

The Wilkinson Trail

This trail is an official part of the National Trails System. Trail improvements were made possible by a partnership between the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield, Lever Brothers Inc., The Boy Scouts of America, and the National Park Service.

Cell Phone Tour

If you'd like to connect more with the stories preserved and shared at Saratoga National Historical Park, ask at the Visitor Center about our Wilkinson Trail Cell Phone Tour flyer.

Saratoga National Historical Park

Entrance to Saratoga Battlefield between May 1 and October 31 is \$3.00 for hiking and bicycling and \$5.00 for a private motor vehicle. An annual pass is \$10.00. Grounds are open to pedestrian use daily, sunrise to sunset.

The Visitor Center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Restrooms are located at the Visitor Center.

For more information:

Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, NY 12170
518-664-9821 ext. 1777
www.nps.gov/sara
www.facebook.com/saratoganhp



Wilkinson Trail



Welcome to the Wilkinson Trail—a 4.2 mile historic foot-path along fields, woods, and hills in the northern section of Saratoga Battlefield.

As you walk along this trail you will retrace the same path where soldiers marched to and from battle, where determined souls overcame overwhelming odds, and where America's fight for freedom breathed new life.

Mapped in 1777 by British Lieutenant William Wilkinson, this path is part of a preserved Revolutionary War road system – horses and bicycles are not allowed.

Trail sections can be slippery during inclement weather – rangers at the visitor center can update you on conditions. Also, there is no drinkable water on the trail, so please bring water with you.

Let this trail be a journey into 18th 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

- For the safety of others and to protect wildlife, keep pets leashed and under control at all times.
- Please clean up after your pet; waste bags and a trash can are available at the trail head.
- 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 in the ground. Archeological remains are protected by federal law.
- If you are walking alone, check in at the Visitor Center, as ranger patrols vary.
- No hunting, fishing, camping, or fires.
- Please do not litter. Trash cans are located behind the Visitor Center.

Interpretive Stations

These now peaceful grounds witnessed desperate combat in 1777, the second year of America's War for Independence. An invading British force, intent on crushing the colonial rebellion, encountered a determined American army that instead defeated their invaders. The stunning victory heartened the American cause and brought international recognition and aid vital to winning our independence.

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 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 built by hundreds of German and loyalist troops fighting for the British.

Station D: On September 19, 1777 the British army, under the command of Gen. Burgoyne, advanced along these parts to what would be the first battle of Saratoga.

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

Station F: You have just walked the same trail the British army's center column took after crossing the Great Ravine on September 19th.

Station G: The British found this clearing full of cultivated crops which were of great value to supplement their dwindling provisions.

Station H: Hoping for reinforcements, the British encamped on these grounds for almost two weeks.

Station I: German troops, hired by Britain's King George III to supplement his army, crossed a bridge here to bring up the left column of the British advance.

