



B.R.P.A. Journal

...An Occasional Publication of News

www.braddockroadpa.org

Fall 2009
Issue



The 2009 BRPA Seminar — Two Jam-Packed Days!

The 2009 Braddock Road Preservation Association history seminar involves three forts, two wars, one confederacy, and much more, along with a larger roster of vendors than ever before and presentations at both Wesley Hall and the Fort Necessity Visitors Center.

The seminar commences this year at 4:00 p.m. on the afternoon of November 6 at Fort Necessity National Battlefield Visitors Center with the unveiling of an acquisition by the BRPA: a document signed by Joseph Coulon de Villiers, Sieur de Jumonville. This letter will be on display at Fort Necessity through the weekend, and then remain as an exhibit on long-term loan. Dr. Jose Brandao, Professor of History at Western Michigan University and an authority on the Iroquois, will then speak on the topic of Iroquois relations with both the French and British empires during the French and Indian War.

Seminar attendees will notice a greater number of dealers than ever before at the Friday evening reception at Wesley Hall at 7:00, which will feature light refreshments, a welcome by BRPA board members, and a lecture by Dr. Matthew Spring, an educator at the Truro School in Devon, Cornwall, and author of *With Zeal and Bayonets Only: The British Army on Campaign in North America, 1775-1783* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2008). Friday's session concludes at 9:00 p.m.

The seminar reconvenes Saturday morning, November 7, with registration opening at 8:00 a.m. in Wesley Hall, and coffee and donuts offered for a quick wake-up. Dr. Walter Powell, president of BRPA, will offer introductory remarks followed by the keynote



WITH ZEAL AND WITH BAYONETS ONLY

THE BRITISH ARMY
ON CAMPAIGN IN
NORTH AMERICA, 1775-1783

MATTHEW H. SPRING

address on the 1759 Siege of Fort Niagara by former Fort Niagara Director Brian Dunnigan.

Following a 10:00 break, the seminar will resume with Professor Robert Miller of the Lewis and Clark Law School, a Native American expert and author, who will speak on Indian concepts of ownership as well as Iroquois relations with both the British and French Empires in the 18th century.

At noon, BRPA will convene a brief meeting, followed by an update on happenings at Fort Necessity. After a break for lunch, the seminar resumes at 1:30 for a presentation by Dr. Stephen



Warfel, former Senior Curator of Archaeology at the Pennsylvania State Museum. Dr. Warfel will take a look at efforts to locate the site of Fort Morris in Shippensburg, PA, and detail the hundreds of artifacts recovered there.

Thomas E. Crocker, author of the newly released *Braddock's March: How the Man Sent to Seize a Continent Changed American History* (Westholme Publishing, 2009), will then give a brief presentation about his work.

Following the afternoon break, all speakers will convene for a one-hour question-and-answer session with the audience, wrapping up an exciting day of Colonial American history at Jumonville.

Make your reservations now for this incredible two-day event! See the flyer and reservation form on the back page

Budget crisis shuts Fort Pitt Museum, other sites

Saturday, August 15, 2009

by Karamagi Rujumba, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Fort Pitt Museum, dedicated to the role the historic Fort Pitt played during the French and Indian War, closed indefinitely yesterday because of Pennsylvania's ongoing budget crisis, state officials said.

