

~ FORT GEORGE ADVICE ~

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

PO Box 26, Lake George, New York 12845

FALL 2002

President's Message ~

SPRING vanished. Summer came and went. Someone once said: "Oh, how the time flies when one is having fun." Indeed, these past few months have been a pleasure for me, except for a hospital stay and the convalescent period following another surgery. Pleasurable, in that, a number of Alliance accomplishments have been recorded.

Good news has been constantly the order of the day. Early on, Governor George E. Pataki informed us that Fort George had been designated a Heritage Trail site on New York State's Revolutionary War Heritage Trail. In the month of April, notice was received from the Internal Revenue Service that they had determined that the Alliance was exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3). Memberships in the Alliance are now deductible to the full extent allowed by law. A hearty "Job Well Done" and "Thank You" goes to Bill Herrlich, our Treasurer, for enabling us to reach that milestone.

The process was begun to set our organization's goals down in the form of a Long Range Plan and to develop a Strategic Plan for reaching those goals. Thanks goes to the New York State Council on the Arts, the grant sponsor, and the New York Up-

state History Alliance in Oneonta for awarding the Alliance a "Get Ready" grant to assist us with the process. Mr. Bruce Mosely, Director of the Oneida Community Mansion, the assigned consultant, met with the Board of Trustees and various Committee Chairs in the latter part of May to kick off the planning process.

Summer brought with it the opportunity to carry our message onto the National stage. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Historic Preservation Officer and I presented a paper titled *The Complexities of Investigating, Interpreting and Managing a Multi-Campaign, Multi-Conflict Battleground* at the American Battlefield Protection Program's 6th National Conference on Battlefield Preservation. That program is under the auspices of the National Park Service, US Department of Interior. An electronic copy of the paper as presented may be obtained by emailing a request to me at Chazmanbsr@aol.com.

Our first annual membership meeting held at the Lake George Battlefield Park on August 24th was a resounding success despite the dampness of the day. A "Thank You" goes to Chris Verville for his organizational expertise; to Chuck



Vandrei and Andy Farry for the outstanding interpretative tour of the historic and archaeological features within the Park; to East Cove Catering of Lake George for the excellent picnic lunch; to the Piece of Cake Bakery of Essex Junction, Vermont for the fabulous birthday cake; and all our members and special guests for being in attendance. A SPECIAL "Thank You" goes to Assemblywomen Betty Little for joining me in placing a floral wreath at the monument of the "Unknown Soldiers" in memory of all who lost their lives while serving at the site which is now called Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George), New York. ~

Sincerely,
Herman C. Brown
President
Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George) Alliance



Carlton's Raid Revolutionary War Encampment and Reenactment

October 11-12, 2003

THE New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort

George) Alliance will sponsor a Revolutionary War Reenactment and Encampment at Fort George in the town of Lake George, New

York on Saturday and Sunday, Octo-

Continued on page 2

The Alliance supports the historic preservation, conservation, interpretation and associated maintenance, improvement and development of the Lake George Battlefield Park

Where bateaux are berthed ❧

By Judy Bernstein, *The Post-Star*
September 25, 2002. Reprinted by permission
of *The Post-Star*

**Group finds Colonial-era Dock
Buried in Lake George's Shore**

LAKE GEORGE - It isn't often that you'll find shipwreck enthusiasts looking under solid earth for bits of history.

But members of Bateaux Below Inc., a nonprofit shipwreck archaeology group, took time off from probing the watery depths of Lake George one day last week to check out some land on the shore.

The group's Executive Director, Joseph Zarzynski, and others, were checking out an area of Million Dollar Beach, an adjacent concrete overlook and a section of Beach Road with high-tech radar, looking for evidence of a colonial military dock dating to the mid-1700s.

Although it is a bit off their usual

track, the group is looking at the dock as a maritime site, Zarzynski said.

"Lake George during the Colonial time period was literally a highway for moving soldiers and supplies. For the soldiers to have access to boats, they had to have docks," Zarzynski said.

