

Spring 2022  
Volume XXXI  
No. 2

# The Haversack

THE NEWSLETTER OF FORT TICONDEROGA

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Making new friends and lifetime memories is easy at Fort Ticonderoga! Check out our family friendly programs, p. 3.

## THE BIG PICTURE

### A Pivotal Year

This Campaign Season (May-October) our talented team will bring to life the pivotal year 1759 when the French relinquished control of the “key to the continent” to the British and Carillon became Ticonderoga. Like 1759, 2022 is also a pivotal year in our institution’s history. Over the past decade significant progress has been made in all areas of operations thanks to your generous support. From delivering award-winning programs to growing audiences on-site and virtually across the nation, to the expanded guest experiences across our 2000-acre landscape and onto the waters of Lake Champlain, we have marched forward with passion and purpose. After a decade of planning, hard work, and big results, we are poised for even greater accomplishments.



We are thrilled to report on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will make Fort Ticonderoga the leading center for the study of our nation’s early history. The monumental effort to acquire the single most important private collection of 18th-century militaria, the Robert Nittolo Collection, attained a major milestone at the end of 2021 when Fort Ticonderoga acquired approximately one-half of the collection—the firearms. Today we are pressing forward to complete the acquisition of more than 3,000 objects to make them accessible to the world. Learn more about the astounding range of pieces in the firearms collection on page 8.

Making the real objects of the past available to audiences of all ages is at the heart of what we do! Talented exhibition staff members are transforming old spaces to create new stories of inspiration. Our once-hidden archival collection will be available to the world thanks to a new grant project funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant. A new class of museum professionals will have the chance to be part of the incredible effort to care for and share our museum’s resources.

Please join us this year and see how your support, large or small, makes our transformative initiatives possible as we preserve, educate, and provoke an active discussion about the past and its importance to present and future generations.

With gratitude for your support,  
Beth L. Hill  
President and CEO

## Contributions

Support Fort Ticonderoga’s education and preservation programs with a tax-deductible contribution in the form of cash, stocks, mutual fund shares, or donor-advised funds. Donate online with a credit card at [fortticonderoga.org/join-support/fort-ticonderoga-fund](https://fortticonderoga.org/join-support/fort-ticonderoga-fund).



### A Delectably Edible Event!

#### Annual King’s Garden Party

Saturday, August 6, 2022 | 5–7:30 pm

Don’t miss the most divinely delicious party of the summer! Enjoy botanical-infused cocktails, music, and elegant and edible floral fare. Spirited best-of competition, silent and exclusive experience auctions!

Tickets & Registration: [www.us.givergy.com/kingsgarden](https://www.us.givergy.com/kingsgarden)

Questions? Visit our website or call 518-585-2821

## MEMORABLE VISITS AWAIT YOUR FAMILY!

### Special Summer Tours & Evening Programs



#### Ticonderoga Guns by Night

The flash of musketry and thunder of cannon fire at night will captivate you in this unique tour!

- Sunset Cruise on the *Carillon*
- The Gossip Tour of Fort Ticonderoga
- Beneath Fortress Walls
- Cannon and Coffee

For more information and to register today, visit [fortticonderoga.org](https://fortticonderoga.org)

