



The Fort Log

National Park Service Unveils *Original 1771 Bill of Sale* of George Washington's Fort Necessity

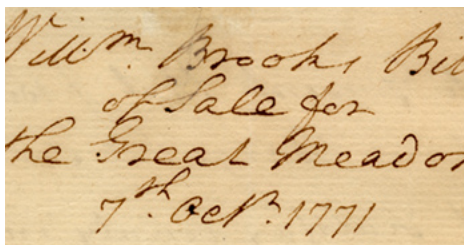
On Friday, October 31, 2008, over 100 guests attended the unveiling of the original "Bill of Sale," documenting George Washington's purchase of the Great Meadows in 1771, the site of the Battle

It was easy to see why Washington described the meadow as a "charming field for an encounter," and why he decided to purchase it..

of Fort Necessity. The unveiling and reception at the Fort Necessity/National Road Interpretive and Education Center acknowledged the generous donors who made this rare document available to the public.

On this warm fall evening in the Laurel Highlands, it was easy to see why Washington described the meadow as a "charming field for an encounter," and why he decided to purchase it.

Dr. Theodore Crackel, editor of the George Washington Papers at the Univer-



With this signature, ownership of the Great Meadows transferred to George Washington



Mr. Charles A. Fagan III, Dr. Theodore Crackel, and Supt. Joanne Hanley unveil the original 1771 Bill of Sale document., while acting site manager Brian Reedy lurks in the background.

sity of Virginia, Charlottesville, spoke of the importance of preserving a document like the Bill of Sale. This simple piece of paper records the transaction in which George Washington participated as a land speculator in the 1770's

In his remarks, Crackel, a decorated military veteran himself, honored the memory of the 800 who fought in the battle and the thirty-three soldiers who died in the Meadow. Dr. Crackel told those assembled how significant it was that George Washington came back in the 1770's to visit the site of his first battle and his only military surrender in July 1754.

Returning to western Pennsylvania in October of 1770, Washington saw the

economic benefits of owning the Great Meadows because of its proximity to Braddock's Road. In deciding to purchase the battlefield, Washington himself

This simple piece of paper records the transaction in which George Washington participated as a land speculator in the 1770's"

may have unknowingly preserved the site of the opening battle of the French and Indian War. With his purchase, he kept it from development until his death in 1799. We can only speculate if the purchase

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From the Superintendent

It is my sincere pleasure to welcome you to Fort Necessity. I invite you to experience the many activities we have at the park. I would also encourage you to think about exploring our park volunteer program, and experience first hand how rewarding this can be. Information on becoming a park volunteer is available by contacting Volunteer Coordinator Mary Jane McFadden at 724-329-5473, or by e-mailing mary_jane_mcfadden@nps.gov

We are proud to showcase this nationally significant site to the public on a daily basis. It is also important to understand that from time to time, repairs and improvements become necessary in order for us to fulfill our mission. With this in mind, visitors to Fort Necessity in 2009 may experience a some works in progress.

This summer the park will be tapping into the municipal water line along Highway 40, ensuring reliable water supplies to park structures. During this transition, there may be some disruption of water service, particularly to the picnic area.

Please forgive any minor and temporary inconveniences you may experience during your visit as we work to achieve long term improvements to the park. Your understanding is appreciated, and your satisfaction with services is our goal.

Sincerely,
Joanne Hanley
General Superintendent,
Western Pennsylvania Parks

2009 Events

March 14
Project Weed Whack - War on Honeysuckle

April 25
Junior Ranger Day

May 9
Project Weed Whack - Teasel Eradication

May 16-17
National Road Festival

May 28
Jumonville Memorial Program

May 30-31
British and French Encampment

July 3
Battle Anniversary Commemoration Programs

August 8-9
American Indian Encampment



Costumed Park Rangers explain the rigors of eighteenth century soldier life during an American Indian encampment weekend. Volunteer re-enactors near the fort prepare to explain native life-ways. The park's Long Range Interpretive Plan will call for more programs that interpret the Indian cultures.

