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A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF THE GERLACH " PLAN "
OF SARATOGA (SCHUYLERVILLE), NEW YORK 1777

by

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Saratoga National
Historical Park

1982

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PLAN
de la Bataille.
dressé sous les Ordres de
son Excellence le Lieutenant
General Brueysguyne.

Officier Général
dans sur la Plaine de
Fremaux Ferme.

A l'ouest quelle que soit la place
de la bataille il sera nécessaire
d'avoir une partie de la place
pour faire le combat et pour
que l'artillerie puisse faire usage
de son canon.

On ne peut pas faire
l'artillerie au combat avec
une partie de la place.

De plus la place pour
l'artillerie doit être assez grande.

INTRODUCTION

During the early part of February, 1981, I was charged with the task of reorganizing the photographic files of Saratoga National Historical Park. While re-examining each file, a negative impression of an old map was rediscovered in a grouping of miscellaneous photographs. Upon close scrutiny the photographic map was found to depict a highly detailed plan of Saratoga (modern-day Schuylerville), New York as it appeared during the first half of October, 1777, while occupied by the army of Lieutenant General John Burgoyne. It was at Saratoga that General Burgoyne met his demise and was forced to surrender his army on October 17, 1777 to American Forces led by Major General Horatio Gates after a nine-day siege. I immediately realized that this map offered a unique view of the last days of the Campaign of 1777 in Northern New York Province that deserved more than just passing notice. Hence this report.

THE MAP

The photographic map measures approximately $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 8 inches and is in a poor state of condition having several bad creases probably caused by years of careless and improper storage and handling. A torn piece measuring about $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch at its longest and widest dimensions is missing from the upper right corner of the photograph. Fortunately, the missing section did not contain any vital data. No evidence of cropping is present.

As previously stated the map has been photographically reproduced as a negative impression in black and white tones. Overall tones suggest that the original map which the photograph reproduces was lightly hand-colored. Undoubtedly, the original map was also much larger in size, thus it must be recognized that the photographic copy is a vastly reduced reproduction of the original piece. To what degree the photographic copy has been reduced or to guess at what size the original map was is at present impossible lacking precise information or clues.

All titles and legends appearing on the map are in the French language and easily translatable due to a high degree of overall clarity. In the upper left corner the following general title appears:

" PLAN de la Position de l'Armee sous les Ordres de son Excellence le Lieutenant General Bourgoyne a SARATOGA d'ant' sur la Retraite de Fremanns Ferme "

This title is followed by several legends which further explain that the capital letter " A " denotes the positions held by the British Forces from October 10th through October 17th, 1777. Under these legends appears a notation that this " PLAN " was drawn in camp by Captain Gerlach, Deputy Quarter Master General.^① Thus, from this point I will simply refer to the map in my discussion as the Gerlach " PLAN " of Saratoga.

ORIGIN OF THE MAP

Attached to the rediscovered map was a letter from Ronald F. Lee, Supervisor of Historic Sites, N.P.S., Washington, D.C. dated April 20, 1940 directed to Francis Wilshin, Junior Research Technician at Saratoga National Historical Park, which reads as follows:

" Through the courtesy of Dr. Hans Huth we are able to send you a photostatic copy of a map of Saratoga Battlefield, the original of which was found by Mrs. Huth last winter during an examination of the private papers of General Riedesel at the home of Freiherr Von Rotenhan near Eisenach, Germany. As far as we know this map is not listed among those in the Saratoga collection of the N.P.S."

As stated above, Mr. Lee's letter indicated that the original map from which the present photographic copy was made was first found by Mrs. Marta Huth, who it is commonly known had a close association with the Library of Congress, while examining the original manuscript papers of General Riedesel^② housed in 1940 at the home of Freiherr Von Rotenhan then near Eisenach, Germany. A book entitled Baroness von Riedesel and the American Revolution, translated by Marvin L. Brown, Jr., published by the University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill in 1965, sheds some further light on Mrs. Huth's visit and findings at the Von Rotenhan estate. Because of its interest to the present study, the following extracts from the preface to Brown's book are of some interest:

" In 1937 Mrs. Huth visited the Rotenhans at Schloss Neuenhof, their estate near Eisenach, and was given the opportunity to transcribe the Riedesel manuscripts, which had survived the plundering of Burg Lauterbach, the ancestral seat of Baron von Riedesel, in the revolution of 1848.....She also obtained photographs of selected family portraits. The Rotenhan estate now lies in East Germany. It was badly damaged in 1945, and the contents which were not destroyed were scattered and are

now presumably lost. Mrs. Huth's transcripts of the German originals, therefore, seem to be the only available copies of the previously unpublished writings." (3)

It was during such a visit as described above that Mrs. Huth obviously secured the photographic copy of the Gerlach " PLAN." From the above information one can quickly surmise that odds are great that the original Gerlach " PLAN " has either been destroyed or has been lost possibly forever. Thus, the photographic copy now in possession of Saratoga National Historical Park should be considered to be the only existing copy of the original Gerlach " PLAN " known to exist in the world and as such deserves immediate special consideration with regard to long-term conservation to ensure that it will provide a permanent record.

Knowing that Dr. and Mrs. Huth had close associations with the Library of Congress, I wrote to the Library of Congress's Geography And Map Division with the faint hope that perhaps they owned a positive photographic copy of the Gerlach " PLAN " or perhaps even the original " PLAN." On March 13, 1981 I received a response to my inquiry from Richard W. Stephenson, Head Librarian, Reference and Bibliography Section, Geography And Map Division, Library of Congress. Because of its informative nature a copy of Mr. Stephenson's letter is here attached:



THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540

GEOGRAPHY AND MAP DIVISION

March 13, 1981

Dear Mr. Starch:

In response to your letter of February 7, we have been unable to determine the provenance of Gerlach's 1777 map entitled "Plan de la Position de l'Armee sous les Ordres de son Excellence le Lieutenant General Burgoyne a Saratoga etant sour la Retraite de Fremanns Ferme." We do, however, have reference to another map of this battle which has the same title, but it bears no attribution. This map is housed in the collections of the Hessisches Staatsarchiv, Friderichsplatz 15, Marburg Federal Republic of Germany. You may wish to write to this Hessian archives for additional information about the map.

