

John Forbes



British Army brigadier general, age 51, born in Scotland. Forbes was the commander of forces at Fort Ligonier and campaign to take Fort Duquesne. He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh before pursuing what became an impressive military career. Forbes fought for the British government at the uprising in Culloden (Scotland) in 1746 and was reportedly saved by a small coin in his pocket. In 1757, he was appointed by William Pitt to head the British troops in the campaign against Fort Duquesne. He instructed troops to build a new road across Pennsylvania and to build a series of forts in the advance. Forbes is credited with driving the French forces from the western frontier (Pennsylvania) and seizing Fort Duquesne from the French. He commanded the building of Fort Pitt, the largest British fort in America—what was to become the city of Pittsburgh. Forbes was quite ill during the campaign and died in Philadelphia in March of 1759.

Henry Bouquet

British Army colonel, age 39 was born in the Lake Geneva area of Switzerland. Fluent in French, German and English, he served as second in command under General Forbes. Bouquet enlisted in the British Army when George II recruited professional soldiers to serve in the colonies (British America). One of the most successful colonial soldiers, Colonel Bouquet played a leading role in Great Britain's efforts to control the land beyond the Allegheny Mountains. He supervised the building of the Forbes Road and frontier forts between Carlisle and Ohio, including Fort Ligonier, defeated Indian forces at the Battle of Bushy Run in 1763. Later Bouquet was made a brigadier general (unusual for a foreigner in the British Army) and placed in command of the southern district of North America. He died in Florida of yellow fever in 1765.

George Washington

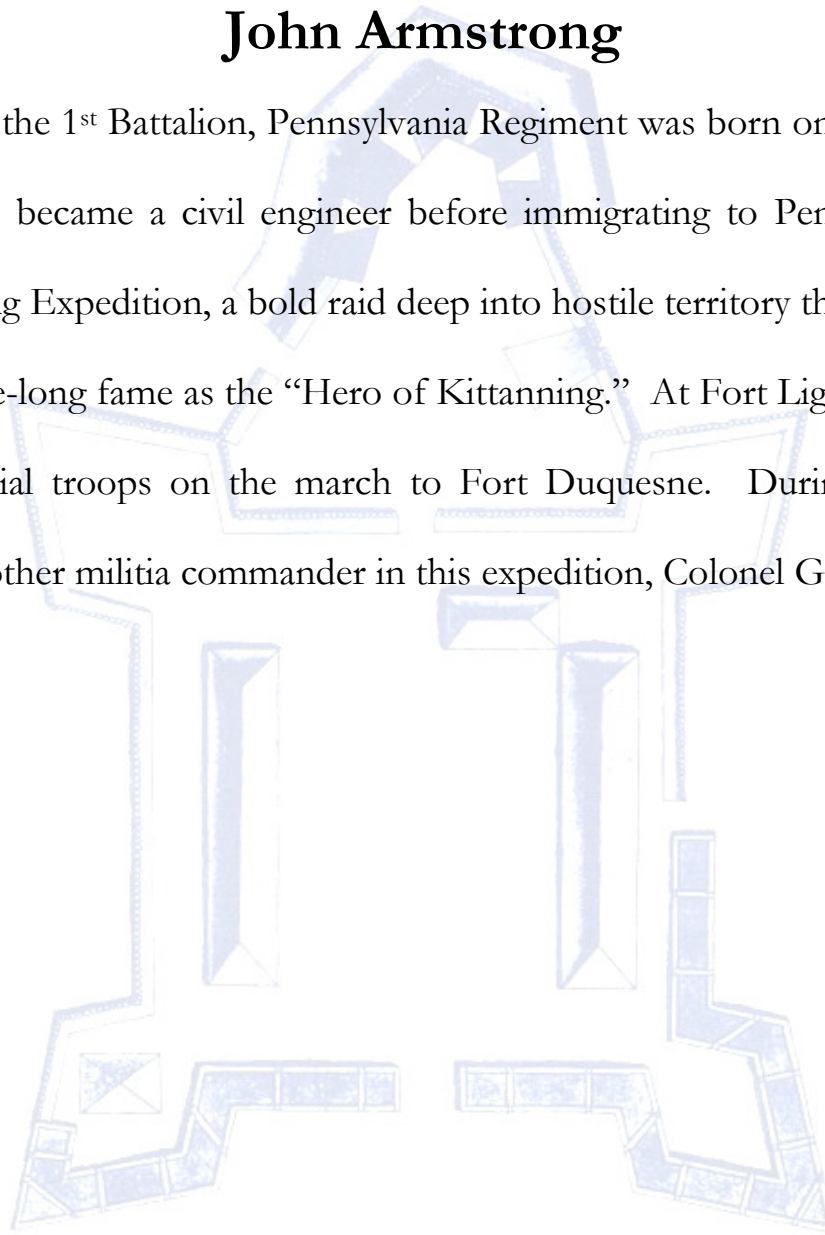


A Colonel in the Virginia Regiment (Provincial), age 26. He was defeated at Fort Necessity in 1754, which contributed to the start of the French and Indian War. Later served as an aide to General Edward Braddock in 1755 when British troops were defeated by the French and Indian forces near Fort Duquesne. A stubborn advocate of Virginia's interests, he disagreed with the building of the Forbes Road and favored Braddock's Road. In January 1759 he resigned from the military and returned to Virginia to become a farmer and marry the richest widow in the county, Martha Custis.

