

# FORT GEORGE POST

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

PO BOX 26, LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK 12845

www.lakegeorgebattlefield.org

WINTER 2022

## New Visitor Center Being Readied for May Opening



Battlefield Park Alliance Trustee (and former President) Dr. Lyn Karig Hohmann has been working throughout the cold winter months to prepare the Park's new Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC) when it opens in May.

The First Pennsylvania Battalion soldier mannequin will be a notable presence in the VIC. In addition to the tailoring of the uniform coat and trousers, Rob Fraser has donated other components of the complete uniform. Charles Vandrei, reenactor and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation archaeologist, is donating additional gear to complete the display.

We have also received a generous donation from Victoria Garlanda that is funding three period flags and video equipment for the VIC. The Grand Union flag will be placed with the Pennsylvania soldier. (A Union Jack flag and a Fleur de Lis flag will grace the panels devoted to the French and Indian War.) A donated replica three-pounder (cannon) will complete this display.

Four cases provided through funding from the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable

Trust will house a selected group of representative artifacts from the Park, on loan from the New York State Museum. Two cases funded through the William G. Pomeroy Foundation will house model forts from the 1750s.

In the marine display area, one case will display the model of the radeau, Land Tortoise, with its actual port cover in a case nearby. Both cases were funded by the Stewart's/Dake Family Foundation. A separate case is planned to house timbers, currently in the State Museum, that were rescued from the sloop burned in the 1757 raid on Fort William Henry. A model of that wreck is also being donated. The two period models were donated by Alliance Trustee Dr. Russ Bellico, noted historian. A video display will run films related to the radeau and the bateaux in Lake George. The videos were donated by Joseph Zarzynski.

Several pieces of art work will also be displayed, including:

- An Ernie Haas painting of the site in 1759
- A Gary Zaboly drawing of the Stockaded Fort in 1759
- A mosaic photograph of the radeau, Land Tortoise, in the marine exhibit area
- A modern painting of the Fort George Bastion by Alliance member Tim Cordell

Additional displays on the Hendrick/Johnson statue and the artwork of powder horns are also in progress. Near the entrance will be a beautiful vintage mahogany spinet desk donated by

*continued on page 3*

## Annual Meeting Provides Updates, Holds Elections

The August 21, 2021 annual membership meeting of the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance was conducted at the Park Pavilion for approximately 30 attendees. Outgoing President Dr. Lyn Karig Hohmann provided her annual report, focusing on the status of the Visitor Interpretive Center and the many other initiatives undertaken during the year under her leadership. (See the entirety of Lyn's report elsewhere in this issue.)

Alliance member Patrick Niles shared with the membership an initiative he has underway, with the support of the Pomeroy Foundation, to erect historical markers in the Warren-Washington County area that identify key locations of raids led by British Major Christopher Carleton in the fall of 1780. Among the effects of the raid were the surrender and burning of Fort George.

The business portion of the meeting included the election of several new officers to lead the organization and Trustees to fill vacancies on the association's governing Board.

The new officers are **John DiNuzzo** of Trumbull, CT, President; **Francis Coccozza** of Lake George, Vice President; and **Nancy Ross Bellamy** of Ballston Lake, Secretary. **Rosemarie Earl** of Lake George is continuing as Treasurer. All of the officers are long-time members of the Alliance and the Board of Trustees.

Re-elected to three-year terms as Trustees were **Dr. Russ Bellico** of Feeding Hills, MA, and **Dr. Bruce Venter** of Goochland, VA. Completing

*continued on page 3*



## *Board of Trustees*

*President*

**John DiNuzzo**

*Vice President*

**Francis Coccozza**

*Treasurer*

**Rosemarie Earl**

*Secretary*

**Nancy Ross Bellamy**

*Trustees:*

**Larry Arnold**

**Russell P. Bellico, Ed. D.**

**Lindsay Doyle**

**Todd R. Earl**

**Lynda Karig Hohmann, MD**

**Jay Levenson**

**Margaret Mannix**

**Bruce M. Venter, Ph. D.**

*Co-editors:*

**Diane Cordell**

**Tim Cordell**

*Contact:*

**info@lakegeorgebattlefield.org**

Copyright© 2022, Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George) Alliance. All rights reserved. Contents may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed without the explicit written consent of the Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George) Alliance.