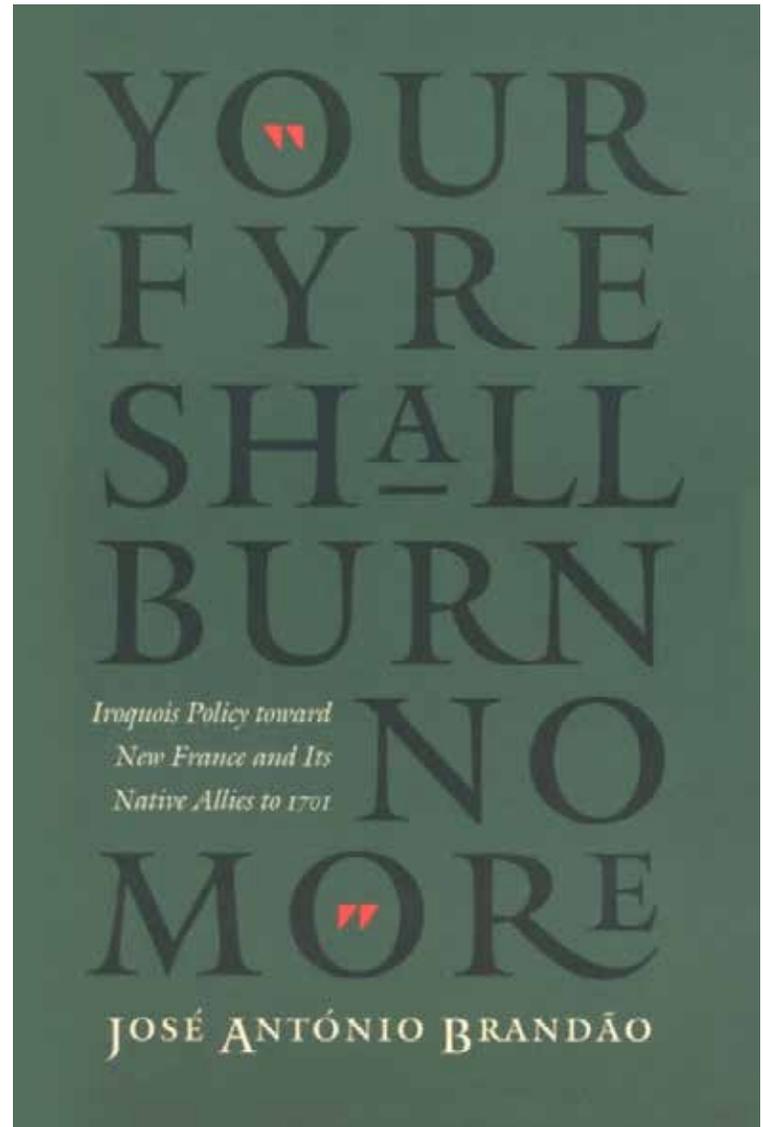
The museum, which closed at 5 p.m., will not reopen until the state Legislature reaches a deal on a budget, said officials at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, which administers the museum in Point State Park.

The commission, like a number of state agencies that are yet to receive funding because of the budget gridlock, plans to furlough 23 employees, including all six at Fort Pitt Museum, said Kirk Wilson, a commission spokesman.

The commission, which received \$28.5 million from the state in last year's budget, also closed indefinitely the Bushy Run Battlefield in Westmoreland County, the Joseph Priestley House in Northumberland County and the Brandywine Battlefield in Chester County.

"We are not in a position to continue operating the facilities without funding and so we decided to close them in order to secure them," Mr. Wilson said.

But even before the state budget impasse, the commission has been under funding constraints in recent years. The commission this year chose to



transfer the management of Fort Pitt Museum to the Senator John Heinz Regional History Center as a cost-saving measure.

The state would continue to own the property and many of the artifacts on display inside the museum. But the management agreement between commission and the history center can't be finalized until the state budget is adopted, Mr. Wilson said.

"We hope it will be a temporary closure," he added.

Barry Ciccocioppo, a spokesman for Gov. Ed. Rendell, said the closure of Fort Pitt Museum and other facilities is unfortunate and yet necessary given the state's economic woes.

"To meet the extraordinary economic challenges we face, [the] governor reluctantly has proposed painful budget cuts. Unfortunately, some great programs will be affected," Mr. Ciccocioppo said.

"The Museum Commission has to re-evaluate and prioritize its budget and that may include closing some sites," he added.

Budget Woes Leave Bushy Run Battlefield in Limbo

Thursday, September 17, 2009 - by Laurie Bailey

With the state searching for funding to keep Bushy Run Battlefield running, local archaeologists recently found artifacts on the site that date to 1763, to the two-day battle between British forces and Ottawa Indian Chief Pontiac. They will be on display at the Bushy Run Heritage Society's next meeting Sept. 26.

For now, it's business as usual at the Penn Township battlefield, even though details regarding the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's involvement won't be clear until the state budget is set.

"Once that occurs, it is our intention to move ahead with our local partners at the battlefield," said Kirk Wilson, press secretary for the PHMC.

The majority of the work to keep the park's museum, visitors center and gift shop running is being done by about 20 volunteers from the heritage society.

The state currently pays for a full-time maintenance employee who takes care of the grounds and a part-time employee who works in the gift shop and at the front desk of the visitor center. But that part-timer's responsibilities may take him outside to also work maintenance, said Kelly Ruoff, treasurer for the heritage society.

"This whole state budget thing is such an issue because the PHMC doesn't know how hard they are going to get hit," Ms. Ruoff said.

Until the budget issue is settled, there is no guarantee that employees paid by the state will remain.

In August, Bushy Run lost a full-time museum educator who gave community speaking engagements and specialty tours of the battlefield. That person has relocated to Old Economy Village in Ambridge.

