

❧ FORT GEORGE ADVICE ❧

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

PO Box 26, Lake George, New York 12845

SPRING 2002

President's Welcome ❧

WELCOME to the first issue of the Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George) Alliance newsletter, the *Fort George Advice*. "Advice?" Why "Advice?" In the 18th century the word "advice" was commonly used to mean "a communication containing information." Hence, the *Fort George Advice* is a communication containing information important to all it reaches.

Much has transpired since some of us met that winter evening (January 22, 2001) at the Caldwell-Lake George Library in Lake George. The Alliance was then founded on the enthusiasm of all those who attended. The Alliance continues to grow and prosper from that enthusiasm and the enthusiasm of all who have joined since then. Today, Alliance members hail from as far to the east as the Atlantic coast of Massachusetts, south to Delaware, and west to Michigan. As the name suggests, we are indeed an Alliance of those with diverse interests, retired persons, historians, reenactors, professional persons, archaeologists, proprietors, park neighbors, etc.

The past fifteen months have been busy ones. During that time, the Alliance

Trustees have been building the bedrock on which the organization must stand. A formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was negotiated with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). That document, which was consummated on April 27, 2001, spells out the relationship between the Alliance and the DEC. A Constitution and Bylaws for the Alliance was drafted, approved and adopted by the Alliance's Board of Trustees on July 24, 2001. On that same date, a petition was submitted to the Regents of the University of the State of New York, under the New York State Museum's Chartering Program, for a Certificate of Incorporation. The Board of Regents met on October 5th and voted to grant the Alliance its Certificate of Incorporation. Copies of these documents may be obtained by request from the Alliance's Secretary. The MOU and Constitution and Bylaws are available by electronic transmission.

On November 8th, the Alliance's Vice-President and myself met with the Historic Preservation Officer, Bureau of Public Land, DEC, and the Conservation Operations Supervisor, DEC Region 5 for the first Annual Site Management Review. In my opinion, the meet-

ing was most productive. One of the many agreements reached at that meeting was that such a meeting be held in the fall (October – November) annually and that a mid-year program review meeting be held annually in either April or May. The Alliance Board of Trustees met on February 21st and approved and adopted an operating budget of slightly less than \$10,000 for fiscal year 2002-3. The Alliance's new fiscal year began on April 1st. For budget specifics please refer to the Alliance's Annual Financial Report that will be presented at our first annual membership meeting.

Our first annual membership meeting will be held on Saturday, August 24, 2002 at the picnic pavilion at Lake George Battlefield Park, Lake George, NY. Additional program information is printed later in this newsletter. Please mark your calendar now. I hope to see you there.

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



Congratulations to the Alliance from your partners at DFT ❧

CONGRATULATIONS to the Officers, Board of Trustees and the Members of the Lake George Battlefield (Fort George) Alliance on the formation of your organization and on this the first edition of the *Fort George Advice*. I am very pleased to see the Alliance off to a fine start. Friends groups such as the Alliance are an integral part of protecting and managing the significant historic resources that are found on the Public Lands managed by DEC.

The Battlefield Park is a truly wonderful place. It is one of a handful of surviving locations of historic events where the

setting, the landscape and the sense of the history remain strong. The list of persons who served at or visited the site during the French and Indian War or the American Revolution reads like a "Who's Who" in the early history of the United States. Sir William Johnson, King Hendrik, Ephraim Williams, Paul Revere, Robert Rogers, Israel Putnam, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington all either served there or visited the site to commemorate the events that took place there. It is a fitting tribute to these men and to history that places to study, enjoy, and contemplate have always been a part of the character of

New York State.

All of the DEC staff associated with the stewardship of the Lake George Battlefield Park look forward to a long and productive association with the Alliance!

Charles E. Vandrei
Agency Historic
Preservation Officer,
NYS Department of
Environmental
Conservation
April 15, 2002
❧



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

Fort George Alliance awarded grant &

By Dr. Naton Leslie

THE Upstate History Alliance in Oneonta, NY, has awarded a "Get Ready!" grant to the Lake George Battlefield (Fort George) Alliance. The grant is the first of its kind awarded to a museum or historical agency in the state.

In receiving the grant, Herman C.

