

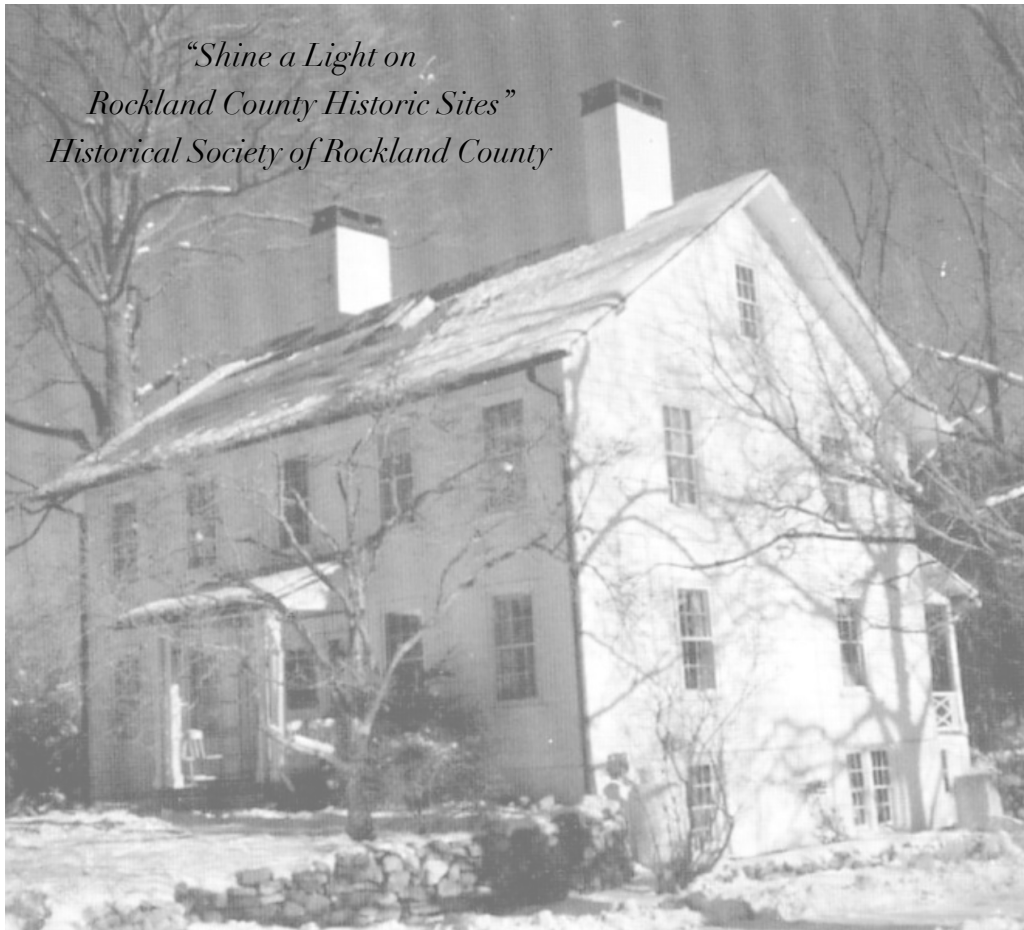
Where Sloatsburg Started

*“That pass is so exceedingly important
that they should never be suffered to possess it.”*

— General George Washington, 1776, in regards to the Ramapo Pass

Significance of Preserving
the Colonial and Revolutionary War Tavern
known as Smith House/Sidman’s Tavern
and Revolutionary War Cemetery and Road
at Ramapo Woodmont Apartments
Town of Ramapo/Village of Sloatsburg, New York

*“Shine a Light on
Rockland County Historic Sites”
Historical Society of Rockland County*



History of the house. The Smith House has had various names throughout its history, ranging from Van Deusen’s Tavern to Sidman’s Tavern to Smith’s Tavern or Smith House, as it’s known today. According to historical records documented by *Corridor Through the Mountain* by Richard Koke, written for the Orange County Historical Society, Isaac Van Deusen (also spelled Van Deursen, Van Duzen) came to the Ramapo Clove in 1724 with his father and settled on land purchased from the local Indians by John Van Blarcum.

