

*Thirtieth Annual
War College of the
Seven Years' War
1996-2026*



WAR COLLEGE
OF THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR



*Friday-Sunday,
May 15-17, 2026*

Friday, May 15, 2026

5:30-6:30pm Opening Reception—Join War College faculty and museum staff at an opening reception at the Pavilion and King's Garden with light refreshments and cash bar.

7:00-7:45pm "Our trophies are nine pair of colours": Ermsdorf & British Victory—In war time Great Britain the July 16, 1760 Battle of Ermsdorf stood along with battles of Quebec and Quiberon Bay as great triumphs of the Seven Years' War. Join **Stuart Lilie**, Vice President of Public History at Fort Ticonderoga, to examine how this battle bolstered British national identity and see how veterans of this battle shaped the global Revolutionary War.

Saturday, May 16, 2026

9:00am Welcome—Beth Hill, President and CEO, Fort Ticonderoga.

9:15-9:45am "They Are Holding Hands from Presqu' Ile to LaChine": Logistics and the French Occupation of Western Pennsylvania—British campaigns against Fort Duquesne were hamstrung by the difficulty of crossing the Allegheny Mountains, while the French enjoyed easy access to the region via natural waterways. "They Are Holding Hands..." challenges this traditional view, examining the enormous logistical obstacles faced by French forces as they invaded, occupied, and then abandoned the upper Ohio Valley during the Seven Years' War. **Robert L. Emerson** has served as Executive Director of Old Fort Niagara Historic Site since 1997. He has been honored by the Republic of France for his work in preserving and interpreting French history on the Great Lakes.

10:00-10:30am Notre Dame de la Victoire: Militant Marian Miracles in the Early Modern French Atlantic— This presentation looks at the use of the Virgin Mary in warfare in the French Atlantic of the long 18th century: from 1690 to the fall of Montreal in 1760. Across that time, she is praised in songs, credited with French victories in battles, and begged for aid after defeats. These examples will show that the miraculous component of putting France under the Virgin Mary's

protection—done by Louis XIII in 1638—continued across the French Atlantic in the wars of empire between France and England, especially focused on King George’s and the Seven Years’ Wars. **Dr. Thomas Lecaque** is associate professor of history at Grand View University and was the inaugural H. Nicholas Muller III Short-Term Research Fellow at Fort Ticonderoga in the Fall of 2025. His book proposal *Holy War Rhetoric in Colonial America* is currently under review.

10:45-11:15am Colours vs Drapeaux: Regimental Flags of the Armies in the French and Indian War—Though fought in the untamed wilderness and forests of North America, both armies in the French & Indian War attempted to fight in the ways they had been accustomed to in Europe, including the use of regimental colors to identify regiments, give heart and backbone to their troops, and signify victory or defeat. This presentation describes and discusses the colors carried in several key battles of the war, focusing on their actual appearance rather than line-drawn diagrams or general descriptions. **Steven W. Hill** has an Masters in history and has studied and written about regimental colors of the 18th and 19th centuries for over 40 years. He is the author of the new book, *Battle Flags of the Wars for North America, 1754-1783: Foreign Armies and Regiments*.

11:30am-1:45pm Lunch Break (Box lunch from America’s Fort Café included).

1:00-1:30pm Book Signing at the Museum Store in the Log House.

2:00-2:30pm “It is a decisive blow”: The Northern Circars Campaign of 1758-1759 and the Anglo-French Rivalry in South Asia—This presentation surveys an important but neglected episode of the Seven Years’ War, the expedition that established Britain as the dominant European power in an economically valuable region of eastern India the size of a mid-sized country. It looks at how a small British East India, Company force outmaneuvered and outfought a larger French army, and explains the significance of the campaign for the broader Anglo-French conflict in South Asia. **Mason Watson** is a historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History, where he writes on contemporary operations; he holds a doctorate in military history from The Ohio State University.

2:45-3:15pm The Birth of British Mediterranean Strategy: The Capture of Belle Isle, June 1761—This presentation highlights the legacy that 18th-century politics and warfare had on British strategic thinking in the Mediterranean theatre of operations well into the 20th century. The roots of British obsession with the Mediterranean strategic zone lay in the capture of a small island off the coast of France during the Seven Years' War—the island of Belle Isle. **Steve Erskine** is the Regimental Researcher at the Green Howards museum (the 19th Regiment of Foot in historical nomenclature) in the United Kingdom and works as a freelance battlefield guide. He holds a Masters degree in British First World War Studies from Birmingham University; his dissertation focused on British aviation leadership during the first year of the 1914-1918 war.

5:00pm Dinner at America's Fort Café (pre-registration only).

Sunday, May 17, 2026

9:00-9:30am "If you had paid attention you would know": Gender, Politics, and Power in the Anglo-Cherokee War—In 1761, after two brutal years of war, the women of the town of Keowee returned home. As they rebuilt their houses and fields, Keowee women kept their seeds and agricultural tools in Fort Prince George, transforming the fort from a site of conflict into a site for peaceful relations. This presentation examines how Cherokee women, their diplomatic leadership, and the politics of hospitality marked the true end of the Anglo-Cherokee War, even after the treaties were signed. **Emily Dixon Magness** (Cherokee Nation, Shawnee Tribe) is a Ph.D. candidate in history at William & Mary, where she studies Cherokee women's domestic and international politics during the Anglo-Cherokee War.

Teacher Scholarships

Thanks to generous support from War College patrons, Fort Ticonderoga offers both in-person and online scholarships for teachers. Applications are available after February 1st at:
https://www.fortticonderoga.org/ft_events/twenty-ninth-annual-war-college-of-the-seven-years-war/

9:45-10:15am Boys will be Boys: Reflecting on Pre-Revolutionary Frontier Rebellion 250 Years On—The American Revolution was preluded by rebellion that combined anti-government insurgency with what Benjamin Franklin dubbed “the Spirit of killing all Indians.” War-painted frontiersmen, aptly named Boys, used violence to mark the origin story of the United States with a poignancy that was seldom matched by their predecessors. **Michael E. Carter** is an adjunct professor of history at Kean University; his focus is on American military history, settler colonialism, and genocide studies.

10:30-11:00am Old Collections, Young Archaeologists: Crown Point Archaeological Field-School’s Discoveries from the 1969 R.W. Robbins Excavation—The imposing French citadel at Fort St. Frédéric (Crown Point, NY) loomed large in the fears of Anglo-Americans preceding and during the Seven Years’ War. During the 20th century, it attracted the attention of self-styled “pick and shovel historian” R.W. Robbins who conducted a highly-disruptive excavation of the fort in 1968. In 2024, the Syracuse University Crown Point Archaeological Field-School began to untangle these disturbed contexts and train the next generation of archaeologists. **Matthew O’Leary** is a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology at Syracuse University; his dissertation examines the fort community around Fort St. Frédéric. **Dr. Christopher DeCorse** is a Distinguished Professor and Anthropology Dept. Chair at Syracuse University with an expertise in cultural entanglements of the early modern world.

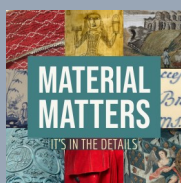
11:15-11:45am Designs for Empire: Architecture and Governance after the Seven Years’ War—In the years following the Seven Years’ War, British authorities worked to modernize the administration of the British Empire and to secure its borders. A key part of these efforts was re-making the built environment. This session examines this process through plans for new or improved public buildings in East and West Florida, North Carolina, and the Bahamas. **Christian J. Koot** is a professor of early American history at Towson University where he also serves as chairperson.

12:00pm Lunch (Box lunch from America’s Fort Café included).