We have not been able to find much information about Gerlach. There was a Heinrich Dan. Gerlach was served as a Captain and Quarter Master General in Riedesel's Brunswick Regiment at Saratoga. There was also a P. Gerlach who drew a 1777 plan of the action at Huberton, Vermont and a 1781 map of Princess Anne, Norfolk, and Nasemond Counties in Virginia. We have been unable to determine the exact relationship between Heinrich Dan Gerlach and P. Gerlach. They both appear to have served in the same Brunswick Regiment.

We suggest you write Peter J. Guthorn, M.D., 2100 Corlies Avenue, Neptune City, New Jersey 07753. Dr. Guthorn has studied the cartography of the American Revolutionary War and is the author of books on the British and American mapping of that war. He also had planned to publish a separate volume on the cartographic contributions of Hessian engineers during the Revolutionary War.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Stephenson
Head, Reference and
Bibliography Section

Mr. Stephen G. Starch
P.O. Box 163
Schuylerville, NY 12871

Taking Mr. Stephenson's suggestion some months later, I wrote to Peter J. Guthorn and inquired whether he was familiar with the Gerlach " PLAN." A photocopy of the " PLAN" was also forwarded at the same time. In turn, Mr. Guthorn sent a general response dated February 17, 1982, which in part provided some useful biographical data pertaining to Captain Heinrich Gerlach, but which totally lacked any mention of the photocopy of the Gerlach " PLAN" that I had sent. The same letter also recommended another printed source from which Guthorn felt I might gain some further general knowledge of German mapmakers of the American Revolutionary War Period-----Peter J. Guthorn, " A Hessian Map from the American Revolution, Its Origin and Purpose," in The Quarterly Journal Of The Library Of Congress 33 (July 1976 No. 3), pp. 219-231----- A copy of the recommended article was secured shortly thereafter from the New York State Library in Albany and read with great interest. The article's accompanying notes listing sources of information was especially helpful. One such source used by Mr. Guthorn was listed as " Plans vom Nord Amerikanischen Kriege vom 1775 " 2 volumes, Hessisches Staatsarchiv, Marburg." Not having been familiar with this last source, my continued curiosity prompted a second letter to Mr. Guthorn to inquire after it. I also forwarded a second photocopy of the Gerlach " PLAN." As a result, I received a letter dated March 30, 1982 from Mr. Guthorn which stated:

" The photocopy you sent of Gerlach's map of " Freeman's Farm " is nearly illegible, but was sufficiently so to permit comparison with a map in the Marburg " Kriegs atlas..." which is very similar. It is number 63, has the same title, and is 27^{1/4} by 28^{1/4} in size. The author is in question." ④

After reading both Mr. Stephenson's and Mr. Guthorn's letters it must be surmised that our map is similiar to item number 63 in the Marburg " Kriegs atlas...," however with the important difference that ours is attributed to Captain Gerlach. As Mr. Guthorn has a full photographic copy of the Marburg " Kriegs atlas..." his information can be deemed as totally reliable. As Mr. Guthorn states that our map is similiar to that in Marburg, but in fact not exactly the same, we must once again assume that our copy is unique in its own right.

It must also be mentioned at this point that our photographic map

bears a second name in the extreme lower right corner of the map--- H.C. Degeling, who might have either copied and or refined the original sketch or actual field map executed by Gerlach. Most maps drawn during the period of the American Revolution were later redrawn or refined for publication or as an exercise in cartographic science by gifted students. All efforts to locate an H.C. Degeling on the available muster rolls of the Brunswick soldiers on Campaign in 1777 failed to yield any trace of an individual by this name. Hence, because of the refined nature of our map there is a good possibility that one H.C. Degeling at some time after the year 1777, but probably not more then 10 years after, had access to Gerlach's original and probably rough field map and recopied it and refined it for the use of General Riedesel after that officer's return to Brunswick in 1783. Despite this, the true provence ascribed to the map should properly belong to Gerlach.

COMPARISON TO THE WILKINSON MAP OF SARATOGA 1777

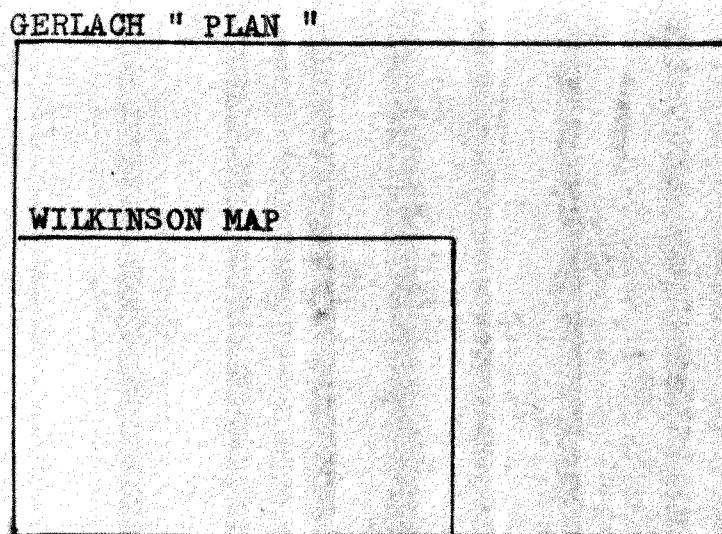
The very first observation that one will be struck with upon viewing the Gerlach " PLAN " is the vast amount of detail depicted and the clarity with which the same appears. Prior to the rediscovery of the " PLAN " only one other map of Saratoga for the period of 1777 was known to exist entitled:

