

FIRST EDITION



# LETTERBOXING PASSPORT AND WARREN COUNTY BIKEWAY MAP

## THIS LETTERBOXING PASSPORT AND MAP BELONGS TO:

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Have fun and exercise your sleuthing skills while learning **French and Indian** and **Revolutionary War** history along the Warren County Bikeway



## COLONIAL WARS HISTORY ALONG THE BIKEWAY

With the outbreak of war between England and France in 1755, the area around Lake George and who controlled it became vitally important. General William Johnson came to the area with the intent of capturing Fort Carillon (Ticonderoga). To do that he had to establish supply bases on the lake, so he set his men to build a road from Fort Edward to Lake George. The Military Road was crude at best, but it became the highway for two wars. During the French and Indian War, the road saw ambushes, and an outpost was established at Halfway Brook. Three battles occurred in 1755, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Lake George, known as "The Bloody Morning Scout," a 2<sup>nd</sup> battle at the lake shore where Johnson defeated a French force, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase at "Bloody Pond" when a force from Fort Edward coming to Johnson's relief ambushed French and Native Americans retreating and threw their bodies in the pond, hence the name.

The Revolution saw the road still used regularly. American forces used it to supply Fort George. Later in 1777, it was used by British forces to establish supply bases and garrison grounds to support General John Burgoyne's ill-fated march to Saratoga. The road was also used by Christopher Carlton in his "Great Burning" raid in 1780, causing most residents to flee and not return until the war's end in 1783.



## LETTERBOX THE BIKEWAY

The 10 mile Warren County Bikeway was constructed in four phases between 1978 and 2000. It follows the route of a branch of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad built in 1882. The branch joined the main rail line at Fort Edward to a railroad station at the south end of Lake George, located across from the steamboats. Research completed by the Warren County Historical Society indicates that the Railroad, and now the Bikeway, closely follow the path of the original Military Road constructed by Colonel Williams for several miles from Lake George to the Glen Lake area.

The majority of the Bikeway is a paved, dedicated multi-use trail for bicycling, walking and running. However, there are several short segments along the shoulders of local roads. These are marked in red on the map below. Use extra caution in these areas.

Twenty-three signs along the Bikeway tell its history. A subset of these signs focused on events during the Colonial Wars make up this Letterbox the Bikeway challenge, but we encourage you to stop and read all of the historic signs along your journey.

**Letterboxing** is a free, fun outdoor treasure hunt activity for all ages, incorporating orienteering, art and puzzle solving. Letterboxers search for a hidden box with a hand-carved rubber stamp and leave their mark in a logbook in the box. Letterboxing got its start in 1854 in England and has grown in popularity in North America over the past few decades. There are now over 90,000 active letterboxers in North America. Letterbox the Bikeway participants are invited to get acquainted with this fun hobby while simultaneously learning more about the Colonial Wars.