Van Deusen land in the Ramapo Pass consisted of two main tracts that, together, shaped the Ramapo Valley and Sloatsburg. The northern “Pothat” tract was purchased from local Indians in 1738 by Dutch settler and Isaac Van Deusen brother-in-law, Wynant Van Gelder, and the southern tract, purchased from Van Blarcum. In 1747, Van Gelder deeded the Pothat tract to Van Deusen and it is this tract that was then deeded to Stephen Sloat in 1763 when he married Marretje Van Deusen, daughter of Isaac Van Deusen. These Sloat lands eventually became the Village of Sloatsburg.

The southern Van Blarcum Clove tract contained the Van Deusen seat and became what is known as Torne Valley and Sterlington. The Ramapo Woodmont Apartment tract is the last remaining original Van Deusen parcel and contains the foundations of the Van Deusen Tavern, Revolutionary War Cemetery/Van Deusen family Cemetery and the last vestiges of the old Clove Road in Rockland County.

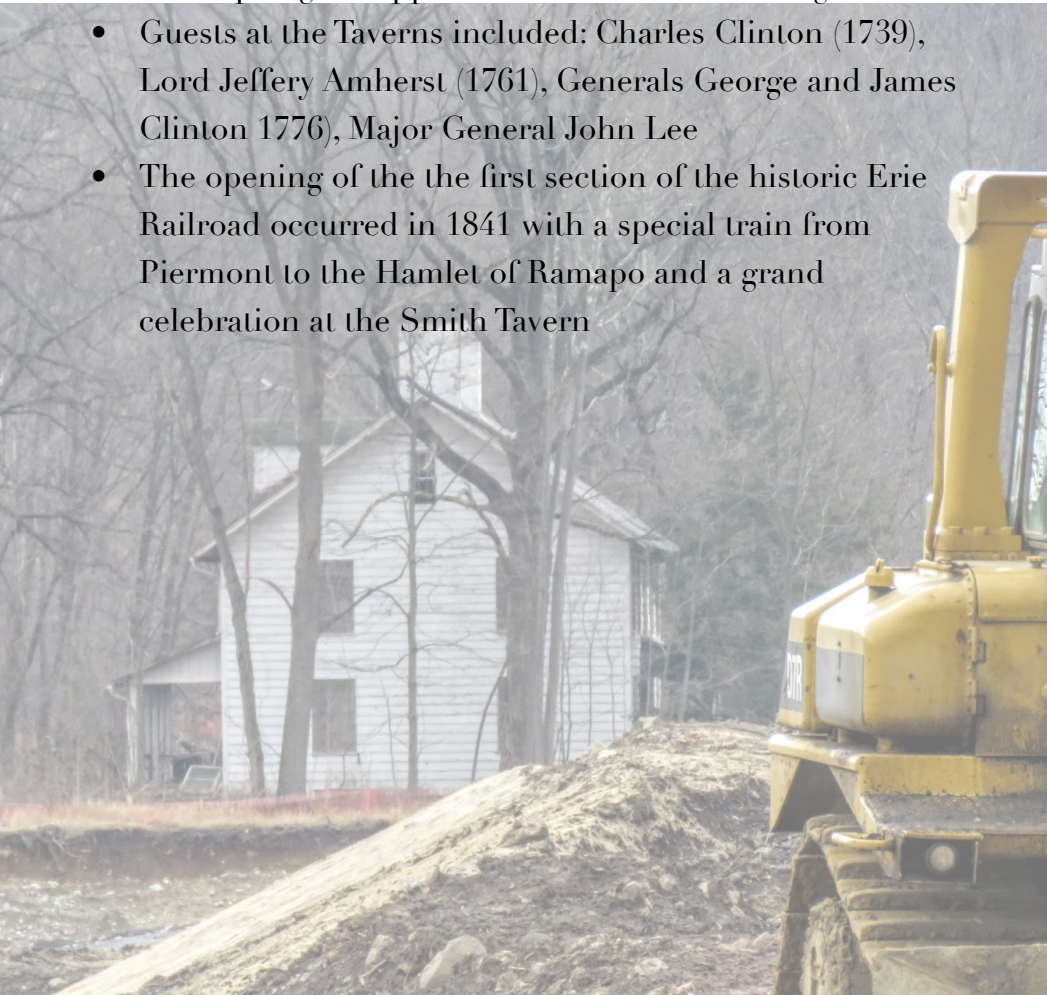
Koke’s documentation is rooted in historical journals, diaries and papers, including primary sourcing by Robert Erskine (1735-1780), operator of the Ringwood Iron Works, who was appointed Geographer General of the Continental Army in 1778, and as such made maps and notes of the Ramapo Clove region and Albany Post Road.

