

If the old roads of Orange County could speak they indeed would have many a thrilling tale to tell. To add to their interest, persons now renowned in history caught glimpses of their scenic beauty, their rugged routes, their umbrageous paths, and when travelers could go no farther on a day's journey they would put up at the first convenient inn along the route.



Colden House, Montgomery
(Courtesy of The Historical Society of Newburgh Bay and the Highlands)

Till recently the manner of General Washington's arrival at Newburgh, April 1, 1782, has not been known. It appears that the General and Lady Washington came to Newburgh by way of Ridgewood, New Jersey. At the general's request an escort of fifty men acted as his personal guard. They joined his party, Lady Washington riding in a coach as was her custom, where the new road from Ridgewood formed a junction with the Clove Road. Captain Trotter and his company started for this rendezvous on the night of March 28, So General Washington's arrival presents a more colorful picture than we hitherto have had of his entrance into Newburgh.