



May 2004 BRPA ~ 250th Anniversary
 French & Indian War Seminar
 Send registration form and fees to:
 Jumonville History Seminar
 887 Jumonville Rd., Hopwood, PA 15445
 or sign up on line @ www.braddockroadpa.org

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

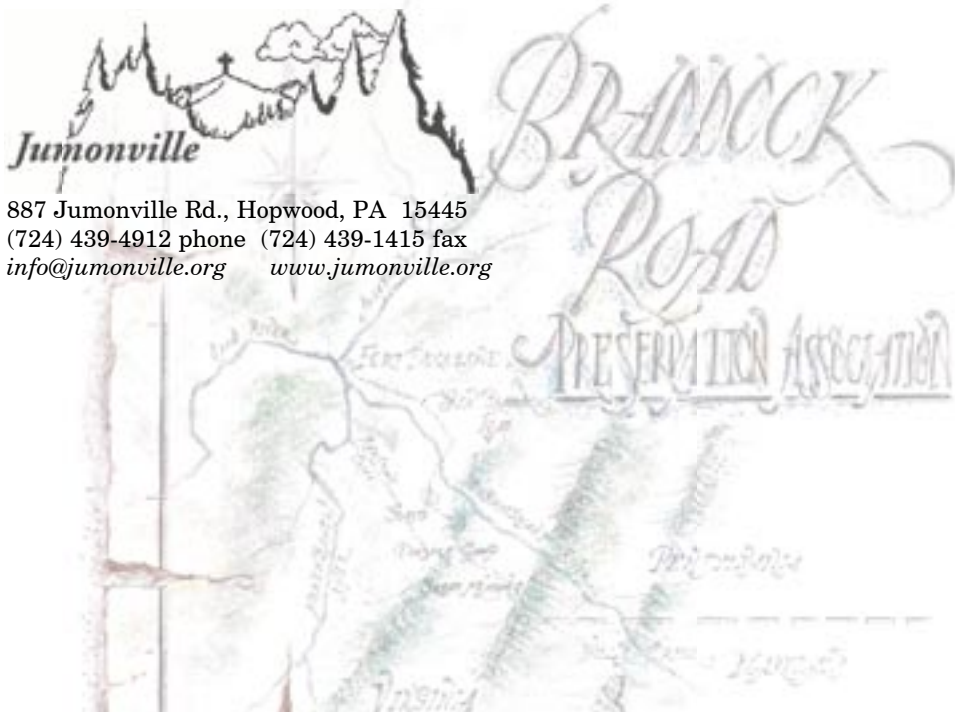
Phone: home () _____ work () _____

- Please reserve ___ places for the basic seminar package @ \$50/person - Thursday night- Friday's seminars (with no lodging)
- Please reserve ___ places for the basic lodging package @ \$95/person - seminar & basic lodging
- Please reserve ___ places for the deluxe lodging package @ \$115/person - seminar & deluxe lodging

Roommate request(s): _____

- I'd like to make ___ reservations for Thursday evening dinner. (\$7/person)
- I'm also making a contribution of \$ _____ to help with BRPA expenses.

Enclosed is \$ _____ to cover my/our total fees. Make checks payable to: "Jumonville."
 Please attach an additional sheet if you are registering more than one person with this form.
 Be sure to include name, address, e-mail, phone numbers, etc for each participant.



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B.R.P.A. Journal

Volume #7
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April 2004

*A Little of What's Going On...
 An Occasional Publication of News
 from the
 Braddock Road Preservation Association
 ...formerly known as the
 Jumonville Preservation Association*

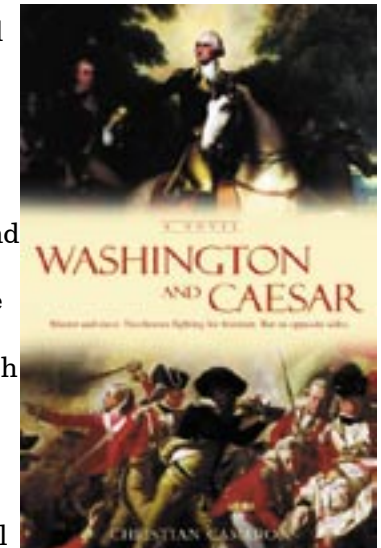


**Braddock Road
 Preservation Association**

Jumonville 887 Jumonville Rd. Hopwood, PA 15445-9901
 (724) 439-4912 phone (724) 439-1415 fax www.braddockroadpa.org

