



NEH SUMMER INSTITUTE 2022
“For the Common Defense:
Subjects, Citizens, and America’s Military Origins, 1609-1815”

Program of Study

Interacting with Fort Ticonderoga’s Collection of manuscripts, original books, provides participants with a unique opportunity to engage with the past in a meaningful way. Vice President of Collections and Digital Projects Miranda Peters and Curator Matthew Keagle have developed a process that provides that up-close, intimate connection with documents and objects in a controlled setting. We are excited to provide this opportunity and share a sampling of our vast collections with teachers in this way and to develop skills for using documents and objects in the classroom.

Week 1 Monday

The Institute begins atop Mount Defiance on Monday morning, providing participants with a birds-eye view of Fort Ticonderoga, Mount Independence, and the Lake Champlain Valley. Understanding the geography of the Ticonderoga area is essential to understanding the critical role rivers and lakes served to move and supply 17th- and 18th-century armies in North America. Project Director Richard Strum (Director of Academic Programs at Fort Ticonderoga) will use reproductions of 18th-century maps in the Collection to orient educators to the site.

Visiting Scholar Andrew Buchanan from the University of Vermont will introduce teachers to the concept of “Armies in Transition: Aggregate Compact Army to Standing

National Army” as it unfolded in Britain, France, and their North American colonies during the 17th- and early 18th-centuries. Among the examples explored will be the legacy of Cromwell and the English Civil War, and the arrival of the French Carignan Salieres regiment in Quebec in the 1660s. Readings for the day include works by John A. Lynn and James Kirby Martin (see list of readings in Appendix A).

Each afternoon teachers will have opportunities to engage with key documents and objects from the Collection, as well as with the critical landscapes on the Ticonderoga peninsula, such as the location of Champlain’s fight with the Mohawks in 1609. Monday educators will examine examples of enlistment and discharge paperwork.

Week 1 Tuesday

Educators will delve deeper into the concepts of regular versus militia troops, exploring the origins and the colonial experience with James Kirby Martin, including the development of Provincial troops for extended service during a campaign season. Readings include from Martin’s *A Respectable Army* as well as Fred Anderson’s *A People’s Army: Provincial Military Service in Massachusetts during the Seven Years’ War*.

In the afternoon teachers will examine both original journals and orderly books from the Fort Ticonderoga Collection related to the service of Provincial soldiers in the armies that attacked French-held Carillon (Ticonderoga) in 1758 and 1759, and take part in a session led by K-12 Leader Tim Potts (Monticello Central School District) using transcriptions of these sources to discuss how using these documents with students can support historical-thinking and creative-thinking skills. Participants will also walk the Carillon Battlefield (July 8, 1758).

Week 1 Wednesday

Continuing the theme of “Armies in Transition,” Wednesday will focus on “Reform and Revolution” and its impact of 18th-century attitudes to armies. Visiting scholar James Kirby Martin from the University of Houston (retired) will discuss the structure of the British regular army, the use of German auxiliaries during the American Revolution, and how Americans wrestled with the concept of a standing army (Continental Army) versus the dependence on militias—a conundrum that continued in the early years of the American Republic. Readings include Martin’s *A Respectable Army* and *Motivation in War: The Experience of Common Soldiers in Old-Regime Europe* by Ilya Berkovich.

In the afternoon teachers will explore the tactics and technology of 18th-century warfare looking at examples from the Fort Ticonderoga Collection with Curator Matthew Keagle. Educators will also learn about military discipline through the examination of courts-martial proceedings from the Collection.

Week 1 Thursday

On Thursday teachers will travel to Bennington Battlefield and Saratoga Battlefield while discussing the various types of soldiers used during the American Revolution. In addition to the Project Director and K-12 Leaders, Visiting Scholar James Kirby Martin and Curator Matthew Keagle will travel with the group. The roll of German auxiliaries and Loyalist Provincial troops will be the focus at Bennington, while the use of both Continental troops and militia by Americans will be discussed at Saratoga. Park

Ranger and Historian Eric Schnitzer will join the group at Saratoga, discussing his article “Cook’s and Latimer’s Connecticut Militia Battalions in the Northern Campaign of 1777.” Copies of his article will be distributed the previous day along with a reading from Richard H. Kohn’s *Eagle and Sword* to discuss the post-Revolution evolution of American military structures.

