

THE POST STAR

Est. 1904

Friday, January 31, 2025

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Book traces 'highly flawed' history of Revolutionary 'icon'

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LAKE GEORGE — In his new book, "Robert Rogers, Ranger: The Rise and Fall of an American Icon," author Martin Klotz explores the life of the eponymous Robert Rogers.

"'Robert Rogers, Ranger: The Rise and Fall of an American Icon' is a fresh look at the life of this famous, yet highly flawed man," Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance president John DiNuzzo said in a release announcing a presentation Klotz will give about the book at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Holiday Inn Resort located at 2223 Canada St. in Lake George.

The event is free to the public. Copies of Klotz's book will be available for purchase at a discount and signed by the author. A recording of



Klotz

the presentation will be added to the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance YouTube channel.

Registration is encouraged by emailing info@lakegeorgebattlefield.org.

Accounts of Rogers' exploits are expansive. He was a brave and gifted leader of the Queen's Rangers, which he co-formed during the French and Indian War and continued to lead, fighting alongside Crown forces during the American Revolution. Today, the U.S. Army rangers still use the "standing orders" which were written by Rogers as the framework for the "Ranger's Creed."

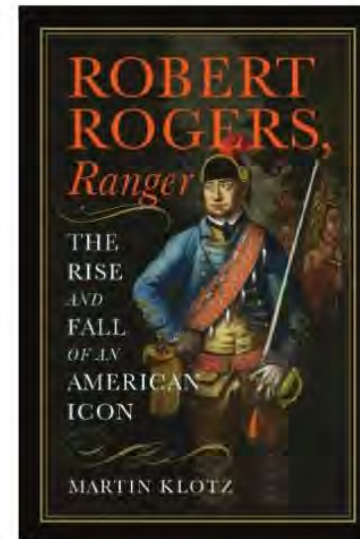
But Rogers was also a problematic

gambler and alcoholic, as well as a shameless self-promoter, who was often unable to back up his bravado with actual results. In fact, one of his own standing orders states, "You can lie all you please when you tell other folks about the Rangers, but don't never lie to a Ranger or officer."

"He was a criminal to start with and the king gave him a choice of going to prison of coming here and fighting," explained Ruth Losaw, manager at the Rogers Island Visitor Center in Fort Edward. So, he came here."

The visitor center sits on a large chunk of land in the middle of the Hudson River in Washington County called "Roger's Island."

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Book

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"The fort was across the river from the island, the British stayed in the fort, but Robert Rogers and the rangers stayed, actually on the island," Losaw said. "They built huts and tents, and this was

their home base."

A long-time skeptic of the Robert Rogers legend, historian Bruce Venter, author of "The Battle of Hubbardton" and a trustee of the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance, said Klotz's investigation of Rogers is "refreshing."

"Heretofore, most Robert Rogers biographers have slavishly wor-

shipped his exploits without an objective eye," Venter said. "Many failed to see him as a fraudster, among other things. Klotz's new book is a fresh look at the ranger commander who initiated many less than stellar operations during his career. Those who, like me, are fascinated by the personalities who loomed so large in our region

during the Colonial Wars will want to hear Klotz's analysis of this important historical figure."

After the Revolutionary War concluded, Rogers found himself back in England and once again in less than good standing with King George III.

"He was really good about paying his men, but not about book-

keeping," Losaw said. "So, in the end when everything was over, he had no paper trail to say, 'I spent your money on *this*,' and the king didn't trust him. So, he didn't end up well. But while he was here, he accomplished a lot."

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