



Fairfield Museum  
AND HISTORY CENTER  
A M E R I C A 2 5 0

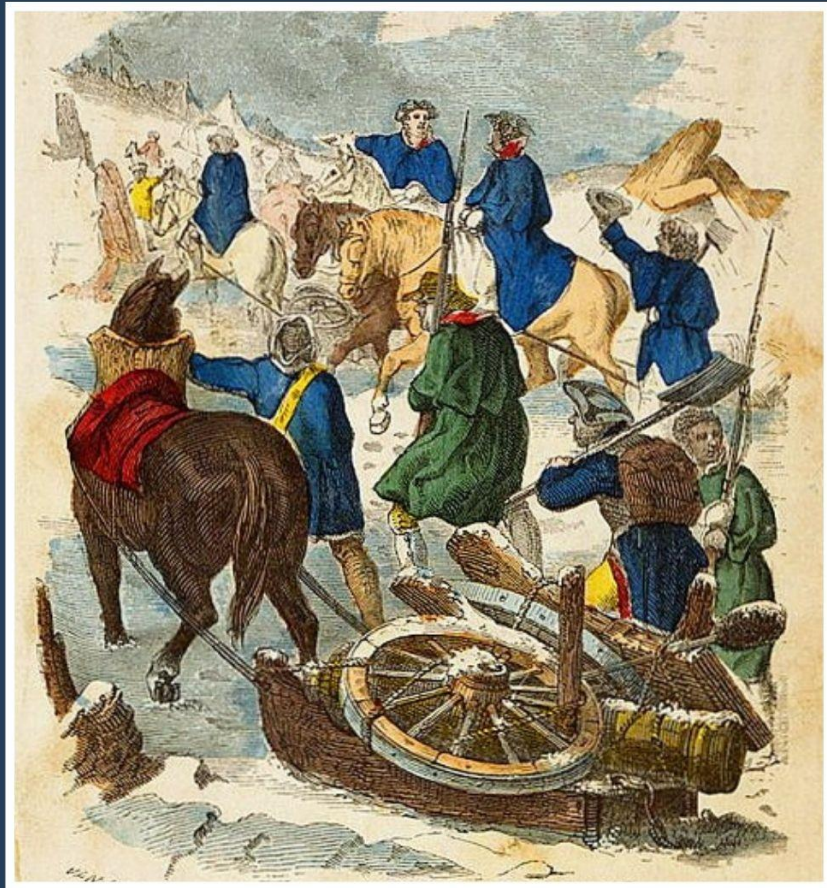


Image: "Knox Entering Camp with Artillery" by William H. van Ingen, 1855.  
Courtesy of Library of Congress Prints and Photographs.

## March 2 – Noble Train of Artillery Bombards British Fleet

(Originally posted on social media on March 2, 2026)

As we approach the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, the Fairfield Museum will periodically share Fairfield's fascinating connections to significant moments during the American Revolution.

During the winter of 1775-1776, the Continental Army embarked on the "noble train of artillery." Led by Colonel Henry Knox, the Army hauled 60 tons of cannons and armaments by boat, horse, and ox-drawn sleds from Fort Ticonderoga to Army camps outside of Boston. Starting in November 1775, the Army traveled approximately 300 miles over muddy roads, icy rivers, and the Berkshires, arriving in Cambridge, MA on January 25, 1776.

General George Washington was eager to end the Siege of Boston, which began in April 1775 after the Battles of Lexington and Concord. The movement and strategic locations of heavy weaponry would force the hand of British troops in Boston. Throughout February 1776, cannons from Ticonderoga were placed in fortifications around the city. On the night of March 2, 1776, the Continental Army bombarded the British fleet and Army. British and Continental forces exchanged fire until March 4, 1776.

By March 5, 1776, General George Washington positioned more cannons and several thousand soldiers to occupy Dorchester Heights, which overlooks Boston. The Continental Army now had the high ground, and the British fleet was now within range of American cannons. British forces decided to withdraw and left Boston on March 17, 1776.

The "noble train of artillery" is considered one of the most impressive strategic feats during the American Revolution, driving British forces from New England. General Washington believed that the British fleet would then make their way to New York, calling on the Continental Army (including soldiers from Fairfield and Connecticut) to fortify the city.