

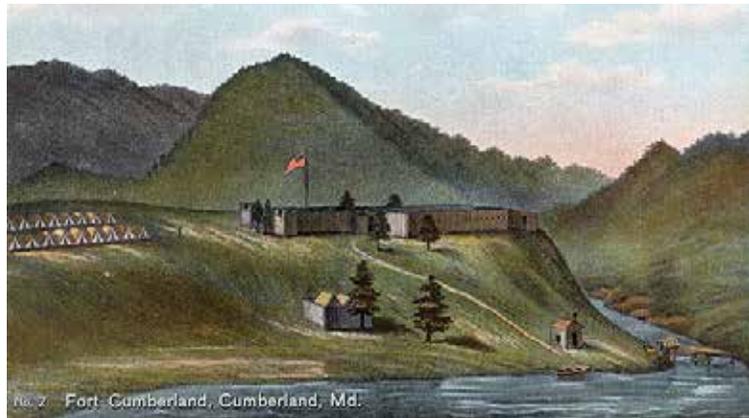


B.R.P.A. Journal

...An Occasional Publication of News

www.braddockroadpa.org

Fall 2012
Issue



A conceptual view of Fort Cumberland was included in the Lacock postcard series. This fort once marked the westernmost outpost of the British Empire in America, and was the jumping-off point for General Braddock's disastrous expedition against the French at Fort Duquesne.

Braddock, West, and Washington Star at Jumonville

For the third consecutive year, the BRPA seminar will spend Friday, November 2, exploring sections of the Braddock Road, this time reaching from Jumonville to Cumberland, Maryland, the site of Fort Cumberland, where Gen. Edward Braddock began the final phase of his 1755 campaign. Once again, historian Norman Baker will lead the bus and walking tour, comparing his own extensive research on the road to that of local historian John Kennedy Lacock, who devoted decades, and ultimately his life, to documenting and memorializing the Braddock Road in the early twentieth century.

The bus tour embarks from Jumonville at 8 a.m. Friday, hosted by BRPA board member Robert Nipar. The bus will head to Cumberland, Maryland, and make several stops on the return trip, including a visit to Fort Necessity for a look at the "Emissaries of Peace: 1762 Cherokee and British Delegations" traveling exhibit and a talk by historical researcher Doug Wood, an expert on the role of the Cherokee in the Ohio Country. The cost of this bus tour includes continental breakfast and lunch, and the bus returns to Jumonville at 4 p.m. The bus tour has been a sellout the past two years, so please register early if you would like to participate.

This year's BRPA seminar, the oldest of its kind in the nation, commences with a Friday evening welcome by BRPA board members in Wesley Hall at 7 p.m. At 7:15, BRPA President Walter Powell will call the session to order and introduce Norman Baker for a

continuation of his ongoing discussion on the actual course of the Braddock Road versus the findings of John Kennedy Lacock and other researchers. Says Norman, "There is so much I have learned in the past year alone; revisions I have made in my own analysis and new walking experiences and consultations." Friday evening will give Norman a chance to catch us up on the latest developments of his exciting research effort.

The seminar reconvenes Saturday morning, November 3, with registration opening at 8 a.m. in Wesley Hall, and coffee and donuts offered for a quick wake-up. Walt Powell will offer introductory remarks at 9 a.m., followed by a return appearance by Dr. Stephen Brumwell, author of the title newly released in the United Kingdom, *George Washington: Gentleman Warrior*. The book is a fresh look at our Founding Father by the British-born author of the modern Colonial-era military classics *Redcoats*, *White Devil*, and *Paths of Glory*. Dr. Brumwell's book will not be released in the United States until next year, and at this time BRPA is working with Quercus Publishing in the United Kingdom to obtain copies of a volume that is currently sold out at Amazon.com.

Following a short break, Walt Powell and Joan Mancuso of the BRPA board will present another "then and now" look at the historic Lacock postcards depicting the Braddock Road, and compare and contrast the road a century ago with how it looks today. It's always a spellbinding time to see history through Joan's lens.

The seminar will break for lunch at 12:30 and resume with a 1:45 lecture by Martin West, Director Emeritus of Fort Ligonier, on the topic of the 19th century views of the French and Indian War in Western PA. From his portraiture to his epic tableaus of great battles and leaders, Benjamin West influenced the way we all view the eighteenth century.

Following Martin West's presentation and the afternoon break, Erika Nuckles will wrap up this year's seminar with a lecture on the topic of Charlotte Brown and the role of women in the Braddock Campaign. Brown was the head nurse of the Braddock expedition to America and took on the awful task of receiving Braddock's wounded at Fort Cumberland following the Battle of the Monongahela.

It's a full and interesting lineup for the 24th annual Braddock Road Preservation Association Seminar. As always, dealers of books, prints, and other Colonial-era items will be on hand, and a silent auction will spice up the proceedings. We look forward to seeing you in November!

