

There's More Walking Thru History in the Capital District of New York!

(Part 2) by Linda Morzillo

Schenectady, Saratoga Springs and Lake George were highlighted in the previous article.

Johnstown, New York: (41.7 miles/52 minutes) Sir William Johnson founded "John's Town," named for his son. Originally from Ireland, Sir William arrived in New York in 1738. Appointed as Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Sir William spoke several native languages and was rewarded with large tracts of land. New York's oldest operating courthouse, built by Sir William, is on the walk route as is his home, Johnstown Hall State Historic Site. Sir William died in 1774; his son and other family members were Loyalists and soon went to Canada. Walkers will see the home of Women's Rights Activist Elizabeth Cady Stanton who was born and educated in Johnstown. The Knox family established Knox Gelatine company in Johnstown and were generous in donating land for recreational Knox Field. Johnstown was a center for leather tanning and, along with neighboring Gloversville, became known as the glove-making capital of the world. Nicknamed the "Glove Cities," the two cities are still called that today

Troy, New York: (8.2 miles/11 minutes) Occupied for a long time by the Mahican Indian tribe, the Dutch patroon Killaen van Renssalaer established the Manor of Renssalaerwyck, part of which became Troy. The "Home of Uncle Sam" got this nickname when a local butcher and meat-packer named Samuel Wilson supplied the military during the War of 1812. According to an unprovable legend, barrels stamped "U.S." were jokingly taken by the troops to stand for "Uncle Sam." Troy is also the home of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), the oldest private engineering and technical university in the USA founded in 1824. The walk route includes RPI, Russell Sage College, historical buildings and sweeping views of the Hudson River.

Lake Placid, New York: Located in the scenic heart of the Adirondack Mountains and home to the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics, Lake Placid is located 131 miles/2.5 hours north of Albany. In addition to a beautiful ride and a picturesque walk through the village along Lake Placid and around Mirror Lake, walkers see many buildings and structures associated with the Winter Olympics of 1980.

Scotia, New York: (15.6 miles/30 minutes) Alexander Lindsay Glen purchased land from the Mohawk people during the 1600's. He named his estate Scotia, Latin for Scotland. The area was the site of military encampments during the French and Indian War of 1754 and during the War of 1812. The start point of the walk is the historic Glen Sanders Mansion, parts of which date to 1713. The Flint House (early 1800's), is along the walk route as is The Abraham Glen House (1730's), repurposed as the Scotia Branch of the Schenectady County Public Library. During the 1800's, Scotia was known for broom production. Be sure to look at the mural in the Post Office (during business hours), *The Glen Family Spared by French and Indians – 1690*, painted in tempura by muralist Amy Jones in 1941; it's listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bennington, Vermont: (37.4 miles/1 hour) The tallest human-made structure in Vermont, the Bennington Battle Monument is located on a prominent hill along the walk route in the area known as Old Bennington. (The Battle of Bennington actually took place 12 miles west in New York.) Old Bennington dates to 1761 and walkers will see period structures including The Old

First Church (1762). A visit to the adjacent cemetery where noted American poet Robert Frost is buried is along the walk route. The Walloomsac River provided waterpower for early industries. Some additional interesting places walkers will see include the home of Hemming's Motor News, Bennington Potters and Grandma Moses' Schoolhouse at the Bennington Museum.

Williamstown, Massachusetts: (39.3 miles/65 minutes) Located along the scenic Mohawk Trail (Routes NY 7 and MA 2), this location was a strategic location separating the English and Dutch settlements in the 1600's. In 1765, a significant sum was bequeathed to the town, then known as West Hoosic. The will of Col Ephraim Williams, killed during the French and Indian War, stipulated that the town be named after him and a free school established. Two years after the school opened in 1791, it became known as Williams College. Agriculture thrived and the Hoosic River and numerous small streams provided water power for sawmills and gristmills. Several larger mills for textile and twine manufacturing were built during the Industrial Revolution. Williams College is on the walk route as is the notable Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute (a short history of the Clark family and its generous foundation is found in the walk description for Cooperstown: *TAW* issue Volume 33, No. 2 April/May 2018).