" PLAN OF THE POSITION which the ARMY under LT. GENL. BURGOINE took at SARATOGA "

It's first and only general appearance was in General John Burgoine's book A State Of The Expedition From Canada, London, 1780. This map was drawn by Assistant Engineer, Lieutenant William C. Wilkinson of the 62nd Regiment of Foot. Since the publication of Burgoine's book in 1780, the Wilkinson map of Saratoga has been long considered the best and only authoritative view of the British Army's position at Saratoga in October, 1777. However, when the Wilkinson map is placed beside the Gerlach " PLAN " a startling difference in detail and depth is starkly apparent. The Wilkinson map will be immediately viewed as extremely simple in nature in comparison with the sophisticated style of the Gerlach " PLAN." No longer should the Wilkinson map be looked upon as the best authority on the British position at Saratoga. Instead, it should more properly

only be used as a supportive record for the Gerlach " PLAN."

One major difference between the two maps is the physical area each covers. Approximating distances to a 7.5 minute series U.S. Geological Survey Map, ^G the Wilkinson map depicts an area roughly $1\frac{1}{2}$ X $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles square, while the Gerlach " PLAN " covers an area of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ X $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles square.



Another, but less serious difference is one of scale. Both maps are scaled. The Wilkinson map utilizes a scale measured in inches while the Gerlach " PLAN " uses Paces. PacePacales generally indicate that a detailed field survey had been conducted by the draftsman under what would be considered " Campaign " conditions.

To adjust each map's scale into equal corresponding modern inches would be difficult, because of the difference in enlargements. As Wilkinson's map originally appears in Burgoyne's State of the Expedition, the scale is $2\frac{1}{2}$ equals 800 yards. Subsequent reprintings of the map in various books have changed the equivalent depending upon the various reduced or enlarged sizes of the map. In the case of the Gerlach " PLAN," despite the presence of a measured scale, it would be impossible to properly project it over the Wilkinson map without first knowing what the exact dimensions of the original Gerlach " PLAN " was or knowing how much of a reduction was used by the original photographer to whom we are

indebted for the present record. However, when each scale is taken independently and relayed to a modern 7.5 minute series U.S. Geological Survey Map the variances will be found to be actually minor. It should be further noted that the Paces used in the Gerlach " PLAN " are common stride Paces equalling $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet per Pace. During the same period a Pace (Geometrical) could also equal 5 feet but this is not the case with the Gerlach " PLAN." ⑥

Other differences between the Wilkinson map and the Gerlach " PLAN " are in detail depicted. Fortified lines look different in part, houses appear on one and not the other and the same is true of roads and physical features. The entire system of established roads and trails depicted by Gerlach is especially noteworthy as most are totally lacking on the Wilkinson map or at least appear to be represented incorrectly. Where applicable, the minute differences between the two maps will be noted one at a time in the next section of this report.

All points considered, it would appear that Wilkinson drew his map at a later date than 1777, but certainly by 1779, relying it seems partially on his memory and upon field notes than upon any actual field survey taken. Unlike Wilkinson, Gerlach appears to have drafted his " PLAN " from a thorough survey of the grounds depicted. Like Wilkinson, Gerlach probably drew his map after the actual event which it represents, but not very long after. Hence, the method of survey employed by each of the two draftsmen and the span of time which appears to have elapsed between the actual drafting of each finished map, may offer an explanation for the existing difference in detail between the two maps.

BLOCKED ANALYSIS OF THE " PLAN "

In order to carefully examine and discuss the material content of the Gerlach " PLAN," it will be necessary for the reader to use the transparent overlay attached to the copy of the map included in this report. Readers will note that the overlay provides a system of coordinated blocks to which the following analysis will refer when identifying a specific feature within a given block. Blocks not referred to such as A-1 and A-2 indicate that there are no specific features worth noting.

THE BLOCKS

BLOCK C-1

#1--Approximate position of surrounding American Forces.

D-1-

#1--Approximate position of surrounding American Forces.

E-1

#1--Depicts the property of Archibald McNeil, who settled here about 1775 and operated an important ferry, which linked the main road from Fort Edward on the east bank of the Hudson to the main road to Albany, which emanated at Saratoga and continued on the west bank of the Hudson heading south. Note that 4 structures are shown. An American unit is also depicted occupying the sight. This position had been temporarily occupied by part of Burgoyne's Loyalist Forces on October 10, 1777.

#2--Site of modern-day Northumberland Bridge and of Archibald McNeil's Ferry.

#3--The road upon which Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholas Sutherland and the 47th Regiment of Foot, Captain Alexander Fraser's Marksmen, and Mackay's Volunteers marched north to within 3 miles of Fort Edward on the west bank of the Hudson River October 9th to 10th before being recalled to Saratoga.

#4--Location of the road on the east bank of the Hudson River heading north to Fort Edward. This is the same road that heads southeast through BLOCKS F-1, F-2, and G-2 to the Battenkill and other points south. Burgoyne was later sharply criticized for not having used this road south to Albany instead of crossing to the west bank of the Hudson in BLOCK F-2. However, Burgoyne's decision was a logical one as part of the road leading south from Battenkill on the east bank of the Hudson River was not as wide nor as in good condition as that on the west bank. When considering Burgoyne's large artillery train, his choice of roads appears to be logical. Also, note the various structures depicted in this BLOCK and in adjoining BLOCK F-1.

#5--American Militia position October 12th-17th, 1777.

NOTE: The area covered by BLOCKS A-1, B-1, C-1, D-1, E-1, F-1, and

G-1 does not appear on the Wilkinson map.

BLOCK B-2

#1--Approximate position of surrounding American Forces.

C-2

#1--Approximate position of surrounding American Forces.

