

## Executive Board of Directors

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## Events

**March 29th**  
Maple Sugaring-off

**July 19 & 20**  
Le Siège French &  
Indian re-enactment

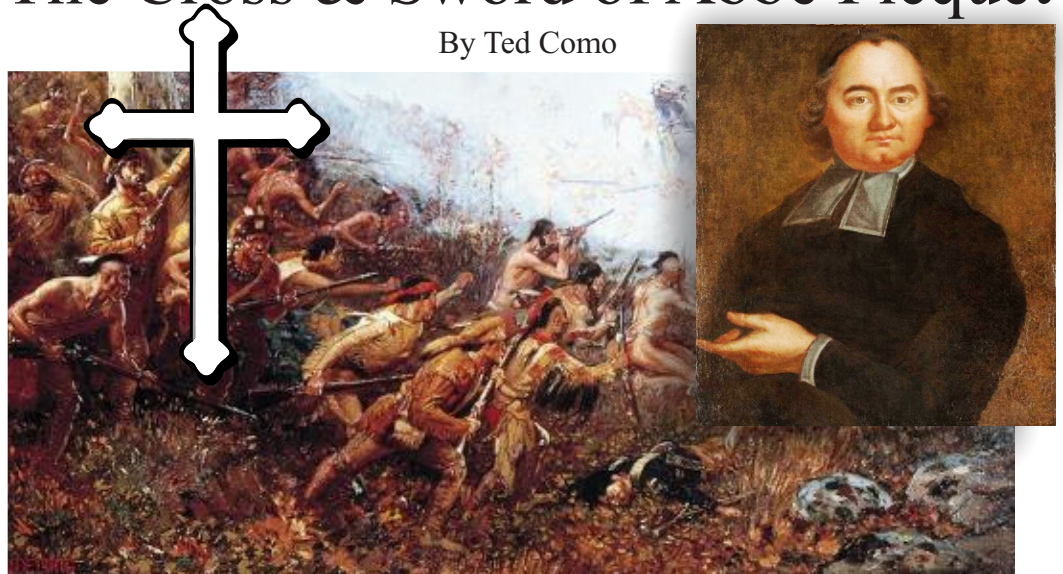
**American  
Revolution  
Skirmish  
on the  
Oswegatchie**  
**August 9-10-2025**



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

## The Cross & Sword of Abbé Picquet

By Ted Como



Abbé François Picquet's mission at Fort La Présentation to create a Native American village and convert them to Christianity denotes a calm, religious-based lifestyle among the French soldiers and Indians occupying a dozen or more longhouses.

The Fort's oven was working daily to produce bread and hunters and gatherers were providing game and food for the many hearths burning day and night.

*But Picquet had another objective, to lead soldiers and warriors to battle - at times, horrendous and bloodthirsty slaughter.*

By 1755, Picquet had attracted more than 3,000 Onondagas, Cayugas and other Iroquois to the side of France and it was time to put them to use, La Présentation was intended as a base of operations against British soldiers and American settlers in the Mohawk, Champlain and Ohio Valleys and often accompanying these French soldiers and their Indian allies into battle was none other than Picquet himself.

The Seven Years' War had begun the previous year, a conflict between France and Great Britain over North American land claims. In June of 1755, the Marquis Duquesne, governor general of New France, wrote Picquet about British General Edward Braddock's campaign to seize French forts in the Ohio Valley. He requested Picquet take his warriors into battle.

## The Cross & Sword of Abbe Picquet CONT'D

On July 9, Picquet and warriors from La Présentation joined a force of French and Canadian troops and other Indians to meet the British about 10 miles from Fort Duquesne, later to become Pittsburgh, PA. They dealt the Brits a devastating defeat. The battle lasted several hours and resulted in the deaths or injuries of more than half of Braddock's men, including 60 of his 86 officers. Braddock was mortally wounded.

One of his aides-de-camp, Lt. George Washington, escaped with four bullet holes in his uniform.

The next year in the spring, Picquet's warriors joined an expedition to attack Fort Bull near present day Rome, NY. In his History of the City of Ogdensburg, Rt. Rev. P.S. Garand writes that 15 officers, 83 soldiers, 166 Canadians and 103 Indians gathered March 7 at La Présentation and advanced to the Mohawk Valley with Picquet as chaplain,

"in the midst of the greatest difficulties, under torrents of rain and snow, across woods where no person could be seen, no victuals, no shelter for the night."

On March 27 they attacked, and the Indians, "exasperated by the killing of one of their own by the commander of the Fort, thrust themselves into the interior of the Fort and unmercifully slaughtered the whole garrison with the exception of three persons who had hidden themselves. The Fort was razed to the ground." Picquet stood by, likely helpless to intervene even if he had the intention.

The next month, on Aug. 10, 1756, a force of regulars and Canadian militia under General Montcalm captured and occupied the British fortifications at Fort Oswego with Picquet and his warriors present. The following year, in August of 1757, saw one of the most notorious incidents of the French and Indian War and Picquet's warriors were part of it. The siege of Fort William Henry was conducted by a French and Indian force led by Louis-Joseph de Montcalm against the British-held Fort William Henry at the southern end of Lake George. The Fort was garrisoned by a poorly supported force of British regulars and provincial militia and after several days of fighting, the Fort surrendered.

