

The
Revolutionary War
Over the Pocono Plateau



The Road to Battle

by Rick Bodenschatz

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After 240 years, the story of Sullivan Trail in the Poconos is documented in detail.

The first road built over the Poconos and through Tobyhanna Township was completed by the Continental Army in 1779, during General Sullivan's expedition.

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In alliance, the British led the Six Nations of the Iroquois to attack the frontiers of Wilkes-Barre in Northeast Pennsylvania and upstate New York. Hundreds of American militia and colonists were slaughtered. In response, General George Washington ordered an invasion of central and western New York, led by General John Sullivan with almost one-third of the Continental Army.

But to get there, they first had to cross the wilds of the Poconos, where no road existed. In this first-ever account, we learn how the road was engineered and built through the Great Swamp of Tobyhanna Township, and the thick forests that did not see daylight. Original maps and records of the road-builders tell the story. While troops fought the elements, rattlesnakes and hunger, Sullivan Road was built in just one month.