

❧ FORT GEORGE ADVICE ❧

The Newsletter of the Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George) Alliance

PO BOX 26, LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK 12845

Summer 2017

The Entrenched Camp of 1757 in the Battlefield Park ❧

By Russell P. Bellico

Professor Emeritus, Westfield State University

The “entrenched camp” refers to the site of the 1757 encampment of provincial (American colonial) and British troops located on the high ground on the east side of the present-day Battlefield Park. The area of the 1757 encampment was not new to the English troops, being part of the site of the 1755 and 1756 camps.

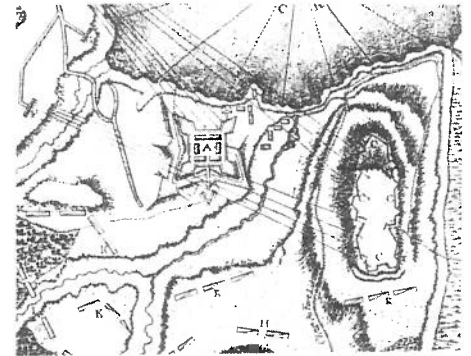
With the majority of provincial and British troops destined for a campaign against the French stronghold of Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island during the late spring/early summer of 1757, Fort William Henry became vulnerable to a French attack. (French intentions regarding Fort William Henry were clear. A French force of 1,600 men had attempted to destroy the fort during a March 1757 raid.) By the end of July 1757 Major General Louis-Joseph de Montcalm had assembled an army of 8,021 men, consisting of French regulars, Canadian militia, and Native Americans at Fort Carillon (later Ticonderoga) for an assault on Fort William Henry.

On July 25, 1757, British officers recommended moving an existing camp, located on the west side of Fort William Henry, to “the Rocky Eminence on the S.E. where a redoubt should be raised” and some cannons mounted.¹ The fortification of this higher ground was necessary to prevent the French from mounting artillery on the site that could fire shells inside Fort William Henry. A British officer described the new entrenchment as “a Breast Work of Logs,” while a French observer recalled that the camp ap-

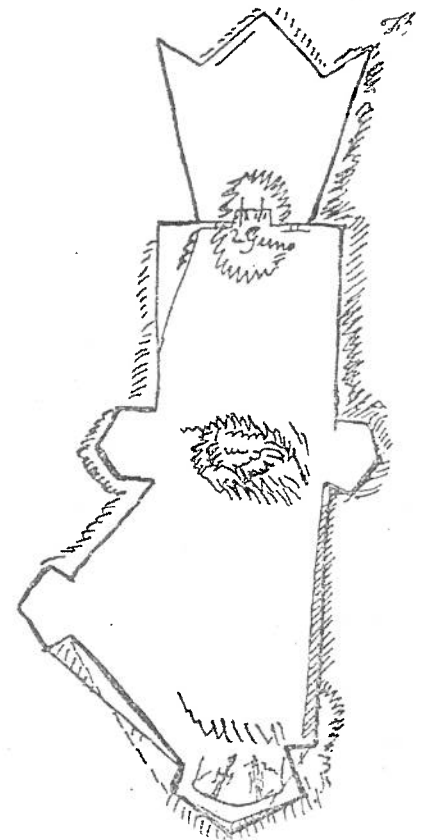
peared to be “a fortified rock faced with palisades [logs] secured by heaps of stones.”² The retrenched camp, designed by British engineer Major James Montresor, followed the sinuosity of the hillside, incorporating the existing rock formations. (In early March 1758, Montresor received official word from England that he had been promoted to lieutenant colonel and director of engineers.)

When Montcalm’s army appeared before the garrison at Fort William Henry on August 3, 1757, only 2,372 British and provincial troops were stationed at the lake. The majority of the soldiers were actually deployed in the entrenched camp under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel George Monro of the 35th Regiment of Foot, who remained inside the camp during the entire siege. Monro had the overall command of the fort and the entrenched camp, while Captain John Ormsby, also from the 35th Regiment, was in charge of less than 500 men inside Fort William Henry.³

In preparation for the French siege, Monro and his troops were occupied at the new entrenched camp “fortify[ing] [in] the best manner we Could with Logs and Stones,” positioning several swivel guns and six cannons: “two brass 6 pounders on a Hill near the Center of the Camp, two brass 12 pound[er]s on the West side of the Encampment, one brass 6 pounder at the Entrance of the Camp from the Lake” and another on the east side facing the swamp.⁴ The cannons at the entrenched camp held the Indians



Detail of French map entitled “Attaques Du Fort William-Henri,” August 7, 1757, showing (C) the “Camp retrenched of the English.” (National Archives of Canada)



“Plan” of the entrenched camp on July 27-28, 1757, at Lake George by James Montresor. (Collections of the **New-York Historical Society**)

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Secretary's Notes

By Nadine Battaglia

Greetings from Fort George at this beautiful high tide of Adirondack summer! There is quite nothing like a Lake George summer anywhere to be found.

