

1880 - 2023

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July 28, 2023

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Established 1880

History vs. Fiction

Dr. Nick Junkerman, an associate professor of English at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, will present "James Fenimore Cooper: History & Fiction in 'The Last of the Mohicans'" at the Fort William Henry Conference Center on August 3.

The event, which starts at 7 pm, is co-sponsored by the Lake George Battlefield Alliance and the French and Indian War Society and is free and open to the public. Published in 1826, "Last of the Mohicans" was the first novel based on America's own, relatively recent history.

In August, 1757, after enduring a siege that had lasted six days, outnumbered three to one and deprived of any hope of reinforcements, Lt. Commander Munro, the Scots veteran charged with the defense of Fort William Henry, surrendered to the Marquis de Montcalm on the condition that the garrison be allowed to march out with the honors of war – flags, arms, but no ammunition. Montcalm agreed to escort the garrison to Fort Edward. The wounded were to remain at Fort William Henry until able to travel.

Somewhere between Lake George and Halfway Brook, the soldiers, along with women and children, were attacked by Indians allied with the French. It has been estimated that 200 to 1,500 people were killed that day, and that at least 200 were taken into Canada as captives.

In "Last of the Mohicans," this is the attack in which Munro's daughters are taken captive by the Hurons.

"It's a fictionalized account, but how close is it to the truth?" asks John DiNuzzo, president of the Battlefield Alliance. He urges curious readers to register in advance for Dr. Junkerman's talk by emailing info@lakegeorgebattlefield.com.