*Fort George Post* is the official newsletter of the Lake George Battlefield Park (Fort George) Alliance, PO Box 26, Lake George, NY 12845



## *President's Welcome*

By John DiNuzzo

I was elected President of the Alliance at the annual membership meeting in August 2021. I want to thank the members and Board of Trustees for their confidence in me, and pledge to work earnestly to build on the many accomplishments of my predecessor, Lyn Hohmann, who has positioned the Alliance so well for the future.

Leafing through this issue of the Fort George Post tells the reader about a great variety of activities already underway or in the works. I'm one of those people who believes that the incredible history of Lake George and surrounding communities has been underrecognized for too long. And--in speaking with Alliance members, municipal officials, officers of other historical associations,

and fellow "history buffs"—I know I'm not alone.

The opening of our Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC) this spring, and the prospect of having 40+ Continental soldiers reinterred in the Battlefield Park in the future, create unique opportunities for the spotlight to more appropriately glow on Lake George's historical significance in American history. Our role as Alliance members is to ensure that those who are drawn to the VIC and the Battlefield Park receive an unforgettable, top-quality experience—as visitors to Gettysburg and Pearl Harbor do. Aspirational? Unquestionably. Achievable? You bet it is!

I look forward to seeing you at the VIC! ■

### *DEC's Joe Zalewski Hails Upcoming VIC Opening*



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

#### **A Letter from DEC Regional Director, Joe Zalewski**

DEC is honored to work alongside the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance to bring the new Lake George Visitor Interpretative Center (VIC) to life. The VIC will provide visitors with a welcoming and inclusive space while guiding them on a historical journey through interpretative displays.

The VIC complements the many Alliance accomplishments that improve and enhance the preservation and visitor experience at the Battlefield Park, which include producing the documentation that allowed the Park to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, rehabbing the Unknown Soldier's grave site, producing a guide brochure for the Park, and replacing and upgrading the wayside interpretive panels throughout the Battlefield Park that will be installed this spring.

As this project comes to a close, DEC commends Lyn Hohmann for her vision and years of service with the Alliance and extends a warm welcome to new President, John DiNuzzo.

The Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance has been a strong partner to DEC for more than 20 years. DEC thanks the Alliance for their continued dedication and commitment to preserving the history of Lake George through its interpretive work and education to the public.

We look forward to celebrating this achievement with you at the Visitor Center's grand opening this spring.

Joseph Zalewski

NYS DEC Region 5 Director

## Trustee Profile: Dr. Bruce M. Venter



**D**r. Bruce M. Venter, a native of Albany, New York who now lives in Goochland County, Virginia, has served as a Trustee of the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance since 2015.

He is president of **America's History, LLC**, a tour and conference company which offers unique tours relating to the Revolutionary War, the French & Indian War, the Civil War and the Indian Wars out west. The company's annual conference on the American Revolution held in Williamsburg is considered the premier symposium for Revolutionary War enthusiasts, public historians and scholars. In 2019 **America's History** started an annual conference on World War II.

Bruce was president of the Richmond Civil War Round Table, and is currently first vice president of the Richmond American Revolution Round Table, the Goochland Historical Society and the Dr. Joseph Warren Foundation. In

addition to the Alliance, he serves on the board of trustees of the Fort Plain Museum and Historical Park, The Marshall House Foundation and the Stone Arabia Preservation Society. He is a "Color Bearer" member of the American Battlefield Trust.

Bruce has authored two books. *Kill Jeff Davis: Union Raid on Richmond in 1864* was published by the University of Oklahoma Press (2016) in their prestigious Campaigns and Commanders Series. In 2019 a Smithsonian Channel documentary film, based on this book, aired under the title "Targeting Jefferson Davis" with Bruce appearing on screen as a consulting historian. His *The Battle of Hubbardton: The Rear Guard Action that Saved America*, published by The History Press (2015), was selected as one of the "100 Best Books on the American Revolution" by the editors of the Journal of the American Revolution. His history-related articles have appeared in *American History*, *Blue & Gray*, *Civil War*, *Patriots of the American Revolution*, and other journals. He is a popular speaker at historical conferences and other venues.

