

Mountain Discoveries magazine, as you might expect from its title, is all about exploring our Appalachian Mountain home, where the borders of Western Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia and Western Pennsylvania converge. Our Cumberland, Maryland location provides us with an ideal central base from which we set forth to explore our peaks and valleys, rich in heritage and spectacular beauty. Now in its 12th year of production, *Mountain Discoveries* magazine features a wide ranging mix of high quality stories and photography to entertain and inform our readers, near and far.

We are proud of our local roots; our stories are written by writers who live in our area, and our magazine's paper and printing come from regional sources. Advertising revenue from our loyal clients allows us to distribute copies of the magazine at no charge.

Our region was once a rugged frontier territory where battles fought set the course for the American Revolution. Today it offers us a powerful legacy of stories, attractions and activities to highlight within the pages of *Mountain Discoveries* for everyone to enjoy. We invite you to join us on our journey through a wondrous place, our home.

Nearby Forts of the French and Indian and Revolutionary War Periods

Written by **Sara Mullins** Photography by **Lance C. Bell** unless otherwise noted



Fort Ligonier
1758 ————— 1766



**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
FORT NECESSITY**



**BUSHY RUN
BATTLEFIELD**

1763~2013

250 years



EDITOR'S NOTE:
Some photos shown here, taken by Lance Bell, were shot at Fort Frederick — a fort of the same time period as Fort Ligonier, Fort Necessity & Bushy Run Battlefield. These photos are used to show uniforms and armament of that time period.



Fort Ligonier at Ligonier, Pennsylvania.

A Battlefield Tour of Western Pennsylvania: Fort Necessity, Fort Ligonier and Bushy Run

“Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists.”

— Franklin D. Roosevelt, in an address to the Daughters of the American Revolution, April 1938

President Roosevelt’s comment to the Daughters of the American Revolution, made in April of 1938, reminds us to honor the independent and courageous spirit exemplified by those who came to the New World with dreams of a better life.

Three battlefields — Fort Necessity, Fort Ligonier and Bushy Run — collectively tell a powerful story of our immigrant ancestors’ struggles for survival and supremacy in what was frontier territory in Western Pennsylvania. The engagements at Forts Necessity and Ligonier served as a military apprenticeship for George Washington, then a young colonel of the Virginia Regiment in service to the British Crown.

This story begins in 1754, when a battle between British forces and a coalition of French and Indian troops

at Fort Necessity became the first salvo in what flared up into the French and Indian War. By 1756, the war had spread to seven continents. Winston Churchill described the conflict as “the first world war.” For nine years, the 18th century superpowers, Britain and France, battled for supremacy. Britain’s victory was confirmed in February, 1763, with the ratification of the Treaty of Paris; the French surrendered all of its former North American territories east of the Mississippi River to Britain, with the exception of New Orleans.

After the War, British settlement policies inflamed the Native Americans to the point of rebellion. Under the leadership of Ottawa Chief Pontiac, a coalition of tribes went on the warpath, attacking forts, settlements and homesteads without mercy. Thinking it was a local uprising, the British did not respond until Pontiac’s braves attacked Fort Pitt in late May. Although unsuccessful in taking the Fort, they maintained a ferocious siege until August 1, when they left to ambush British forces on the march to liberate Fort Pitt. At Bushy Run, Pontiac and his warriors might have succeeded had they not fallen into a desperate, last-minute trap conceived by commanding



officer Colonel Henry Bouquet. Their defeat marked the beginning of the end for the Native Americans and signaled the opening of the region for colonial settlement and westward migration. Eventually British policies, particularly taxation and land treaties, would rouse the colonists' anger to the point of revolution and eventually, the birth of a nation.