A Seminar to Set the World on Fire

Two hundred fifty years ago, "a shot fired by a young Virginian in the backwoods of America set the world on fire." That was how Horace Walpole described George Washington's "Jumonville Affair." What did it look like, sound like, and smell like on that foggy May morning in 1754 when Washington faced his first hostile fire? Now you can find out for yourself! On Friday May 28, 2004, the Braddock Road Preservation Association (BRPA) will host a real-time recreation of this event, with reenactors representing the French, British, and Native empires. It will be theater in the raw, no narration, no second takes. **ONLY** registrants to our first-ever spring French & Indian War seminar will be admitted to the area where the reenactment will take place. The event will culminate with the killing of French Ensign Jumonville by Tanacharison, the Seneca Half King. Then participants will make their way to Wesley Hall for a spectacular seminar and some impressive bonus features. Registrations will



be limited to 250 so we encourage you to respond now for this unique event.

Festivities will commence on Thursday evening, May 27 at 7:00 with a reception at Wesley Hall hosted by BRPA and an opening lecture by Christian Cameron, author of the recent novel, *Washington and Caesar* (HarperCollins, 2003). Washington and Caesar details the lives of GW and one of his slaves, who is sent away from Mt. Vernon prior to the Revolution and becomes a soldier fighting for freedom in a British regiment against his former master. Said Booklist of this novel, "Cameron's complex portrait of Washington as a brilliant but flawed leader, capable of insight and change, is the real standout in this authentically detailed American drama." In addition, seminar speakers and several vendors will be present, and light food and beverages will be served. This is your chance to meet French & Indian War scholars and enthusiasts, and beat everyone else to the best books and other rare materials offered by dealers.

On Friday morning, following the reenactment, the seminar will begin at 8:30 with registration and exhibitors. This will be your first opportunity to see a unique and important traveling George Washington exhibit created by the French & Indian War 250 (War for Empire) Consortium. This exhibit will contain artifacts from all the consortium sites, including a stockade post fragment from Fort Necessity's wall, Dunbar's Camp artifacts, a document signed by Ensign Jumonville, another signed by Edward Braddock during his stay in Alexandria, Virginia in the spring of 1755, and the much-publicized handwritten George Washington reminiscence about his French & Indian War career.

If the Thursday reception, the reenactment, and the GW exhibit aren't enough to justify a day off work, there is the seminar itself. At 9:00 a.m. Walt Powell will kick off the proceedings and introduce Christopher Moore, keynote speaker, who has been called "Canada's most versatile writer of history." Christopher specializes in making history accessible to a general audience. He is the author of several books, including *The Illustrated History of Canada and Louisbourg Portraits*. His lecture will be entitled "Jumonville and His Men."

At 10:45, David Bell, Ph.D., of Johns Hopkins University will deliver a lecture entitled, "The Jumonville Affair." David is a respected researcher and expert on the French experience in America and author of *The Cult of the Nation in France: Inventing Nationalism 1680-1800* (Harvard University Press, 2001).



May Seminar Details

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate with the Braddock Road Preservation Association in a commemoration of the 250th anniversary of George Washington's baptism of fire in his skirmish with French forces under Ensign Joseph Coulon, Sieur de Jumonville on May 28th, 1754. We are planning a reenactment near the actual site on the morning of Friday, May 28th, with optional activities on Thursday evening and Friday morning and afternoon. There will be lodging available at the Jumonville Retreat Center. Meal packages will be available as well. This event has a limited registration (about 250 persons plus re-enactors) and you are urged to make your reservation as soon as possible. Please use the registration form on the back of this newsletter or visit the BRPA website @ www.braddockroadpa.org.

Thursday, May 27th:

- 1:00 P.M. Registration for Seminar opens (ends at 5:00 P.M.)
- 5:30 P.M. Optional Dinner in Asbury Dining Hall
- 7:00 P.M. Opening and Reception at Wesley Hall - "Washington as Military Commander" by Christian Cameron, recent author of the novel "Washington and Caesar."

