



B.R.P.A. Journal

Fall 2013
Issue

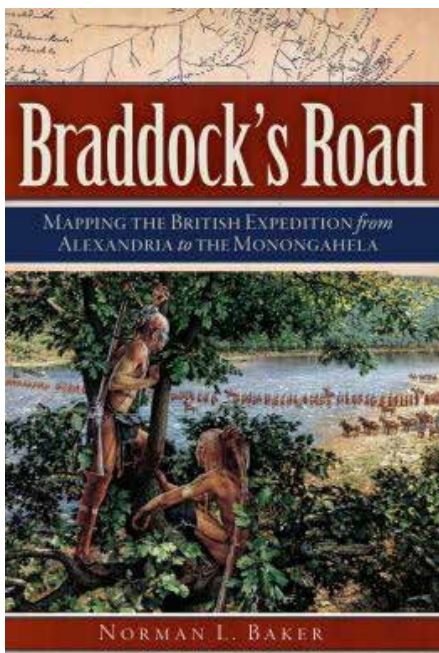


...An Occasional Publication of News

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BRPA Examines Pontiac's War

For many of us, fascination with the Braddock Road goes back years or even decades. What was the true path of the 1755 road? What did the people endure as they built and traveled over it? We have been learning answers these past several year as Norm Baker has led us on travels over Braddock's Road from Cumberland, Maryland to Braddock, Pennsylvania, and this November we will have another opportunity to explore one of America's most historic roads on a Friday, November 1 bus trip from Jumonville to the site of Fort Cumberland. Planned stops include Puzzley Run near Kaiser's Ridge, as well as Jockey Hollow, Fort Necessity, and Fawcett's Grave. You have asked that time be save for explorations on foot at the stops. Beginning this year, participants can walk portions of Braddock's Road—traces that have been relatively untouched by development and modern technology. The bus leaves Jumonville bright and early at 8 A.M. and returns at 4 P.M. and continental breakfast and lunch are included in the price of the tour.



BRPA is pleased to offer copies of Norm's important new book, *Braddock's Road: Mapping the British Expedition from Alexandria to the Monongahela*, just released by The History Press in August, 2013.

This year's seminar celebrates 25 years of annual get-togethers to explore the history of the French and Indian War era. Along the way our event has become the oldest of its kind in the nation. We begin with a 7:00 P.M. reception in Wesley Hall that includes

a welcome by BRPA board members, light refreshments, and a first glimpse at vendor items. Then comes a real treat for history lovers: Walt Powell introduces a big-screen showing of the 1947 Cecil B. DeMille classic film, *Unconquered*, starring Gary Cooper and Paulette Goddard, with Ward Bond as the historically based John Frazier, and the immortal Boris Karloff as Guyasuta. *Unconquered* has special significance in 2013, which is the 250th anniversary of events represented in the film. Granted Mr. DeMille went for spectacle, but it's always a thrill to see the siege of Fort Pitt brought to life.

The 1763-themed seminar reconvenes Saturday morning, November 2, with registration opening at 8 a.m. in Wesley Hall, and coffee, donuts, and fresh fruit offered for a quick wake-up. Walt Powell will offer introductory remarks followed by the keynote address, "A Bastion of Empire Besieged: Fort Pitt and Pontiac's War" by one of our favorite speakers, Douglas R. Cubbison, author of *The British Defeat of the French in Pennsylvania, 1758: A Military History of the Forbes Campaign Against Fort Duquesne* (McFarland, 2010).

Following the morning break, BRPA welcomes David Miller of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to address "The Battle of Bushy Run." David is a former historian at Fort Frederick, served for 11 years as director of education at Bushy Run Battlefield, and has lectured widely on the subject of Bushy Run.

After lunch, the BRPA will ask attendees to vote on officers nominated to serve on the board of directors in 2014. At 1:45 P.M., presentations resume with William J. Campbell's "Speculators in Empire: Iroquoia and the 1768 Treaty of Fort Stanwix." William Campbell is Assistant Professor of early North American history at California State University, Chico, and author of *Speculators in Empire* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2012).

Next up will be Chuck Kreplay, popular historian and musician, who offers up "Music Along the Communication: 18th Century Songs and Ballads of Pontiac's War." Chuck served as musical director for the 2003 *Paladin* documentary, *George Washington's First War: The Battles for Fort Duquesne*, and now produces and performs with his Civil War group, *Home Front*, as well as the Irish folk ensemble, *Cormorant's Fancy*.

This year's seminar also features the silent auction of rare books and other history-related items. Proceeds benefit BRPA's ongoing initiatives. We look forward to seeing you on Friday and Saturday, November first and second, for the 25th annual Braddock Road Preservation Association history seminar!