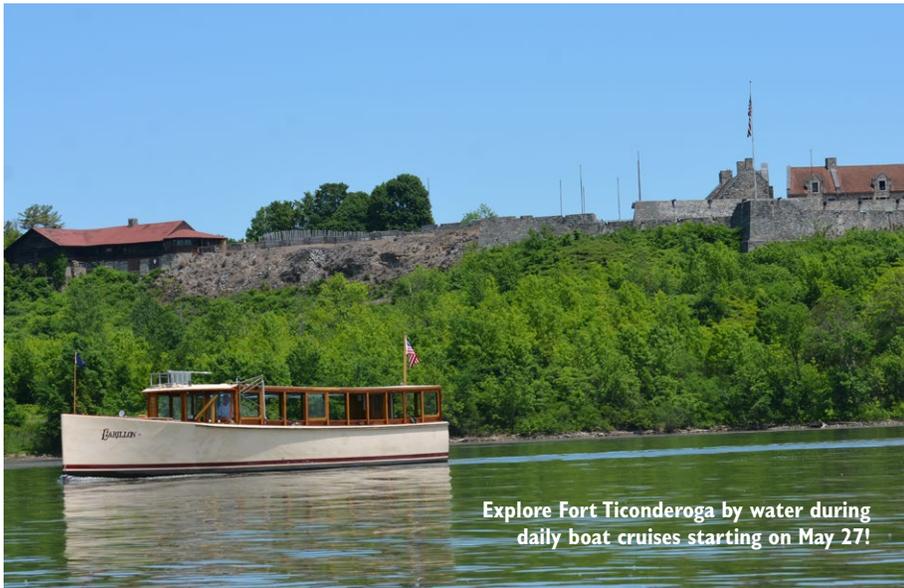
# Fun and Learning for All Ages!

**Fort Ticonderoga looks forward** to welcoming thousands of families this Campaign Season. Children of all ages will interact with Fort Ticonderoga's epic story through hands-on activities in the historic trade shops, gardens, and soldiers' life and maritime programs. Get excited for side-by-side family adventure with Fort Ticonderoga's talented museum staff.

- **2022 is 1759!** Two different curated family programs will help guide families through all that our French and British portrayals offer this summer. **Voyage to New France** (May 7–July 26) will help parents and grandparents bring young visitors to French themed hands-on activities, such as tending to the *Jardin du Roi* or helping whittle wooden pegs for a *bateau plat*. **In His Majesty's Service** (July 27–October 30) guides families through immersive experiences in British-held Ticonderoga, such as helping Connecticut Provincial soldiers make musket cartridges or sew sails for the British fleet on Lake Champlain. See page 4 for more information on 1759!



- **Our Family Guided Tour** leads families on a kid-friendly overview of all of the exciting things to do during a visit, including King's Garden activities! The Family Guided Tour takes place June 29–August 23 Tuesday–Sunday at 10:40 am and 1:40 pm.



Explore Fort Ticonderoga by water during daily boat cruises starting on May 27!

## Get out on the water!

*History and beauty above and below*

Enjoy an incredibly unique 75-minute narrated boat cruise on Lake Champlain and enjoy centuries of stirring maritime heritage. Panoramic mountain vistas will surround you and sonar readings present unforgettable images of shipwrecks. A selection of beer, wine, soft drinks, and snacks are available for sale on board. An additional ticket is required and can be purchased in advance at [fortticonderoga.org](http://fortticonderoga.org) or the day of the visit on a first-come basis.

## SAILS, SAWS, AND ROPE

### *Maritime Trades*

Round out your “nautical” experience at the maritime trades boat house near the King's Garden. You and your family will enjoy the opportunity to explore the carpentry, sail-making, and rigging used to build the bateaux utilized by both the British and French in 1759.



# FROM CARILLON TO TICONDEROGA

❧ *The Pivotal Year 1759* ❧

**IN 1759, FORT CARILLON'S TINY** French garrison faced the might of General Jeffery Amherst's British and American attacking army. The French finally abandoned the stronghold to the British on July 26, 1759, but they destroyed much of the fort before marching away. The victorious Anglo forces entered burned-out Fort Carillon and renamed it Ticonderoga.

Each season, we portray a different year of our history, and this summer we will portray the monumental year of 1759, one with particular resonance as we watch a modern-day struggle for national borders. Visitors will experience an 18th-century world at war through the personal stories of soldiers, women, and children caught up in 1759's turmoil.

Fort Ticonderoga Public History staff spent the previous winter studying and preparing so they could transition from French to American Provincial portrayals and offer two unique visitor experiences in one season. At the beginning of our season, from May 7–July 26, living history programs will immerse visitors in the lives of the French soldiers and artillerymen that defended Fort Carillon. From July 27–October 30, Ticonderoga interpreters will change their impression and bring to life Connecticut Provincials who entered the ruins of the destroyed French fort.

