

The Story of Mayfield

ERIC CLOSE, TOWN AND VILLAGE HISTORIAN

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OLD FORT JOHNSTOWN

Built in 1772 by Sir William Johnson, it originally served as the Tryon County Jail. Little of the original structure remains, as it was renovated and added onto over the years. It was fortified in 1776 and a palisade was erected around the perimeter with four block houses built, one at each corner. From 1776 to 1783, the fort served as a safe haven for settlers for 15 miles around. After the raid of Lt. Ross and his loyalists and warriors destroyed much of Fonda's Bush, and the Sacandaga, the survivors sought refuge here. By 1781, the handful of remaining inhabitants of this area lived within the protection of the walls. Nearly everything around was destroyed by Sir John Johnson's raiding parties.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FULTON COUNTY AREA NEWS

Upon the outbreak of the Revolution, Mayfield was a struggling settlement on the verge of abandonment. What started as 17 heads of families quickly dwindled down to 8, following a bitter land dispute. By the Summer of 1780, the Mayfield Patent was abandoned, and there were only two known settlers at the Claus Patent—both Loyalists. The Patriots of what became Fulton County hunkered down at Fort Johnstown. Solomon & Selah Woodworth, Henry Kelly, Amasa Stevens, John & Ebenezer Dunham—Mayfield's Minutemen—stood guard at the fort, went on scouting missions, and did what they could to save the settlement they worked so hard to build. Meanwhile, The Dennies, Christies and Cadmans of Mayfield, and The Cooks, Carmans, Sheets, Haynes', Crydermans, and Parkers of Philadelphia Bush fought for the same, but against their former neighbors.

IN THIS EDITION

- MESSAGES
- THE MAYFIELD BRIDGE
- AMERICA 250 – ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY: MAY 19, 1776
- REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS



RICE HOMESTEAD, APRIL 1936

Come take a step back in time at
The Rice Homestead! We look
forward to seeing you!

Bob Suits
President,
Mayfield Historical Society
Rice Homestead
328 Riceville Road
Gloversville, NY 12078

MAYFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2025 EVENTS

MAYFIELD, NY - The Mayfield Historical Society, home of The Rice Homestead at 328 Riceville Road, in Mayfield, New York, has announced its 2026 events.

Saturday, June 13

43rd Annual Strawberry Festival ... and Treasures in the Trunk
Noon to 4 p.m. at the Rice Homestead, 328 Riceville Road
Enjoy delicious strawberry shortcake with ice cream, and refresh with cool lemonade as you listen to live music by Aaron Mittler from 12:30- to 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 16

Ice Cream Social and Concert
6-8 p.m. at The Rice Homestead, 328 Riceville Road
Musicats Duo will perform live on the lawn for this annual favorite, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m! Bring a chair or use one of our picnic tables while you enjoy creamy ice cream and your choice of homemade cake. Homestead tours are part of the fun.

Monday, August 17

MHS Presents: "Update: The Great Sacandaga Lake Discovery Center" 6:30 p.m. at the Mayfield Presbyterian Church, 22 N. Main St. Join us in welcoming Jon Stead, Fulton County's Administrative Officer/Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Stead will give an update on the Great Sacandaga Lake Discovery Center, planned as a regional attraction and complement to the Adirondack Experience in Blue Mountain Lake and the Wild Center in Tupper Lake. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, October 3

Fall Harvest Cruise-In
Noon to 3 p.m. at the Rice Homestead, 328 Riceville Road
A great event for families and car enthusiasts to come together for fall fun and food, including desserts and hot dogs with Mayfield's own Lee's Snack Bar's famous meat sauce. Bring a chair or use one of our picnic tables. Homespun goods will be available for sale, and live music will be performed by singer/guitarist Dan Lynaugh from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Monday, October 19

MHS Presents: "America 250: Mayfield in the Revolution"
6:30 p.m. at the Mayfield Presbyterian Church, 22 N. Main St.
Join Mayfield Historian Eric Close as he discusses the role that Mayfield residents, geography and politics played in the American Revolution 250 years ago. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, December 5

Christmas Open House at the Rice Homestead
Noon to 4 p.m. at The Rice Homestead, 328 Riceville Road
Come and offer glad tidings to all, among roaring fireplaces and seasonal decor. Complimentary homemade cookies and hot mulled cider is prepared on the wood-fired stove. Homemade pies are available for purchase, and festive music will fill the air!