Brown, President of the Lake George Alliance, and other officers and board members, will be working with consultant Bruce Mosely, Director of the Oneida Community Mansion, to develop a coherent and workable long range plan. Mr. Mosely will provide sample plans and help the Alliance establish a framework for planning; such a plan will be invaluable in future fund-

raising efforts.

The grant is the first in a series of three grants for museum advancement; the latter two are called "Get Set!" and "Go!". They are aimed at helping the leadership of an organization acquire professional expertise through consultancies and attendance at professional conferences, and are sponsored by the New York State Council on the Arts. The "Get Ready!" grant is especially focused on strategic and long range planning. &

The Northern Campaign/Battles of Saratoga and the "3 Valleys to Freedom" Coalition &

By Steven Collyer, Director of Communications, ARCC

Excerpted from the May 2002 issue of the Regional Report, the newsletter of the Adirondack Regional Chambers of Commerce.

AS staff liaison for the Adirondack Regional Chambers of Commerce's Heritage Tourism Committee, one of my duties is to participate in regional and state tourism initiatives. The most complex and important of these at the moment is the "3 Valleys to Freedom" Coalition—the three valleys being the Champlain, Hudson and Mohawk. This group of professionals and volunteers first assembled last fall at the ARCC offices to plan a promotional

campaign for the 225th anniversary of the British invasion of New York and Vermont and the Battles of Saratoga in 1777. The 30+ coalition partners represent a broad range of historic sites, associations, societies, reenactment units, government and publications. The mission of the coalition is to heighten awareness of the sites and events taking place this spring, summer and fall in conjunction with the 225th celebration. But it won't stop there—the initiatives will be carried forward into 2003 and beyond.

Our first project was 5,000 posters advertising the season's major events, followed by 100,000 color brochures. These items are being distributed internationally. More than 200 press kits were also sent to the local, regional and national media in late March. A \$15,000 grant from the Cultural Tourism Initiative, a joint project of the Arts & Business Council, Inc. and the NYS Council on the Arts, will assist us in continuing to promote heritage tourism, a vastly under-marketed economic development resource. Partners who have or will be contributing funds or in-kind services are:

- ◆ Adirondack Regional Chambers of Commerce
- ◆ Arts & Business Council Inc./NYS Council on the Arts
- ◆ Center for Heritage Education & Tourism
- ◆ Crown Point State Historic Site, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & His-

3 Valleys to Freedom
Relive America's Victories of 1777

- ◆ toric Preservation
- ◆ Eastern National, Inc.
- ◆ Fort Ticonderoga
- ◆ Friends of Schuyler Mansion
- ◆ Hubbardton Historical Society
- ◆ Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor
- ◆ Mount Independence Coalition
- ◆ National Park Service—Fort Stanwix National Monument
- ◆ National Park Service—Saratoga National Historical Park
- ◆ *The Post-Star*
- ◆ Saratoga County Board of Supervisors
- ◆ Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Vermont Division of Historic Preservation

An events list, hot links to websites, and general information are available by logging on to www.thenortherncampaign.org. &

Editor's Note: Fort George Interpretive Center update -

One of the primary projects of ARCC's Heritage Tourism Committee for the past three years has been the creation of an interpretive center inside the rotunda at the Million Dollar Beach bath house. This partnership with DEC has received financial assistance from a New York State grant administered by the Adirondack North Country Association. The center is slated to open this summer in conjunction with the 225th celebration. &

Alliance Trustees

- ◆ Herman C. "Charlie" Brown, Grand Isle, VT, *President*
- ◆ Christopher J. Verville, Lake George, NY, *Vice President*
- ◆ William M. Herrlich, Orleans, MA, *Treasurer*
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- ◆ Michael E. Stafford, Esq., Lake George, NY, *Trustee*
- ◆ Marilyn J. VanDyke, Ph.D., Queensbury, NY, *Trustee*

Fort George Advice

Contributors

- ◆ Steven G. Collyer, *Editor*
- ◆ Herman C. Brown, *Alliance President*
- ◆ Charles E. Vandre, *NYS DEC*
- ◆ Dr. Naton Leslie, *Siena College*
- ◆ Dr. David Starbuck, *Plymouth State College*

