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**SUNY Professor's second novel explores legend of the Saint Lawrence River**  
*Thousand Islands is fictional setting for Napoleon's Gold*

When historian Tom Flanagan returns to his family's cottage in the Thousand Islands to confront his grief over the loss of his parents and brother, his pursuit to learn more about their accidental deaths leads readers into a tale of international intrigue, spiritual wonder, and a quest for a legendary treasure said to have been lost in the turbulent waters of the Saint Lawrence River. Based on 200 years of upstate New York history, *Napoleon's Gold: A Legend of the Saint Lawrence River*, is the second novel by Thomas Pullyblank, and has just been released by Square Circle Press. A book launch event is scheduled for July 9 during the French Festival in Cape Vincent, New York.

Set in the beautiful Thousand Islands region of upstate New York, the action-packed mystery is based on actual locations across the region. Pullyblank, a professor of history at the State University College at Oneonta and an Ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church, based his novel on his own personal experience of summer vacations spent among the islands scattered across the Saint Lawrence Seaway. "The characters, locales, and power of the river will be recognizable to anyone who lives there or who has ever visited the area," Pullyblank stated.

Besides Tom Flanagan, two of the major characters from *Cornflower's Ghost*, the author's debut novel, again play prominent roles in the sequel. They are joined by a group of Flanagan's father's old drinking buddies, each of whom holds a clue to his father's quest for Napoleon's gold. Pullyblank, a lifelong resident of upstate, finds it natural to write about the people and places he knows. "Upstate New York is one of those places that deserves to be written about because of our unique and interesting heritage, and because of the fascinating characteristics of its people." The novel also contains opening scenes set during the events of 9/11, which has a profound effect on the young historian.

The book contains supplemental information atypical of a novel and includes an afterword, an annotated bibliography, and a playlist of songs to accompany the story. "Listening to music on the radio was an important aspect of relaxing with my family on the Saint Lawrence," Pullyblank added. "Readers can gain a better feel for the time period of the story and the region itself by listening to the songs included in the playlist and by reading some of the books and web sites in the bibliography." In addition to the supplemental features of the book, the publisher has added links to the songs on iTunes and some book club discussion notes to the book's web page.

A book launch signing is planned for July 9, 2011 in Cape Vincent, New York, home of the French Festival, an event Pullyblank says is "one of the best small-town parades you'll ever see." Napoleon Bonaparte himself leads the parade through the streets of Cape Vincent. The book signing will take place before and after the French Festival parade at the Buccaneer Motel, 230 North Point Street, in Cape Vincent. In the Thousand Islands region the book can be found at Corbin's River Heritage bookstore in Clayton, New York. The book is also available online through the publisher and other retailers, such as Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.

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The book has received excellent advance reviews from academic and cultural historians alike. More details about the novel and where it can be purchased are available at [www.squarecirclepress.com](http://www.squarecirclepress.com) or through the following information.

**BOOK SUMMARY:**

After experiencing the harrowing events of 9/11, historian Tom Flanagan returns to his family's cottage on the Saint Lawrence River to gain some closure to the accidental death of his parents and brother and to find some meaning to the upheaval of his life. His return is both highly doubted and eagerly anticipated by the River Rat Reporters, a motley yet intriguing group of his father's former colleagues, summer neighbors, family members and drinking buddies. Together, along with Tom's former love and fellow historian Mindy McDonnell, the group seeks to complete his father's personal quest: the location of Napoleon's gold, one of the great legends of the Thousand Islands. But others also seek the gold for their own personal gain, and wage a battle against the group to control its reputed power. Through their personal tales of their involvement with his father's research, the River Rat Reporters each bring Tom one more piece of the puzzle to unlocking both the mystery of Napoleon's gold and the accidental deaths of his family.

Once again, Thomas Pullyblank has delivered a tale full of history, wonder and spiritual healing that illustrates how our lives are intricately intertwined and elaborately decorated with poignant moments of intimacy, betrayal, collaboration and revelation. Based on both Napoleonic history and the history of upstate New York, *Napoleon's Gold* continues the story of Tom Flanagan, first begun in *Cornflower's Ghost*. Pullyblank's novel exudes a deep reverence for the Saint Lawrence River and the Thousand Islands that comes from personal knowledge, leaving the reader wanting to explore both the region and the deeper mysteries of their own experience.

**ADVANCE REVIEWS:**

"*Napoleon's Gold* is set in the Thousand Islands, where Thomas Pullyblank spent his summers as a youth, and which he brings to life in a novel that will draw readers into the stories, tales, fables, and history of the region and his beloved Saint Lawrence River. The author's narrative gifts, erudition, brilliant dialogue, and rich imagination make this a must read. This novel is at once a page-turner and a work within which the author's musings and reflections on life, death and religion will leave the reader deeply moved."

—Warren Roberts, Ph.D., Distinguished Teaching Professor, History Department, University at Albany

"*Napoleon's Gold* is a lively and well-written book, based on subjects that interest all islanders—finding treasures and meeting characters that come alive on the page. Pullyblank handles the detective work wonderfully and at the same time helps to "raise the bar" of Thousand Islands culture. We at Thousand Islands Life e-zine were lucky to have shared three chapters of the book over the winter of 2011, now we get all the pages, from front to back. Thanks Thomas for a splendid read."

—Susan Smith, Editor, [www.ThousandIslandsLife.com](http://www.ThousandIslandsLife.com)

"*Napoleon's Gold* is a good yarn with a touch of coincidence and magic. Pullyblank's affinity for the Thousand Islands and Saint Lawrence River regions and his obvious knowledge of the life and history of its people enriches the account and will delight North Country dwellers and readers in general."

—Carolyn Schuler, Ph.D., Author, Professor, Professional Storyteller, former North Country librarian

(more)

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Thomas Pullyblank was born and raised in rural upstate New York. Having earned degrees in history at the University at Albany and a Master of Divinity degree from the Boston University School of Theology, Pullyblank now teaches history at the SUNY College at Oneonta and serves as a United Methodist pastor near Cooperstown, New York. He lives on a small working farm with his wife and son. This is his second novel. He is currently working on a third upstate New York historical mystery featuring Tom Flanagan.

**BOOK LAUNCH EVENT:**

**What:** Book signing by author Thomas Pullyblank

**When:** July 9, 2011

**Where:** Buccaneer Motel, 230 North Point Street, Cape Vincent, New York

**Info:** Book sales and signing by Thomas Pullyblank, to take place before and after the French Festival parade in Cape Vincent, New York.

**BOOK INFORMATION:**

The book is available in paperback, and is for sale both online and through retail bookstores. For more information about how and where to purchase *Napoleon's Gold* or other titles, products and services available from Square Circle Press, visit the publisher's web site at [www.squarecirclepress.com](http://www.squarecirclepress.com).

**Title:** Napoleon's Gold: A Legend of the Saint Lawrence River

**Author:** Thomas Pullyblank

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