

# Landmarks of Canajoharie, Palatine Bridge and the surrounding areas

## **Memorial of the routes of the Armies of General John Sullivan and General James Clinton**

The 1779 Sullivan Expedition, also known as the Sullivan-Clinton Expedition, or Sullivan Campaign was an extended systematic military campaign during the American Revolutionary War against Loyalists ("Tories") and the four Nations of the Haudenosaunee which had sided with the British.

The campaign ordered and organized by George Washington and his staff was conducted chiefly in the lands of the Iroquois Confederacy (also known as the Longhouse Confederacy) "taking the war home to the enemy to break their morale", and the expedition was largely successful in that goal as they destroyed more than 40 Iroquois villages and stores of winter crops, breaking the power of the six nations in New York all the way to the Great Lakes, as the terrified Indian families relocated to Canada seeking protection of the British. Today this area is the heartland of Upstate New York, and with the military power of the Iroquois vanquished, the events also opened up the vast Ohio Country, the Great Lakes regions, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Kentucky to post-war settlements.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sullivan\\_Expedition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sullivan_Expedition)

## **Map of the Erie Canal Trail**

Quick facts about the trail:

- The Erie Canal trail is 360 miles of mostly flat, multi-use trail and on-road segments, that run from Albany and Buffalo, NY.
- Stone dust and gravel is the most common trail surface, with some paved and natural surfaces along the way.
- The trail was completed in 1825 and connected the Hudson River to Lake Erie spurring America's western expansion.

<https://www.ptny.org/cycle-the-erie-canal/the-trail/fast-facts>

## **Chester B. Hoke Landmark**

Bromley Hoke and Elizabeth Phillips Hoke represent the integral part of that African Americans, descendants of grandparents who had been locally enslaved, played in the economic and social development of the Mohawk Valley, as well as the close ties of family and neighborhood that sustained African American families as they moved from slavery into freedom.

<http://www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com/african-american-life-abolitionist-movement-in-canajoharie/>

## **Van Alstyne Homestead**

Van Alstyne Homestead Society and Museum is a fortified homestead, typical of 18th-century Dutch architecture, featuring colonial artifacts, furnishings and 19th century images of historic sites by artist Rufus Grider. The long, low rectangular fieldstone house was built in 1730 with a steeply pitched gambrel roof and a garrett under the roof. A 2.5-story frame addition runs across the rear.

<http://www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com/things-to-do/van-alstyne-homestead-society-and-museum/>

## **Mile Marker 192**

Mile marker 192 was put in place by the railway system to let people know that they were 192 miles from New York City.

## **Wintergreen Park**

Wintergreen Park features the dramatic 45-foot Canajoharie Falls and several smaller cascades in the public section of Canajoharie Gorge, as well as scenic nature trails and picnic areas.

<http://www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com/things-to-do/wintergreen-park-and-gorge/>

## **Canajoharie Dummy Light**

The village of Canajoharie is home to one of a handful of operating "dummy lights" in the United States, located downtown at the intersection of Church, Mohawk and Montgomery Streets. It is a traffic signal on a pedestal located in the middle of an intersection; it was first installed in 1926. Two others are located in New York State, in Beacon and Croton-on-Hudson.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canajoharie\\_\(village\),\\_New\\_York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canajoharie_(village),_New_York)

## **Stone Arabia Battlefield**

On October 19, 1780 Sir John Johnson led an army of 900 Loyalist and British Regulars on an invasion of the Mohawk Valley. After following a circuitous route across southern New York State they swept north up the Schoharie Valley entering the Mohawk Valley at Fort Hunter where the army turned west towards the Canajohary/Palatine Districts. The invaders camped the evening of October 18th near the Noses, a geological feature which forms the great divide in the Appalachian Mountain chain. The following day they crossed the Mohawk River at Keator's Rift and burned Jellis Fonda's mill before continuing on to attack the settlement of Stone Arabia located a mile and half north of the Mohawk River in the Palatine District. Colonel John Brown of the Massachusetts's Militia marched his 380 militiamen out of Fort Paris to meet the enemy on a field about a mile from the fort. Outnumbered nearly 3 to 1 he was shot from his horse and his men fled the field. Stone Arabia was completely destroyed by the enemy including the twin Dutch Reformed and German Lutheran Churches. Both churches were rebuilt after the war ended and still stand today.