Friday, May 28th:

- 6:45 A.M. Registration opens with coffee & donuts
- 7:30 A.M. Re-enactment of the Jumonville Skirmish
- 9:00 A.M. Seminar opens at Wesley Hall
- 9:15 A.M. "Jumonville and His Men"- Christopher Moore
- 10: 15 A.M. Break
- 10:45 A.M. "The Jumonville Affair"- Dr. David Bell, Johns Hopkins
- 11:45 A.M. Participants invited to view traveling exhibit "George Washington Remembers: Reflections on the French & Indian War" and the Rindfuss Museum
- 12:30 P.M. Lunch
- 1:45 P.M. Shuttle Bus departure for Jumonville Glen
- 2:15 P.M. Special Presentation/Panel Discussion at Jumonville Glen - speakers and audience participate.
If weather prohibits, session at Wesley Hall.
- 3:30 P.M. Seminar Ends

A confirmation letter will be sent to you after we receive your registration.

A letter containing final details will be sent to you by May 17th.

Because of the early Friday morning start of the re-enactment (to keep it historically accurate), we have provided additional lodging options on site at Jumonville. You have several options in registering for the May 250th Anniversary event. Contact the Jumonville office at 724-439-4912 or visit the BRPA website @ www.braddockroadpa.org for specific details.

Of special interest to the BRPA membership, two important sequences have been restored to the DVD. One recounts the destruction of artillery at Dunbar's Camp. A second, contained in the Deleted Scenes, discusses the site of Dunbar's Camp as it appears today, and contains additional interview footage with Walt Powell.

Says Paladin's Robert Matzen, a board member of the BRPA, "We're confident that the When the Forest Ran Red Special Edition DVD will represent the definitive documentary about the beginning of the French & Indian War and Braddock's Defeat. It also takes care to include a focus on the historic importance of the Jumonville area. As Walt Powell says in the film, "This area is globally important. This is where a world war began."



The Latest from Fort Necessity

2004 is a big year for Fort Necessity on many fronts. Ken Mabery, 53, became the new superintendent at both Fort Necessity and Friendship Hill this past January, replacing acting superintendent Keith Newlin. Formerly, Joanne Hanley held this post before her appointment as both executive director of the National Parks of Western Pennsylvania and superintendent of Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County.

Mabery, whose father worked for the National Park Service, served as a park ranger at several important western sites, in addition to assignments at the NPS national headquarters in Washington, D.C., and at the regional headquarters in the southwest. He was acting superintendent at several sites in New Mexico.

At Fort Necessity this year, Mabery will oversee the 250th anniversary of the battle at Great Meadows, which will be commemorated with four days of events from Thursday, July 1 through Sunday, July 4. These events include a tactical reenactment of the battle that follows NPS guidelines, a memorial service to honor the dead, and a concert by the Pittsburgh Symphony.

Mabery is also coordinating efforts involving the new Fort Necessity Visitor's Center now under construction and scheduled to open in Fall 2005. The facility will total 14,000 square feet, including 4,500 square feet of exhibit space, a 60-seat auditorium and theater, a classroom, a bookstore and gift shop, a research library, and office space.

Following David Bell's presentation, participants will have time to view the Washington display and exhibitor tables before lunch. After lunch, seminar attendees will travel by shuttle bus or car to the Jumonville Glen for a special presentation/panel discussion about the Jumonville incident involving Christopher Moore, David Bell, BRPA board members, and seminar participants. In the case of bad weather, this discussion will take place in Wesley Hall. The seminar will conclude at 3:30. What a day!

We hope you'll join us for this very special event on Thursday May 27 and Friday, May 28, 2004.

SPECIAL NOTE: The seminar cost has been increased to \$50 to offset the expanded program, including the reenactment. Also, please be aware that the re-creation of the Jumonville incident will be a closed event, with participation limited to seminar attendees. Media will be tightly controlled to preserve the integrity of the experience. No flash photography will be permitted during the reenactment

What's Ahead for the BRPA?

The BRPA history seminars will continue to focus on events that led to the opening of the French & Indian War—events now celebrating their 250th anniversaries. On November 5, 2005, "General Braddock's Defeat" will look back at the anniversary of a watershed event in the war of empires: the Battle of the Monongahela, in which Gen. Edward Braddock's powerful British army is routed by French Capt. Daniel Beaujeu's allied French and Indian force six miles southeast of Fort Duquesne.

On November 6, 2004, the French & Indian War Seminar at Jumonville will resound with the "Drums of War," as we look back at the opening of the wilderness conflict in May, 1754 as George Washington's ramshackle Virginia Militia surprises a French party in the forest and kills its leader, Ensign Jumonville. One month later, Washington is forced to surrender his hastily constructed "Fort of Necessity," and the conflict deepens.

