

SARATOGA National
Historical Park  *New York*





This sketch by Ogden illustrates the Continental line artillery uniform of 1777-1783. Coat blue, vest and breeches white. Signal Corps, U. S. Army.



This sketch by Ogden shows the uniforms and arms of British Light Dragoon and Grenadier officers and privates. Coat red, breeches blue, leggings white. Signal Corps, U. S. Army.

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Significance of Saratoga	3
The British Plan	4
The Burgoyne Campaign	5
Battle of September 19	7
Battle of October 7	9
Retreat and Surrender	10
The Park	12
Points of Interest in the Park	14
How to Reach the Park	15
Service to the Public	15
Administration	15

The Cover

A view looking east from the site of the Balcarres Redoubt over the ground occupied by the main British line and encampment. The area in the immediate foreground was the scene of desperate fighting in the battles of both September 19 and October 7. Scouts signaled the movements of Burgoyne's army from Willard Mountain in the left distance. This photograph was made available through the courtesy of LIFE magazine.



1942

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

HAROLD L. ICKES, *Secretary*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE · NEWTON B. DRURY, *Director*

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Saratoga National Historical Park

Significance of Saratoga

FEW BATTLES IN WORLD HISTORY have had a more stirring climax than Saratoga and probably none more far reaching consequences. Here, a ragged but inspired rebel army convincingly demonstrated its ability to absorb staggering blows only to rise to brilliant victory. In dramatic fashion Saratoga not only rescued the colonists from almost certain defeat, but pointed significantly to the fate which likely would befall any enemy force penetrating to the interior of America and operating independently of the sea.

Abroad, the battles served immeasurably to increase the military prestige of American arms, while at home they greatly strengthened the fighting morale and discouraged loyalist opposition. In their broad aspects the two battles of Saratoga may be considered to mark definitely the turning point of the Revolution in that the result brought to the cause of the hard-pressed colonists the assistance of France, Spain, and Holland, thereby greatly increasing the probability of eventually winning independence. To a hesitant, vacillating France awaiting the opportune moment to strike a telling blow at the British, Saratoga brought the decision for intervention, a decision which previous diplomatic negotiations had been unable to obtain. The active entrance of France into the war in June 1778 provided the financial, military, and naval support without which the American cause would

have been practically hopeless. Though four more years of fighting were necessary in order to bring ultimate victory at Yorktown, Saratoga furnished the physical and psychological impetus which brightened a desperate cause at a moment when failure would have been disastrous. Without the success of American arms at Saratoga, it is difficult to see how the struggle could long have continued.

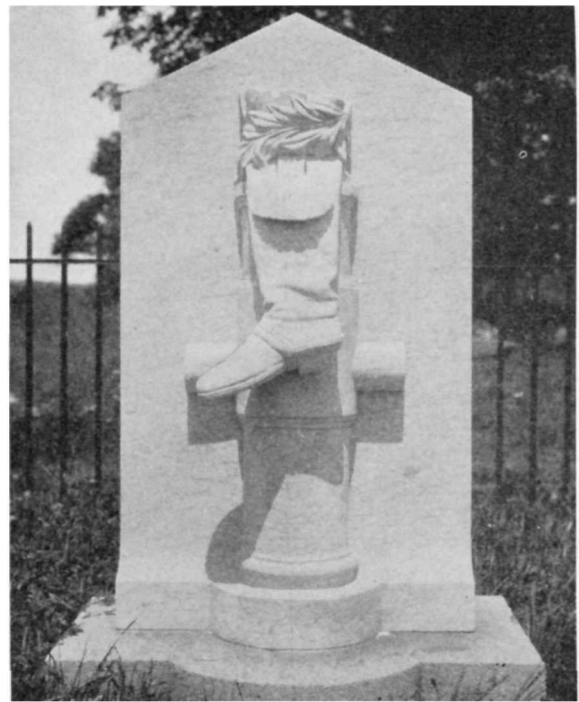
Writing of the significance of Saratoga, Sir Edward Creasy, the eminent English historian, said: "Nor can any military event be said to have exercised more important influence upon the future fortunes of mankind, than the complete defeat of Burgoyne's expedition in 1777; a defeat which rescued the revolted colonists from certain subjection; and which, by inducing the Courts of France and Spain to attack England in their behalf, insured the independence of the United States, and the formation of that trans-Atlantic power which, not only America, but both Europe and Asia, now see and feel."

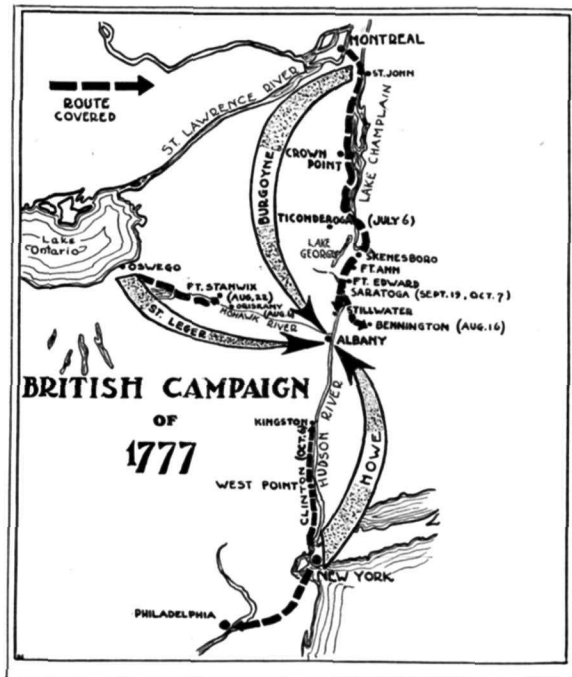
A contemporary of the event said of it, "Rebellion which a twelvemonth ago was a contemptible pygmy, is now in appearance a giant." Saratoga truly must be considered as one of the cornerstones of American liberty and as one of those momentous events which shape the destiny of nations. Even in the light of nearly two centuries that have elapsed, the full significance of this epochal victory is difficult to exaggerate or fully to appraise.