Long Range Planning

The staff at Fort Necessity strives to provide a variety of engaging options to help you find meaning in the parks stories. So, how do we know what's relevant and if our programs are meeting your expectations? We ask.

We are currently working on a Long Range Interpretive Plan to guide our programs for the next seven to ten years. The process includes meeting with park partners and stakeholders – teachers, volunteers, re-enactors, tourism experts, and others – and evaluating written comments and suggestions from visitors.

Through this inclusive process, we've found people want more information

Bill of Sale

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held sentimental value to Washington.

After Crackel's brief remarks, guests gathered around the 237 year old original document. Many had never before seen a document once owned by George Washington.

Among the attendees was Jeremy Elliot, the fifth-great grandson of Lawrence Harrison, the original owner of Great Meadows who sold it to Washington.

The Bill of Sale was purchased through a private collector in 2006, with funds provided by R.K. Mellon Foundation, Kath-

about the Indians that were at Fort Necessity and in the French and Indian War. We've discovered we need to use new ways to deliver information. In the future, look for more programs done in consultation with Indian nations and more programs and information delivered digitally through the web and other remote technologies.

Most of our visitors are families and school groups, but we serve individuals from all sectors of our society. Whether you visit as an individual, with your family and friends, as part of an organized group, or are doing historical research, we want your experience at the park enjoyable and educational. While we are proud to have achieved a 100% satisfaction rating in 2008, we know we will need to keep improving our programs to maintain that rating.

erine Mabis McKenna Foundation, Mr. Charles J. Queenan, Jr., Esq., Mr. Robert P. Bozzone, Mr. Charles A. Fagan III, and an anonymous donor. The document was donated to the National Park Service with the assistance of Ms. Laura Fisher, Director, French and Indian War 250th. At the time of purchase, the document was in the possession of Dr. Joseph E. Fields, of Williamsburg, Virginia. Dr. Fields is the largest donor of Washington artifacts to Mount Vernon.

A facsimile of the document is now on permanent display in the Visitor Center. Please visit our website at www.nps.gov/ for more information on Fort Necessity National Battlefield.

Meadow Restoration and the Timberdoodle

Fort Necessity National Battlefield was established to preserve the historic battleground. The landscape in and around the Great Meadows has changed dramatically since 1754. The hillside above the fort was forested and the boundary between meadow and forest has moved. Studying pollens in the soil has helped us determine the locations of the original treeline. You may notice the signs and flags in the meadow which mark the historic forest edge. Restoration of these historic landscape can also benefit habitat for wildlife.

Fort Necessity is home to a variety of plants and wildlife, including some animals seldom noticed by visitors, like fox, bear, bobcat, fishers, and the American Woodcock. Habitat loss is the biggest reason plants and animals become endangered. As stewards of the land and the wildlife therein, we are concerned with the impact of this exotic plant on the native wildlife and the national problem of declining habitat. Returning the historic



Students from New Meadow Run School work on removal of exotic plants in the Great Meadow.

forest/meadow landscape will be beneficial to native plant and animal species.

American Woodcock Habitat Restoration Project

The American Woodcock, or Timberdoodle, is a species of special concern. This popular game bird is rapidly losing its special habitat as a result of human activities and the encroachment of exotic vegetation. Woodcocks are attracted to edges of moist woodlands with alder, aspen, hawthorn, and crab apples for nesting,

Morrow's honeysuckle, an Asian shrub, is one of the most successful alien invaders in the Northeast, overtaking large open fields, rights-of-way, and roadsides. It has become a monoculture in the park meadows utilized by the woodcock.

For the past two years, we have worked to remove the honeysuckle from 15 acres of woodcock habitat. Some shrubs that were treated with approved herbicides were left in place temporarily to prevent erosion and discourage deer from browsing on young native plants. After archaeology is done to insure historic resources are protected, we are planting native trees, shrubs and herbs in the now open area to prevent further infestations of honeysuckle or other exotic plants.

