

FORT TICONDEROGA

Ninth Annual *Material Matters: It's in the Details*

October 19 & 20, 2019



Fort Ticonderoga presents the **Ninth Annual Material Matters: It's in the Details** weekend on October 19 & 20, 2019, in the Mars Education Center. This annual seminar focused on the material culture of the 18th and early 19th century offers a unique, informal setting promoting interaction and discussion between speakers and attendees.

Weekend Schedule Subject to Change

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019

9:00 Welcome.

9:15-10:00 Woolen Finishing in America: Fulling for Function and Form—Though it plays an essential role in determining both the look and feel of woolen cloth, the craft of woolen finishing has received little attention from historians. This talk fills that void by explaining how early nineteenth-century cloth finishers “fulled” and otherwise transformed textiles, using a combination of historical sources and experimental archaeology. **Eliza West** is a recent graduate of the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture and a former Head of Costume at Fort Ticonderoga.

10:15-11:00 Saint-Crépin's Lance: The Pedestrian Concerns of Shoemaking & Shoe-Supply in North American Campaigns, ca. 1754-1763—There are few things as mundane as the humble shoe among all clothing & accoutrements of British & French forces during the contest for North American supremacy. Without adequate supply of good shoes, however, health declines and campaigns may end in disaster. Learn how archaeological artifacts join forces with documentary and graphic evidence to inform our modern understanding of shoes and shoemaking in the French & British military and navies. **Brett R. Walker** is a journeyman boot- and shoe-maker and shoe historian, formerly of Colonial Williamsburg and

now working independently in the public history community.

11:15-12:00 The Cowpens Staff Ride: The Battlefield as an Artifact—Applied history is at the heart of professional military education and leader development. One of the more popular elements is the staff ride, the focused historical study of a campaign or battle on the actual terrain. The battlefield thus serves as a classroom and part of the evidentiary record interrogated by students. It is the ultimate artifact in the study of battle. Battlefields, like many artifacts, are rarely pristine, unmodified, or in any shape resembling their state at the time of battle—Cowpens is just such a case. This presentation discusses teaching and learning with an altered artifact. **Dr. Ricardo A. Herrera** is Professor of Military History at the School for Advanced Military Studies at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

12:15-1:45 Lunch Break (box lunch included in the registration fee).

2:00-2:45 Hessians & the Bayonets They Used at Fort Ticonderoga & Other Sites—The origins of English & French arms used during America's War for Independence are well-known. But little is known about the weapons carried by the so-called

“Hessian” troops from six German states. Of the scant published information about them, much is outdated or incorrect. Thanks to ground-breaking research in German texts of the period, combined with bayonets excavated at Ticonderoga & other sites, a lot of the puzzle about the origins of Hessian shoulder arms can now be pieced together. **Joseph Serbaroli** is the author of two books on bayonets and a well-regarded associate in the community of historic arms experts.

3:00-3:45 “What Number?": Reform, Authority, and Identity Through Military Buttons in the Late 18th Century—The marked military buttons seem like a self-evident form of material culture, but in fact marked or numbered military buttons are a distinct artifact of the third quarter of the 18th century. Fort Ticonderoga's Curator **Matthew Keagle** will explore the origin of the numbered military button in the context of the reforms following the Seven Years' War and provide context and caution to their archaeological significance, using examples from Fort Ticonderoga's rich collection.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019

9:30-10:15 Historic Foodways as Material Culture—Objects offer intriguing insights into history—but what happens if the objects themselves no longer exist? Historic foodways presents an interesting case study for applying material culture analysis to objects that have long-since been consumed, but have left a legacy of related primary source materials. Using this approach we can begin to understand how identity, consumer politics, and societal hierarchy can all be understood through the lens of 18th-century foodways. **Sara Evenson** is a PhD student at the University at Albany studying 18th-century American food history.

10:30-11:15 “The Frail Insignia of Human Greatness”: American Rosette Epaulettes—The rosette epaulettes that adorned the shoulders of American officers illustrate the innate conservatism of Americans in the early years of the Revolutionary War. These small yet important adornments carried powerful meanings beyond the mark of rank. Learn how the American rosette epaulette became the symbol of peoples struggling for liberty and left a tangible reminder of that service for future generations. **Nicholas Spadone** is the Director of Interpretation at Fort Ticonderoga.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

HOW TO REGISTER

You can register for Material Matters online at:

<https://www.fortticonderoga.org/event/annual-material-matters-its-in-the-details-seminar/2019-10-19/>

Or you can fill out the registration form on the next page and mail with your credit card information or with check made payable to **Fort Ticonderoga** to:

Material Matters Registration
Fort Ticonderoga
PO Box 390
Ticonderoga, NY 12883-0390

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

ACCOMMODATIONS

There are limited lodging options in Ticonderoga. Book your room for Material Matters early. Best Western Plus Ticonderoga Inn and Suites is offering a discount of \$89.99 per night for Material Matters attendees. Mention that you are attending the event when booking at 518-585-2378. For other accommodations visit www.fortticonderoga.org.

BECOME A PATRON

For those wishing to support the teacher scholarships, three patron levels are available:

Honorary Lieutenant Colonel (\$250)

Includes registration fee, recognition in the Seminar program, and an invitation to a private dinner with the Seminar speakers and Teacher Scholarship winners.

Honorary Colonel (\$500)

In addition to all of the above, patrons at this level will receive copies of the 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 issues of *The Bulletin of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum*.

Honorary Brigadier General (\$750)

In addition to all of the above, the first patron at this level receives accommodations for Friday & Saturday night at Best Western Plus Ticonderoga Inn and Suites.

2019 MATERIAL MATTERS REGISTRATION 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 _____

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

Yes, please confirm my registration by email.

Email address _____

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

Registration Fees (includes lunch both days)

Regular Registration

- Student or Young Museum Professional, \$105*
- Member, \$125
- General Public, \$145

*—Discount rate available for students currently enrolled in college or graduate school and for museum professionals aged 30 and younger (ID required)

Patron Registration

- Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, \$250
- Honorary Colonel, \$500
- Honorary Brigadier General, \$750

For Our Information

- Please contact me about vegetarian options for lunch

Membership

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

TOTALS

Registration Fees \$ _____

Membership \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

- Check enclosed
- Mastercard
- Visa
- Discover
- AMEX

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.

For office use: EXC _____ CFM _____ MEM _____
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