NOTE: BLOCKS B-2 and C-2 #'s 1 do not correspond with Wilkinson, who shows them in a tighter position due east and labels them as representing Colonel Daniel Morgan's Riflemen.

D-2--

#1--An extensive and well cultivated farm of undetermined ownership. A total of 4 structures is evident . This farm does not appear in the Wilkinson map.

#2--Depicts the western-most area of Stark's Knob. Not depicted by Wilkinson.

E-2

#1--Stark's Knob. Not depicted by Wilkinson.

#2--Part of the British Baggage Park. Not depicted by Wilkinson.

NOTE: The area covered by BLOCKS A-2, B-2, and C-2 does not appear on the Wilkinson map.

F-2

#1--The Marshall House. In 1777 this house was owned by Peter Lansing of Albany, who had built it in 1775. It is not known who occupied the house in 1777. A Marshall Family member bought the property in 1817. Today the house is owned by David Bullard. Note that 2 structures are shown. The location of the house only roughly corresponds to Wilkinson's placement, who only depicts 1 structure on the opposite side of the road.

#2--This circular symbol represents the circular stockade built September 28th, 1777 by elements of the Royal Naval Detachment serving with Burgoyne's Army. The structure was intended to protect the head of the Bridge of Batteaux from attack. Not depicted by Wilkinson.

#3--British Bridge of Batteaux. This was the second of three bridges that the British built over the Hudson River during the

Campaign of 1777. This particular bridge was built August 23-26, 1777. It was dismantled by the British on September 15th of the same year. Wilkinson's placement of the bridge only roughly corresponds to Gerlach's location.

#4--Possibly the Burton House now located on U.S. Route 4 (North Broad Street) just inside the Village of Schuylerville line. Local tradition states that the house was standing in 1777. The notation appearing here reads "Hospital Grand" denoting that this building and possibly the unidentified structure appearing just to the southwest were utilized as the main British field hospital. Note the small unidentified unit (Probably German) that is stationed immediately north of the Burton House to protect the hospital. Wilkinson depicts a single building in this general vicinity that might roughly correspond to Gerlach's placement.

#5--A fortified position probably of British construction period August 12th to September 12th, 1777. Not depicted by Wilkinson.

#6--Probable location of the first British bridge thrown over the Hudson River on August 13th-16th, 1777. This bridge was constructed of flimsily built rafts. Poorly built, this bridge was swept away during a rain storm on August 17th. Not depicted by Wilkinson.

#7--Mouth of the Battenkill. Placement corresponds to Wilkinson's.

#8--American Militia position October 12th-17th, 1777?

#9--American Militia position October 11th-17th, 1777. Wilkinson does not depict this position nor that in #8 above.

BLOCK G-2

#1--Is the fortified camp of the British Advanced Corps August 13th-September 13th, 1777. Not depicted by Wilkinson.

#2--The Battenkill. This section is not depicted by Wilkinson.

#3--An unidentified structure and farm occupied by American Militia.

#4--American Militia position October 11th-17th, 1777. Neither #3 nor #4 are depicted by Wilkinson.

BLOCK A-3

#1--General Philip Schuyler's Upper Mills. Note that a sawmill is specifically denoted. Not depicted by Wilkinson.

#2--Fish Creek. Also called Fishkiln or Schuyler's Creek in 1777.

When the Gerlach " PLAN " is compared with a modern U.S. Geological Survey Map, one will quickly note that Gerlach has not plotted the true course of Fish Creek at least in terms of its modern-day course. The discrepancy is particularly evident in BLOCKS B-4, C-4, and D-4. The modern map depicts the course of the creek sharply heading south to an area not depicted by Gerlach and then sharply heading north again roughly re-entering the Gerlach map in BLOCKS A-4 and A-3. The only explanation for this obvious error (actually the only one really found) is that Gerlach wished to show as much of this important geographical feature as was possible within the total scope of his survey. Of course, it might also be possible that the course of the creek did change sometime during the last 200 years?

BLOCK B-3

#1--Approximate position of surrounding American Forces. This position does not correspond with Wilkinson's placement, who shows them in a tighter position due east.

NOTE: The area covered by BLOCKS A-3, B-3, and C-3 does not appear on the Wilkinson map.

BLOCK D-3

#1--Position held by Canadian Soldiers October 10th-17th, 1777. This placement only roughly corresponds to Wilkinson's, who shows them in a position immediately north of the road instead of a short distance south.

#2--Position held by Provincial Soldiers (Loyalists) October 10th-17th, 1777. This position does not correspond to Wilkinson's placement, who shows them at BLOCK D-4 #11 instead.

#3--A fortified position held by the Brunswick Jagers, (Arquebusiers) October 10th-17th, 1777. Roughly corresponds to Wilkinson's placement, who depicts them in a non-fortified position south of the road instead of north of it.

BLOCK E-3

- #1--Schuyler's (the Continental) Barracks. Approximately 7 structures. Exactly corresponds with the position and number depicted by Wilkinson.
- #2--British Baggage Park. Not shown by Wilkinson.
- #3--Fortified position defended by an unnamed unit. The position roughly corresponds to one shown by Wilkinson, who depicts the Regiment Von Rhetz defending this position by implication only.
- #4--Fortified line. Configuration is roughly the same as that depicted by Wilkinson.
- #5--20th Regiment of Foot. Position corresponds to Wilkinson's.
- #6--German Grenadiers. Position roughly corresponds to Wilkinson's. Gerlach shows them further south of the crossroads than Wilkinson depicts.
- #7--47th Regiment of Foot. Positioning does not correspond with Wilkinson's.
- #8--Von Barner's German Light Infantry. Position roughly corresponds to Wilkinson's, but Wilkinson depicts the unit north of the crossroads instead of south as Gerlach has shown.
- #9--Brunswick Regiment von Rhetz. Position corresponds with Wilkinson's.
- #10-62nd Regiment of Foot. Position corresponds with Wilkinson's. Wilkinson or the engraver of his map mistakenly duplicates the 20th Regiment of Foot in this position. Probably a printer's typographical error.