Unique monument to Arnold's left leg which was wounded as he led the storming of the Breyman Redoubt in the battle of October 7, 1777. The monument is situated on the southern crest of the site of the Breyman Redoubt.

H. B. Settle photo.

The monument on Bemis Heights to Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Polish military engineer, who volunteered his services in the American Revolution and selected and fortified the American lines at Saratoga Battlefield.





The British Plan

SITUATED ON THE WEST BANK of the upper Hudson River in the picturesque foothills of the Adirondacks, Saratoga National Historical Park lies 25 miles above Albany on the famous Hudson-Champlain route, a region which for centuries has constituted a great strategic highway of the continent. Long the warpath of the powerful Iroquois, this route in pre-Revolutionary years had witnessed the ebb and flow of the tides of invasion as England and France became locked in the titanic struggle for the possession of the New World. Along this route Abercrombie advanced in 1758 on his ill-fated attempt to seize Ticonderoga from the French. The graves of the "Black Watch" attest the blunders of his judgment. One year later Amherst followed the same route, to succeed where his predecessor had failed.

With the outbreak of the Revolutionary War the area again became the scene of active fighting, as colonial arms pushed boldly northward to seize Ticonderoga, Crown Point, and Montreal, and to storm the ramparts of Quebec. The following year the British launched a counterattack which, after wiping out most of the American gains, was dramatically checked by the gallant action of the American fleet under Arnold on Lake Champlain.

It was no idle chance that Britain, after 2 years of futile effort to coerce the colonies, should choose the Hudson-Champlain Valley as the route offering the greatest strategic possibilities for a quick suppression of the rebellion. Obviously, from a military standpoint, once control could be obtained of the ports and the narrow strip of coastal plain along the Atlantic seaboard, the backbone of the rebellion would be broken. By virtue of her seapower England already had possession of the chief ports. Thus she was able to turn her attention to the second phase of her strategy. Of the three million American colonists, approximately three-fourths lived in the narrow border strip from Massachusetts to the northern boundary of Virginia. The key to this populous area was the Hudson-Champlain line. The dominance of this natural avenue of transport would not only provide an effective barrier separating the New England States from the rest of the revolting colonies, but would remove any menace to the rear of the British armies operating offensively to the south. In control of this area Britain could then crush the separate armies in detail.

The plan, as conceived by John Burgoyne and approved by the King and Cabinet, called for a double advance along the Hudson in which the army of Burgoyne moving southward from Canada would effect a junction at Albany with the army of Sir William Howe moving northward from New York City, the two to be joined by Barry St. Leger moving eastward along the Mohawk from Oswego on Lake Ontario. That this strategy would succeed appeared certain, for against an American army composed chiefly of raw recruits, ill-disciplined and poorly equipped, were matched the seasoned veterans of the British forces led by the foremost military commanders of the time.

That the British counted heavily upon the success of this campaign may be seen in the statement of Germain, the colonial secretary. Speaking in July to Knox, his undersecretary, he said, "If [Burgoyne's] army is not able to defeat any force that the rebels can oppose to it, we must give up the contest." Three months later the campaign ended in complete disaster. Defeated in the battles of September 19 and October 7, 1777, Burgoyne was forced to retreat 9 miles to Saratoga (Schuylerville) where on October 17 he surrendered his entire force to Horatio Gates.

The Burgoyne Campaign

WITH ALL THE POMP AND PAGEANTRY characteristic of the eighteenth century, Burgoyne embarked from St. John's, Canada, June 17, 1777, with a force of approximately 8,000 men under instructions "to proceed with all expedition to Albany and put himself under the command of Sir William Howe." The army consisted of about 4,000 British regulars, 3,000 German troops hired by the King of England, and between 600 and 700 Canadians and Indians. Seldom, if ever, has the American continent witnessed a more picturesque display of military splendor. To the gay, multicolored uniforms of the various British, German, Canadian, and Tory regiments, were added the bright war paint and feathers of their Indian allies.

With 3 large vessels, 20 gunboats, and 200 flat-bottomed transports, Burgoyne sailed boldly along the 200-mile length of Lake Champlain to attack Ticonderoga which fell an easy prize on July 6. The fall of this fortress proved a severe shock to the American morale and served further to increase British contempt for the character of colonial resistance. Following this early success, Burgoyne, moving southward through Skenesborough, Fort Ann, and Fort Edward, encountered innumerable delays due largely to the rough nature of the country and to the effective tactics of Schuyler, then in command of the army of the Northern Department, in destroying bridges, felling trees, and burning crops along the route of the British advance. So successful were these measures that it was mid-September before Burgoyne crossed the Hudson at Saratoga.

By this time the tide of events already had started running against the British as was first evidenced by the news of the bloody battle of Oriskany, August 6. St. Leger's force of about 1,600 men was made up chiefly of Tories under the leadership of Sir John Johnston and Col. John Butler and Indians of the Iroquois Confederacy. The Iroquois were divided in their sympathies, but Joseph Brant and his Mohawk warriors and many of the Cayugas and Senecas joined St. Leger. The immediate objective of St. Leger was to reduce Fort Stanwix. As he approached the fort, German settlers of the Mohawk Valley assembled under the leadership of General Herkimer and advanced to its relief. The Tories and Indians prepared an ambush in a ravine near Oriskany 6 miles below Fort Stanwix,

where Herkimer and his farmer militia were almost entirely surrounded. In a desperate struggle with knife, hatchet, bayonet, and clubbed rifle, Herkimer and his men finally put the Indians and Tories to flight from a field that has few, if any, equals in savage horror on the American continent. Herkimer, himself, died from the effects of a wound received on the field of carnage, and his followers were so reduced and exhausted by the ordeal that they were compelled to return to their homes.

Sixteen days later St. Leger's force was dispersed by the defection and desertion of his Indian allies on receipt of news in his camp that a large force under Benedict Arnold was approaching for the relief of Fort Stanwix. Only a few of St. Leger's troops ever found their way back to Montreal.

Another crushing calamity was in store for the British. Schuyler's policy of destroying all the crops along the line of Burgoyne's march had important consequences. It was well known that most of the inhabitants of upper New York along the Lake Champlain and Hudson route were favorable to the British cause. Burgoyne had counted on these Tories to aid him materially, especially in the matter of supplies. Now, with the maturing crops systematically destroyed before him, he was faced with difficulty in providing for his army. This led him to send an expedition of about 800 men, under Colonel Baum, to Bennington in Vermont to capture a large store of supplies which had been gathered there for the American forces. John Stark aroused the countryside, and the Vermont farmers turned out and administered a crushing defeat on August 16 to Baum's troops. Another contingent, under Colonel Breymann, came up at this time and threatened to undo Stark's victory, but the timely arrival of Seth Warner and his militia overwhelmed Breymann, and he was forced to retreat. This blow seriously weakened Burgoyne's force and prevented him from obtaining much needed supplies. Its electrifying news served not only to discourage Burgoyne's Indian allies, but greatly to encourage militia enlistments in the Patriot army.

Of still greater concern to Burgoyne, however, was the fact that no word had been received from Howe relative to his cooperation from the south. As a matter of fact, Howe, in the absence of any direct order to the contrary from Germain, the British colonial secretary, had chosen to move



General Riedesel, commander of the German contingent of Burgoyne's army. Courtesy Fort Ticonderoga Museum.

Right Honorable John Burgoyne, Lieutenant General, in command of the British Army, surrendered at Saratoga. The original painting by Thomas Hudson is in England. Signal Corps, U. S. Army.



Brigadier General Simon Fraser. Fraser, second in command to Burgoyne, was mortally wounded in the battle of October 7, 1777. He died the next morning and was buried in the Great Redoubt that evening. Fraser was one of the ablest and bravest of Burgoyne's officers. He had served with distinction under Wolfe at Louisburg and on the Plains of Abraham at Quebec. Signal Corps, U. S. Army.

southward and attack Philadelphia, even though he knew Burgoyne expected to receive his cooperation.

Despite these setbacks to the British, which had greatly boosted American morale, Burgoyne, gambling on the belated cooperation of Howe and on his ability to smash the American force in his front, decided to cross the Hudson, sever his communications with Canada, and risk all on a push to Albany. Four miles from Stillwater the British advance came upon the Americans 7,000 strong, firmly entrenched at Bemis Heights under the command of Gates, who had supplanted Schuyler on August 19.

The American position was well chosen, for here the bluffs so converged with the river as to produce a narrow opening along the river bottom through which a passage could be made only at great hazard. With a deep entrenchment blocking the river road, Thaddeus Kosciuszko, the Polish engineer and general who had volunteered in the American cause, had lost no time in establishing a strong line of defense which in appearance was like the segment of a great circle. Extending along the edge of the bluffs, the line turned northwestward and followed the natural advantages of the ground

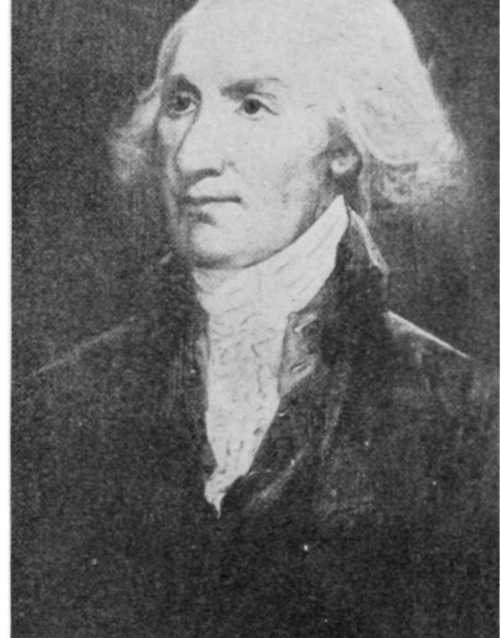
to a commanding knoll near the site of the Neilson barn where it then turned south by west, terminating at the edge of a ravine approximately a quarter of a mile distant. The extremities of this position were defended by strong batteries, while most of the line was strengthened by a breastwork without entrenchments constructed from the trunks of felled trees, logs and rails.

At the apex of the line, Neilson's barn was converted into a rude fort and a strong battery was established at this point. Running in front of the right wing of the American position, in a parallel direction, was a deep, heavily wooded ravine. The area immediately in front and to the west of the center of the American line, however, had been partially cleared, so that the felled trees made an abatis difficult to penetrate. Except for a number of scattered farm clearings, the rolling ground to the north of the American position was so thickly wooded as to furnish a distinct handicap to a coordinated attack or to the proper use of artillery.

Behind the right wing of the American position were stationed the brigades of Nixon, Patterson, and Glover under the immediate command of Gates. Behind the center and the left were the brigades of Poor and Learned and the 500 riflemen



Benedict Arnold, whose leadership and services to the American cause at Saratoga were of the highest order. Courtesy Fort Ticonderoga Museum.



Gen. Philip Schuyler, commander of the American Army opposing Burgoyne until replaced by Gates shortly before the battles of Saratoga.

Gen. Horatio Gates, commander of the American forces at Saratoga. Courtesy Fort Ticonderoga Museum.

Battle of September 19

TWO DAYS OF RECONNAISSANCE convinced Burgoyne that in order to reach his objective at Albany he had no alternative other than to attack. The direction of that attack might be made either along the river road against the strongly fortified position of the American right or through the woods on the heights above against the American left. Despite the advantage which the river road offered from the standpoint of a coordinated attack, permitting full use of his heavy artillery, Burgoyne chose to divide his forces and to direct their attack against the American left.

Accordingly, on the morning of September 19, Burgoyne moved forward in three columns from his encampment in the vicinity of the Sword House. The right column under Fraser, numbering 2,200 men composed of British, Germans, and irregulars, advanced along the road running westward from Sword House to a point 3 miles distant where it then turned south. The center column consisting of the 9th, 20th, and 62nd regiments was led by Burgoyne. This force, which numbered approximately 1,100 men, followed the route of Fraser for a short distance and then turned southeast at the first fork which led to the Great Ravine. Crossing the ravine, the column then turned westward



Daniel Morgan, leader of the special corps of 500 riflemen that contributed so greatly to the American victory at Saratoga. H. B. Settle photo.

led by Daniel Morgan. Morgan's riflemen had been specially assigned by Washington to the force confronting Burgoyne, as they were well versed in backwoods fighting and were calculated to offset the Indian and Tory allies of the British. The troops led by Poor, Learned, and Morgan constituted a division under the command of Arnold. Thus stationed, the American troops awaited the advance of Burgoyne.



View looking east from Fraser's Hill shows the river hills beyond the Hudson and the Green Mountains and the Berkshires in the distance. The Great Ravine is seen cutting through the terrain at the extreme right. Just to the left of it, on the bluffs overlooking the river, is the site of the Great Redoubt (1) where Fraser was buried and the British began their retreat northward (to the left) to Saratoga (now Schuylerville).

in an effort to effect a junction with Fraser near the head of the Middle Ravine. The left column of about 1,100 men under Riedesel, consisting of the three remaining German regiments, was to advance along the river road accompanied by the heavy artillery. When within a half mile of the American right, they were to await the signal gun which would indicate a junction had been made of the right and center under Fraser and Burgoyne. Then, the troops under Riedesel were to create a diversion which in part would screen the attack on the American left.

When Gates was first advised by his scouts of the British advance, he determined to await their attack behind his breastwork. Arnold, however, insisted that the issue should be fought in the field for not only would the woods handicap the British from the standpoint of coordinated attack and the full use of their artillery, but it would offer a screen peculiarly adaptable to the American style of fighting. If defeated in the field, he argued, the troops could then fall back to their entrenchments.

Finally yielding, Gates ordered out Morgan's riflemen, supported by Dearborn's light infantry, to reconnoiter the position of the enemy. Moving northward along the road from Fort Neilson, Morgan divided his forces in an effort more readily to locate the enemy. The first phase of the engagement opened about 12:30 in the afternoon when a detachment of Morgan's men brushed with the advance guard of Burgoyne's right and center columns in a clearing known as Freeman's Farm. The first volley all but wiped out the British picket.

Rushing forward in hot pursuit of the few survivors, the detachment ran head-on into the main body of the British forces only to be driven back in turn and widely scattered. By persistent use of his "turkey call," Morgan, however, was able to rally his men and prepare for the second phase of the engagement. Aided by the arrival of the regiments of Cilley and Scammel from Poor's brigade, he reformed his line in the woods along the southern edge of the 15-acre clearing.

Forming his line along the northern edge of the Freeman clearing, Burgoyne advanced to the attack with the 21st regiment on the right, the 62nd in the center, and the 20th on the left. Morgan's men suddenly poured such a withering fire into the solidly advancing columns that the British line wavered and fell back across the clearing. Following closely, the Americans were again driven back, as the British quickly rallied their lines.

For more than 3 hours the fighting swayed back and forth across the bitterly contested clearing, as each side strove desperately for a decision. Repeatedly, the hard-pressed British regiments charged with the bayonet, only to be stopped short by the deadly fire of the American riflemen. Under the skillful direction of Arnold, American reinforcements were so placed as seriously to threaten to outflank the British right. Finally, when the British position had become critical, Riedesel arrived with fresh reinforcements. Throwing his men in surprising force against the American right, he succeeded in steadying the British line and forcing the Americans gradually to withdraw. But for the arrival of Riedesel and the temporary absence of Arnold, who had left the field in order to obtain reinforcements, the fate of the Burgoyne Campaign might well have been decided here. Approximately 3,000 Americans participated in this fight, while about 4,000 more were held inactive by Gates behind the fortified lines.



Stopped in his advance and suffering heavy losses, but left in possession of the immediate field of battle, Burgoyne decided to entrench his troops in the vicinity of the Freeman Farm and await the cooperation of Howe or Sir Henry Clinton who was then stationed in New York. He also felt the need of reconnoitering the American position as he knew virtually nothing about it.

Battle of October 7

CONFIDENT AND SELF-ASSURED as a result of their first encounter, the American troops grew restive as they impatiently awaited a further attack. Despite drenching rains, chill nights, inadequate supplies, and scanty rations, these ragged farmer troops who held the destiny of a nation in their hands could still find the heart to make so merry at night as to arouse the complaint from the American sentries that because of the noise they could not hear the British and would find it impossible to warn their comrades if they did. In order to correct this condition Gates had to issue an early curfew order.

Nearly 3 weeks of futile waiting brought Burgoyne no aid from either Howe or Clinton, though unknown to Burgoyne, Clinton did, on October 6, succeed in capturing the forts along the highlands of the Hudson. With the strength of his opponent greatly increased by the arrival of 4,000 reinforcements, outnumbered now 2 to 1, with his supplies rapidly diminishing, Burgoyne's position became a desperate one, necessitating either an advance or retreat. After some hesitation, he decided to risk everything on an advance employing substantially the same strategy as that used 3 weeks earlier.