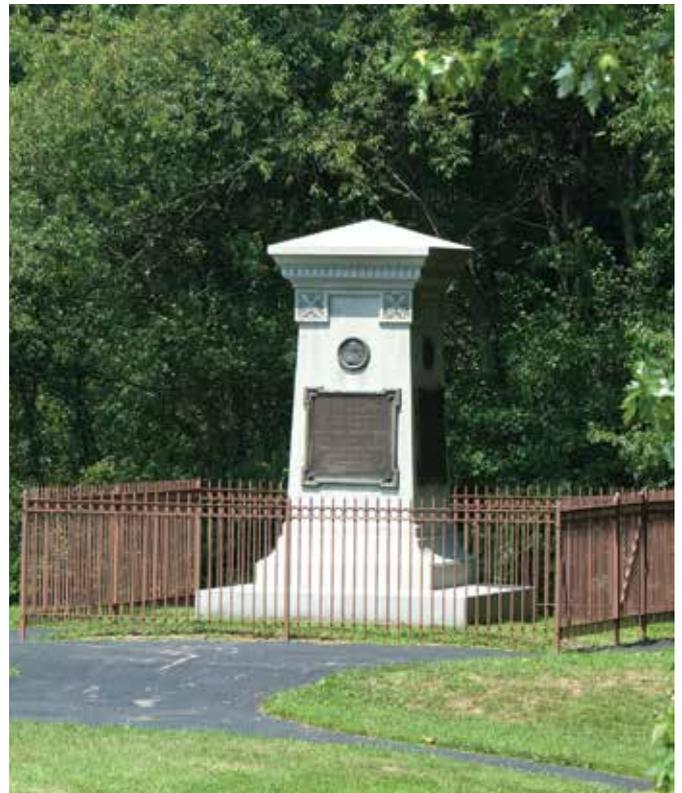
Today, to better understand the significance of this dramatic chapter of American history, we can embark upon a "tour of duty" to explore these three Western Pennsylvania battlefields. Visiting all three sites in one day is possible, with an early start. For those who prefer a more leisurely pace, lodging options nearby range from luxury resorts to rustic campsites (off-site only). Our tour is arranged according to the sequence of events beginning at Fort Necessity, moving on to Fort Ligonier and concluding at Bushy Run Battlefield.

First Stop: Fort Necessity National Battlefield

"The Volley fired by a young Virginian in the backwoods of America set the world on fire."

— Horace Walpole, *Memoirs of the Reign of King George II*

"We like to describe Fort Necessity as a small fort with a big story," says Tom Markwardt, a ranger at the Fort Necessity National Battlefield. Operated by the National



Top: Reenactors with their muskets, portraying the French during the French and Indian War.

Above: British Major General Edward Braddock's grave, located off U.S 40, The National Road, outside Farmington, PA.

Right page: One of the many field cannons at Fort Ligonier.

Park Service, Fort Necessity sits along U.S. Route 40, also known as the National Highway, near Farmington, Pa. The 900-acre Park and visitor's center are open year-round, except for designated holidays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitors will need about two hours to explore the main area of the Park.

Besides the Fort, the Park also includes the site of General Braddock's grave, the Mount Washington Tavern museum featuring life along the National Road, and Jumonville Glen. The best time to visit is summer, when all attractions are open. Five miles of hiking trails through forests and meadows allow visitors to imagine the sense of isolation experienced by early settlers and those who came before them.

The Fort Necessity story focuses on what Markwardt describes as "a small battle with a big result, the shift of power. It shaped the politics of world history." It turned out to be the first engagement in the French and Indian War.

This engagement was provoked by a skirmish in late May of 1754 at Jumonville Glen, a ravine near the Great Meadows where young George Washington and his troops had set up a base camp. Their destination was Fort Duquesne. After learning that French soldiers were camped near their encampment, Washington and his soldiers surrounded the French to learn their intentions. Suddenly a fateful shot was fired, setting off a flurry of gunfire that killed 13 Frenchmen, including their commanding officer, Ensign Joseph Coulon de Jumonville. To this day, nobody knows who fired that first shot.