He holds a B.A. in history from Manhattan College where he was awarded the History Department medal, a master's in public administration and a doctorate in educational administration from the University at Albany.

His wife, Lynne, works with him at **America's History** as vice president and CFO, capably assisted by their beagle, Molly Brant. ■

## *New Visitor Center Being Readied for May Opening*

*continued from page 1*

Nancy Bellamy, the Alliance secretary, for our docents' use.

We look forward to welcoming our long-time supporters and new friends alike as we embark on a new era of presenting the Battlefield Park's glorious history. Information on the VIC's opening will be shared with members via email and on our website, [www.lakegeorgebattlefield.org](http://www.lakegeorgebattlefield.org). Stay tuned! ■

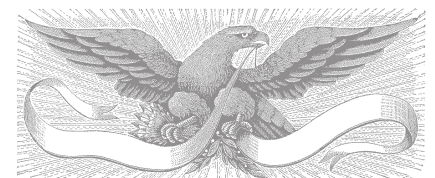
## *Annual Meeting*

*continued from page 1*

the remaining two years of Nancy Bellamy's term as Trustee is past President **Dr. Lyn Hohmann** of Albany.

Two new Trustees will be completing the remaining one-year terms of the late Larry Bennett and Gus Myhrberg, who resigned due to family concerns. The new Trustees are: **Lindsay Doyle** of Malta, who is the Museum Director at Fort William Henry; and **Margy Mannix**, the Lake George Town Historian.

Alliance members also voted to amend the corporate by-laws to expand the number of Trustees to as many as nine; formerly the maximum had been seven. At the next meeting of the Board of Trustees on October 30, lifetime Alliance member **Larry Arnold** of Clifton Park was elected to serve as a Trustee. Consistent with our by-laws, Larry's term will expire at the next annual membership meeting, when he will be eligible for election to a full three-year term. Larry is a retired UPS executive who is a licensed Tour Guide at Saratoga National Historical Park and a Trustee of the Fort Plain Museum and Historical Park. ■



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAY 7, 2022 • 10:00 AM**

"I Love My Park Day" ~ volunteer clean-up (details to come)

**MAY 30, 2022 • 10:30 AM**

Memorial Day Remembrance at Unknown Soldiers burial site

**AUGUST 20, 2022 • 10:00 AM**

Annual membership meeting and election of Trustees and Officers

# Annual Report to Membership

By Lyn Karig Hohmann, Aug. 21, 2021

First, with sadness, we have lost three giants of the Alliance this year: Dr. David Starbuck, whose work inspired the formation of the Alliance; Larry Bennett, a Trustee of our organization who was a cheerleader for history and the Alliance; and Dr. John Paul Ward, a well-known historian and long-time member.

Next, I would like to congratulate our member, Maureen Kennedy, who will be receiving an award from the Fort Edward Historical Society for her many years of working in the educational field. Well deserved!

I'm happy to confirm that all required reporting for the Alliance has been done. This includes our annual report to the New York State Education Department, through whom we are incorporated, our 990N report to the IRS, and our CHARS report to the Attorney General of the State of New York.

Copies of the Alliance budget for this fiscal year and report of last year finances for the Alliance administration and the VIC are available on the tables for your review. I would be happy to answer any questions.

The Visitor Interpretive Center construction and finishing is almost done. It has been much slower than we had ever anticipated, as we have display cases, panels, fort models, etc., stored in various places and the artifacts sit in Albany just waiting! I want to thank all those who have worked so hard on this project, most especially Russ Bellico, who certainly was the inspiration behind our push to have the VIC and who has spent many hours of work ensuring historical accuracy of the contents. We have allowed ourselves a month to complete the placement of displays, etc., and continue to hope that the site will be open to the public for a least a bit of this season. CLEARLY, we are disappointed that we were not in when we expected. Grant reporting will

be completed as the VIC is finishing.

I appointed John DiNuzzo to head a VIC Management Committee. He has brought on a student intern from Skidmore College, Will Kertzman, who has been working on training tools for docents as well as additional educational materials for the Park. The Alliance was awarded a second grant from Parks and Trails New York to create a flyer for the VIC and to update the walking tour for the park that the Alliance with DEC created a few years ago. The first grant from Parks and Trails for the upgrading of signage in the Park has moved very slowly, but we have spoken with them and an extension to complete the grant is not an issue.

