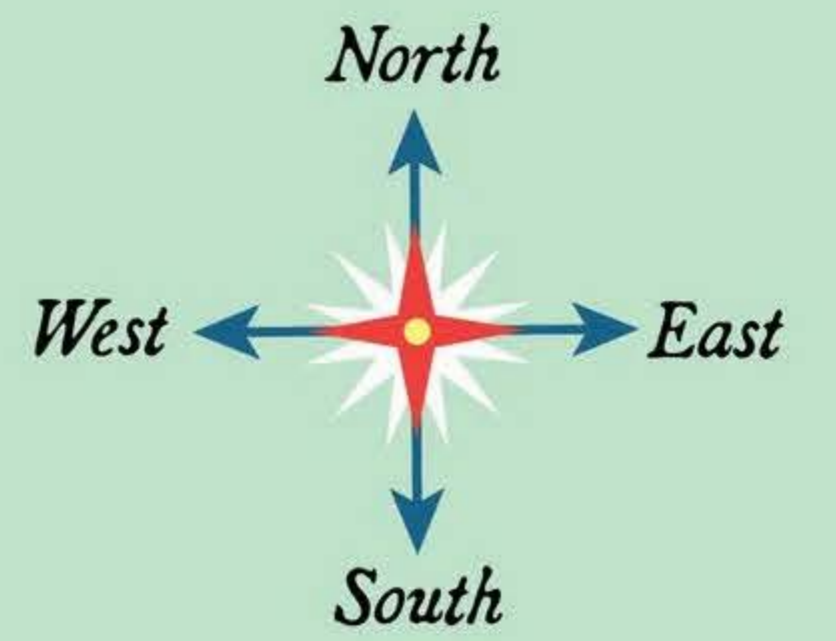


FROM MT. BEACON TO THE HUDSON RIVER



Beacon's Role During the American Revolution

NEWBURGH

FISHKILL

Washington's Headquarters

Washington's Headquarters

Washington's New Windsor Headquarters at the Ellison House

Pollepel Chevaux-de-frise

Bannerman Island

Washington's Ferry

Dennings Point

Wiltse's Landing

Fishkill Landing Supplies

Fishkill Landing Marker

Daniel Terboss's Shop

Lafayette's 1824 Tour Marker

Newburgh-Beacon Bridge 1963

Society of Cincinnati

Baron von Steuben

Mount Gulian



Daniel Nimham



Burgoyne's Surrender



Fishkill Supply Depot



Colonel Few's Former Grave



Marquis De Lafayette



Schenck Store & Mill



Hell's Hollow



Henry & Hannah Schenck

Daughters of the American Revolution Monument 1900



Beacon

READY, SET, FIRE!



Alexander Hamilton

The Newburgh Letter

1. Society of Cincinnati—Mount Gulian—145 Sterling Street, Beacon
2. Baron von Steuben—Mount Gulian—145 Sterling Street, Beacon—Visit www.mountgulian.org
3. Daniel Nimham—The statue is located at the intersection of Route 52 and 82, Fishkill
4. Shibboleth Bogardus—Pete and Toshi Seeger River Front Park—2 Red Flynn Drive, Beacon
5. Burgoyne's Surrender—(exact trail unknown)
6. Daniel Terboss's Shop—Once in the vicinity of West Main Street
7. Colonel Few's Former Grave—1113 Wolcott Avenue, Beacon (historic marker in front of the former Reformed Dutch Church)
8. Fishkill Landing Supplies—Long Dock—23 Long Dock Road, Beacon
9. Henry and Hannah Schenck—Madam Brett Homestead—50 Van Nydeck Avenue, Beacon
Visit www.melzingahnsdar.org/madam-brett-homestead
10. Marquis De Lafayette—Madam Brett Homestead—50 Van Nydeck Avenue, Beacon
11. The Schenck Store and Mill—Once near Churchill Street, Beacon
12. Hell's Hollow—Monument Road, Beacon
13. Washington's Headquarters—84 Liberty Street, Newburgh
14. Wiltse's Landing—Once on the Hudson River waterfront near Dia Beacon
15. Washington's Ferry—Dennings Point State Park—Dennings Avenue, Beacon
16. Alexander Hamilton—Once near Madam Brett Park—560 South Avenue, Beacon
17. The Newburgh Letter—Madam Brett Park—560 South Avenue, Beacon
18. Mt. Beacon—Monument Road, Beacon
19. Pollepel—Bannerman Island—To tour the island and castle visit www.bannermancastle.org.