The group believes it found the evidence it needs on Friday that the dock, used to load ships with troops, ammunition and supplies in the French and Indian War, still exists, although it's mostly buried.

The rock and wood dock is the latest find in the organization's inventory of historic objects in the lake, a project that's about 35 percent complete, Zarzynski said.

The dock, associated with Fort George, is significant because it's the only one of two located at the southern end of the lake in that period to survive, he said.

The other dock, which was used for Fort William Henry, was located where the steamboats now dock and was destroyed by the French when the fort was burned in 1757.

Actually, finding the dock was pretty easy, Zarzynski said.

The group had a pretty clear idea where it should be when they set out to locate it with ground-penetrating radar, in which ultrahigh frequency radio waves are used to detect underground objects.

The dock was noted on historical maps and early 20th-century maps and on aerial photographs from the 1950s that showed a section of it.

Within minutes of using the equipment, the Bateaux Below members found readings that they believe indicate the dock is several feet under the beach and overlook, with just a little bit protruding into the lake.

"We got readings that there is something nearby," Zarzynski said.

The dock will remain where it is, marked as it has been for years by a historical sign.

Zarzynski said keeping it untouched is probably for the best, so that future generations can create images of it in its entirety using even better high-tech equipment than is available today. ❧

Alliance Trustees ❧

- ◆ Herman C. "Charlie" Brown, Grand Isle, VT, *President*
- ◆ Christopher J. Verville, Lake George, NY, *Vice President*
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- ◆ Marilyn J. VanDyke, Ph.D., Queensbury, NY, *Trustee*

Fort George Advice

Contributors ❧

- ◆ Steven G. Collyer, *Communications Chair & Editor*
- ◆ Herman C. Brown, *Alliance President*
- ◆ Bill Herrlich, *Alliance Treasurer*
- ◆ Todd Earl, *Membership Chair*
- ◆ Rebecca Cornell, *Reenactment Subcommittee*
- ◆ Charles E. Vandrei, *NYS DEC*
- ◆ Judy Bernstein, *The Post-Star*

Reenactment continued from page 1

ber 11-12, 2003. This living history event will feature the reenactment of the October 11, 1780 raid led by British Major Carlton upon Fort George. The British raiding party included British Regulars, Canadians, American Loyalists and their Native American Allies. Fort George was then principally garrisoned and defended by the American Line Regiment under the Command of Colonel Seth Warner (The Green Mountain Boys).

Participation in all events is by invitation and participants must be registered in advance with the Alliance's Reenactment Program Coordinator. For additional information contact John Purdy, the Alliance's Reenactment Program coordinator

at VT1stRoyales@aol.com or 108 South Main Street #3, Waterbury, Vermont 05676. ❧

Notice

To stay up to date on the activities of the Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George) Alliance, periodically check out the *America's Historic Lakes - The Lake Champlain and Lake George Historical Web Site* at <http://www.historiclakes.org>. Use the "Table of Contents" page under the listing for "Upcoming History Events in the Lake Champlain and Lake George Region Bulletin Board and Schedule of Upcoming Events". For direct access to the Bulletin Board page go to http://www/historiclakes.org/living_history/history_events.htm. ❧

Retrospective on the Year

By Charles Vandrei, *Historic Preservation Officer,*
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

THE 2002 season was a pretty good one at the Battlefield. Attendance grew by 15% over 2001. DEC Operations replaced 20 picnic tables, repaired 15 more and installed seven new charcoal grilles. In addition the archaeological trailer was painted and a new mower was purchased.

Working with the Alliance, a great deal of progress has been made in getting the Summer 2000 archaeological collection ready to be in-

cluded in the New York State Museum collections. Hopefully we will complete this soon and begin work on the Summer 2001 data. Coupled with organization of the collection we have also been working to identify fragile or highly significant items that may need treatment by an archaeological conservator.

