Nineteenth Annual
Fort Ticonderoga
Seminar on the
American Revolution

Friday-Sunday,
September 22-24, 2023
Friday, September 22, 2023

8:00am-4:00pm “Forts, Raids, Battles and Mayhem: The Schoharie Valley, 1775-1780”—Fort Ticonderoga and America’s History, LLC partners to offer a one-day Revolutionary War bus tour led by Jeff O’Conner and Bruce Venter. Jeff is the author of The Old Stone Fort: Guardian of Schoharie County History Since 1772 and an experienced tour guide. A complete tour description is on the America’s History website. The cost is $145 per person (includes lunch, materials, and refreshments). To register, call 703-785-4373 or visit www.AmericasHistoryLLC.com.

6:00-7:00pm Opening Reception—Join seminar faculty and museum staff at an opening reception at the Pavilion and King’s Garden with light refreshments and cash bar.

7:00-7:45pm Highlights from the Robert Nittolo Collection—Fort Ticonderoga’s Curator Dr. Matthew Keagle shares highlights from the Robert Nittolo Collection related to the War for American Independence.

Saturday, September 23, 2023

9:00am Welcome—Beth Hill, President and CEO, Fort Ticonderoga.

9:15-9:45am “The Black Servants of Major-General Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette”— How did Lafayette go from viewing Black enslaved people as chattel property, to becoming one of the leading abolitionist voices of his era? This presentation examines how Lafayette’s abolitionist ideology was shaped by the Black Patriots he encountered—including eight known Black servants hired out to him. Justin B. Clement is Historic Site Supervisor of Pottsgrove Manor and author of Patriots of African Descent at the Valley Forge Encampment of 1777–1778: A Historic Resource Study.

10:00-10:30am In the Wake of the British Retreat: Sir Guy Carleton’s Book of Negroes and the Enslaved Population of Rhode Island—British Commander-in-Chief Sir Guy Carleton oversaw the retreat from North America, during which he recorded in his Book of
Negroes the age, gender, and reported home locations of the enslaved people owned by departing Loyalists. This presentation analyzes this data, with special attention to Rhode Island’s entries, to make broader inferences about the practice of slavery prior to the American Revolution. With her advisor, Catherine W. Zipf, Isabelle J. Courtney is an interpreter for Coggeshall Farm Museum and Linden Place, and a researcher for the Bristol Historical & Preservation Society.

10:45-11:15am “Naked and Torn by the Grapeshot”: Fort Mercer and the History, Archaeology, and Public Perceptions of a Mass Burial Space at Red Bank Battlefield Park—During the summer of 2022, as part of a public archaeology program at Red Bank Battlefield Park in Gloucester County, New Jersey, a mass burial space was discovered, thought to contain the remains of Hessian soldiers who lost their lives in the attack on Fort Mercer, October 22, 1777. A project team of archaeologists, forensic scientists, historians, county employees, volunteers, and university students worked tirelessly to investigate the site. The analyses of artifacts and human remains are ongoing. Dr. Jen Janofsky is the Giordano Fellow in Public History at Rowan University and Director of Red Bank Battlefield Park. Wade P. Catts is a Registered Professional Archaeologist, President of South River Heritage Consulting, and an adjunct professor at Rowan University.

11:30am-1:15pm Lunch Break (Box lunch from America’s Fort Café included).

12:30-1:00pm Book Signing at the Museum Store in the Log House.

1:30-2:30pm Hessians: German Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War—Between 1776 and 1783, Great Britain hired more than thirty thousand German soldiers to fight in its war against the American rebels. Collectively known as Hessians, the troops and accompanying civilians, including hundreds of women and children, spent extended periods of time in locations as dispersed and varied as Canada in the North and West Florida in the South. This presentation highlights some of the experiences of these participants in a war on a distant continent against a people that had done them no harm. Dr. Friederike Baer is Associate Professor of History and Division Head for Arts and Humanities at Penn State Abington College. She is the author of Hessians: German Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War (Oxford University Press, 2022).
2:45-3:15pm The Customs and Temper of Americans? Germans and the Continental Coalition, 1775–1776—When armed rebellion broke out against Britain in 1775, its leaders from New England to the Carolinas wanted to incorporate a variety of colonists into their movement. One of the largest segments of the colonial population was German-speaking people. Local leaders across the colonies and the rebellion’s central leadership in the Continental Congress reached out to German colonists in a variety of ways, mainly trying to include them in diplomatic efforts directed at Native Americans, and in newly-raised bodies of soldiers, from local militias to the regular Continental Army. Jack Weaver is a Ph.D. candidate studying Colonial and Revolutionary North America at West Virginia University; his dissertation examines the intersection of violence, material culture, and Early American identity.

