



1775 British Garrison Living History
February 15, 2020

Twelve of Fort Ticonderoga's twenty-six years of military service were at peace, keeping a watch over Lake Champlain. What was it like to guard the storied fort on the eve of the American Revolution?

During this one-day living history event, discover the story of the British garrison at Ticonderoga in February 1775 - just three months before the Americans captured the fort and claimed America's first victory. Step into a peacetime fort where men of the 26th Regiment of Foot and their families made their homes. Learn about the special clothing and equipment utilized for service in Canada and along Lake Champlain and see what other aspects of British Army life were universal across the empire from India to Detroit.

10:00 a.m. Fort Ticonderoga Opens to Visitors

10:15 a.m. Key to the Continent Tour (Begins at the American Flag)

In this entertaining half-hour tour, discover the incredible story of Ticonderoga and all the great experiences Fort Ticonderoga offers today. Learn about the iconic battles of Carillon & Ticonderoga within the French & Indian War and the Revolutionary War. Explore groundbreaking preservation and reconstruction efforts that allow Fort Ticonderoga to bring to life its heroic tales today and for generations to come.

11:00 a.m. Musket Demonstration (Demonstration Area)

Meet the British soldier in 1775 with his musket and bayonet. Go beyond loading and firing to discuss what traditions remained and what tactical innovations the British Army in North America adopted after the French & Indian War.

11:30 a.m. Music Demonstration (Mars Education Center Great Room)

Explore the role of Drum & Fife music in the British Army, from battle to barracks life. Learn the meanings behind the many tunes, and how they were used in a British Army defending their empire around the globe.

1:15 p.m. Key to the Continent Tour (Begins at the American Flag)

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2:00 p.m. Cannon Demonstration (Demonstration Area)

In addition to soldiers, a handful of British artillerymen maintained the guns of Ticonderoga, a legacy of the great campaigns of the French & Indian War. Discover the British naval training used to safely fire these cannons from the old fort's walls.

2:30 p.m. Between the Wars: The Garrisons of Ticonderoga 1759-1775 (Mars Education Center Great Room)

Fort Carillon (renamed Ticonderoga) fell to the British Army in 1759, beginning nearly 15 years in the hands of the British, the longest period Fort Ticonderoga remained in the hands of one power. During that time, British imperial policy shifted and patterns of garrison duty evolved as America slid toward revolution. Join Curator Matthew Keagle to trace the background and experiences of the British forces that garrisoned Ticonderoga.

3:00 p.m. Key to the Continent Tour (Begins at the American Flag)

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4:00 p.m. Fort Ticonderoga Closes to Visitors

Ongoing 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Special Pop-up Exhibit: Between the Wars: British Ticonderoga 1759-1775 (2nd Floor Mars Education Center)

This new exhibit for 2020 will display new and never before displayed objects from Britain's control of Fort Ticonderoga. Get a sneak peek at some of the objects that bear witness to Britain's control of Lake Champlain.

Hands on Cannon for Kids Program (Ground Floor Classroom in Mars Education Center)

Participate in this fun, hands-on family program and explore the original collection of cannon around the fort and identify what the numbers and symbols tell us about those cannon!

Spruce Beer & Soldiers' Dinner (Parade Ground)

Peacetime British Army life had many culinary comforts for soldiers, as they were encouraged to grow soldiers' gardens and could buy what foods their rations didn't include. Even a peacetime army had to watch for scurvy, so soldiers were encouraged to brew Vitamin C rich spruce beer. See the process of cooking up this nutritious drink and a savory meal as part of daily garrison life.

Shoemaking & Equipment Maintenance (Ground Floor Officer's Barracks)

Even without forced marches and wartime emergencies, a soldier's daily duty was hard on shoes and equipment. Watch soldiers skilled in shoemaking work on repairing the

footwear of their fellow soldiers. Watch the daily maintenance of accoutrements and shoes with supplies like, blackball, and pipe clay.

Cannon Carriages & Carpentry (Ground Floor Officer's Barracks)

Though iron and bronze cannons do not rot, their wooden carriages could. See the constant carpentry work needed to maintain the cannon carriages that allowed the guns of Ticonderoga to fire.

Officer's Quarters (Second Floor of the Officer's Barracks)

Step inside the quarters of Captains William Delaplace, Ticonderoga's Commandant, and learn of the luxuries within. From beds to brandy, learn about officers' duties and comforts. See how an officer and gentleman was also a businessman.

Laundry & Mending (Ground Floor of the Soldier's Barracks)

How did soldiers of the British Army keep linens clean? Watch as women of the army use soap, starch, and water to wash soldiers' clothes. From preventing infection to making a clean and professional appearance, learn how laundering clothes was an important part of army life.