Ultimately it didn't matter because the damage was done. Fearing "we might be attacked by considerable forces," Washington and his forces hastily constructed a circular stockade with an interior storehouse that he named Fort Necessity. They added protective earthworks around the stockade just prior to the arrival of the French. On July 3, a force of French and Native Americans attacked. By evening, Captain Louis Coulon de Villiers, captain of the French-led force and brother of the slain Jumonville, offered terms of surrender. Washington signed articles of capitulation in French that he later learned included a claim that he was guilty of Jumonville's assassination. A defeated Washington and his troops headed back to Virginia the next day. The French torched the Fort and left for Fort Duquesne. In an ironic twist of history, Washington later became owner of the former Fort's site, the setting for what was his first and only defeat in battle.

Extensive archeological work and historical research led to the reconstruction of the Fort, a simple structure

measuring a modest 53 feet across. Before touring the actual Fort, Park rangers recommend that visitors begin at the Fort Necessity/National Road Interpretive and Education Center to learn more from the 20-minute film, "Road of Necessity," a variety of exhibits, and educational talks. Outdoors, young children can visit the interpretive playground, where they can explore a circular fort, complete



with interior storehouse, and a Conestoga wagon. The National Park Service's Junior Ranger program allows older children to earn a badge after completing a list of activities.

Tours of the Fort and other Park sites are available, either self-guided with an audio wand, or guided by rangers at designated times. All tours are designed to present the varied perspectives of the British, French and Native Americans with their complex, often competing political agendas.

"It was a clash of cultures," Markwardt says. "The idea of land ownership was foreign to the Native Americans. All parties were trying to forge alliances."



During the past several years, the Park has been hosting a series of programs highlighting the involvement of Native Americans in the French and Indian War. “We ask them to tell their own story,” says Markwardt. Previous programs have highlighted the Cherokee and Odawa [Ottawa] Nations; the Seneca Nation will be featured in 2014.

Second Stop: Fort Ligonier

“Sparks from America soon set Europe ablaze....”

— François-Marie Voltaire on the opening of the Seven Years’ War, *Précis du siècle de Louis XV*

From Fort Necessity, it’s just over an hour’s drive along scenic, back roads to Fort Ligonier, “where the flag of His Majesty King George still flies.” Named after John Ligonier, a former field marshal of the British Army, the Fort sits upon a hill overlooking U.S. Route 30 at the edge of Ligonier. The Fort is open daily from mid-April through mid-November for self-guided tours.

During its eight-year existence between 1758 and 1766, Fort Ligonier played a significant role during the French and Indian War as a garrison, post of passage to Fort Pitt, and critical link for British communications and supplies during Pontiac’s War. The first fort built west of the Alleghenies by non-natives, it was never taken by the enemy. In early 1766, the Fort was decommissioned from active service.

“Fort Ligonier is a genuine historic site, rebuilt on the original location after excavations from the 1940s through 1960s yielded information,” says Annie Urban, the Fort’s



Left: Rendering of Fort Ligonier and surrounding area.

Above: Typical Fort artillery used during the French and Indian War.

Right: French and Indian reenactors.

Director of Operations and Development. “Maps confirm the Fort’s location as authentic.” Eight acres of the original site, strategically located along the Forbes Road, have been preserved.

“When you are inside the Fort, it’s like you are in the 18th century,” Urban says. Fort Ligonier is actually a fort within a fort. Atop its outer log walls are sharpened wooden stakes, set at an angle to deter enemies. Three gates allow entrance to the inner fort, defended by four bastions and surrounded by an outer retrenchment. Inside, visitors can explore the officers’ mess and quarters, barracks, an underground magazine designed to safeguard valuable gunpowder and prevent its explosion, and an armory. The outer fort area includes officers’ houses, including General Forbes’ hut, and natives’ lodges, along with critical support structures like the Pennsylvania hospital (two wards and a surgeon’s hut), smokehouse, bake ovens, forge and sawmill. An imposing collection of re-created, cast bronze British artillery and covered wagons is parked outside.

Visitors should allow an hour or so to explore the Fort, which includes an impressive museum where they can learn about its origins and role in the French and Indian War.