The city of Beacon was formed from two villages: Fishkill Landing and Matteawan, in 1913. In the days of the Revolution, this region was known primarily as "Rombout's Patent," after the Dutch trader who purchased the land from the Wappinger tribe. Beacon's location on the Hudson River gave it great strategic importance for Washington and his army. Here, among the bustling military ports and peaceful country homesteads, both illustrious figures and ordinary folk worked together to light the spark of liberty. This map explores 19 places—and tells 19 stories—that illustrate Beacon's role in America's beginning.

1. Society of Cincinnati (Mount Gulian—145 Sterling Street, Beacon). In 1783, Major General Henry Knox came up with an idea for a special society, a fraternal club for officers of the Continental Army and their descendants, to preserve the legacy of the Revolution and to help each other out during difficult times. This was the Society of the Cincinnati, named for the Roman Cincinnatus, who gave up his peaceful life as a farmer to serve Rome during wartime. The first meeting was held at Mount Gulian. Baron von Steuben led the meeting, and Alexander Hamilton gave a speech. All the officers present took a solemn vow to remain in contact after the war ended and to always lend a helping hand to each other in times of need.



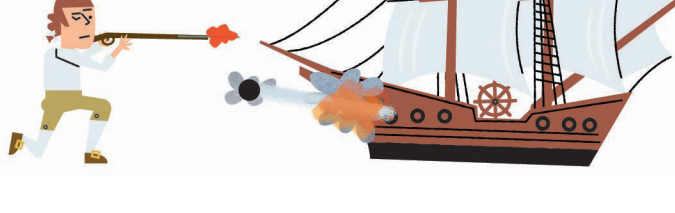
2. Baron von Steuben (Mount Gulian—145 Sterling Street, Beacon). The greatest challenge faced by the leaders of the Revolution was how to teach an army to be an army. The majority of volunteers had bravery, enthusiasm for the cause, and absolutely no training. Enter Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben. The Baron had begun his own military career at age 14. Looking for military work in Europe but unable to find any, he was sent to the colonies by the French Minister of War to aid Washington. In 1777, the Baron arrived at Valley Forge and got to work whipping the troops there into shape. He was often described as eccentric, and spoke little English except for curse words, but his willingness to work with anyone regardless of rank quickly earned him the trust of the enlisted men. He would go on to become Inspector General of the Army and one of Washington's most trusted advisors. For some time at the end of the war, he quartered at Mount Gulian, home of the Verplanck family.



3. Daniel Nimham (Statue is located at the intersection of Route 52 and 82, Fishkill). The Wappinger tribe were the first people to settle this area, long before European colonizers arrived in the late 1600s. The Nochpeem band of the Wappingers lived in the area now occupied by Beacon. Chief Daniel Nimham is frequently cited as the last sachem of the Wappingers. He was described as six and a half feet tall and spoke multiple languages. He traveled to England in 1766 to argue with Parliament for his people's land rights. At the outbreak of the Revolution, he and a few hundred of the remaining Wappingers were living in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Nimham, along with his son Abraham and about 50 other Wappinger men, enlisted in the Continental Army and served with Washington at Valley Forge. Nimham and the Stockbridge Militia were massacred by British forces at the Battle of Kingsbridge. He is remembered as one of our region's earliest heroes.



4. Shibboleth Bogardus (Pete and Toshi Seeger River Front Park, 2 Red Flynn Drive, Beacon). In 1777, the British sailed up the Hudson on a mission to burn Kingston, which was then the capital of New York. As they passed Fishkill Landing, twenty year old Shibboleth Bogardus impulsively fired a musket at the fleet from his family's dock. He was too far away to land the shot, but the ships replied with a volley of cannon fire, which also did no damage. The cannon balls were later recovered and held for a time in the collection at Washington's Headquarters. The Bogardus family were builders of one of the first docks in Fishkill Landing and several of their descendants still live in Beacon today.