BLOCK F-3

- #1--British Artillery Park. Position corresponds to Wilkinson's.
- #2--Brunswick Regiment von Specht. Position corresponds to Wilkinson's.
- #3--Brunswick Regiment von Riedesel. Position corresponds to Wilkinson's.
- #4--Hesse-Hanau Infantry Regiment. Position corresponds to Wilkinson's.
- #5--An unidentified farm with four structures. Not depicted by Wilkinson.

BLOCK G-3

- #1--A large cultivated area. Corresponds to Wilkinson, who shows a much larger area under cultivation.

#2--American Militia (General Fellow's Command).

#3-- " " " " ". Positions

depicted in #2 and #3 correspond to Wilkinson's placement.

#4--Two structures and adjoining fields. Not shown by Wilkinson.

#5--Two structures and adjoining fields. Not shown by Wilkinson.

#6--A single structure. Not shown by Wilkinson.

BLOCK B-4

#1--Fish Creek. Not shown by Wilkinson.

#2--Approximate position of surrounding American Forces. Not shown by Wilkinson.

#3--A bridge which nearly corresponds to that which crosses Fish Creek near the modern-day junction of Route 32 and Mennen Road. Not depicted by Wilkinson.

BLOCK C-4

#1--Fish Creek. Corresponds with Wilkinson's placement.

#2--British Artillery. Position corresponds with Wilkinson's, who depicts 2 guns.

#3--British Grenadiers. Position does not correspond with Wilkinson's, who shows the Grenadiers defending the eastern wall instead.

#4--British Artillery. Position corresponds with Wilkinson's, who depicts 3 guns.

#5--Approximate position of surrounding American Forces. Corresponds with Wilkinson's placement.

NOTE: The area covered by BLOCKS A-4, B-4, and most of C-4 does not appear on the Wilkinson map.

BLOCK D-4

#1--The Main British Position at Saratoga (Victory Woods--Garber Tract)--southern-most point.

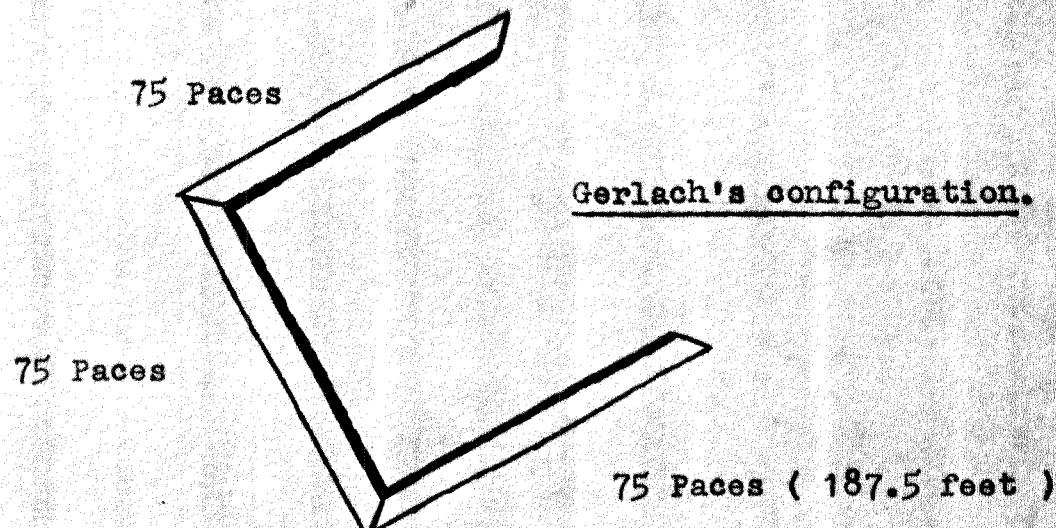
#2--Burgoyne's Headquarters. Position corresponds with Wilkinson's but configuration of the fortified line surrounding H.Q. is different from that depicted by Wilkinson. See attached illustration.

#3--The Main British Position at Saratoga--northern-most point.

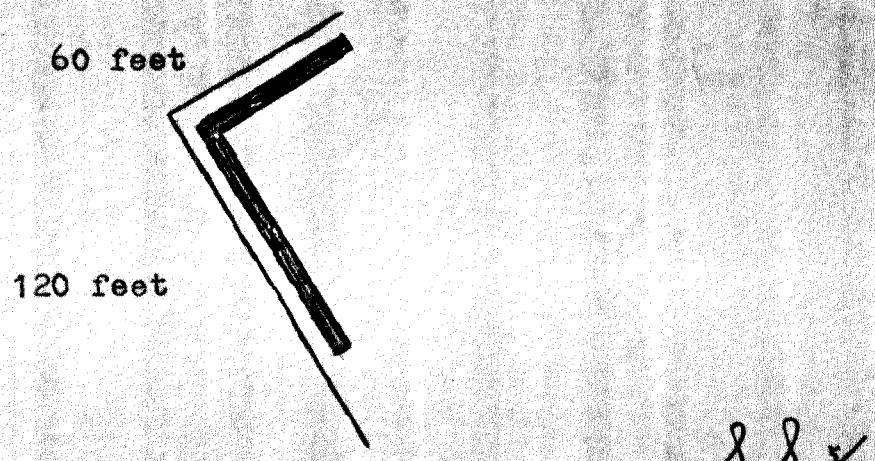
#4--Cultivated fields probably owned by General Schuyler. Roughly corresponds to Wilkinson, who depicts much larger and

BLOCK D-4

#2-- Burgoyne's Headquarters. Position corresponds with Wilkinson's, but the configuration of the fortified line surrounding H.Q. is different in each map.



Wilkinson's configuration.



