Trail Map and Brochure Sponsors

The Wilkinson Trail enhancements and this brochure were made possible through a cooperative project between the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield, Lever Brothers Inc., The Boy Scouts of America, and the National Park Service.









Boy Scouts of America

Printing Made Possible Through a Grant From:

IBM is a registered trademark of International Business Machines.

Consider joining the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield by writing us at 648 Route 32, Stillwater, New York, 12170-1604.

Entrance to the Battlefield between May 1 and October 31 is \$2.00 for hiking and bicycling and \$4.00 for a motor vehicle, An annual pass is \$10.00. The Visitor Center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Years Day. To learn more about programs, events or volunteer activities at Saratoga National Historical Park, please call the Visitor Center at (518) 664-9821, ext. 224 or write us at: 648 Rt. 32, Stillwater, NY 12170 or visit our web site: www.nps.gov/sara.

The Wilkinson Trail

Saratoga National Historical Park



Welcome to the Wilkinson Trail. This is the primary hiking trail in the park. It is about 4.2 miles long. The trail was named after Lt. Wilkinson who drew maps of the Saratoga Battlefield Area in 1777. These important maps made it possible to locate much of the Revolutionary War road system that this trail attempts to follow.

Horses and bicycles are not permitted on this trail. There is no water for drinking on the trail-consider bringing water with you.

Hazards include steep grades, some rough terrain, and slippery slopes, particularly during winter and wet weather. Please use your own judgment.

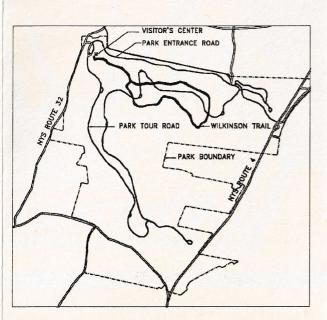
Let this trail be a journey into eighteenth century America and the events surrounding the battles of Saratoga;

"... the turning point of the American Revolution ..."

Some common sense rules to help protect your park:

- * To protect wildlife, keep pets leashed at all times.
- * Help us preserve the beauty of the trail by leaving plants and flowers for others to enjoy. Please do not disturb wildlife.
- ★ The Battlefield commemorates those who died for our freedom. Please show respect by not digging. Archeological remains are protected by federal law.
- ★ Fees are collected May 1 through October 31 in the visitor center.
- ★ Grounds are open during daylight hours.
- ★ To prevent trail erosion, foot traffic only (no bikes, vehicles or horses).
- ★ If you are walking alone, please check in at the visitor center, as ranger patrols vary.
- * No hunting, camping or fires.
- ★ This is a carry-in, carry-out park. Please take trash with you.
- ★ Restrooms are located in the visitor center and at Stop 7.

Saratoga National Historical Park - Orientation Map



Interpretive Stations

Station A: Southeast of this area Americans commanded the bluffs directly over the Hudson River which forced the British to take a stand on the area you are about to walk.

Station B: This site was once known as the Samuel McBride Farm during the 1770"s. The McBrides were Loyalists.

Station C: Breymann Redoubt, named after Lt. Col. Breymann was a temporary fortification commandeered by 200 German troops fighting for the British.

Station D: The British army, under the command of Gen. Burgoyne advanced along these parts towards the Sept. 19, 1777 Battle.

Station E: The hush of the forest! During the battles this was virgin timber used for fortifications, fencing and fuel.

Station F: The Redcoats: You have just walked the same trail the center column of the British army took after crossing the Great Ravine.

Station G: The British found this clearing of cultivated crops. They were happy to find food as their provisions were becoming scarce.

Station H: This area was a British encampment for almost one month.

Station I: Britain's King George III hired troops from the German princes to supplement his numbers. They built a temporary bridge and used ropes to haul the guns up the ridge.

Station J: This clearing may have been used by the Freeman Family for growing flax. Burgoyne's left-hand column took this trail to reinforce the British lines in the battle of September 19.

Station K: This field was farmed by John Freeman. It was the scene of intense fighting on the afternoon of September 19.

Station L: Just north of here the Freeman's farmhouse stood on the rise in the center of this clearing. After the British captured the field, they fortified around the farm and named it Balcarres redoubt.

Station M: You are now crossing the field where several hundred soldiers lost their lives. They were buried where they fell - not always thoroughly.

Station N: Many of the wild plants growing along the trail were used by the early settlers. They helped provide nutrients and variety in the colonists' diet.

