



**Wednesday**  
 February 4, 2015  
**Snow showers**  
 32°/13°

**Dragon girls  
 nip McDowell  
 ...Again** Page B1



**Inside Today**

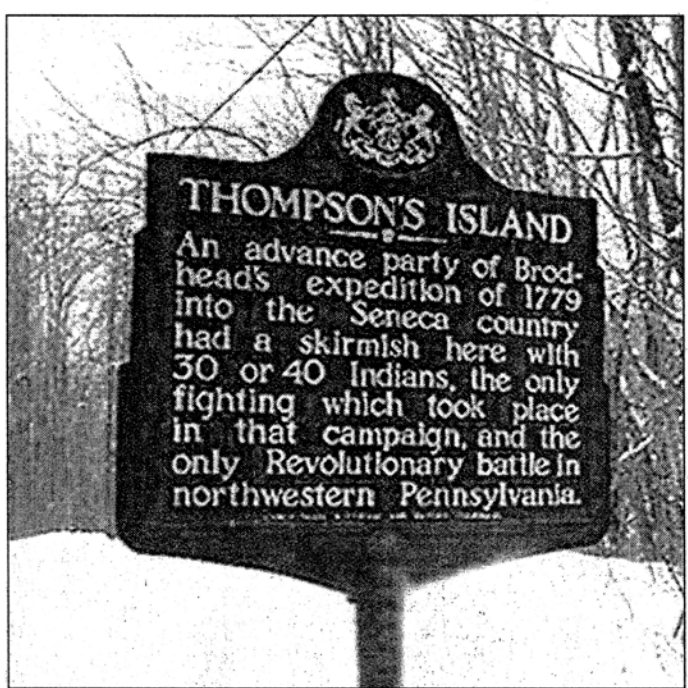
Classified	B8-10	Obituaries	A2
Comics	B7	On the Money	B6
Community	A5-6	Sports	B1-4
Lotteries	A2	Nation	A7

# TIMES OBSERVER

Warren, Pa. [www.timesobserver.com](http://www.timesobserver.com) 75¢

## A 236-year-old Mystery

Was the Battle of Thompson's Island really on the island or somewhere else in Warren County?

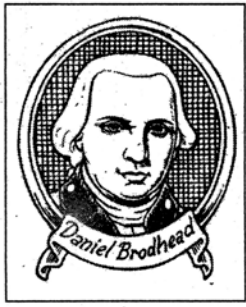


By **JOSH COTTON**

[jcotton@timesobserver.com](mailto:jcotton@timesobserver.com)

A new initiative is underway to discover the specific location and events surrounding a Revolutionary War battle that occurred in Warren County.

According to a blog post written by Keith Heinrich, historic preservation specialist at the state Bureau for Historic Preservation, an American Battlefield Protection Program planning grant was awarded to the state by the National Park Service "to locate, document and delineate the boundaries of a significant but little known Revolutionary War conflict site in northwest-



ern Pennsylvania."

"The Battle of Thompson's Island, in present day Warren County, is listed with 'Other Sites of Interest' in the 2007 report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States," he wrote, "but its exact location is unknown. In fact, it is possible that the battle simply took place near

Thompson's Island, not on it - but we are certain that is located within the Allegheny National Forest. This project seeks to answer some of

**See BATTLEFIELD / A10**

# Battleground...

those questions.”

The battle was part of an expedition led by Colonel Daniel Brodhead, with the permission of General George Washington, that came up the Allegheny River from Fort Pitt, modern day Pittsburgh, leaving on Aug. 11, 1779.

“Around August 18, an advance guard of Brodhead’s men came upon 30 to 40 Allegheny Seneca... and a battle ensued,” Heinrich wrote, “resulting in three American wounded and five Seneca killed; the rest retreated.”

Brodhead’s report of the expedition to Washington said that three of his men were wounded “and they so slightly that they continued on the march the following morning.”

Brodhead continued up the Allegheny, past the Brokenstraw and Conewango creeks. His report states that “the troops maintained on the ground three whole days, destroying the (Seneca) towns and corn fields.”

Of the fighting, he wrote that it took place “ten miles this side of the town,” presumably speaking of the settlement at the mouth of the Conewango, the site of modern-day Warren.

“With input from stakeholders including the Allegheny National Forest, the Seneca Nation of Indians and the Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, we have prepared a Scope of Work to be sent out to several Cultural Resource Management companies for bid,” Heinrich wrote.

And what will the final project include?

“When the project is completed, we hope to have a detailed history, including GIS mapping, of Brodhead’s campaign from start to finish, a detailed history, including GIS mapping, of the Battle of Thompson’s Island and archaeological survey to both locate and delineate the boundaries of the battlefield,” wrote Heinrich.