



Living History Event: "The Enemy Are Refortifying Ticonderoga"
Saturday, November 6, 2021 | 10am-4pm

Explore how British soldiers and loyalists prepared for one last campaign launched from Ticonderoga in the fall of 1781. Watch as cattle work drawing heavy provisions and guns. Meet with refugees of the colonies seeking security within British territory. Explore the trades and tools employed by soldiers and sailors to make and mend anything from sails to entire barracks. How long will the British Army stay at Ticonderoga? Will they move further into New York, or retreat north?

As General Washington reveled in his victory at Yorktown in October 1781, British and Loyalist forces assembled at Ticonderoga to attempt a push down the Champlain Valley. On November 2, 1781, American General Philip Schuyler frantically wrote to General George Washington of the alarming situation at Ticonderoga:

The enemy are refortifying Ticonderoga, General Enos of Vermont says that on the 26th ultimo they had already covered the largest barrack and had two hundred cattle employed in drawing materials for the repairs of the fort. A Vermont scout consisting of a sergeant and seven men fell into the enemy's hands. The sergeant was killed and the others were carried to Ticonderoga.

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

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

Ticonderoga was far from a quiet outpost in 1781. Explore how British soldiers and sailors readied themselves for a campaign into New England. Explore this chapter among many in the history of Ticonderoga, the Key to the Continent.

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

Explore how British soldiers and loyal American provincials used their muskets and bayonets. Go beyond loading and firing to discuss the tactical adaptations employed by the British Army as they raided along the northern frontier between the United States and Canada.

11:30 a.m. "A Batteau with a Flag...the Families of Royalists..." (Demonstration Area)

Over the summer of 1781 hundreds of Loyalists, including women and children, flocked to the shores of Lake Champlain in hopes of safety in Canada. Witness the loyalist families arrive at Ticonderoga to find security with the British Army.

12:00 p.m. A War Not Yet Won: Ticonderoga 1781 (Mars Education Center Great Room)

As the siege of Yorktown was concluding the fall of 1781, yet another campaign was underway at Ticonderoga. Join Fort Ticonderoga Curator, Dr. Matthew Keagle, to explore this forgotten campaign of the American Revolution and the complex politics and strategy of the Northern frontier late in the Revolutionary War.

11:00a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Soldiers' Dinner (In Front of Fort)

Ships biscuit,' was not just for sailors in 1781. See how the challenges of feeding sailors on the high seas and soldiers on the march converged at Ticonderoga. Witness kettles of dry and salted rations cooked into meals for hungry soldiers.

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

See Description for 10:15 a.m.

2:00 p.m. "to Inter the Rebel Serjeants Body" (Parade Ground)

Join the funeral procession as American prisoners of war are set free to bring their deceased serjeant's body home to Vermont. Discover why the British Army gave full military honors to their enemy and freed their adversaries.

3:15 p.m. Strike the Camp (Parade Ground and in Front of Fort)

After eleven days of occupation, the British Army left Ticonderoga. Witness the preparations made to move 2,000 soldiers, sailors, and their equipment back north. From taking down tents to loading equipment and supplies onto carts, experience the feat of logistics to decamp an army.

3:45 p.m. The Retreat (In Front of Fort)

With tents all packed and loaded, men and refugees assembled, watch as the army prepares to embark for winter quarters in Canada. Follow the procession as the British Army leaves Ticonderoga for the last time.

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

Ongoing 10:00 a.m.--3:45 p.m.

Rigging and Sail Making (Ground Floor Officer's Barracks)

The British Army relied on the Royal Navy for quick transportation up and down Lake Champlain. See sailors with hemp thread, wax, and a sturdy needle turn rolls of sailcloth into useful materials for war. Join in and try your hand at tying knots, securing rigging, and hauling on the lines.

Carpentry (Parade Ground)

As the British Army considered a long stay at Ticonderoga, soldiers worked to repair the rooves of Fort Ticonderoga's barracks. Watch the process of splitting roofing shingles out from oak logs.

Oxen (Fort Ticonderoga and Surroundings)

Witness the power of oxen as the British Army move supplies, cannon, and bateau from the water to land. See these beasts of burden draw oak logs needed to refortify Ticonderoga.

"A Pavilion of Strong Ticking..." Officers' Quarters (Parade Ground)

With Fort Ticonderoga already in ruins by 1781, officers camped in tents like their soldiers. From beds to brandy, learn about officers' duties and see the administrative work that kept the British Army on the offensive.