This year also saw the return of authentic period costumed reenactors to the Battlefield. A few French and Indian War reenactors added color to the Alliance Annual meeting in August. At the end of September about 15-20 reenactors, rep-

resenting British, American Provincial and Native American units that served at Lake George in 1757 and 1758, spent the weekend in an authentic tent camp in the meadow above the Lake. Although the event was not publicized at all, it was quite a hit with the visiting public. In spite of bad weather, a good time was had by all. Hopefully this will be the start of a regular series of such events representing the periods and events that make the Lake George Battlefield such an important place in New York State, American and Canadian history.



Treasurer's Report

FROM a financial perspective the Alliance is just over a year old, for on August 22, 2001 it made its first deposit at the Glens Falls National Bank and Trust Co. Since then, there have been 17 others, reflecting 45 memberships of various classes and 1 gift and totaling \$3,910. Over the same period, the Alliance has had expenditures (primarily membership and filing fees and printing costs) totaling \$1,398.13. The resulting current bank balance is \$2,511.87.

Probably the most significant financial event over the last year was the Alliance's filing in February, 2002 of Internal Revenue Service Form 1023 seeking provisional status as a 501(c)3 organization. Such a designation, if properly maintained, exempts the Alliance from federal taxes, and allows members and donors to include their dues and contributions among their itemized deductions on their federal tax returns. Having this designation is of clear importance in fund raising matters, and we received our provisional status in April.

The Alliance has a non-calendar

fiscal year. It ends on March 31 in order to conform to the State's fiscal year-end and to simplify planning and budgeting with the state Department of Environmental Conservation. The IRS Form 990-EZ for the partial year ending March, 2002 has been filed, and we have also filed our annual report with the New York State Museum. All of the filings referred to in this report are public documents and are available for anyone's inspection.

Respectfully submitted,
William M. Herrlich, Treasurer

Membership Committee News

ELLOW Alliance members: My name is Todd Earl and I am your new Membership Chair. In this position, I hope to assist with the development of new members and help spread the news about our formation and purpose. I'll gladly answer questions, distribute brochures and make contacts wherever you might think we can develop new partners – particularly corporate and business sponsors.

The best recruitment tool we have is you; as a current member you can lend your "networking opportunities"

to expand the Alliance membership base. I encourage everyone to reach out to likeminded friends who might be interested in our group. I have the supply of brochures and would be happy to send you some for distribution. The easiest way to contact me is via email at: tearl@hfcsd.org

A summary of our current roster shows 45 Charter members divided into the following categories: 25 individuals, 12 families, three patrons, one student and four paid-up-for-life members. The geographic range includes four New England states, New York, Delaware and

Michigan – quite impressive for a new organization. It would be great to develop increased interest among history buffs in the greater Lake George region. Please let me know how I can help!

Sincerely,
Todd Earl, Membership Chairman



First annual encampment held at Lake George Battlefield Park

By Rebecca Cornell, Correspondent for the Reenactments Subcommittee; camp follower for the 1st Royal Regiment of Foot

 ON the weekend of September 21 & 22, a small group of Re-enactors brought the history of Battlefield Park to life. A small French & Indian War encampment was established to highlight the history of the park with tourists & townspeople. This small collection of wedge tents and cooking area had a large impact on the community. No less than three touring buses and probably 150-200 people stopped to explore the encampment. Visitors were exposed to some of the history of "The Bloody Morning Scout" from the British Regulars, as well as typical camp life. Speakman's Rangers provided musket demonstrations while our Native allies had established quarters for the tourists to explore, and I was happy to give them the women's view of military life in the 1750s.

As a group, we not only entertained at our encampment, but also walked into town to find lunch, and discovered many locals and tourists who wanted to know more about us. After lunch we headed for Fort Wil-

liam Henry for a free tour, partially provided by one of our own Native American allies. A few of us were waylaid on the return trip to camp for pictures in a local wedding, while others talked to visitors from Ireland and England.