Good news to share! We welcome a number of new members including Trustee Lawrence Bennett's grandson, Cole Bennett of Lake George; John and Carol DiNuzzo of Trumbull, Connecticut; Mark and Kathy Silo of Loudonville, NY; Jeffry Brozyna of Lake George; Francis and Laura Coccozza also of Lake George along with the Lake George Junior-Senior High School. A collection of each edition of the *Fort George Advice* is now part of the high school library and available for everyone in our community to benefit from. Thank you to new members John DiNuzzo for joining our Board of Directors and Jeff Brozyna for penning an article for this edition of the *Advice*.

Losing a member of our Alliance family is never easy to communicate, but last autumn, we lost Tom V. Krug of Wenonah, New Jersey, a very lovely gentleman. Tom had been an Alliance member since 2006, and penned a fine review of Russ Bellico's book, *Empires in the Mountains*, published in our Winter 2012 *Advice*. Tom's heart was dedicated to our colonial American history, and he attended our annual meetings and participated as an occasional guest at our board meetings. Tom's inner compass was most especially drawn to Fort Ticonderoga to which grounds he journeyed each year, even when feeling unwell. Tom possessed a brilliant and inquisitive mind with keen insights concerning our American history. Thinking that he might enjoy meeting a frequent guest at my home -- that mustachioed Watergate fellow, G. Gordon Liddy -- I invited Tom to join us for dinner. Well, Tom and Gordon en-

gaged in the most lively conversation one could imagine, so much so, that he joined us again the following summer. Unforgettable memories, laughter and wit. And so, Tom, wherever you are, we hope you're watching over us from time to time.

August calendars: Please reserve the 19th for our **Annual Membership Meeting** -- same time (mid-morning), same place (Fort George Pavilion), with a morning walking tour followed by our meeting, a picnic lunch and a guest speaker. Details will follow.

And, keep in mind the 260th Anniversary of the Surrender of Fort William Henry -- a reenactment will take place Saturday and Sunday, August 26th & 27th at the Battlefield Park, Wood Park and Fort William Henry.

Please think of some good public locations where our exquisite Ernie Hass painting of 1759 Fort George may be exhibited! Until installed in a permanent Fort George Museum, it was intended to travel as a loaned exhibit to local venues.

Lastly, I'd like to say farewell! I am signing off as your Recording Secretary and wish to thank you for having given me the honor of communicating with you. I hope to continue editing our newsletter, but will again say farewell! Very kindly -- Nadine Battaglia



President's Welcome

By Lyn Karig Hohmann

Welcome to this edition of the Fort George Advice. While we will continue to use the Advice as we always have in the past, we will be reaching out to the membership more and more with timely information through emails. Our outreach efforts over the last several years have resulted in involvement in more community activities, in some of which we think Alliance members might enjoy participating. A case in point is a recent "I Love My Park" event May 6 sponsored by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). We were invited to participate in this event in the Park only two weeks before the actual event since even DEC received late notice itself! An email was sent out to local members who might be close enough to participate. So, keep an eye in your "in box" for FortGeorgeAlliance@gmail.com.

We were sad to hear of the death of our long time member, Thomas V. Krug, Jr. last fall. Tom was a faithful member of the Alliance and reliable attendee of our annual meeting, even last August despite his failing health. He had a passion for history and I often saw him at the Fort Ticonderoga programs. He will be missed.

The Town of Lake George with DEC and the Fort George Alliance were awarded a \$50,000 American Battlefield Protection Program grant to identify and study sites in the Town of Lake George related to the historical period from the French and Indian War to the end of the American Revolution. The partnership with the Town and DEC has been strong and positive, with each side committed and bringing its expertise to the grant process. Special thanks go to Dan Barusch from the Town and Charles Vandrei from DEC. Because the Battlefield Park, Beach and Campground are already on the National Register, the grant cannot cover work in the Park. But, over the last few years, we have identified and learned of numerous other sites in the town that bear inves-

tigation. The goal is not to interfere with development of the Town, but to ensure it is done smartly when it may affect significant sites. Hartgen Archaeological Associates were awarded the contract to perform the background research including accessing as many primary source documents as can be obtained and the field work which does not include any digs. In addition to the primary sourcing of historical documents, Hartgen has been interviewing key historians about their knowledge about this historical period. There will be three public meetings regarding this project and we will keep you apprised of the meeting and any updates.