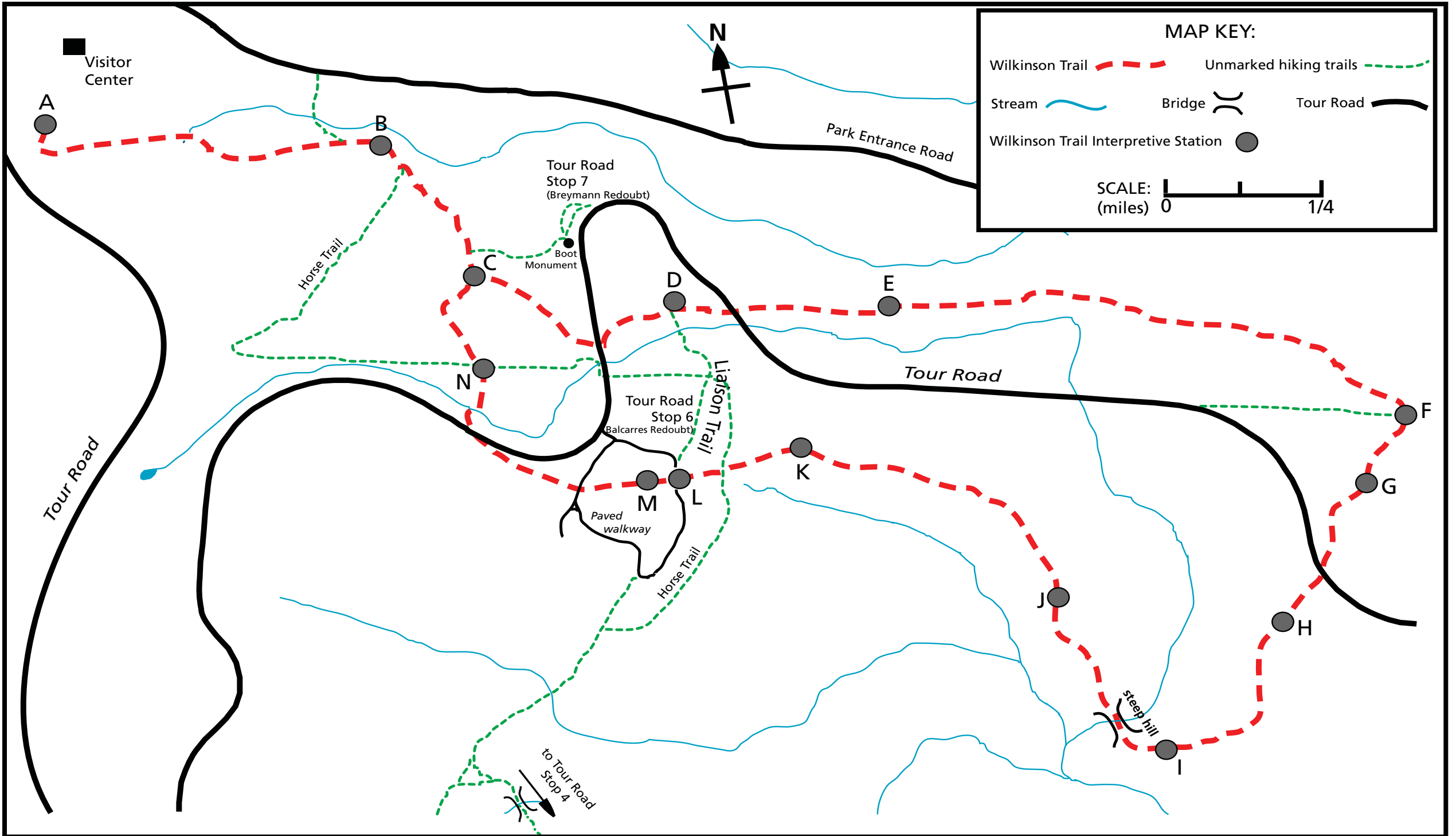
Station J: You are continuing on the trail used by the Germans as they advanced to the September 19 battle at Freeman's Farm. The cleared area was cultivated in 1777 and used for crops such as flax.

Station K: You are now in fields once farmed by John Freeman, a loyalist who lost his home after the battles. It was the scene of intense fighting on September 19 and October 7th.

Station L: Just north of here the Freeman farmhouse stood on the rise in the center of this clearing. After the British captured the field, they fortified the area with a fort called Balcarres Redoubt.

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

Station N: Early settlers used many of the wild plants growing along the trail for nutrients and variety in their diet.



MAP KEY:

Wilkinson Trail		Unmarked hiking trails	
Stream		Bridge	
Wilkinson Trail Interpretive Station		Tour Road	

SCALE: (miles) 0 1/4

Visitor Center

A

B

C

D

E

N

F

G

K

M

L

J

H

I

Tour Road

Park Entrance Road

Tour Road Stop 7
(Breymann Redoubt)

Boot Monument

Tour Road Stop 6
(Balcarres Redoubt)

Paved walkway

Horse Trail

Liason Trail

Horse Trail

steep hill

to Tour Road Stop 4