5. Burgoyne's Surrender (exact trail unknown). General John Burgoyne, "Gentleman Johnny," was the British general who led the Saratoga Campaign. Burgoyne was known to be overconfident and to travel with several carriages of fine clothes and bottles of champagne. His surrender at Saratoga in 1777 was a turning point for the Continental Army. Burgoyne was allowed to go free, but his army of nearly 6,000 British and Hessian soldiers were made to march from Saratoga to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where they were held prisoner. These soldiers would later be moved 700 miles south, to Charlottesville, Virginia, in 1778. The journey would take them through Rombout's Patent to cross the Hudson via ferry. It is likely Burgoyne's soldiers camped at the Landing, as the ferry could only take so many at once. One trip across the river took five hours, thanks to a fierce thunderstorm that threatened to capsize the ferry. In the end, it would take three days to transfer all of the prisoners.



6. Daniel Terboss's Shop (Once in the vicinity of West Main Street). With its busy port, active fleet of sloops, healthy clientele of traveling soldiers, Continental Army officers, and even legends like Washington himself nearby, Fishkill Landing was the perfect place to conduct business. One advertisement by Daniel Terboss, whose shop was located near the port, boasted a stock of dozens of luxuries, including "Irish linen, bandana handkerchiefs, elegant fans of the newest taste, rat and mouse traps, indigo, rum, coffee, and ginger," just to name a few. Needless to say, the people of Fishkill Landing also enjoyed the variety of goods available at Terboss's shop—something unimaginable during wartime in other parts of the country.



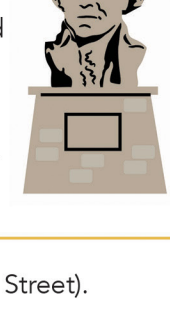
7. Colonel Few's Former Grave (1113 Wolcott Avenue, Former Reformed Dutch Church). William Few first made a name for himself as a colonel in the Continental Army, fighting British troops in his home state of Georgia. His leadership and patriotism led to an appointment as Georgia's representative at the 1787 Constitutional Convention, where he signed the US Constitution. So what does a Founding Father from Georgia have to do with Beacon? Much of Few's family lived in New York, so he chose to move north around 1800. In 1828, Few died while visiting his daughter in Fishkill Landing. He was buried in the Chrystie family vault of the Reformed Dutch Church, where he rested in obscurity until 1973, when his bones were exhumed and reinterred in Georgia at the request of that state.



8. Fishkill Landing Supplies (Long Dock—23 Long Dock Road, Beacon). When Continental Army supplies stored at White Plains were threatened by local loyalists in 1776, a new site upriver was selected: Fishkill Landing. By 1780, Washington would name Fishkill Landing as one of his most necessary supply depots. Its location on the river, just across from Washington's own headquarters, made it particularly valuable. This was a busy port, with two dozen ships sailing out every day, carrying troops, ammunition, arms, uniforms, and food. Many of these supplies and thousands of passengers came from New England to cross the Hudson River. A great number of people were heading toward important deliberations happening in Philadelphia. Two landings—Bogardus Landing and Wiltse Landing, named for two prominent families—kept storehouses. Despite its importance, Fishkill Landing was only targeted once by the British. In 1777, the HMS Dependence fired a few rounds at the boats docked at Bogardus Landing and further upstream at the Wappinger Creek. No significant damage was done. The last military supplies would be moved out of Fishkill Landing around 1783, after which the small port village would return to a quiet, peaceful norm.



