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## Events

**February 18-19**  
1812 Battle of  
Ogdensburg

**March 4&5, 2023**  
Snowshoe Biathlon

For the most current information  
go to our website.



[www.fort1749.org](http://www.fort1749.org)

## The First Fort de la Présentation.



By Dennis & Kathi McCarthy 12/18/2022

In his work, *The Documentary History of the State of New York*, E.B. O'Callaghan wrote that by October 20, 1749, the settlement of la Présentation consisted of a fort of palisades, a house, a barn, a stable and an oven.

On November 21, 1748, Abbe Francois Picquet (1708-1781), a Sulpician missionary selected a site for a mission at the confluence of St Lawrence and Oswegatchie Rivers.

The date was significant as a Catholic feast day, the Présentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Temple. The mission was named la Présentation.

In May of 1749, Abbe Picquet arrived at la Présentation with a contingent of Laurentian Iroquois, some laborers, a stone mason, and a few French soldiers. Once the land was cleared, a storehouse was built, followed by a small fort of pickets with small houses that serve as bastions.

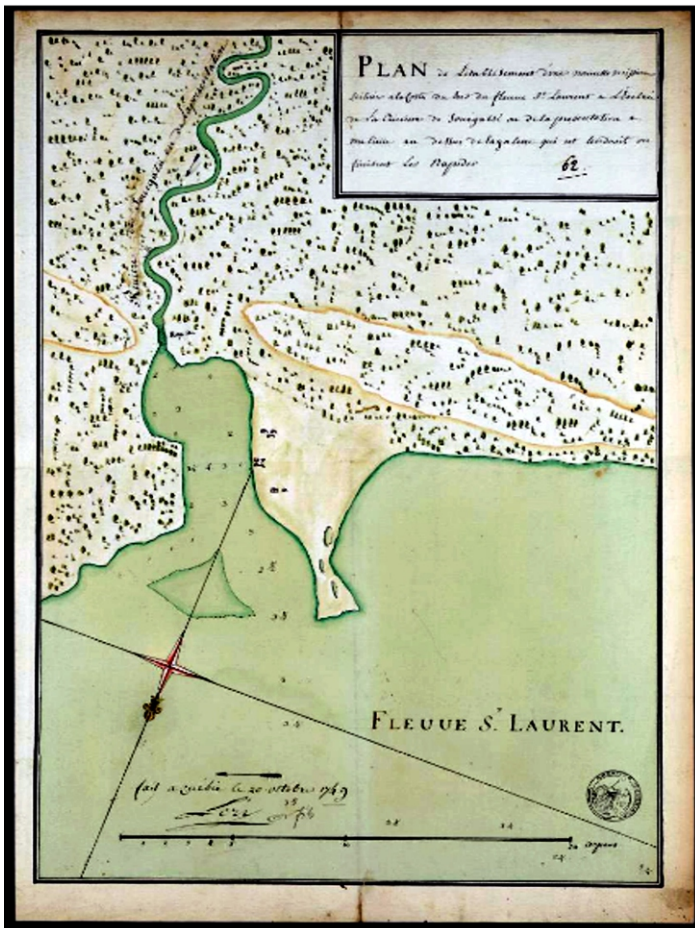
Picquet celebrated the first Mass at the mission in June 1749. The mission was established for religious reasons, but the Fort indicated its military value. To have a fort at la Présentation, it would be easy to have a force there in case of need to dispatch to Choueguen (Oswego) or intercept any English and Indians who may penetrate the Colony.

Shortly after the founding of the mission, English allied League Iroquois recognized the strategic significance of the settlement as well.

On October 26, 1749, a force of natives "believed to be Mohawks" burned the settlement to the ground, only Abbe Picquet's house was saved, apparently by the efforts of Abenaki warriors attached to the mission.



## The First Fort de la Présentation continued



*Caption Picture 1:*

Plan of the establishment of a new mission located at the coast of the south of the St. Lawrence River at the entrance of the Oswegatchie River or la Présentation a league above la Galette the place where the Rapids end.

Done at Quebec on October 20, 1749, signed Léry fils. compass rose flag of Quebec; vegetation; soundings of the river at the mouth; indication of the course of the river and the river.



The first Fort de la Présentation lasted only a few months. Three forts would replace it over the next 60 years.

### Fort de la Présentation Site

1749

1st. Fort de la Présentation: French/ Laurentian Iroquoise

1750 – 1760

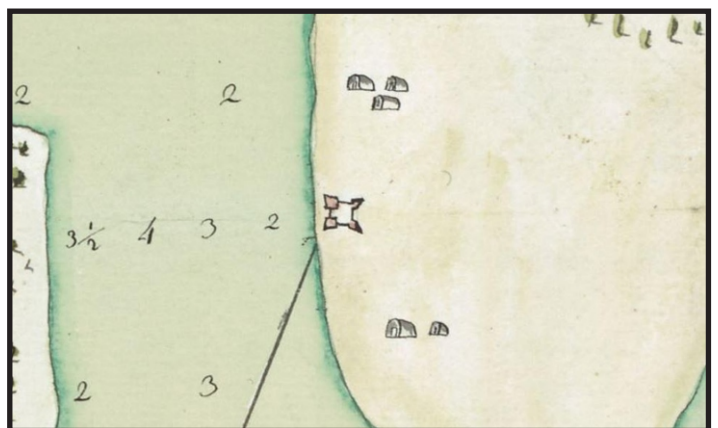
2nd Fort de la Présentation : French /Laurentian Iroquoise

1760 – 1796 Fort Oswegatchie: British

1796 – War of 1812 United States (Note 1)

Note 1 - The remains of Fort Oswegatchie were used while a new American Fort Oswegatchie was constructed across the Oswegatchie river in an area near modern Franklin and Elisabeth streets on Riverside Drive.

