

# New York Almanack

## Where Were Johnson's Lines at the 1755 Battle of Lake George?

October 7, 2024 by Editorial Staff

The Battle of Lake George on September 8, 1755 was an important early engagement during the French & Indian War. The Battle occurred in three phases. The first skirmish, known in history as the "Bloody Morning Scout," found the French and their Native allies ambushing the British provincials and their Mohawk allies about three miles south of Lake George. The attack was a rout for the French and resulted in the deaths of British Col. Ephraim Williams and Hendrick Theyanoguin (King Hendrick), the Mohawk sachem allied with Major General William Johnson.

The British fled back north to the lake, where Johnson readied an improvised defense that turned the tide during the five-hour second phase of the battle at the modern-day Lake George Battlefield Park. A third skirmish occurred at Bloody Pond, two miles south of Lake George, when British troops from Fort Lyman (Fort Edward) overwhelmed the retreating French and assured the day's victory for Great Britain.

Historian Mark Silo's research to define the locations at Lake George of British Army defensive lines during their engagement with attacking French and Native forces will be the subject of a special tour on Saturday, October 12, beginning at 1 pm from the Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Center in Lake George. There is no cost to participate in the tour, which is sponsored by the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance.



Silo spent countless hours figuring out where Johnson laid out his quickly formed defensive position. Relying on his professional training as a civil engineer, he used period maps and took ground measurements to reconstruct the plan of Johnson's lines during the fighting that resulted in hundreds of casualties on both sides.

Silo's report, "Sir William, Where Exactly Were Your Lines?" describes how and where Major General (later, "Sir") William Johnson improvised a successful defense that turned the tide in his troops' favor and secured a British victory. His recent article was published in the Winter 2023 edition of the **Fort George Post**, the Alliance's newsletter.



Each tour participant will receive a handout with illustrations to better understand the context of the Battle of Lake George.

Those planning to attend are requested to RSVP in advance by registering at the following email address: [info@lakegeorgebattlefield.org](mailto:info@lakegeorgebattlefield.org).

Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Center is located at 75 Fort George Road in Lake George, NY.

The tour is being presented as part of New York State's "Path through History" Weekend.

The Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance is a not-for-profit organization of volunteers who have an abiding interest in the Lake George Region's critical role in the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. The Alliance manages the Battlefield Park's Visitor Center and sponsors events throughout the year that educate the public about the site and its unique history. It is also working closely with the Town of Lake George and State of New York on the "Repose of the Fallen" project, which will reinter in 2026 the remains of 44 Continental Army soldiers and support personnel in the Battlefield Park. For more information, visit [www.lakegeorgebattlefield.org](http://www.lakegeorgebattlefield.org).

**Illustration: Detail from Samuel Blodget's 1755 "Prospective View of the Battle of Lake George" showing areas of British attack (London Edition); and Blodget's full view of same.**