

Big doings for 'Knox Train'

By Cathy DeDe

Chronicle Managing Editor

From Dec. 4-13, Henry Knox's 'Noble Train of Artillery' will be celebrated as part of the nation's 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

In the winter of 1775, Knox — a 25-year-old bookseller — led the way in transporting 60 tons of cannon from Fort

As U.S. marks our 250th, key event in the Revolution went from here

Ticonderoga to Boston.

Their arrival **'changed the tide of the Revolution,'** Fort Ticonderoga writes, **'freeing Bos-**

ton from a nearly year-long siege by the British.'

"When the fight for independence broke out, Henry Knox was just 25 years old with a passion for military science and a deep belief in the cause of liberty," says Saratoga County's 250th Anniversary American Revolution website.

"What Knox lacked in formal
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training, he made up for with fearless determination and intellect," it says.

Knox knew of the cannons at Fort Ticonderoga captured by Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys in May 1775, Lake George Battlefield Alliance president John DeNuzzo told *The Chronicle*.

What became known as the Henry Knox Noble Train of Artillery was daring, grueling and logistically complex.

The procession traveled, on foot and with 42 sleds pulled by oxen and horses, for more than 300 miles over 56 days, December 1775 to March 1776, on military roads and over frozen waterways including Lake George and the Hudson River.

Some today tout it tongue-in-cheek as "Henry Knox's Heavy Metal Tour."

Here are **area events for the 250th anniversary** of the Knox Noble Train.

Crown Point & Fort Ticonderoga

• **Crown Point State Historic Site & War Cannon Spirits, Thursday, Dec. 4:** Special Knox program, details TBA. Artillery from Crown Point was included in the transport.

• **"Ticonderoga's Treasures"** Premium Ticketed Experience, **Friday, Dec. 5,** at Fort Ticonderoga. Original archival documents, rare books, prints and artifacts illuminating the Knox Noble Train. Virtual "seats" to view the event are available on the Fort Ti website, for \$35 per screen. In-person tickets (\$50) were nearly sold out, says the fort.

• **Noble Train Begins, Saturday, Dec. 6,** 9:30 a.m.-on, **reenactment at Fort Ti.** Watch New York soldiers examine the

guns of Ticonderoga for fatal faults, "before scaling and cleaning them with the explosive force of gunpowder."

• **The Noble Train to Lake George begins, Sunday, Dec. 7,** 11 a.m. in the Town of Ticonderoga. Largest assembly of period vehicles, pulled by oxen and horses, since December 1775, costumed reenactors soldiers and teamsters, says the fort, and a parade.

LG Battlefield Park Alliance

Events in conjunction with the Warren County Commission for the 250th Anni-

versary of the American Revolution:

• **"Henry Knox" arrives at Lake George** by boat, with cannon, **Friday, Dec. 12**, 3 p.m. at Lake George Battlefield Park. Re-creation of Knox's arrival at the head of Lake George in a replica bateau, with life and drum, 40-plus 18th-century soldier re-enactors, demos of camp life and soldiering skills, flag give-aways.

"Knox" and replica artillery transported by horse and sled to Fort George — where Knox actually stayed — to speak about "his perilous journey."

• **Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Rick Atkinson** in Lake George **Friday, Dec. 12**. Author of bestsellers *The British Are Coming* and *The Fate of the Day*.

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Knox Artillery Train

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is featured prominently in Ken Burns' new *American Revolution* documentary on PBS. **Sold-out reception at 4:30 p.m.** at Lake George Holiday Inn Resort. **Free public conversation and Q&A with Rick Atkinson**, 7 p.m. at Lake George High School. Books available for purchase and signing. The author will also meet during the day with Lake George Junior-Senior High School students whose summer reading assignments focused in part on the historian's writings about the American Revolution and World



Pulitzer-winning author/historian Rick Atkinson, in Lake George for multiple events Friday, Dec. 12.

Stewart's special ice cream: 'Knox Cannonball Crunch'

In honor of the 250th anniversary of Henry Knox's 'Noble Train of Artillery,' Stewart's Shops is offering a limited edition commemorative ice cream called "Knox Cannonball Crunch."

Saratoga Battlefield talk

Saratoga Battlefield National Historical Park presents "Myths and Realities of Col. Henry Knox's Mission to Lake Champlain." **Thursday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m.** Speaker J.L. Bell is author of *The Road to Concord: How Four Stolen Cannon Ignited the Revolutionary War*, and administrator of the Boston1775.net website. Register: sara_reservations@nps.gov.

War II.

Old Fort House, Fort Edward

• **Washington County Knox Parade, Saturday, Dec. 13**, 9 a.m. from Fort Edward High School to the Old Fort House, Fort Edward, and then Fort Miller. Wreaths laid at markers along the route. Veterans, students, families, local businesses, and history enthusiasts are invited to join. Register at 747-9108.

Saratoga County & beyond

• **The Noble Train Arrives in Saratoga County, Saturday, Dec. 13**, 1 p.m. at Dix Bridge in Hudson Crossing Park, Schuylerville. **Official passing** from Washington to Saratoga County of the **replica linstock**, the long stick used to light cannons. It's provided by The Saratoga Sons of the American Revolution

• **Knox Fest 250**, 1 p.m. at Fort Hardy park. Horse-drawn wagon rides, reenactors portray Knox and General Philip Schuyler, Knox Board Game, tavern fare,



BOCES construction trades students **Cody Tucker from Hadley-Luzerne** and **Maggie Horan of Mechanicville** working on a replica Knox artillery sled last spring. The sled will be use when Knox reenactors arrive in Lake George on Dec. 12. *Photo provided*

Daughters of American Revolution recognition to BOCES replica sled makers, twilight lantern walk and artillery salute.

• **Popular Music of Knox's Era**, Saturday, **Dec. 13**, 6:30 p.m. at Arts Center on the Hudson, Mechanicville. By Musi-

cians of Ma'alwyck.

• **Noble Train passes from Saratoga to Albany County**, Sunday, **Dec. 14**, 9 a.m. procession and ceremony at Soldiers and Sailors Park in Waterford. 10 a.m. at

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