New Museum Charts Braddock's Defeat

By Marylynn Pitz / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Battle of the Monongahela, in which French and Indians rained musket fire on British soldiers and killed Maj. Gen. Edward Braddock, lasted three hours on July 9, 1755.

The battle to build a museum dedicated to this major military engagement lasted 17 years and was waged by a lone lawyer from Blackridge, who volunteered all of his time and energy. Braddock's Battlefield History Center at 609 Sixth St. in North Braddock opens to the public today. (August 18th)

The museum will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Tuesdays; noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. Also by appointment. Call 412-651-1793.

Admission is \$5 for adults and seniors and \$2.50 for ages 6 to 15. Children who are 6 and under are admitted for free.

The new, 5,000-square foot museum represents a decisive victory for Robert T. Messner, a self-taught historian and retired general counsel for Dollar Bank. His tactical arsenal included a willingness to learn about every facet of the battle of the French and Indian War, a dogged effort to collect 250 artifacts and 50 artworks, and the ability to see how a former auto dealership, overgrown with giant weeds, could be transformed into a museum.

Martin West, a historian who served for 30 years as the executive director of Fort Ligonier, recently toured the new museum.

"I was genuinely impressed by what I saw. It's very professional. Many observers thought that trying to accomplish a visitors center in Braddock was an impossible task. He proved everyone wrong."



Robert Messner,
Braddock Battlefield History Center Director



Best of all, Mr. West added, the museum occupies land where 250 French soldiers and 600 of their Indian allies, who had rushed from the Point to defend the French-controlled Fort Duquesne, encountered the British forces' advance guard.

"Both sides were surprised to see one another. It's a classic meeting encounter. I emphasize that because people will always ask, 'Is this real?'" Mr. West said.

Braddock's Battlefield History Center is on a 3-acre, pie-shaped parcel that includes the former Clark Pontiac building. Exhibits show how France and Britain fought to win control of North America and its vast resources from 1754 until 1763. Displays include Capt. Robert Stobo's detailed map of Fort Duquesne, which he drew while he was a prisoner of war; a detailed diagram of the musket used in that era by Kit Ravenshear; and excellent Howard Pyle illustrations of the battle that appeared in Scribner's magazine.



There are historically accurate scenes painted by local artists Robert Griffing and John Buxton plus 250 artifacts found on the battlefield. Examples include a sharp spontoon that served as a weapon and a Russian medal that bears the image of Empress Anna Ivanova.

"Many of the soldiers who fought on the British or French side had fought all over Europe," Mr. Messner said, adding that the Russian medal may

***Special thanks are due to the Fayette County Community Foundation
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have belonged to the surgeon general of Braddock's expedition.

Before Braddock met his Waterloo in the wilderness, he conferred with Benjamin Franklin in Frederick, Md. Franklin supplied the expedition with 50 wagons and 500 horses and tried to warn the overconfident Braddock about the fighting prowess of Native American warriors. Braddock insisted his troops were ready for anything.

Later, while writing his classic autobiography, Franklin noted that Braddock's defeat showed American Colonists that guerrilla warfare might be an effective tactic in defeating the British army. He wrote:

"This whole transaction gave us Americans the first Suspicion that our exalted Ideal of the Prowess of British regulars had not been well founded," thus sowing the seeds of the American Revolution.

Several soldiers who participated in the Battle of the Monongahela served later in the American Revolution. A young George Washington had been rebuffed by the French at Fort LeBoeuf, outmaneuvered in a skirmish at Jumonville Glen, and defeated by the French and Indians at Fort Necessity.

At the Battle of the Monongahela, Washington began to acquire an aura of invincibility. Bullets pierced his hat and clothing and a horse was shot out from under him. Although weak with dysentery, he survived. As Braddock lay dying, he gave the young soldier, who was his aide, his blood-soaked sash.

"Braddock's defeat shocked the 13 Colonies and Great Britain that a handful of French and native warriors could defeat this powerful British army," Mr. West said.

The idea of establishing a museum occurred to Mr. Messner one afternoon in 1995 while he looked across the Monongahela River and tried to envision Braddock's 2,200 men, dressed in wool uniforms, wading through 10 feet of water on a hot summer day.

"They wanted to cross where Turtle Creek enters the Mon, where John Fraser had his trading cabin," Mr. Messner said. "Most people want to figure out where things happened. The logistics of what happened here blow your mind."

On their way to the Point, known as the Forks of the Ohio, Braddock's men had marched to Pennsylvania all the way from Alexandria, Va. Out in front of them was an advance team of 200, ax-wielding men, who cut a 12-foot wide road through the wilderness.

Besides his single-minded vision, Mr. Messner's secret weapon was prevailing upon the generosity of local foundations, including USX, Colcom, McCune, G.C. Murphy and Richard King Mellon.