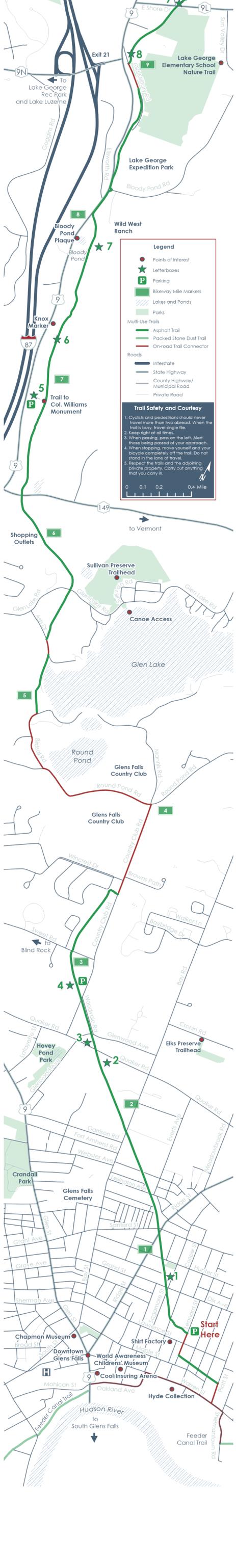
## LETTERBOX LOCATIONS

Start the Letterbox Challenge at either end of the Warren County Bikeway - at the **Leonard St parking lot in Glens Falls** on the south end, or at **Battlefield Park in Lake George** on the north end. The box locations are numbered south to north, starting at the Glens Falls end and finishing at the Battlefield Park Visitors' Center. We encourage you, if possible, to travel the whole 10 mile length of the bikeway either on foot or by bike, but you can also access some of the boxes by entering the bikeway at parking areas or the closest cross street locations, which are listed for selected sites.

Once you get to the general vicinity of a letterbox site (locations are shown on the map below), use the clues on the reverse side to find the hidden box. If you are on bike, be sure to **park your bike in a safe location off of the trail**. Stand off the lane of travel on the trail while stamping your passport and be aware of trail users so you do not get in their way. Use the stamp in the letterbox to stamp in the appropriate spot. If you have your own stamp, stamp it in the journal in the box. Return everything to the box and hide it back in the spot you found it.

Once you've found all the boxes, visit [www.WarrenNY250.com](http://www.WarrenNY250.com) to learn how to get your free patch

- 1. Glens Falls /Bikeway Heritage
- 2. Fort Amherst
- 3. Halfway Brook
- 4. Blind Rock
- 5. Colonel Williams Monument
- 6. Battle of LG, 1st Engagement
- 7. Battle of LG, 3rd Engagement
- 8. Knox Marker
- 9. Battle of LG, 2nd Engagement
- 10. Battlefield Park



## 1. GLENS FALLS/BIKEWAY HERITAGE

To start your journey from the south end, park in the lot at 40 Leonard St in Glens Falls and head north on the trail. The first box is about a quarter of a mile north of the parking lot, near the intersection of Dix Ave with the bikeway.

**STAMP**

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DATE COMPLETED:

**THINGS TO DO NEARBY:**  
Visit the **Shir Factory**, a collection of artist spaces and shops, on the corner of Cooper and Lawrence Streets, a block and a half southwest from the Leonard St. parking lot. Explore **down-town Glens Falls** for shopping, dining and entertainment, a few additional blocks to the southwest. Or continue south on Leonard St from the parking lot to another short stretch of the Bikeway and connection to the **Feeder Canal Trail**, which connects to the **Empire State Trail**—see the map for details.

**CLUE:**  
**This route from the Hudson to Lake George an important role in history did forge. It follows the path of the old Delaware and Hudson rail; on which goods and tourists from spots south did hail. A portion of the route also follows Sir Johnson's military road, Built in 1755, many Colonial soldiers on it strode.**

**Across the bikeway from a location you may dine, the box that you seek is behind a tree near the Heritage sign.**

## 2. FORT AMHERST

This marker can be accessed through the parking lot at 176 Quaker Rd.

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DATE COMPLETED:

**THINGS TO DO NEARBY:**  
Visit **Hovey Pond Park**, a quarter mile to the west off of Quaker Rd between Glenwood Ave and Lafayette St. This well-maintained municipal park is the site of interpretive signs, trails, an accessible playground, garden, fishing pond, wetlands and another letterbox, part of our **Historians' Challenge Letterboxing Trail**. Find more details at [WarrenCountyNY.gov/HC](http://WarrenCountyNY.gov/HC).

**CLUE:**  
**In 1759 here a fort was built named for General Amherst. It was used by the British during the French and Indian War, first. In 1777, during Burgoyne's campaign against the fight for our new nation, Baron Riedesel quartered troops here to protect the English line of communication. Past the Fort sign, seek the Memorial Garden site. The box that you search for, you will find with delight.**

## 3. HALFWAY BROOK

On the north side of the bridge over Quaker Road, just off of Glenwood Ave. The letterbox is near the bridge. Closest parking is at the bikeway parking lot on County Club Road, or walk over the bridge from the parking lot in clue 2.