First mention of the the Van Deusen Tavern is made by Charles Clinton, surveyor for the Tuxedo to Monroe Cheesecock Patent, which detailed the patent purchased from Native Americans under terms of a land grant from Queen Anne of England. Father of American Revolutionary luminaries James and George Clinton. Charles Clinton began his patent survey in 1735 (continuing through 1747) and noted in his Field Book in 1735 *“an indian path through ye clove to Ramapo”*, the first mention of the Clove Road.

During the course of his fourteen-year Cheesecock survey, Clinton also records the earliest mention of the Van Deusen tavern, noting that he *“lodged at Van Duzers (sic) in ye Clove”* in 1739. English born Samuel Sidman enters the Ramapo Clove in 1746 and shortly thereafter marries Isaak Van Deusen’s daughter Angneitje Van Deusen, who was born at her father’s tavern in 1724. Sidman and Angneitic inherit the tavern and lands south of the Pothat/Sloat tract in the Ramapo Valley.

Historical Highlights for the Smith House in the Ramapo Pass

- The Tavern was the probably the earliest colonial building in the Ramapo Pass, with original construction dated to 1714
- The tavern, 18th-century cemetery, and remaining section of the Old Clove Road are significant Town of Ramapo Revolutionary War historical assets - the 250th anniversary anniversary marking the American Revolution takes place in several years
- Samuel Sidman, like John Suffern and other innkeepers in the valley, was a signer in 1775 of the General Association which pledged support of the Continental Congress
- Guests at the Taverns included: Charles Clinton (1739), Lord Jeffery Amherst (1761), Generals George and James Clinton 1776), Major General John Lee
- The opening of the the first section of the historic Erie Railroad occurred in 1841 with a special train from Piermont to the Hamlet of Ramapo and a grand celebration at the Smith Tavern