Even the drizzle did not stop the company – we banded together to cook a dinner over the fire, and well into dusk we had inquisitive locals visiting us. Although Sunday was much wetter, a smaller group remained encamped. As a group we certainly raised awareness of the Battlefield Park and its history to tourists and locals. Several of the public asked if we would be staging formal battles, to which we replied those would occur during future encampments. Many thanks to those who participated in our Encampment – the 1st Royal Regiment of Foot, the 55th Light Infantry, Speakman's Company of Rogers' Rangers, and our Native American Allies.

As a result of our Trial Encampment, we have discovered there is


definite interest from the public in having Encampments at Battlefield Park. Therefore, from the Alliance's Programs committee, a Reenactments sub-committee has been formed. John Purdy of the 1st Royal Regiment of Foot has been appointed to be its chairman. The goal of this committee will be to organize two or more reenactments a year to be held at the park. Anyone interested in working on these events is encouraged to contact John at 802-244-0942 or Vt1stRoyales@aol.com or John Purdy, 108 South Main #3, Waterbury, VT 05676. We are seeking volunteers from the Alliance at large; not just from experienced reenactors. In order to successfully hold encampments at the Battlefield Park we will need non-reenactors just as much as the reenacting community behind us. However, if you have ever thought about becoming a Reenactor, this may be your chance to help bring the history of Lake George Battlefield Park alive. ✨



Archaeological Trivia

From the Test Pit ✨

By Herman C. Brown

 A common debate often heard during archaeological excavations of historic military sites is one that attempts to answer the question: "Is grape shot or canister shot lead or iron? I have recently acquired a long out-of-print book that provides much information that should be considered in this debate.

The book is titled "An Universal Military Dictionary or A Copious Explanation of the Technical Terms &c. Used in the Equipment, Machinery, Movements, and Military Operations

of an Army" by Captain George Smith, Inspector of the Royal Academy at Woolwich, that was printed in London near Whitehall 1779. A couple of the book's notable subscribers were: The Right Honorable Lord Amherst and Lieutenant General Burgoyne. Here's a few quote's there from:

"BALL, in the *military art*, comprehends all sorts of balls and bullets for fire-arms, from the cannon to the pistol. Cannon-Balls are of iron; musket and pistol-balls are lead."

"BULLETS, are leaden balls, wherewith all kinds of small fire-arms are loaded."

"SHOT, a denomination given to all kinds of balls used for artillery and fire-arms; those for cannon be-

ing of iron, and those for guns and pistols, &c. of lead. Grape, Chain, Case Shot. See Laboratory.

"LABORATORY"

"Chain-shot, in *military matters*, are two shot linked together by a strong chain of 8 to 10 inches long: they are more used on board men of war, than in the land service. The famous M. de Witt was the first inventor, about the year 1665."

"Grape-shot, in *artillery*, is a combination of small shot, put into a thick canvas bag, and corded strongly together, so as to form a kind of cylinder, whose diameter is equal to that of the ball which is adapted to the cannon.

To make grape-shot, a bag of

Continued on page 5



"The Battle of Lake George" by Frederick Coffay Yohn (1875-1933). Gouache on paper.

Part of the Glens Falls Insurance Company collection. Used with permission of the Chapman Historical Museum, Glens Falls, NY.

Test Pit continued from page 4

coarse cloth is made just to hold the bottom which is put into it; then as many shot as the grape is to contain; and with a strong pack-thread they are quilted to keep the shot from moving; and when finished, they are put into boxes for carriage, to be transported wherever it is necessary.

The number of shot in a grape varies according to the service or size of the guns: in sea service 9 is always the number; but on land it is increased to any number or size, from an ounce and a quarter in weight, to 4 pounds."

Tin-case-shot, in artillery, is

formed by putting a great quantity of small iron shot into a cylindrical tin-box, called a canister, that just fits the bore of the guns. Leaden bullets are sometimes used in the same manner; and it must be observed, that whenever numbers or sizes of the shots are used, they must weigh, with their cases, nearly as much as the shot of the piece.

