

New York Almanack

Lt. Col. George Munro: The Last Commander of Fort William Henry

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Lieutenant-Colonel George Monro (1700–1757), sometimes spelled Munro, was a Scots-Irish officer in the British Army best remembered for his unsuccessful defense of Fort William Henry at the south end of Lake George on August 9, 1757, during the French and Indian War.

After surrendering to French General Louis-Joseph de Montcalm, he and his troops were attacked by France's Native allies. The events of the siege were made famous by James Fenimore Cooper in his novel *The Last of the Mohicans* (1826).

Munro survived the battle and later massacre but died later that year in Albany of natural causes, and was interred in a columbarium at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

French and Indian War historian George A. Bray III will share Munro's story in a presentation on Thursday, August 8 at the Fort William Henry Conference Center beginning at 7 pm.

During Bray's talk, entitled "Lt. Col. George Munro: The Last Commander of Fort William Henry," he will discuss Munro's background and military history along with that of the 35th Regiment of Foot, which he commanded in North America.

As a Scots-Irish officer in the service of the British Army, his regiment was not considered that well-disciplined or experienced, but it would put up a valiant defense of the fort for several days before surrendering to the [French](#).

Many know of this event from the Cooper novel and the numerous movie and television versions of the story. The lecture by Bray will provide factual information about Munro and his regiment from original source material including contemporary newspapers, journals, correspondence and orderly books.

This free event is open to the public and is co-sponsored by the [Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance](#) and the [French & Indian War Society at Lake George](#). Attendees are asked to pre-register to info@lakegeorgebattlefield.org.

George Bray is a [military historian](#) and reenactor who is also retired from the U.S. Army Reserve. He is a published author whose articles have appeared in several newsletters and publications, including *Military Collector and Historian* (the journal of the Company of Military Historians), *Muzzleloader* (a publication for black powder shooters), and the *Journal of the Forces of Montcalm and Wolfe* (a publication for French and Indian War reenactors).

Bray has also assisted in and been featured in several television documentaries for such producers as the Learning Channel and the BBC. He is currently working on a book dealing with the [French and Indian War](#) in the [Mohawk Valley](#) and westward.

On the day following the Bray presentation, Friday, August 9, at 1 pm, [Fort William Henry](#) will commemorate the siege by conducting its annual surrender ceremony involving French and British soldier reenactors.

For those who can't attend on August 8, the presentation will be recorded and made available afterward on the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance's [YouTube channel](#).