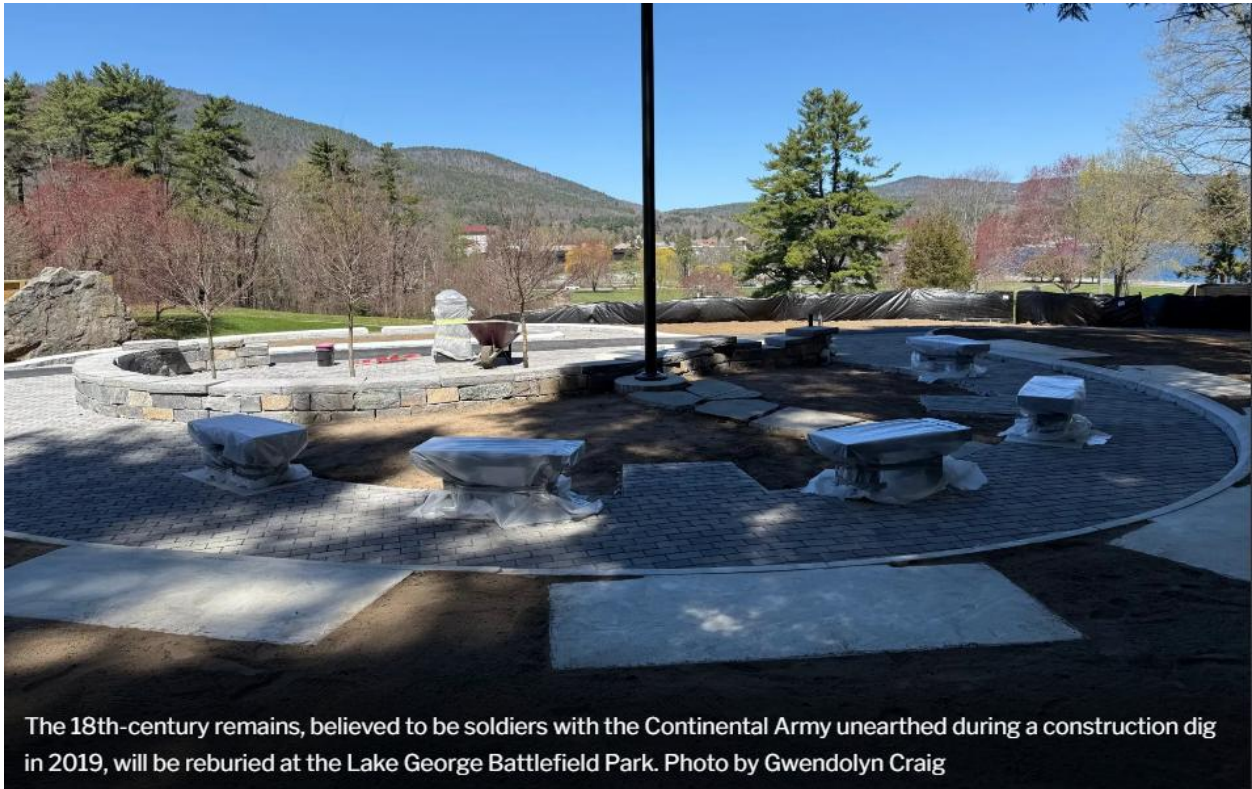


Revolutionary War soldiers will finally be laid to rest in Lake George

Motorcade followed by memorial will end nearly 6-year effort to piece remains with their stories

By Gwendolyn Craig May 11, 2026



The 18th-century remains, believed to be soldiers with the Continental Army unearthed during a construction dig in 2019, will be reburied at the Lake George Battlefield Park. Photo by Gwendolyn Craig

The remains of 44 people, many of them believed to be male teenagers of the Continental Army, unearthed during a construction dig in 2019, will soon be laid to rest on the shores of Lake George.

On Wednesday, May 20, the remains will be escorted via motorcade from the New York State Museum in Albany up state Route 9 to the Lake George Battlefield Park. The majority of the remains will be interred at a new memorial on the east side of Fort George Road called “Repose of the Fallen” that day.

A public memorial honoring the soldiers and commemorating that 250th anniversary of the nation will take place at 11 a.m. Friday, May 22 at the site. Four remaining caskets will be interred at that event.

The week’s events will mark the end of an extraordinary effort by the village, town, state and federal officials, the U.S. Army, universities, nonprofits and volunteers of all kinds to piece together and reintern the fallen soldiers, whose skeletons were disturbed and mangled by construction workers digging a foundation for an apartment building on Courtland Street.

The town has since implemented new planning and zoning policies for the area, which is suspected to be an old cemetery for soldiers that died of smallpox and other diseases. Lake George was the site of a smallpox hospital associated with an outbreak in early 1776.

The case also spurred new state legislation passed in 2023 called the “Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act.” The law requires anyone who finds human remains to stop digging and call 911, and a coroner or medical examiner must review the remains to determine if they are more than 50 years old. The law also establishes penalties for not reporting the remains, intentionally destroying them and other non-compliances.



From above, a volunteer operation of archaeologists sift through the remains of a Revolutionary War-era burial ground discovered in 2019 on Courtland Street in the Village of Lake George when a contractor was digging a foundation. Photo courtesy of the state Department of Environmental Conservation

In the Courtland Street remains case, construction workers moved 70 dump-truck piles of soil multiple times before calling the Warren County Sheriff’s Office to report the bones.

Lisa Anderson, the bioarchaeologist at the New York State Museum, has worked with her colleagues for years, first sorting through the dirt piles on site and then counting the femurs to determine the number of people—44. They found 833 teeth of 42 people.

“There are a lot of things that go through your head, but I would hope that thankfully, with this legislation, that if something like this were to happen again, it could be done far more respectfully than it was and in a shorter period of time,” Anderson said.

Not one skeleton was ever found complete. One set of remains was close and was buried in a uniform with buttons associated with the First Pennsylvania Battalion. The remains were likely those among approximately 10,000 soldiers, who served in the Quebec Campaign of 1775-1776.

Volunteers with the Northeast Woodworkers Association made 44 pine caskets, 28-inches long, 12-inches wide and 8-inches tall. Anderson expects to use about 40 of them, as some of the bone fragments could not be pieced together to individuals.

The caskets will be loaded into three military vehicles around 10 a.m. on May 20. The remains will be escorted by New York State Police, nine Korean War and Vietnam War-era military trucks driven by NY-Penn Military Vehicle Collectors Club members, followed by members of New York’s Patriot Guard Riders, according to a news release.

The motorcade will make a stop in front of Saratoga Springs City Hall for a moment of observance before finishing its journey to the battlefield.