

Burning of the Valley's Military Association
Schoharie - Hudson - Mohawk
18 Abbott Street
Fort Plain, NY 13339

March 26, 2011

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capital Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: The Importance of our Historical Sites in New York State

Dear Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo:

As nations around the world struggle with today's tragedies, revolts and wars, we here at home look for answers to the questions as to why these events transpire in the first place? There are many answers to be found here at home, in our own tragedies and struggles to become who we are today, at our Historical Sites. These sites serve as reminders of those uncertain and terrible times that affected every man, woman and child. Our Historical Sites educate us about those brave men and women who lived through those dark times and who lead their countrymen through "Fire and Sword", for better tomorrows.

As we face the unthinkable prospect of losing these sites to budget cuts and apathy, we must examine each site and point out that they are not just buildings or artifacts, but unique backdrops for the amazing events that made America. My line of questioning turns to one site in particular that is in danger of being lost. If we are looking to preserve history and a sense of national pride, what better place in New York State than the Mohawk Valley? What better man than General Nicholas Herkimer and his home in Little Falls? The brave fight at Oriskany with the Tryon County Militia and the death of General Herkimer serves as one prime example of what men had to sacrifice so that others would remain free. Herkimer's home in Little Falls, a New York State historical site which has interpreted these crucial events and left deep impressions on minds young and old for years, is now closed due to State budgets.

A place of such importance to history, a place of answers and reminders now closed? Now history lies silent, answers and reminders lie silent. Lessons for our children go unlearned and forgotten. Will the sacrifices of General Herkimer and his citizen soldiers be forgotten?

We must stand in these places and listen to our historic interpreters voice the past, so that we and our children learn and understand our own struggle to become who we are today. Then, and only then can we understand what other nations around the world in conflict today are striving to become.

Men and women gave their lives for freedom but do not lie silent. Their deeds speak not only through books, but where they lived, worked, fought and died. Value our tomorrows by honoring our past, leave our Historic Sites open and alive!

Sincerely,

Louis G. Myers, Jr.
Secretary
Burning of the Valley's Military Association