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY of ROCKLAND COUNTY



Shine a Light
on Historic Sites

Smith House/Sidman's Tavern, Route 17, Sloatsburg, NY

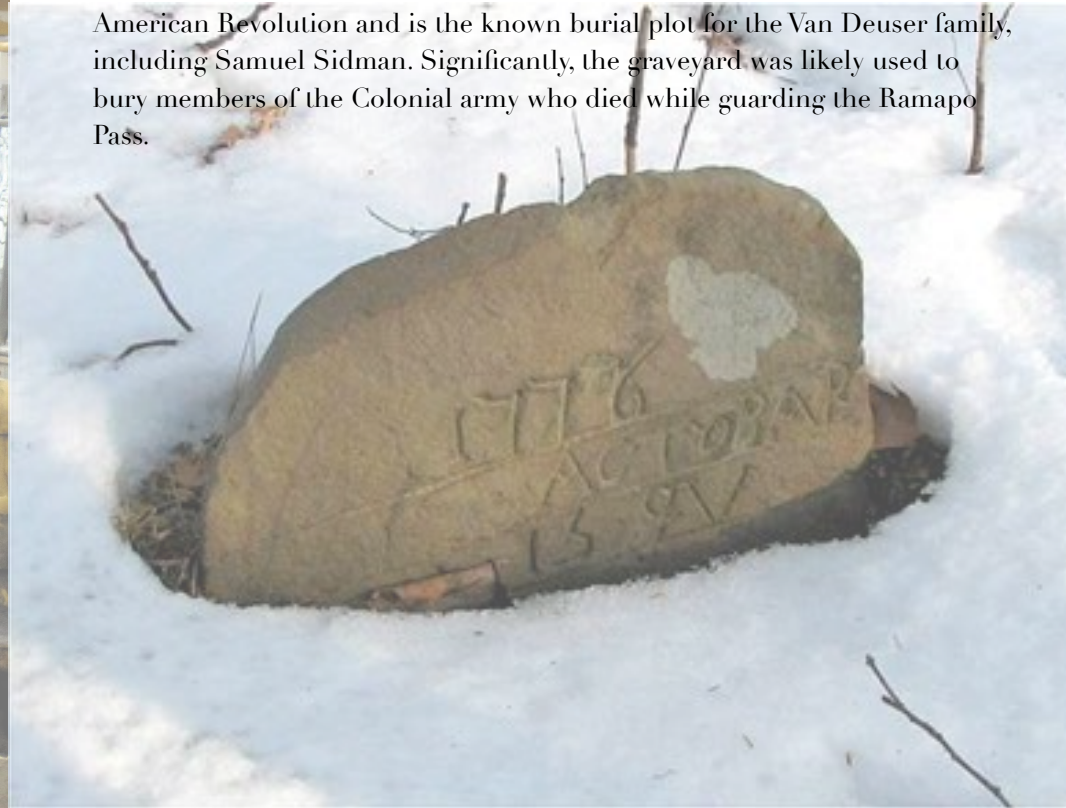
This revolutionary war inn was built by Samuel Sidman, signer in 1775 of the General Association which pledged support of the Continental Congress.

****Get involved by writing to Senator David Carlucci to pressure the Town of Ramapo to honor the original agreement to restore and preserve this historic site.*

**Contact the Historical Society of Rockland County at
(845) 634-9629 or info@rocklandhistory.org**

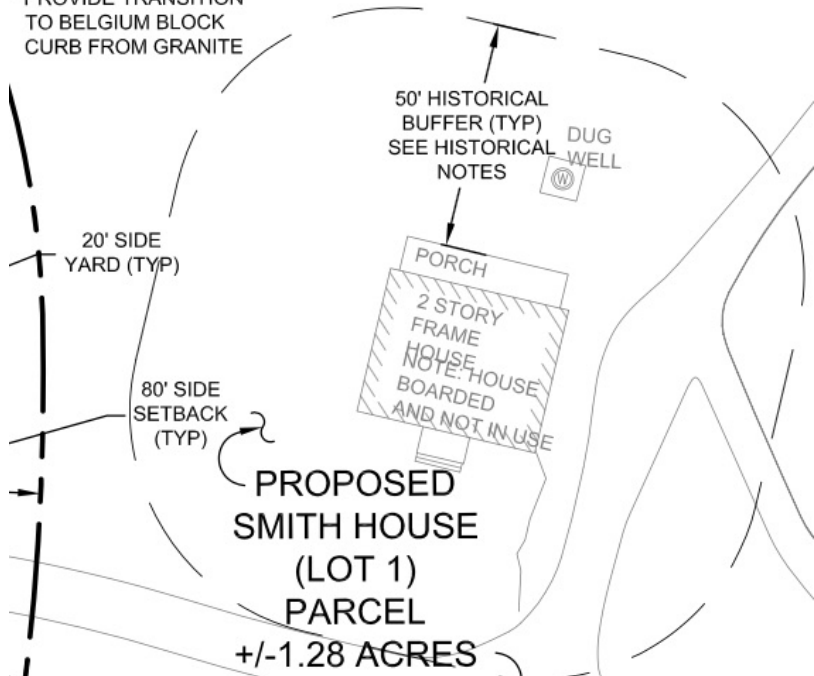
Pictured is a Revolutionary War gravestone found in the area of what is now the Ramapo Woodmont Apartments complex. Located adjacent to the Smith House, or Sidman's Tavern just outside Sloatsburg, NY, the cemetery actually pre-dates the

American Revolution and is the known burial plot for the Van Deuser family, including Samuel Sidman. Significantly, the graveyard was likely used to bury members of the Colonial army who died while guarding the Ramapo Pass.