Accordingly, on the morning of October 7, Burgoyne ordered a reconnaissance in force in order to determine the nature of the ground and the advisability of a thrust at the American left. With

View from Fraser's Hill looking east over the terrain held by the British line and showing some of the ground most bitterly fought over in the battle of October 7...The Breymann Redoubt (1) was situated in the partially cleared area adjacent to the woods on the left, near the center of the picture. The Balcarres Redoubt (2) was situated somewhat to the right and more distant.

a force of 1,500 picked men supported by two 12-pounders, six 6-pounders, and two howitzers, Burgoyne moved out from camp about 10 o'clock and advanced toward the American left. After moving in a southwesterly direction for a distance of approximately two-thirds of a mile, the troops deployed in an open clearing where a portion of them foraged in a wheat field.

Extending his line for more than 1,000 yards, Burgoyne occupied the southern slope of the rise of ground just north of the Middle Ravine. On the right, under the Earl of Balcarres, was stationed the British Light Infantry. In the center was Riedesel with his German contingent and a battery of two 6-pounders under Pausch, while on the left was stationed Major Acland in command of the Grenadiers with the greater portion of the artillery. Gen. Simon Fraser was posted in front of the British right with a force of about 500 men. Though his front was open, both his flanks rested in woods thus exposing them to a surprise attack. Investigating the news of the British advance, James Wilkinson, Adjutant General to Gates, found their position favorable to attack and so reported to headquarters, whereupon Gates replied, "Order on Morgan to begin the game."

The American plan of attack was simple and direct. As Morgan undertook a flanking movement against the British right in that portion of the field farthest removed from the river, Poor was to move against their left. Once these two movements had developed, Learned was to strike the British center. The American attack opened about 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon with Poor's



This view shows the formal development and memorial shaft erected in 1931 by the Daughters of the American Revolution of New York State on the site of the traditional American Revolutionary burial ground.

savage assault upon the British left. Outnumbered 2 to 1, the Grenadiers crumpled under the withering fire of the Americans. By this time Morgan had struck the British right. Fraser had been driven back in confusion and the right flank and rear of the troops led by Balcarres were now seriously threatened.

Before either flank could recover from its surprise, Arnold galloped impetuously upon the field and amidst wild cheers from his comrades led Learned's brigade in an attack against the British center. Although without command, having previously quarreled with Gates over incidents of the battle of September 19, Arnold now directed the course of the fighting. By his powerful personality and his reckless dash, he inspired the men to a redoubled effort. Though repulsing the first attack, the Germans were soon thrown into wild confusion as the result of the withdrawal of the British Light Infantry which exposed them on both flanks.

In this critical stage of affairs, Fraser rode back and forth among his men in a desperate effort to encourage them to make a successful stand. Noticing his activity and appreciating the value of his leadership, Arnold ordered Morgan to have his sharpshooters single him out. Among those chosen for this questionable assignment was Tim Murphy, a rifleman of exceptional accuracy. Despite the first shots which warned him that he was the object of a concentrated fire, Fraser refused shelter and continued to lead his men until a bullet finally found its mark. Mortally wounded, he was carried from the field.

When the Albany militia, 3,000 strong, under the command of Ten Broeck, came up to join in the fighting, the British forces, discouraged by the

loss of Fraser and the turn of events, retreated to the protection of their fortified positions. In less than an hour after the opening of the attack. Burgoyne had lost in excess of 400 officers and men, killed, wounded, or prisoners. Flushed with victory, the Americans were led by Arnold on a reckless attack upon the Balcarres Redoubt, a position which lay a short distance east of the Freeman clearing.

When repeated attacks failed to carry the position, Arnold wheeled his horse and dashing between the cross-fire from the Balcarres and Breyman Redoubts led a successful assault upon the latter. Just in the moment of victory as he triumphantly entered the sally port of the redoubt, he was shot in the leg by a wounded German soldier. Had he died there, posterity would have known few names brighter than that of Arnold. The fall of this redoubt which was the key to the entire British position forced Burgoyne to order a general retreat. Colonel Breymann was killed in the assault on the redoubt that bore his name.

That night Burgoyne withdrew his army to the high ground north of the Great Ravine. Fraser's life was slowly ebbing away throughout the night and the next day at evening he was buried in the Great Redoubt in accordance with his own request. The retreat of the army northward was held up by Burgoyne long enough to administer the last rites in an impressive ceremony as Fraser's body was lowered into the ground. Shots from American gunners, who did not understand what was taking place, struck close and threw dust upon the officiating chaplain. Early the following day, on October 9, the British Army took up its retreat to Saratoga. The British had suffered approximately 1,000 casualties in the fighting of the past 3 weeks as compared to an American loss of less than half that number.

Retreat and Surrender

AN AMERICAN FORCE was already present on the east of the Hudson, opposite Saratoga, and the crossing of the river to continue the retreat northward in an effort to reach Fort Edward was now almost impossible for Burgoyne's badly depleted army. In a few days he was completely surrounded on the heights at Saratoga by the American force which by this time had grown to about 17,000 men. Hopelessly outnumbered, provisions

The Schuyler Mansion, erected in 1777 by Gen. Philip Schuyler, near the site of his former home, which was burned by Burgoyne. The building, situated in Schuylerville, has undergone little change since it was first built.

The Marshall House in Schuylerville. This building was used by Burgoyne as a hospital for British wounded after the retreat to Schuylerville. Madame Riedesel also sought refuge in this house.

all but exhausted, devoid of hope of help from the south, he was forced to surrender on October 17.

The remnants of Burgoyne's army, to the number of about 5,700, stacked their arms on the level flood plain along the banks of the Hudson at the edge of the town, according to the terms of the Convention of Saratoga drawn up between Gates and Burgoyne, and became prisoners of war. According to the terms of surrender, they were to be taken to Boston where they would board vessels to return to England. It was provided that they would not serve again in the war against America. The Continental Congress, however, interposed first one obstacle and then another, and the terms of the convention were never kept. The soldiers were held in the north for about a year and then most of them were sent to Charlottesville, Va., for the duration of the war. The majority of these prisoners remained in this country after the close of the war and were gradually absorbed among the populace of the new nation. Many American families of today can trace their origin back to the British and German soldiers who surrendered at Saratoga.

