

The David Conklin Farm House (c. 1750)

Two High Street, Huntington

The Conklins were among the earliest settlers of Huntington and were active in the Town's affairs. Around 1750, Thomas Conklin, the great grandson of the first Conklin in Huntington, built a small 1½ story dwelling on what was then the outskirts of town. The original homestead of 105 acres straddled both sides of present day New York Avenue from Nassau Road on the east to Oakwood Road on the west; and roughly Carver Street on the north to the south line of the Huntington Rural Cemetery on the south. The area at the northwest corner of New York Avenue and High Street contained a peach orchard. The corner field at High Street and Oakwood Road contained an apple orchard.

Between the apple orchard and the house was the barnyard complex, enclosed by a crude fence that extended to the lean-to kitchen on the western side of the house. The well was to the east of the house.



The Conklins were patriots. In June 1774, David Conklin, who was born on the family's Dix Hills farm in 1743, and his father, Thomas, signed the Articles of Association – Huntington's own Declaration of Independence. Once the British occupied Huntington following their victory in the Battle of Long Island, David, like so many other patriots, fled to Connecticut. His family remained in Huntington. While struggling to survive alone with her young family, Sybil was forced to deal with the occupying army. On one occasion, the British troops ransacked the house and ordered Sybil to give them her gold wedding band. She took the ring off, but instead of giving it to the soldiers, she put it in her mouth. When a soldier was about to hit her, an officer spoke up and instructed the soldier to "leave the plucky little lady alone."

David soon returned to Huntington to look after his farm, but was taken prisoner on August 8, 1777 and was held in New York City until the spring of 1778. The British continued to occupy Huntington for the next five years. During the occupation, the British commandeered boards from David's barn as well as cordwood and hay. David was forced by the British to help construct first Fort Franklin on Lloyd Neck and then Fort Golgotha on the Old Burying Hill at the east end of Huntington village. David was also forced to prepare 110 meals for the British soldiers who were stationed here.

David died in December 1786. His ninth child was born the following summer. His wife died shortly thereafter and David's nephew Abel Conklin acquired the house and raised David's children there. Abel's son, Abel K. Conklin, inherited the house upon his father's death in 1827. Around this time the original 1½ story house with a lean-to kitchen on the western end was greatly enlarged with a two-story addition on the eastern side of the house.

Abel K. Conklin was a prominent member of the early 19th century Huntington community, serving as Town Supervisor, Justice of the Peace, Commissioner of Highways, Assessor and Commissioner of Common Schools. He also served as guardian for orphans and widows and as trustees for many estates. His son, Moreland, served as Executive Chairman of the Committee in charge of Huntington's celebration of the Centennial in 1876.

The house remained in the Conklin family, but over the years, land was sold off so that by 1911 less than ¾ of an acre of the original 105-acre homestead remained in the family. In May 1911, Ella Jayne Conklin Hurd deeded the house to the Huntington Historical Society, which had been formed 8 years earlier in connection with the celebration of the Town's 250th anniversary. Today the house is interpreted to reflect life in the Colonial, Federal and Victorian periods and is used for tours, and educational programs.

*For more information contact the
Huntington Historical Society
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The Conklin House is open for tours Tuesday through Friday and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.