

The Balmat Mine in Hermon (near Gouverneur), NY, is a historically significant world-class zinc and talc mining area within the larger Balmat-Edwards district, known for its unique geology and vast ore bodies discovered since the 1800s. The Balmat Mine was named after Jacques Balmat, a prominent 18th-century French guide, farmer, and crystal hunter, though the mine's name is likely an homage rather than a direct naming by him. Balmat is most famous for his role in the first successful ascent of Mont Blanc in 1786 with Dr. Paccard, an achievement that cemented his legacy.