

New York Almanack

The French & Indian War: Naval Prelude to the Revolutionary War

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2025 marked the beginning of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution (1775–1783), but the French & Indian War (1754-1763, part of Europe’s Seven Years’ War) witnessed significant events in North America and the high seas that influenced how warfare was contested in the Revolutionary War.

The Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance and the French & Indian War Society at Lake George are hosting regular *New York Almanack* contributor Joseph W. Zarzynski for a presentation entitled “Warships of the French & Indian War: Naval Preludes to the American Revolution” in Lake George on June 25th.

Zarzynski, a retired maritime archaeologist, will examine British and French warships designed during the French & Indian War, with an emphasis on Lake George vessels. The talk will review how French & Indian War battle crafts were precursors to some waterborne activities during the War of Independence.

He will also show and talk about several hull-structure artifacts from the collection of the Fort William Henry Museum and the significance of that material culture.

Zarzynski participated in many underwater archaeology projects in Lake George, as well as at Narragansett Bay, Massachusetts, Florida, Lake Champlain, and Otsego Lake. He is the author of eight books including *Ghost Fleet Awakened: Lake George's Sunken Bateaux of 1758* and *Fort William Henry's Moments in Time*.

He is a board member of the French & Indian War Society at Lake George, an advisor to the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project, and member of the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance.

Russell P. Bellico, author of *Empires in the Mountains: French and Indian War Campaigns and Forts in the Lake Champlain, Lake George, and Hudson River Corridor* and four other books on the two lakes, says:

“Joseph W. Zarzynski has reshaped the maritime history of Lake George through his efforts to discover and preserve the shipwrecks of the lake. He organized and directed the archaeological study of the 1758 radeau *Land Tortoise*, the oldest intact shipwreck in North America, and successfully managed the nomination of the vessel as a National Historic Landmark.”

Zarzynski was also instrumental in the creation of the first Submerged Heritage Preserves in New York State through the DEC, which included the *Land Tortoise*.

This event, on Thursday, June 25 starting at 7 pm in the Fort William Henry Conference Center in Lake George, is free to the public. Those planning to attend are requested to reserve their seats in advance by registering at the following email address: info@lakegeorgebattlefield.org.

Zarzynski's books will be available for purchase and author signature at the presentation.

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. For more information, visit www.lakegeorgebattlefield.org

The French & Indian War Society at Lake George at Lake George was founded with the mission of educating the public about the French & Indian War and to foster appreciation for Lake George, Lake Champlain and the Hudson River and their roles in American history. For more information visit frenchandindianwarsociety.org

Illustration: The British flotilla embarking from the southern end of Lake George for the [Battle of Carillon](#) is shown in this diorama detail (Adirondack Experience – Lake George Battlefield Park Visitors Center).