NOTE: The two above configurations have not been drawn on equal scales on this page. Measurements cited are approximate.

continuous fields stretching all the way to the Hudson River.

#5--British Fieches. Not depicted by Wilkinson.

#6--24th Regiment of Foot. Position does not correspond to Wilkinson's placement, who shows the unit defending the southwest wall instead.

#7--21st Regiment of Foot. Position corresponds with Wilkinson's.

#8--British Grenadiers. Position does not correspond to Wilkinson's.

#9--9th Regiment of Foot. Position corresponds to Wilkinson's.

#10-British Artillery. Position corresponds to Wilkinson, who shows 1 gun. Wilkinson also depicts 3 more guns just north of this position along the east wall. These guns are not shown by Gerlach.

#11-Riflemen (probably Captain Alexander Fraser's Marksmen).

Position does not correspond to Wilkinson, who depicts them in a position adjacent to and west of the 21st Regiment of Foot.

Instead, Wilkinson depicts the Loyalists defending this position.

#12-British Light Infantry. Position does not correspond to Wilkinson.

#13-British Artillery. Position corresponds to Wilkinson, who shows 4 guns at this point.

#14-British Light Infantry. Position does not correspond to Wilkinson.

#15-Approximate position of surrounding American Forces. Position corresponds to Wilkinson.

BLOCK E-4

#1--The Schuyler House prior to being burned on October 10th, 1777. Note that the central house has two wings. The configuration of the house is the same on the Wilkinson map.

#2--The Schuyler House Garden. Position corresponds with Wilkinson, but the physical layout does not.

#3--General Schuyler's Lower Mills: 2 structures. Exactly corresponds with Wilkinson's placement. Flax or Grist Mills?

#4--Four additional structures- probably warehouses or quarters for workers. Placement corresponds with Wilkinson, who only depicts 3 structures.

#5--Fish Creek. Corresponds with Wilkinson's placement.

#6--A British Fortified Position. Not shown by Wilkinson. This position appears to be the post at which Lieutenant Amburey was stationed October 10th-17th, 1777. Amburey described the post as follows: "Upon our arrival at Saratoga, three companies of our regiment, one of which was that I belong to, were posted in a small redoubt, close to the creek;.....This post was a small square redoubt, constructed with logs breast high, and the only shelter afforded to the troops was from those angles which faced the enemy, as the others were so exposed,....." ⑦

#7--Dutch Reformed Church ? Roughly corresponds to Wilkinson, who places it further south.

#8--Bridge over Fish Creek burned by Americans October 1st, 1777. Corresponds with Wilkinson as does the slanted configuration of the road south of the bridge.

#9--Approximate position of surrounding American Forces. Corresponds to Wilkinson's placement.

#10-Four structures--barns, outbuildings (?) adjacent to the Schuyler House. Corresponds with Wilkinson, who only shows 3 structures.

BLOCK F-4

#1--Fort Hardy. Position corresponds to Wilkinson, but the configuration of the fort is different.

#2--Part of General Schuyler's Fields. Corresponds with Wilkinson, who depicts even larger fields.

#3--Several unidentified farms. 2 separate structures. Not depicted by Wilkinson.

#4--British Batteaux. Not depicted by Wilkinson.

#5--Mouth of Fish Creek. Corresponds to Wilkinson.

#6-- Island. Roughly corresponds to Wilkinson.

#7-- Island. Not depicted by Wilkinson.

#8-- Island. Roughly corresponds with Wilkinson.

#9-- Island. Not depicted by Wilkinson.

