

*The Battle of Oriskany  
235th Anniversary  
At Gelston Castle  
August 4-5, 2012*



**EVENT UPDATE MAY 18TH, 2011**

**KEEP THE DATE**

As noted above, save the date of August 4-5, 2012 for the 235<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Battle of Oriskany. This event has been endorsed by both the Continental Line and the British Brigade at their combined meeting in January. At this time, it is the ONLY national Continental Line / British Brigade event on the schedule for 2012.

**COMMAND STAFF NAMED**

Mitch Lee of the First New York Regiment, McCrackens Company, will be the overall commander of the four battalions to be sent to relieve Fort Stanwix, reprising the role of Nicholas Herkimer in 1777. He promises not to take a leg wound. Opposing him with the cream of the British Army on the frontier will be Paul Novotny of the 24th Foot, replacing Col. Barry Sillager. His plan is to spring the ambush with native warriors and loyalists, and then close the trap with two battalions of regulars.

**SPECIAL REENACTOR-ONLY BATTLE**

As a special treat for the members of the British Brigade and Continental Line, we have arranged with the Gelston Castle staff to have our reenactment of the Battle of Oriskany on Saturday morning before the public is admitted. Old-timers that were at the Bi-Centennial Battle of Hubbardton in 1977 will recognize the opportunity to stage a recreation of the original battle in a pristine site mirroring the original without

having to make compromises for a viewing public.

And, this site is magnificent for our purposes. Mitch Lee and Michael Grenier did a walkthrough of the ambush ravine. The march (once the developed site is left behind) is about a mile long culminating in the ambush point. The wide path is a good semblance of an 18<sup>th</sup> Century military road, and it parallels a stream at the bottom of the



The military road, as it leaves the top of the hill heading down into the ravine. (Left, Mitch Lee. Right, Jeff Tew, Gelston Castle Site Coordinator.

ravine, with steep (but accessible) sides to left and right.

If we designed a battlefield for this recreation, this ravine is what we would have gotten. We are certain that you will be happy with this battleground and the action we will unfold for you.

With the Continental Line having to fight its way out of the trap, the battle should last about an hour, from their counterattack on the ambushers, to the running retreat fight, until the Crown Forces are called off

to succor their own camp. Bring plenty of powder, as you will be emptying your boxes in this brutal fight.



Near the ambush site, with open woods on the slope to the right, and the stream to the left, with another wooded slope rising to the left.

That's all for now! We will keep you posted as this first-rate event continues to develop.

*Mitch Lee*

*Paul Novotny*

*Michael Grenier*

Event Coordinators