There's a lot to look forward to, as the Braddock Road Preservation Association works to help Americans understand this rich French & Indian heritage. There's no question—America began here in Southwestern Pennsylvania. We welcome your help to make all these events a rousing success. Call us and volunteer, visit us on the web at www.braddockroadpa.org, or send your tax-deductible contribution to the Braddock Road Preservation Association, 887 Jumonville Road, Hopwood, PA 15445.

New Painting Reveals Washington's Pain

The date was July 3, 1754. It was a Wednesday. If there had been a Weather Channel, it would have predicted rain. Standing in a marshy meadow amidst piles of mud and a stockade of little more than matchsticks, surrounded by starving men—his men—George Washington must have felt the exhilaration of impending battle, and the chill of impending defeat.



The day went downhill fast. A French army laid siege to the stockade and blew it apart with musket fire. The rains came, soaking the field of battle, fouling musket powder, turning defensive trenches into canals. Some of Washington's men—including officers—broke into a keg of rum and got drunk. The dead piled up, and the only hope for salvation came from rumors of reinforcements heading up from Will's Creek, reinforcements that never really existed.

Hold for a picture!

That's the impression one gets from viewing Ray Forquer's recent painting, Washington at Fort Necessity, July 3, 1754—that Forquer had smuggled a camera backward in time. It's a particularly gloomy moment on a gloomy day. A downcast Washington stands amidst his brave but defeated band of Virginians inside the small stockade built "of necessity," with the dead and the wounded lying about him.

Ray Forquer hails from Washington, PA. His work includes many depictions of Whiskey Rebellion and Civil War events. In college he painted Braddock's Defeat, although he was never happy with this work, and hopes to recreate the painting in time for the 250th anniversary of the battle in 2005. For Washington at Fort Necessity, Forquer used Bryan C. Cuning as Col. George Washington. Cuning has portrayed Washington in George Washington's First War, and the Special Edition DVD of *When the Forest Ran Red*. He has also made many personal appearances interpreting GW, and his likeness was used in John Buxton's recently released, *Washington's Crossing, 1753*. *Washington at Fort Necessity, July 3, 1754* is a limited edition of 250 prints. The image area measures 12x19 ¼ inches. It can be viewed at, and ordered through, www.paladincom.com/forquer.htm.

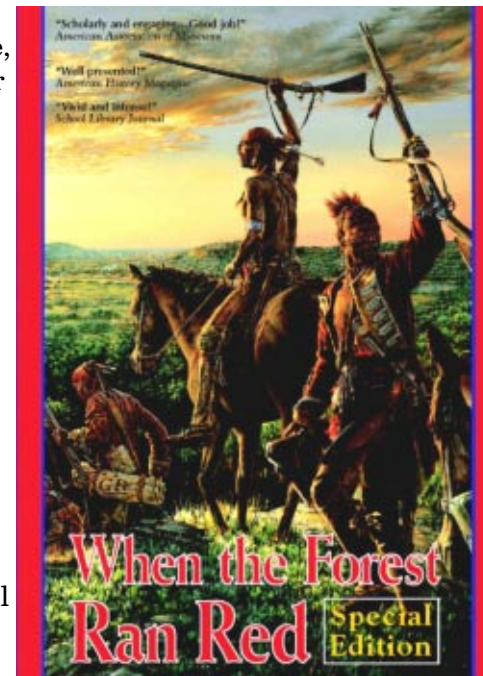
When the Forest Ran Red Special Edition DVD

Many members of the BRPA have been following the progress of the documentary *When the Forest Ran Red*, which premiered at the 2000 seminar and has gone on to earn five national awards and air across the U.S. and Canada. At the time of its release, a version of the film was created for broadcast in the U.S., a second for educational use, and a third for the home video market. The length was established at 56:20 for the broadcast and educational versions, and 59 minutes for the home version. In all cases, editing claimed several minutes of finished film.

In 2003, the film's producers, Paladin Communications, began production of a DVD version of the film that would:

- Restore footage lost in 2001.
- Add newly recorded quotations from Native American leaders.
- Incorporate interview footage with Dr. Paul Kopperman (Braddock at the Monongahela) and Dr. Stephen Brumwell (Redcoats)—interviews shot during the 2002 F&I Seminar.
- Weave in new action footage, including Bryan C. Cuning reprising his role as Washington from the film, *George Washington's First War*, as well as new and bigger battle scenes.
- Add a stirring rendition of British Grenadiers—newly recorded by The Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums—to the soundtrack during the Battle of the Monongahela action sequence, plus other new music in other scenes and sequences.
- Use recent images created by Robert Griffing, Lee Teter, Ray Forquer, and Andrew Knez, Jr.

