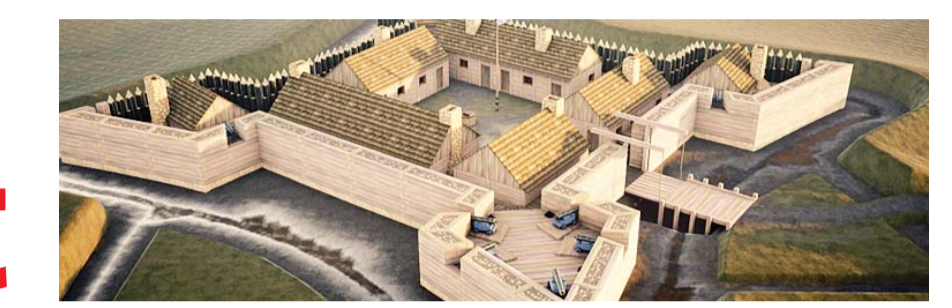


World Pinhole Photography Day: Celebrating The Magic Of Simple Cameras

Inspired on the last Sunday of April, World Pinhole Photography Day honours the art of capturing images using the simplest form of a camera, one without a lens. Photographers across the globe create and share images taken with handmade pinhole cameras, celebrating creativity, patience and experimentation. The day encourages people to slow down and rediscover photography's roots, where light, time and imagination shape every frame. By embracing this minimalist technique, enthusiasts celebrate the beauty of analogue processes and the timeless joy of storytelling through images.



The Whitehall Evening Post in London reported that the relief unit began shooting "on seeing our people with Indians amongst them about the fire." The roar of musketry erupted once again as lead balls thudded into trees, rocks and human flesh. Washington quickly realized the mistake and began running between the two sides (presumably on foot), ordering his men to cease firing and knocking their muskets up with his sword. Officers began to restore order, a difficult task, as many soldiers were likely scattered among the trees rather than in dense ranks.



#STRANGE

Peacocks and Snakes

The unexpected Predator-Prey Relationship of Peacocks with Cobras



Peacocks, with their dazzling, iridescent plumage and elegant courtship displays, are often admired as symbols of beauty, grace, and fertility. But behind their stunning feathers and regal appearance lies a surprising, and somewhat unexpected, side to these birds: their ability to prey on dangerous reptiles, including venomous cobras.

This fascinating and little-known behaviour showcases the peacock's adaptability and the complex dynamics of the natural world. Let's explore how peacocks interact with snakes, especially cobras, and what makes them such skilled and unlikely snake predators.

The Indian peacock (Pavo cristatus) is one of the most iconic birds in the world, known for its elaborate tail feathers that it fans out during courtship rituals. Native to the Indian subcontinent, peacocks are often found in forests, grasslands, and even urban areas. These birds are omnivorous, feeding on a wide range of foods such as seeds, fruits, insects, small animals, and even reptiles.

