



B.R.P.A. Journal

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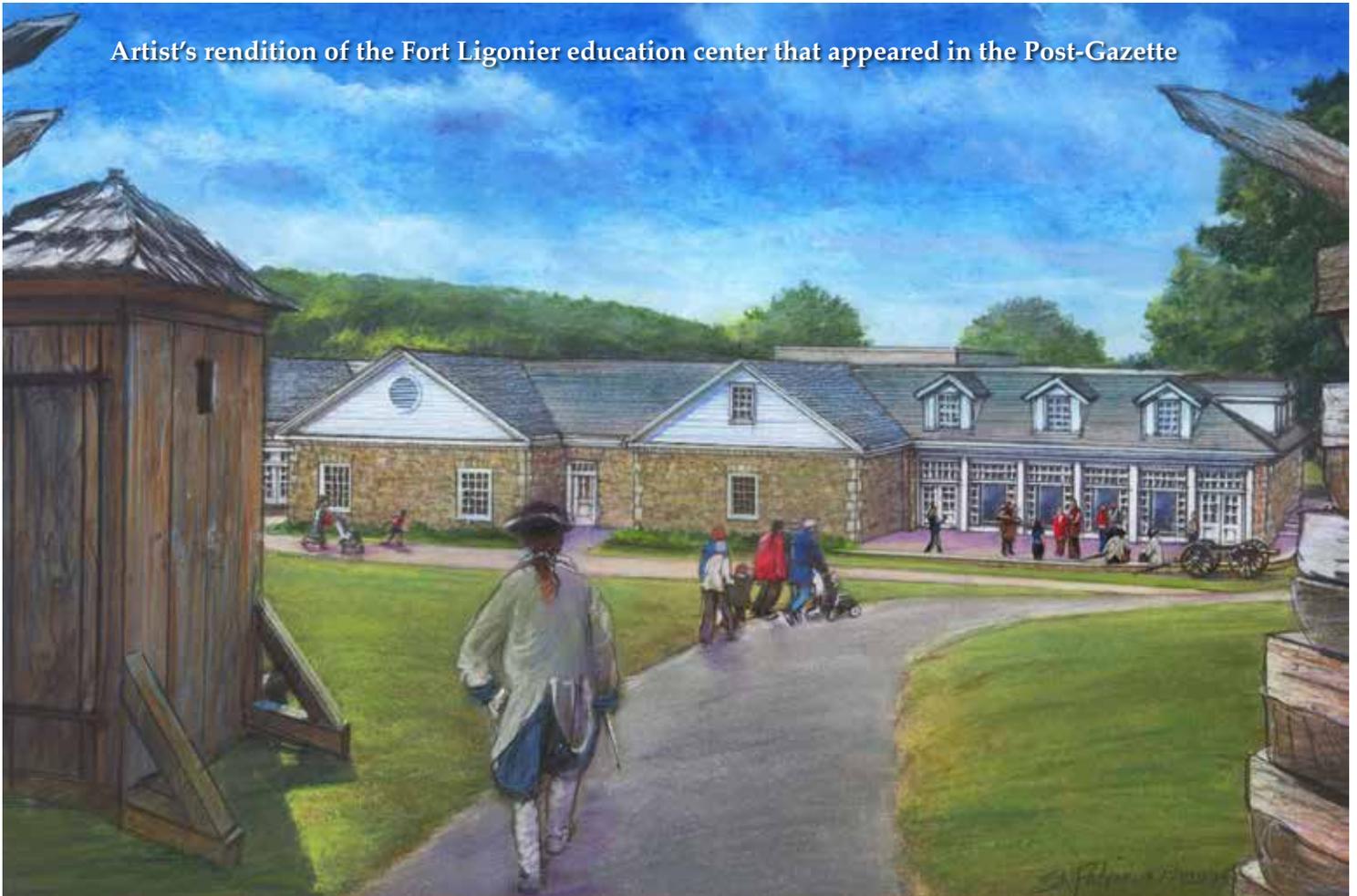
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On the Trail of Fort Duquesne's Conquerors

The Braddock Road Preservation Association takes its name seriously, and often explore traces of the Braddock Road during the annual seminar on the first weekend in November. This year's focus is on "the other road" that played a pivotal role in the conquest of French Fort Duquesne and the westward expansion that followed: **the historic Forbes Road**. The 2017 BRPA bus tour on Friday, November 3, will be led by a stellar cast of guides, including BRPA President Walt Powell, author and historian Doug Cubbison, Forbes Road enthusiast Phil Light, and BRPA board members Robert Nipar and Norman Baker, the author of *The Braddock Road Historical Atlas*.

