

# 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](http://www.lakegeorgebattlefield.org)

WINTER 2023

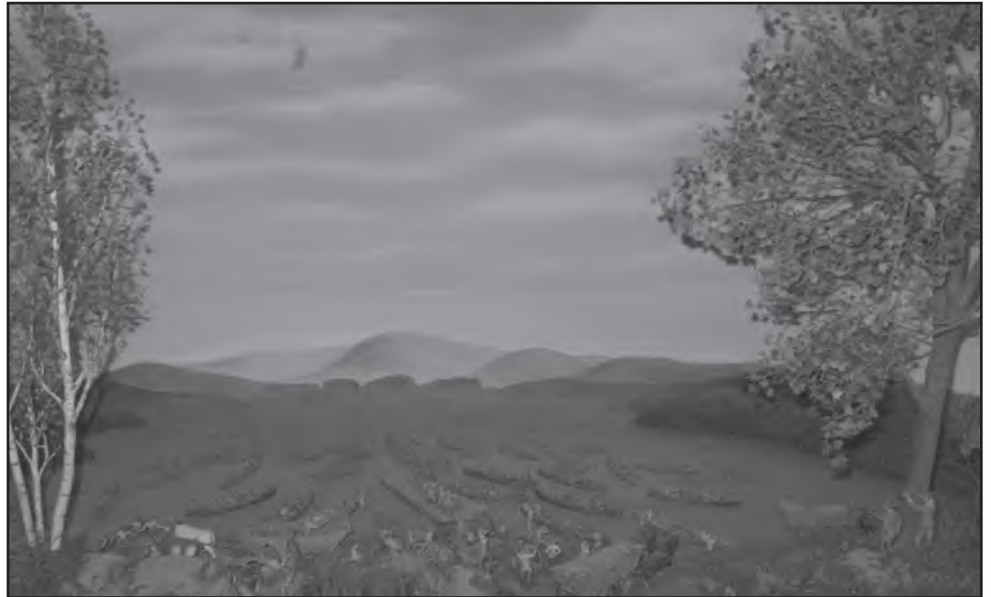
## VIC Is a Success... And More to Come!

By Dr. Lyn Karig Hohmann

When we cut the ribbon last May 25<sup>th</sup> to open the Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Interpretive Center (VIC), we hoped that we had created a worthwhile site to explain the history of our beloved park. And we were a success!

Over 2,500 persons visited the VIC during the 2022 season. Nearly 300 guests took advantage of the "Walk in the Park" tours with our trained docents. These visits also increased support for the Alliance with a 43% growth in membership! A part of this success is attributed to new rack cards, a strategy developed by **John DiNuzzo** and supported with a grant from Parks and Trails New York, that were placed throughout the community in sites commonly visited by tourists. Also, Fort William Henry often sent their visitors over to see our site and allow a broader history of our area. We thank all in the community who supported this effort!

What can you expect when we reopen this season on May 26? We are developing two new exhibits to continue to showcase the magnificent history of the Park. Through a Town of Lake George Occupancy Tax Grant, we were able to obtain an additional case to display Indigenous artifacts found in the Park during archaeological field work. There was empty space left near the panel for Native American Habitation that was deliberately left open in order to place



*Abercromby's Departure 1758 (diorama). Photo courtesy of Adirondack Experience.*

that case when funds could be found.

The second new exhibit will highlight additional naval history related to the Park and the south end of Lake George. The Adirondack Experience has donated to the VIC a diorama (see photo) depicting

General Abercromby's launching of his army in the 1758 attempt to take Fort Carillon. To add to this diorama, we are working with the New York State Museum to display pieces of one of the actual 1758 bateaux recovered

*continued on page 16*

### It's Time to Renew Your Alliance Membership!

April 1 marks the beginning of the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance's fiscal and membership year. So we encourage all our yearly members to renew their commitment to the Alliance by returning the enclosed remittance envelope with your payment or by going online (<https://lakegeorgebattlefield.org/join-support/>) to do so.

As you can see by reading the *Fort George Post*, Alliance members get "first crack" at learning what we have planned along with access to select "member-only" events. Most importantly, your support helps us to raise awareness of the Battlefield Park's special place in American history, and to preserve that history through our projects.

As an IRS-designated 501 (c) (3) organization, contributions to the Alliance are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Thank you again for your support!



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## *President's Welcome*

By John DiNuzzo

With the signs of spring slowly appearing in the beautiful North Country of upstate New York, it's only a matter of a few months until the magnificent Lake George Battlefield Park and our highly regarded Visitor Interpretive Center are officially open again to the general public. But, as members of the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance are fully aware, our growing organization has been anything but "closed" since the 2022 park season ended in October!

I won't repeat the information that's shared elsewhere in this edition of the *Post* regarding all the activities that have been presented over the past few months, and what's still planned prior to Memorial Day weekend. Suffice to say that, responding to our members'

requests, the Alliance is providing a regular series of informational alerts and programs which have made us a truly year-round resource for Lake George history-lovers.

I could not be more proud of the Alliance's Board of Trustees and our incredible group of historian-volunteers—several of whom have contributed to this newsletter—who devote themselves to helping our association take advantage of the enhanced status with which the Visitor Center has gifted us. I'm confident that what we have in store for 2023 will further elevate the Battlefield Park's position among historic sites in the Lake George Region! It all begins with you, our members.

See you at the Battlefield Park! ■

## *Alliance Participates in First "Summit" of Lake George History Association Leaders*

The Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance was one of six Lake George-focused history-oriented organizations that participated in an information-sharing meeting on November 30.

Hosted by Fort William Henry, representatives discussed their plans for 2023 along with potential obstacles, and shared tentative time frames for public events to hopefully avoid conflicts among programs. Lake George Historical Association President **Alex Parrott** viewed the gathering as a "great opportunity for historical groups to get together to share their past activities and future plans for furthering the history of Lake George." Alex viewed the initiative as vital: "Future collaboration among the groups is a concept that will shape the story to come."

Alliance Trustees **Todd Earl, Lindsay**

**Doyle and Margy Mannix**, Treasurer **Rosemarie Earl**, and President **John DiNuzzo** were among those attending. Todd was heartened by "the enthusiasm and passion of the groups the participants represented."

The full lineup of attendees included leaders from the Caldwell-Lake George Library, Fort William Henry, the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance, the Lake George Historical Association, the Town of Lake George Historian's Office, and the Warren County Historical Society.

In assessing the overall outcomes of the session, **Todd Earl** noted "we are stronger together and together we can offer our members a better membership experience." A continuation of the dialogue was scheduled for late February. ■

# Annual Report Of Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance Board Of Trustees

Presented to the Alliance Membership on August 20, 2022

John DiNuzzo, President, Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance

## Highlights for Year

It has been a transformational year for the Alliance, and the prime reason for that is our magnificent Visitor Interpretive Center. Having this facility has made the Battlefield Park and the Alliance much more prominent within the history community, and we've been very rigorous in managing this greater prominence. By all accounts, the Visitor Center is providing a first-rate experience for novices, historians, and everyone in-between. **Lyn Hohmann** and **Russ Bellico** have led this effort, and its success would not have been possible without their dedication and expertise.

The Visitor Center's grand opening on May 25 generated great media coverage, then and ever since. We're very thankful to the two organizational partners of the Alliance who've made it possible: the Lake George Park Commission and State DEC. We are especially grateful to **Dave Wick** of the Commission and **Joe Zalewski** and **Chuck Vandrei** of DEC for their support and guidance.

The numbers tell the story. As of last Sunday (August 14), we've received just shy of 1,500 guests at the Visitor Center, and another 155 have taken our guided history tours of the Battlefield Park. The dedication of our members to running the Center has been indispensable—more than 260 hours of volunteer time have already been contributed. We thank **Gary Moon**, **Jane Murphy**, **Mark Silo** and **Peter Wuerdeman**, especially, for showing up week after week to meet with our guests and share their knowledge. The displays and handouts the visitors experience would not be possible without grants given the Alliance by Parks & Trails New York, **Lorna Hainesworth**, the Pomeroy Foundation, the Town of Lake George, the Solomon Trust, the Dake Family Trust, the Fort William Henry

Corp.—AND the ongoing support of our members.

While the Visitor Center has been a large part of our focus, we've maintained our full array of traditional events this year to our members and to the public. More than 20 volunteers joined us for "I Love My Park Day" on May 7 to clean up the Battlefield Park from winter's ravages. We held our annual Memorial Day commemoration at the burial site in the Park of the four unknown soldiers who died in the Battle of Lake George. The Alliance participated in New York State's "Path through History" with our guided site tours.