Almost thirty years later he wrote his “Remarks” on the French and Indian War in which he described the “friendly fire” incident near Fort Mifflin. He was the first president of the newly formed United States. He died of pneumonia in 1799.

John Armstrong

Colonel John Armstrong of the 1st Battalion, Pennsylvania Regiment was born on October 13, 1717 in Ireland. He was educated there and became a civil engineer before immigrating to Pennsylvania. In 1756, Colonel Armstrong led the Kittanning Expedition, a bold raid deep into hostile territory that destroyed Kittanning. The action earned Armstrong life-long fame as the “Hero of Kittanning.” At Fort Ligonier, in 1758, Armstrong led 2,700 Pennsylvania provincial troops on the march to Fort Duquesne. During the campaign, Armstrong became a good friend to another militia commander in this expedition, Colonel George Washington.



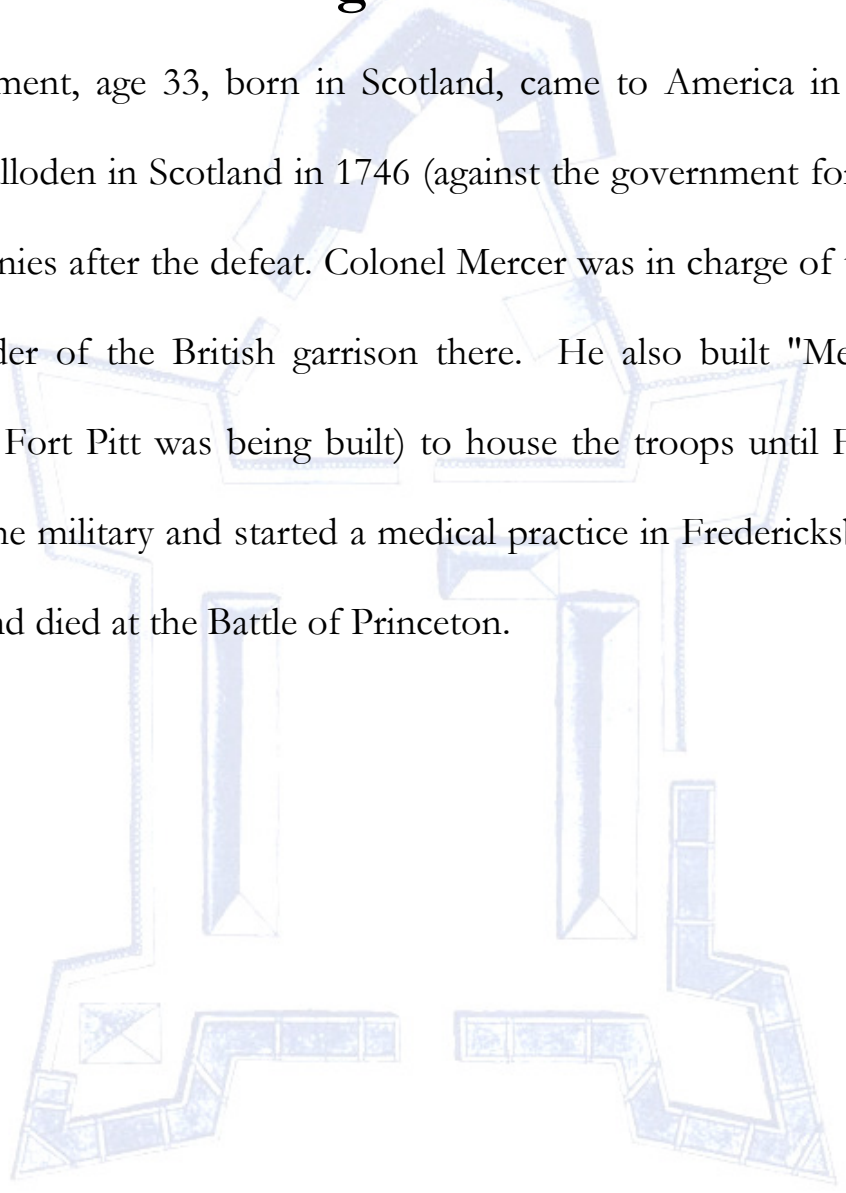
Sir John St. Clair



Deputy Quarter Master General for British Forces in America, age unknown (probably late 30's in 1758), born in Scotland. Fought with General Edward Braddock in 1755 when British troops were defeated by French and Indian forces near Fort Duquesne; was badly wounded in the battle but recovered. St. Clair chose the site upon which to build Fort Ligonier and helped supervise the building of the Forbes Road. He served in America from 1755-1767. Sometimes called a "difficult" personality, St. Clair was not particularly well-liked by the troops; he was haughty and determined to do things his own way.