But the Indians violated agreed terms of surrender and attacked the departing British column, which had been deprived of ammunition as it left the Fort. They killed and scalped hundreds of soldiers and civilians, took as captives women and children, and slaughtered sick and wounded prisoners.

Garand writes: "Where to lay the blame for this inhuman act is not an easy task. The English soldiers, contrary to the reiterated advice of Montcalm and his lieutenants, gave strong liquor to the Indians. The English should have known by experience that liquor is the worst enemy of the Indian. Under its influence he becomes a brute and gives himself up to all kinds of excesses.

"They threw themselves on the belated soldiers, the sick, the women and children who were in the rear of the troops; in the midst of frantic yells the massacre began.

A storm of death passed over that confused crowd. It was a scene impossible to describe in its tragic horror. No one was spared. Those who attempted to run away were caught by the Indians and butchered," Garand wrote.

Two years later, the French began evacuating Fort de La Présentation and constructed Fort Levis on Chimney Island in hopes of delaying a British attack on Montreal and indeed, they did so in an incredible show of courage. For five days and nights, 300 French soldiers at Fort Levis stood off 10,000 troops led by Sir Jeffrey Amherst in the last land battle of the French and Indian War.

From 1760 to 1796 the British occupied Fort La Présentation, renaming it Fort Oswegatchie, and under their control peace came at last to Picquet's sometimes idyllic, sometimes destructive presence at what would become Ogdensburg, NY.

- Ted Como is a member of the board of directors of the Fort La Présentation Association.



# Volunteers Are The Backbone Of Our Events,

which would be difficult to hold without the generous gift of time, energy, and resources not just from the community but our membership. Our events and maintenance

opportunities are aimed at promoting an interest in history, recreation, tourism, and aesthetics, as well as bringing multiplier dollars into our area.

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## *Would you please help with any of these volunteer opportunities?*

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### ***Special Events- On-site Positions :***

*Volunteers sign up to work a shift as fits your schedule from specific hours, days or full event.*

**Annual Dinner in January:** obtaining auction items, planning, decorating, set up, auction, selling tickets,  
**Winter Battle in February:** security, lunch/dinner prep, setup and cleanup.

**Snow-shoe Biathlon in March:** donation of food supplies, trail maintenance/set up, score keepers,

**Le Siege in July:** set up, admissions, golf cart drivers, security, donations, and tear down.

**Skirmish Along the Oswegatchie in August:**

Setup, admissions, donations, and tear down.

**Miscellaneous Events throughout the year:**

### ***Site Maintenance - On-site Positions:***

April to November weekly schedules for mowing, weed control, gardening, land clearing, and various projects. Guided by our Volunteer coordinators you decide how much time you want to spend and *what days work for you?*

Now's a great time to volunteer and  
 Support the Fort it's More Than History!

### ***Fundraising - Remote:***

Set your own schedule, gathering voluntary financial contributions by engaging individuals, businesses, charitable foundations, or governmental agencies. The ultimate goal is to build a replica Fort however with 28 acres to maintain we need steady funding.

### ***Research - Remote:***

Arm chair historians ! Set your own schedule, gathering information, images, stories, documentation for anything related to Fort la Presentation. *We are currently looking for a "lost" sketch image of the Fort's French cabins.* We are always looking for articles for the Fort Newsletter.

### ***3D Modeling, Animation & Video Production - Remote:***

Set your own schedule, the Fort is in the process of developing a series of videos depicting the Fort history. Volunteers will be provided scripts, story boards and historical reference to create videos.

### ***Contact Volunteer Coordinator:***

Marsha Hough: 315-528-0014

[cme@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:cme@twcnny.rr.com).

QR Code to  
 E-Mail Marsha



*"La Présentation Sunset"*  
 By Eric Brunet

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## 2025 St. Lawrence Valley Primitive Snowshoe Biathlon – Cancelled

In our modern era, we tend to forget that there are a few things that we have absolutely no control over – we're talking about weather.

For the first time in many years, parts of the North Country have received over three feet of snow. No problem for snowshoemen, right? Nope, it's possible to have too much of the white stuff.

A week or so before the event kicked-off, the North Country easily had three feet of soft powder snow in the woods – deep enough for our snowmobile driver to become stuck in the snow! So, in fact, it's possible to have too much snow for a snowshoe event which resulted in our cancellation of the Biathlon.

We'll be back in 2026, meanwhile we're discussing a woods walk for this spring. Stay tuned!

## 2025 Winter Battle of Ogdensburg

The battle of Ogdensburg weekend drew participants from across New York state, Quebec and Ontario. The day began with the solemn tribute to Sheriff York.

Later in the day, following the original February 22 1813 battle route, reenactors exchanged mock fire through the streets making the Saturday event chilly but very successful.

Photos By: Two Guys And A Camera