The bus departs Jumonville at 7:30 A.M. and proceeds east, with a first stop at the Sideling Hill Maryland Visitor's Center before arriving at the site of Fort Loudon, west of Chambersburg along State Route 30 for a discussion of the fort and area. From there the tour will head west, including stops at Cowan's Gap State Park; historical markers for Raystown Gap, Burnt Cabins, and Fort Littleton; the western base of Sideling Hill, site of a historic spring and Forbes Road trace. On the way we will see the Juniata Crossing for a glimpse of another road trace. Lunch will be provided at Fort Bedford, and the tour will then proceed west to Fort Ligonier, arriving between 2:30 and 3:00 P.M.

Artist's rendition of the Fort Ligonier education center that appeared in the Post-Gazette





Erica Nuckles

At Fort Ligonier, Director of History and Collections Erica Nuckles will provide an update on the \$13 million expansion project that included a new education center. Bus tour participants will have access to the center and

museum store along with the fort's grounds (weather permitting). A panel discussion featuring Cubbison, Light, Nipar, and Baker and moderated by Walt Powell will take place along with a hot buffet dinner. The bus will then depart Fort Ligonier at 6:30 P.M. for a scheduled return to Jumonville at 7:30.

There will be an option for those folks not attending the bus tour who would still like to join the group at Fort Ligonier. This will include the buffet dinner and programming at Ligonier from 3:00 P.M. on. The cost will be \$30/person and reservations are required.

We will also still have a brief Friday evening session in Wesley Hall at Jumonville on Friday evening. Doors will open at 7:00 P.M. and will provide an opportunity for a meet-and-greet with this year's vendors of books and other historical items at Wesley Hall along with brief remarks. Doors will close at 9:00 P.M. for the evening.

The seminar continues Saturday morning, November 4, with registration opening at 8:00 A.M. in Wesley Hall, and coffee, donuts, and fresh fruit offered for a quick wake-up. At 9:00, Dr. Walt Powell will introduce Phil Light for a presentation of highlights from the Friday bus tour. After a short break, Walt will continue the Forbes Road theme with his lecture, "Captain Lewis Ourry's Hobby Horse and the 'Communication,'" which will be followed at noon by news and announcements and the nomination of BRPA officers to serve on the board of directors in 2018.

After the lunch break from 12:30 to 1:45, renowned musicians David and Ginger Hildebrand will make a triumphal return to the stage of Wesley Hall to present, "Music of the Forbes Campaign and more." David and Ginger specialize in researching, recording, and performing early

American music and they've entertained seminar attendees many times in the past. They have performed live at Colonial Williamsburg and Mount Vernon, among many historic sites, and their work



David and Ginger Hildebrand

has been featured in PBS programming and documentaries.

Following the afternoon break, author and historian Brady J. Crytzer will offer a look at Scottish soldier and physician Hugh Mercer, participant in the Braddock and Forbes expeditions and later brigadier general in the Continental Army. Brady serves on the faculty of Robert Morris University and is the author of several books on topics near and dear to the hearts of BRPA seminar attendees.

As always, this year's seminar also features the silent auction of rare books and other history-related items, with proceeds benefitting BRPA's ongoing initiatives. Please plan to join us for a fascinating look at the Forbes Campaign of 1758 as seen through the eyes of our experts and scholars at the 29th annual Braddock Road Preservation Association history seminar!

Costs for the two days of events—the bus tour and the Saturday programming—are \$200 per person. Cost of the Friday bus trip alone is \$150 and the Friday evening and Saturday programming at Jumonville is \$75, so that's a \$25 savings to sign up for both. Please keep in mind that the bus will accommodate 56 and seats sell out fast. See you in November!

**Check out our BRPA website @
www.braddockroadpa.org**