



Braddock Road
Preservation Association

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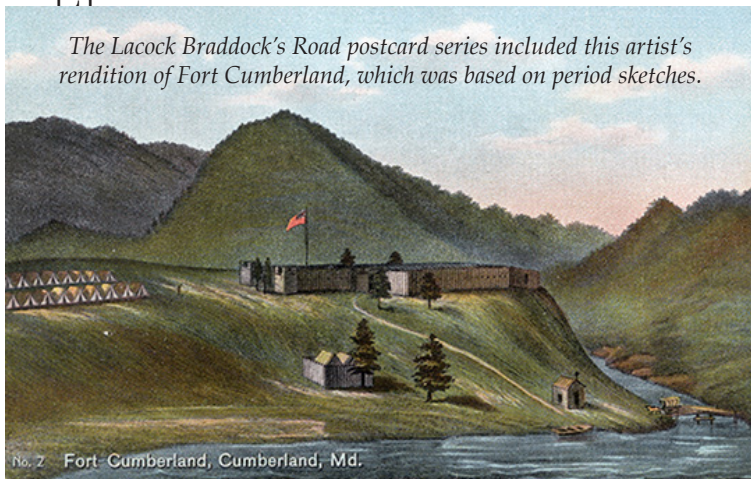


F&I History:

Close Enough to Touch

The leaves are starting to drift earthward and the days are growing shorter, which can mean only one thing: the buses are ready to roll once again down Braddock's Road.

And what a treat we have in store this year, as the tour featuring two smaller buses leaves Jumonville at 8:00 A.M. Friday November 6 and heads directly to Cumberland, Maryland. We will stop at the one-time site of Fort Cumberland and jumping-off point for Gen. Edward Braddock's final push toward French Fort Duquesne during the summer of 1755. In Cumberland the group will receive a tour of the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, built over the site of Fort Cumberland,



The Lacock Braddock's Road postcard series included this artist's rendition of Fort Cumberland, which was based on period sketches.

head downstairs, yes, downstairs where the cellars, magazines and earthworks of the fort are located. According to Robert Nipar, a BRPA board member and one of two tour leaders, "These are all that remain of the operational center for the British Army in the French and Indian War." It's history from a dim and distant war that a few lucky people are going to get to reach out and touch.

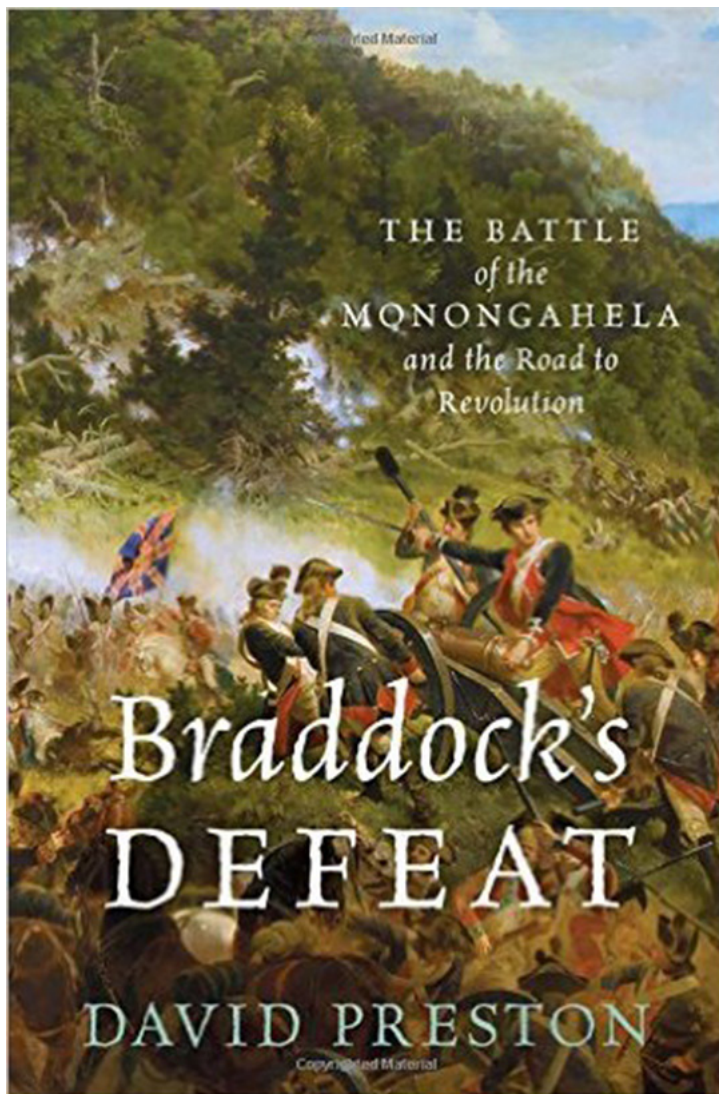
Following our time in Cumberland, the buses will move on to Frostburg College to explore the papers of Harvard professor John Kennedy

