

'HOT' ON THE KNOX TRAIL



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Members of the Warren County 250 Committee, and Daughters of the American Revolution were joined by Queensbury Town Supervisor John Strough, at right from the marker, and Glens Falls Mayor Bill Collins, right of Strough, as well as other town officials and community members as they rededicated the Knox Trail Marker located at the boarder of Queensbury and Glens Falls.

Knox trail markers rededicated for anniversary

ALEX PORTAL AND LUKE MOSSEAU

WARREN COUNTY - [EDITOR'S NOTE: Alex Portal is a member of the Commission for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution Warren County, N.Y.]

Members of the Warren County Commission for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution and the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Jane McCrea Chapter, were joined by local officials and more than a few intrepid history aficionados as they stopped at four Knox Trail Markers throughout the county, Tuesday.

"We're here to pay tribute to Henry Knox. It's the 250th anniversary of his noble artillery train, which passed right through here," John DiNuzzo, president of the Lake George Battlefield Alliance said at Knox Trail Marker No. 7 in Lake George. "The weather today is sufficiently wintry to remind us of just how strong an effort it took for Knox and his train to carry 60 tons of artillery on Lake George, through the forest, down the valleys, over the Berkshires, all the way to Boston."

The stops were part of a massive commemoration honoring the 250th

anniversary of the Henry Knox expedition, which delivered cannon and munitions to Gen. George Washington, vital for driving the British from Boston Harbor. It was the first decisive victory for the newly formed Continental Army and sent a clear message back to King George III that the American colonies' demands for self-governance were not to be taken lightly.

Knox arrived at Fort Ticonderoga on Dec. 5, 1775, with the plan to row the needed guns to Fort George at the south end of Lake George and then haul them over the land on sleds pulled by draft animals. In a letter to Washington dated Dec. 17, 1775, Knox wrote, "I hope in 16 or 17 days to be able to present to your Excellency a noble train of artillery."

It would take 40 days for Knox's "Noble Train" to reach Washington in Cambridge on Jan. 25, 1776.

Along the way Knox had to cross the Hudson River four times. The first crossing was at Glens Falls.

"Again, our little piece of land between the Hudson River and Lake George played an important role in the history of this country," Queensbury Town Supervisor John

Strough said at Marker No. 9, located at the boarder of Glens Falls and Queensbury.

"The amount of commitment it must have taken," Glens Falls Mayor Bill Collins mused. "It's overwhelming to think about going from Ticonderoga to Boston with or without artillery is an amazing thing!"

More than 60 markers have been erected along Knox's route since the effort was started in 1926 in commemoration for the 150th anniversary of the "Noble Train."

"I want to thank everyone that's involved in elevating our important history," Lake George Town Supervisor Vincent Crocitto said Tuesday. "Everybody that contributes to this marker and how important it is to the town and our community, especially as we stand here where this historic and heroic feat took place — right here is where the early seeds of our independence were planted."

Assemblymember Matt Simpson, District-114, recognized the sacrifices that were endured during the Revolutionary period.

Please see **KNOX**, Page A2



From left, Queensbury town historian John Berry; Warren County historian Stan Cianfarano; historian Lorna Hainsworth; Hague town historian Sally DeLarm; Philip Levesque; and Hague Town Supervisor Joshua Patchett commemorate the 250th anniversary of Henry Knox's "Noble Train of Artillery," at Knox Trail Marker No. 6 in Bolton Landing. Not pictured: Lake George Battlefield Alliance President John DiNuzzo.

Knox

From A1

"To travel in the North Country this time of year; this is a reminder but imagine doing this continuously over such a long period of time," he said at marker No. 7. "The grit and determination that those people had at that time is just incredible, so it's amazing being a part of this."

A linstock is being carried throughout the activities this weekend as commemorations are ceremoniously handed off from county to county along the route. Queensbury town historian John Berry explained that linstocks were long poles equipped with hemp rope, which were used to ignite and fire cannon.

"They would light it, they wouldn't smoke it, but they would light it," Berry quipped.

Linstocks were traditionally carried by artillery officers during the time of

the American Revolution.

DAR custodian Heather Mabee read a proclamation, which was shared at each of the markers on Tuesday, rededicating them in honor of Henry Knox and the generation that gave birth to America.

"History tells us that what is needed today is not just a show of greatness and a parade of power, but a dedication to great ideals and high endeavor," Mabee read. "Therefore, we the members of the Saratoga-Ticonderoga Jane McCrea Chapter of the New York State Daughters of the American Revolution and the 250 Knox Mobility Artillery train now dedicate this marker in grateful recognition of the service of Henry Knox and his co-patriots of the American Revolution. In honoring these patriots, we also pay tribute to the men and women who have served our country with integrity and devotion. We dedicate ourselves anew to faithful stewardship of the blessings we enjoy."



Lake George Town Supervisor Vincent Crocitto speaking about the heroic efforts of Henry Knox delivering artillery from Ticonderoga to Boston.
Luke Mosseau