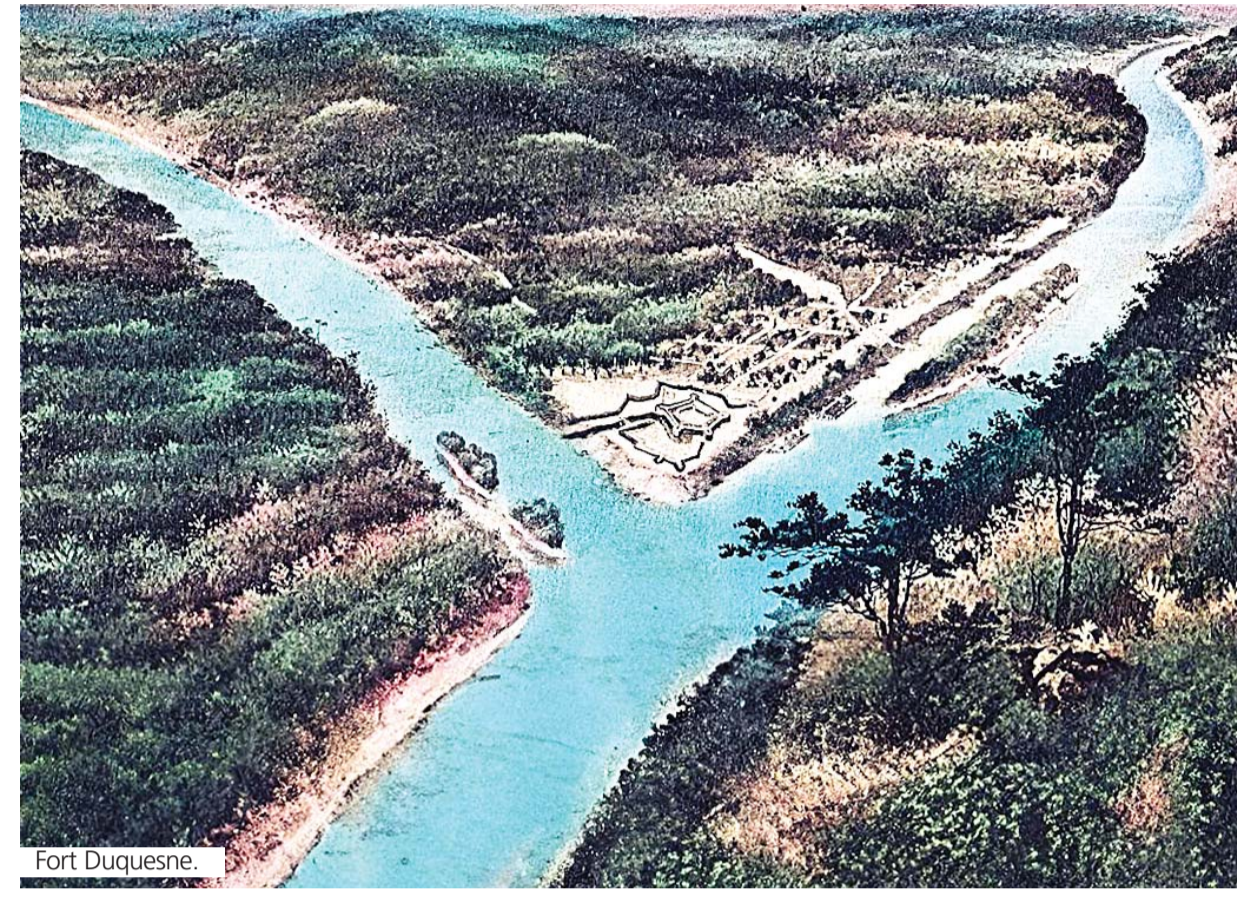
Peacocks Eating Snakes: A Predatory Side

Though primarily herbivorous and insectivorous, peacocks are known to exhibit a predatory streak, especially when it comes to small reptiles. The most remarkable aspect of this behaviour is that peacocks are capable of hunting and consuming venomous snakes, including the king cobra (Ophiophagus hannah), one of the deadliest snakes in the world.

How Peacocks Hunt Cobras

The encounter between a peacock and a snake, particularly a cobra, is a highly dramatic and dangerous affair. Here's how peacocks typically engage with snakes:

- Vigilance and Observation:** Peacocks are incredibly alert and watchful birds. They are known for their sharp eyesight, which helps them



• Verna Mohan

For the French, the friendly fire incident was a turning point in the struggle for the Ohio Valley. The commanding officer at Fort Duquesne, Captain Francois-Marie Le Marchand de Lignery, had been tasked with repairing the crumbling edifice of French power in the Ohio Valley, both literally and figuratively. Years of floods had rendered Fort Duquesne indefensible. Yet, through most of 1758, the French and their Native allies had bested the British in battle. In September, they had destroyed a large British reconnaissance force led by Major James Grant, a battle that became known as Grant's Defeat. The French followed that victory in October with a spoiling attack on Loyalhanna, designed to destroy supplies and capture livestock so that the British advance would grind to a halt.



The gateway to Fort Ligonier (reconstructed). The British troops built the post in the summer of 1758 as they gained on the French.

By mid-October, Lignery no longer had enough rations to sustain his garrison beyond 10 days, let alone provide gifts and supplies to his Native allies. Most of his troops left Fort Duquesne, and discouraged Native allies drifted away. But the officer was determined to keep pressure on the British, as he informed his superiors: "I have not ceased for a month to have scouting done in the neighbourhood at Loyalhanna." As Lignery sent out another party in early November, he hoped his men could prevent the British from attacking Fort Duquesne for the rest of the year.