Lacock, known to us as the man who documented the Braddock Road. Then it's on to Big Savage Mountain to view a deep scar of the Braddock Road—this is the spot that requires smaller buses than in past years. From there we continue on to Fort Necessity to view a diorama recently donated to the National Park Service by Mount Vernon. The diorama depicts the French and Native attack on Lt. Col. George Washington's Virginia militia on July 3, 1754. We will also get to see a log recovered in the Great Meadows earlier this spring that is believed to be part of the small stockade hastily erected by Col. George Washington prior to the battle.

The tour, which includes a box lunch, is scheduled to return to Jumonville at 4 P.M. One bus will feature commentary by Robert Nipar, and the other by Braddock Road scholar Norman Baker, author of *Braddock's Road: Mapping the British Expedition from Alexandria to the Monongahela*, published by The History Press.

So that should be a full schedule for our 2015 seminar, except ... Wait. There's more?

The "under-roof" portion of the seminar begins at Jumonville's Wesley Hall with a 7:00 P.M. reception hosted by BRPA President Walter Powell and the members of the board. The reception includes light refreshments and a first opportunity to look over our vendors' many books and other history-related items. At 7:15, Walt will introduce Dr. David Preston for a lecture based on his exciting new book, *Braddock's Defeat: The Battle of the Monongahela and the Road to Revolution*, published this past June by Oxford University Press. In a review of David's book that appeared in the July 31 edition of the Wall Street Journal, Dr. Stephen Brumwell said of the book and its Braddock's Defeat theme, "Given its dramatic narrative, this ill-fated campaign has attracted the attention of many fine historians, yet none of them has explored it so thoughtfully and compellingly



as David Preston. His *Braddock's Defeat: The Battle of the Monongahela and the Road to Revolution* is distinguished not simply by his refusal to accept traditional interpretations but by his readiness to consider the perspectives of all the protagonists..." Brumwell also commends the author for his "meticulous research," which includes the unearthing—in the National Archives in London—of an account of the "Jumonville Affair" given by an Iroquois warrior. David Preston detailed this discovery and the contents of the account in his 2014 lecture at the BRPA seminar. Day one of the seminar concludes with a little more socializing in Wesley Hall following completion of David's lecture and book signing.

Our seminar resumes when Wesley Hall's doors reopen Saturday morning, November 7, at 8:00 A.M. for registration along with coffee, donuts, and fresh fruit for a quick wake-up. Walt Powell will offer opening remarks at 9:00 and then introduce the first in our murderers' row of heavy-hitting authors. Batting lead-off will be Dr. Daniel J. Tortora, Assistant Professor of History

at Colby College and author of *Carolina in Crisis: Cherokees, Colonists and Slaves in the American Southeast, 1756-1763*, published this past May by the University of North Carolina Press. Dan's lecture, "The Cherokee Offensive of 1760 and the Origins of the American Revolution," is based upon his book.

Following the morning break, BRPA welcomes Dr. John Oliphant, independent scholar, Eastbourne, UK for a lecture focusing on his new, critically acclaimed biography, *John Forbes: Scotland, Flanders, and the Seven Years War*, published this year by London's Bloomsbury Press. John was a prior speaker in 2007 and again in 2008 when he lectured about the Cherokee.

After lunch, the BRPA will ask attendees to vote for officers nominated to serve on the board of directors in 2015. The seminar resumes at 1:30 P.M., with the return of a frequent and popular lecturer, Douglas R. Cubbison, author of *On Campaign Against Fort Duquesne: The Braddock and Forbes Expeditions, 1755-1758 through the Experiences of Quartermaster General Sir John St. Clair*, published this summer by McFarland Press. Doug will speak on the enigmatic Sir John St. Clair, one of the French and Indian War's most intriguing personalities.

At 3:15 we'll hear from our clean-up hitter, Dr. Carl J. Ekberg, Professor Emeritus, Illinois State University for his lecture, "The Jumonville Affair—a Fresh Examination." Dr. Ekberg, who was a colleague of the late Dr. Joseph L. Peyser, has written several award-winning books, including *St. Louis Rising*, *Kaskaskia Under the French Regime*, and *French Roots in the Illinois Country*.

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 6 and 7, for what promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience American history firsthand and meet a powerhouse lineup of scholars.

Check out our newly revised mobile responsive BRPA website @ www.braddockroadpa.org.

Special thanks to the Fayette County Tourism Marketing Grant for the funds to make that possible.