Tours and weapons demonstrations will transport visitors back to the year that helped define the border between Canada and the future United States. Uniforms will change, as well as the sounds that will echo throughout Fort Ticonderoga. Our Fifes & Drums will switch from French marches to English tunes like "Roast Beef" that alerted British and Provincial soldiers it was time to eat.



An enthusiastic "recruit" uses some elbow grease to help a French soldier clean his musket.



Future historians can't take their eyes off a shoemaker at work in the barracks.

## ARTIFACTS OF A TURBULENT YEAR

Each year the museum prepares a new exhibit to give background to the campaign season being portrayed by our talented Public History staff. The exhibit "1759: Carillon/Ticonderoga" will use artifacts that bore witness to Carillon's final fall to explore the arc, intensity, and world significance of this critical campaign.



▲ Charred French ceramic fragments are reminders of the fire that raged within the walls of Fort Carillon following the explosion of the fort's powder magazine.



▲ A fragment of a French 13-inch iron mortar shell that was fired at the oncoming British in late July 1759. French artillerymen fired hundreds of such shells to rain jagged chunks of iron down on Carillon's attackers.



◀ Thomas Davies, a veteran of the 1759 campaign, painted this iconic view of the lines at Lake George. Davies' painting, done in 1774, depicts General Amherst's sprawling camp at the site of modern Lake George Village. It is perhaps the oldest extant painting of Lake George, and may contain the only contemporary images of soldiers of Rogers' Rangers, Gage's 80th Regiment of Light Armed Foot, and a Stockbridge Mohican warrior. Nearly 13,000 colonial and British soldiers prepared for the final campaign against the French stronghold of Fort Carillon in this lakeside camp.

*This exhibit is generously supported by the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the General Society of Colonial Wars.*

# Exhibit Updates Underway!

*New Exhibit! New Stories!*



The Collections and Exhibitions teams are hard at work on new updates to exhibits in the South Barracks of Fort Ticonderoga. Nearly 60-year-old cases have been removed to let in new perspectives on a wide range of artifacts. The new installation, "Ticonderoga's Collections: An Introduction," will feature selections representing the wide scale, scope, and diversity of the museum's holdings.

▲ Exhibit Designer and Fabricator T.J. Mullen, left, and Collections Manager Tabitha Hubbard, right, prepare a massive new exhibit case. The new cases will permit display selections of polearms, anchors, armour, and so much more!



◀ The exhibit will feature this officer's spontoon, a type of polearm carried by the Brunswick auxiliaries hired by the British during the Revolutionary War. Those troops garrisoned Ticonderoga after American forces abandoned the bastion in the summer of 1777.

## Another Year On Duty

Featuring more than 100 objects, many on display for the first time, "A Well Regulated Militia: Citizen, Soldier, and State," will be open during the 2022 campaign season. This exhibit explores the American militia from its colonial formation through its early 19th-century decline. You won't want to miss it!

*Funding for this exhibit is made possible in part by the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust; International Paper Foundation; General Society of Colonial Wars; Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York*



# Stories in Stone

► Museum Cataloger Charlene Keck carefully measures and records stone projectile point details. The points are just some of the artifacts being recorded from a legacy collection of pre contact-era stone tools found on the Ticonderoga peninsula.

▼ Shape and stone type help identify the artifact culture period. These two pieces are from the Woodland Period of the northeastern United States, approximately 3,300 to 500 years B.P. (Before Present).



This project was funded by an agreement awarded by the United States National Park Service to NEIW PCC in partnership with the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership P2 I ACI 1821-00.

## From Fragile Pages to Computer Screens

The archives of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum preserve a rich collection of textual material related to warfare in northeastern North America during the Revolutionary War. Thanks to support from the National Endowment for the Humanities American Rescue Plan, project funding will support the first comprehensive inventory and catalog of archival records in Fort Ticonderoga's history, and make them digitally available to the public for the first time. The documents shed light on the intimate daily experiences of soldiers, civilians, men, and women from across the Atlantic world, as well as interactions with the language and cultures of Native Americans during the creation of the United States.