2001 excavations in the Lake George Battlefield Park

By Dr. David R. Starbuck

DURING July and August of 2001, Adirondack Community College sponsored its second six-week season of archaeological excavations in the Lake George Battlefield Park. Research continued to be focused upon locating and better interpreting the 1757 Entrenched Camp, the 1759 site of Fort George (and its outbuildings), and the hospital camp that was created here during the American Revolution. Consequently, work continued at some of the barracks sites that had first been discovered in 2000, but many new, previously-unexplored sites were located and studied in 2001. These included huts, barracks, some possible hospital sites, and the one surviving bastion of the fort (Fort George) that was completed here by Brit-

ish General Jeffrey Amherst in 1759. Survey work in 2001 was extensive, rather than intensive, and was designed to test the accuracy of British engineers' maps from the late 1750s. The foundations from at least 8-10 newly-discovered structures were tested archaeologically, along with some dumps and earthworks.

The artifacts recovered in 2001 were of exceptional quality and revealed that nearly all buildings had been occupied during both the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. Distinctive finds included a brass pocket sundial & compass, a musket barrel, a lead weight, buttons of the 26th Regiment, stems from wine glasses, a very intact door lock mechanism, a complete bayo-

net, and a brass stock clasp that was exceptionally well-made.

The second season of field work was under the overall direction of Dr. David Starbuck, and the field supervisors for the 2001 season were Brad Jarvis (Department of History, University of Minnesota), Andrew Farry (Department of Anthropology, Michigan State University), and John Farrell (Adirondack Chapter, New York State Archaeological Association). All laboratory analysis was conducted in a trailer on-site that had been provided by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and the laboratory work was under the direction of Elizabeth Hall (Department of Social Science, Plymouth State College). Over 50 students and volunteers, representing many different colleges and states, participated in the research, which was most successful.



225th Anniversary of The Northern Campaign and the Battles of Saratoga
Calendar of Events

THIS calendar of events will celebrate the anniversary of the British invasion of the Champlain, Mohawk and Hudson Valleys in 1777.

*Denotes an original site.

Date Event:

May 4: **Craigo*** in the American Revolution, Rensselaer, NY

May 11-12: **Militia Encampment** at the Tulip Festival, Albany, NY

May 18: **Rogers Island Family Day**, Rogers Island Visitors Center*, Fort Edward, NY

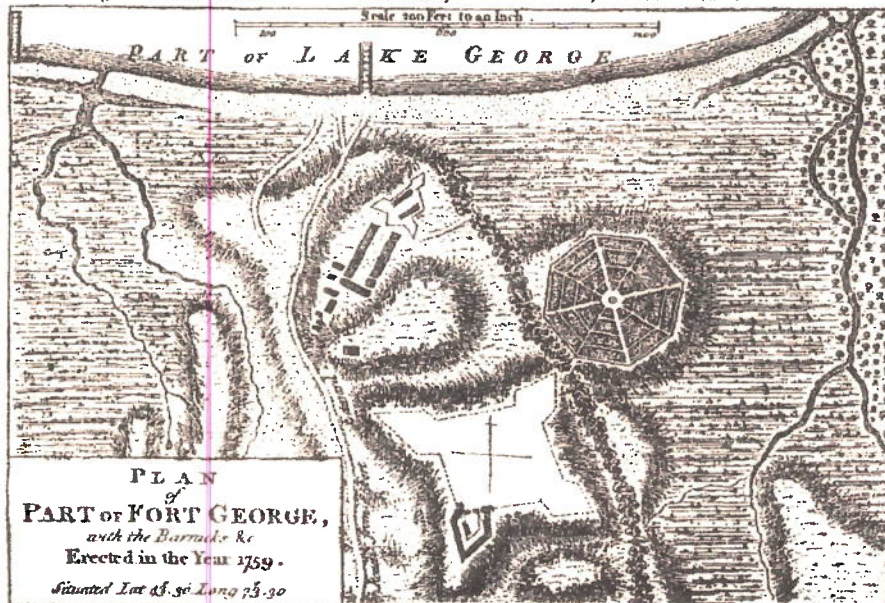
May 27: **General Baron von Steuben**

Memorial Service, Remsen, NY

June 1-2: **Fort #4***, Charlestown, NH

Continued on page 4

A. Fort showing what was finished. B. Officers Barracks. C. Soldiers Barracks. D. Powder Magazine. E. Stockaded Post erected to serve during the time the river was Building. Grounds. The Kitchen. F. G. Store houses. The Wall to the Swamp in the south westward.