KEEP
RIGHT
SIGN (TYP)

PROVIDE TRANSITION
TO BELGIUM BLOCK
CURB FROM GRANITE



HISTORICAL NOTES

1. IN THE 50' BUFFER AREA SURROUNDING THE SMITH HOUSE THE FOLLOWING COVENANT SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED: THERE SHALL BE NO GROUND DISTURBANCE IN THIS AREA WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONSENT AND APPROVAL FROM THE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION. THIS INCLUDES, BUT NOT LIMITED TO CLEARING, EXCAVATING, EARTHMOVING, LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS, UTILITY WORK, ETC. IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO CONDUCT ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION APPROVAL.
2. ALL WORK PROPOSED FOR THE SMITH HOUSE SHALL BE FORWARDED TO THE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION. FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL. REVIEWS WILL BE CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE COMPLIANCE WITH THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR'S STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATING HISTORIC PROPERTIES.

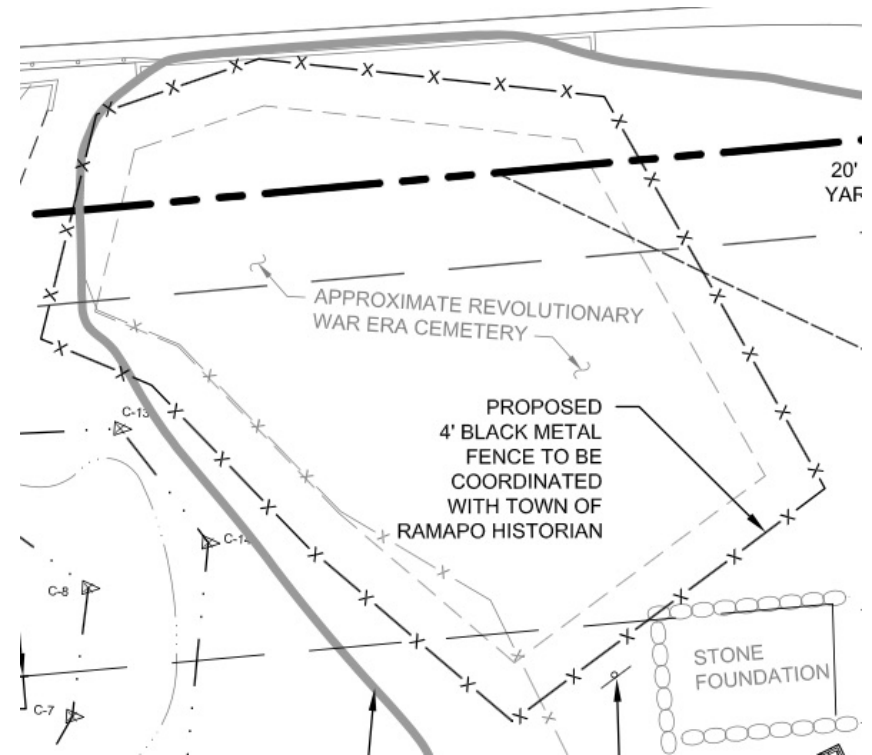
What can you do?

Get involved to help save the Smith House and other Town of Ramapo historical assets. Contact your local historical society or Ramapo!