Registrar Tyler Ostrander, right, and Project Archivist Kate Tardiff, above, are creating accessibility to Ticonderoga's archival collection. Hundreds of manuscripts have already been added to the online database, with more being added each week! Visit [fortticonderoga.pastperfectonline.com/archive](http://fortticonderoga.pastperfectonline.com/archive) to explore these incredible documents!



# A Historic Acquisition

**INSPIRED BY** a childhood visit to Fort Ticonderoga, Robert Nittolo spent 60 years on a quest to pursue and collect objects related to the colonial and Revolutionary wars. His worldwide search brought together the finest accumulation of early modern firearms in the United States, and Fort Ticonderoga has concluded the monumental first phase of the acquisition: The incredible Robert Nittolo firearms collection. The range of pieces is astounding, many individual items could stand alone as the highlight of any museum or gallery. His collection represents a nearly comprehensive evolution of firearms design and manufacture from the late 17th century through the Revolutionary War from both Great Britain and France, in addition to weapons made in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Spain, as well as the United States.

Bringing the Nittolo Collection to Ticonderoga will dramatically expand Ticonderoga's existing world-class repository of artifacts and continue the development of our museum as the premier location for future generations to study and learn about the objects that have literally shaped our nation's history.

“ This acquisition will place Fort Ticonderoga as the foremost military material research institution in the world. Next to the restoration of the fort, this acquisition is perhaps the most significant endeavor undertaken by our museum in its 100+ years. ”

—Beth Hill, President and CEO



**Top:** A rare officer's version of Patrick Ferguson's famous and revolutionary breechloading rifle mounted in distinctive Paktung, a copper and zinc alloy only available from Asia in the 18th century.

**Bottom:** Joseph Perkin, a Moravian from Birmingham, England, emigrated to New York and worked in Virginia and Philadelphia during the Revolution, making arms for American soldiers. He produced this engraved pistol in New York in 1771, and it is the oldest example of his gunmaking. After the Revolution he was appointed superintendent of the new Federal Armory at Harpers Ferry, overseeing the birth of United States industry.



## New Team Members to Keep us Growing!

Fort Ticonderoga is thrilled to welcome new team members who bring passion, experience, and talent to our museum.

**Colleen Henty** (left), Director of Development, comes to Ticonderoga after working on the West Coast in all avenues of production for the corporate and nonprofit events industry. Colleen's new position allows her to share her passion for the arts, history, and the preservation of our natural and historic landscape.

**Nicholas Fitzgerald** (center), Guest Service and Retail Manager; has served in our Fife and Drum Corps, as a museum exhibitions guide, a member of the Collections Department, and an associate in the Museum's Welcome Center. Nick's varied experience will serve him well.

**Colleen Richards** (right), Director of Finance, has more than 25 years of experience in non-profit finance and accounting. Colleen's invaluable knowledge in business, organizational strategy, and financial operations makes her an important addition to our leadership team.

## Gloriously Restored

*Rent this private space on Lake Champlain's shores!*

As a former home turned hotel, the Pavilion has a rich past of hospitality and luxury. The scenic lakefront setting is surrounded by beautifully maintained gardens, making the estate a premier location for weddings. Private bridal suites make for the perfect start to your special day. The building itself is also a great place to host small meetings, intimate gatherings, and cocktail parties.

To inquire, contact Event Coordinator Julia Nittler at [JNittler@fort-ticonderoga.org](mailto:JNittler@fort-ticonderoga.org) or call 518-558-4651.



# A New Group of Scholars!

Fort Ticonderoga is pleased to announce the 2022 Class of Edward W. Pell Graduate Fellows. They will spend 10 weeks at Fort Ticonderoga from June 6 to August 12, working in the Collections, Curatorial, and Academic Programs departments. Please welcome:

- Ann Hewitt, Winterthur Program at the University of Delaware
- Ellie Renshaw, College of William and Mary
- Estrella Salgado, University of Michigan
- Jack Weaver, West Virginia University

These fellowships are supported with funding from the Edward W. Pell Education Endowment Fund and other generous donors. Founded in 2015, Edward W. Pell Graduate Fellowships have been granted to 28 graduate students from dozens of university programs.

