



John Adams and Thomas Jefferson engage in a lively debate.



Ben Franklin entertains and enlightens school children.



Children "dig" our archaeology camp.

Our Mission

To restore, develop and operate the Jacobus Vanderveer House property, significant in United States military history, as a nationally important historical site and an educational community resource.

The friends received a general operating support grant from



Directions to the Jacobus Vanderveer House

The Jacobus Vanderveer house is conveniently located near Routes 78, 287, 22 on the southbound side of Routes 202/206 at the River Road exit on Route 202 South in Bedminster, New Jersey. Enter through River Road Park.

Parking and restroom facilities are available onsite.

Google Maps users: enter Jacobus Vanderveer House

GPS users: enter 3055 River Road East, Bedminster, New Jersey



Northbound Route 202

Driving North on Rt. 202 from Somerville, drive thru the village of Pluckemin (past the Pluckemin Presbyterian Church and "The Hills" Development). Take the River Road Exit on the right, cross Rt. 202 and enter through River Road Park on the right.

Southbound Route 202

Driving South on Rt. 202 from Bedminster, look for the River Road Exit and enter the Jacobus Vanderveer House property through River Road Park.

The Jacobus Vanderveer House & Museum

River Road Park
Bedminster, New Jersey



For more than two centuries, the Jacobus Vanderveer House has been at the center of Bedminster Township's rich and colorful history.

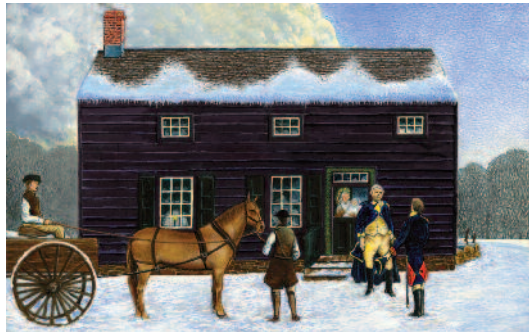
Learn more about its important role in the American Revolution.



General Henry Knox
(1750-1806)

American Patriots

Jacobus Vanderveer, Jr., son of Vanderveer, Sr., a wealthy Dutch miller, built a small Dutch frame-style farmhouse just west of the North Branch of the Raritan River on the northern outskirts of Pluckemin. In 1778, during the War of Independence, historical evidence suggests that Vanderveer lent his home to General Henry Knox, who was to command a new artillery encampment and training academy being established by the Continental Army on a hillside above the village of Pluckemin. General Knox, who earned acclaim for transporting British artillery from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston in 1776, occupied the house from the winter of 1778 through the summer of 1779 with his wife Lucy and young family.



"Christmas 1778" by Thomas C. Houtz

The Vanderveer house is the only surviving building associated with the Pluckemin Artillery Cantonment, now recognized as America's first military academy and the precursor to The United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.



Thousands of Revolutionary War period artifacts were found during an archaeological dig at the Pluckemin encampment, including this buckle (above), with one of the first known depictions of the Stars and Stripes.



A drawing of the Pluckemin Encampment
by Captain John Lillie (late 1778 or early 1779)
with buildings identified



The Knox Bedroom

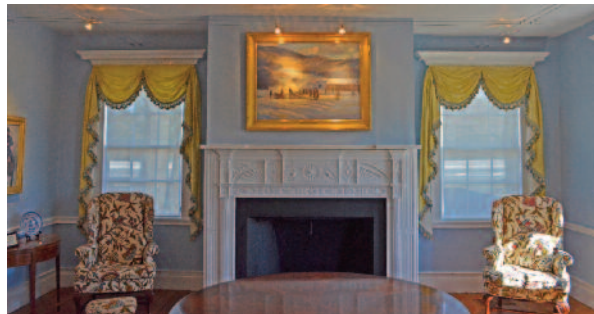
Preserving History For Future Generations

The Jacobus Vanderveer House and property were purchased by Bedminster Township in 1989 with the help of Green Acres funding. The house was listed in 1995 on the National and New Jersey Registers of Historic Places.



The Kitchen Hearth Exhibit

The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House came together in 1998 as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization to restore and develop the historic site as an important educational and cultural resource. Since then, the Friends have restored the house, created historically accurate period room exhibitions, established historic collections, supported important research, and embarked on a program of education and interpretation to tell the stories of General Henry Knox, the Pluckemin military encampment and the community's key role in the American Revolution.



1813 Main Parlor



The Vanderveer Parlor

Visit Us

Today, visitors to the Jacobus Vanderveer House delight in seeing:

- Fully furnished period rooms and exhibits: The Kitchen Hearth Exhibit, The Vanderveer Parlor, The Knox Bedroom, The 1813 Main Parlor, and The Lumber Room.
- The Prich Matthews History Center, which houses a collection of historical documents and books chronicling the origins and restoration of the Vanderveer House, colonial architecture, General Henry Knox, the American Revolution and Colonial life.
- The award-winning video, "In Quarters Comfortable and Clever: The Continental Artillery, Pluckemin, New Jersey 1778-1779," depicting what the Pluckemin artillery encampment looked like under General Knox's command.

Throughout the year, The Jacobus Vanderveer House is open for house tours, lectures, children's and school group programs and presentations featuring re-enactors, artists and Colonial craftspeople. Our annual Colonial Christmas welcomes a growing number of visitors each holiday season.



The Prich Matthews History Center

For more information about the Jacobus Vanderveer House, open house hours and a calendar of upcoming events, visit:
www.jvanderhouse.org

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