



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Preservation group to hold candlelight vigil in honor of those who perished at Fishkill's Continental Army Supply Depot

Fishkill, NY – On Tuesday, December 29, 2015, beginning at 6:00pm, the Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot will lead a solemn vigil in tribute to the 86 soldiers known to have perished and been buried at the Fishkill Supply Depot. The vigil will also honor the countless other soldiers lying in unmarked graves on a privately-held lot in Fishkill that is the subject of a pending commercial development plan.

Fishkill was once the site of General George Washington's principal supply depot from which soldiers drew supplies, weapons, ammunition, transport, and food items...all in support of the main war effort. The supply depot was also home to several hospitals, barracks for troops, and a prison which held British soldiers after the American victory at Saratoga. Though much of the original Fishkill Supply Depot has been lost to development, the 10.4 acre lot in question represents the nation's only undisturbed site of the Continental Army's supply and logistics operation.

While representatives of the company planning to build commercial buildings on the historic property acknowledge the lot as the site of a Revolutionary War encampment, they intend to spare only a .4 acre section known to contain 13 unidentified bodies. An estimate provided by a State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) official in June 2011 indicated the possible presence of 320 (not just 13) soldiers on the site, which seems to be corroborated by the Friends' historic research which has uncovered the names of 86 American, French, and French-Canadian soldiers who perished and are buried in Fishkill.

"Commercial development will destroy unique ruins, dishonor the memory of the heroes who served at the site, and permanently scar the historic landscape of Fishkill" said Lance Ashworth, president of the Friends' group.

The ceremony will be held at the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) monument on the grounds of the Van Wyck Homestead museum, 504 Route 9, Fishkill, NY. Candles will be provided. No advance registration necessary; this event is free and open to the general public. Parking is available on the museum grounds. A holiday open house party hosted by the Fishkill Historical Society will follow the vigil. Contact Tim Middlebrook at 845-473-9222 or Trustee_Middlebrook@fishkillsupplydepot.org.

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[For more on the Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot, including volunteer opportunities and ways to donate, please see www.fishkillsupplydepot.org. The Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization formed to preserve, study, and interpret the Fishkill Supply Depot site.]