9. Henry & Hannah Schenck (Madam Brett Homestead—50 Van Nydeck Avenue, Beacon) The Madam Brett Homestead was built in 1709 by Catharyna Brett, a businesswoman of Dutch descent. By the outbreak of the Revolution, the third generation of the family had inherited the home. Henry Schenck was a major in the Continental Army and served the Commissary as a purchaser of goods. His wife, Hannah, granddaughter of Madam Brett, frequently played hostess to visiting officers, including Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette. One wedding celebration was interrupted by the arrival of a company of Continental soldiers looking for a place to camp for the night. Henry and Hannah invited the soldiers to stay in return for joining the merrymaking in honor of the newlyweds. Today, the Madam Brett Homestead is owned and operated by the Melzingah Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution. The DAR dedicated a statue of George Washington to honor his service to our country. It is located on the corner of Teller and Wolcott Avenue.



10. Marquis de Lafayette (Madam Brett Homestead—50 Van Nydeck Avenue, Beacon; and Lafayette Street). The Marquis de Lafayette, a French nobleman and military officer, was only 19 years old when he decided to sail for America and enlist himself in the Continental Army. He quickly became close personal friends with Washington and held a variety of positions as both advisor to the General and as a commander of forces. His path through history briefly intersected with Beacon at two points. Once, during the war, he was the guest of honor at a Christmas party held at the Schenck house, (now the Madam Brett Homestead.) The dress his hostess, Hannah Schenck, wore while dancing with him, is still on display at the Homestead. His second visit happened on his "Grand Tour" in 1824, during which he visited places he remembered from the Revolution. Lafayette Avenue in Fishkill Landing was named in his honor during this visit.



11. The Schenck Store and Mill (Once near Churchill Street, Beacon). Major Henry Schenck operated a mill and a general store, the latter of which was the center of village life. Its 1763-1768 ledgers provide fascinating insight into the daily needs and priorities of local inhabitants. They are a record of barter or exchange of goods and services. The store may have been located near the grist mill that Henry and his brother Abraham built on the creek near the Brett Homestead or where the Dia Beacon Art Museum is today. During the Revolutionary War, grist mills were vital infrastructure that converted locally grown wheat, rye, and corn into flour and meal to feed the Continental Army.



12. Hell's Hollow (Monument Road, Beacon). Hell's Hollow may have gained its name thanks to being notoriously difficult to cross. In fact, John Adams crossed through Hell's Hollow in the winter of 1777 and described it in a letter to his wife, Abigail, as being like climbing the Swiss Alps. Nevertheless, soldiers frequently used this passage to travel from Fishkill to Fishkill Landing. At least two men died here, though not due to the dangers of deep snow or rock slides. Soldiers committing mutiny were known to use Hell's Hollow as an escape route. One unsuccessful traitor—and the lieutenant who caught him—fought to the death in Hell's Hollow. Both men would be buried side by side back at their base camp.



13. Washington's Headquarters (84 Liberty Street, Newburgh). While General Washington had been active throughout the Hudson Valley at various points in the War, he did not make the former Hasbrouck House in Newburgh his permanent residence until 1782. Even then, the General rarely resided in the house, as his duties to the Continental Army kept him traveling constantly. Nevertheless, he called Newburgh his "official" home for a total of 16 months—his longest stay at any one place during the Revolution.



14. Wiltse's Landing (Once on the Hudson River waterfront near Dia Beacon). The waterfront at Fishkill Landing was a busy place. The Wiltse family owned and built a massive dock there. They held a grant from the crown that prevented a competitive ferry operation for a mile north and south of that point. The dock extended far into the river and accommodated deep-water sailing vessels. As a result, all large commercial, civilian and military vessels used this for access. Revolutionary War records document many interesting events that occurred at the dock. One letter between General Washington and Governor Clinton discussed a sloop docked at Wiltse's being used by a Loyalist to smuggle arms. Washington met the French Minister, Chevalier de la Luzerne at the dock, creating the foundation of a vital diplomatic bond that would help to secure French military support. Samuel Loudon, who coordinated the printing of the Federalist Papers, met Hamilton on the dock regarding early drafts of his essays.

15. Washington's Ferry (Dennings Point State Park, Dennings Avenue, Beacon). Captain William Denning didn't live on the Point named for him at the time of the Revolution. Nevertheless, he was known to occasionally meet General Washington there when the General took a ferry over from Washington's Headquarters. Denning, or other officers, would receive the General with horses to carry him and his attendants to Fishkill, whenever business needed to be conducted there. One massive oak tree on the Point, depicted in a painting by Christopher Pearse Cranch in 1867, was poetically named the "Washington Oak" after the idea that Washington may have tied his horse to this tree, or rested against it while waiting for the ferry.