5:00pm Dinner at America’s Fort Café (pre-registration only).

Sunday, September 24, 2023

9:00-9:30am Was there an internal Patriot Coup in Massachusetts beginning April 20, 1775?—In the months leading up to the outbreak of fighting at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts patriots had established a provisional government and committed to solely defensive action in the event of military escalation—in accordance with long-standing republican principles. This presentation explores the extent to which leaders disregarded these restrictions in the immediate aftermath of April 19, 1775. Dr. Timothy Leech is an independent historian working on a book about the state-formation implications surrounding the establishment of the Continental Army. He received his Ph.D. from Ohio State University in 2017.

Teacher Scholarships

Thanks to generous support from Seminar patrons, Fort Ticonderoga offers both in-person and online scholarships for teachers. Applications are available at:

https://www.fortticonderoga.org/event/nineteenth-annual-seminar-on-the-american-revolution/
9:45-10:15am Fighting Rebellion from America to Jamaica: The Experience of Alexander Lindsay, Lord Balcarres— As major in command of Burgoyne’s light infantry during the Saratoga campaign of 1777, Lord Balcarres saw intensive combat before undergoing captivity with the surrendered “Convention Army.” In 1795, while governor of the West Indian colony of Jamaica, Major-General Balcarres was once again called upon to curb insurrection after the island’s “Maroons”—the freed descendants of escaped slaves—rebelled against British rule. This presentation argues that Balcarres’s controversial handling of the fiercely-contested Maroon War was conditioned by his earlier experiences during the American Revolution. Dr. Stephen Brumwell is an award-winning independent scholar and author living in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

10:30-11:00am The Rise, Disgrace, and Recovery of Timothy Bedel—New Hampshire’s Timothy Bedel emerged as a multi-talented leader early in the Revolutionary War, but by the summer of 1776 he was dishonorably cashiered from the army after a command debacle in Canada. This presentation explores Bedel’s progress and struggles in the volatile military and political context of the war in the north. Mark R. Anderson is an independent historian whose works include The Battle for the Fourteenth Colony: America’s War of Liberation in Canada, 1774-1776 and Down the Warpath to the Cedars: Indians’ First Battles in the Revolution.

11:15-11:45am New Views of Fort Ticonderoga and Burgoyne’s Campaign—In 1776 and 1777, a British soldier named Roger Lamb served in the two major British campaigns that focused on Fort Ticonderoga. He published writings on his service that are well-known, but only recently a volume of manuscript writings has come to light, along with a series of illustrations. This presentation will show Lamb’s writings on the campaign that he did not include in his books, and his fanciful pictures illustrating his campaigns. Don N. Hagist is managing editor of Journal of the American Revolution and has published several books on British soldiers in the American Revolution.

12:00pm Lunch (Box lunch from America’s Fort Café included).
Meals and Reception

Friday Evening Reception

Plan to join us Friday evening from 6:00-7:00 in the Mars Education Center for a reception with Seminar faculty and staff. A menu of light hors d’oeuvres will be served. A cash bar with beer and wine also will be available. Included in registration.

Lunch Saturday and Sunday

Box lunches from America’s Fort Café are included in the registration fee both days. A vegetarian option is available upon request.

Roast Turkey Dinner Saturday Evening

Roast turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, roll, and dessert at America’s Fort Café. A vegetarian alternative is available. $25 per person. By pre-registration only.

Fort Ticonderoga Museum and Museum Store

Registration includes complimentary admission to Fort Ticonderoga Friday through Sunday of the Seminar. The Museum Store in the Log House will be open 10:00am-5:00pm, with extended evening hours on Saturday. Several members of the Seminar faculty will be signing copies of their books at the Museum Store on Saturday at 12:30pm, where copies of their books will be for sale.
Become a Seminar Patron!