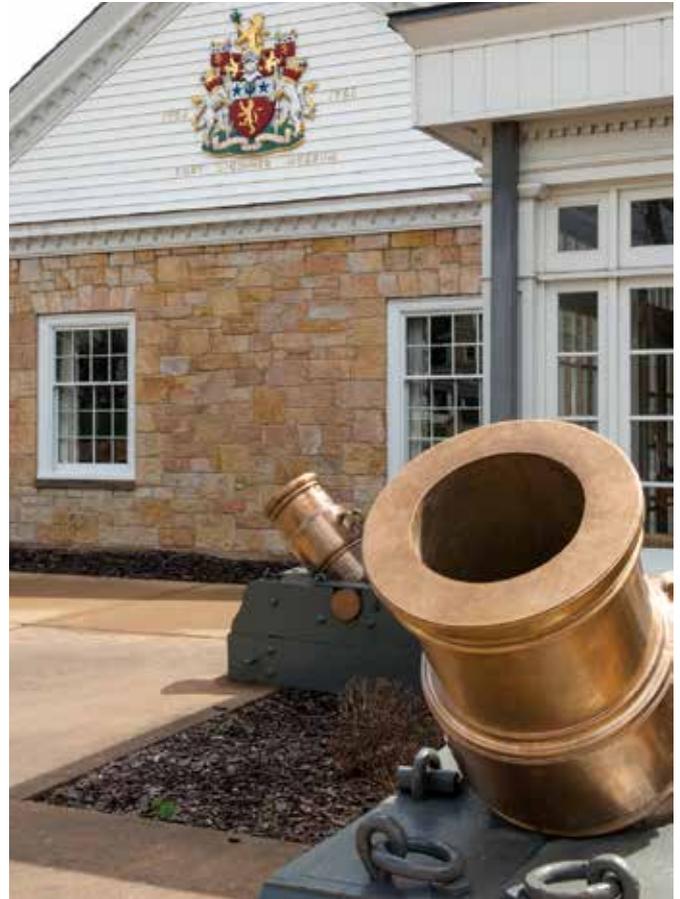


Imposing brass artillery positioned alongside the path greets visitors as they enter the museum. The History Gallery features hundreds of artifacts excavated from the original site. “It has the most extensive collection of leather items and shoes from the 18th century,” says Urban. “They help us understand who was here.” Fourteen original paintings of 18th century notables, including a young George Washington in his mid-20s, are on display in the Art Gallery. In The Hermitage, visitors can also see a parlor furnished with authentic period furnishings and artwork. It is the only remaining room from “The Hermitage” estate built by Arthur St. Clair, a former Major General in the Revolutionary War who also served as President of the Continental Congress.

“The World Ablaze: An Introduction to the Seven Years’ War” is considered the premier exhibit of the conflict, according to Urban. “All countries involved in the conflict are represented in the collection, along with objects from Native Americans involved.” More than 200 original objects from the 18th century are on display.

“Visitors are always amazed at the extent of our collection, especially our George Washington items,” says Annie Urban. Washington’s saddle pistols, a gift from the Marquis de Lafayette, hold a place of honor as the most valuable artifacts at the museum. Washington treasured them until his death. Eventually they were given to General Andrew Jackson, who considered them “sacred and holy relics.” Jackson later returned them to Lafayette’s family. In 2004, the Richard King Mellon Foundation purchased them for the museum in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the French and Indian War.

Also in the museum collection is Washington’s 11-page “Remarks,” in which Washington recounts his six years of service on the Pennsylvania frontier. “In his memoirs, he



Top: Fort Ligonier Museum.
Right: Typical British Infantry reenactors.