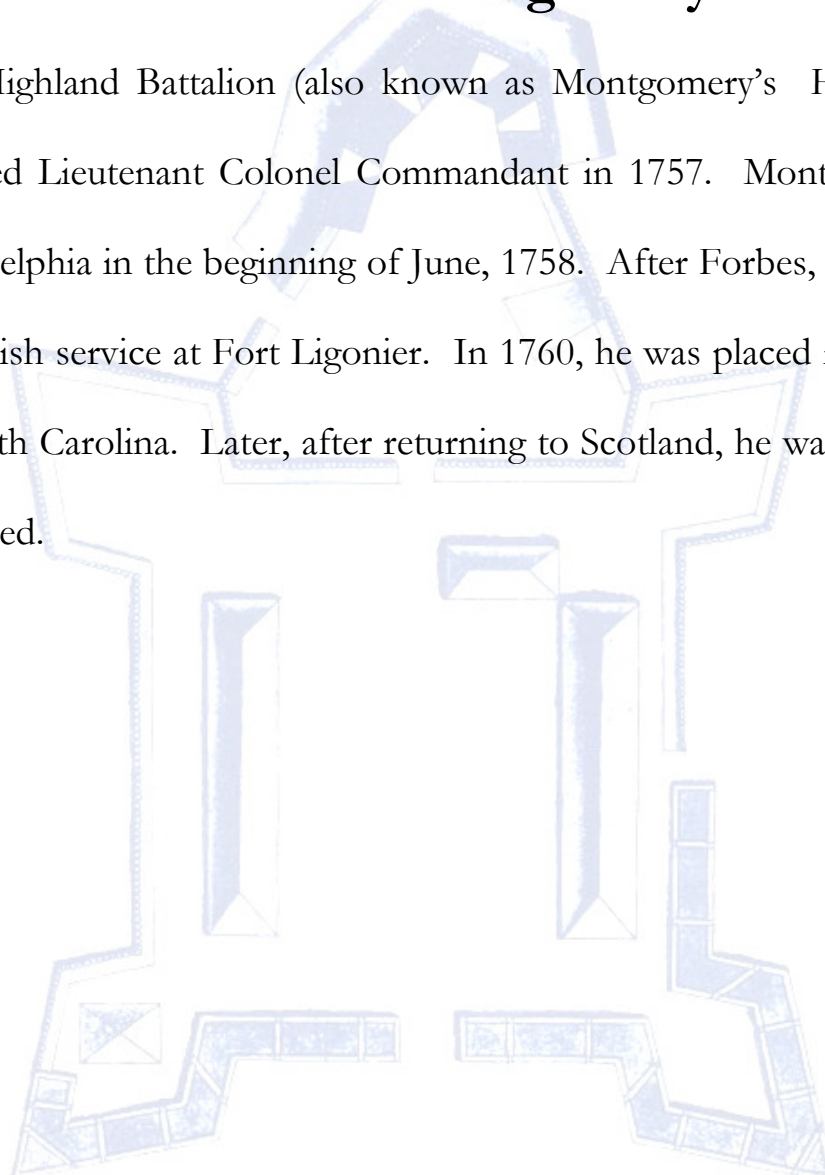
Hugh Mercer

Colonel, Pennsylvania Regiment, age 33, born in Scotland, came to America in 1747. He fought with the Jacobites at the Battle of Culloden in Scotland in 1746 (against the government forces which included General Forbes) and fled to the colonies after the defeat. Colonel Mercer was in charge of the construction of Fort Pitt and was the first commander of the British garrison there. He also built "Mercer's Fort" (a small rough structure adjacent to where Fort Pitt was being built) to house the troops until Fort Pitt was completed. In 1761, Mercer retired from the military and started a medical practice in Fredericksburg, VA. Later, he became a Revolutionary War hero and died at the Battle of Princeton.