A policy and procedure manual for the VIC is in process. While it is mostly complete, requirements from the State Museum for loan of the artifacts has placed new requirements that will need to be added as the VIC is completed.

While a disappointing year, again because of COVID, we were able to hold the usual Memorial Day Remembrance to the Unknown Soldiers of the Battle of Lake George as well as participate in Path Through History Day and I Love My Park Day. Hopefully, next year we will be able to have a full scope of activities, including the VIC.

We continue to work with the Courtland Street Reinterment Committee for the reburial of the 1776 Revolutionary War soldiers and others uncovered during the building of the triplex in Lake George. I am serving as the Ceremony Sub-committee Chair for this committee. The plan is to rebury these Patriots in the Battlefield Park in an appropriate location.

I want to thank the membership for their continued trust in me as President for the last ten years. I am very pleased with the progress that the Alliance has made in its programs and financial

*continued on page 5*

## Unknown Soldiers Remembered



As part of the national Wreaths Across America program which seeks to place a wreath on every American soldier's grave, Trustee and former Alliance President Dr. Lyn Karig Hohmann again arranged for the placement of a wreath this past holiday season on the grave of Four Unknown Soldiers of the Battle of Lake George.

Dr. Hohmann is a member of the General Peter Gansevoort Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which has become the largest supporter of this program as part of its DAR Service for Veterans initiative.

## It's the Season: Time to Renew Your Membership!

As the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance begins its new fiscal year on April 1, anticipating a truly transformational season with the Visitor Interpretive Center's opening and several new programs, we urge our growing list of supporters to recommit to the Battlefield Park's history by renewing their Alliance memberships.

Joining, rejoining or donating can be done easily in several ways, including through the envelope provided to those who receive the Fort George Post by mail or through the Alliance's website, [www.lakegeorgebattlefield.org/join-support/](http://www.lakegeorgebattlefield.org/join-support/). Join our history! ■

# Hainesworth, Parks & Trails New York Fund New Alliance Grants

Nationally-known historian Lorna Hainesworth of Randallstown, Maryland has made a \$5,000 donation to the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance in support of the new Visitor Interpretive Center. Lorna's contribution will help fund the creation of a position to coordinate events and customer feedback in the Center.

"Lorna Hainesworth's vision for historic American sites is legendary, and we couldn't be prouder of her recognition of the Battlefield Park," said John DiNuzzo, President of the Alliance. "Lorna is very much an 'activist' for the organizations she supports, and her perspectives will be of great help as we grow the Visitor Center."

The Alliance was also awarded a \$2,040 matching grant from the Environmental Protection Fund's Park and Trail Partnership Grants program, administered by Parks & Trails New York. This grant will be used to produce a brochure on the Visitor Center and update a self-guided tour that highlights the site's history during the American Revolution and French and Indian War.

"The Board of Trustees has great respect for the PTNY team," noted DiNuzzo of the Alliance. "We look forward to continue to learn from their training and granting initiatives to further enhance the Battlefield Park's public awareness efforts." ■

## Annual Report to Membership

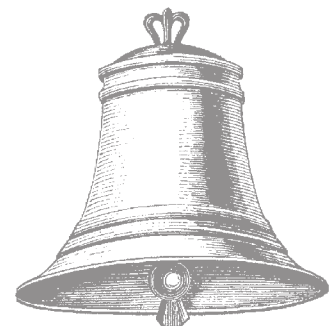
continued from page 4

stability.

When I first became president, I asked the membership what they wanted to see the Alliance do for the next several years. I have kept those responses and have referred to them over the years. I am pleased to say we have accomplished a great deal of what was requested: we have built relationships with and worked closely with the other historical societies in the area; we have worked to have the general community become familiar with us through the Memorial Day Remembrance, Walks in the Park, and participation in I Love My Park Day and Path Through History -- all new programs. We have engaged with the local government including the Town of Lake George and the Village of Lake George. We were one of the principals to work with Town of Lake George on the American Battlefield Protection Program grant that was used to document historical sites in the town related to the history of the Park, and we continue to work with them on the Courtland Street project. Also, we have attended to internal policies on financial controls, ethics and conflict of interest issues, and have continued to ensure we complete our required governmental reporting.

