"The Wounding of General Braddock"
by Robert Griffing

Robert Griffing is the foremost artist in America for colonial-era historical art. All his works show clarity, historical accuracy and attention to detail. Note the tree cover as compared to the view above. Confusion reigns on the battlefield. Notice you don't see any French or Indians. They are in covered positions. You can also see an artillery piece - probably a brass six pounder - sitting unused. Washington, who is standing in the blue coat, will soon use one of these to lead the rear guard action that saves the force from complete annihilation.
Fort Cumberland, July 18, 1755.

Honbl. Sir: As I am favour'd with an oppurtunity, I shou'd think myselfin excusable? was I to omit giv'g you some acct. of our late Engagem't with the French on the Monongahela the 9th. Inst.

We continued our March from Fort Cumberland to Frazier's (which is within 7 Miles of Duquisne) with't meet'g with any extraordinary event, hav'g only a stragler or two picked up by the French Indians. When we came to this place, we were attack'd (very unexpectedly I must own) by abt. 300 French and Ind'ns; Our numbers consisted of abt. 1300 well arm'd Men, chiefly Regular's, who were immediately struck with such a deadly Panick, that nothing but confusion and disobedience of order's prevail'd amongst them: The Officer's in gen'l behav'd with incomparable bravery, for which they greatly suffer'd, there being near 60 kill'd and wound'd. A large proportion, out of the number we had! The Virginian Companies behav'd like Men and died like Soldiers; for I believe out of the 3 Companys that were there that day, scarce 30 were left alive: Capt'n. Peyrouny and all his Officer's, down to a Corporal, were kill'd; Capt'n. Polson shar'ed almost as hard a Fate, for only one of his Escap'd: In short the dastardly behaviour of the English Soldier's expos'd all those who were inclin'd to do their duty to almost certain Death; and at length, in despight of every effort to the contrary, broke and run as Sheep before the Hounds, leav'g the Artillery, Ammunition, Provisions, and, every individual thing we had with us a prey to the Enemy; and when we endeavour'd to rally them in hopes of regaining our invaluable loss, it was with as much success as if we had attempted to have stop'd the wild Bears of the Mountains. The General (Braddock) was wounded behind in the shoulder, and into the Breast, of w'ch he died three days after; his two Aids de Camp were both wounded, but are in a fair way of Recovery; I luckily escap'd with't a wound tho' I had four Bullets through my Coat and two Horses shot under me.

I tremble at the consequences that this defeat may have upon our back settlers, who I suppose will all leave their habitations unless there are proper measures taken for their security.

Colo. Dunbar, who commands at present, intends so soon as his Men are recruited at this place, to continue his March to Phila. into Winter Quarters: