AN HISTORICAL, BETHLEHEM CRUISE ON THE HUDSON RIVER

During the time of the Revolutionary War, the Hudson River was a major transportation route. If the British could control this route, it would cut communication and the flow of supplies between New England and the rest of the colonies. It would also eliminate a very navigable passage as an American transportation route. At the same time for the British, it would open a major supply route from New Britain (Canada) to New York City, which were both held by the British for most of war. Therefore, it's not surprising that the Hudson River passes near a wealth of Revolutionary War sites from New York City to Glens Falls, including "Our Towne" of Bethlehem.

Henry Hudson Park at Cedar Hill

Commemorating the arrival of the Halfmoon, September 18-19, 1609.

Erected by Town of Bethlehem, September 19, 1975

(Henry Hudson Park Marker)

CEDAR HILL -- Prior to the 19th Century, the river was main-street America. Today, Cedar Hill is an historic place on this "street." One of its first visitors was the Dutch explorer, Henry Hudson, as documented by a marker near the American Flag in the Henry Hudson Park.

During the Revolution, the area was home to Colonel Francis Nicoll, who served in the New York Militia from 1775-1778. He participated in the extraction of cannons and munitions from New York City, prior to its surrender to the British in 1776. He also participated in the defense of Albany from Burgoyne's invasion from Canada in 1777.

Although not visible today from the Hudson, Nicoll's home still stands at Cedar Hill. Near the home is a small cemetery where Col. Nicoll is buried. Also buried in the cemetery are seven other Revolutionary War soldiers, including Lt. Arie Van Wie and Sergeant James Selkirk. Van Wie's point is another historic place on the Hudson and is about two miles further north on the Hudson. The Bethlehem hamlet of Selkirk was named after the Selkirk family.

Buried in this Cemetery are
Eight Soldiers of the American Revolution

Cornelius Glen, 1st Regiment, Albany County Militia
Hugh Jolly, 3rd Regiment, Albany County Militia
Zimri Murdock, 5th Regiment, Albany County Militia
Colonel Francis Nicoll, 3rd Regiment, Albany County Militia
James Selkirk, 2nd Regiment, - Line
Major Richard Sill, Continental Army
Caleb Smith, 2nd Regiment, West Chester County Militia
Lieutenant Arie Van Wie, 3rd Regiment, Albany County Militia

Placed by Tawasentha Chapter, NSDAR, 1977

(Cedar Hill Marker)

VAN WIE POINT -- The point was settled by the Van Wie family in the mid 1600's. Later, it became a popular docking area for passengers going to Albany. Docking in Albany was considered hazardous due to shallows in the river. Dredging corrected this problem in the early 20th century.

Hendrick Gerritse Van Wie

Dutch colonist in Fort Orange 1664, built house here in 1679.

(Van Wie Point Marker)

ABBEY HOTEL -- About a mile and a half north of Van Wie Point is the hamlet of Glenmont where the Abbey Hotel once stood. It was owned by Hugh Jolley, who emigrated from Galway, Scotland in 1772. The Abbey Hotel was an important way station between Albany and Van Wie Point. It was raised in the 1960's.

Hugh Jolley served in the New York State Militia during the Revolutionary War and is buried in the cemetery at Cedar Hill.

As you sail further north on the Hudson, you will pass other areas where 18th century patriots once lived including Fort Crailo in Renssalaer, the Schuyler Mansion in Albany and the Van Schaick home in Troy. Above the Capital District, you will pass areas where they fought and skirmished, including the Saratoga Battlefield in Stillwater, Fort Hardy in Schuylerville and Fort Edward. For more information about these areas, see http://www.revolutionaryday.com/champlaincanal/.

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