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DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE QUEEN OF AMERICAN LAKES

Established 1880

KICKING OFF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE START OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AT LOCAL HISTORIC SITES



Re-enactors portrayed the seizure of Fort George, Lake George, from a British caretaker by the Green Mountain Boys.

At Fort George, in Lake George, the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance hosted a program commemorating the capture of the British-held outpost on May 11, one day after Fort Ticonderoga was seized. According to historian Russell Bellico, author of “Empires in the Mountains: French and Indian War Campaigns and Forts in the Lake Champlain, Lake George, and Hudson River Corridor,” as well as four other books on Lakes George and Champlain,” “Fort George was manned in May, 1775 by Captain John Nordberg, a 65-year-old retired British

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officer who lived in a cottage near the fort.”

In an essay for the Lake George Mirror, Bellico wrote: “American militia assumed control of Fort George, which was assigned the role of transportation hub for the northern army. Benedict Arnold wrote to the Massachusetts Committee of Safety that ‘with the assistance of Mr. Bernard Romans,’ he was ‘making preparation at Fort George for transporting to Albany those cannon that will be serviceable to our Army at Cambridge [MA],’ the task which Henry Knox took charge of in December.

Among the speakers at the

May 11 program was Pat Niles, president of the Washington County Historical Society, and Bruce Venter, a military historian, resident of Lake George and a trustee of the Battlefield Park Alliance.

According to Venter, the aforementioned Bernard Romans is frequently credited with the capture of Fort George. Venter disputed that, asserting, on the basis of a contemporary account by Epaphrus Bull, a Connecticut volunteer who took part in the expedition to Fort Ticonderoga, that a few anonymous Green Mountain Boys were responsible.

Although a few elected officials were present at the ceremony at Fort George, none

were running for higher office and all were scholars and historians first, politicians second.