Our Summer issue of the *Fort George Post* was released at the beginning of August. I'm very proud that its 16 pages are filled with history journal-worthy articles by Trustees **Bruce Venter**, **Russ Bellico** and **Todd Earl**, members **Kathy** and **Mark Silo**, and Town of Lake George Director of Planning **Dan Barusch**. The *Post* has generated terrific feedback from our members, a tribute to those authors and to our skilled co-editors, **Diane** and **Tim Cordell**.

Less sexy, but just as important, are some other products that are more or less "bread and butter" services that assist with the visitor experience:

- The updated "Colonial Wars in Lake George" walking tour brochure, updated under **Russ Bellico's** coordination
- The new Park Tour Guide, specific to sites within the Battlefield Park
- New historical markers within the Park

Comparing our numbers to last August, we have experienced a 35% increase in overall membership, and a 50% increase in Lifetime members. The Board is fully engaged in spreading the word about the Alliance, and it's made a great deal easier now with the Visitor

Center as our centerpiece. But we all need to be missionaries—anyone with friends interested in American history should try to recruit them to join us!

We now also have a Summer Fundraiser underway, with very special gifts being offered in exchange for certain donation levels. Those gifts--**David Starbuck's** privately-published final book on his archaeological digs in the Battlefield Park, a reproduction of the Blodget map of the Battle of Lake George, Alliance baseball caps, and note cards carrying **Ernie Haas's** painting of the Battlefield Park site in 1759—are wonderful mementos of our historic site.

I should also mention that the donation box at the Visitor Center has raised \$850 this year. We're using it to offset the costs of operating the Center, as well as for supply purchases.

## Governance

Our fiscal year runs concurrent with New York State's, from April 1 to March 31. The current year budget was emailed to all members in late March, and is available today as a handout. We have also hired a CPA this year—at a generously reduced price—to do our filings with the State Attorney General, the Education Department, and the IRS.

## Looking Ahead

The Visitor Center, of course, will remain the Alliance's calling card for public awareness. A Curation Committee will aim to keep the Center's contents fresh each year, expanding as space permits. We'll also explore the feasibility of staffing the Center with paid staff, as our membership and popularity continue to grow.

We also look to more aggressively partner with DEC to ensure that the history of Lake George on State properties is properly recognized and cared for. Trustee **Bruce Venter** has long championed the placement of a historical marker on Diamond Island to commemorate the battle that occurred there in September 1777. We've also requested the creation of a Battlefield Park orientation sign outside the Visitor Center, which would be especially helpful to the public when they visit

*continued on page 4*



## Trustee Profile: Margaret Mannix



Growing up at Lake George, I spent many hours of my youth rambling around Fort George in the Battlefield Park. Our church would hold picnics at the stone pavilion, Girl Scouts and high school outing clubs held meetings there. The park has been a part of my

life since childhood.

My father instilled in me an appreciation for our American history. His idea of a family vacation meant touring many historic sites and battlefields near and far. My siblings and I sat on cannons and scrambled upon the ruins from Ticonderoga to Yorktown, Saratoga to Gettysburg, and Lexington to Concord.

After graduating from Lake George Central School I went on to study at Boston University where I earned a B.S. in Public Communications. After graduating from University, I moved to Vermont to ski and eventually went to Europe where I cycled over 1000 miles throughout England and France. I spent both winter and summer working in Switzerland at youth camps. In 1985 I founded my sports photography company, Inner Mountain Productions, concentrating on ski racing, cycling and canoe events. The business has

lasted over 35 years and has hundreds of thousands of negatives and digital images on file.

I was appointed Municipal Historian for the Town and Village of Lake George in 2014. I consider myself the resource in the Historian's office, assisting people wherever I can. Programs that I have created have been shown at our local historical association, the school, libraries and other venues around Warren County. It's been rewarding, interesting and fun.

I am currently the President of the Caldwell-Lake George Library Board of Trustees, and serve on the Board of Deacons at Caldwell Presbyterian Church.

I live at Lake George with my partner, Mike Potts, and our dog, Koda. ■



## Annual Report Of Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance Board Of Trustees

continued from page 3

during off-hours. Of great importance is the absolute need for DEC to remove the trees and other vegetation growing out of the ruins of Fort George—the damage of their roots to the fragile 18th century structure buried under the mounds might be catastrophic.

As many of you are aware, the Alliance is represented on the Town of Lake George's Courtland Street Reinterment Committee, the group organized to respectfully rebury the remains of roughly 40 Continental soldiers uncovered in 2019. The recommendation of the Committee is to have the soldiers' final resting place be in our Battlefield Park not far from where the four unknown soldiers of the Battle of Lake George are buried. Our Board of Trustees has authorized the Alliance to serve as the "banker" for funds to be donated in support of this project, the total cost of which is

estimated by the Town to be \$400,000.

I truly believe that this project will represent another major milestone for the Battlefield Park and for the larger community. Lake George has the potential to be an even more significant heritage tourism hub—think of what's already here in Lake George and within a 40-mile radius. With the upcoming 250th birthday of the United States just a few years away, there couldn't be a better time for this addition to the list of significant historic attractions in the Park.

The Alliance already has great partnerships with other historic sites in the region. Our neighbor Fort William Henry, with which we have a shared history during the French and Indian War, has been an outstanding supporter on an ongoing basis. The Battlefield Park also has in common a connection of misery during 1776—when the

military hospital here was treating soldiers who had contracted smallpox, many of whom perished—with Fort Greene Park in Brooklyn. The Prison Ship Martyrs Memorial erected there in 1908 hosts the remains of 11,000+ Continentals who died aboard British vessels off the shore of Brooklyn. Joint programs are being discussed with them.

Of course, America's first and foremost heritage tourism attraction is at the other end of our cherished lake—Fort Ticonderoga. The Alliance is in regular contact with the leadership of Fort Ti to determine how best to complement each other in covering our common timeframe. More to come on that, I'm sure.

The past is present, each time we visit the Battlefield Park. And the future is here! ■

## Membership Meets, Elects, Celebrates Alliance's Accomplishments



Lauren Roberts, Saratoga County Historian

The annual membership meeting of the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance was held in the Park's pavilion on August 20, 2022 with a tone of satisfaction on the organization's successes over the past year and enthusiasm for what's next.

Following Alliance President **John DiNuzzo's** presentation of the Annual Report (reproduced elsewhere in the *Post*), elections for the Board of Trustees were overseen by Trustee **Bruce Venter**. Those selected by the membership to serve as the Alliance's governing body include officers (1-year terms) **John DiNuzzo** of Lake George, President; **Francis Coccozza** of Lake George, Vice President; **Nancy Ross Bellamy** of Ballston Lake, Secretary. Trustees elected for new 3-year terms are **Larry Arnold** of Clifton Park; **Lindsay Doyle** of Malta; **Todd Earl** of Lake George; **Margy Mannix** of Lake George; and **Pat Niles** of Cambridge. (NOTE: In December, Lindsay accepted new employment in Philadelphia and resigned from the Board of Trustees.)

The high turnout of 30+ members heard of plans by Saratoga County Historian **Lauren Roberts** for that

county's events—some of which were already underway—to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United States. Lauren was joined by Warren County Historian **Stan Cianfarano**, who introduced Town of Queensbury Historian **John Berry** as chair of Warren County's 250<sup>th</sup> Commission. Together Stan and John listed public activities they anticipate generating beginning in 2023 revolving around the early history of the United States.

The day's events concluded with a general discussion about possible additions to the Battlefield Park Visitor Interpretive Center's displays and operating schedule in 2023, and ideas from the membership for promoting greater awareness of the Battlefield Park. The Alliance's growth during 2022 created a palpable excitement—as well as heightened expectations for 2023. ■

## Alliance Mourns Passing of Founding President Herman "Charlie" Brown

By Dr. Russell P. Bellico, Trustee, Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance

Members of the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance were saddened to learn of the death of its founding president, **Herman "Charlie" Brown**, on December 10, 2022 in Colchester, Vermont.

Beginning with chairing a session at a conference of the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce on the creation of a Battlefield Park "friends" group, Charlie's tireless efforts continued for more than a decade as the president of the Alliance. His dedicated work helped to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding with the New York State DEC, to formulate the Alliance's by-laws and traditions, and to shepherd the Alliance's Certificate of Incorporation through the Regents of the University

of the State of New York. Charlie also successfully oversaw the nomination of the Battlefield Park to the National Registry of Historic Places by the National Park Service.