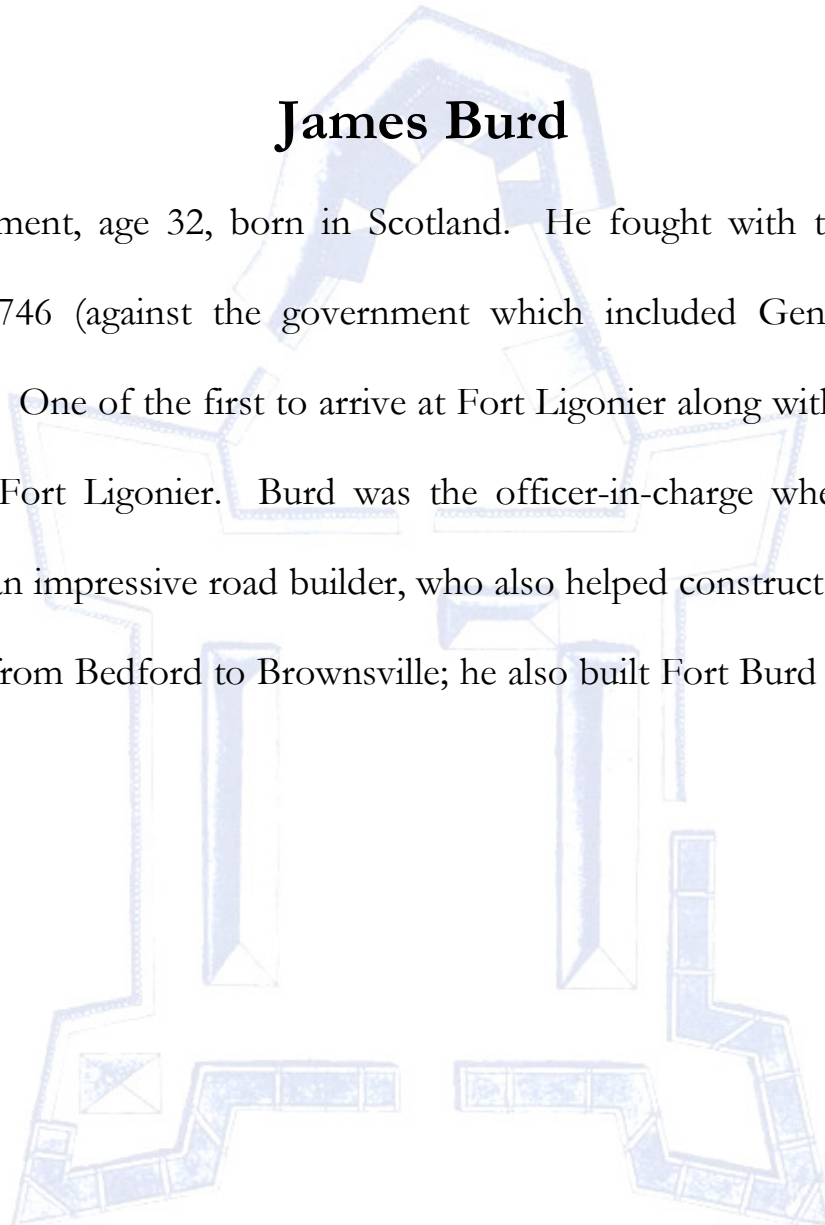
Archibald Montgomery

Colonel who raised First Highland Battalion (also known as Montgomery's Highlanders), age 32, born in Scotland. He was appointed Lieutenant Colonel Commandant in 1757. Montgomery, called "able but hot tempered," arrived in Philadelphia in the beginning of June, 1758. After Forbes, Bouquet and St. Clair, he was the senior officer in the British service at Fort Mifflin. In 1760, he was placed in command of an expedition against the Cherokee in South Carolina. Later, after returning to Scotland, he was known as the Eleventh Earl of Eglinton, a title he inherited.



James Burd

Colonel, Pennsylvania Regiment, age 32, born in Scotland. He fought with the Jacobites at the Battle of Culloden in Scotland in 1746 (against the government which included General Forbes). Burd was an industrious and able soldier. One of the first to arrive at Fort Ligonier along with 1500 men, he instructed the troops on the building of Fort Ligonier. Burd was the officer-in-charge when the Fort was attacked on October 12, 1758. He was an impressive road builder, who also helped construct Braddock's Road in 1755. In 1759, he built Burd's Road from Bedford to Brownsville; he also built Fort Burd near present-day Brownsville, PA.





William Byrd, III

Colonel, 2nd Virginia Regiment, age 30, came from a prominent and wealthy Virginia family. From 1752-1754 he served in the House of Burgesses and, he was an Indian diplomat or negotiator during the early years of the French and Indian War. He enjoyed horseracing and gambling for high stakes. He served Lord Loudoun, Commander-in-Chief of North America 1756-1757 as a volunteer aide. His regiment, 900 strong, was formed on May 29, 1758. While at Fort Ligonier, in November 1758, a corps was drawn from his 2nd Virginia regiment under Lieutenant Colonel George Mercer, which was involved in the friendly fire incident of George Washington and his 1st Virginia Regiment.

