



Living History Event: Riot! Yankees versus Buckskins
December 17, 2022 | 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Although coined the “United States” when the Declaration of Independence was written, these thirteen states were far from a single nation in 1776. Regional differences simmered between soldiers, even as they stood elbow-to-elbow to stop British invasion from the north. In this one-day living history event, see how these differences and personal feuds between officers finally exploded on Liberty Hill, overlooking Fort Ticonderoga. Witness the fight between Pennsylvania and Massachusetts soldiers that erupted into gunfire in camp on Christmas Day, 1776.

10:00 a.m. Site Opens to Visitors

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

Travel back to Fort Ticonderoga in December 1776. What happened to the massive American Army that held back the British Army? Who rushed to General Washington’s aid and who remained behind after the British withdrew and winter advanced?

11:00 a.m. “Paraded According to Orders on the Ice and Snow” (Demonstration Area)

In the morning of December 25, 1776 Colonel Anthony Wayne ordered the entire Continental Army at Ticonderoga to drill together upon the five foot thick ice of Lake Champlain. Poorly-clothed and cold, most of the army complied, practicing maneuvers in the frigid weather. Discover the arms and equipment of the winter guard, and the conspicuous absence of officers and men of Massachusetts Colonel Asa Whitcomb’s 6th Continental Regiment.

11:30 a.m. All is Calm?: Uncovering the Christmas Day Incident at Ticonderoga, 1776 (Mars Education Center Great Room)

On the evening of Christmas day, 1776, American blood was shed at Ticonderoga... by other Americans. Learn about one of the most shocking events in Ticonderoga’s history, how the Continental Army dealt with assault, and how dis-union within the Revolutionary ranks sheds light on the challenges along the path to independence.

Join Fort Ticonderoga Curator Dr. Matthew Keagle inside the warm Mars Education Center to explore how we use archival sources to reconstruct this traumatic event.

12:00 p.m. Guided Tour of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum (Begins on Parade Ground)

More than a century of collecting has allowed Fort Ticonderoga to acquire North America’s largest and most important collection of 18th-century military material culture.

This guided tour will give you the scoop on the most significant, rare, and interesting pieces in the collection.

12:30 p.m. Tunes of Ticonderoga (Parade Ground)

General Orders in June 1776 explained the musical commands to be used thereafter by the Northern Continental Army. Hear how drummers and fifers regulated daily life from reveille in the morning to the tattoo at night.

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

See 10:15 a.m. description.

2:00 p.m. "A Singular Kind of Riot Took Place" (Begins on Parade Ground)

Watch a campaign season's worth of tension boil over as 2nd Pennsylvania Battalion Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Craig confronts Colonel Asa Whitcomb. How will a personal fight between officers play out with armed soldiers at their side?

2:30 p.m. Guided Tour of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum (Begins on Parade Ground)

See 12:00 p.m. description.

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

See 10:15 a.m. description.

4:00 p.m. Site Closes to Visitors

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

Soldier's Quarters (Ground floor Soldier's Barracks & Soldier's Huts)

Meet Continental Army soldiers ordered to stay behind at Ticonderoga. How did they survive the harsh winter? See the few comforts available to soldiers in these old barracks rooms or within their drafty huts, made of boards.

Officer's Quarters (Second floor of the Officer's Barracks & Soldier's Huts)

Step inside the quarters of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts officers at Fort Ticonderoga and learn of the luxuries within. From beds to brandy, explore officers' duties and comforts. Ask Pennsylvania officers about their dissatisfaction with the Yankees from Massachusetts and visit Colonel Asa Whitcomb and his two sons inside his officer's hut to decide whether this dissatisfaction was justified.

Public Store (Ground floor of the Officer's Barracks)

See the array of supplies and tools needed to maintain an army into the winter at this front line post. Watch as new bedding for the barracks of Fort Ticonderoga are sewn and stockpiled.

Soldier's Carpentry (Ground floor of the Soldier's Barracks)

From planing boards to cutting tenons, see how soldiers skilled in working wood built beds and barracks furniture in 1776.

“All Such Women as will Wash” (Parade Ground)

Never underestimate the importance of a clean shirt! Discover the process of laundering soldiers’ shirts and how Colonel Anthony Wayne ensured that women who followed the army at Ticonderoga were paid for this vital service.