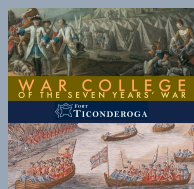
2026-2027 Conferences



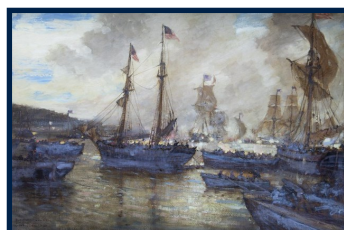
***Twenty-Second Annual Fort Ticonderoga
Seminar on the American Revolution
Friday-Sunday, September 25-27, 2026***



***Sixteenth Annual
Virtual Material Matters
It's in the Details
Saturday, January 23, 2027***



***Thirty-First Annual
War College of the Seven Years' War
Friday-Sunday, May 21-23, 2027***



Special 250th Conference “Arnold’s Defeat or Ultimate Victory? Perspectives on the 1776 Campaign” Friday-Sunday, October 9-11, 2026

On the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Valcour Island Fort Ticonderoga will host a distinguished panel of scholars to reflect on the campaign of 1776 on Lake Champlain. The failure of the British to seize Ticonderoga in the fall of 1776 was a critical, vital victory for the Americans in the early years of the Revolutionary War—acknowledged even at the time. But who gets the credit for the year’s victory? Benedict Arnold and his lake fleet? Horatio Gates and the defenses of Ticonderoga and Mount Independence? Sharing new perspectives and new research from a variety of disciplines, our panelists will detail, and debate, the critical actions of the campaign to better understand the impact of October 1776.

Learn more at:

https://fortticonderoga.org/ft_events/special-250th-conference-arnolds-defeat-or-ultimate-victory-perspectives-on-the-1776-campaign/

Become a War College Patron!

For those who wish to support the War College teacher scholarships as patrons, three levels are available:

\$350 Patron

Includes the registration fee; recognition in the War College program; and an invitation to a private dinner with members of the War College faculty and teacher scholarship winners Saturday evening.

\$500 Patron

In addition to all of the above, patrons at this level receive a copy of *Empire at the Periphery* by Christian J. Koot.

\$750 Patron

In addition to all of the above, patrons at this level receive a gift certificate for the Museum Store.

Become a Member of Fort Ticonderoga

When registering, it's easy to become a member or renew your current membership!

Members receive: free admission to Fort Ticonderoga for 12 months, 10% discount in the Museum Store, a subscription to *The Haversack*, free admission to dozens of virtual events, discounts for seminars and conferences, and invitations to special events.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Corporal (individual)	\$75
Sergeant (dual)	\$100
Lieutenant	\$200
Captain	\$250
Major	\$500
Colonel	\$1,000
Commemorative	\$1,776

Registration and Travel Information

How to Register

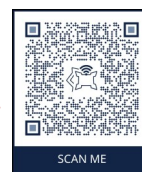
Fill out the registration form on the next page and mail with your check made payable to **Fort Ticonderoga** to:

*War College Registration
Fort Ticonderoga
PO Box 390
Ticonderoga, NY 12883*

Registrations with payment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Early Bird Registrations must be received by March 1st, not postmarked by that date. To pay with a credit card, please register online at the link below or call (518) 585-2821.

Register online at this link:

www.FortTiconderoga.org/ft_events/thirtieth-annual-war-college-of-the-seven-years-war/



Commemorative Tote Bag

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the War College, each in-person registrant will receive a commemorative tote bag.

Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be received by May 1st. Registration fees will be refunded, less a \$25 processing charge. Refunds will be processed after the War College. There is a \$10 processing charge to transfer registrations to another person.

Accommodations

Numerous overnight accommodations are available throughout the Ticonderoga area and the greater Lake George-Lake Champlain region. Rooms book quickly, so make your reservation today! A list of area accommodations is available at:

www.fortticonderoga.org/visit/adirondack-vacation/places-to-stay/

2026 WAR COLLEGE REGISTRATION FORM

Save a stamp and register online at:

www.FortTiconderoga.org/ft_events/thirtieth-annual-war-college-of-the-seven-years-war/



On-Site Registration Fees

(includes lunch both days)

Early Bird Registration (by March 1, 2026)

- ☐ Member, \$180
- ☐ General Public, \$200

Registration (after March 1, 2026)

- ☐ Member, \$205
- ☐ General Public, \$230

Subscriber (by March 1, 2026)

(War College and Seminar on the American Revolution)

- ☐ Member, \$335
- ☐ General Public, \$375

War College Patron Registration

- ☐ Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, \$350
- ☐ Honorary Colonel, \$500
- ☐ Honorary Brigadier General, \$750

