

Walk 1 January 14

Direction: East to West

Every bit as determined as Henry Knox 250 years earlier, Knox Walkers met with Vice President of Museum Affairs Fort Ticonderoga, Miranda Peters at 8:30am at the Fort's Entrance, shown at left.

Visitor Entrance, Ft. Ticonderoga



Miranda (pictured below) took us on a thorough walk: an informative tour of the Fort that morning, a time when the Fort was normally closed to visitors.



Miranda's time with us was much appreciated.

The plaque (lower right) was placed in the arch in 1929. It names 19 people who had passed through the arch. They are, in the order presented: George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Benedict Arnold, Horatio Gates, Anthony Wayne, Arthur St. Clair, Henry Knox, Philip Schuyler, Richard Montgomery, Ethan Allen, Seth Warner, Major Robert Rogers, The Marquis de Montcalm, The Duc de Levis, Sir Jeffrey Amherst, Sir Guy Carleton, Major John Andre, Sir John Burgoyne, Thaddeus Kosciusko



At right: the plaque a few feet inside the arch on the right-side wall.

At left: Chris walks back after a look at the guns perch + the lake.



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Knox Walkers' solitary tour gave us time and position to pause at every angle of the fort. Down the outside edge of the wall, pictured at right, is a sharp drop to a rocky slope covered with small gangly trees: a first blush discouraging attackers from repelling up and over into the fort.



Fort remnants built mid-18th century have held up well. Thanks to the Pell family (more later), they're rock-solid today.

Views from the Fort's cannon decks draw attention to the fact that whether Native Indians allied with the French; or the British or rebellious Americans controlled it, the power of a presence here reverberated for its occupiers in every direction.

L-R: Joe, Paul inside Fort Ticonderoga.

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Looking northeast mid-distance over the Fort's edge, we saw oxen grazing.



Relative peace and quiet for the oxen prevailed here as the visitors' access road that runs alongside their pen was closed during offseason.



At Ft. Ticonderoga's Parade Grounds, before heading onto the Fort Rd., Know Walkers take a well-worn pose at left at **NY state marker #2**. At right, at **NY state marker #3** further along outside, Miranda Peters took a photo of her three-man audience on our way into the fort. An hour later at 10am, after our tour, we continued west from here toward the fort's gate.

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Fort Ti V.P. Miranda Peters emphasizes a point for us, at left. At right, on the Fort Road, at **NY state marker #4**, we're gaining energy to exit and take on the day's trek south.

At **NY state marker #5 Mossy Point Road**, Ticonderoga, at late morning, we were finally outside the fort.

We had reached this point after covering about five miles.

It was time for a reward.



Walk 1 January 14

Direction: East to West then North to South



We pushed ahead to continue westward toward the Village of Ticonderoga with the ice bound La Chute River nestled to the north. We transitioned from NY74 onto NY 9N to head south where we came upon the Wind Chill Factory. There was no hesitation. We stepped directly inside. In minutes, we came out with our respective prizes. Chief Navigator: Chocolate. Chief Engineer: Special (blended). Chief Planner: Vanilla.

Undulating hills marked what seemed like many miles down to Hague Town Beach Park over the next two-plus hours. (right)

We had racked up 17+ miles for the day as we'd expected.

Tomorrow will be our *piece de resistance*, to borrow from our ally. We will begin at Crown Point. In Dec., 1775, weapons were consolidated: about 30 cannon were moved by Knox by boat from Crown Point to Fort Ticonderoga. We (3) KJ's will walk the distance between the forts.



Walk 2 January 15

Direction: North to South



Crown Point with Lake Champlain as a backdrop – shown as we approached it at 9:20am.

Mounds in foreground are earthworks meant to defend the Fort's entrance and managed today to simulate how it looked 250 years ago.

Normally closed on the date we visited, the fort's scene during our time there, was pretty much us walkers, a lot of heavy material and a couple of seagulls.



NY state Marker #1 at the Crown Point State Historic Site - just outside its museum - where our three-year pursuit of all 61 Monuments , 30 in Mass.; 31 in N.Y., came to a successful end.



