

Press Release

Historic March will end in Rome, New York
Rome Historical Society
200 Church Street
Rome, New York 13440
315-336-5870
contact person: Merry Speicher
merry@romehistorical.com

Friday, March 31, 2006
From 1pm to 2pm

At 1pm re-enactors will march through the streets of Rome, New York in route to Fort Bull stopping at the Rome Historical Society 200 Church Street, Rome, New York

Noted author and Historian Bob Bearor along with other re-enactors have already begun the first leg of the re-enactment of Captain Joseph Gaspard Chaussegros de Lery's historic 130-mile march through the snow-covered wilderness from Fort La Presentation (present day Ogdensburg) to Fort Bull (Rome, New York.)

The historic re-enactment will educate our community about what happened here during the war between France and England.

In the fall of 1755, the French learned that the British had established two warehouses to store provisions and munitions at either end of the Great Carrying Place – a major portage between Oneida Lake and the Mohawk River.

The French feared that the British were stockpiling supplies for a major spring offensive on the Lake Ontario frontier.

An operation of this nature represented an ominous threat to New France's military outposts on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

Since waterways in New York opened from the ice about two weeks before those in Canada, the British could launch an attack against the small winter garrisons of Forts Frontenac and Niagara, at a time when the French, locked in by ice, would be unable to respond.

The French decided to counter this threat by striking first to destroy the warehouses, before the stores they contained could be used to support a spring offensive.

Captain de Lery, a French Marine officer, led a contingent of French Marines and French Canadian militia on a 130-mile trek through the wilderness to attack Fort Bull.

Accompanied by the Abbe Francois Picquet and several Oswegatchie Indians, the French hiked through the snow before launching their surprise attack on an English supply train and then on Fort Bull itself.

Along the way, they slept in snowdrifts and huddled for warmth in makeshift shelters. They built rude wooden rafts to cross the rivers that barred their way.

They ran short on food, but plowed through the snow on foot to launch their surprise raid.

250 years after that daring exploit, re-enactors will retrace the march and endure the hardships that were faced 250 years ago. Providing an insight and awareness of their sacrifices or their exploits.

March 31 thru April 2 ongoing events have been scheduled to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War. For a complete listing of events scheduled

Friday, March 31st Brown Bag lunch at 12 noon the Rome Historical Society 200 Church Street Rome, New York will host Susan Jones from Fort Stanwix National Monument as she provides an Overview of the 250th anniversary of French and Indian War and its effects on the Mohawk Valley then and now.

Friday, March 31st 2:00 pm at Fort Stanwix National Monument Clash of Empires/Clash of Cultures –Women of the French and Indian War

Friday March 31, 2006 7:00 p.m. Bob Bearor: With Fire & Sword: de Lery's Epic March and Attack on Fort Bull. Rome Historical Society 200 Church Street Rome, New York.

Living history weekend, Rome, New York April 1st and April 2nd
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Events will provide visitors the opportunity to relive and experience recreated camps, military life, tactical demonstrations; sleigh ambush and the re-created burning of Fort Bull will take place.

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Saturday April 1, 2006	Fort Stanwix National Monument Open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Erie Canal Village Open 7:00 am to 5:00 pm
7:00 am		* French Encampment Reveille * Breakfast from 7:00 am to 9:00 am At Bennett's Tavern (Fee)
9:00 am	* Troop assembly/inspection followed by *Camp duty demonstrations begin and are ongoing throughout day.	* Camp duties begin.

10:00 am	* Interpretive Program - Overview of the 250 th anniversary of French and Indian War and its effects on the Mohawk Valley then and now	
11:00 am	*Troop assembly/inspection followed by * Weapon's Demonstration Program – War for Empire Weaponry	*Rededication of Fort Bull memorial with wreath laying ceremony and musket salute
12:00 am		*Lunch from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm At Bennett's Tavern (Fee)
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2:00 pm	* Interpretive Program - Clash of Empires/Clash of Cultures – Women of the French and Indian War	*Tactical demonstration of Attack on Fort Bull begins.
3:00 pm	* Interpretive Program - Overview of the 250 th anniversary of French and Indian War & its effects on the Valley then and now	*Open Book Signing of authors of F&I war books. Allen Sterling and Bob Baeror
4:00 pm	* Troop assembly and inspection followed by Military Music Retreat Ceremony.	*Camp duties continue.
5:00 pm	*Park closes for the day.	*Site closes for the day.
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Sunday April 2, 2006	Fort Stanwix National Monument Open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Erie Canal Village Open 7:00 am to 5:00 pm
7:00 am		* French Encampment Reveille * Breakfast from 7:00 am to 9:00 am At Bennett's Tavern (Fee)
9:00 am	* Troop assembly/inspection followed by *Camp duty demonstrations begin and are ongoing throughout day. * Interpretive Program - Overview of the 250 th anniversary of French and Indian War and its effects on the Mohawk Valley then and now	* Church Call – ecumenical services * Camp duties begin.
10:00 am	* Interpretive Program – Use of Bateau as amphibious landing craft in the Seven Years War.	