Reception & Dinner

- ☐ Pot Roast Dinner Saturday Evening, \$30

Virtual Registration Fees

Early Bird Registration (by March 1, 2026)

- ☐ Member, \$140
- ☐ General Public, \$150

Registration (after March 1, 2026)

- ☐ Member, \$165
- ☐ General Public, \$175

Subscriber (by March 1, 2026)

(War College and Seminar on the American Revolution)

- ☐ Member, \$250
- ☐ General Public, \$275

Membership

- ☐ I am a member of Fort Ticonderoga
- ☐ I would like to become a member or renew my membership at the level designated below:
 - ☐ Corporal (individual) \$75
 - ☐ Sergeant (dual) \$100
 - ☐ Lieutenant \$200
 - ☐ Captain, \$250
 - ☐ Major, \$500
 - ☐ Colonel, \$1,000
 - ☐ Commemorative, \$1,776

Registration Information

Please use one form per person. Make photocopies or print out additional forms from the Fort Ticonderoga website for additional registrants.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Meals and Reception

Friday Evening Reception

Plan to join us Friday evening from 5:30-6:30pm at the Pavilion and King's Garden for a reception with War College faculty and staff. A menu of light *hors d'oeuvres* will be served. A cash bar with beer, hard cider, wine, and soft drinks will be available. Included in registration.

Lunch Saturday and Sunday

Box lunches from America's Fort Café are included in the registration fee both days. Vegetarian and Gluten-free options are available upon request.

Pot Roast Dinner Saturday Evening

Pot Roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, roll, and dessert at America's Fort Café. A vegetarian alternative is available upon request. \$30 per person. By pre-registration only.

Fort Ticonderoga Museum and Museum Store

Registration includes complimentary admission to Fort Ticonderoga Friday through Sunday of the War College. The Museum Store in the Log House will be open 9:30am-5:00pm, with extended evening hours on Saturday. Several members of the War College faculty will be signing their books at the Museum Store on Saturday at 1:00pm, where copies of their books will be for sale.

Fort Ticonderoga is an independent not-for-profit educational institution and museum open to the public since 1909 and serves its mission to preserve, educate, and provoke an active discussion about the past and its importance to present and future generations. We foster an on-going dialogue surrounding citizens, soldiers, and nations through America's military heritage. © The Fort Ticonderoga Association. 2026 All Rights Reserved.

The War College Online through Zoom

Those who are unable to travel to Ticonderoga for this annual program can sign up to attend the War College online History using Zoom Webinars.

All sessions will be streamed. Online participants will be able to ask questions of presenters using the "Q&A" function.

Both in-person and online participants will have access to these recorded sessions for two weeks following the War College.

Upcoming 2026 Virtual Programs

Fort Ticonderoga

These programs are offered through Zoom and pre-registration is required.
Membership Perk! These programs are free for Fort Ticonderoga members.
For more details, and to register, visit:

www.fortticonderoga.org/learn-and-explore/lectures-seminars-workshops/

Fort Ticonderoga Author Series Sundays at 2:00pm ET

The Fort Ticonderoga Author Series features presentations by authors of books related to Fort Ticonderoga's history.

February 8	Robert F. Smith, <i>Manufacturing Independence: Industrial Innovation in the American Revolution</i>
March 8	Michael P. Gabriel, <i>Major Richard Montgomery: The Making of an American Hero</i>
April 12	Mark R. Anderson, <i>Down the Warpath to the Cedars: Indians' First Battles in the Revolution</i>
June 14	John U. Rees, <i>Don Troiani's Black Soldiers in America's Wars 1754-18865</i>
July 26	Theodore Corbett, <i>A Maritime History of the American Revolutionary War</i>
August 9	Jack Kelly, <i>Valcour: The 1776 Campaign that Saved the Cause of Liberty</i>
October 18	Benjamin L. Carp, <i>The Great New York Fire of 1776: A Lost Story of the American Revolution</i>
November 8	Steven Bier, <i>Facing Washington's Crossing: The Hessians and the Battle of Trenton</i>



Ticonderoga 250th

Keep up-to-date with Fort Ticonderoga's plans to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution!

<https://www.fortticonderoga.org/learn>