Finally, and most excitedly, we have finally a Visitors Interpretive Center that should open soon--something that has been envisioned for over 100 years!

I want to again thank you all for your support. I look forward to exciting things for the future under the new officers and Board of Trustees. ■




### NEW PARK SIGNAGE!


With the anticipated opening of the Visitor Interpretive Center, it was appropriate to update the historical signage throughout the Battlefield Park. With a grant from Parks and Trails New York and the dedicated work of Trustee Dr. Russ Bellico, assisted by Trustees Dr. Bruce Venter and Dr. Lyn Karig Hohmann, visitors will be treated to beautiful illustrations and updated historical information.

The new signage is expected to be installed when conditions permit this spring.

**Lake George Battlefield Park**



**NEW YORK STATE**  
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



As the junction point connecting the Hudson River to Lake Champlain, this historic site witnessed military engagements during both the French and Indian War (1755–1763) and the American Revolutionary War (1775–1783), including the 1755 Battle of Lake George, the 1757 siege of the entrenched British camp by the Marquis de Montcalm, and the 1780 British raid by Major Christopher Carleton. During the course of both wars, soldiers and civilian contractors constructed numerous fortifications, barracks, sawmills, shipyards, storehouses, and hospital structures on this site.

# *A Babbling Brook with a Bloody Background:*

## Half-Way Brook's Little Known Story—Part I

By Bruce M. Venter



Tucked away between a car dealership and several corporate buildings at 25 Lafayette Street in Queensbury sits Hovey Pond Park, a serene oasis in the middle of suburban commercial development.

It's a place for the jogger, the dog walker, the nature lover, and children seeking a playground. On a pleasant day, visitors may enjoy the park's flower garden, fishing pond and wildlife sanctuary, including a fast-running, bubbling creek that borders the park's southern boundary.

Sitting prominently, yet unobtrusively, next to the pond's walking path near a stream called Half-Way Brook is a granite stone with a patina-colored bronze plaque attached. The inscription on the tablet details the bloody history associated with the adjacent water some two and a half centuries ago.

In 1904 the New York State Historical Association (the same group originally charged with running the Lake George Battlefield Park) selected Half-Way Brook as an appropriate site for a marker to commemorate the surrounding area's 18th century history. A glacial boulder with its descriptive tablet was originally placed near the intersection of Upper Glen Street and Glenwood Avenue in October 1905. The stone in Hovey Park is a

replacement but the tablet is original. The plaque reads:

### HALF-WAY BROOK

So called because midway between Forts Edward and William Henry. From 1755 to 1780 it was the scene of many bloody skirmishes, surprises and ambushes. Here the French and Indians inflicted two horrible massacres upon the English and Colonials. One in the summer of 1756 and the other in July, 1758.

### FORT AMHERST

A noted military post, was midway between this marker and the brickyard. Its site was known locally as "The Garrison Grounds." The location was used as a fortified camp in 1757-58. The fort was erected in 1759. It was occupied by the forces of Baron Riedesel in the Burgoyne Campaign of 1777. It was burned in 1780 in the Carleton Raid at the time of the "Northern Invasion."

### THE SEVEN MILE POST

Was a block house with a stockaded enclosure which occupied the rise of ground north of the brook and west of the road, near the residence of W. H. Parker, from 1755 to Revolutionary times. During that period it was one of the most important halting places in North America.

—Erected 1905 By

### NEW YORK STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The stone caught my eye years ago when we were walking our dog in Hovey Pond Park. It usually goes unnoticed by park visitors. An internet search will tell you everything the park has to offer recreationally and environmentally; however, omitting its historical marker and why it's next to the creek. Last summer, I saw a dad and his son reading the 1905 plaque so I thought perhaps Alliance members

might like to know about the rock and why it is there.