Work on renovating the auto dealership began last September, cost \$600,000 and was done by Repal Construction of North Huntingdon. Tom Stevenson, a retired architect from Landmarks Design Associates, oversaw the renovation.

Initially, Mr. Messner established a temporary museum on the second floor of the Carnegie Library in Braddock. Now that the majority of those artifacts are in the new museum, he plans to organize a board, train a corps of knowledgeable volunteers to staff the museum and find a tenant for 7,500 square feet of space that once served as a maintenance area for cars.

He hopes that rental income, along with admissions, showings of movies about the French and Indian War and bookshop sales will help sustain the museum. Someday, he envisions that the three acres of land the museum occupies will become a park with signage that explains key players and locations in the Battle of the Monongahela.

*Marylynne Pitz: mpitz@post-gazette.com
or 412-263-1648.*

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Read more: <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/life/lifestyle/new-museum-charts-braddocks-defeat-649452/#ixzz24wkv3BGW>



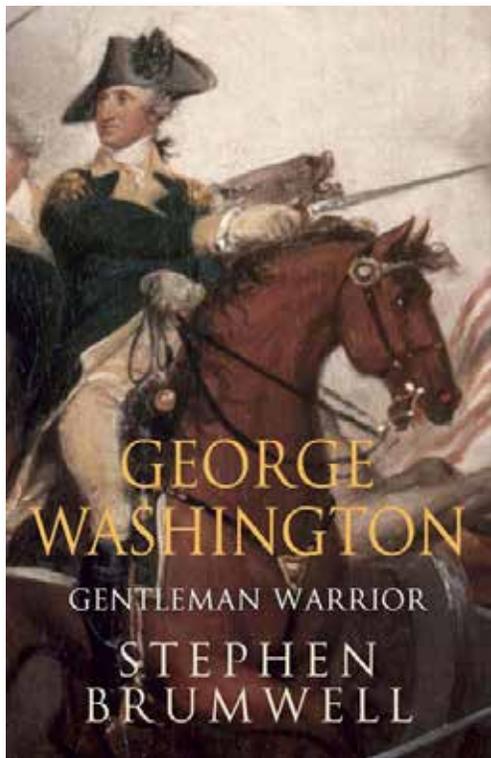


Braddock Road
Preservation Association

presents the 24th Annual...

2012 Jumonville French & Indian War Seminar

Friday, November 2nd - Saturday, November 3rd



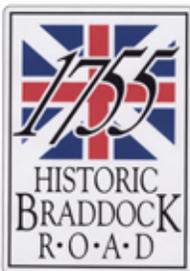
SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Friday - Nov. 2, 2012

- 8 am - 4 pm Bus Tour of the Braddock Road from Jumonville to Cumberland, MD (includes continental breakfast & lunch) Robert Nipar and Norman Baker will be the narrators and guides for the bus tour. Includes stop at Fort Necessity and talk by Doug Wood. There will be several stops along the way.
- 4:30 - 6:30 Dinner on your own
- 7:00 pm Welcome
- 7:15 pm Norman Baker will speak on the "The Actual Braddock Road."
- 8:30 pm Refreshment break

Saturday - Nov. 3, 2012

- 8:00 am Registration - Coffee and Donuts
- 9:00 am Dr. Stephen Brumwell will speak on his new book on George Washington - Gentleman Warrior
- 10:30 am Joan Mancuso and Walt Powell will be discussing the Lacock postcards
- 12:30 pm Family Style Lunch (optional)
- 1:45 pm Martin West will speak on 19th century views of the French and Indian War in Western Pennsylvania
- 3:15 pm Erika Nuckles will speak on Charlotte Browne



2012 BRPA HISTORY SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

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

24th Annual Jumonville French & Indian War Seminar

Friday, November 2nd - Saturday, November 3rd, 2012

Name #1: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State and Zip: _____
 Phone: () _____ This is my __work # __ Cell # __ home #
 E-mail: _____

Name #2: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State and Zip: _____
 Phone: () _____ This is my __work # __ Cell # __ home #
 E-mail: _____

- Please reserve ___ places for the bus tour & seminar.
 __ @ \$100/person __ @ \$55/bd member
- Please reserve ___ places for Friday bus tour only.
 __ @ \$60/person __ @ \$30/bd member
- Please reserve ___ places for history seminar only.
 __ @ \$60/person __ @ \$30/bd member __ @ \$20/student
- I'd like to make __ reservations for Sat. lunch. \$7.50/person
- Contact me about lodging options at Jumonville. Thu-Sat
- Enclosed is \$ _____ to cover the lodging reservations that I have already made with Jumonville.
- I am making a contribution of \$ _____ to help with BRPA expenses.

Enclosed is \$ _____ in total fees.

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