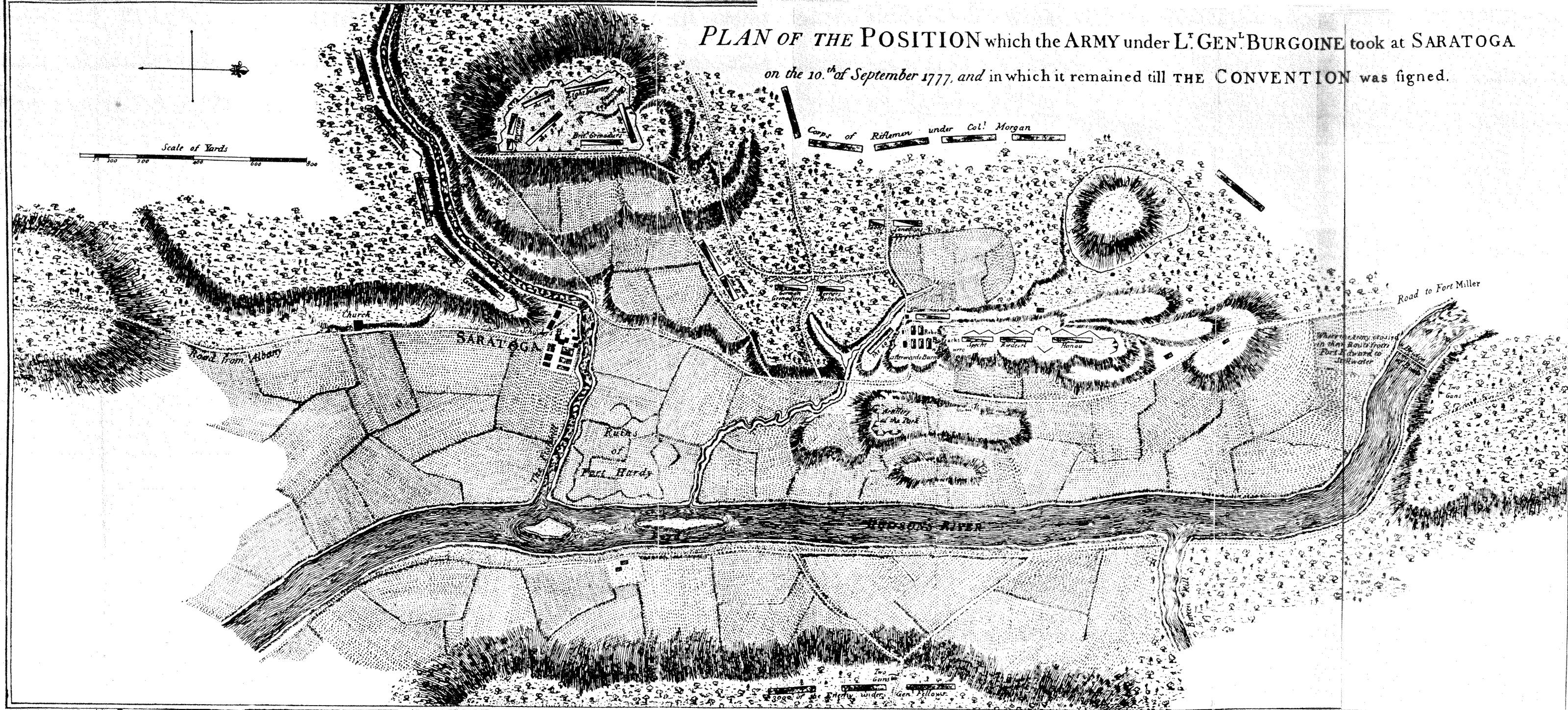
BLOCK G-4

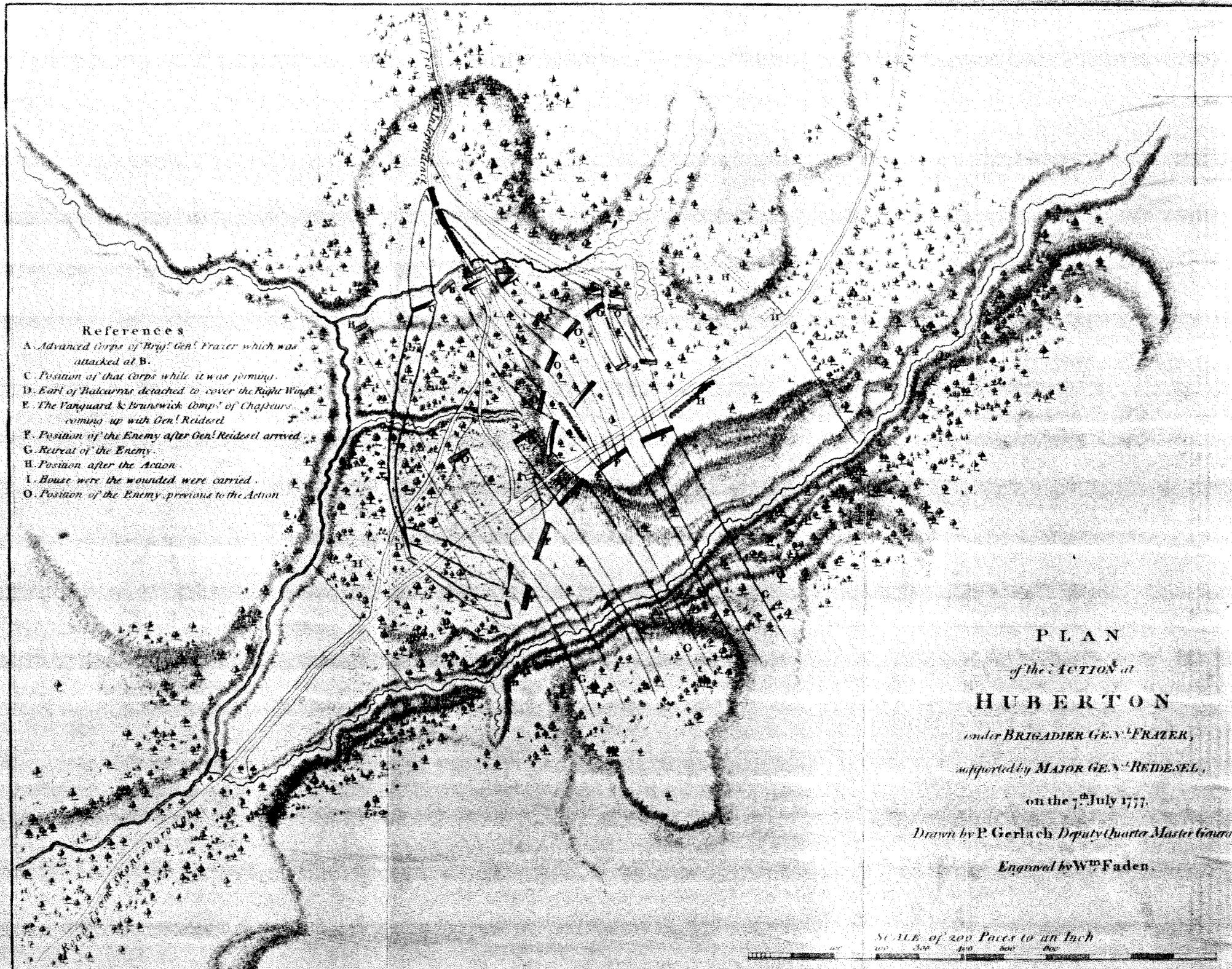
#1--An unidentified farm with 2 structures. Corresponds with

Wilkinson.

#2--American Militia Position October 11th-17th, 1777. Not shown
by Wilkinson.

The map drawn by Lieutenant William C. Wilkinson, 62nd Regiment of Foot
and Assistant Engineer.





Another good example of Gerlach's work. This map originally appeared in Burgoyne's book A State Of The Expedition From Canada, which was first published in 1780. Note that on this map Gerlach's first initial is cited as " P." This is an engraver's typographical error as there was no P. Gerlach serving in Burgoyne's Army, who held the rank of Deputy Quarter Master General. The proper first name letter should of course be " H."