Tom Meyering, Historic Site Assistant, blends his bright colored livery with a half-friendly, half-suspicious look. Just right for the location.

Walk 2 January 15

Direction: North to South



(Left) Getting ready to depart Crown Point, we headed southbound covering several hours and a dozen miles accompanied by light snow and not much else. At right, Chief Engineer eyes an on-coming van.



At left, just north of Ticonderoga hamlet we found Delano Rd. that soon became Middle Road. And we took it - thanks to Robert Frost. Along here we talked to solve world problems or thought about old times and characters we've known - done to effectively keep a good mental state and a good walking pace.

Walk 2 January 15

Direction: North to South



Snow started then stopped then started again. A balm to travelers, all along Middle Road it was very quiet, nearly traffic free.

Our maps showed Middle Road designated as Rt. 22B then later as Rt. 49.

We stayed on it - no matter what the map or the forecast said, as seen at left.

Up ahead, we decided to take the rails again as we had in earlier walks. The rails helped clear the snow from the bottoms of our boots but at the same time they served to chop-up our walking pace. Not too fussy, we were glad to have it relatively dry.

We also knew it was a live rail, so we kept our ears open for the sound of an approaching train. None came.

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At this point, we were $\frac{3}{4}$'s of the way to our day's objective, 98% of the way toward completing our journey.

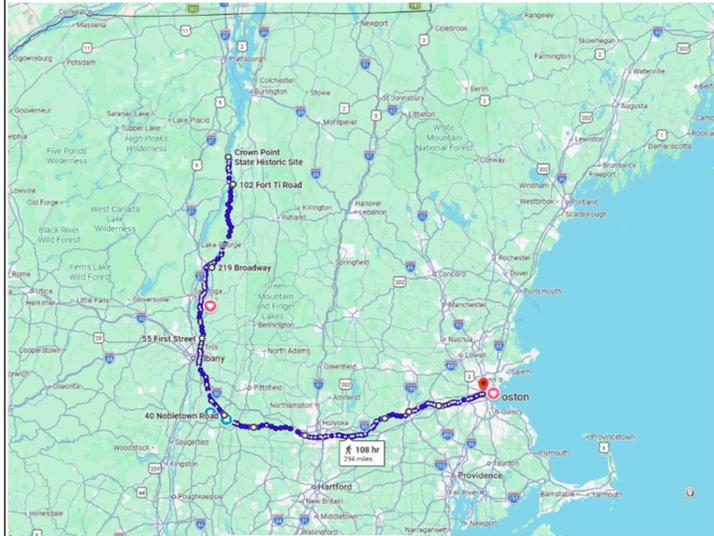


Walk 2 January 15

Direction: North to South

In what amounted to 15-plus miles, the walk from Crown Point to Fort Ticonderoga was our 28th. It covered only 1/10th of the vertical line portion (on the map pictured right).

The whole Henry Knox route - north to south then west to east – consisted of 300 miles, much of it Indian trails. With the clock ticking, Knox and his team brought 60 cannon to General Washington in six weeks. All the while, the fate of his home, his hometown, his rebellious colony, and his liberty hung in the balance.



Our first walk began at Waltham and ended at Cambridge. In each, we retraced Knox’s progress toward his next objective. **Starting points** for us kept going back in space and time, west then north so we could recap Knox’s route from there; his first starting point was Crown Point: our last.



We were satisfied at the three-year mark. The park’s generous facilitators, Miranda Peters at Fort Ticonderoga and Tom Meyering at Crown Point – with genuine personability and valuable insights – brought our two-day finale to life.

Imagine yourself a newly minted American soldier guarding the cannon at these forts. Suddenly you are ordered to develop the means and bring them to Boston. In walking his path, we could now join in that soldier’s chant, after much push and pull, that **“WE DID IT!”**

View due north as the crow flies over Fort Ticonderoga



Taken by an unidentified photographer, 2021. Straight ahead: Lake Champlain with connection to Lake George to the right.