Half-Way Brook flows from the Luzerne Mountains (i.e., West Mountain) easterly until it turns north, emptying into Wood Creek at Fort Ann where it flows into Lake Champlain. The famous French and Indian War ranger commander Maj. Robert Rogers dubbed the stream "Bloody Brook" in his journal. A British engineering officer of the same era, Col. James Montresor called it "Half-Way Run" in his journal. An undated 18<sup>th</sup> century map identifies it as "Shone Creek." Later, during the Revolutionary War, Col. Henry Knox's diary christened it "Seven Mile Creek" as he was hauling his "Noble Train of Artillery" from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston in 1775.<sup>1</sup>

These names were appropriate for two reasons. Half-Way Brook was basically equidistant between Fort Edward on the Hudson River and the end point of Sir William Johnson's 14-mile 1755 military road at the southern shore of Lake George. Moreover, events occurring at the creek from 1756 through 1759 make Rogers' assessment especially apropos. The 1758 massacre at Half-Way Brook was every bit as lurid as the one described by James Fenimore Cooper's pen at Fort William Henry, but it's rarely mentioned today.

After Johnson's victory over the French at Lake George on September 8, 1755, the midpoint between Fort Edward and Fort William Henry was identified by the British as a strategic location to build a fortification. Its purpose would be to act as a resting place for soldiers and teamsters as they traveled between the two forts. A blockhouse was built within a stockaded enclosure covering about two acres, along with several store houses for munitions and supplies.

*continued on page 7*

## *A Babbling Brook with a Bloody Background*

continued from page 6

According to a 19<sup>th</sup> century physician turned local historian, A. W. Holden, the fortified depot “was situated on the north side of the brook and to the west of the plank road leading to the head of Lake George.” Dr. Holden further claims that by 1759 the fortified stream crossing was protected by redoubts, rifle pits and earthworks; the entire encampment could accommodate about 800 men. Fort Amherst, named in honor of the commander-in-chief of British forces in America, Jeffery Amherst, would be located on the south side of the creek.<sup>2</sup>

In 1756 Great Britain still harbored thoughts of capturing Fort St. Frederic at Crown Point, plus the new French fortification rising at Ticonderoga. With the completion of Fort William Henry as the British army’s forward base of operations, it was essential to supply this garrison with fresh meat and other foodstuffs. Johnson’s military road from Fort Edward served this purpose. Long supply trains, of course, would be the target of French attacks several times during the campaigning season. The French army commander in Canada, Maj. Gen. Montcalm, sought to use these raids as a diversion to keep the British off balance. His strategic plans for 1756 focused on the capture of the English outpost at Fort Oswego on Lake Ontario. Fort William Henry would have to wait until 1757.

A Pennsylvania newspaper reported a letter received from Fort William Henry dated August 3, 1756 that described an attack on a supply train driving cattle and sheep from Fort Edward. It was hit “halfway” between the two posts by an enemy force of some two to three hundred.<sup>3</sup> Dr. Holden repeated this story despite some skepticism. However, he doubled the number to 600 Canadians and Indians and pinpointed the attack to Half-Way Brook. According to Holden, “The oxen were slaughtered, the convoy [of teamsters and soldiers]

mostly killed and scalped, the wagons plundered of their goods and stores.” The marauding party retreated to South Bay on Lake Champlain to make their escape north. They were pursued by rangers under Robert Rogers and Israel Putnam with minor losses.<sup>4</sup>

A French communique corroborates Holden’s story which is repeated on the NYSHA’s 1905 plaque. On July 21, 1756, the dispatch reported that “Chevalier Lacorne [Louis de La Corne] and M. Contrecoeur have taken their departure at the head of a flying camp of 500 Canadians and two hundred Indians, to observe the enemy’s movements whilst transporting their supplies from Orange [Albany] to Fort Lidius (sic) [Fort Edward] and that of Lac St. Sacramento, called [Lake] George.”<sup>5</sup>

When British engineer Col. James Montresor was ordered to the New York colony in 1757, his keen eye spotted the immediate need to improve the works at Half-Way Brook. In July he told his journal that a post should be built on the south side of the “Run” on the east side of the road. Montresor sent a carpenter to Half-Way Brook to start the work. Montcalm, however, interfered with the colonel’s plans by capturing Fort William Henry in August; so no work was done to improve the crossing at Half-Way Brook that year.<sup>6</sup>