For more information, see the "Restoring the Historic Landscape in the Great Meadows" bulletin available in the Interpretive Center.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The battle at Fort Necessity in the summer of 1754 was the opening action of the French and Indian War. This war was a clash of British, French and American Indian cultures. It ended with the removal of French power from North America.

By early in the 19th century, the wilderness had given way to settlement. The National Road passed by the site of Fort Necessity and bustled with traffic. Today the stagecoach stop known as the Mount Washington Tavern is a museum dealing with life along the Road.

Fort Necessity National Battlefield

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

New Entrance Road eases Visitors Access the Fort Necessity

The final construction project from Fort Necessity's development concept plan was completed last November, as the paving was laid on the new entrance road. The road crosses a new bridge over Meadow Run, eliminating the need to drive a complete loop around the new Interpretive and Education Center to get to the parking area. The direct entrance is not only more convenient, but safer, as traffic no longer crosses the trail from the center to the fort. The old road has been removed and the area between the visitor center and the fort is being restored to natural condition.

The development concept plan was approved in 1991 as part of the parks general management plan. It called for a new Visitor Center, Maintenance/Park Headquarters Complex, and improved access and circulation.

The Headquarters/Maintenance Complex was completed in 1995. Improved roads and parking for the Mount Washington Tavern, Jumonville Glen, and Braddock's Grave were completed by 1999. The new Fort Necessity/National Road Interpretive and Education Center opened in 2005.

Much has changed in the seventeen years since the plan was approved. We are confident that these changes have created a safer, more educational, and more satisfying experience for visitor to Fort Necessity National Battlefield.



Fort Necessity Daily Summer Programs



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00	The Visitor Center exhibits are open 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. every day The introductory movie <i>Road of Necessity</i> begins every half hour from 9:00 a.m through 4:30 p.m.						
10:30	MWT 72 for breakfast	MWT 72 for breakfast	MWT Guided Tour	MWT Guided Tour	MWT Guided Tour	MWT 72 for breakfast	MWT 72 for breakfast
11:30	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program
1:00				Fur Trade Station	Fur Trade Station	Fur Trade Station	Fur Trade Station
1:30	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program
2:30	MWT These Walls Can Talk	MWT These Walls Can Talk	MWT Guided Tour	MWT Guided Tour	MWT Guided Tour	MWT These Walls Can Talk	MWT These Walls Can Talk
3:30	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program	Fort Area Soldier Life Program
4:00			Braddock Road	Braddock Road	Braddock Road	Braddock Road	Braddock Road
All programs depend on weather conditions and availability of staff.							

1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Fur Trade Station

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The Fort Log is published by the National Park Service for visitors to Fort Necessity National Battlefield.

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VIP Program growing and focusing

In 2008, 356 VIPs (Volunteers In Park) worked at Fort Necessity. This growing cadre of VIPs assisted in all areas of park operations. Individuals and service groups gave 10,285 hours of time and saved the park an estimated \$200,660.35. Two one-day Volunteer Training workshops



Volunteers learn to make traditional American Indian homes during a training weekend at Fort Necessity.

Interested in becoming a Volunteer? Call Volunteer Coordinator Mary Jane McFadden at 724-329-5473

highlighted the program. 92 volunteers learned how to present hands-on activities associated with American Indians. They learned about traditional wigwams then constructed a full size replica. They learned about cooking, then ground corn. They learned about wampum, then wove a wampum belt. They learned about the fur trade, then used flint and steel to start a fire. They learned about American Indian games, then played them. They also attended programs on historic warfare and on current day stereotypes about American Indians. Each participant returned to volunteer at the park at least one day, demonstrating, alongside paid park staff, a skill they learned in the workshop. 90% of the participants rated the program as excellent. Volunteers also assisted with Project Weed Whack, helping to preserve the cultural landscape by eradicating invasive plant species. Over three days 92 volunteers contributed 353 hours of service. Volunteers also helped with special events; inventoried park artifacts; led interpretive tours; conducted surveys of park visitors; greeted visitors at the information desk; and conducted living history programs. It was a busy year and we couldn't have done it without you. Thank You Volunteers!