Top: Mortar wagon on the grounds of Fort Ligonier.
Left: Interior view of the Fort Ligonier Museum.
Above: British Infantry reenactment against the French and Indians.

claimed his life was in the greatest danger at Loyalhanna (the former name of Fort Ligonier),” Urban says. Ironically, that danger came from British soldiers during a friendly fire incident in November, 1758. Suspecting that a force of French and Native Warriors intended to steal British army cattle and horses, two detachments of British forces – one led by Washington from Fort Ligonier and the other by Colonel George Mercer – planned to surround the enemy to thwart their plan. But when Washington’s and Mercer’s forces met at twilight, they mistook each other for the

enemy. Washington ran between the lines amidst flying musket balls to stop the shooting that resulted in the loss of 38 soldiers and two officers.

Now operating as an independent non-profit organization, Fort Ligonier offers a wide range of activities to educational groups and the public. Highlights include two summer sessions of Fort Kids Camp and a free outdoor concert on July 29 by the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra; music lovers are encouraged to bring blankets and picnics.



The crowning event of every year is Fort Ligonier Days, a popular three-day festival held throughout the town of Ligonier to commemorate the original Battle of Fort Ligonier on October 12, 1758, when the British repulsed French and Native American forces. Highlights include a visit from George Washington, portrayed by Dean Malissa, the official portrayer of Washington at Mount Vernon, plus artillery and battle demonstrations. Living history encampments, a community parade, craft booths, sidewalk sales, food, and live music attract throngs of visitors every year.

Almost five years after the battle that is still commemorated at Fort Ligonier Days, after the French and Indian War had ended, the Fort faced a new threat: Pontiac's War. A coalition of Native American tribes was repulsed at Fort Ligonier on June 2 and again on June 16 of 1763. Undeterred, they moved west to Fort Pitt.

Top: Bushy Run Battlefield reenactment; photo courtesy Bushy Run Battlefield.

Left: Indian reenactor.

Above: Colonists with period clothing and long rifles.



Above: Three dimensional model at Fort Ligonier Museum showing the hardships of crossing the terrain of the area.

Right: Impenetrable defenses at Fort Ligonier.



Third Stop: Bushy Run Battlefield

“I hope we Shall be no more disturbed, for if we have another Action, we Shall hardly be able to carry our wounded.”

— Colonel Henry Bouquet, in a letter to General Jeffrey Amherst from Bushy Run, dated August 6, 1763

Bushy Run Battlefield State Park, our third and last stop of this battlefield tour, is the only recognized Native American battlefield in Pennsylvania. Open year-round from 8 a.m. to dusk, Bushy Run is located on PA Route 993 near Jeannette. From Ligonier, it’s about a 40-minute drive from Fort Ligonier to the battleground that marked the turning point in Pontiac’s War and fate of Western Pennsylvania.

The Battle of Bushy Run was an inevitable result of growing tensions between Native American and European cultures, especially the British. The French, mostly traders, posed little

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A Battlefield Tour

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threat, in contrast to British settlers and speculators who laid claim to Native lands. In the 1758 Treaty of Easton, Native tribes agreed to end their alliance with the French in exchange for British recognition of lands west of the Allegheny Mountains as Native American territory. The Natives thus assumed that the British would abandon any British settlements, claims and forts in that area. But the British did not keep their word and imposed a number of policies that further inflamed the Natives. When the French and Indian War ended in February, 1793, the Natives realized that British settlement would continue. They had to strike, soon.

It was Pontiac, a charismatic Ottawa chief inspired by a Delaware prophet's vision, who led the charge to rout the British and reclaim land west of the mountains. After his forces laid siege to Fort Detroit, they spread out on a killing spree, sparing only the French. Other tribes joined the fight, successfully attacking forts, and destroying settlements and homesteads. The British brushed off the rebellion as a regional conflict until Fort Pitt became the next target. Although the attack failed, Native warriors laid siege to the Fort. By the end of July, its condition became desperate.

On June 12, General Jeffrey Amherst ordered Colonel Henry Bouquet to relieve the besieged Fort Pitt and restore British control of the region. Bouquet set forth on July 28 with an assortment of about 400 soldiers from the Scottish Highlander and Royal American companies, plus a few woodsmen from Cumberland, Md. They reached Fort Ligonier on August 2, transferred flour and other supplies to pack horses, and headed west on August 4.