Week 1 Friday

Friday’s focus moves to “Women and War” with Holly Mayer from Duquesne University, who will lead a discussion on the boundaries of military service and gender. Mayer will also discuss the unique situation of “Congress’s Own” regiments, the two Continental regiments composed primarily of Canadian volunteers, to contextualize the international quality of even the American military. Readings include Mayer’s *Belonging to the Army: Camp Followers and Community During the American Revolution* John Lynn’s *Women, Armies, and Warfare in Early Modern Europe*.

During the afternoon teachers will engage with orderly book entries, pension applications, and receipts from Van Vechten’s Company that highlight women’s roles in the 18th-century military. Registrar Margaret Staudter will share objects from the Collection that represent women’s involvement at Ticonderoga during the 18th century, including “pattens” women wore on the bottom of their shoes to raise them up out of the muck and mud of a military encampment.

Week 1 Saturday

Fort Ticonderoga will be hosting its living history encampment “Montcalm’s Cross” the weekend of July 16 & 17, 2021. Hundreds of living historians, working with Ticonderoga’s renowned living history staff, will encamp on the site for the weekend, demonstrating camp life and fatigue duties, as well as 18th-century battlefield tactics.

Seminar participants will spend the day interacting with living history staff, along with Project Director Rich Strum and K-12 Leader Tim Potts, while exploring the various combatant types represented: Regular British and French Troops, Canadian militia, American Provincials, and Irregulars such as Native allies and Canadian milice.

Week 2 Sunday

Participants will have a day off, though they are welcome to attend the second day of the “Montcalm’s Cross” event at Fort Ticonderoga. Fort Ticonderoga will also provide recommendations for other suggested activities in the region as well.

Week 2 Monday

On Monday teachers will travel to Oriskany Battlefield and Johnson Hall to discuss the roles of Native Americans in warfare during the colonial and revolutionary periods. Jon Parmenter, from Cornell University, will meet the group at Johnson Hall in the morning and accompany the group to Oriskany after lunch. Readings include Timothy Shannon’s “The Native American Way of War in the Age of Revolutions, 1754-1814,” and Christian Ayne Crouch’s *Nobility Lost: French and Canadian Martial Cultures, Indians, and the End of New France*.

Week 2 Tuesday

Back at Ticonderoga, Maeve Kane, from the University at Albany, will focus on Native roles on both sides during the American Revolution and War of 1812. Additional readings include Alan Taylor's *The Civil War of 1812: American Citizens, British Subjects, Irish Rebels, and Indian Allies*. Teachers will also take a cruise onboard the *Carillon* around the Ticonderoga peninsula on Lake Champlain, learning about the maritime history of the lake and region with a focus on Lake Champlain as the borderland between Algonquin and Iroquois-speaking nations.

Week 2 Wednesday

Wednesday morning teachers will explore "Policing Military Service: People of Color and the Early Modern Military" with Douglas Egerton from LeMoyne College. Readings include Judith Van Buskirk's *Standing in Their Own Light: African American Patriots in the American Revolution* and Jörg Nagler's essay "Achilles' Heel: Slavery and War in the American Revolution." During the afternoon exploration of the Collections, teachers will engage with the transcript of a 1778 Court-Martial and a letter by Ralph Izard to continue the discussion of people of color and military service in the 18th century.

Week 2 Thursday

The conversation about people of color continues on Thursday morning with Dr. Egerton. Additional readings include Sylvia Frey's *Water from Rock: Black Resistance*

in a Revolutionary Age and Roger Norman Buckley's *Slaves in Red Coats: The British West India Regiments, 1795-1815*.

The afternoon transitions to the War of 1812 and how attitudes to military service during and after the war impacted U.S. history through the American Civil War with Curator Matthew Keagle. Teachers will tour the special exhibition "A Well Regulated Militia: Citizen, Soldier, and State," using the narrative and objects in the exhibition to re-cap the Institute discussion from the past week and a half.

Week 2 Friday

The Institute wraps-up on Friday with a reflection on the military in the Early Modern period. Curator Matthew Keagle and K-12 Leader Tim Potts will lead discussions about the legacies of military service and applications in today's classrooms. Readings include Ilya Berkovich's *Motivation in War* and David Bell's *The First Total War: Napoleon's Europe and the Birth of Modern Warfare as We Know it*.