



# HALLOWED GROUND

NEW YORK'S FORGOTTEN REVOLUTIONARY WAR BATTLEFIELDS

## PRESS KIT



**WCNY**  
connected.

## DOCUMENTARY DESCRIPTION

### WCNY Connected presents *Hallowed Ground: New York's Forgotten Revolutionary War Battlefields*



WCNY travelled to northern and southwestern New York communities to explore four Revolutionary War battlefields and the challenges these lands face to retain their historic legacies.

All four were the sites of pivotal battles of the American Revolution and now are listed among the National Park Service's endangered battlefields. Along the way, WCNY interviewed historians and tribal leaders, archaeologists and preservationists, battlefield friends and interested citizens, to uncover each battlefield's past and present story.

Two battles fought near Elmira, NY - Chemung and Newtown - were part of the Sullivan-Clinton campaign's goal to eliminate the threat of Iroquois warriors fighting alongside the British. Battles in northeastern New York; at Fort Ann and Walloomsac (known as Bennington Battlefield, for the Vermont town seven miles away) were essential to delaying British troops from a timely arrival at Saratoga, site of the turning point American victory in the Revolutionary War.

As part of the documentary production, WCNY also hosted engagement events in the communities where the battlefields reside bringing such noted speakers as Dr. Andrew O'Shaughnessy, Vice President of Monticello and author of *The Men Who Lost America: British Leadership, the*

*American Revolution, and the Fate of the Empire* and military history Glenn Williams, author of the award-winning *Year of the Hangman: George Washington's Campaign against the Iroquois*, who helped broaden knowledge of each battlefield's significance.

Lindsey Morrison of the Civil War Trust also was a guest speaker. The Civil War Trust, in 2014, expanded its mission to foster the preservation and interpretation of Civil War battlefields to include battlefields from the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 via its Campaign 1776. Congress enacted legislation to expand funding to preserve endangered American battlefields. According to a 2007 survey, of 243 principal Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefield sites identified by the National Park Service, 141 are either lost or unable to be preserved in a meaningful way. 100 other surviving battlefields retain only about 37% of their original historic landscape, with 82 of them partially owned and protected and 18 lacking any sort of protection.

The documentary was made possible, in part, by a grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program



## PRESS RELEASE

### CONTACT INFORMATION FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE [DATE]

[station] presents "Hallowed Ground: New York's Forgotten Revolutionary War Battlefields" [date] [time] [station].

The new, one-hour documentary was produced by WCNY, Central New York's public broadcaster.

Viewers will travel to northern and southwestern New York communities to explore four Revolutionary War battlefields, all sites of pivotal battles and all on the list of the National Park Service's endangered battlefields. The film also includes interviews with historians and tribal leaders, archaeologists and preservationists, battlefield friends and interested citizens, to uncover each battlefield's past and present story.

Featured experts include Dr. Andrew O'Shaughnessy, Vice President of Monticello and author of *The Men Who Lost America: British Leadership, the American Revolution, and the Fate of the Empire* and military history Glenn Williams, author of the award-winning *Year of the Hangman: George Washington's Campaign against the Iroquois*, who helped broaden knowledge of each battlefield's significance.

Lindsey Morrison of the Civil War Trust speaks about how The Civil War Trust, in 2014, expanded its mission to foster the preservation and interpretation of Civil War battlefields to include battlefields from the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 via its Campaign 1776.

The documentary was made possible, in part, by a grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program. Two battlefields near Elmira, NY - Chemung and Newtown - were part of the Sullivan-Clinton campaign's goal to eliminate the threat of Iroquois warriors fighting alongside the British while the battles in northern New York, at Fort Ann and Walloomsac (the battlefield is actually named for Bennington, VT about 7 miles away) were essential to delaying British troops from a timely arrival at Saratoga, which loomed large in that American victory, which became the turning point for the war.

To learn more, visit [wcny.org/hallowedground](http://wcny.org/hallowedground).

## PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS

### Chemung Marker Tour:

Seneca and Delaware Nation representatives examining the language on a 100-year-old historical marker near the site of the Battle of Chemung. Part of a battlefield tour given by archeologists from SUNY Binghamton.



### Fort Ann Meeting:

Fort Ann Town Supervisor Richie Moore speaking at an informational meeting with representatives of the Civil War Trust, concerning the preservation of the battlefield on "Battle Hill."



### Gino Vona:

Property owner whose pursuit of mining permits on his own land east of Lake George reopened debate on the site of the Battle of Fort Anne.



### Michael Jacobson:

SUNY Binghamton archeologist Michael Jacobson explaining troop movements during the Battle of Chemung, fought on what is now the backyard of a home owned by Dr. Earl Robinson, who has been actively trying to preserve battlefield and local history in the Chemung Valley.



### John Stark Monument:

John Stark, the hero of the Battle of Bennington. His statue is at the base of the tallest structure in state of Vermont commemorating a battle that was actually fought miles away, in New York.



## PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS

### Newtown Drone of Park:

Aerial view of Newtown Battlefield State Park in Chemung County. The Battle of Newtown was actually fought mostly on land that remains private property just outside the park grounds.



### Newtown Encampment:

Newtown Battlefield State Park, living history encampment at the final commemoration of the Battle of Newtown



### Posing with Found Ball:

Public archeology day at the Bennington Battlefield Park. Amateur archeologists Marie Frye and Cheryl Huxhold posing with a lead ball excavators found under the guidance of professional archeologists mapping the battlefield.



### Soldiers Shooting:

Volunteers engage in a Revolutionary War era re-enactment at Newtown Battlefield State Park.



### Tory Fort, Bennington:

Archeologists and Historians assessing the "Tory Fort" area of the Bennington Battlefield.





## SOCIAL MEDIA



Explore four Revolutionary War battlefields [date] [time] [station] on Hallowed Ground: New York's Forgotten Revolutionary War Battlefields. #historymatters

Uncover the history of four battlefields with @WCNY newest documentary #hallowedground New York's Forgotten Revolutionary War Battlefields [date] [time] [station]


One man's property rights clash with a community's Revolutionary War legacy. Watch #HallowedGround an @WCNY documentary (date) (time) (station)

Four NY Revolutionary War battlefields: will they be forgotten? Watch #HallowedGround, an @WCNY doc on (station) (date) (time)

Will Revolutionary War battlefields in NY disappear? #HallowedGround, new @WCNY documentary (date) (time) (station)


## CONTACT

### FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**FOR ASSETS, please visit [wcny.org/hallowedground](http://wcny.org/hallowedground)**

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