Half-Way Brook would play one more part in the bloody events of 1757. Following the surrender and “massacre” at Fort William Henry, Montcalm sent an emissary to Maj. Gen. Daniel Webb, pledging the safe escort of the remaining British prisoners, including Fort William Henry’s commander, Lt. Col. George Monro, to Fort Edward. On a rainy Monday, August 15, about 500 English troops and civilians, accompanied by a French guard of 400 grenadiers and Canadian volunteers, marched to Half-Way Brook. Webb sent two companies of his own grenadiers and 200 volunteers to meet the column. Once the exchange was made, the POWs continued to Fort Edward with Monro mounted on horseback behind a 6-pounder leading the procession. The bronze gun was Montcalm’s gift to the stubborn defenders in recognition of

their heroic efforts to hold their post.<sup>7</sup>

As 1757 drew to a close, so did significant events along Johnson’s military road. But Half-Way Brook’s location would become even more prominent in the next two years of the war for empire in North America. It would be the scene of a massacre that would rival the recent bloodthirsty murders at Lake George. This sanguine story has been largely forgotten because it was not the subject of a best-selling novel, nor the source for an award-winning film. The details are, however, just as horrific.

Half-Way Brook’s saga, therefore, will continue in the next issue of the Fort George Post. ■

*Alliance Trustee Dr. Bruce M. Venter is the author of Kill Jeff Davis: Union Raid on Richmond in 1864 (2016), and The Battle of Hubbardton: The Rear Guard Action that Saved America (2015). A biography can be found elsewhere in this edition of the Post.*

### NOTES:

<sup>1</sup>James Austin Holden, “The Half-Way Brook in History” *Proceedings of the New York State Historical Association*, v. 6, 1906, p. 2. Holden’s article was also published as a separate booklet; the page referenced here is from the booklet.

<sup>2</sup>A. W. Holden, *A History of the Town of Queensbury*, (Albany: Joel Munsell, 1874), p. 302. As a modern day reference, the blockhouse would have been near the Price Chopper parking lot entrance on Route 9 in Queensbury. A New York State historical marker also sits near Half-Way Brook on the east side of Route 9 north of the convenience store on the corner of Glenwood Avenue and Upper Glen Street (Route 9.)

<sup>3</sup>Arman Francis Lucier, *French and Indian War Notices Abstracted from Colonial Newspapers*, (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, Inc. 2007), vol. 2, p. 117. More information about this attack appeared in the *Boston Weekly News-Letter* dated August 12, 1756 per Russ Bellico’s research files.

<sup>4</sup>A. W. Holden, p. 303. Holden felt the event might be “apocryphal” because Rogers left no description in his journal about this action. However because it was mentioned by a reputable source, Asa Fitch in an 1848 publication, Holden felt it was credible. *Ibid.* n. 1 and 2.

<sup>5</sup>E. B. O’Callaghan, ed. *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York*, (Albany: Weed Parsons and Company, Printers), vol. X, p. 483.

<sup>6</sup>G. D. Scull, ed. *The Montresor Journals, Collections of the New-York Historical Society*, (New York: New-York Historical Society, 1882), vol. XIV, p. 22, 25, Reprint; James Austin Holden, p. 6.

<sup>7</sup>Ian K. Steele, *Betrayals: Fort William Henry and the “Massacre,”* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1990), pp. 129-130; Ben Hughes, *The Siege of Fort William Henry: A Year on the Northeastern Frontier*, (Yardley, PA: Westholme Publishing LLC, 2011), p. 234-235.

*Need to renew or have a friend who wants to join?*

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**Yes**, I want to protect this beautiful historic site and join the Alliance.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Sustaining Member ..... \$2,500
- Associate Member..... \$1,000
- Sponsor Member ..... \$ 500
- Paid Up for Life Member..... \$ 500
- Patron Member ..... \$ 100
- Family Membership..... \$ 50
- Institution Member..... \$ 35  
(Newsletter only)
- Individual Member..... \$ 35
- Student Member ..... \$ 15  
(under 25 and enrolled in full-time education)

Check should be made out to the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance and mailed to:

Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance

P.O. Box 26

Lake George, NY 12845

**MEMBERSHIPS ARE RENEWED APRIL 1 EACH YEAR.**



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