Case-shot, formerly, consisted of all kinds of old iron, stones, musket-balls, nails, &c. and used as above."

There is a plethora of additional information in the cited Universal Military Dictionary that the serious researcher could be interested in. Maybe more of that will be the sub-

ject of a later article in this column in some future newsletter.

"Is grape shot or canister shot lead or iron?" Well, in view of the definitions noted about, I conclude that as it is considered not appropriate in an archaeological context to identify an arrow head or spear point as anything other than a projectile point, it is equally not appropriate to identify a relatively small-in-diameter or weight iron ball or lead ball as anything other than just an iron ball or a lead ball. Grape shot or canister shot are containers of a number of iron balls, lead balls or both iron and lead balls and sometime other extraneous objects. ~

3 Valleys to Freedom Facts & Figures

By Steven Collyer, Adirondack Regional Chambers of Commerce/ Communications Committee Chair, Lake George Battlefield (Fort George) Alliance/Tourism Chair, 3 Valleys to Freedom Coalition

THE 3 Valleys to Freedom Coalition has had a busy year celebrating the 225th Anniversary of The Northern Campaign and the Battles of Saratoga. As I write this, we are preparing for the British surrender march in Schuylerville, NY on Saturday, October 19.

While details are still coming in on what was accomplished by the Coalition and its individual partners, here are some facts and figures from ARCC's perspective.

From late April through mid-October, the chamber:

- ◆ Hosted EXPO 2002 at the Glens Falls Civic Center, themed for the 225th celebration, which drew over 4,000 visitors in one day.
- ◆ Distributed 2,100 225th anniversary posters to members and organizations (5,000 were printed)
- ◆ Distributed 3,000 225th anniversary brochures (100,000 were printed)
- ◆ Gave away 4,500 Mohican Trail Military History Tour Maps
- ◆ Distributed 2,500 ARCC Heritage Tourism Conference brochures (3 Valleys Coalition wrap-up meeting)
- ◆ Sent over 1,000 "History Buff's Resource Guide" booklets
- ◆ Distributed 3,000 "3 Valleys to Free-

- dom" *Post-Star* supplements (in addition to 38,000 that appeared in the paper)
 - ◆ Mailed 10-12,000 pieces of historic member literature in visitors' packages
 - ◆ Printed the 225th calendar of events in our monthly newsletter, the *Regional Report* (circulation 2,500); the *Report* is also on the chamber website
 - ◆ Installed a reciprocal hot-link between the ARCC and 3 Valleys websites
 - ◆ Designed, printed and distributed over 600 "Gentleman Johnny Burgoyne's Farewell Tour" t-shirts for sale by regional non-profits
 - ◆ Sent over 200 international media packages
 - ◆ Hosted the monthly Coalition meetings
- Plans are already underway to promote sites and events in 2003, so watch for updates. ☺

LAKE GEORGE BATTLEFIELD PARK
(FORT GEORGE)

ALLIANCE
P.O. BOX 26, LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK 12845

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Home Phone: (____) ____ - _____
 Work Phone: (____) ____ - _____
 FAX: (____) ____ - _____
 Email: _____

CHARTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I want to protect Historic Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George) at Lake George, New York. I'm joining the Alliance as indicated below:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member, \$2,500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Member, \$50
<small>For a husband, wife and their children under 18 years of age.</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member, \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member, \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor Member, \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Member, \$15
<small>For a person 25 years or younger enrolled in a full time education program</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paid Up for Life Member, \$500
<small>For an individual person making a one-time dues payment of \$500</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> Institution Member, \$35
<small>For newsletter subscribers only</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Member, \$100 | |

Annual Charter Memberships expire on March 31, 2003 unless renewed

We make every effort possible to avoid duplicate mailings, but if you receive an extra application from us, please accept our apology and pass the extra application on to a friend. For additional information please contact our Membership Committee Chair at (518) 668-3941 or toddo@capital.net. Membership is tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Lake George Battlefield (Fort George) Alliance
PO Box 26, Lake George, NY 12845