As part of our continuing focus on engaging with the community at large, the Alliance has joined the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce. This will allow us to reach out to local businesses to educate them about the history of our Park and to promote historical tourism with them. Additionally, we can use their office to distribute materials regarding the Alliance and our activities. They are also supporting our efforts including financially to update the Historical Walking Tour of Lake George, originally produced by Bateaux Below.

Finally, I am going to ask you to dig a bit into your wallets! Any of you who have been to our Memorial Day event or walked in the Park knows that the site of the Memorial for the Unknown Soldiers of the Battle of Lake George needs work. The Board of Trustees has identified a local contractor whose work is excellent who has advised us that updating the paving leading to the Memorial and the area around the Memorial would cost about \$6000. DEC has given their approval for this project. And, we are very pleased to announce that the American Pomeroy Historic Genealogical Association has awarded us a \$3000 matching grant to do the project. Every \$ that we are able to raise up to \$3000 will be matched \$ for \$. We hope our membership will join

us in this fundraising so this project can be completed this summer. Donations to this project can be sent to:

The Lake George Battlefield Park
(Fort George) Alliance
PO Box 26
Lake George, NY 12828

Despite persistent rain, at least 30 persons attended our Memorial Day program honoring the Four Unknown Soldiers of the Battle of Lake George. We again thank Fort William Henry, Lake George Fire Department and American Legion Post 374 for their continued support. We also need a special "thank you" to DEC staff who mowed and prepared the site in between our many rain showers. Thank you to all. ■



**16th Annual
Membership Meeting
and Picnic**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH

**Fort George Pavilion
10:00 am**

**Food, Fun, Speaker
and Walking Tour**



The Entrenched Camp of 1757 in the Battlefield Park

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at bay, but losses still occurred during the siege. Monro later noted the “loss of Some Men, in skirmishing with the Enemy to get Logs to complet[e] Our Breastwork.”⁵ (The log breastwork was never fully completed.) Other losses happened when 100 men were dispatched from the entrenchment to secure the camp’s water supply. Two days after that incident, 200 provincial troops were sent out to reinforce 80 Massachusetts militiamen posted behind some nearby logs — a three-hour skirmish with Canadians and Indians resulted in more casualties. In addition, some of the troops stationed in the camp suffered injuries from French artillery shells that landed inside the entrenchment.

With a third French battery within 150 yards of Fort William Henry and the continued bursting of artillery from metal fatigue inside the fort, Monro was forced to capitulate on the morning of August 9. The surrender terms guaranteed safe passage for the British and provincial troops to Fort Edward. The Native American chiefs had acquiesced to the agreement, but the European idea of “honors of war” meant little to the warriors, who had aided their French allies in anticipation of “trophies of war.”

The entrenched camp played a prominent role in the subsequent chaos. Even during the time of the negotiations over the terms of the capitulation, Indians entered the entrenched camp and began to plunder, and again on the afternoon of August 9, warriors climbed over the breastworks and began looting, despite the presence of French guards. Montcalm intervened personally at the entrenchment to quell the disorder. The march to Fort Edward was originally scheduled to begin at midnight, according to Colonel Joseph Frye, but had to be postponed until the next morning due to evidence of a potential attack by the Indians.

At daylight on August 10, as the English parolees were preparing to depart, the “Savages ... got over the Breast

Work and began to plunder” and pulled 17 wounded men from their huts and scalped them.⁶ The pandemonium escalated as warriors returned to their camps with booty, causing more Indians to dash to the entrenchment to gain their portion of the plunder. According to an eyewitness, the Indians began seizing “Officers Swords, Hats, Watches, Fuzees [fusils/muskets], Cloth[e]s, and Shirts, leaving [the troops] quite naked.”⁷