For those who wish to support the Seminar teacher scholarships as patrons, three levels are available:

$250 Patron
Includes the registration fee; recognition in the Seminar program; and an invitation to a private dinner with members of the Seminar faculty and teacher scholarship winners Saturday evening.

$500 Patron
In addition to all of the above, patrons at this level receive a copy of Hessians: German Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War by this year’s keynote speaker Friederike Baer.

$750 Patron
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.

Become a Member of Fort Ticonderoga

When registering, it’s easy to become a member or renew your current membership!

Members receive: free admission to Fort Ticonderoga for 12 months, 10% discount in the Museum Store, a subscription to The Haversack, free admission to dozens of virtual events, discounts for seminars and conferences, and invitations to special events.

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Registation and Travel Information

How to Register
Fill out the registration form on the next page and mail with your check made payable to Fort Ticonderoga to:

Seminar Registration  
Fort Ticonderoga  
PO Box 390  
Ticonderoga, NY 12883

Registrations with payment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Early Bird Registrations must be received by July 15th, not postmarked by that date. To pay with a credit card, please register online at the link below or call (518) 585-2821.

Register online at this link:
www.FortTiconderoga.org/event/nineteenth-annual-seminar-on-the-american-revolution/

Cancellation Policy
All cancellations must be received by September 10. Registration fees will be refunded, less a $25 processing charge. Refunds will be processed after the Seminar. There is a $10 processing charge to transfer registrations to another person.

Accommodations
Numerous overnight accommodations are available throughout the Ticonderoga area and the greater Lake George-Lake Champlain region. Rooms book quickly, so make your reservation today! A list of area accommodations is available at:

www.fortticonderoga.org/visit/adirondack-vacation/places-to-stay/
2023 SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

Save a stamp and register online at:
www.FortTiconderoga.org/event/nineteenth-annual-seminar-on-the-american-revolution/

On-Site Registration Fees
(includes lunch both days)
Registration

- Member, $155
- General Public, $175

Seminar Patron Registration

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

Dinner

- Roast Turkey Dinner Saturday Evening, $25

Virtual Registration Fees

Registration

- Member, $125
- General Public, $135

Membership

- I am a member of Fort Ticonderoga
- I would like to become a member or renew my membership at the level designated below:

  - Corporal (individual) $70
  - Sergeant (dual) $90
  - Ensign (family) $135
  - Lieutenant $180
  - Captain, $250
  - Major, $500
  - Colonel, $1,000

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 ____________________________________________
Email address ____________________________________________

To use a credit card, please register online or call (518) 585-2821.
Those who are unable to travel to Ticonderoga for this annual program can sign up to attend the conference online through Fort Ticonderoga’s Center for Digital History using Zoom Webinars. All sessions will be streamed. Online participants will be able to ask questions of presenters using the “Q&A” function. Both in-person and online participants will have access to these recorded sessions for two weeks following the seminar.
Upcoming 2023-2024 Programs
Fort Ticonderoga
Center for Digital History

These programs are offered through Zoom webinars and are free for members ($10 each for non-members). For details and to register for programs, visit:

www.fortticonderoga.org/calendar/category/lectures-seminars-and-workshops/

Fort Ticonderoga Author Series Sundays at 2:00pm ET
The Fort Ticonderoga Author Series features presentations by authors of books related to Fort Ticonderoga’s history.

2023
August 13th  
Charles Mayhood  
Quebec Under Siege: French Eye-Witness Accounts from the Campaign of 1759

October 22nd  
Brady J. Crytzer  
The Whiskey Rebellion: A Distilled History of an American Crisis

November 5th  
Eugene Procknow  
William Hunter, Finding Free Speech: A British Soldier’s Son Who Became an Early American

2024
January 14th  
David Price  
The Battle of Harlem Heights, 1776

February 11th  
Andrew Wehrman  
The Contagion of Liberty: The Politics of Smallpox in the American Revolution

March 10th  
Jack Kelly  
God Save Benedict Arnold: The True Story of America’s Most Hated Man

April 14  
Jim Piecuch  
South Carolina Provincials: Loyalists in British Service during the American Revolution