

Upper DeCew Falls, named after John DeCou who used the water in the 1790s to power a sawmill, is difficult to access and photograph from below. Morningstar Mill is perched at the top of the falls.



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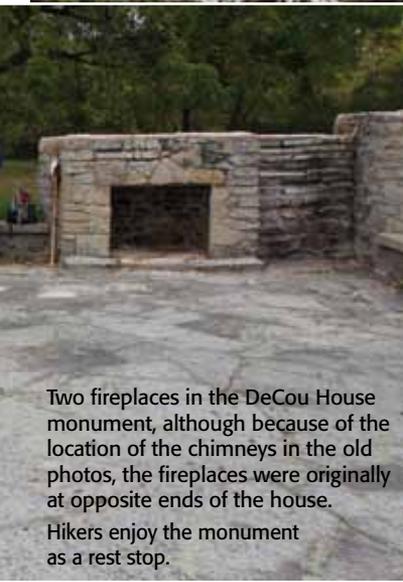
she provided, FitzGibbon and his Native allies were able to pull off an unlikely victory over a larger American force at the Battle of Beaver Dams. The encounter between Secord and FitzGibbon became the stuff of legend, and their meeting inside DeCou's home has since been depicted in several idealized paintings.

After the war, DeCou continued to serve in the militia,

and was one of the original promoters of the Welland Canal. However, the eventual construction of the same canal contributed to the partial drying up of the streams that powered DeCou's mills. Embittered, in 1834 he moved away from his stone house and resettled near the Grand River. He died there in 1855.

Sadly, DeCou's house was destroyed by fire in 1950, and has lain in ruins ever since. The

Lower DeCew Falls, in a deep ravine, is a short distance below Upper DeCew Falls and is similarly challenging to reach and photograph.



Two fireplaces in the DeCou House monument, although because of the location of the chimneys in the old photos, the fireplaces were originally at opposite ends of the house. Hikers enjoy the monument as a rest stop.

area around the site is now a city park that is accessible to the public at no charge and is a great place for a hike, family picnic, or to just silently contemplate the storied history of DeCou's ruined house. **EV**

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