The failure of the Burgoyne expedition, so auspiciously launched, may be attributed to a series of blunders and misfortunes climaxed by the heroic defense of a despised adversary. In his failure specifically to order Howe to cooperate with Burgoyne, Germain in the very beginning laid the basis for the campaign's fatal ending. Through carelessness, this order, though once prepared, was apparently never mailed and was allowed to remain tucked away in a pigeonhole. To this costly blunder was added the refusal of Howe to cooperate in the

This structure, known as the Neilson farmhouse, situated on Bemis Heights, is the only contemporary building remaining on the battlefield. This house served as headquarters for Generals Enoch Poor and Benedict Arnold, and it was here that Lady Acland nursed her husband, a wounded British officer captured in the battle of October 7. H. B. Settle photo.



northern expedition, despite the fact that he had been informed by Burgoyne and others of the expected nature of his participation. When advised by Howe of his proposed expedition against Philadelphia, Germain approved the plan, but expressed the hope that it would be completed in time to cooperate with Burgoyne.

In persisting in the Philadelphia expedition against the advice of Clinton and other British officers who advised cooperation with Burgoyne, Howe preferred a plan of campaign which gained the British nothing to a plan which might well have won them the war. In his defense later Howe argued that he had received no order to cooperate with the Northern army, that he had warned Burgoyne not to expect aid from the south, that his move to Philadelphia had been approved by the King, and finally that he had advised Clinton to assist Burgoyne. This move of Clinton's, however, was advised so late as to make it ineffective.

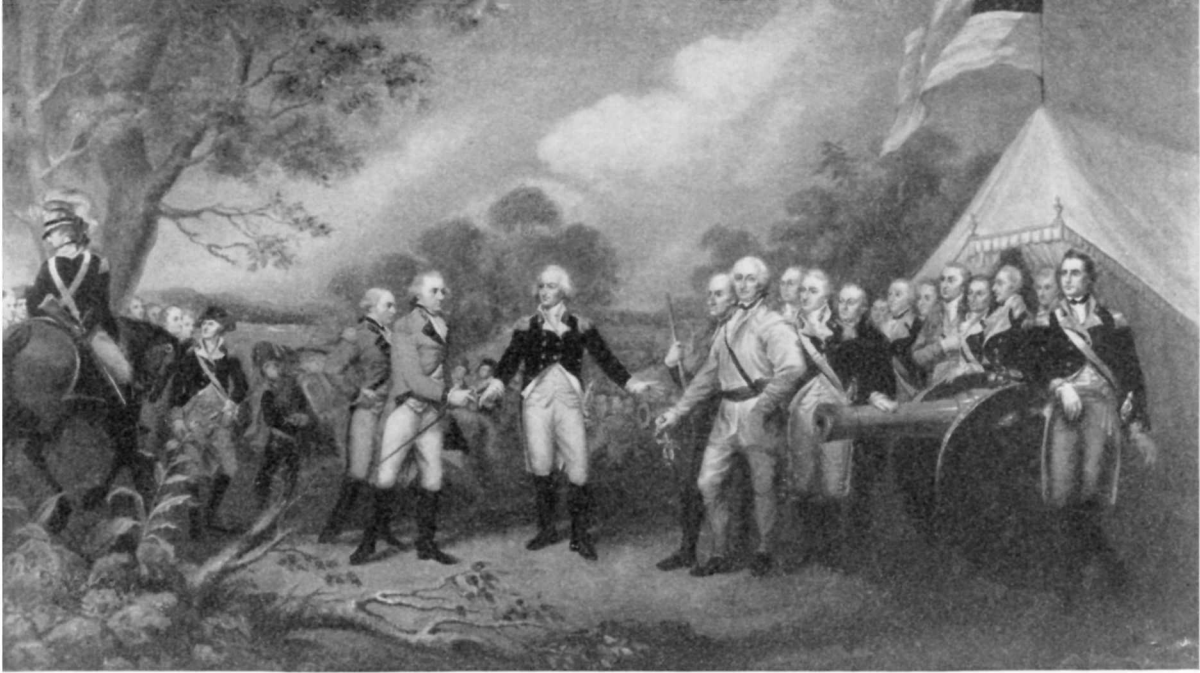
This 24-pounder brass gun, now decorating the lawn of the library, Fortress Monroe, Va., was surrendered by the British at Saratoga.



As if this were not enough, Burgoyne's position was still further weakened by the inability of St. Leger to create a proper diversion along the Mohawk. These blunders and misfortunes, inherently grave as they were, do not absolve Burgoyne altogether from responsibility for the failure of the northern campaign. His conduct of the campaign lacked forceful initiative and drive, to which were added grave errors of judgment, the most serious of which, in all probability, was the poorly planned expedition against Bennington. In no small sense, however, the success of the American cause may be attributed to the skill of colonial riflemen who, under the daring leadership of Arnold and Morgan, had proved themselves more than a match for the British veterans. Furthermore, the American ability to increase remarkably their numbers over a strictly limited period of time, materially added to their ultimate success. A striking illustration of this was shown in the large militia enlistments which followed outrages perpetrated by Burgoyne's Indians upon the civilian populace, culminating in the tragic murder of Jane McCrea near Fort Edward. The story of this deed was quickly spread throughout the New England region and was responsible for hundreds of enlistments. Jane McCrea was on her way to join her fiancé, who was a Tory officer in Burgoyne's army, and presumably was safe from danger at the time she met her pitiful fate. If Burgoyne's own adherents were not safe from his savage allies, what was to be expected for their wives and daughters, the patriot farmers asked themselves. Many who had no interest in the Revolution as such, now considered that the safety of their homes depended upon the destruction of Burgoyne.