SPECIAL SUMMER EXHIBIT

Wednesdays & Saturdays in June/July/August from Noon to 4 p.m. (and at special events)
"The American Revolution in Mayfield"
Our special exhibit for 2026 commemorates 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in our country. This exhibit highlights the many ways in which the American Revolution touched the people of Mayfield -- bringing some together, tearing some apart, and making an impact that can be measured even to this day.

Many thanks to all the volunteers and public for supporting us. If you would like to get involved, please contact us on Facebook or email – Mayfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Bob Suits, President
"Like" us at
www.facebook.com/ricehomestead!

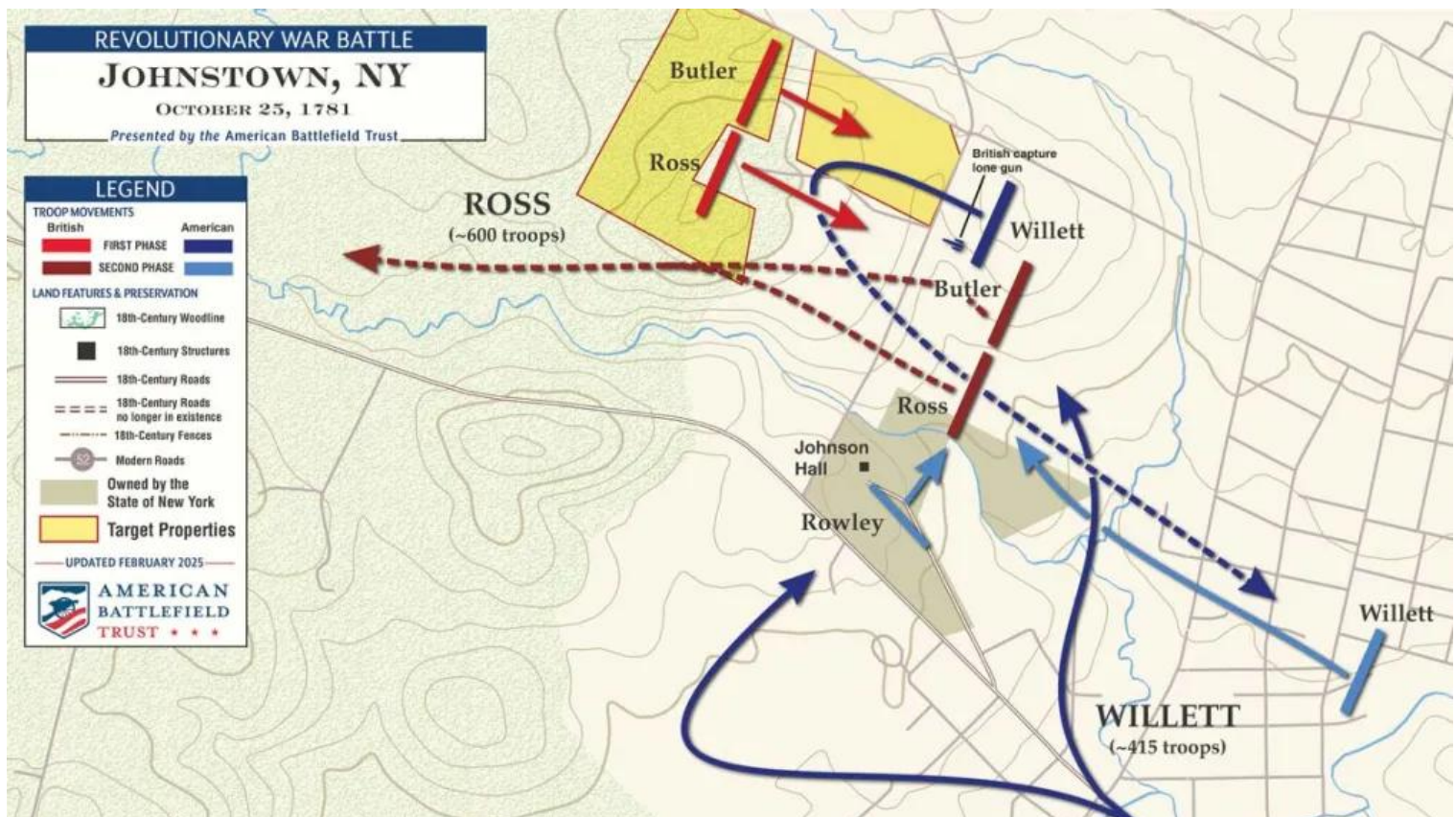
EDITOR'S MESSAGE

OUR LOCAL HISTORY IS GOING DIGITAL! IT IS A WORK IN PROGRESS, BUT PLEASE CHECK IT OUT. GO TO THE TON WEBSITE, "TOWNOFMAYFIELDNY.GOV" AND YOU CAN FIND IT IN THE HISTORICAL SECTION UNDER THE LINK OF "[Town Historian's Digital Archives](#)"

THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT TO HISTORICAL PRESERVATION IS "WE THE PEOPLE." AND BY THAT, I MEAN THE FOLKS WHO SHARE, DISCUSS, AND QUESTION WHAT IS KNOWN. AS A HISTORIAN, I AM NOT ONLY A TEACHER OF HISTORY, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY A STUDENT. IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE, PLEASE CONTACT ME. — HISTORIAN@TOWNOFMAYFIELDNY.GOV (518) 774-0703



ERIC CLOSE
MAYFIELD TOWN HISTORIAN



The Battle of Johnstown, October 25, 1781. Map Courtesy of the American Battlefield Trust

AMERICA 250

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

MAY 19, 1776

On May 19, 1776, Colonel Elias Dayton arrived at Johnstown with his 3rd New Jersey Regiment. He had been marching with them north from N.J. to reinforce the Continental Army's failing invasion of Canada when General Philip Schuyler learned that Sir John Johnson violated the terms of his parole by continuing to arm his tenants. General Schuyler found Colonel Elias Dayton in passing, and sent him to Johnstown to carry out the orders to arrest Johnson, his retainers, and march them to Albany. The following is a transcription of a letter from Colonel Dayton to General Schuyler detailing his arrival at Johnstown dated May 19, 1776.

Sir.