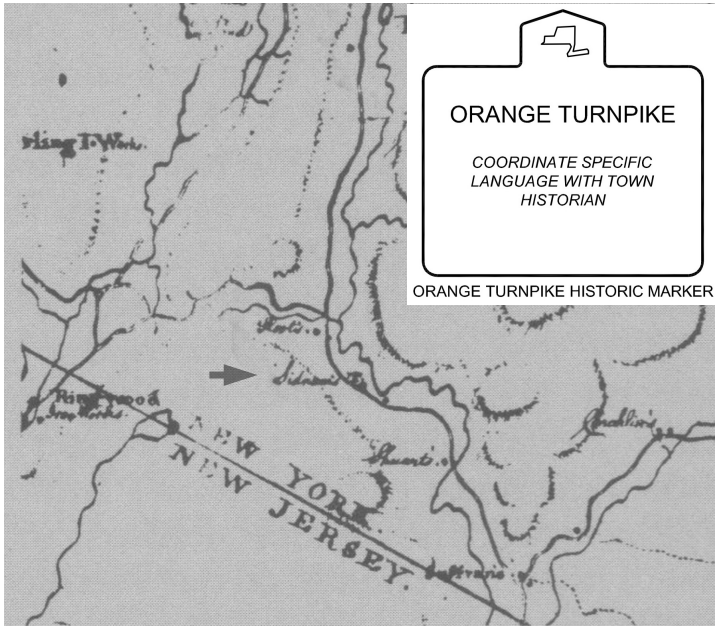
From Town of Ramapo Woodmont Properties, LLC
Subdivision Plan Decision, Town Clerk stamp July 1,
2014:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT (RESOLVED by the
Planning Board that the application for sketch plat
and final subdivision approval is hereby;

1. Granted ... subject to the following:
2. The "Smith House" and the lot on which it is located, together with the Revolutionary War Cemetery, will be dedicated to the Town.



The Albany Post Road was the Colonial and Revolutionary War north/south land route from lower New York to Albany. The road followed the Ramapo River Valley through the Ramapo Mountains. The Ramapo Pass, also known as the Clove (from the Dutch *kloof*, which means chasm or gap) was strategically defensible at the bottleneck in Hillburn, NY. Sidman's Tavern to the north was historically significant as headquarters to American officers commanding troops defending the Ramapo Pass throughout the Revolutionary War.



Detail of a manuscript map drawn by Robert Erskine (1735-1780), Geographer General of the Continental Army. The map marks six of the seven Revolutionary War taverns along the Clove Road, including Suffern's Tavern (above the New Jersey line) and Sidman's Tavern and Sloat's in the Ramapo Pass.

Pamphlet Information Primary Sources

Conversations with Sloatsburg Historians and Preservationists

Pierson, Edward, *The Ramapo Pass*, 1915

"Historic Sloatsburg."

http://sloatsburgny.com/Historic_Sloatsburg.htm.

Koke, Richard J., *Corridor Through the Mountains: Smith's Clove: Wartime Line of Communication and Passageway for the Continental Army; 1776-1783* (Volumes 19 - 23 of the Orange County Historical Society Journal between 1990 and 1994)

<http://www.orangecountyhistoricalsociety.org>

A photograph of the old Clove Road, a remnant of the original New York and Albany Post Road, also known as the Revolutionary War Highway, which ran through Rockland County and, significantly, the Village of Sloatsburg. Parts of Clove Road road in this area of Orange and Rockland Counties eventually became Orange Turnpike/Route 17.

The recent ground-clearing in preparation to build Ramapo Woodmont Apartments has nearly erased the last vestiges of this New York State and Ramapo historical asset. The agreement between the Town of Ramapo and Woodmont Properties, LLC states that Smith Place, or Smith House, the Revolutionary War Highway and Cemetery shall be dedicated to the Town. Nationally significant, these historical assets, of particular importance to the Village of Sloatsburg, demand that they be preserved and celebrated as part of the character and culture of the Village, Hudson Valley and New York State, especially as the nation prepares to mark the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

Clove Road photo by John Scott, 1990