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GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

In addition to the references already cited in the above report, the following general references were also of great value during the preparation of this paper:

John H. Brandow, The Story of Old Saratoga, 2nd Ed., Albany, 1919.

Violet B. Dunn, Saratoga County Heritage, Saratoga Springs, 1974.

Peter J. Guthorn, British Maps Of The American Revolution, Monmouth Beach, 1972.

Peter J. Guthorn, "Military Mapping during the American Revolution," in Map Collector (No. 2, March 1978), pp. 8-20.

H. Nebenzahl and D. Higginbotham, Atlas Of The American Revolution, Chicago, 1974.

Nathaniel B. Sylvester, History Of Saratoga County, New York, Philadelphia, 1878.

CONCLUSION

In closing this report, I would like to make the following recommendations with regard to the Gerlach " PLAN " :

1. As Saratoga National Historical Park now owns what would appear to be the only copy of the Gerlach " PLAN," it is recommended that immediate steps be taken to preserve the photograph. A photographic conservation specialist -- either from Harper's Ferry Unit or the private sector -- should be contacted and allowed to examine the photograph to determine the best means of preserving this unique record of 1777.
2. As a matter of preserving what this unique photograph has recorded, a photograph of the original in our possession should be taken (Most probably by the conservation specialist) as soon as possible as an immediate deterrent to any further damage to the original from unnecessary handling and or permanent lose of this record by an inadvertent accident.
3. That once photographed, several good photographic enlargements be made of key areas of especial concern to Saratoga National Historical Park. In particular, areas covered by BLOCKS C-4, D-4, E-4, and F-4, which depict the General Philip Schuyler House and immediate surrounding properties would most certainly be useful for interpretive purposes.
4. As this report is only a preliminary one, a further followup report should be written after all known contemporary accounts of the period October 9th-17th, 1777 that discuss the military events in Saratoga (Schuylerville) are re-examined. As a number of obvious discrepancies with regard to troop placements, numbers of structures in a given spot etc. etc. are prevalent when comparisons of the Gerlach " PLAN " and Wilkinson map are made, it would certainly be of some value to attempt to reconfirm our belief that the Gerlach " PLAN " is the more precise of the two maps.
5. Finally, we should secure a full-color photographic copy of map #63 from the Marburg " Kriegs atlas...," which is reputed to be similiar to our Gerlach " PLAN." It would be extremely interesting to compare the Saratoga map now in Marburg to our Gerlach " PLAN " for details

and general overall content.

Stephen G. Strach

Park Technician
Saratoga National
Historical Park

May 31 1982

APPENDIX

A CHECKLIST OF GERLACH MAPS KNOWN TO EXIST AT THE PRESENT TIME

1. "PLAN de la Position de l'Armee sous les Ordres de son Excellence le Lieutenant General Bourgoyne a SARATOGA dant' sur la Retraite de Fremanns Ferme." -- photographic copy measuring 7½ inches by 8 inches at Saratoga National Historical Park. Original map believed to have been destroyed in 1945. Attributed to "Gerlach."
2. "PLAN of the ACTION at HUBERTON...on the 7th. July 1777. Drawn by P. (this is an engraver's typographical error) Gerlach Deputy Quarter Master General." Engraved map by William Faden, London and published February 1st, 1780. The map made it's first appearance in Burgoyne's book A State of the Expedition From Canada.
3. "Plan du Retranchement de Sorel" with covering letter dated June 22, 1776 and signed by "H.D. Gerlach." Original manuscript map located at the Landeshauptarchiv, Wolfenbuttel, Germany in the grouping entitled Acta Militaria (Altere) XVII 236, 237.
4. "PLAN du Lac Champlain" --dated 1776? Drawn by "H.D. Gerlach." Original manuscript map at the Preussisches Staatsarchiv, Marburg, Germany or at the Hessisches Staatsarchiv Marburg, Marburg, Germany?
5. "PLAN of the SIEGE of YORK TOWN"--labeled in English and believed to have been copied from an original. Attributed to "H.D. Gerlach." This map is #86 in the Marburg "Kriegs atlas..."
6. A map of "Princess Anne, Norfolk, and Nasemond Counties in Virginia 1781." --original manuscript map at? Photographic copy at the Library of Congress? Signed by "P. Gerlach."

FOOTNOTES

1. Heinrich D. Gerlach, Deputy Quartermaster General of the German contingent of Burgoyne's Army and Captain of Engineers and of the Regiment von Riedesel. He was an official member of Major General Riedesel's military family during the course of that officer's stay in North America 1776-1783. Nothing is at present known of Gerlach's engineering training. It might be surmised that this officer may have received such training while a cadet in artillery school? It is known that after the war he returned to Brunswick and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Brunswick Army and before he died on September 29, 1798 was serving as commander of the Brunswick Artillery. See Appendix to this report for a list of known maps drawn by Gerlach.
2. Major General Frederick Adolphus von Riedesel, commander of the German contingent serving with Burgoyne's Army.
3. Marvin L. Brown, Jr., trans., Baroness von Riedesel and the American Revolution, Chapel Hill, 1965, p. vii.
4. The "Kriegs atlas..." more properly known as "Plans Vom Nord Amerikanischen Kriege Von 1775" is now at the Hessisches Staatsarchiv Marburg, Friedrichsplatz 15, 355 Marburg/Lahn, West Germany.
5. See maps: Schuylerville, N.Y. Quadrangle N4300-W7330/7.5--1967 and Fort Miller, N.Y. Quadrangle N4307.5-W7330/7.5--1967.
6. For information on Pace measurements see: J.B. Hartley, B.B. Petchenik, L.W. Towner, Mapping the American Revolutionary War, Chicago, 1978, pp. 10-11. ; George Smith, An Universal Military Dictionary, London, 1779 (Ottawa, 1969), p. 198.
7. Thomas Anburey, Travels Through The Interior Parts Of America, 2 Volumes, London, 1789 (New York, 1969), 2: 11.