► **Fort Ticonderoga is delighted to announce Matthew Dziennik as the recipient of the second Omohundro Institute-Fort Ticonderoga Short Term Fellowship. He hails from the United States Naval Academy, and will use the fellowship to continue his research on “First Nations Peoples and Military Labor in the British Atlantic World, c. 1750-1820.” Dziennik will spend four weeks at Ticonderoga later this year accessing sources in the archives, library, and collections at the Thompson-Pell Research Center.**

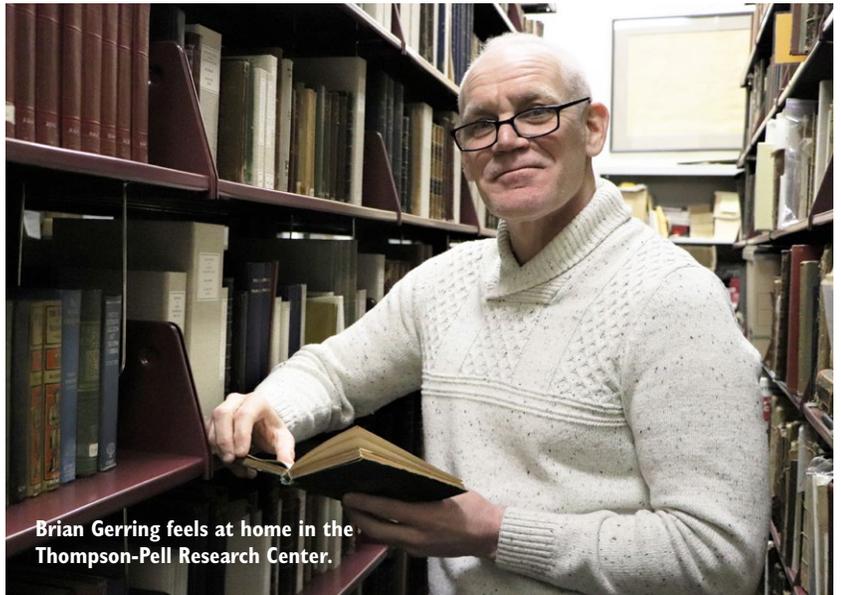


# Logging History

*A former graduate fellow will help research Ticonderoga’s oldest industry, a 1756 sawmill*

Fort Ticonderoga has embarked on a new partnership with PRIDE of Ticonderoga and the Town of Ticonderoga to research and document the military sawmill near the falls of the LaChute River that operated under the direction of Fort Ticonderoga’s garrison commanders.

In anticipation of an eventual reconstruction, Fort Ticonderoga is supporting the town by hiring a dedicated research fellow to compile a history of the sawmill. After a nationwide search for candidates, Brian Gerring, a former 2021 Edward W. Pell Graduate Fellow, was selected to prepare the report. A U.S. Army veteran who attended graduate school at Norwich University, Gerring’s familiarity with Ticonderoga’s history and resources will help him document for the first time the sawmill’s history and role in bridging the community’s military and industrial history.



Brian Gerring feels at home in the Thompson-Pell Research Center.

► **This detail from the 1777 Wintersmith map of British-held Ticonderoga shows the location of the sawmill near the falls on the LaChute River, the heart of the modern town of Ticonderoga. Since 1756, the sawmill had been a critical piece of Fort Ticonderoga’s military infrastructure.**



# 2022 Event Schedule

## May 7-October 30: Fort Ticonderoga Campaign Season & Daily Programming (Tues.-Sun.)

Every day is a new experience at Fort Ticonderoga! Explore the 2000-acre property from the heights of Mount Defiance to the shores of Lake Champlain and discover innovative storytelling on a grand scale! Daily highlights include guided tours, thrilling weapons demonstrations, hands-on historic trades programs, and endless outdoor activities.

## May 28-29: Memorial Day Weekend Commemoration

Join Fort Ticonderoga to pay tribute to the men and women who lost their lives in service to their country during the American Revolution.