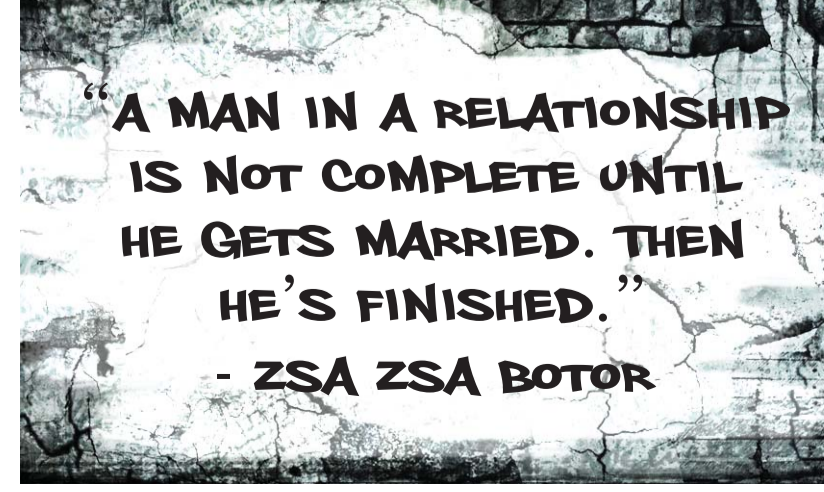
According to Vaudreuil's letter, a party of 30 French Canadians, along with 140 Shawnee, Delaware and Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) warriors, set out for Loyalhanna on November 9. Their leader, Lieutenant Claude-Louis de Corbiere, was a master of woodland warfare with Native allies. By 1758, he had destroyed several British forces in battle. Yet, by the time his group approached Loyalhanna, it had dwindled to around 50 Canadians and Indians.

Without knowing that Corbiere's party was on its way, Forbes met with his principal officers at Loyalhanna on November 11. They acknowledged a hard truth: The cold weather was causing supply shortages and turning the roads into soup rivers of mud. The campaign would have to be suspended, and the army would winter at Loyalhanna, as the Ohio Valley would remain in French hands.

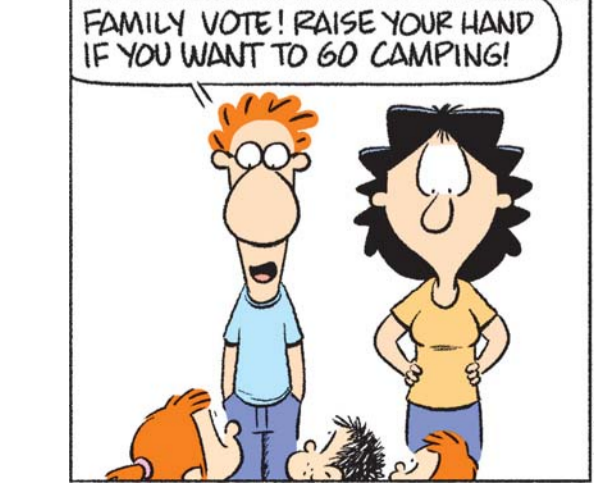


Extra fortification, including a moat, wooden walls and four bastions, surrounded the 200 square foot inner fort, which contained the soldiers' bunk, storehouse and officers' quarters.

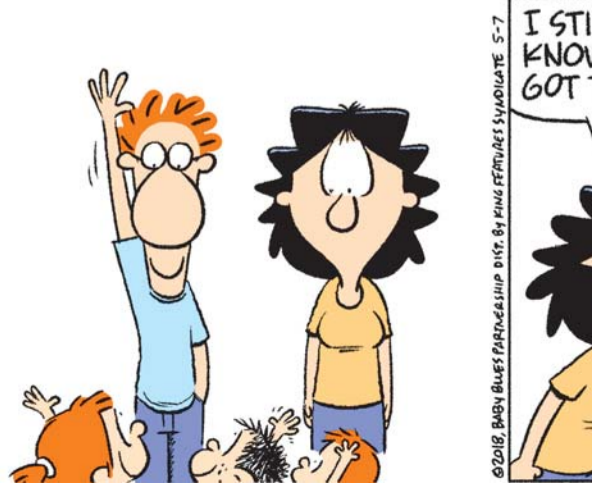
THE WALL



BABY BLUES



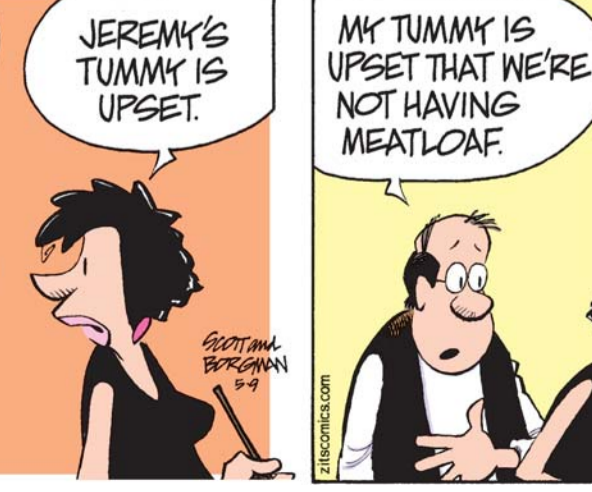
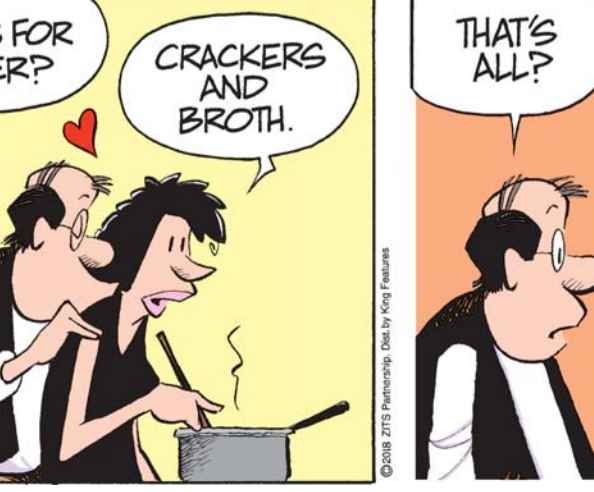
ZITS



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



learned from their own scouts, or guards tending nearby cattle that the French were approaching with a party of around 200. The first group Forbes sent out was more than a match: around 500 Virginians, led by Lieutenant Colonel George Mercer, had taken position behind trees and rocks, intending to withdraw under cover of darkness. Archaeologists have found a pattern of bullets concentrated on that very shelf, including the three unspent musket balls, which were perhaps dropped by a wounded or retreating French or Native fighter.

Corbiere and his allies were savvy veterans of wilderness warfare. Though heavily outnumbered, they had preserved their line of retreat. As they broke off contact and headed west towards Fort Duquesne, Mercer's Virginians managed to capture three prisoners, including a Native man and woman. (There is no discussion in the sources about the Native woman, who she was or what she was doing in the party)

That was when Washington's relief force burst onto the scene, "approaching in another direction," as Washington later recalled. Fearing that the French and Natives had circled back for a counter-attack, Mercer's men opened fire. Darkness, as well as clouds of smoke from the musketry, obscured visibility in the valley. Washington's men saw Mercer's group and

assumed they had surrounded the enemy. The presence of Native prisoners might have added to the confusion. The Whitehall Evening Post in London reported that the relief unit began shooting "on seeing our people with Indians amongst them about the fire."

The roar of musketry erupted once again as lead balls thudded into trees, rocks and human flesh. Washington quickly realized the mistake and began running between the two sides (presumably on foot), ordering his men to cease firing and knocking their muskets up with his sword. Officers began to restore order, a difficult task, as many soldiers were likely scattered among the trees rather than in dense ranks.

A round tore through the arm and chest of Henry Townsend, a soldier in Washington's Virginia Regiment. One of Mercer's men, Sergeant Thomas Branan, suffered a severe wound in the neck that left him with impaired eyesight. Two officers were killed, including a volunteer who had gone out with Washington, Lieutenant John Evans of the 60th Regiment. John Michael Lindenmuth, a

#HISTORY



Scottish-born General John Forbes traveled from England in 1757 to lead the attack on French-controlled Fort Duquesne. Originally a farmer living in Paxton Township in Pennsylvania, he may have lived and traded among the Ohio Indians before the war. But the Indians had taken him captive in 1757. Now, the British found any redemption from the fratricide near Loyalhanna, it came from Johnson's intelligence. He told his interrogators that Fort Duquesne was desperately weak and undermanned. There is no record of whether Johnson was executed or pardoned, but his crucial information proved to be the miracle that Washington thought was needed to bring success. Forbes ordered his army to resume its march on Fort

Duquesne, a bold decision that allowed his soldiers to redeem tragedy with forward progress. Before the group could move on, though, Lindenmuth recorded in his journal that "we buried our dead with sorrowful hearts."