The Park

THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS of Saratoga battlefield were acquired by the State of New York in 1927 as part of a program celebrating the 150th anniversary of the battles. In 1938, Congress passed legislation authorizing the establishment of Saratoga National Historical Park. In accordance with this legislation and legislation enacted by the State of New York the 1,428 acres of park land at Saratoga were transferred in 1941 from the State to the Federal Government. Action is being taken by the Federal Government to acquire addi-



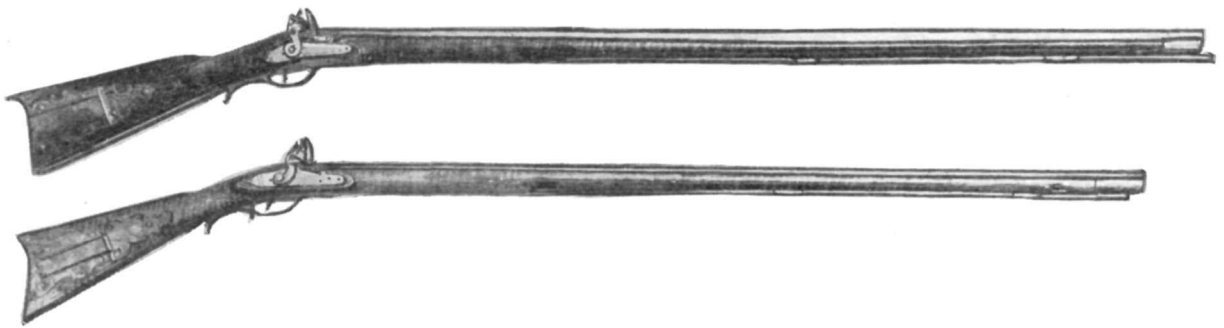
Reproduction of a painting by Marietta Minnigerode, copy after the famous painting by John Trumbull, representing the surrender of General Burgoyne, October 17, 1777, attempts a memorial character. It does not reconstruct the actual scene. The four figures in the central foreground from left to right are Generals Phillips, Burgoyne, Gates, and Morgan. There are 23 other officer portraits in the painting, including General Riedesel and General Schuyler. Courtesy New York Historical Society.

tional land in order to round out and to place under Government control historically significant parts of the battlefields.

An area of exceptional scenic beauty, the terrain of the park is characterized by sharply rising bluffs, deep ravines, and rolling hills. Its present

This old print published in London in 1794 after the famous painting by John Graham portrays the burial of Brigadier General Fraser. Fraser, mortally wounded in the battle of October 7, died the next morning and was buried at evening time the same day in the Great Redoubt. The painting by Graham is considered one of the most carefully executed military paintings of the period. The English historian, Fonblanque, has identified the portrait figures from left to right as: Earl of Harrington, A. D. C.; General Burgoyne; Major-General Phillips; Reverend Brudenell; Captain Green, A. D. C.; Lieutenant Colonel Kingston; Major Fraser; Mr. Wood, Surgeon; Earl of Balcarres; Major General Riedesel, German officer. Courtesy LIFE Magazine.





Two rifles in the Wolcott Collection, Colonial National Historical Park, are typical of the so-called Kentucky Rifle, the weapon carried by most of Morgan's Corps of riflemen. This gun was much superior to the musket in general use by both sides in the American Revolution.

open character is in sharp contrast to its heavily wooded appearance in 1777.

Though time has left little vestige of the American and British fortifications, an effort is being made to establish definitely their original character and position by historical and archeological research.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE PARK

Site of Fort Neilson.—Situating on the crest of Bemis Heights at the apex of the American line stood Fort Neilson. In reality the fort was a fortified barn, so named from the farmer John Neilson who owned it. Strengthened on either side by heavy batteries and protected by a breastwork of logs and felled trees, the fort constituted the strongest point of the American Line. The overlook from this point offers a sweeping panoramic view of exceptional beauty and charm.

Neilson House.—Located within the fortified

View looking northeast across the Hudson from the site of the Great Redoubt, the point from which the British took up their final retreat from the battlefield to Saratoga (Schuylerville). H. B. Settle photo.



area of Fort Neilson was the Neilson House, the only contemporary building now remaining on the battlefield. This house, the home of John Neilson, served as the headquarters of Gens. Benedict Arnold and Enoch Poor. From this building Poor went to lead his troops in gallant action on both September 19 and October 7. It was to this building that Major Acland, of the British Grenadiers, was brought severely wounded, and it was also to this building that Lady Acland came in defiance of great hardships to nurse her wounded husband. The smoked walls, the planked floors, and the rough period furniture serve to preserve much of a Revolutionary Period atmosphere.

American Powder Magazine.—On the little plateau below the site of Fort Neilson, near the center of the American Line, is located a reconstructed powder magazine. From the report of Ebenezer Stevens, Major Commandant of Artillery, entitled, "Return of Ordnance and Stores in Camp near Stillwater, September 24, 1777," with a sub-heading, "Stores in Magazine," it has been possible to determine the exact character and quantity of the supplies located within the magazine.

Freeman Farm.—No part of the battlefield witnessed heavier fighting than the area known as Freeman Farm. Around this farmhouse and its oblong clearing of 15 acres the swirling tides of battle beat relentlessly in the engagements of both September 19 and October 7. The original Freeman Farmhouse, owned at the time of the battle by Isaac Leggett, occupied approximately the site of the present building by that name. Following the battle of September 19, it was included within the fortification known as the Balcarres Redoubt. The oblong clearing with its abandoned cabins, to which contemporary reports of the battle so frequently refer, lay approximately a quarter of a mile southwest of the present so-called Freeman Farmhouse.

