

New Perspectives on the “Last Argument of Kings” A Ticonderoga Seminar on 18th-Century Artillery



Fort Ticonderoga, August 5 & 6, 2017

As part of Fort Ticonderoga’s effort to better interpret the collection of 18th-century artillery, the museum is pleased to host this conference New Perspectives on the “Last Argument of Kings.” The conference brings together scholars to present new research on artillery across a range of countries and perspectives. From carriage design to tactics, this conference seeks to correct misunderstandings and to bring clarity to current understanding of 18th-century artillery types and functions and is funded in part by a generous grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

Symposium Schedule

Subject to Change

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2017

9:00 Welcome—Beth Hill, President & CEO, Fort Ticonderoga.

9:15-9:45 Lost in Boston: The Artillery of Carillon/ Ticonderoga—Narratives of artillery at Ticonderoga



almost invariably begin and end with Henry Knox and his Noble Train of Artillery. One might be forgiven in thinking that there were no cannon left after Knox departed Ticonderoga, and yet by 1777 more cannon had arrived at the fort than Knox took to Boston in 1775. The number and types of artillery in and around Ticonderoga’s walls was constantly in flux, varying based on strategic needs and the availability of materiel. This presentation will address the arming

of Carillon and later Ticonderoga from its inception in 1755 through the destruction of most of the fort’s ordnance in November of 1777, exploring the unknown story of Ticonderoga’s artillery in the 18th century.

Matthew Keagle is the Curator at Fort Ticonderoga.

10:00-10:30 The Politics of Arming America or: Why are there still more than 50 Vallière 4-lb. Cannon in the United States but only three in all of Europe?—In March

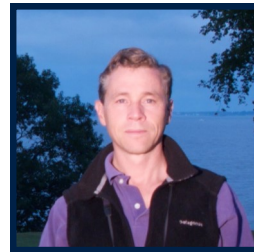
1776, the Continental Congress sent Silas Deane to Versailles with a request for "100

field pieces." In response France sent not 100 but 194 4-lb guns, down to the last serviceable Vallière battalion gun in its arsenal (carriages, limbers and all) across the Atlantic. Why?

Robert A Selig is an independent historian and consultant who specializes in researching the contributions of France in the American struggle for Independence.



10:45-11:15 Ultima Ratio Regum—A Pair of Vallière 4-Pounders at Yorktown and Beyond—Learn about the



dramatic story of a surviving pair of Vallière 4-pounder field guns through the American War of Independence to the present day.

Christopher Bryant is an independent researcher and dealer of historical portraits and artifacts, with a particular focus on British military subjects. He resides in

Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts.

11:30-1:15 Lunch—Included in the registration fee.

1:30-2:00 “Artillery at This Post”—Two Case Studies of Artillery at Ticonderoga—Examine two examples of

Artillery corps that fought at Ticonderoga in 1777 as they are recreated: Major

Ebenezer Stevens’ Independent Continental Artillery and Captain William Borthwick’s Company of British

Royal Artillery. Explore the subtle differences in doctrine and material as well as the work of recreating them

today. **Stuart Lillie** leads visitor programs at Fort Ticonderoga as Senior Director of Interpretation.



2:00-2:30 Artillery Demonstration—The examination of Artillery corps continues with a public demonstration of French Artillery here at Fort Carillon in 1757 in its defensive and offensive roles in *siege en formal*.

2:45-3:15 “The American Foundry”—Springfield Arsenal, Massachusetts, 1782-1800: Assuring Independence.

Eighteen years before the United States established the first National Armory at Springfield, Massachusetts, the young republic built on the same site a major artillery manufactory so that the nation should never be “indebted for the means of their existence to any nation on earth.” This bronze field gun foundry, starting before the close of



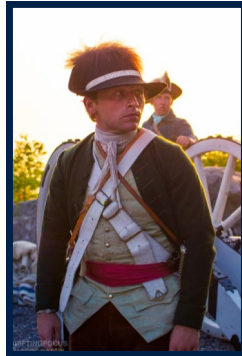
the War of Independence, was the US government's first industrial investment and prepared the ground for the famous Springfield Armory. **Richard Colton** retired at the end of 2016 after sixteen years as Historian at Springfield Armory National Historic Site.