Forbes captured Fort Duquesne without a fight on November 25, renaming it Pittsburgh in honour of British statesman William Pitt, France's Delaware, Shawnee and Ohio Iroquois allies were forced to accept a new British presence, along with an uncertain future. Meanwhile, the colony of New France was collapsing under relentless British attacks. Lignery was mortally wounded in 1759 near Fort Niagara, and Corbiere died from his wounds after the 1760 Battle of Sainte-Foy outside of Quebec.

On the British side, Forbes, who had been ill throughout the campaign, died shortly after returning to Philadelphia in early 1759. Branan and Townsend of the Virginia provincials suffered from their wounds long after the war. Unable to make a living, they both petitioned the Virginia House of Burgesses for relief. Poignantly, both former commanders, along with Washington and Mercer, were on the legislative committee that reviewed and approved the petitions. As compensation for their injuries, Branan appeared to receive a one-time payment of £10, while Townsend received £10 per year. Mercer was a legislator and land agent for the colonies after the war, but when the American Revolution broke out, he remained a loyalist and died in London in



Inside a reconstruction of a storehouse at Fort Ligonier, where British troops planned their final push into the Ohio Valley.

1794. Still, when Washington looked back on the incident after the Revolutionary War, he referred warmly to his "friend Colo. Mercer."

After four seasons of sifting through dirt and evidence, Burns and the Fort Ligonier leadership announced in July 2025 that they had discovered the exact location of the friendly fire incident. By that time, they'd found nearly 400 artifacts, in what Burns regarded as "a significant victory for battlefield archaeology." The concentration and spatial distribution of both fired and unfired musket balls allowed them to pinpoint the battle site, as well as the general locations of the British and French and Indian forces. Written records reveal no other skirmishes in the area that could have produced such a volume of gunfire along such an extended front. Archaeological investigations continue, especially the search for the Virginians' mass grave. The team has used specially trained archaeology dogs that can detect even the smallest human remains.

This past spring, Burns and his colleague Ryan Mathur at Juniata College tested the musket balls for their chemical isotopes, specific variations of molecules that reveal their geological origin. The lead in the musket balls clearly came from either Europe or from French sources in Canada and the far west. This last finding lined up with French documents, which reported that Fort Duquesne increasingly relied on men, supplies and munitions coming from Illinois, down the Ohio River.

The calibers of British and French ammunition uncovered at the site also revealed the weaponry used by the combatants, ranging from French Tulle, Saint-Etienne and British Long Land Pattern (Brown Bess) muskets to trade mus-



The quartermaster's storehouse, piled high with bags of flour. The barrels of salted provisions were crucial in sustaining the British Army's advance over the Appalachian Mountains.

Wilson Peale's 1772 portrait of himself as a Virginia officer in the Ohio Valley, he had his 1758 "order of march" proudly sticking out of his waistcoat pocket.

Washington stopped fighting for the British after the capture of Fort Duquesne. He turned his gaze back east, towards marriage to the widow Martha Custis and a new political career in the Virginia legislature that became the crucible of his growing resistance to British policies.

The friendly fire incident was not simply a tragic footnote in the life of the man and prehistory of the nation. It was a pivotal moment in the Forbes campaign and in Washington's development. The first time Washington heard bullets whistling past him in 1754, he wrote that he found "something charming in the sound." But his last combat experience before the American Revolution was a sobering reminder of all that could go wrong in the fog of war. The French and Indian War had presented the young officer with catastrophic defeats, grinding attrition, personal frustration and tragedy, even as he became a heroic figure in British America and, in the end, triumphed over the French.

When the Revolutionary War began in 1775, Washington was under no illusions. He braced himself for a long and protracted war that would leave America drenched with blood. By contrast, the British generals opposing him blithely assumed the American rabble would be quickly defeated after one campaign. Perhaps, the greatest lessons that Washington absorbed from the French and Indian War and the friendly fire incident concerned the chaos, unpredictability and human cost of war.

Conclusion.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com