His obituary in the Glens Falls *Post-Star* enumerated Charlie's extensive career in the military. Charlie was commissioned in the US Marine Corps and served as a presidential helicopter pilot serving President Lyndon B. Johnson in the mid-1960s. Among his later military duties was as a production officer responsible for the overhaul and repair of helicopters in Cherry Point, NC. While at Cherry Point, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and to the position of management services officer heading up the comptroller

and personnel functions of the facility. In the late 1970s, he was operations officer and then executive officer of the Marine Corps' largest helicopter base at New River, NC. In the early 1980's he was the assistant deputy director for Marine Corps Museums and in charge of the Marine Corps Aviation Museum at Quantico, VA.

My fellow Alliance charter member and Trustee **Todd Earl** recalled: "The Alliance was Charlie's brainchild and he put his heart and soul into making it a reality." Todd added that Charlie drove the organization's success. "He was a force to be reckoned with!"

A committal service at Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Randolph will take place in spring. ■

## Connecticut Goes to War

### Connecticut's Role in the 1755 Crown Point Expedition

By John-Eric Nelson

On the morning of May 25, 1755, the men of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Connecticut Regiment gathered on the New Haven Town Green. They were there to hear a fire and brimstone sermon preached by the Rev. Isaac Stiles. The sermon, entitled “The Character and Duty of Soldiers”, was delivered at the request of Lt. Col. Nathan Whiting<sup>1</sup> to inspire his men as they marched off on the expedition to reduce the French fort St. Frederic, or, as the English called it, Crown Point. The sermon held such quotes as “Teach your hands to war”, “Make you the terror of your enemies”, and “Become Christian soldiers, and fear not.”<sup>2</sup> Rev. Stiles also made it clear that this would be a religious fight, pitting New England Protestants against the “evil Catholics” and their heathen Indian allies.

I think these words paint the sentiment of the Colony and of all New England at that time. Men would join the army for other reasons—such as money, adventure and patriotism--but religion would be a catalyst.

On June 9, the troops would muster again and receive another sermon as they boarded sloops in New Haven to sail down Long Island Sound to New York City and then up the Hudson River, rendezvousing with other forces at Albany, New York by the 30<sup>th</sup>.<sup>3</sup> Troops not living near the coast would march overland to Litchfield, Connecticut and then northwest into New York to Kinderhook and Greenbush, across the Hudson from Albany, a trip that would take an average of eight days.

Much political and military intrigue had occurred in the months leading up to this point. In March, Governor William Shirley of Massachusetts had requested that each of the New England colonies and New York raise troops in proportion to its population, “for our common safety”. Connecticut was to raise 1,000 men, to which the Assembly agreed. Connecticut began in April to

raise two regiments with six companies of 80 to 90 men each.<sup>4</sup>

Connecticut would recruit soldiers as it had done in past wars: by paying bounties to men who enlisted and extra awards to those that brought their own uniforms and equipment with them.<sup>5</sup> There was no uniform issued by the colony, so this was a ragtag-looking army. Legend has it that the words to “Yankee Doodle” were written by an Albany doctor as he watched the Connecticut troops march by!<sup>6</sup>

The words “in proportion”<sup>7</sup> were important to Connecticut’s Governor Thomas Fitch and his state’s Assembly. Fitch had to walk a fine line to keep London happy with his efforts in defense of His Majesty’s territories in America, while maintaining the support of the Assembly and the Freemen who elected him to office each year. Connecticut would do its fair share, but not more than the other colonies were doing.

The Assembly appointed Phineas Lyman<sup>8</sup> to command the Connecticut troops. This briefly became a source of controversy,<sup>9</sup> because Major General William Johnson of New York had not been consulted. After many letters back and forth, the other colonies agreed that Johnson of New York would be commander, with Lyman a Major General and second in command.<sup>10</sup>

In May the Colony of New York asked if it could enlist Connecticut men to form three companies of one hundred men each. The Connecticut Assembly agreed to this, stating that “a very large proportion of men hath already been raised in this Colony and are ready to march.” The Assembly further stated that it would nominate a Major and all officers for this purpose, and New York would pay these troops.<sup>11</sup> Connecticut would also send 300 men to join the Massachusetts forces going on a separate British campaign to Nova Scotia, and furnish another 75 to man the forts in Western Massachusetts.

Further supporting the military effort, the Connecticut Assembly ordered that commissaries be appointed to acquire and transport supplies forward for its troops. To move supplies from Albany northward, where navigation capabilities were more challenging, they built bateaux of different sizes to allow nesting to make it easier for their transport on ships. The longest of these bateaux was only 22 feet. While a good idea, it was found that by doing this they could not carry all the supplies that were needed.<sup>12</sup>

By June 17, the Connecticut troops began to arrive at Greenbush, encamping at Colonel John van Rensselaer’s Fort Crailo.<sup>13</sup> On July 19, Lyman and the first contingent of troops began to cut a wagon road following the Hudson River north to the Great Carrying Place (Fort Edward). On August 3, they reached the Carrying Place.<sup>14</sup>

The second division of 1,100 men started to move north on August 6 and reached the Carrying Place after two weeks of travel, delayed by slow wagons and leaky bateaux. The lack of reliable transportation, even by 18th century standards, would be a major issue throughout the campaign and one of the reasons the campaign ultimately failed to ever reach Crown Point.<sup>15</sup>

The Army now stood at 2,850 men, but a Council of War held on August 24 at the Great Carrying Place determined that more men would be needed. Johnson sent requests to all the colonies for reinforcements. Connecticut was asked to provide 500 more troops.<sup>16</sup> On August 29, Governor Fitch wrote, “The Assembly resolved to Raise fifteen Hundred Men over and above the five Hundred which are now Raising being in the whole Two Thousand Men.” The 2,000 more men were raised, of which 500 were to join Lyman’s 1<sup>st</sup> and Colonel Elizur Goodrich’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiments, already, by that time, at the Great Carrying Place and Lake George. The new troops were to form the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Regiments, to “consist of seven hundred and fifty men each and to consist of nine companies in each regiment”. They were to march north as soon as their ranks were filled.<sup>17</sup>

On August 27, Johnson marched

*continued on page 7*



## Connecticut Goes to War

continued from page 6

with the first division of 1,500 men to the southern end of Lac du Saint Sacrement, reaching it on the 28<sup>th</sup><sup>18</sup> and promptly renaming it "Lake George" in honor of the British king. Johnson and his troops immediately began establishing a camp near the water's edge. Lyman followed on September 3 with the last part of the Army, leaving behind the New York Regiment at the Great Carrying Place and without a missing New Hampshire Regiment.<sup>19</sup> Soon after, the three companies of Connecticut men in New York pay began to quarrel with the New Yorkers in the other five companies. Johnson ultimately ordered New York's Colonel William Cockcroft and the five New York companies to move further away on the lake.<sup>20</sup>

Johnson received reports of French troops on the move toward the Carrying Place on September 7 and ordered Colonel Ephraim Williams's Massachusetts Regiment and Whiting's 2nd Connecticut Regiment to march south to intercept the French force the next morning. Approximately three miles from camp they walked into an ambush.<sup>21</sup> Whiting, who had seen combat before as an ensign in the 1745-46 Louisbourg expedition, was able to conduct an organized retreat to the lake and Johnson's camp despite enormous losses and the enemy in pursuit.

By the action of the slow retreat, Johnson was able to fortify the Lake George camp. Lyman and the Connecticut troops manned the left flank of the line that held off the French attack on the afternoon of September 8.<sup>22</sup> A third skirmish in the battle, in which provincial reinforcements from the Carrying Place re-engaged the fatigued French as they fell back from the lake, resulted in a British victory for the day.

Following the battle, with summer coming to a close, the impetus to go further north was lost for the year. Johnson concentrated on building Forts William Henry and Edward, reporting, "Our wounded for the most part will not be capable of service this season,

our sick daily increase and the men do not show that Spirit and Alacrity that should be expected."<sup>23</sup> The ability to bring supplies from Albany was becoming a major problem, so much so that the new Connecticut regiments were thereafter ordered to remain in Albany for lack of food to distribute further.<sup>24</sup>

At a November 22 Council of War to which all field officers in the Lake George camp were summoned, a vote was made to end the campaign and go into winter garrison.<sup>25</sup> Connecticut's Whiting was to command 272 men at Fort Edward.<sup>26</sup> This brought the 1755 Crown Point Campaign to a close. On November 26, Johnson and his army began the march for home.