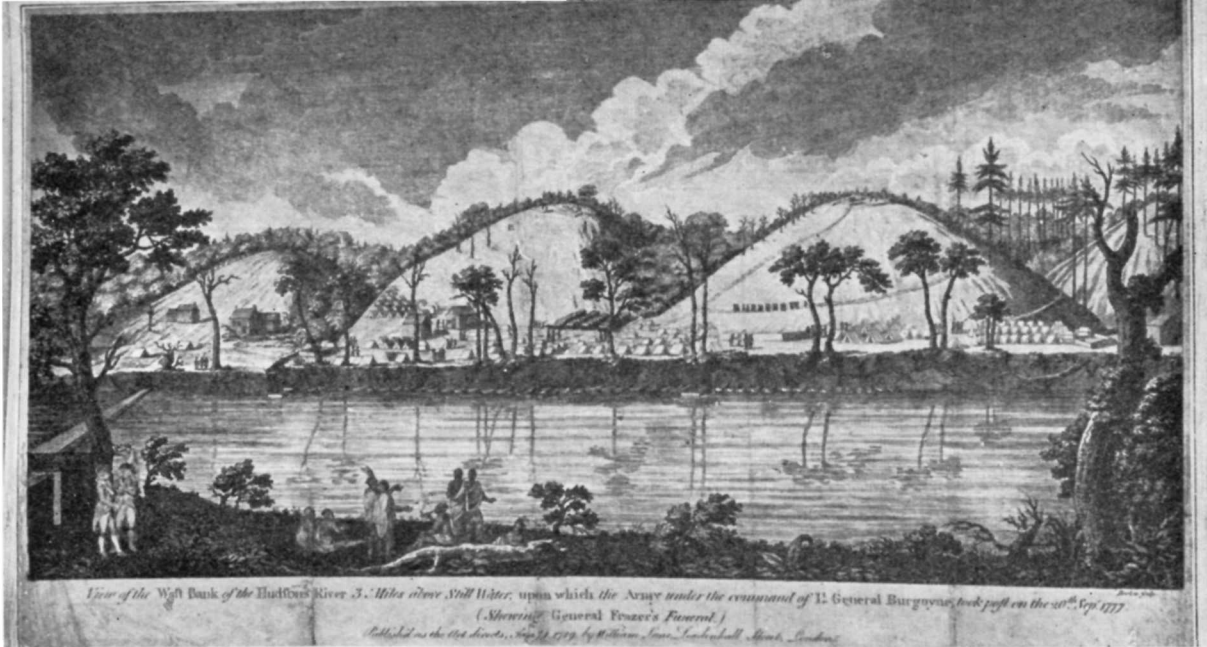


Illustration from a photographic reproduction of a print published in London in 1789. Presumably the print shows the British position at the Great Redoubt, and according to the inscription accompanying the original print it also shows a scene during the course of Fraser's funeral. The original inscription seems to contain certain inconsistencies. Courtesy LIFE magazine.

Balcarres Redoubt.—Situated approximately due east of the Freeman Farm clearing, the Balcarres Redoubt constituted the strongest fortification of the British Line. Under the command of the Earl of Balcarres, the fortification was erected shortly after the battle of September 19 and was occupied by the British Light Infantry. In fierce attacks the American forces, on October 7, repeatedly assailed this redoubt in vain. Arnold's successful assault on the Breymann Redoubt, however, finally served to outflank the position and force its evacuation.

Breymann Redoubt.—The Breymann Redoubt was situated on the extreme right flank of the British Line and thus served as the key to the entire British position. Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Breymann, and held by his German contingent, the post was well protected by a fortified barrier of logs 12 to 14 feet in height piled horizontally against vertical uprights. It was here in the closing hours of October 7 that Arnold in a dramatic assault carried the redoubt and sealed the fate of the Burgoyne Campaign. The unique monument to Arnold's wounded leg is located on the site of the Breymann Redoubt.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK

THE PARK IS SITUATED on the upper Hudson River, 25 miles above Albany, between the towns of Stillwater and Schuylerville. By automobile, the park is approached from the north and south by U. S.

Highway 4 and U. S. Highway 9. U. S. Highway 4 leads directly to the park, while connections with U. S. 9 are made via U.S. 9P and State Route 423. From the main trunk lines in Albany, train service is available on the Delaware & Hudson Railroad to Mechanicville, 7 miles south of the park. From here, regular bus lines serve the park.

SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC

A TEMPORARY MUSEUM situated on Bemis Heights, contains exhibits and relics relating to the battles of Saratoga. Park literature is available for distribution. Several monuments and numerous markers serve to memorialize and to interpret the area. Free guide service is available daily from 8:30 a. m. to 4 p. m. for historical tours of the battlefield.

ADMINISTRATION

SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK is administered by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. Communications regarding the park should be addressed to the Superintendent, Saratoga National Historical Park, Stillwater, N. Y.



TO SCHUYLERVILLE
N.Y. ROUTE 32A
U.S. 4

TO SCHUYLERVILLE
9 MI.

NOTE
 ——— PAVED ROADS
 = = = GRAVEL ROADS

NY ROUTE 423
 TO SARATOGA SPA.
 12 MI.

TO ALBANY
 2.5 MI.

LEGEND

- ① FORT NELSON
- ② AMERICAN POWDER MAGAZINE
- ③ SITE OF BEMIS TAVERN
- ④ AMERICAN OUTWORKS
- ⑤ AMERICAN BRIDGE OF BOATS
- ⑥ AMERICAN HOSPITAL
- ⑦ BRITISH HOSPITAL
- ⑧ BRITISH BRIDGE OF BOATS
- ⑨ BRITISH OUTWORKS
- ⑩ FRELEMAN FARM

SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
 SHOWING POINTS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST
 CONNECTED WITH THE BATTLES OF SARATOGA
 SEPTEMBER 19 AND OCTOBER 7, 1777