*Information in this article is from the application to the National Register of Historic Places for Fort la Présentation Site. Application Prepared by Travis Bowman, NYS Historic Preservation Office, May 2009.*



*Caption Picture 2- Detail from Picture 1:*

1748 map details of a fort of palisades, a house, a barn, a stable and an oven



## War of 1812: 2nd Battle of Ogdensburg “The Winter Battle”

From Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia

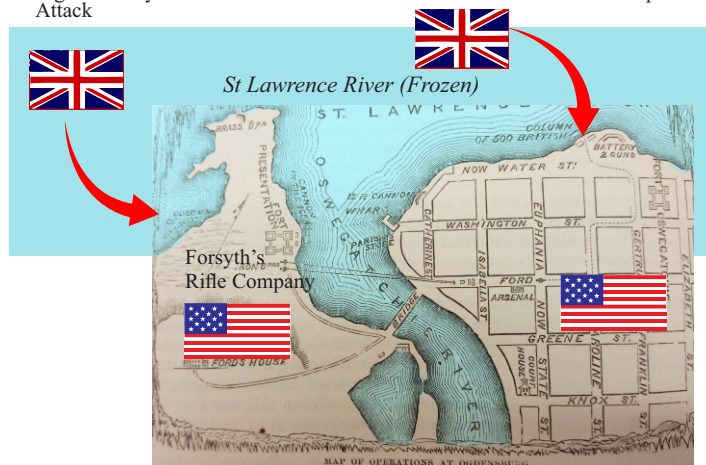
When the war of 1812 broke out, a flourishing illicit trade was soon established between Ogdensburg and Prescott, Canada, the site of the British Fort Wellington, on the Northern side of the Saint Lawrence River. This was checked early in October 1812 when the Americans reinforced the local militia with some of the regular 1st U.S. Rifle Regiment under Major Benjamin Forsyth, who occupied a fort (formerly Fort La Présentation) and barracks alongside the Oswegatchie River at the western edge of the town.

On February 21, 1813, Lieutenant General Sir George Prevost, the British Governor General of Canada, appointed local Lieutenant Colonel "Red George" MacDonell as commandant of British troops in Prescott and left him instructions that he was to attack Ogdensburg only if the Americans weakened their garrison.

The reinforcements, although there temporarily, allowed MacDonnell to improvise an attack against Ogdensburg. He planned for a company of the Glengarry Light Infantry, 70 militia and some light guns mounted on sleighs to make a frontal attack on the fort which housed Forsyth's riflemen. The main column, consisting of 120 men of the 8th (King's), 30 of the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles and 230 of the local militia flank companies, would cross the river lower down and attack from the flank.

Glengarry  
Light Infantry  
Attack

Main column of 120 men of the King's 8th  
30 of the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles  
and 230 of the local militia flank companies



*Above: Map of the Battle of Ogdensburg.*

Benson Lossing -  
The Pictorial Field Book  
of the War of 1812

*Right: The Glengarry Light Infantry attacks across the frozen river at the 1813 Battle of Ogdensburg. Archibald Forbes, Arthur Griffiths and others. - Provided by the British Library from its digital collections.*



### Come and See the “Winter Battle” February 18-19

The Fort La Presentation Assoc. and Forsyth's Rifles Reenactors cordially invite the public to view the recreation of the “Winter Battle”. The Saturday, right flank, battle will start at 1:30 pm near Morrisette Park water front, and move through the streets to the corner of Ford and State street. Followed by a lecture at 3:00 pm by John Austin at the Ogdensburg museum, 330 Ford St. extension. The Sunday 1:30 battle, is the left flank invasion at Van Rensselaer Point, located at 22 Albany Ave, Ogdensburg. See [www.Fort1749.org](http://www.Fort1749.org) for details.

### Snowshoe Biathlon

We're Back! After being sidelined by the global Covid-19 pandemic, the St. Lawrence Valley Primitive Snowshoe Biathlon is scheduled for March 4 and 5, 2023! The event will be held at the St. Lawrence Valley Sportsman's Club just outside Ogdensburg, NY. The Biathlon is the antidote to those with cabin-fever, providing an opportunity to get out in the woods and practice their snowshoeing and shooting skills. Participants run or walk a 1.5 mile-long trail through the woods, stopping at each of 5 targets to fire 2 shots from the bag. At the end of the course, participants can toss a tomahawk! **For more information, visit the Association's website or follow us on Facebook - Northern NY Primitive Snowshoe Biathlon.**



Fort la Présentation Association  
Post Office Box 1749  
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COMMUNITY  
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**Help Make Fort La Présentation: A Destination**  
for the History & Culture of Northern New York