**STAMP**

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DATE COMPLETED:

**THINGS TO DO NEARBY:**  
**Halfway Brook** is a good trout fishing stream. It is stocked yearly with over 1000 brook trout, very near this location. You can access the brook to fish from Hovey Pond Park. To find other good fishing spots in Warren County and learn more about the Warren County Fish Hatchery, which stocks Halfway Brook and many other waterbodies throughout the County, visit [WarrenCountyNY.gov/ParksandRec](http://WarrenCountyNY.gov/ParksandRec).

**CLUE:**  
**This brook situated halfway between two forts became in its day a famous stopping point of sorts. Its ample water supply was known for being pure; George Washington stopped for a drink here on his 1783 tour. The box that you seek is near the Solomon sign; find it and enjoy the stamp's fine design.**

## 4. BLIND ROCK

This letterbox is on the trail near the Blind Rock sign found at the bikeway parking lot on County Club road.

**STAMP**

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DATE COMPLETED:

**THINGS TO DO NEARBY:**  
Visit **Blind Rock** itself, about 3/4 miles west on Monray Rd, off of Route 9, just past Northway Plaza. Blind Rock is on the north side of the road. Park when you see the big boulder and then walk in to view Blind Rock. You'll recognize it by the split down the middle.

**CLUE:**  
**A legendary site of Native American torture in the past, This famous split rock sits a short distance to the west. In Colonial times it served to mark forces' divide, With French to the north and British on the south side. Find a bench along the bikeway near the parking lot. Behind a neighboring tree will be the box you have sought.**

## 5. COLONEL WILLIAMS MONUMENT

This letterbox can be accessed from a 1/4 mi trail off the Bikeway, about 1/2 mile north of the bridge over route 149. The letterbox can alternately be accessed from a shorter trail via a small parking area on Route 9 just north of the King Hendrick marker.

**STAMP**

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DATE COMPLETED:

**THINGS TO DO NEARBY:**  
Check out the **Warren County Historical Society Museum**, a little bit over a mile south on Gurney Lane (head west onto Gurney Lane off of Rte 9 across from the Municipal Center) featuring exhibits highlighting Warren County's history through the lens of cultural geography. Visit [www.wcnyhs.org](http://www.wcnyhs.org) for more details and open hours.

**CLUE:**  
**In July 1755, in contemplation of the difficult campaign ahead, Colonel Williams wrote his will, as he remained unwell. Sadly, two months later, in the Battle of Lake George, Williams fell. His money founded Williams College, which erected a monument, his story to help tell. Follow the trail to the monument and look for a bench shaped rock. Behind a tree near this spot, you will find the box.**

## 6. BATTLE OF LG, 1ST ENGAGEMENT

This letterbox is near the Battle of Lake George sign on the bikeway, about a third of a mile north of the trail to Col. Williams Monument.

**STAMP**

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DATE COMPLETED:

**THINGS TO DO NEARBY:**  
Just a short distance past the Warren County Historical Society museum find **Gurney Lane Recreation Area**, with an extensive network of hiking and mountain bike trails, a pool, a playground and pond. Also nearby is the **Rush Pond Trail**, a 2.6 mile opportunity for walking, mountain biking and snowshoeing through the Rush Pond wetlands. This trail network connects to additional trails on the south end. For more details visit [WarrenCountyNY.gov/RecMapper](http://WarrenCountyNY.gov/RecMapper).

**CLUE:**  
**In the Battle of Lake George, around this narrow pass, Baron Dieskau and King Hendrick their soldiers did amass, to set an ambush for the Colonial army under Johnson's command; the ensuing battle did not go as planned. Find the box hidden in the rocks nearby, then to this spot you can say goodbye.**

## 7. BATTLE OF LG, 3RD ENGAGEMENT

This letterbox is near the 3rd engagement sign on the bikeway, about a half mile north of the 1st engagement sign.