Bushy Run Marks Battle's 250th Anniversary

By Linda Metz

P-G article reprint from August 8, 2013

Bushy Run Battlefield's 250th anniversary celebration was bittersweet for Jerry Ramsey, a direct descendent of Ottawa Chief Pontiac, whose rebellion against the British was responsible for the deadly encounter in 1763 at what is now the Penn Township site.

"I have a little bit of sadness for the ones who gave their lives here as Native Americans as well as the British who also courageously fought," Mr. Ramsey said Sunday during an anniversary celebration. "It wouldn't be right not to honor them both."

But at the same time, Pontiac's great-great-great-great-grandson said he believes Native Americans would have lived a lot better, especially without sickness and loss of life, if Bushy Run's outcome had been reversed.

"It turned out the way it turned out," said Mr. Ramsey who was among the dignitaries on hand for the anniversary celebration and unveiling of a new bronze monument honoring those who fought during the battle.

Officials and visitors to the three-day celebration reflected on the history of the battle, which historians say opened the west to settlement. With the outbreak of Pontiac's Rebellion in the spring of 1763, Native American warriors placed Fort Pitt under siege and began raiding British settlements to the east around Fort Bedford and Raystown, Pa.

Soon afterward, British Col. Henry Bouquet prepared a relief column for Fort Pitt. A veteran of the 1758 campaign that had captured Fort Duquesne, he was familiar with the territory around the Forks of the Ohio. Assembling his men around Lancaster, Col. Bouquet gathered a column numbering 460 men, including elements of the 60th Royal Americans and the 42nd and 77th Highlanders.

Moving west, the command departed Carlisle July 18. Reaching Fort Bedford, Col. Bouquet left a small force to reinforce the garrison before pressing on to Fort Ligonier.

Arriving at this next stop, he became concerned about the plight of Fort Pitt, and though he had no firm intelligence regarding the siege, he felt an urge to increase the speed of the advance. As a result, he left his ammunition and wagon trains at Fort Ligonier and pressed on with about 300 men and 340 horses loaded with provisions. Col. Bouquet's instincts proved correct as the Native Americans had already attempted to storm the fort.

Learning of the British advance, Native Americans broke off the siege and moved east to lay an ambush for Col. Bouquet's column near Bushy Run. The Native Americans comprised warriors from the Delaware, Miami, Shawnee, Mingo (Ohio Seneca), Ottawa and Wyandot (Huron) tribes.

On Aug. 4, 1763, the lead elements of Bouquet's force were attacked by Native American warriors. Believing the attack to be more than a small skirmish, Col. Bouquet ordered his command to assume a circular defensive position. Using flour bags to fortify their position, the British dug in for the night. In the morning, the Native Americans renewed their assault.

With the battle raging, Col. Bouquet planned a trap for the attackers. With the enemy pushing closer, he ordered two companies of light infantry to fall back from their position along the perimeter. Believing the British were retreating, the Native Americans charged into the gap. Here they quickly came under fire from two sides. Taking heavy losses, they were driven off by a British bayonet assault. Stunned, survivors fled, leaving Col. Bouquet in command of the field.

In the two days of fighting at Bushy Run, 115 British soldiers were killed, wounded or missing, while the Native American forces lost an estimated 60 warriors.

Recovering his wounded, Col. Bouquet resumed his advance and reached Fort Pitt five days later. The destruction of the Native American force at Bushy Run, along with the arrival of supplies and reinforcements, ensured that Fort Pitt remained in British hands for the remainder of the conflict.

The Battle of Bushy Run would forever be remembered by historians, while locals would often mark the event with elaborate anniversary celebrations. In 1918, the Bushy Run Memorial Association was formed and members collected 70,000 pennies to purchase the first 6 1/2 acres of the park's 218 acres.

The park, which features a museum, is operated by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. But, it was through efforts by local volunteers that the park remains intact.

Prior to the unveiling of the new monument that was designed by artists Robert Griffing and John Buxton and sculpted by Wayne Hyde, re-enactors, who included Native Americans, dressed in period clothing and made a dramatic march from opposite hillsides. The re-enactors then formed a single line encircling the monument site.

In a brief ceremony Sunday, Blane Tallchief of the Seneca Nation of Indians -- the largest of six Native American nations whose ancestors fought at Bushy Run -- gave a blessing in the Seneca's native tongue.

He was followed by a prayer from Sgt. Major Malcolm McWilliams of the Muskets of the Crown.

Other guests included Dick Kane of the Iroquois Post 1587 and Lafayette Williams of the Seneca Nation and Thomas Johnston of White Oak, who was presented a plaque from the Norwin Historical Society honoring Johnston's great-great-great-grandfather, Adam Samm, who fought in the battle.

Mr. Samm was among the surviving British soldiers who went on to relieve Fort Pitt. Afterward, he became one of the earliest pioneers to settle in the North Huntingdon area, locating on a site in Circleville.