The next day, Bouquet ordered a halt at Bushy Run to rest the troops and find water. Around 1 p.m., Natives ambushed the British and relentlessly harassed them until nightfall. By then, Bouquet had lost more than 50 men, and the rest were tired and thirsty. But Bouquet had a hilltop advantage. His men set up a circular encampment

of flour sacks as a fort to shield the wounded and offer some protection. At daybreak, the Natives resumed the attack, surrounding and terrorizing the exhausted soldiers with war cries. Knowing the stakes were high, Bouquet devised a plan based on his extensive experience with Native fighting tactics. He ordered a partial withdrawal of his troops into the woods as a ruse to feign a retreat, thereby enticing Native forces into an open area. His plan worked. Soon realizing they were defeated, the Natives took off running. After destroying most of the supplies, Bouquet and his troops marched west, reaching Fort Pitt by August 10. Although the British continued to face challenges from the Natives, Pontiac's Rebellion was broken.

"Many people don't realize how important this battle was," says Stephanie Sanner, museum facilitator at Bushy Run Battlefield Park. "But when they learn about it, they love the history of the battle."

Today the Park is operated by the Bushy Run Battlefield Heritage Society in partnership with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. From April through November, the Bushy Run Visitors Center (open 9-5) offers a variety of exhibits that include a variety of artifacts, a fiber optic map showing troop movements during the battle, a film entitled "The Road to Bushy Run," and guided tours. A self-guided trail takes visitors through the woods to Edge Hill, where a massive granite slab stands, surrounded by stacked concrete "bags" representing Bouquet's flour bag fort. Attached to the monument are plaques with the text of Bouquet's letters to General Amherst and a battle map. Visitors can also explore five hiking trails on the Park's 213 acres.

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bushy Run. Plans are in the works for a bagpipe concert, lecture, luminary event, troop encampments, battle reenactments, a war gaming exhibition, log cabin programs, and the unveiling of a bronze monument featuring three bronze statues of a Native American, a Scottish Highlander and a Frontier Ranger.

FORT CUMBERLAND 1755

A limited edition, canvas print by Todd Price



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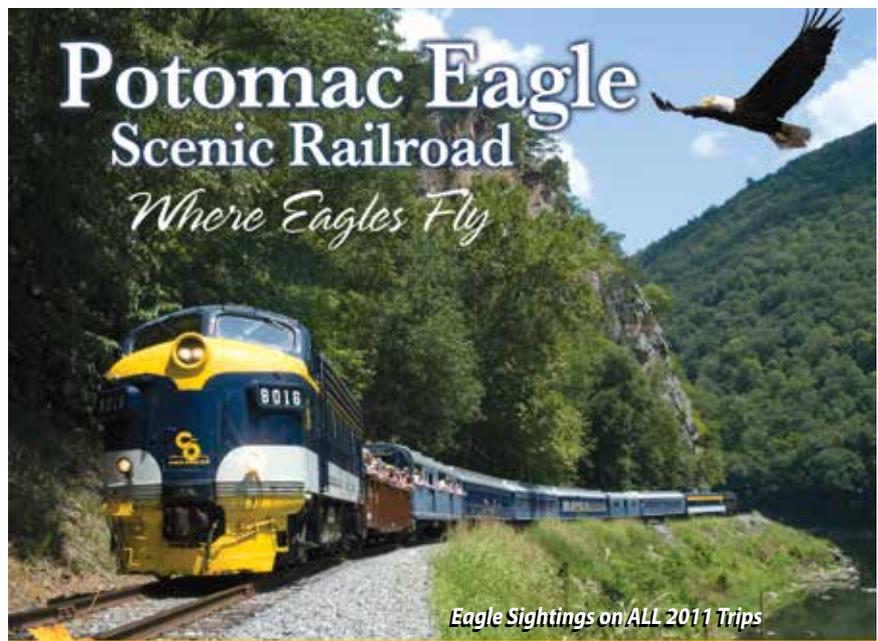
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