I arrived at this town about five o'clock this day and immediately sent Major Barber and one of the Committee of Tryon County with a letter to Sir John Johnson informing him, that I was arrived with a Body of troops to guard the Highlanders to Albany and desired that he would fix a time for their Assembling.

When these gentlemen came to Johnson Hall they were informed by Lady Johnson that Sir John Johnson had received General Schuyler's letter by the Express that he had consulted the Highlanders upon the contents, and that they had unanimously resolved not to deliver themselves as prisoners, but to go another way, and that Sir John Johnson had determined to go with them. She added that if they were pursued they were determined to make an opposition and had it in their power in some measure.

As this makes a total alteration in our Expedition I have thought it advisable to send you immediate notice by Express, to receive further orders in this matter – I have likewise dispatched an express to the German Flatts in order to Alarm the people and to know whether Sir John Johnson had taken that rout-

The Commissioners, who went to inform the Indians of the March of our troops have returned from the castle and acquaint us that the Old Sachems are peaceable, and well affected – but about thirty Indians, who are attached to Sir John, have just marched armed to Johnson Hall; whether they are gone to assist Sir John (who may possibly not be gone from his House) or whether they joined a Body of other People, I cannot say -

Whilst I am writing this another Party of Twenty five Indians have passed another way into the Town. In this Situation of Affairs. I have thought it advisable to take every precaution to prevent Surprise, till I hear further from you- To morrow morning I shall send proper persons into the Settlement to see whether the Highlanders are in reality gone off- and to discover if possible what force Sir John can collect- If you think proper to pursue Vigorous measures in order to apprehend these Persons, we shall immediately want a farther Supply of Provisions and Powder.

Elias Dayton,

Colonel, Third New Jersey Regiment

As a result of Sir John's flight to Canada with 170 of his tenants, many of the remaining loyalists were arrested and confined at the Tryon County Jail. The following is a list of *persons confind in jail*.