3:30-4:00 Panel Discussion—A discussion involving all our presenters with time for audience questions.

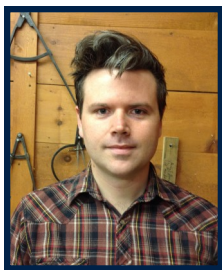
4:00-5:15 Reception—Light refreshments and cash bar.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2017

9:00-9:30 Green Wood and Wet Paint: American Travelling Carriages at Ticonderoga—The vehicles that made cannon mobile were paramount for attack and defense. American artificers spent the early part of 1777 producing dozens of travelling carriages for the coming campaign. Archaeological remains, period treatises, letters, journals, and papers show us exactly what these carriages looked like. See how old school English theories, set into constraints of time and materials, produced uniquely American carriages—a design that would become the model for the United States artillery for years to come. **Nicholas Spadone** is the Assistant Director of Interpretation at Fort Ticonderoga.



9:45-10:15 "If you are satisfied with the methods the workers have found... then so am I": Reproduction as a method of understanding Eighteenth-Century Artillery—Eighteenth-century artillery carriages represent the innovation and industrial capabilities of the nations that



constructed them and their design has fostered much discussion by scholars of the period. This presentation explores the value of reproduction as a method of understanding and interpreting the construction of artillery wheels and carriages and the methods employed to produce them on a large scale.

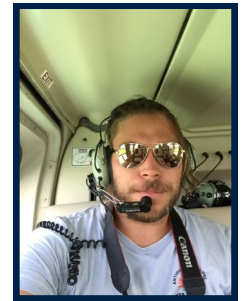
Recognizing that context is a key element in our understanding of material culture; the relationship between military and civilian vehicle construction will also be discussed. **Andrew De Lisle** is a wheelwright and carriagemaker, specializing in the reproduction of vehicles from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

10:30-11:00 Pack Horses, Grasshoppers, and Butterflies reconsidered: British light 3-pounders of the 1770s—Within only a few years' time, British and Irish ordnance developers created a series of lightweight, mobile guns intended for use in the American service. While these cannon have been dutifully researched, written about, and

used in living history applications, recently discovered information significantly redefines our understanding of these dynamic pieces. **Eric Schnitzer** is the Park Ranger/Historian at Saratoga National Historical Park, a 1777 battle site in which some of these very light 3-pounders were used.



11:15-11:45 When the King's Last Argument is but a Whimper: Artillery Deployment in Antigua's Colonial Fortifications—Eighteenth-century cannon were incredibly destructive offensive weapons, leveling fortifications and cutting down large numbers of men on the battlefield, when they worked. Antigua, a small British island in the Caribbean, suffered chronic artillery shortages while defending the island from French, Dutch, and Spanish warships and privateers where, more often than not, the artillery did not work. This presentation examines the logistical issues plaguing the island, and models the strategic placement of these resources, to demonstrate the difficulties of defending Antigua in the 18th century. **Christopher Waters** is an archaeologist and a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at Syracuse University studying Antigua's colonial defense network.



12:00-12:30 Pell's Citadel: The Ticonderoga Artillery Collection—Almost from the beginning the reconstructed walls of Fort Ticonderoga begged for cannon. Using connections and agents across the world, the museum's founders gradually filled Ticonderoga's embrasures with one of the largest and most diverse artillery collections in private hands. The collection represents the Pell family's connections with European governments as well as the



work of field agents scouring the world for loose cannon. This talk will focus on the remarkable acquisition of this world class collection of artillery. **Matthew Keagle** is the Curator at Fort Ticonderoga.

12:45 Lunch—Included in the registration fee.



This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

HOW TO REGISTER

Complete the registration form below and mail with your credit card information or check (payable to *Fort Ticonderoga*) to:

Artillery Symposium
Fort Ticonderoga
PO Box 390
Ticonderoga, NY 12883-0390

Registrations with payment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

CANCELATION POLICY

Cancellations must be received by August 1st; registration fees will be refunded less a \$25 processing charge. Refunds will be processed after the Symposium. There is a \$10 processing charge to transfer registrations to another person.