William Johnson summarized on December 2, 1755 for the Colonial Governors: "Thus Gentlemen is this Campaign Closed."<sup>27</sup> By the end of the 1755 Crown Point Campaign, the Colony of Connecticut had fielded a total of 3,975 men for the defense of His Majesty's territories in North America. ■

**Alliance member John-Eric Nelson is an independent historian and re-enactor who has researched Connecticut provincials in the French and Indian War for over 45 years. He retired from teaching after 35 years in the Milford, Ct. school system. John-Eric resides in Ticonderoga, N.Y. He served four years in the United States Marine Corps with two tours in Vietnam. He has presented talks and programs to historical sites and organizations as well as the U.S. military.**

### NOTES:

<sup>1</sup> Nathan Whiting (1724-1771) A Yale graduate from New Haven, Ct. he served as an Ensign in the 1745-46 expeditions to Louisbourg. He was appointed a Lieutenant in Pepperell's 51<sup>st</sup> Regt. in garrison at Louisbourg 1747-49. In January 1755 received a Lieutenant's commission in His Majesty's Independent Company. He resigned to become a Lt. Col. and 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Connecticut Regt. in April.

<sup>2</sup> Stiles, Isaac. The Character and Duty of Soldiers Illustrated, In A Sermon Preached May 25, 1755. Printed & Sold by James Parker, MDCCCLV. New Haven. (Ct. His. Soc. Imprints Conn 1755; S856C)

<sup>3</sup> Lucier, Armand Francis. French and Indian War Notices Abstracted from Colonial Newspapers Vol. I: 1754-1755, p.200. Heritage Books. ©1999.

<sup>4</sup> C.P.R., The Public Records of The Colony of Connecticut, May, 1751- Feb. 1757, p. 344. Charles J. Hoadly. Press of The Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co. Hartford.

<sup>5</sup> C.P.R., p. 344.

<sup>6</sup> Crutchfield, Jim. The Origin of "Yankee Doodle". Muzzleloader, Jan./Feb. 1993. p. 42. The Bulletin of The Fort Ticonderoga Museum, Vol. VI, Jan. 1941, No. 3. P.116.

<sup>7</sup> C.P.R., p.336., Also see; Fitch, p. 106-07.

<sup>8</sup> Phineas Lyman (1716-1774) A Yale graduate from Suffield, Ct. (part of Massachusetts until 1750s) was a lawyer in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. He was appointed Captain/Major of the Suffield trainband.

<sup>9</sup> Fitch., p. 104-07.

<sup>10</sup> C.P.R., p. 345.

<sup>11</sup> C.P.R., p. 390.

<sup>12</sup> Johnson, William. The Papers of Sir William Johnson. Vol. I, p.670-71. The University of The State of New York. Albany. Also see; Steele, Ian, K. Betrayals Fort William Henry & the "Massacre". Oxford University Press. New York. ©1990.

<sup>13</sup> Johnson, p. 622-23.

<sup>14</sup> Johnson., p. 770-73; Also see. Pomeroy, Seth. The Journals and Papers of Major General Seth Pomeroy. p.130. The Council of The Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York. New York, New York.

<sup>15</sup> Pomeroy, p. 108; Also see. Burk, John. p. 43. Journal of John Burk a Captain in Col. Tim Ruggles Massachusetts Regt. 7 July 1755-5 Dec. 1755. Copied from microfilm in the Library of Congress, by C.L.Tucker for the Rogers' Island Historical Assoc. ©1985; Also see. Corbett, Theodore G. A Clash of Cultures On The Warpath of Nations The Colonial Wars in the Hudson-Champlain Valley. p. 220 Purple Mountain Press. Fleischmanns, N.Y. ©2002

<sup>16</sup> Johnson, p. 888-89.

<sup>17</sup> C.P.R., p. 398.

<sup>18</sup> Johnson., p. 887-88.

<sup>19</sup> Clark, Delphina L. Phineas Lyman Connecticut's General. Connecticut Valley Historical Museum. Springfield, Ma. ©1964. P. 17.

<sup>20</sup> Johnson, William. (hereafter Johnson, v2) The Papers of Sir William Johnson. Vol. II. p.70-71. The University of The State of New York. And see, Hill, William H. Old Fort Edward Before 1800. Privately Printed Fort Edward, New York. ©1929. p. 87-88.

<sup>21</sup> Johnson, v2., p. 16-17.

<sup>22</sup> Shirley, William. Correspondence of William Shirley Governor of Massachusetts and Military Commander In America 1731-1760. Edited by Charles Henry Lincoln. Vol. II. p. 253-59. The MacMillan Co. New York. Also see; Pomeroy, p. 137-39.

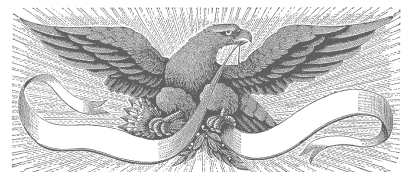
<sup>23</sup> Johnson, v2., p. 48-50.

<sup>24</sup> Johnson, v2., p. 338-42.

<sup>25</sup> Johnson, v2., p. 319-322.

<sup>26</sup> Johnson, v2., p. 358-59.

<sup>27</sup> Johnson, v2., p. 361-64.





Mark Edward Lender

## Historian's Corner

*With this edition of the Fort George Post, we begin a new feature in which a noted historian shares his/her views with members of the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance. We're very proud to have as our first guest Dr. Mark Edward Lender.*

Mark Edward Lender holds a Ph.D. in American History from Rutgers University, and is the Professor Emeritus of History at Kean University, from which he retired as Vice President for Academic Affairs in 2011. Lender is author or co-author of twelve books in early American social, military, and institutional history, and author of many articles, chapters, and reviews in addition to serving as co-editor of the Small Battles Series published by Westholme Publishing. He lives in Richmond, Virginia.

### **Please describe your current book and/or work(s)-in-progress.**

My most recent book came out last June. Entitled *Fort Ticonderoga, the Last Campaigns: The War in the North, 1777-1783* (Westholme Publishing), it's a study of Ticonderoga's impact on the northern theater of the War for Independence, with an emphasis on political-military affairs. I do look closely at tactical developments and at the strategic significance of the fort, but I wanted to call attention to how important the fort was to the politics of the revolutionary era. In fact, the political battles that swirled around Ticonderoga were as heatedly contested as some of the military confrontations. The book is the first of a planned trilogy by Westholme. Subsequent volumes, by two additional historians, will look at Ticonderoga during the French and Indian War and during the early years of the American Revolution.

My next project, now well advanced, is a study of the nature of violence during the War for Independence. There is a growing consensus among historians that the revolution was a bloody and vicious affair—much more violent and bitter than most Americans have realized—and we have a pretty good perspective on what happened. But, with two other historians, I'm trying to explain *why* the war took the brutal direction it did. We'll argue that, for reasons we explore at length, the constraints of so-called "civilized warfare" that, at least theoretically, were supposed to limit military excesses, counted for

little. Indeed, at the local level, where most of the war was fought, the revolutionary struggle devolved into cycles of revenge and retribution with mercy in short supply. It won't be a pretty story.

### **As a historian, what's your sense of Lake George's most important role(s) during the military conflicts of the 18<sup>th</sup> century?**

It's impossible to point to a single most important event. Rather, the significance of Lake George was geographical. As any real estate agent will tell you, "Location is everything"—and military commanders will say much the same. Lake George's location was critical for military purposes. The lake was part of the long-established transportation and communications network that connected New York with Quebec province (and, of course, vice versa). Going north, the route, with relatively short land portages, linked the Hudson River with Lake George, then Lake Champlain, then on up the St. John's into Canada. Military operations (as well as trade and other communications) by the American Indians, the French, the British, and the American revolutionaries all used this vital transportation corridor and sought to control it—as well as to deny enemies the use of it. Successful military operations depended on control of the lakes, and efforts to hold the Hudson-Champlain corridor, including Lake George, led to the construction of the many forts and outposts that the various combatants established over the years. These included Forts William Henry,

Ann, George, and Ticonderoga, to name only some of them. Location mattered.

