

A Time Line of the Revolutionary War

April 19, 1775 War begins with the battle of Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts.

May 10, 1775 Americans under Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold capture Fort Ticonderoga, New York from the British.

June 17, 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill in Boston, Massachusetts.

July 3, 1775 George Washington takes command of the American forces at Cambridge, Massachusetts; Siege of Boston begins.

December 31, 1775 Americans, under Montgomery and Arnold, defeated at Quebec.

March 1776 British evacuate Boston; American Army moves to New York City.

July 4, 1776 Declaration of Independence proclaimed.

August 26, 1776 British defeat Americans at the Battle of Long Island, New York.

August 27, 1776 American Army is secretly rowed across the East River to Manhattan at night to avoid being captured by the British Army.

1776 Colonel Bernardus Swartwout sets up the first military encampment of the war on the Van Cortlandt grounds. His men stay for three days and the Colonel use the House as his headquarters.

October 12, 1776 General George Washington sets up temporary headquarters at Van Cortlandt House. Philip Van Cortlandt, cousin of James who owned the house, states in his memoirs " ... I arrived at the Headquarters of General Washington near Kingsbridge at the house of my kinsman Colo. James Van Cortlandt the day the British landed at Throgs Neck... I remained a few days as aid to the Commander in Chief."

October 18, 1776 Washington's troops departed Van Cortlandt House heading for White Plains.

October 18, 1776 Battle of Pell's Point fought. Colonel Glover and 1,500 troops engaged the British Army slowing their advance enough to allow Washington's troops to arrive at White Plains first.

October 28, 1776 British army arrives at White Plains, attacks and captures Chatterton Hill.

November 5, 1776 British leave White Plains.

November 1776 After the battle of White Plains, British General Sir William Howe uses Van Cortlandt House as temporary headquarters as he moves his army to New York City to attack Fort Mifflin and pass the winter in the City. For most of the remaining years of the war, Van Cortlandt House sat behind or near British lines.

November 12, 1776 Washington crosses the Hudson River into New Jersey, loses Forts Mifflin & Mifflin.

December 25 - 26, 1776 Washington crosses the Delaware; Americans defeat Hessians at Battle of Red Bank, NJ.

January 3, 1777 Americans defeat the British at the Battle of Red Bank, NJ. Americans go into winter quarters at Morristown, NJ.

September 26, 1777 British defeat Americans at the Battle of Brandywine, Pennsylvania.

October 17, 1777 Americans commanded by General Gates and Arnold defeat British at Battle of Red Bank.

December 15, 1777 Americans go into winter quarters at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

February 6, 1778 France and American Colonies sign the Treaty of Commerce and Alliance.

June 18, 1778 British evacuate Philadelphia.

June 28, 1778 American and British forces clash at Battle of Monmouth, NJ. No clear victor.

February 25, 1779 George Rogers Clark recaptures Vincennes, Indiana from the British.

December 1, 1779 Americans go into winter quarters at Morristown for the second time.

August 16, 1780 Gates defeated by Cornwallis, at Camden, South Carolina.

September 23, 1780 Benedict Arnold's plot to surrender West Point to the British is discovered.

January 17, 1781 Americans under Daniel Morgan defeat British at the Battle of Cowpens, South Carolina.

October 19, 1781 After a major siege the British surrender the city of Yorktown, Virginia to a combined army of American and French forces.

April 1, 1782 George Washington establishes headquarters at the Hasbrouck House in Newburgh, New York.

April 1782 Preliminary Peace negotiations being in Paris.

July 1782 British evacuate Savannah, Georgia.

October 1782 French forces temporarily reunite with the American army encamped at Verplanck's Point, New York; French subsequently depart.

October 18, 1782 Left wing of the American army arrives at New Windsor from Verplanck's Point. Followed by the right wing on October 30.

November 4, 1782 Troops begin constructing their huts at New Windsor Cantonment in accordance with the orders of Quartermaster General Timothy Pickering.

November 30, 1782 Preliminary Articles of Peace agreed to in Paris.

December 1782 British evacuate Charleston, South Carolina.

December 25, 1782 General Washington approves the construction of the Temple Building at New Windsor.