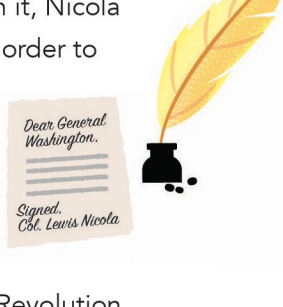


16. Alexander Hamilton (Once near Madam Brett Park, 560 South Avenue, Beacon). In 1781, Alexander Hamilton was newly married to Elizabeth Schuyler and newly unemployed, having quit working for Washington after the general refused to give him a position of command in the Continental Army. Hamilton longed for military glory, but Washington considered Hamilton's writing ability too valuable to lose. The Hamiltons rented a house on DePeyster's Point from April to August 1781, conveniently located directly across from Washington's headquarters. The house was built in 1743 by the nephew of Madam Brett. From here, Hamilton could keep an eye on the war and send daily letters to Washington. General Washington would eventually relent and give Hamilton his command, leading to a victory at Yorktown and the end of the war.



While at the DePeyster house, Hamilton wrote a 31-page communication to Robert Morris, Superintendent of Finance of the United States. The letter outlined ideas for the new nation's future financial system, including the founding of a national bank and a plan for establishing credit essential for securing American independence. Between letters, his essays "The Continentalist" that advocated for a national government, were published in Samuel Loudon's newspaper, the *New York Packet*. The essays formed the beginning of part of what became the Federalist Papers, laying the groundwork for the U.S. Constitution.

17. The Newburgh Letter (Madam Brett Park, 560 South Avenue, Beacon). It was at the DePeyster House, on May 22, 1782, that Colonel Lewis Nicola penned what is now known as the "Newburgh Letter." In it, Nicola suggested that Washington (stationed in Newburgh) should become King of the United States in order to stabilize the young nation. Written amid military frustration over lack of pay, the letter proposed a constitutional monarchy. Washington strongly rejected the idea, expressing astonishment and deep concern. In a sharp reply, he stated, "no occurrence in the course of the War has given me more painful sensations than your information of there being such ideas existing in the Army." He urged Nicola to "banish these thoughts from your Mind". This event is considered a pivotal moment when Washington rejected absolute power, reinforcing the democratic principles of the Revolution.



18. Beacon (Monument Road, Beacon). Believe it or not, it's Mount Beacon that gave our city its name! Our mountain is the highest point in the Hudson Highlands, which made it the ideal location for one of a chain of signal fires, called beacons, that the Continental Army used to communicate during the war. The beacons were piles of wood, 18 to 20 feet tall. Lighting of the beacons would be accompanied by cannon fire. Ideally, this would serve as a warning that British troops were sailing upriver. However, despite several stories of British troops sailing near here, there are no records of the beacon ever being lit! In 1900, a stone monument was installed by the Daughters of the American Revolution to remember the women and men who fought bravely in the War. Nevertheless, when the city of Beacon was incorporated in 1913, that image—of a signal fire bravely blazing from the top of the mountain—was the inspiration behind our name and city seal.

19. Pollepel Chevaux-de-frise (Bannerman Island). Preventing British ships from moving upriver was one of the primary puzzles Continental Army leaders had to solve. One solution they explored was the "chevaux-de-frise" on Pollepel Island, now Bannerman Island. These spiky underwater barriers would damage ships that attempted to sail over them in shallower areas. 106 chevaux-de-frise were placed in the river but did nothing to deter British ships sailing upriver to burn Kingston in 1777. The intention was to extend the barrier to Plum Point in New Windsor, but by 1778, a better solution was found in the Great Chain, which stretched across the river near West Point. Today, remnants of the chevaux-de-frise can still be found on the riverbed near the island. Boat tours depart from 2 Red Flynn Drive in Beacon, NY.