<i>Peter Bruner</i>	<i>George Shink</i>	<i>Rid Hansen</i>
<i>Jacob Algire</i>	<i>Ad^m Shnider</i>	<i>John Reyly</i>
<i>John Frees</i>	<i>John Saver</i>	<i>Jam^s Wilks</i>
<i>Baltes Ergesinger</i>	<i>Mich^l Rossel</i>	<i>John Jost Petry</i>
<i>John McCreer</i>	<i>Conroth Shmitt</i>	<i>Dirk Bell</i>
<i>Dan^l McGreigry</i>	<i>W^m Bown</i>	<i>George McGines</i>
<i>Mich^l Staller</i>	<i>Franc Prine</i>	<i>John Hachny</i>
<i>John Torn</i>	<i>John Davice</i>	<i>Adam Halmer</i>
<i>Aron Brad</i>	<i>Cornel Phillips</i>	<i>John Weber</i>
<i>Thom^s Butler</i>	<i>John Gibson</i>	<i>Peter Yhost</i>
<i>James Linch</i>	<i>Henry Bown</i>	<i>Jacob Shind</i>
<i>Sam^l Patterson</i>	<i>Kom Knight</i>	<i>Mich^l Carman</i>
<i>Trueman Christy</i>	<i>Jacob Zambogh</i>	<i>Mich^l Callinger</i>
<i>Rich^d Robbingson</i>	<i>David Ghochs</i>	<i>Adward Gayinlist</i>
<i>Symon Strador</i>	<i>Hans Hartel</i>	<i>Sam^l Thomson</i>
<i>Down Conner</i>	<i>Jam^s Mersy</i>	<i>Andrew Mitchal</i>
<i>Nicholaus Pradhour</i>	<i>Jan Anneble</i>	<i>John Jhost Petry Jun^r</i>
<i>Hannes Ald</i>	<i>George Zuppert</i>	<i>Jam^s Platow</i>
<i>Nich^s Shafer</i>	<i>Fred^k Bernard</i>	<i>Peter Ehl</i>
	<i>Peter Servise</i>	

The two bolded names: ***Trueman Christy*** – ***Mich^l Carman***

Truman Christie was a resident of Mayfield, either living with his father, John, along the trail from Kingsborough to Mayfield (Phelps Street) or living with his brother, Simeon, on the Claus Patent (old Gramp Brower farm on Town Road). He was arrested and confined in the Tryon County Jail. On June 25, 1776, he was sent with 45 others to Albany, and from there to the notorious Loyalist prison in Hartford, Connecticut. Christie suffered in his confinement, and after he was released, died in Canada in Nov. 1782.

Michael Carman, of Philadelphia Bush, was arrested and confined several times over the course of the war. Eventually, in February of 1782, he and his family were run out of town by the bayonet points of the Tryon County Militia under orders of Col. Marinus Willet. The Carman family started anew in Canada.

MAYFIELD'S VETERANS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

In an effort to observe this great "America 250" celebration, a considerable project has been undertaken to research and compile information of every Revolutionary War veteran to have lived in Mayfield. This list includes the colonial belligerents, who fought the war as settlers of this frontier, both as loyalists or patriots. The list also includes those veterans who settled here after the war, some remaining here for the rest of their lives, and others moving westward after a few years. The list contains 142 names. Of that sum, 64 of them were here during the war; and about 2/3 (41) of those 64 were loyalists. Of the 23 patriots in Mayfield, 8 moved away and 8 were killed during the war. The list is as follows.

