

## **New Hampshire: Revolutionary Sites a Plenty**

By Mark Richardson

For Christmas, I received a nice little book entitled *Illustrated Guide to Sites of the American Revolution*. It's filled with maps, photos of reenactors, battlefield sites, historic homes, directions to various sites throughout the colonies and a whole lot more. It has just about everything one would need to go on an American Revolutionary War vacation tour. That is, except for New Hampshire. For some reason, Barnes & Noble, the publisher, left out our entire state. Now we all know that with the exception of the raid on Fort William and Mary, in 1774, there are no battlefield sites in New Hampshire. But, there are plenty of Revolutionary War sites that should have been included in this book.

So, what does New Hampshire have to offer? We might think of the obvious places, such as, Fort Constitution in Newcastle, which was built on the site of Fort William and Mary. We might think of the John Paul Jones House in Portsmouth. Contrary to popular belief, Captain Jones did own the house. Nor did he stay there during the construction of the sloop *Ranger* from 1776 through 1777. Instead, he rented only a single room in the house between 1781 and 1782, while he supervised the construction of another ship, the *America*. We might think of Fort #4 in Charlestown along the Connecticut River. More known as a French and Indian War site, old Fort #4 was not rebuilt on its original site, but just a short distance up river. During the Revolution, Fort #4 was where General John Stark rallied his troops on their way to victory at Bennington. The fort was also used as a supply depot during the war.

Looking around, we can find the Matthew Thornton House in Derry. Not only was Dr. Thornton a former President of the New Hampshire Provincial Assembly, he was also the Speaker of the New Hampshire House of Representatives during the war and a delegate to the Continental Congress. As a member of Congress, Dr. Thornton became a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Speaking of the Declaration of Independence, a trip to Exeter will find what today is known as the American Independence Museum, otherwise known as Cincinnati Hall or the Gilman/Ladd house. It was here that an original copy of the Declaration of Independence was discovered and is on public display for special occasions during the year. Nearby is the Folsom Tavern (recently relocated for the second time) where the officers of the Revolution met and formed their Society of Cincinnati in November of 1783. President George Washington visited the tavern on November 4, 1789 during his tour of New England.

While not a Revolutionary War site, we all know that the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord is the home of the two surviving New Hampshire flags of the Revolution. Still marked as the two flags of the 2nd New Hampshire Regiment, we all know that the blue flag decorated with the 2nd New Hampshire crest and the motto *The*

*Glory Not the Prey* belongs to the 2nd New Hampshire. It's that other *We Are One* flag that is in question. We keep hearing rumors that one day the flag will be taken down and the other side will be examined. I just want to know when that someday will be.

How about the Wyman Tavern in Keene? It was here that the Dartmouth College Trustees held their first meeting in 1770. Also, from this location on April 22, 1775, Captain Isaac Wyman left Keene, along with 29 local minutemen, and marched to join the Boston Army.

The homes of two of our most prominent officers, General John Stark and General John Sullivan are also still around. While the Stark home, in Manchester, has been relocated, the Sullivan home, in Durham is still on the original site. Now, if we could only figure out the site of John Sullivan's birth in Somersworth, near the Great Falls, that would be great.

Well, I haven't listed all the sites in New Hampshire, but you've got the picture of things. Now, why didn't the folks at Barnes & Noble see what we see? Perhaps a letter of inquiry is in order. Stay tuned and I'll let you know what, if anything they say.