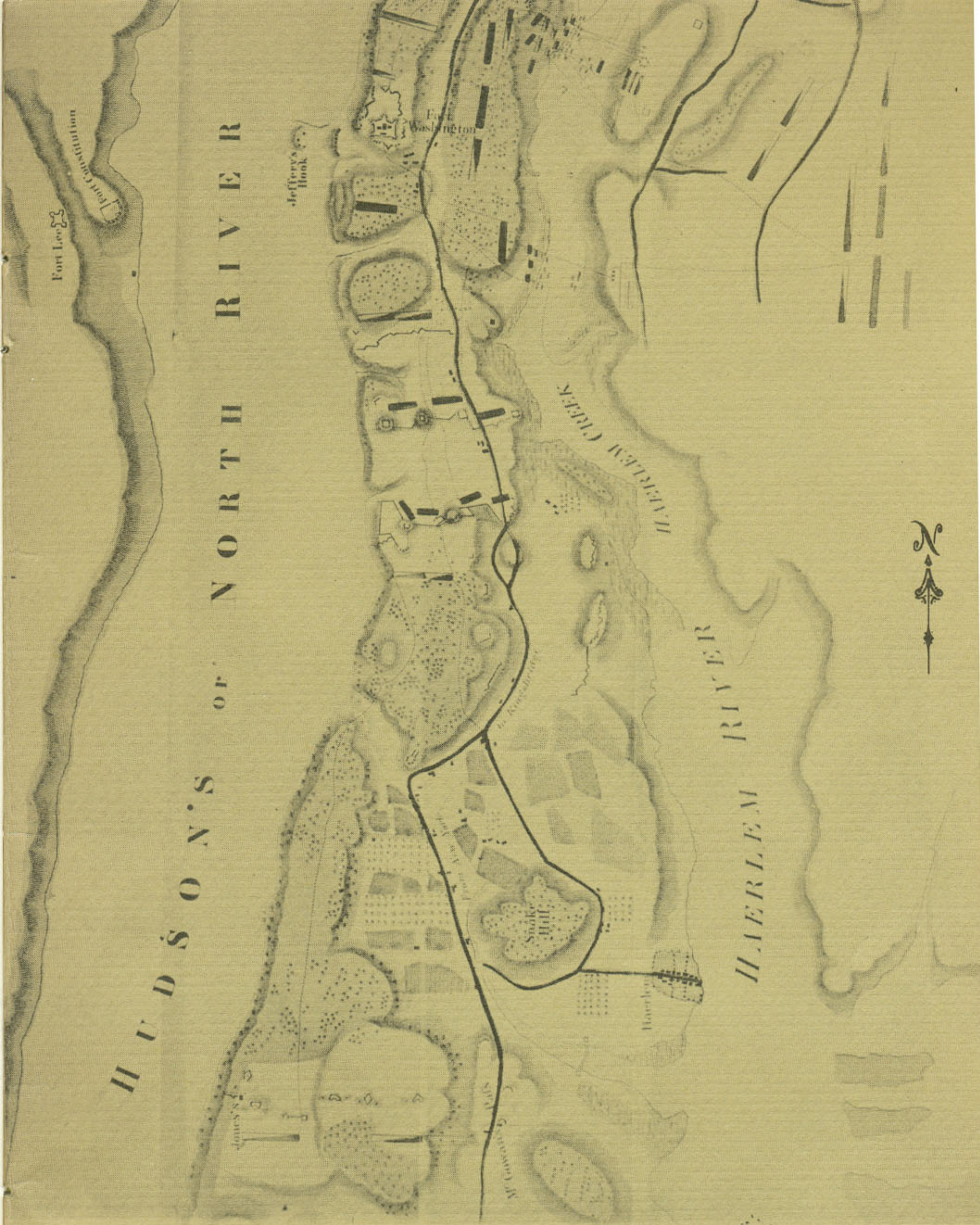


In the meantime, over 7,000 white loyalists and more than 3,000 blacks left New York City aboard British ships. The British commander in New York, Guy Carleton, had refused Washington's demand that blacks who joined the British in exchange for freedom be returned to slavery. However, many blacks who were still slaves remained behind, as did some loyalists who felt they would be tolerated by the new government. One of the loyalists who stayed, however, was unique. He was James Rivington, printer of the loyalist newspaper *Rivington's New-York Gazetteer*, a man whose Tory political position should have prompted him to take the opportunity to leave New York as quickly as possible. But the Americans were not about to punish him, for during the war he had served ably as one of the patriots' master spies.

Final evacuation of the British from New York City took place on November 25. For the first time since July 1776, the Hudson Valley was under patriot control from one end to the other. On the same day, Washington entered the city. On December 4, at a tavern popularly called "Black Sams" (also known as Fraunces Tavern), Washington bade farewell to his officers in a moving exchange of well-wishes and grateful thanks for victory. For over seven years, the Hudson Valley had been the vortex of revolution. Patriots began the Revolutionary War in Massachusetts, but victory was finally won in the Hudson Valley.

Acknowledgements: . . .

This publication is a revision of The Hudson Valley and the American Revolution originally published by the New York State Historic Trust in 1968. Illustrations on pages 6-7, 9, 13, and 16-25 are from that booklet, courtesy of The Office of Parks and Recreation. The maps on pages 11 and 15 were specially prepared by them for this revision.



Running a gauntlet of cannon fire in October 1776, the British frigates **Rose** and **Phoenix** with their tenders (pictured on the cover) sail successfully between Fort Lee on the west side of the Hudson and Fort Washington on the east side, (shown on map above) near present-day 183rd Street, New York City. This breakthrough set the stage for the British army's victorious campaign in November against the two forts, assuring British occupation of the city for the rest of the war.

Map courtesy of the New-York Historical Society. Cover illustration from the painting by Dominic Serres, "Forcing the Hudson River Passage," courtesy of the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis.