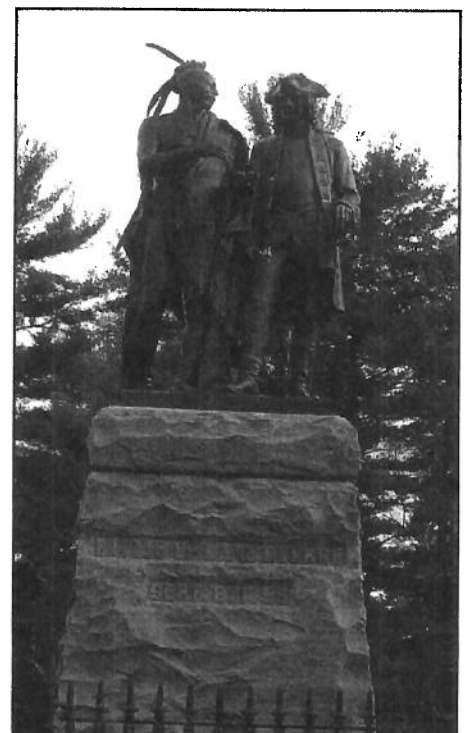
In a state of great trepidation, the first contingent of the 35th Regiment and artillerymen departed from the entrenched camp, followed by the provincial troops with the New Hampshire regiment at the rear. Their muskets were carried “clubbed” and without ammunition. No sooner had the parolees left the entrenchment when the Indians fell upon the rearmost contingent, stripping, killing, and scalping them. The scene was described as a “Shocking Spectacle,” prompting the troops and their families, as well as camp followers, to flee into the woods.⁸ Women and children were “Killed & Scalp’d in the Road,” according to an observer, while troops at Fort Edward later recorded that children had been taken from their mothers by the Indians, who “Dash[ed] their Brains out against ye Ston[e]s.”⁹ Soon the British troops at the front of the column became aware of the “butchery” at the rear. Thereafter, the whole line erupted in confusion. Monro and some of his officers gained protection from Montcalm; other soldiers began a frantic run to Fort Edward. Subsequently, Montcalm and his officers interceded, but unfortunately it was only after most of the attacks had ended. However, four hundred captives were rescued from the Indians, but several hundred others were taken to Canada, where most were later ransomed to French authorities. Although some writers have recently questioned the characterization of the episode as a massacre, original journals, official letters, and period newspapers called it a massacre.¹⁰ Even French engineer Capt. Jean-Armand Desandrouins used the words “massacred” and

“butchery” to describe the killings by the Indians.¹¹

The following year the entrenched camp was reestablished by forces under the command of Major General James Abercromby and a stockaded (log) fort was built at the northern end of the site. Although Abercromby’s army dismantled the camp’s structures at the end of the year to prevent French destruction, in 1759 Major General Jeffery Amherst’s army rebuilt the stockaded fort and constructed one stone bastion of Fort George. Today one can still easily visualize the borders of the historic entrenched camp in the Battlefield Park. In recent years, archaeological excavations, led by Dr. David Starbuck, have uncovered valuable evidence delineating the location of the entrenched camp and the subsequent structures built on the site.

The history of the Battlefield Park needs to be shared so future generations can appreciate the sacrifices made more than two and a half centuries ago at this important site in the struggle for control of North America. ■

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Nation Building: The Contribution of the Provincial Chaplains at Lake George

By Jeff Brozyna

The French and Indian War was not just an economic, political and military battle for empire. It was a personal struggle that tested the spiritual and secular belief system of the inhabitants of Britain's Protestant colonies in America. The religious component of that involvement has generally been under reported by historians. That is unfortunate. We must remember that in colonial society there was generally little separation between church and state and it could be said that religious attitudes were far more important to an individual than they are today. Therefore, much can be learned by studying the chaplains assigned to each of the provincial regiments which served in the British armies at Lake George and on the New York frontier. Inadvertently, many of these chaplains helped to establish a spiritual perspective within the minds of the people which made Revolution a conceivable reality just a dozen years after the French conflict ended.

Who were these American colonials who joined the provincial regiments from New England, New York and New Jersey at the encampments at Lake George and fought side by side with the British regulars during the French and Indian War? The best description I have found remains Fred Anderson's, "A people's Army", which is a study of General Winslow's 1756 Massachusetts provincial regiments based on statistical analysis, diaries, letters and journals. Anderson concludes that the men who served were a cross section of a highly religious society which believed they had God's special favor. They were God's new Chosen People, a City on a Hill. They had a special covenant with God. These people saw life on both a visible (secular) and invisible plane with God acting out His will behind the scenes. They believed a contractual covenant was formed between them and their officers upon their enlistment but their

officers' power over them was not absolute. Each regiment had a chaplain who was responsible for the men's spiritual health. The chaplain held rank equal to that of a captain. A soldier's spiritual health was of vital importance within such a belief system.