## June 18: Living History Event: Scots Day

Discover your own Scottish connection by visiting clan tents and vendors; enjoy the sounds of Scottish music performed throughout the day. Hear the

stories of Scottish soldiers who served in the British Army through a military timeline.

## July 2-4: Independence Day Weekend 1777

Declare your independence Saturday-Monday by exploring the year 1777 when America was consumed in the labor of liberty. Participate in the fight for freedom when the Continental Army fought to keep the great fortress of Ticonderoga from falling into British control.

## July 23-24: Battle Reenactment: 1759 Siege of Carillon

In this exciting two-day battle reenactment, relive the last days of Fort Carillon (later named Ticonderoga), as 400 French soldiers faced an 11,000-man British Army! Different battle scenarios and living history vignettes will let you explore the science of siege craft and the power of artillery on land and water as General Jeffery Amherst sought to take Ticonderoga and invade French Canada. A special Saturday evening tour will feature thunderous, earthshaking demonstrations of cannons and mortars as they were used during the 1759 siege.

To purchase tickets and view Fort Ticonderoga's full event listing including living history events, seminars, workshops, daily programming, and virtual opportunities, please visit [fortticonderoga.org/calendar](https://fortticonderoga.org/calendar)

## WE WELCOME THE WORLD!

Attend online or in person



WAR COLLEGE  
OF THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR

FORT  
TICONDEROGA



FORT  
TICONDEROGA

SEMINAR ON THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Fort Ticonderoga looks forward to welcoming attendees in person for the first time since 2019 for its annual War College of the Seven Years' War (May 20-22) and Seminar on the American Revolution (September 23-25). While registrants will be able to gather at Fort Ticonderoga for both weekend events, those who prefer can register to attend these conferences online through Fort Ticonderoga's Center for Digital History. Registration for both conferences is open on our website:

[fortticonderoga.org/calendar/category/seminars-and-workshops/list/](https://fortticonderoga.org/calendar/category/seminars-and-workshops/list/)



P.O. Box 390, Ticonderoga, NY 12883  
518-585-2821  
fortticonderoga.org

# Donate!

## YOUR GENEROUS DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Fort Ticonderoga is owned and operated by The Fort Ticonderoga Association, a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization. Thanks to generous support from donors across the United States and beyond, Fort Ticonderoga is able to serve its mission to "preserve, educate and provoke an active discussion about the past and its importance to present and future generations."

**Please consider a gift today!**

[fortticonderoga.org/join-and-support/donate](http://fortticonderoga.org/join-and-support/donate)

## JOIN OUR RANKS AND SUPPORT FORT TICONDEROGA!

**Members of Fort Ticonderoga** support our mission to preserve, educate, and provoke active discussion about the past and its importance to present and future generations. Now is the time to enlist or to re-enlist!

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

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**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to Fort Ticonderoga is enclosed

Please charge by MasterCard / Visa / American Express

**Card Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Exp. Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Security Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sentinel** (\$25)

Free admission to Fort Ticonderoga for one named full-time student; 10% discount in the museum store; 10% discount on general admission for guests; Subscription to *The Haversack*; email updates

**Corporal** (\$60)

All of the above benefits for one named adult individual

**Sergeant** (\$85)

All of the above benefits for two adults in the same household

**Ensign** (\$125)

All of the above benefits for two adults in the same household and their children or grandchildren under the age of 18

**Lieutenant** (\$175)

All of the above benefits plus two guest passes

**Captain** (\$250)

All of the above benefits plus two additional guest passes (4 total)

**Major** (\$500)

All of the above benefits plus two additional guest passes (6 total)

**Colonel** (\$1,000)

All of the benefits listed above plus a private tour with a curator for up to four people

Please mail application and payment to: Fort Ticonderoga, P.O. Box 390, Ticonderoga, NY 12883. Join online at [fortticonderoga.org/join-and-support/become-a-member](http://fortticonderoga.org/join-and-support/become-a-member)

KEEP THE  
CONNECTION!