### **Please share your experiences with visiting Lake George Battlefield Park and other historic sites in the region.**

When I was kid my family had a summer tent platform on Lower Saranac Lake. In July of 1961 or 1962 our family took a day trip from Saranac to Ticonderoga. I think I was 13, and when we arrived at the fort I somehow wandered away from my parents and younger brothers. I was on my own for easily two hours and I explored the fort, then under renovation and reconstruction. I got into places I never should have been (security, I'm sure, is better today) and I was fascinated. When my parents caught up with me, they weren't exactly pleased with my little adventure (and that's putting it mildly), but I had had a ball. In fact, it was that trip to Fort Ticonderoga that got me hooked on history. I still miss Saranac—the tent platform is long gone—but my wife and I love getting back to the fort, Crown Point, and the neighboring regions. It's as beautiful as it ever was, and the trip is always a happy reminder of how I started a career in early American history.

### **What recommendations do you have for history-lovers to get greater support for historic preservation and awareness?**

This may seem obvious, but sometimes the obvious things are the ones that can be the most helpful. So here's my obvious advice: Get to know your local historic sites—and visit them. When historic sites can point to regular visitorship, it's an argument for continued support. And there's nothing like first-hand knowledge of a location when you talk about the significance of local history with friends and regional political figures. The word needs to spread about what exists in your neighborhood that's worth preserving and why—and the why is important, especially as preservation almost always costs money, which in turn means generating public support. Getting to know about local preservation groups and history societies is important as well. I'm constantly impressed with how effective these groups can be in marshalling political support for preservation efforts. ■



## My Favorite History

In each edition of the *Fort George Post*, we present this feature, through which Alliance members share their most memorable history experiences. This list is furnished by **Jane Murphy** of Glens Falls, NY.

My favorite historic spot in Lake George Battlefield Park is the statue known as “The Indian,” or “Mohawk Warrior,” by Canadian born sculptor Alexander Phimister Proctor (1860-1950), which was dedicated in 1921. An “old school” sculptor, Proctor captured the essence of the American past for posterity.

### Other Favorite Historic Sites:

1. **Fort Ticonderoga.** It never fails to enthrall. My first visit as a child sparked my imagination and fostered my love of early American history. “With the naming of a word ... It shall sing in your sleeping ears, It shall hum in your waking head ...”

– Robert Louis Stevenson.

2. **The Castillo de San Marcos, St. Augustine, Florida.** A masonry star fort made of a local rock called coquina (small shells) erected in 1672. Built by the Spanish to protect the city from the British, and pirates, it later underwent a Ticonderoga-like seizure, without a shot, by the Confederacy during the Civil War. Its outpost, Fort Matanzas, on a nearby peninsula, is the site of a bloody massacre, and getting there is an adventure, including a crossing by boat and a rickety ladder ascent into the structure.

3. **Downtown Manhattan historic restaurants,** including Fraunces Tavern on Pearl Street, New York City’s oldest and most historic bar and restaurant, still in operation, that once served as a watering hole for many of the Founding Fathers. It was the site of Washington’s farewell address to his Continental Army officers on December 4, 1783. The only first-hand account of the event from The Memoir of Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge is on display.



*Jane Murphy, Fort Ticonderoga, 1972*

Also, One if by Land, Two if by Sea, which operates inside a historic, landmarked carriage house on Barrow Street built in 1767 and once used by Aaron Burr. An original hitching post is still visible in the bar area and ghosts are said to frequent the place!

### Favorite History Books:

1. ***A World Lit Only by Fire*** by William Manchester (1992). A brilliant examination of the medieval mind that teaches a valuable lesson: at no time in history did people take hope in the thought that the twentieth century was just around the corner, a classic error of philosophical historiography.
2. ***George Washington: The Crossing*** by Jack E. Levin (2013). Defines the significance of the 1776 Christmas night crossing within the context of the famous 1851 painting. Rich with Revolution-era artwork, portraiture, and maps.
3. ***Fawn*** by Robert Newton Peck (1988). A written-for-teens novel about a young French Mohawk half breed caught up in the 1758 battle for Fort Ticonderoga who witnesses the demise of the Black Watch.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### \*APRIL 22, 2023-11:00 AM

“Philip Schuyler: His Life, Death and After-life” Presentation by historian **Michael Barrett** on a key figure at Lake George during two 18<sup>th</sup> Century wars. Location: Fort William Henry Conference Center.

### \*APRIL 29, 2023 - 11:00 AM

Alliance members-only guided tour of Sir William Johnson’s lines during the Battle of Lake George, led by historian **Mark Silo**. Meet at Battlefield Park Visitor Center.

### \*MAY 6, 2023 - 10:00 AM

Annual “I Love My Park Day”, park clean-up, free T-shirt. Meet at park pavilion.

### MAY 26, 2023 - 10:00 AM

Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Center opens for season, 10 AM-4 PM. Friday to Sunday plus Memorial Day till June 25, Thursday to Monday beginning June 29.

### \*MAY 27, 2023 - 11:00 AM

Beginning of weekly 1-hour guided tours of key locations in the Battlefield Park’s history. Meet at Visitor Center.

### MAY 29, 2023 - 10:30 AM

Annual Remembrance Ceremony at burial site in Battlefield Park of four unknown soldiers killed during Battle of Lake George.

### \*JUNE 18, 2023 - 1:00 PM

“Path Through History”, 1-hour guided tour of key locations in the Battlefield Park’s history. Meet at Visitor Center.

### \*AUG. 19, 2023 - 11:00 AM

Annual membership meeting of Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance, includes elections of Trustees and officers, annual report, guest speaker. Meet at park pavilion.

\*Registration recommended to  
[info@lakegeorgebattlefield.org](mailto:info@lakegeorgebattlefield.org)

## Fort Ji Makes History "Hot" with Knox Presentations Co-hosted by Alliance

The Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance and the Warren County Historical Society sponsored two highly popular presentations at Lake George by historians from Fort Ticonderoga on December 19- 20, 2022. The programs were devoted to Henry Knox's transport of more than 60 tons of artillery through the region in the winter of 1775-76.

"Fort Ticonderoga is delighted to partner with the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance and the Warren County Historical Society for these programs," said **Beth L. Hill**, Fort Ticonderoga President and CEO. "Our region's

epic history was a defining part of our nation's founding. We are thrilled to raise awareness and expand educational reach through this collaborative effort as we prepare for our national 250<sup>th</sup> commemoration."

The presentations, to an overflow crowd of Alliance members and guests at the Holiday Inn Lake George on the evening of December 19 and to the 7th grade of Lake George Junior-Senior High School the following day, created so much excitement about the area's key role in American history that it generated a "History Is Hot!" headline

in coverage of the events by the Glens Falls-based weekly *The Chronicle*.

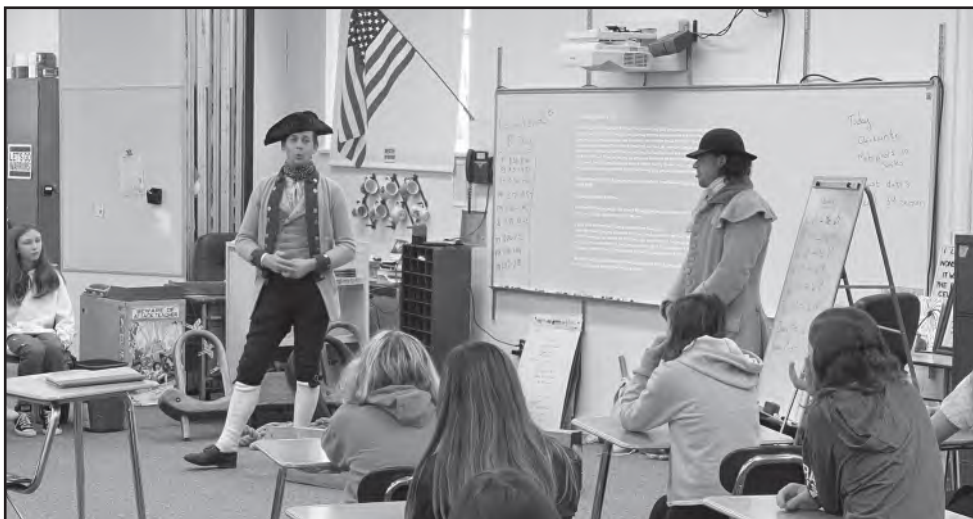
**Dr. Matthew Keagle**, Curator of Fort Ticonderoga, spoke to an estimated 125 attendees on December 19 about the challenges Knox faced with logistics for the 300-mile trek, particularly in securing and feeding the animals that hauled the materiel and finding dependable 18th century teamsters to drive the convoy. Alliance member and event organizer **Bob Wilcox** was delighted with the evening's proceedings: "I was very happy to see our audience's enthusiastic response to Dr. Keagle's presentation. I look forward to future Alliance programs that continue the focus on our region's amazing 18<sup>th</sup> century history!"