On Aug. 12, Ms. Ruoff and the president of the

heritage society, Jean Loughry, met with the PHMC to iron out specific operational responsibilities of both organizations, once the state budget is set. Ms. Ruoff preferred to not provide details while the budget is pending.

She did say the heritage society will pursue additional help from the Pennsylvania Conservation Corps for special maintenance projects. The corps, part of the Department of Labor and Industry, provides Pennsylvanians ages 18 to 25 with experience and training in conservation, recreation and historical preservation projects.

One corps crew was pulled from a split-rail fencing project in July because the crew leader, a military reservist, was sent to Iraq. PCC crews also have repaired walkways and refurbished trails at the battlefield, Ms. Ruoff said.

On Sept. 26, the heritage society will hold its monthly meeting. The guest speaker will be Lori Frye of GAI Consultants, an engineering and consulting firm in Pittsburgh.

With a grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Project, archaeologists from GAI found musket balls, fragments from horseshoes and buttons during a dig in mid-August, Ms. Ruoff said.

"The land was farmed so much after the battle that we didn't think they would find anything," Ms. Ruoff admitted.

Hours of operation haven't changed: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays until the museum and visitors center season ends on Oct. 31. The park is open during the same hours all year.

"Fortunately, we have a lot of volunteer guides who are willing to step up," Ms. Ruoff said. "It's working out pretty well."

BRPA Items For Sale

In addition to the recent sales of the BRPA calendars, the board is also offering some special items that will be for sale at this year's seminar and eventually through the BRPA website. Take your pick of the beautiful BRPA lapel pins, Polo shirts, briefcase, or handsome travel mugs. All sales will benefit the work of the BRPA.





presents the 21st Annual...

2009 Jumonville

French & Indian War Seminar

Friday, November 6th - Saturday, November 7th



TENTATIVE 2009 BASIC SCHEDULE

Fri., Nov. 6, 2009

4:00 PM Reception & Speaker, Dr. Jose Brandao @ Fort Necessity

7:00 PM Refreshments & Dr. Matt Spring @ Jumonville, Wesley Hall

Sat., Nov. 7, 2009 @ Wesley Hall - Jumonville

8:00 AM Registration - Coffee and Donuts

9:00 AM Brian Dunnigan's & Robert Miller's Lectures

12:00 AM Annual Meeting of BRPA & Fort Necessity Update

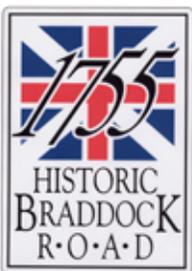
12:30 PM Family Style Lunch

1:45 PM Dr. Steven Warfel's Lecture & Group Panel Discussion

4:30 PM Seminar ends

Our List of Speakers for 2009 include:

- Professor Robert Miller of Lewis and Clark Law School, a Native American author will speak on Indian concepts of ownership and relations with the Europeans in the 18th century.
- Brian Dunnigan of the Clements Library, former Director at Fort Niagara will talk on the 1759 Siege of Fort Niagara.
- Dr. Stephen Warfel, former Sr. Curator of Archaeology at the Pennsylvania State Museum, will speak on current efforts to locate the site of Fort Morris in Shippensburg, PA.
- Dr. Jose Brandao, Professor of History at Western Michigan University is an authority on the Iroquois. He'll speak on Iroquois relations with the French and British during the F&I War.
- Dr. Matthew H. Spring, History Teacher at Truro School in Devon, Cornwall, England just published a new book entitled "With Zeal and Bayonets Only: The British Army on Campaign in North America, 1775-1783."



PRE-REGISTRATION
FORM FOR
2009 BRPA
HISTORY
SEMINAR

Limited lodging may be available on site at Jumonville. Call (724) 439-4912 for possible accommodations & rates.

Send registration form and fees to:

Jumonville History Seminar

887 Jumonville Rd., Hopwood, PA 15445

www.braddockroadpa.org

21st Annual Jumonville French & Indian War Seminar Friday, November 6th - Saturday, November 7th, 2009

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: home () _____ work () _____

E-mail: _____

- Please reserve ___ places for the seminar.
 ___ reservations @ \$55/person ___ reservations @ \$20/student
- I would like to make ___ reservations for Saturday lunch. (\$7.50/person)
- I plan to attend the Friday night reception and opening keynote .
- I'm also making a contribution of \$ _____ to help with BRPA expenses.
 Please contact the Jumonville office if you are in need of lodging for Friday evening.
- Enclosed is \$ _____ to cover my/our total fees.

Make checks payable to: "Braddock Road Preservation Association."