<https://www.mohawkvalleyhistory.com/destinations/listing/Battle-of-Stone-Arabia>

## **Stone Arabia Church**

The Stone Arabia churches are a pair of 18th-century churches standing side by side in a small rural hamlet: The Dutch Reformed Church, a stone structure, erected in 1788, and Trinity Lutheran Church, constructed of wood, built in 1792. An 18th century burial ground lies a short distance from the churches. Colonel Brown's Cemetery is the 18th-century burial site of Colonel Brown and others who lost their lives in the Revolutionary War Battle of Stone Arabia. The Reformed Dutch Church of Stone Arabia was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and the Trinity Lutheran Church in 2005.

<http://www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com/things-to-do/stone-arabia-churches/>

## Lock E 14

Known in its day as, "the eighth wonder of the world," the Erie Canal remains one of America's best known and enduring icons. A marvel of nineteenth-century engineering, canal construction began in 1817. It followed a path already made popular by Americans heading west along the Mohawk River, through the Appalachian Mountains and then on to Lake Erie.

### "Clinton's Ditch"

Construction of the canal was a tremendous feat. Workers dug a ditch that stretched 363 miles. At 40 feet wide and four feet deep, it was built to weave through rocky hills and swamps and across rivers.

In addition, this ditch had to gradually rise more than 500 feet en route from the Hudson River to Lake Erie, using a series of locks. First ridiculed as "Clinton's Ditch," after New York Governor and canal proponent DeWitt Clinton, within months of opening in 1825, doubters were quickly silenced by the canal's overwhelming success. By connecting east to west, the canal became an unprecedented engine of growth, spurring commerce and development and turning New York State into an economic powerhouse.

### Transporting ideas and reforms

The success of the Erie Canal spurred additional waterways, connecting to the Oswego, Cayuga-Seneca, and Champlain canals. Dozens of towns and cities also sprung up to meet the human and commercial needs it created.

It is important to note that people, raw materials, and goods were not the only thing that traveled the canal. It became a means of transporting new ideas and social reforms, elevating Erie Canal towns to the national level and solidifying their role in historical movements including abolition of slavery and women's suffrage.

<https://www.ptny.org/cycle-the-erie-canal/the-trail/canal-history>

## **John Frey and Fort Frey**

Fort Frey (1739-1760)- A French and Indian War settler fort established in 1739 in the present day town of Palatine Bridge, New York. Named Fort Frey after the Frey family who built a fortified stone residence that replaces a previously built stockade log cabin. The Fort was abandoned as a fortification in 1760.

During the Revolutionary War the three Frey sons (John, Henry and Bernard) had different loyalties (John was a Patriot, Henry and Bernard were Tories) and were bitterly divided. The fort does not appear to have been garrisoned by either side of any length of time. All three of the sons held officer's commissions during the war. John was a Major in the American army. Henry (Hendrick) was a Colonel but took no active part in the war. Bernard went to Canada and became a Captain in Butler's Rangers and was killed in 1813 at Newark by an American cannon ball from Fort Niagara in the War of 1812.

The fort was probably used to shelter local settlers during the British and Indian raids into the Mohawk Valley but it was never known to be attacked during the Revolutionary War.

[http://www.fortwiki.com/Fort\\_Frey](http://www.fortwiki.com/Fort_Frey)

## **John Winn**

John Winns was a prominent man, Member of assembly; Sheriff, and Member of the Convention that ratified the Constitution

<http://threerivershms.com/earlycanajo.htm>

## **Johannes Reuffs Tavern**

Canajoharie was originally called Scrambling (Schrembling) after a tavern keeper by the name of Henry Schrembling, who operated a tavern on the river opposite Frey's.

<https://www.co.montgomery.ny.us/sites/public/municipal/TownOfCanajoharie/WebPages/History.aspx>

## **Canajoharie**

The name Canajoharie is derived from the Mohawk name Can-a-jor-ha, which means the "pot that washes itself". The name was given because in the creek flowing through the area there is a pot hole about 20 feet in diameter and about 10 feet deep at the base of a falls. Though time has eroded the edges, at one point it was nearly round with vertical sides.

<https://www.co.montgomery.ny.us/sites/public/municipal/TownOfCanajoharie/WebPages/History.aspx>

## Recommended books about the History of Canajoharie

*Canajoharie and the Sullivan-Clinton expedition, 1779-1929* by Canajoharie R 973.3

*"Steeple chase": a history of the churches in the town of Canajoharie, Montgomery County, N.Y.* by Montgomery County Department of History and Archives, R 974.4  
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*Canajoharie crossroads: our heritage, our future;* R 974.74 Can