The 7<sup>th</sup>-graders were educated and entertained with hands-on demonstrations provided on December 20 by **Stuart Lilie**, Fort Ticonderoga's Vice President of Public History, and **Cameron Green**, the fort's Director of Interpretation. **Francis Coccozza**, Principal of Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School (and Vice President of the Alliance), described the experience as "student-friendly, interactive, and very interesting" for the assembled classes. "The presentation coincided with the Social Studies curriculum and was fully embraced by the students," Coccozza emphasized.

"This student-focused program led by Fort Ticonderoga museum staff is part of our museum's robust line-up of educational opportunities offered throughout the year including classroom outreach programs, on-site field trips, immersive daily and overnight programs, and virtual experiences reaching students across the United States," said Beth L. Hill. "At the heart of our mission is to educate and inspire students about our nation's history and to foster an on-going discussion about the past which will help develop historical literacy and critical thinking skills in students of all ages." ■



*Dr. Matthew Keagle*



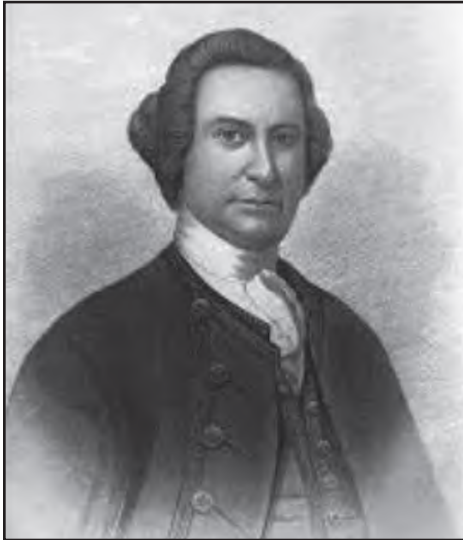
*Stuart Lilie, Cameron Green*



# Sir William, Where Exactly Were Your Lines?

Battle of Lake George - September 8, 1755

By Mark Silo



*Editor's Note: This is an abridged version of the author's full report detailing his analysis on the location of Sir William Johnson's lines during the Battle of Lake George. The complete analysis can be found on this webpage [https://lakegeorgebattlefield.org/our\\_history](https://lakegeorgebattlefield.org/our_history) by clicking on "1755: 'Sir William, Where Exactly Were Your Lines?'"*

When the Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Interpretive Center opened in May 2022 I became the Friday volunteer docent. I'm not exactly sure what a docent is, but I greatly enjoyed showing our guests around the VIC and telling them all about the sights to see in the park and the many historic events that took place there. But while it was fun to tell folks at the VIC that they were standing on a battlefield, I did not feel comfortable with the fact that I could not point out the exact positions of General William Johnson's army of American provincial soldiers at the Battle of Lake George. As I made inquiries it seemed that we knew the approximate location, but no one had an exact answer.

So I decided to try to figure it out for myself, to satisfy my own interest and for the potential interest of those visitors I was docenting. I believe that I have

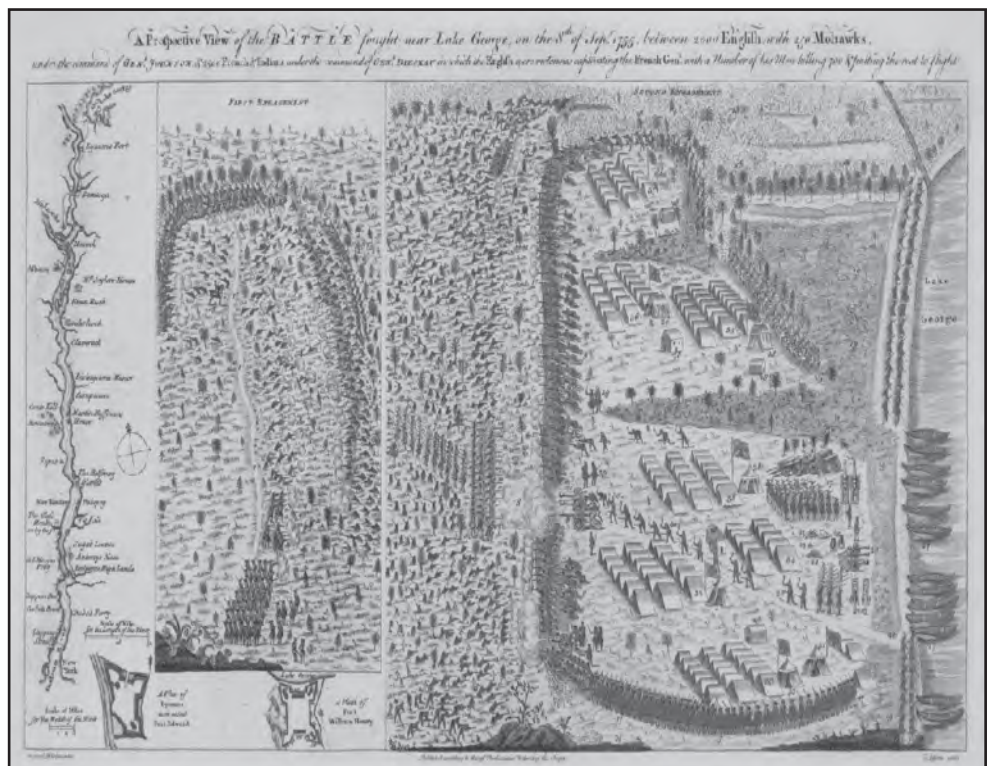
successfully discovered the answer, but it was no simple task and it took all summer and then some. When **John DiNuzzo**, President of the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance, learned of my investigation he requested that it be written up as an article for the **Fort George Post**. But the detailed report recounting the research and findings became too lengthy to fit in one of our newsletters, and does not lend itself to a multi-part, to-be-continued treatment. It took a lot of words and illustrations (19 pages worth to be exact) to describe the grounds, the dueling maps, the missing pieces, and all the reasoning and conclusions. So, our apologies, but please find and read the full report at the location shown above.

When Johnson and his 2600 men arrived at today's Battlefield Park location in the late summer of 1755 it was primeval Adirondack wilderness. They were en route to Fort St. Frederic at Crown Point on Lake Champlain, assigned to conquer that French

stronghold as part of a multi-pronged British offensive. They cleared the forested high ground we now know as the park and established a camp at the south end of the majestic lake that General Johnson promptly named for Britain's King George II.

The Battle of Lake George came about on September 8, 1755, when a French force ambushed 1,000 of Johnson's troops along the road to Fort Lyman (soon re-named Fort Edward) three miles south of the camp, a fight we call the "Bloody Morning Scout." It was indeed bloody for the American colonial troops and their Mohawk allies and, having sustained major losses, they quickly withdrew back toward the camp. The soldiers that had remained at the camp heard the gunfire and witnessed their retreating comrades and hastily prepared a defensive line around the camp, consisting of a low pile of logs, wagons, and boats. Their

*continued on page 12*



Samuel Blodgett's "Prospective View...." London version, 1756.



## *Sir William, Where Exactly Were Your Lines?*

*continued from page 11*

“breastwork,” as it has been grandly called, shielded them from attacks by the French force over the next 4-5 hours, when the defeated French force withdrew.

Pinpointing the location of this breastwork was the objective of my summer-autumn 2022 hobby. Certainly other interested parties have previously engaged in a similar quest and perhaps found accurate answers but, unfamiliar with any such earlier efforts, I plunged ahead. As one would expect 267 years later, there are no apparent physical remains of the lines. Examination of the many known accounts by the battle’s participants provided lots of detail regarding events, but few gave any clues regarding exact locations. Johnson recorded taking “possession of some eminences on our left flank” and little else about the scene, but a sutler (or traveling salesman) who accompanied his army witnessed the battle, interviewed many of the fighters, and left an indispensable first-hand illustration of the battle and a booklet of accompanying notes. Samuel Blodget’s “*A Prospective-Plan of the Battle near Lake George on the Eighth Day of September, 1755 with an Explanation thereof; Containing A full, tho’ short History of that important Affair*” is the primary basis for anything we know about the battlefield. His work was published for sale in Boston and London within five months of the battle.