<i>Duncan Anderson</i>	<i>Andrew Cole</i>	<i>John Fonda</i>	<i>Jacob Ross</i>
<i>Nathaniel Averill</i>	<i>Joseph Collins</i>	<i>Isaac Fonda</i>	<i>Robert Ryon</i>
<i>Dirck Banta</i>	<i>Edward Connor</i>	<i>Jesse Foote</i>	<i>Adam Sheets</i>
<i>Zerah Beach</i>	<i>John Cook</i>	<i>William Fox</i>	<i>Jacob Sheets</i>
<i>Jacob Becker</i>	<i>John Cook, Jr.</i>	<i>Peter Frayer</i>	<i>Jacob Sheets, Jr.</i>
<i>David D. Becker</i>	<i>Ashbel Cornwell</i>	<i>Thomas Ganong</i>	<i>William Sheets</i>
<i>Isaac Bemis</i>	<i>James Cotter</i>	<i>John Gifford</i>	<i>George Sheets</i>
<i>Elisha Bently</i>	<i>George Cough</i>	<i>Gardiner Gilbert</i>	<i>Martin Silmser</i>
<i>Jeremiah Bickford †</i>	<i>Henry Cough †</i>	<i>Frances Gurnee</i>	<i>David Skinner</i>
<i>Samuel Bigford</i>	<i>Francis Courtney</i>	<i>Joseph Hanes</i>	<i>Stephen Smith</i>
<i>Luther Bishop</i>	<i>Benjamin Craft</i>	<i>Johannes P Helmer</i>	<i>Peter Snyder</i>
<i>Salmon Blodgett</i>	<i>Valentine Cryderman †</i>	<i>Warren Howell</i>	<i>Elkanah Sprague</i>
<i>Samuel Blowers</i>	<i>Thomas Davis</i>	<i>Griffith Howell</i>	<i>Amasa Stevens †</i>
<i>Luke Bowen</i>	<i>Peter Demarest</i>	<i>John Howell</i>	<i>John Stoner</i>
<i>Andries Bowman</i>	<i>Abraham Demarest</i>	<i>Robert Jackson</i>	<i>Nicholas Stoner</i>
<i>John Bracken</i>	<i>David Demarest</i>	<i>Henry Kelly †</i>	<i>Henry Stoner †</i>
<i>Benjamin Bragg</i>	<i>Samuel Denison</i>	<i>William Kennedy</i>	<i>Peter Tallman</i>
<i>Abiel Joseph Briggs</i>	<i>Jacob Dennie</i>	<i>Edward Kennicutt</i>	<i>Woodhull Tarneur</i>
<i>Joseph Brown</i>	<i>Nicholas Dennie</i>	<i>Peter McArthur</i>	<i>Hezekiah Tyrrell</i>
<i>Samuel Brown</i>	<i>Barent Dennie</i>	<i>John McKinlay</i>	<i>Francis Van Buren</i>
<i>Asahel Buck †</i>	<i>Walter Dixon</i>	<i>Robert Mitchell</i>	<i>Harmon Van Buren</i>
<i>George Cadman †</i>	<i>John Dixon</i>	<i>Richard Morden</i>	<i>Matthew Van den Berck</i>
<i>William Cadman</i>	<i>Lewis DuBois</i>	<i>Joseph Morden †</i>	<i>James Vanderbogart</i>
<i>Richard Cadman</i>	<i>Jacob Dunham †</i>	<i>John Morden</i>	<i>Jenks Waite</i>
<i>George Cadman</i>	<i>Samuel Dunham †</i>	<i>James Morden</i>	<i>Martin Walter</i>
<i>Jonathan Canfield</i>	<i>Ebenezer Dunham</i>	<i>John Parker †</i>	<i>Abraham Wells</i>
<i>Michael Carman</i>	<i>John Dunham †</i>	<i>Isaac Parker</i>	<i>William Wells</i>
<i>Michael Carman, Jr.</i>	<i>John Dye</i>	<i>William Parker</i>	<i>Jacob West</i>
<i>John Christie</i>	<i>Ahimaaz Easton</i>	<i>William Parker, Jr.</i>	<i>John Whiting</i>
<i>Abijah Christie</i>	<i>John Eikler †</i>	<i>Jacob Persell</i>	<i>Obadiah Wilkins</i>
<i>Truman Christie †</i>	<i>Nahum Fairbank</i>	<i>Paul Persell</i>	<i>Solomon Woodworth †</i>
<i>John Christie</i>	<i>Jonathan Fisk</i>	<i>Samuel Petit</i>	<i>Selah Woodworth</i>
<i>Simeon Christie</i>	<i>Hermanus Flaake</i>	<i>Oliver Rice</i>	<i>Samuel Woodworth</i>
<i>William Coan</i>	<i>Eldert Fonda</i>	<i>John Rice</i>	<i>Gershon Woodworth</i>
<i>Jacob Coan</i>	<i>Jacob Fonda</i>	<i>Elijah Roberts</i>	<i>William Woodworth</i>
	<i>Peter Fonda</i>	<i>Abraham Romeyn</i>	