**STAMP**

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DATE COMPLETED:

**THINGS TO DO NEARBY:**  
On the other side of **Bloody Pond**, visit a brass plaque erected by the New York Historical Association in 1906 commemorating the important events that occurred at this location. Park in a small pull off just past 1818 Route 9. The brass plaque is embedded into a large rock next to a blue historic marker. About two miles to the northwest explore **Lake George Recreation Park**, with trails, a dog park, tennis courts and a small swimming beach on Lake George. Visit [WarrenCountyNY.gov/RecMapper](http://WarrenCountyNY.gov/RecMapper) for details.

**CLUE:**  
**On September 8th here a battle was fought and many soldiers bled; so many bodies, in fact, that the pond turned red. Over 200 French and Indian soldiers into this water were thrown. Since that deadly day, as Bloody Pond it has been known. The box that you seek is hidden behind the sign. Find it, stamp your passport, and you'll feel mighty fine.**

## 8. KNOX TRAIL

This letterbox is located just past where the bikeway picks up with the intersection of Old Military Road.

**STAMP**

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DATE COMPLETED:

**THINGS TO DO NEARBY:**  
During the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the American Revolution, a plan was hatched by the New York State Historian to install a series of brass plaques marking Henry Knox's journey from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston. During 1927-1928, 56 markers were placed in New York and Massachusetts. Warren County is home to five **Knox Markers**, one of which is a short distance from the letterbox, on Route 9. Visit [warrenny250.com](http://warrenny250.com) for a driving tour if you'd like to visit them all.

**CLUE:**  
**In 1775 George Washington commissioned Henry Knox to move 59 cannons from Fort Ticonderoga, using men and ox. Through this location, Knox and his men did pass Enduring much hardship on the way to Boston Mass. Behind the Knox marker sign, on the left side you'll find the box near a big tree, if you're sharp eyed.**

## 9. BATTLE OF LG, 2ND ENGAGEMENT

This letterbox is located just off the bikeway near the bridge over East Shore Drive.

**STAMP**

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DATE COMPLETED:

**THINGS TO DO NEARBY:**  
A **Nature Trail** network of 2.1 miles of looped paths is about a half mile east of this location at the Etemerary School, off of Sun Valley Rd. Or visit **Usher Park**, about a mile and a half east on East Shore Dr (State Route 9L). Usher Park offers a playground, picnic area, tennis courts and a small swimming beach on Lake George. Visit [WarrenCountyNY.gov/RecMapper](http://WarrenCountyNY.gov/RecMapper) for details.

**CLUE:**  
**To the west of this spot on September 8, 1755, Baron Dieskau was shot and fought to stay alive. The battle between the French and Colonials raged for hours until the French turned and fled, leaving Johnson and Dieskau wounded and soldiers on both sides dead. 18 paces from the 2nd engagement sign, head down the hill. Behind a big rock the box you will find if you use your skill.**

## 10. BATTLEFIELD PARK

This letterbox is located outside of the Battlefield Park Visitors Center at 75 Fort George Rd. If you're traveling the bikeway on foot, you can use the small footpath off the bikeway just east of Fort George Rd. If you're traveling by bike, park your bike in the bike rack on Beach Rd and take the closest footpath up the hill.

**STAMP**

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DATE COMPLETED:

**THINGS TO DO NEARBY:**  
Explore the **Visitors Center** and all of **Battlefield Park**, which celebrates the Lake George region's critical role in the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars. The park contains ruins of Fort George as well as numerous monuments and statues celebrating the important figures in these battles, including King Hendrick, William Johnson and the "Mohawk Warrior". View open hours and learn more at [LakeGeorgeBattlefield.org](http://LakeGeorgeBattlefield.org).

**CLUE:**  
**Our journey through the Colonial Wars is coming to an end. But on this exciting topic, we know more time you'd like to spend. Walking these long tread paths and learning more about our history, by viewing markers and monuments, helps remove some of the mystery. Head up to the Visitors' Center and look for a tree shaped like a V. Near the base is where the final box will be.**

  
**Get more details about the bikeway and the letterboxing trail, find out how to obtain your free patch, and learn more about Warren County's role in the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars at**  
**[www.WarrenNY250.com](http://www.WarrenNY250.com)**

Warren County Planning Department  
518-761-6410 • 1340 State Route 9 Lake George NY