Blodget’s map does not represent precise cartography but it does provide a wealth of information on battle lines, regimental camp locations, artillery placement, enemy movements, and terrain features. It will be familiar to anyone who has an interest in the battle since it has been printed with virtually every historic account for a century or more. That practice is continued in this article as well as the full online report. The full report also records my sincere wish that Mr. Blodget reaped a tidy profit from his invaluable contribution, the sine qua non of any study of this battlefield.

In addition to Blodget’s works, three other map sources were indispensable: a 1756 sketch by surveyor Thomas Clements (which probably was based mainly on Blodget’s work), plus two maps by military cartographers. Captain William Eyre was an engineer, cartographer, and the only regular army British soldier who accompanied Johnson’s army. He mapped the area in 1756 as part of his work on Fort William Henry, which was constructed immediately after the September 8 battle. William Brasier, “Draughtsman to the Chief Engineer,” drew a 1759 map while he was involved in planning Fort George. The online report provides means for accessing quality reproductions of all the referenced maps on the internet, and prints of all of them hang in the VIC.

My strategy was to use the maps to locate terrain features that may still exist and hope that these known points would help pinpoint the battle line locations. They did, but not without requiring some mysteries to be solved.

The major geographic features seen on Blodget’s drawing are: three lobes of high ground separated by two substantial drainage basins, which Blodget called “gullies;” the colonial road bisecting the easternmost lobe; a western line overlooking a substantial marsh; and a third gully west of and adjacent to the southwest corner of Johnson’s lines. Blodget’s drawing also hints at a smaller fourth lobe of high ground immediately west of this third gully, an important location which is prominently mentioned in his accompanying booklet and shown clearly on the Clements, Eyre, and Brasier maps. Locating most of these terrain features was complicated by some 20th Century landscape modifications, by the fact that they do not conform to the neat geometric shapes shown by Blodget, and by the fact that Blodget’s work does not conform to a uniform distance scale (he drew east-west at an exaggerated scale compared to his north-south).

*continued on page 13*



*This detail from Blodget’s Hudson River map shows that he used different north-south and east-west scales.*

## *Sir William, Where Exactly Were Your Lines?*

*continued from page 12*

It turned out to be fortuitous that I began by working from north to south. From the north (the level portion of the park where the historic marsh, which 18th Century maps labeled “morass,” was filled in for 20<sup>th</sup> Century railroad construction) the mouths of the two gullies are fairly apparent. The Saint Isaac Jogues statue stands between them on the middle lobe, which I christened the “Jogues Lobe.” In one of my first forays I dropped into the gully on his west side and up the other side and found myself on the squared-off edge of a lobe of high ground whose northwest corner overlooked the marsh along West Brook. The Blodget and Clements drawings show Johnson’s line on the third lobe as overlooking this marsh and making a sharp turn around the lobe’s squared-off northern base. I speculated then, and later became convinced, that this was indeed that third lobe. I christened it as the West Brook Overlook Lobe and it became a key reference point in the following weeks. This “lobe” does not look anything like it appears on the Blodget, Clements, and Brasier maps and is far narrower than Blodget’s distorted east-west scale makes it appear. Had I initially approached it from any other direction I may have had difficulty recognizing it.

We know that today’s Fort George Road runs very close to the original 1755 alignment of the Lake George-Fort Edward road; we know that the “eminence” referred to by both Johnson and Blodget has to be the well-defined north-south ridge upon which Fort George was later built; and we know that the marsh to the west was part of the morass that then bounded West Brook and much of the southern shore of Lake George. Combining these givens with the terrain features listed above ultimately revealed the east, west, and north locations of the American provincial defensive lines. At this point the task became uncovering the location of the southeast and southwest corners of their lines which would hopefully then help define their southern, “front”

line that faced the attacking French and Indians.

We know that the southeast corner was on the Fort George ridge because Johnson recorded that they took the “eminence” and “got one field piece there in a very Advantageous Situation,” and Blodget shows the cannon located at the line’s corner. For reasons detailed in the full report, I believe this artillery piece and southeast corner were near the lower southern base of the ridge, near today’s park road. From this point the more geographically accurate Eyre and Brasier maps were used to estimate the distance and compass bearing between the southeast and southwest corners. The southwest corner could be approximated on these maps since Blodget and Clements show the southwest corner located immediately east of that third gully and fourth lobe, which also appear on the Eyre and Brasier maps. Using that deduced distance and bearing brought me to an approximate southwest corner near Campsite 64 in the DEC Lake George Battleground Campground. But in this area convoluted terrain, map inconsistencies, and modern development made it difficult to finalize the search.

Fortunately, Blodget and Clements left written clues that ultimately helped confirm the southwest corner and western line. Blodget’s Note 15 recalls the enemy firing from behind a “rising spot of ground within 18 rods of our breastwork” which his drawing shows directly south of the line’s corner. Clements describes the fourth lobe in Note 4 on his drawing, as “a hill from which the enemy did us much harm and during the engagement the enemy had great advantages they laying behind trees we had felled within gun shot of our front,” and Blodget, in his Note 13, calls it “a ridge of land 15 rods distant from our men, behind which some hundreds of the enemy, mostly Indians, covered themselves.”

Using these details and others I concluded that the southwest corner was 20-30 yards south of Campsite 64. This point is about the right distance

from the “rising spot of ground,” which is still there within the campground 18 rods (or 99 yards) from the conjectured southwest corner. However, the fourth lobe was nowhere to be found. At length, I surmised that the entire hill was obliterated by the 1950’s development of the Tiki Resort, a surmise later confirmed on a mid-1950’s state survey map shown me — thank you very much! — by former Alliance president **Lyn Hohmann**. Blodget’s “ridge of land” would have been on the eastern face of the fourth lobe and today’s remnant of that ridge is consistent with Blodget’s distance estimate of 15 rods (83 yards).

Finally, with reasonable hypotheses established for the two corner locations, I set out to locate the front line, which was my main objective all along. Blodget shows the front line as being arrow-straight, something I very much

*continued on page 14*



*Detail from Blodget drawing showing attackers on the “Rising spot of ground” and “Ridge of land.”*

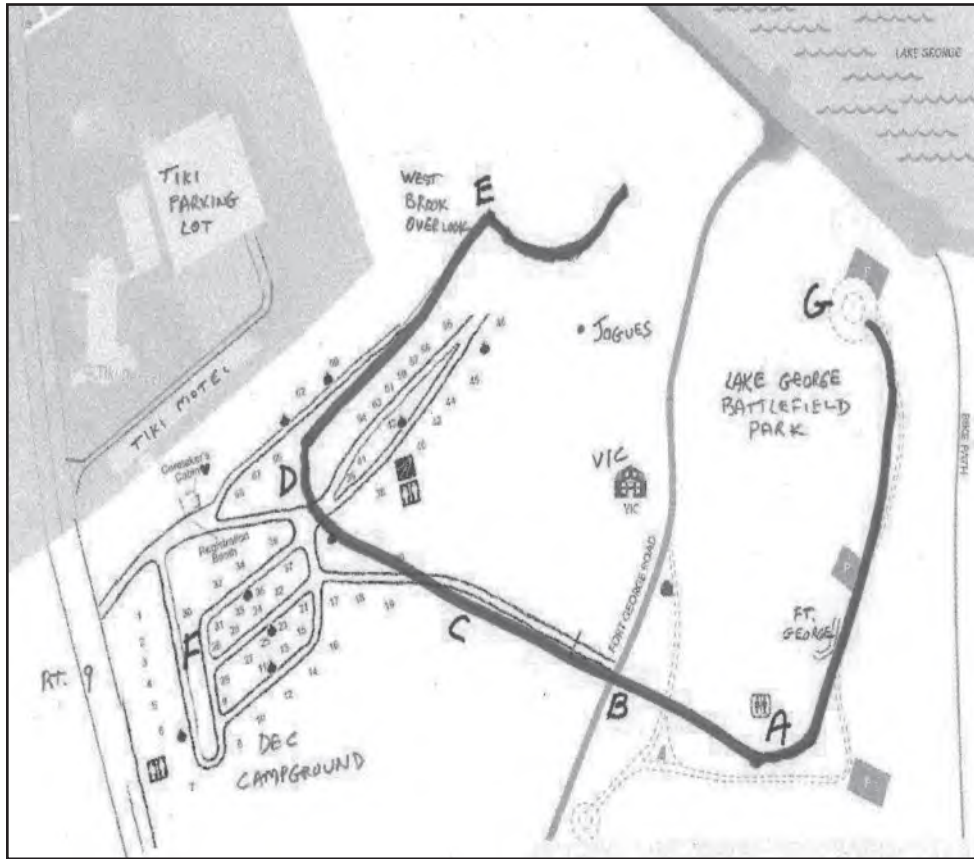


*This “Rising spot of ground” sheltered numerous French-allied Indians. It is within the campground just east of Route 9.*