11:00 am	*Troop assembly/inspection followed by * Weapon's Demonstration Program – War for Empire Weaponry	* Lunch from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm At Bennett's Tavern (Fee)
12:30 pm		*Troop assembly and inspection. Units deploy for tactical demonstration.
1:00 pm	*Troop assembly/inspection followed by * Weapon's Demonstration Program – War for Empire Weaponry	*Tactical demonstration of Attack on Fort Bull begins.
2:00 pm	* Interpretive Program - Overview of the 250 th anniversary of French and Indian War & its effects on the Valley then and now	
3:00 pm	* Troop assembly and inspection followed by Military Music Retreat Ceremony and discharge of troops.	*Troop assembly followed by troop discharge.
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Press Release

Historic March will end in Rome, New York
Rome Historical Society
200 Church Street
Rome, New York 13440
315-336-5870
contact person: Merry Speicher
merry@romehistorical.com

Friday, March 31, 2006
From 1pm to 2pm

At 1pm re-enactors will march through the streets of Rome, New York in route to Fort Bull stopping at the Rome Historical Society 200 Church Street, Rome, New York

Noted author and Historian Bob Bearor along with other re-enactors have already begun the first leg of the re-enactment of Captain Joseph Gaspard Chaussegros de Lery's historic 130-mile march through the snow-covered wilderness from Fort La Presentation (present day Ogdensburg) to Fort Bull (Rome, New York.)

The historic re-enactment will educate our community about what happened here during the war between France and England.

In the fall of 1755, the French learned that the British had established two warehouses to store provisions and munitions at either end of the Great Carrying Place – a major portage between Oneida Lake and the Mohawk River.

The French feared that the British were stockpiling supplies for a major spring offensive on the Lake Ontario frontier.

An operation of this nature represented an ominous threat to New France's military outposts on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

Since waterways in New York opened from the ice about two weeks before those in Canada, the British could launch an attack against the small winter garrisons of Forts Frontenac and Niagara, at a time when the French, locked in by ice, would be unable to respond.

The French decided to counter this threat by striking first to destroy the warehouses, before the stores they contained could be used to support a spring offensive.

Captain de Lery, a French Marine officer, led a contingent of French Marines and French Canadian militia on a 130-mile trek through the wilderness to attack Fort Bull.

Accompanied by the Abbe Francois Picquet and several Oswegatchie Indians, the French hiked through the snow before launching their surprise attack on an English supply train and then on Fort Bull itself.

Along the way, they slept in snowdrifts and huddled for warmth in makeshift shelters. They built rude wooden rafts to cross the rivers that barred their way.

They ran short on food, but plowed through the snow on foot to launch their surprise raid.

250 years after that daring exploit, re-enactors will retrace the march and endure the hardships that were faced 250 years ago. Providing an insight and awareness of their sacrifices or their exploits.

March 31 thru April 2 ongoing events have been scheduled to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War. For a complete listing of events scheduled

Friday, March 31st Brown Bag lunch at 12 noon the Rome Historical Society 200 Church Street Rome, New York will host Susan Jones from Fort Stanwix National Monument as she provides an Overview of the 250th anniversary of French and Indian War and its effects on the Mohawk Valley then and now.

Friday, March 31st 2:00 pm at Fort Stanwix National Monument Clash of Empires/Clash of Cultures –Women of the French and Indian War

Friday March 31, 2006 7:00 p.m. Bob Bearor: With Fire & Sword: de Lery's Epic March and Attack on Fort Bull. Rome Historical Society 200 Church Street Rome, New York.

Living history weekend, Rome, New York April 1st and April 2nd
Recreated by British, French Canadian and Native alliances recreating the events of the destruction of Fort Bull.

Events will provide visitors the opportunity to relive and experience recreated camps, military life, tactical demonstrations; sleigh ambush and the re-created burning of Fort Bull will take place.

For a complete listing of scheduled events contact Rome Historical Society 315-336-5870 or Erie Canal Village 315-337-3999

Saturday April 1, 2006	Fort Stanwix National Monument Open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm	Erie Canal Village Open 7:00 am to 5:00 pm
7:00 am		* French Encampment Reveille * Breakfast from 7:00 am to 9:00 am At Bennett's Tavern (Fee)
9:00 am	* Troop assembly/inspection followed by *Camp duty demonstrations begin and are ongoing throughout day.	* Camp duties begin.

10:00 am	* Interpretive Program - Overview of the 250 th anniversary of French and Indian War and its effects on the Mohawk Valley then and now	
11:00 am	*Troop assembly/inspection followed by * Weapon's Demonstration Program – War for Empire Weaponry	*Rededication of Fort Bull memorial with wreath laying ceremony and musket salute
12:00 am		*Lunch from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm At Bennett's Tavern (Fee)
1:00 pm	*Troop assembly/inspection followed by * Weapon's Demonstration Program – War for Empire Weaponry	*Troop assembly and inspection. Units deploy for tactical demonstration.
2:00 pm	* Interpretive Program - Clash of Empires/Clash of Cultures – Women of the French and Indian War	*Tactical demonstration of Attack on Fort Bull begins.
3:00 pm	* Interpretive Program - Overview of the 250 th anniversary of French and Indian War & its effects on the Valley then and now	*Open Book Signing of authors of F&I war books. Allen Sterling and Bob Baeror
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