The *When the Forest Ran Red* feature documentary as presented on the Special Edition DVD contains 10 minutes of new material, including more than 60 new shots and 17 additional pieces of audio. Release will take place in late April, 2004. Bonus features include *Making 'When the Forest Ran Red'*, *A Conversation with Paul Kopperman, Ph.D.*, *Deleted Scenes*, *Educator's Tips*, and more.



was with him again reported to Washington that a French party was skulking in the nearby woods. Washington was impressed by half-Kings expressed allegiance to the English and his claim that the French had boiled and eaten his father.

Overlooking the fact that England and France were not officially at war and forgetting that the French had not attacked or harmed the fort builders at the Forks and that Dinwiddie had ordered him to warn all Frenchmen away before he engaged in hostilities, Washington allowed himself to be persuaded to use the Indian tactic of a surprise attack.

Washington advanced with forty soldiers and the whole night was passed in the march. The rain fell in torrents, the paths through the woods were narrow and intricate, and the soldiers often lost their way grouping in the bushes and clambering over rocks and fallen trees. A council was held with Tanacharison, the Half King and his chief warriors. The plan of attack was then formed. Colonel Washington and his men were to advance on the right and the Indians on the left.

In the morning light of dawn Washington and his men surrounded the 32 Frenchmen who were lounging by their campfires in a deep glen. In the engagement that ensued, the Frenchmen had difficulty getting to their arms but there was some return fire. A small skirmish ensued which was kept up for a quarter of an hour when the French ceased to resist.

The victory that Washington quickly won seemed total - ten Frenchmen killed and the rest taken prisoner. However the Frenchmen did not meekly accept their defeat. Waving documents they shouted in outrage. Their mission was a peaceful diplomatic, as had been Washington's at LeBoeuf, to warn the British off what the French claimed was their land. One of the men killed was their leader Joseph Coulon, Sieur de Jumonville. Washington missing the graveness of the situation that war had not yet been declared between Great Britain and France, insisted that regardless of whatever papers they were carrying, the French obviously had hostile intentions.

Just 250 years afterwards on May 28th, 2004 we will hear the resounding gunshots of the Battle of Jumonville as it is reenacted on Chestnut Ridge just south of the present Uniontown. We will witness the rise of the sun over the summit allowing Washington and his soldiers enough light to attack the small party of Frenchmen breakfasting around their fires. We will witness this rash maneuver of the young George Washington and the "shots heard around the world" which affected the beginning of the next seven years of war between the English and French.

What happened to George Washington in the five and one half months from Fort LeBoeuf to the battle of Jumonville...

by Joan Mancuso

On December 11, 1753 at Fort LeBoeuf, now Waterford, twenty-one year old George Washington met with the French Legardeur de St. Pierre who quickly came up across the portage from Fort Presque Isle just 15 miles away on Lake Erie.

Afterwards, he needed quickly to return to Williamsburg and report to Governor Dinwiddie that the French had no intentions of withdrawing. It was impossible to conceal from Washington more than two hundred French canoes which lay in the snow beside the creek, being prepared to drift down to the Forks of the Ohio and eventually open a course to the Mississippi River.

But it was now mid-December. Returning by canoe as hoped was not possible now. French Creek was traversed with difficulty, fatiguing, slow and perilous, but the Allegheny River at Venango proved impossible and too slow.

Nothing to do but send the men via the slow winding river and with Christopher Gist and a smaller group, Washington would attempt the direct route on horseback. In Venango, the horses were found in so emaciated and pitiable a condition that it was doubtful whether they could perform the journey. The horse's legs sank deep into the snow drifts and were cut by sharp crusts of snow. The horses staggered with hunger because all forage was frozen over as well as water for man and beast. In the midst of utter desolation, the party moved more and more slowly.

Finally, Washington anxious to warn Governor Dinwiddie of an approaching invasion, decided that he and Christopher Gist would push ahead on foot. Vanbraam took charge of the horses and Washington hurried ahead with Gist. The seasoned woodsman, Gist not knowing Washington's experiences as a backwoods surveyor, objected to the decision but Washington overruled him. They turned out of the path and directed their course through the woods so as to strike the Allegheny River and cross it near Shannopins Town, two or three miles above the Forks of the Ohio. At an Indian village called Murthering Town, Washington again overruled Gist's doubts by picking up an Indian guide whom Gist distrusted but who offered to lead them on a shortcut through the pathless woods to the Forks. "I thought very ill of the fellow, but did

not care to let the Major know that I mistrusted him. But he soon mistrusted him as much as I did.”