Who were these chaplains? They were chosen from among the ministers of the churches within the towns that the regiments came from. They were nominated by the colonel of the regiment and approved by the war committee or colonial legislature. They were typically educated at Yale or Harvard or Princeton. When the French and Indian War began, these ministers had just emerged from a time of religious upheaval which profoundly impacted their perspective and how they counseled their flock.

The First Great Awakening had swept through southern New England around 1740. The old Calvinist/Congregationalist monopoly in places like Massachusetts and Connecticut was broken. Led by ministers like George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards, spirit filled "New Lights" favored revival, personal conversion and a personal relationship with God. They distained old institutions. "Old Lights" remained conservative, and were attached to existing social, educational and religious processes. Their basic message was that one's salvation was tied to obedience to traditional social institutions. Old Lights tried to disenfranchise New Light preachers and churches. Ministers were fired, congregations splintered apart. New churches opened and closed. Bitter disputes arose. Some New Lights became Baptists or "Separatists." Some Old Lights became Anglicans. An uneasy truce of sorts had settled in by the mid-1750s as Protestants united against Catholic France. However, the scars from The Awakening ran deep.

I was inspired by Fred Anderson's statistical work to develop my own data

on the provincial chaplains serving on the New York frontier and Lake George from 1755-1762. I relied on provincial military rolls, Ancestry.com and other resources. Here are some interesting conclusions:

1. Of the 45 chaplains for whom I could locate sufficient data, 39 served at Lake George.
2. 37 of 45 (82%) were Congregationalists, one Anglican, two Baptists, 5 Presbyterians (11%).
3. This highly educated group was 38.4 years old upon initial service date, much older than the average soldier.
4. 31% of the 45 chaplains were New Lights, 7% were Old Lights. The New Lights were not the most radical of their group as all but 2 remained Congregationalists.
5. 10 of the 45 chaplains (22%) had Native American missionary experience.
6. There were 23 Patriots and only 2 Tories during the Revolution in our sample of 45.
7. 8 of the 13 Conn. chaplains were New Lights (62%) and Conn. chaplains were 44 years old at initial service. This makes them significantly older and more likely to be New Lights than the chaplains from Mass. (6 yrs. older) or the other colonies (11 yrs. older) They are, in essence, an older generation of chaplains more heavily impacted by The Awakening.
8. 4 chaplains owned slaves (9%). None of them freed them during their lifetime.
9. Only 2 chaplains of the 45 changed professions. This shows great dedication.

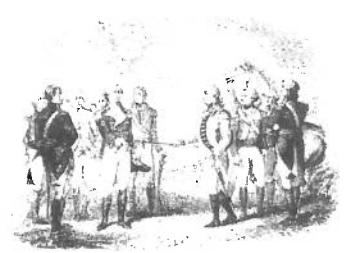
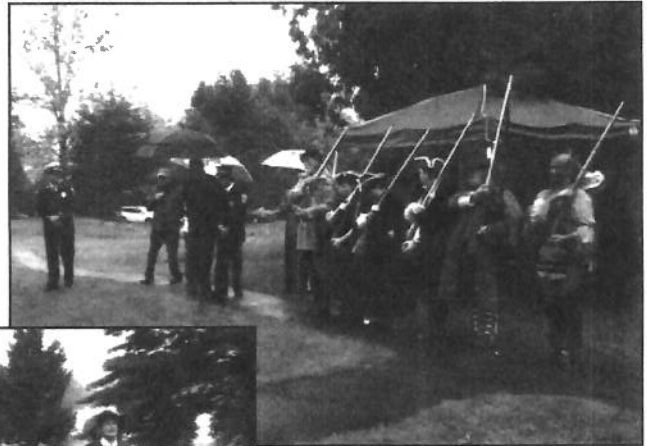
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The Entrenched Camp of 1757 in the Battlefield Park

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NOTES:

1. Public Record Office, London, Colonial Office Papers 5/48, UP microfilm reel 2, frame 546.
2. James Furnis, "An Eyewitness Account by James Furnis of the Surrender of Fort William Henry, August 1757," ed. by William S. Ewing, *New York History* 42 (1961): 311; Rueben Gold Thwaites, ed., *Travels and Explorations of the Jesuit Missionaries in New France* (Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers Company, 1900), Volume 70, 155.
3. Loudon Papers (LO), Huntington Library, San Marino, California, 4479, 6660. There are some discrepancies in the numbers reported.
4. James L. Kochan, ed., "Joseph Frye's Journal and Map of the Siege of Fort William Henry, 1757," *The Bulletin of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum* 15 (1993): 348.
5. LO 5309; Colonel Joseph Frye of the Massachusetts regiment noted losses of men from the entrenched camp on August 3, 1757. Kochan, "Frye's Journal," 348.
6. Furnis, "Eyewitness Account," 313; LO 6660.
7. "A Journal Kept during the Siege of Fort William Henry, August 1757," *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 37 (1898): 150.
8. LO 6660.
9. Kochan, "Frye's Journal," 356; Jabez Fitch Jr., *The Diary of Jabez Fitch, Jr., in the French and Indian War 1757*, 3rd ed. (Fort Edward, NY: Rogers Island Historical Association, 1986), 19; Seth Metcalf, *Diary and Journal of Seth Metcalf* (Boston: The Historical Records Survey, 1939), 10.
10. Russell P. Bellico, *Empires in the Mountains: French and Indian War Campaigns and Forts in the Lake Champlain, Lake George, and Hudson River Corridor* (Fleishmanns, NY: Purple Mountain Press, 2010), 126-28.
11. Jean-Nicholas Desandrouins, *Le Maréchal De Camp Desandrouins 1729-1792*, ed. L'Abbé Gabriel (Verdun: Imprimerie Renvé-Lallemant, 1887), 109-10.



Nation Building: The Contribution of the Provincial Chaplains at Lake George

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The chaplains lived together, shared prayers, and met regularly to pray for the men and discuss their needs. Old and New Lights sometime shared quarters. Their journals indicated they took turns preaching, spent time counseling the men to pray, attend services and avoid drink and profanity. They attributed military reverses and camp sickness to both army leadership deficiencies and God's displeasure. They decried the lack of spirituality of the British regulars in camp and the brutality of regular officers. Their beliefs and attitudes mirrored that of their men. The provincial troops kept re-enlisting each year and quotas were met until the war ended. They did their duty. From that perspective, the chaplains were successful.

The chaplains had reinforced the basic founding principles of New England. In the eyes of New Englanders, a special covenant existed between God's Chosen People that could not be broken. To this existing framework, the New Light chaplains added the principles of The Awakening which allowed the

individual to challenge existing religious and institutional structures in order to provide additional guarantees for those rights. In a society where there was virtually no separation between church and state, an intellectual framework for Revolution was inadvertently crafted. The framework could be utilized if conditions warranted. A decade of British ministerial blunders then created the mistrust and economic conditions necessary to grow a Revolution within this new intellectual framework. ■

SOURCES:

- Fred Anderson, "A People's Army: Massachusetts Soldiers and Society in the Seven Years War," Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1984.
- C.C. Goen, "Revivalism and Separatism in New England (1740-1800): Strict Congregationalists and Separate Baptists in the Great Awakening," Waco, TX., Baylor University Press, 1987, 2002.
- Jerome Dean Mahaffey, "The Accidental Revolutionary: George Whitefield and the Creation of America," Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2011.

Membership 2017-18

The Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George) Alliance extends a sincere Thank You to its members for their generous support during the period from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the lists of members that follow. Please notify us immediately of any errors or omissions, so that we may revise our records.

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Pomeroy Anvil Trail Monument Update

Susan Hughes, Director
American Pomeroy Historic Genealogical Association (APHGA)

When Col. Seth Pomeroy and his men set out on September 10, 1755 to bury the bodies of those slain during The Bloody Morning Scout, part of this solemn duty was to bury the body of his younger brother, Lt. Daniel Pomeroy.

In the summer of 2015, the APHGA reached out to Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance for help in locating a site for a monument honoring a fallen ancestor and telling the story of this skirmish that signaled the start of the Battle of Lake George.

Now, thanks to a suggestion from Lyn Hohmann, Bill Pomeroy, Daniel Pomeroy's 5th great grandson, has found a location to erect a monument to his ancestor and those soldiers killed that fateful morning. Members of the Town of Lake George Veteran's Memorial Committee have graciously offered a spot for the Anvil Monument near the new Veteran's Memorial being erected at the intersection of Routes 9 and 9N in the Town of Lake George.

We're very excited that this project that started in 2005 is finally moving forward! More information on the Pomeroy Anvil Trail may be found at www.AmericanPomeroy.org. Click on the Anvil Trail link. ■