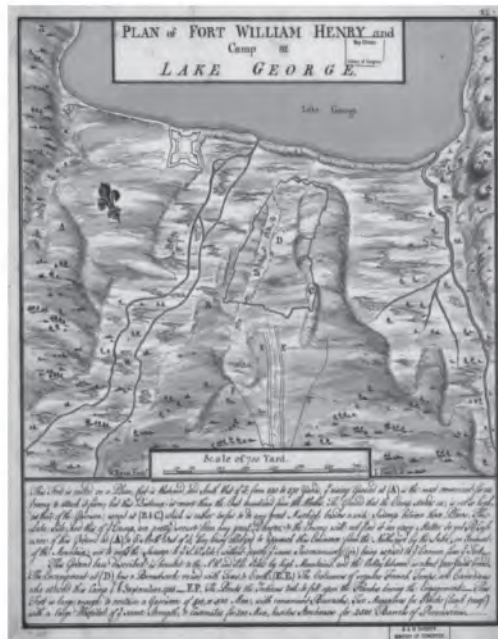


*Sir William, Where Exactly Were Your Lines?*

continued from page 13



Map of Battlefield Park, campground, and Tiki Resort area. Thick line shows author's conclusions regarding Johnson's lines. Letters refer to GPS coordinates provided in full online report.



doubted. But what I expected to be a frustrating, and possibly fruitless, search for the front line actually turned out to be quick and fruitful. There is actually a straight line between the two conjectural corners that traverses favorable defensive ground. It essentially runs along the south edge of the gravel road that accesses the DEC maintenance sheds and enters the campground from today's Fort George Road.

The lines occupied by Johnson and his men, at least according to my conclusions, are shown on the accompanying map. The full online version of the report provides GPS coordinates for several key locations that correspond to letters on the map. ■

Please read the full report and then let the dialogue begin. Comments, questions, arguments, challenges, and alternative theories are all welcome. My email is [msilo89@hotmail.com](mailto:msilo89@hotmail.com).

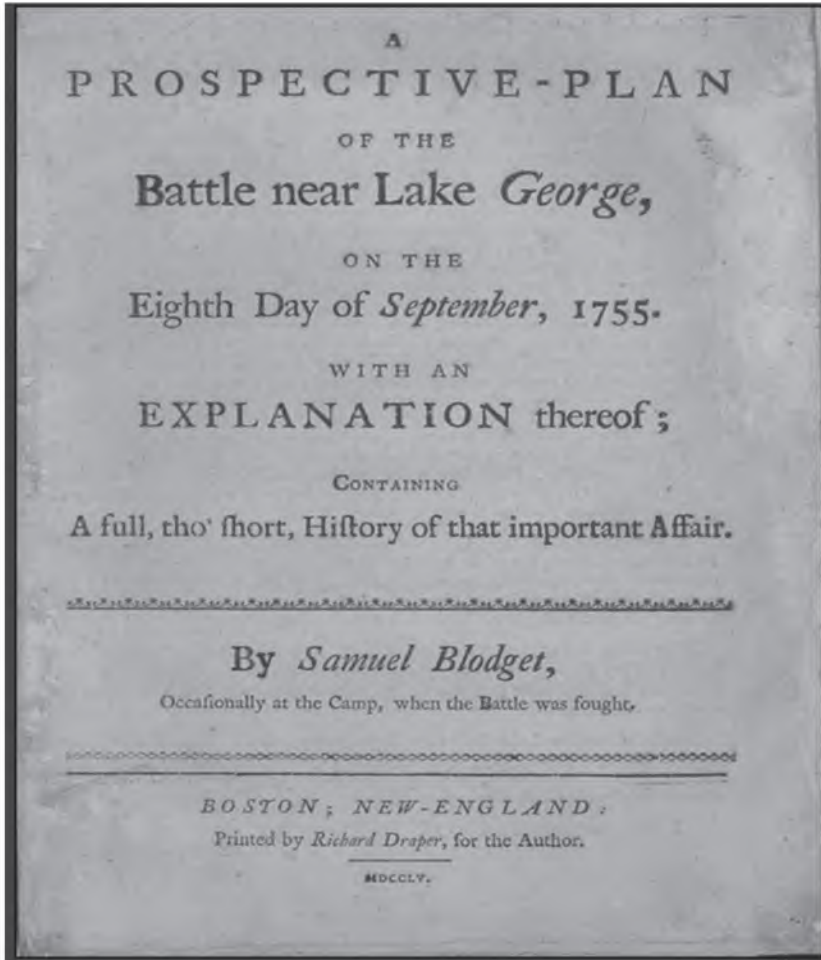
**Mark Silo** is a native of Yonkers who relocated to the Albany area after receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and his master's degree from Cornell University, both in civil engineering. He spent his professional career in transportation engineering, most recently as an Assistant Commissioner at the N.Y.S. Department of Transportation in Albany. He has served his local community as a member of the Town of Colonie Planning Board and Conservation Council, and as a board member of Friends of the New York State Military Museum, Capital District Civil War Round Table, Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, and his church council. He currently is a weekly volunteer at Habitat for Humanity and at the Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Interpretive Center.

Silo is an avid student of American history and is the author of *The 115th New York in the Civil War*, the unit history of a local civil war regiment, published in 2007. He and his wife Kathy split their time among their home in Loudonville, their log cabin on the Schroon River in the Adirondacks, and various bucket-list locales. They have two grown children and two grandsons.



*Sir William, Where Exactly Were Your Lines?*

continued from page 13



Cover from original 1775 Boston printing of the Blodget booklet (Massachusetts Historical Society).



Detail from Clements drawing showing the southwest corner of American line and attackers on the since-bulldozed 4<sup>th</sup> Lobe "ridge of land." Rectangle is approximate location of Tiki rear parking lot.



View of the marsh from the western, or West Brook Overlook Lobe.



"Squared-off" north edge of West Brook Overlook Lobe.



*VGC Is a Success... And More to Come!*

continued from page 1

from Lake George. The design work is in process and we think the final display will be a showstopper!

Finally, the Town of Lake George Occupancy Tax grant also allowed us to obtain a mannequin case to put around our First Pennsylvania Battalion soldier to ensure its preservation. The soldier was among the VIC's most popular displays in 2022.

There is a lot of work to be done before opening but we are on track! We look forward to seeing you in 2023! ■

*Dr. Lyn Karig Hohmann, a retired board-certified Family Physician and educator, used her experience in project development and grant-writing to successfully lead the development of the LGBP Visitor Interpretive Center. She has several new research projects underway including verifying her identification of the walls of the stockaded fort. She served as President of the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance from 2011 to 2021, and is currently a member of its Board of Trustees.*

**NOTABLE HISTORIC PERSONS**

**WHO HAVE WALKED THE GROUNDS OF FORT GEORGE, FORT WILLIAM HENRY, LAKE GEORGE BATTLEFIELD PARK**



- |                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| George Washington     | John Stark                      |
| Thomas Jefferson      | Seneca Ray Stoddard             |
| James Madison         | King Hendrick                   |
| Benjamin Franklin     | Baroness Frederika von Riedesel |
| Paul Revere           | Viscount George Howe            |
| Theodore Roosevelt    | Charles Carroll                 |
| Philip Schuyler       | Bishop John Carroll             |
| Robert Rogers         | Samuel Chase                    |
| St. Kateri Tekakwitha | William Eyre                    |
| Jeffery Amherst       | Jean-Armand Baron Dieskau       |
| John Andre            | Benson Lossing                  |
| James Abercromby      | Francis Parkman                 |
| James Fenimore Cooper | James Montresor                 |
| William Johnson       | Ephraim Williams                |
| Henry Knox            | Gov. George Clinton             |
| Marquis de Montcalm   | Christopher Carleton            |
| Israel Putnam         | George Monro                    |

Alliance member Mark Silo has compiled this list of famous personages whose presence at the site of Lake George Battlefield Park and/or Fort William Henry can be verified. Readers are encouraged to add to this list by contacting Mark at [msilo89@hotmail.com](mailto:msilo89@hotmail.com).

***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.**