The ice-covered wilderness sparkled in the sunlight but was subdued by the giant trees of the forest. Suddenly they came to a clear meadow, snow-covered and very bright. The Indian ran forward “to a big standing white oak” turned raised his gun and fired at them. The bullet moved through without hitting a target and without affecting the history of the world.

Springing forward Gist and Washington were soon upon the Indian before he could reload. Since the hostile Indian brave might have companions to whom he would betray them, Gist wished to kill him but Washington would not have him killed. So the brave was sent off in one direction while Gist and Washington wasted not time in another direction. For a long time they dared not light a campfire. Moving sometimes separately, sometimes together, ever wary of Indian attack. They reached the head of Piney Creek and came to the Allegheny River above Shannopins Town and the Forks.

Civilization and John Frazier’s cabin lay across the wide river, but they saw to their dismay that there was no continuous ice path but instead a great body of broken ice driving rapidly down the current between a few yards of ice on each side.

With the “one poor hatchet” they possessed, Washington and Gist built a raft. Before half way over, it became jammed in the flow of ice. As Washington used his pole to fend off the chunks of ice he was thrown into the freezing water. Somehow he managed to climb back but they eventually quit their raft and make to an island near present day Millvale. Their wet clothes froze rock hard but it was Gist the frontiersman who had to sit up all night nursing his frostbitten toes and fingers while Washington slept although fitfully. At dawn appeared a gleam of hope. The ice had congealed so hard as to bear their weight. The opposite shore and Frazier’s warm cabin were in one day’s reach.

John Frazier’s cabin lay on the Monogahela where 18 months later would be fought the memorable Battle of the Monongela. Here they rested a few days, both to recruit themselves and to procure horses. Meanwhile Washington paid a complimentary visit to Queen Aliquippa, an Indian princess who resided on the confluence of the Monogahela and the Youghiogeny Rivers today the city of McKeesport.

With Christopher Gist, Washington again crossed the Allegheny Mountains to Will’s Creek. Just short of Wills Creek at today

Cumberland, MD. Washington met an oncoming pack train of 33 men with 17 horses carrying “materials and stores” for a fort the Virginians were going to build on the Ohio and advised them of the ideal defensive location directly on the forks of the Ohio River.

On January 16, 1754 having traveled almost a thousand miles in eleven weeks, and five weeks after leaving Fort LeBoeuf, he delivered the French reply. Dinwiddie was in all eagerness to persuade Virginia to pay for building the fort at the forks to forestall French attack and ultimately serve their interest of the Ohio Company.

Despite Washington’s desire to revise his journal of the expedition into better literary form, Dinwiddie rushed it to the press because it revealed the French intentions and would thus incite the indignation of the people and help his cause. Washington’s connection with the Ohio company promoted the charge of bias which Washington took to heart and made it impossible to secure credence. Most Virginians in any case were not anxious to take action; they considered the land over the Alleghenies so distant as to be of concern only to land speculators and the global ambitions of kings.

Without waiting for the burgesses to convene, Dinwiddie managed to secure from the Virginia Legislature, authorization for an army of three hundred men to march to the Ohio. The twenty-one year old Major Washington was mentioned as the commander. He wrote that he believed he could with “diligent study” prepare himself for the second rank, but that the first command was beyond his knowledge and experience. Tragically circumstances would prove him right. Colonel Fry appointed to the top command never caught up with his second, leaving Washington now appointed to lieutenant colonel, as an actual commander far beyond his military depth and political abilities. Such a disaster contributed to the cause of many years of war between England and France.

The men building a fort at the forks were forced off by the expected French invasion from the north and Dinwiddie ordered Washington over the mountains with what troops had so far been raised. These small army of 159 men which he led westward in April just five months after his visit to Fort LeBoeuf, built for their few cannon, the road that carried wheels into the Ohio Valley for the first time in history. Later it was to be called the Braddock Road.

On May 28, 1754 now five and one half months after his visit to the French at Fort LeBoeuf, Washington was thrown into a major confrontation with the French for which he lacked the experience and maturity. The Half King who guided Washington to LeBoeuf and who