

Across the street from Main Street Pizza are two notable large wooden buildings that are frequently passed as people go about their days. While businesses have come and gone in the area, these buildings have weathered the test of time quietly. Several notable events would occur on its grounds involving notable Americans of the Revolutionary War Era. Even before there was a United States, the Yelverton Inn has stood since 1765. In recognition of this long and distinguished historical significance, the building is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

As a tavern, the Inn was an integral part of the local community and meeting place. On September 3rd, 1774, as the storm clouds of conflict started to come over the horizon, the local people gathered for an important decision at the Inn. They voted for Miller, Henry Wisner of Goshen, to be their delegate for the First Continental Congress. Two years later, he would again be the delegate, voting on July 4th, 1776, for American Independence.

Once hostilities broke out, the Inn found itself at the center of the Continental Struggle. The hill further down the road from the Inn, across from the Fire station, would be a valuable mustering area for troops and equipment. In December of 1776, the Orange and Ulster militia would assemble on the hill. It would not be much of a stretch of the imagination to believe that some of the men, be they officers or common soldiers, would patronize the business on a cold winter night. Colonel Jesse Woodhull of the First Regiment of the Orange County State Militia, who would go on to be a presidential elector for the 1792 Election, voting for Washington, camped at the site in 1777. In December of 1778, militia troops met up in preparation to march to Minisink, a vital strategic point located on a confluence between the Neversink and Delaware rivers. The hill would serve as an artillery encampment in 1779, with 9 regiments worth of equipment and wagon masters always prepared to go. During the year on August 5th, the North Carolina Regiment would stay at the encampment.

The most famed event to take place at the Inn would be on July 27th, 1782, when George Washington, Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, would sleep there on his way back from Philadelphia, the capital at the time, to his Headquarters in Newburgh. The next day would be important as he was meeting with Count Rochambeau, the Commander of the French Expeditionary Forces, an ally, whose contributions made American victory possible.

Washington would not be the only recognizable figure of the American Revolution to have spent time at the Inn. Following the end of the American Revolution, the 1785 Wawayanda-Cheesecks Patent would be in a now gone barn on the property, arguing over the boundaries of two land grants with over 50 thousand acres at stake. Among the attorneys representing the Wawayanda claimants was Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr. Also present was Elias Boudinot, a Founding Father, as well as Ezra L'Hommedieu, a member of the New York State Senate. In 1927, the Minisink chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution would dedicate a plaque explicitly to the visits of Washington as well as to Hamilton and Burr.

With the upcoming commemoration of the American Revolution 250th Anniversary, a great deal of activity will be going on across the Country especially in Orange County, where a

tremendous deal of historic events of the era occurred. Newburgh has substantial plans to make the most of Washington's Headquarters, Fort Montgomery will hold all sorts of re-enactment events and of course, West Point has resources at their disposal to make an incredible contribution. Chester too has a focal point for our American Revolution activities in the Yelverton Inn. This year will be the 250th anniversary of Wisner's election and a fitting opportunity to begin Orange County commemoration of the conflict, which forged our nation.