Map source: Canadian National Archives

First Annual
Membership Meeting

When: Saturday, August 24, 2002.

Where: Lake George Battlefield Park, the picnic pavilion.

Schedule of Activities:

~10:00-11:15 AM An interpreted tour of the Fort George Garrison Grounds (open to the public).

~11:30 AM-1:00 PM: The Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George) Alliance membership business meeting (members and invited guests only).

~1:00-2:00 PM Lunch

~2:00 PM A memorial service dedicated to all of those who lost their lives in the Battle of Lake George in 1755, or while serving at, hospitalized at, being garrisoned at, or fighting on the site which is now within the surroundings of the Park (open to the public; reenactors welcome).

225th Calendar continued from page 3

June 15-16: **Ethan Allen Days**, Sunderland, VT

June 22-23: **Crown Point***, Crown Point, NY

July 5: **The Evacuation of Fort Ticonderoga by the Continental Army***, Ticonderoga, NY

July 6-7: **Battle of Hubbardton***, Hubbardton, VT

July 13-14: **Battle of Fort Anne***, Fort Ann, NY

July 13: **Evening of 18th Century Entertainment**, Stillwater, NY

July 16-21: **18th Century Children's Discovery Center**, Saratoga County Fair, Ballston Spa, NY

July 20: **Training Exercises and Period Crafters** at the Van Schaick Mansion*, Cohoes, NY

July 26: **The Story of Jane McCrea***, Fort Edward, NY

July 27-28: **Soldiers on the Mount**, Mount

Independence*, Orwell, VT
 August 1 : **General Herkimer's Proclamation**, Little Falls, NY

August 3 : **Muster of the Tryon County Militia**, Herkimer, NY

August 3-6: **Siege of Fort Stanwix/Battle of Oriskany***, Rome, NY

August 4 : **March of Tryon County Militia**, Oriskany, NY

August 6 : **225th Anniversary of Battle of Oriskany**, Oriskany, NY

August 10-11: **Battle of the Flockey**, Old Stone Fort Museum*, Schoharie, NY

August 11: **18th Century Day** at the Country Home of General Philip Schuyler*, Schuylerville, NY

August 16-17: **Battle of Bennington***, Bennington, VT

August 17: **225th Anniversary of General Herkimer's Death**, Little Falls, NY

August 24-25: **"Rabble in Arms,"** Lake Champlain Maritime Museum*, Basin Harbor, VT

Sept. 7-8: **Revolutionary War Encamp-**

ment featuring Brown's Raid, Fort Ticonderoga*, Ticonderoga, NY

Sept. 21-22: **Mustering of the 14th Albany County Militia**, Knickerbocker Mansion Harvest Festival*, Schaghticoke, NY

Sept. 27-29: **225th Remembrance of the Battles of Saratoga**, Saratoga National Historical Park*, Stillwater, NY

October 5: **Candlelight Tours of the Country Home of General Philip Schuyler***, Schuylerville, NY

October 5-6: **West Point/Fort Montgomery***, Fort Montgomery, NY

October 12-13: **2nd Battle of Saratoga**, Town of Saratoga, NY

October 13: **"Corking the Bottle" at Stark's Knob***, Northumberland, NY

October 19: **Surrender March of Burgoyne***, Town of Saratoga, NY

October 19-20: **Burning of Kingston***, Kingston, NY

October 20: **"The Gentleman Captive,"** General Burgoyne and Baroness von Riedesel at the Schuyler Mansion*. Albany, NY

**LAKE GEORGE BATTLEFIELD PARK
 (FORT GEORGE)
 ALLIANCE**

P.O. Box 26, LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK 12845

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: (____) ____-____

Work Phone: (____) ____-____

FAX: (____) ____-____

Email: _____

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) 668-2871.

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:

Sustaining Member, \$2,500

Associate Member, \$1,000

Sponsor Member, \$500

Paid Up for Life Member, \$500

For an individual person making a one-time dues payment of \$500

Patron Member, \$100

Family Member, \$50

For a husband, wife and their children under 18 years of age.

Individual Member, \$35

Student Member, \$15

For a person 25 years or younger enrolled in a full time education program

Institution Member, \$35

For newsletter subscribers only

Annual Charter Memberships expire on March 31, 2003 unless renewed

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