SYMPOSIUM PATRON

You can contribute additional support for the Symposium by becoming a Patron. At the \$250 level, patrons are invited to a private dinner with the speakers on Saturday evening.

At the \$500 level, patrons also receive the printed "Proceedings" of the Symposium when published in early 2018.

BECOME A MEMBER

Corporal (individual)\$50
Sergeant (dual)\$75
Ensign (family) \$100
Lieutenant \$150
Captain\$250
Major\$500
Colonel \$1,000

FORT TICONDEROGA AMERICA'S FORT™

Fort Ticonderoga is an independent, not-for-profit educational institution open to the public since 1909. Fort Ticonderoga Association ensures that present and future generations learn from the struggles, sacrifices, and victories that shaped the nations of North America and changed world history.

2017 ARTILLERY SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATON FORM

Registration Information

Please use one form per person. Make photocopies or print out additional forms from the Fort Ticonderoga website for additional registrants.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Yes, please confirm my registration by email.

My name as I would like it to appear on my name tag:

Email address _____

Yes, you may include my contact information on a handout for attendees at the Symposium.

For Our Information

Please contact me about vegetarian options for meals (remember, lunches Saturday and Sunday are included in the registration fee).

Membership

- I am a member of Fort Ticonderoga
 I would like to become a member at the level designated below:
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporal (individual) \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lieutenant \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sergeant (dual) \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> Captain, \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ensign (family) \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Major, \$500 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Colonel, \$1,000 |

TOTALS

Registration Fees \$ _____

Membership \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

- Check enclosed Visa AMEX
 Mastercard Discover

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Verification number: _____

The last three digits on the back of your card in the signature box or AMEX on the front of your card.

Registration Fees (includes lunch both days)

Early Bird Registration (by July 1, 2017)

- Member, \$110
 General Public, \$130

Regular Registration (after July 1, 2017)

- Member, \$135
 General Public, \$155

Symposium Patron Registration

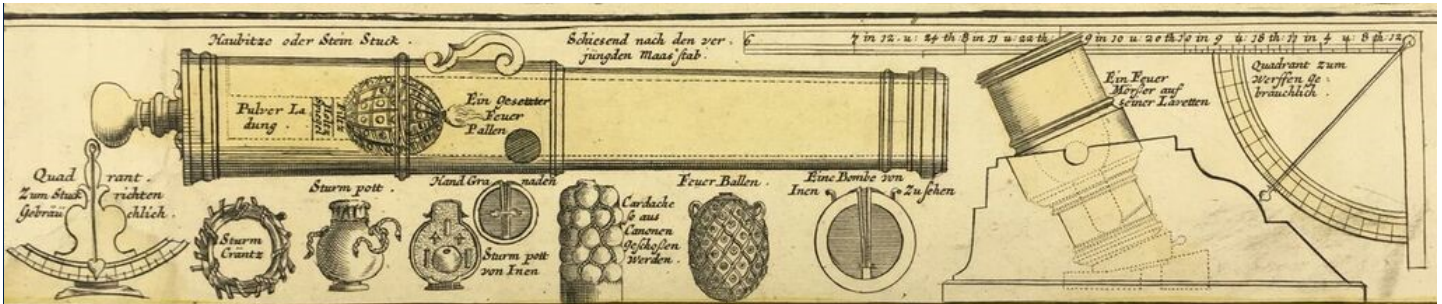
- Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, \$250
 Honorary Colonel, \$500

For office use: EXC_____ CFM_____ web042117

FORT  TICONDEROGA
AMERICA'S FORT™

P.O. Box 390
Ticonderoga, NY 12883-0390
(518) 585-2821

Your invitation to "New Perspectives
on The Last Argument of Kings:
A Ticonderoga Seminar
on 18th-Century Artillery
August 5 & 6, 2017.



New Perspectives on the “Last Argument of Kings”

A Ticonderoga Seminar on 18th-Century Artillery



Fort Ticonderoga, August 5 & 6, 2017