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Battlefield Alliance commemorating 250th anniversary of smallpox hospital

ALEX PORTAL

aportal@poststar.com

LAKE GEORGE – As the nation recognizes the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance will commemorate a sadder piece of Revolutionary War history: the establishment of a smallpox hospital at Fort George.

A series of three presentations and a panel discussion with historical and medical experts will explore the story of how Fort



Gabriel

George became a military hospital in July, 1776.

Michael P. Gabriel, author of several books including the recently revised "Major General Richard Mont-

gomery: The Making of an American Hero," will discuss the invasion of Quebec and its unfortunate aftermath, including the smallpox outbreak that swept through the



Huntington

Continental Army. Sam Huntington, Crown Point Historic Site manager, will explain the strategic and deadly impacts of ill soldiers returning to Crown Point and how the Con-

tinental Army addressed the crisis. Dr. Richard Leach, infectious disease specialist, will describe the nature of the virus, the challenges it presented at the Fort



Leach

George hospital, and actions later employed to mitigate its spread.

With the establishment of the Fort George general hospital in July 1776, Lake George became

the focal point of the army's engagement in combating the deadly effects of smallpox on its troops. More than 3,000 soldiers were hospitalized at Lake George

during the summer and early fall of that year, with estimates of fatalities running from 1/4 to 1/3 of the total treated.

The free event will begin at 6:30 p.m. on July 9 at the Fort William Henry Conference Center, located at 48 Canada St, Lake George. To register for the event, email with the number attending to info@lakegeorgebattlefield.org.

Alex Portal is a staff writer. Contact: 518-742-3274, aportal@poststar.com.