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REPORT ON THE LOCATION AND IDENTITY
OF THE BURGoyNE CANNON
SURRENDERED AT THE CONVENTION OF SARATOGA
OCTOBER 17, 1777.

Submitted by:

Francis F. Wilshin,
Junior Historical Technician.

January 7, 1942.

B
Apples

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York



January 8, 1942

MEMORANDUM for the Director;

There are transmitted herewith the original and
three copies of Junior Historical Technician F. F.
Wilshin's report on the Burgoyne Cannon.

(SGD) WARREN F. HAMILTON

Warren F. Hamilton
Superintendent

cc: Regional Director, Region One
Coord. Supt. Ronalds

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

Report on the Location and Identity
of the Burgoyne Cannon
Surrendered at the Convention of Saratoga
October 17, 1777.

Prepared by:
Francis F. Wilshin
Junior Historical Technician
January 7, 1942

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

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UNITED STATES
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Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

FOREWORD

In accordance with instructions contained in Supervisor of Historic Sites Lee's Memorandum of October 23, 1940, a report was submitted on December 17, 1940, on the location and identity of 24 of the original guns surrendered by General Burgoyne at the Convention of Saratoga, October 17, 1777. Continued study has revealed the location and identity of 6 additional guns.

In accordance with Acting Supervisor of Historic Sites Kahler's memoranda dated September 19, 1941, and December 30, 1941, the original report on the Burgoyne Cannon has been brought up to date and is now submitted in a revised form. It has been hoped that further information might be obtained from the War Department officials relative to the location and identity of the remaining five guns of the original 35 surrendered. Their reluctance to furnish such information removes all hope of accomplishing anything by further delay.

The purpose of this report is to serve as the basis of a request to the President that these guns be transferred to the Saratoga National Historical Park. The President's sympathy and support of such a transfer was given on the occasion of his visit to the Park October 7, 1940.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE BURGOPYNE CANNON TO SARATOGA

The passage of 163 years leaves few relics of the Saratoga Campaign of equal historic and sentimental interest as these guns of Burgoyne. They symbolize probably more effectively than anything else the crushing defeat of British arms in an engagement which was to lay the foundation for the establishment of American liberty and freedom. Here was no simple defeat by force of arms but rather the capture of an entire army with its full complement of artillery and military equipage. Seldom if ever had a British army met a more humiliating defeat and probably never one of greater world-wide significance. Here raw recruits had unmistakably demonstrated their ability to match the best the British could produce. The

brilliant victory of Saratoga not only saved the colonists from almost certain defeat but produced the French Alliance, thereby paving the way for the establishment of American independence.

These guns, treasured relics of a hallowed past, are more than simple prizes of war - they are mute evidence of the unconquerable spirit of our forefathers. In no small degree they played a significant role in the winning of American independence for, in the opinion of many critics, the delay caused by their laborious transportation was a definite contributing factor to the defeat of Burgoyne. Today it seems particularly fitting that these guns, miraculously preserved though widely scattered, should be returned to the Saratoga Battlefield in their former positions where their full significance may be interpreted to this and succeeding generations.

It is realized that the proposed removal of these guns from any of their present locations will undoubtedly meet with strong opposition, particularly from such places as West Point, Government Arsenals, Public Buildings in Washington and the like where they have long been considered prized trophies of war. In view of this it would seem that only in the creation of the Saratoga National Historical Park would there be sufficient justification for their removal. With the establishment of this area, however, nowhere could they be collected from scattered points and exhibited to greater purpose than on the actual battlefield where they were fought.

At present so scattered and little publicized are they that few people realize that they exist at all. Furthermore apart from their historic setting they simply constitute another trophy or ornamental piece but here at Saratoga they represent a significant, vital part of the picture. Here, where free access might be gained to them without some of their present restrictions, they would collectively prove invaluable for interpretative purposes, especially in view of the fact that research has proceeded so far as to permit the restoration of the majority of them to their approximate former battle positions.

The mere fact that these guns have been preserved well on to two centuries is a point of considerable interest. That they should be located and collected, for exhibit on the field where they were fought would seem to make them of exceptional interest permitting what is believed a rare military display unparalleled in any of the other military parks of the Service.

In view of these considerations, it is respectfully requested that every effort be exerted in order to secure their removal to this park.

F. F. Wilshin

F. F. Wilshin
Junior Historical Technician

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

BENNINGTON HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Bennington, Vermont

1 GUN

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

BURGOYNE CANNON

Location: Bennington Historical Museum, Bennington, Vermont

Number: 1 Gun

Description: 1. 3-Pounder bronze cannon captured from the Germans
in the Battle of Bennington, August 18, 1777.

Note: Apparently this gun was transferred to the
custody of the State of Vermont by Congressional
Act about 1845.

Note: Information based on personal investigation.

UNITED STATES
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FORT MONROE

Fort Monroe, Virginia

1 GUN

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Stillwater, New York

BURGOYNE CANNON

(Surrendered at the Convention of Saratoga, October 17, 1777)

Location: Fort Monroe, Fort Monroe, Virginia

Number: 1 Gun

Description: 1. The cannon is located on the lawn of the Coast Artillery School Library. The cannon is of bronze, and was cast in the Woolwich Arsenal, London, England, in 1748 by A. Schallcht. It is a 24 pounder, smoothbore, and it measures 66 inches long over all. On the breech field it has the Royal initials "GR", and on the case the monogram "M" which stands for John, Duke of Montague, Master General of Ordnance (from May 10, 1730 to May 10, 1755). This gun weighs "16 - 1 - 24" (1844 pounds). Behind the swell of the muzzle it has the following inscription: "Surrendered by the Capitulation of Saratoga, October 1777."

According to John Muller's, "A Treatise of Artillery", London, 1756 (page 12 of Introduction), the bad roads in America influenced the experimentation for lighter cannon. Although the gun was cast in 1748, it was not officially adopted until 1753. See Captain George Smith's, "Military Encyclopedia and Dictionary", London, 1779 (page AST - AMT).

According to Muller (page 110), the gun was not considered a favorite because of its recoil due to its light construction.

Note: Information based on the memorandum of Acting Superintendent Thomas M. Pitkin to the Regional Director dated February 21, 1941.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
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FRANKFORD ARSENAL

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2 GUNS

UNITED STATES
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Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

BURGOYNE CANNON

(Surrendered at the Convention of Saratoga, October 17, 1777)

Location: Frankford Arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa.

Number: 2 Guns

Description: 1-2. 12-Pounder bronze cannon bearing the inscription:
"Surrendered at the Convention of Saratoga,
October 17, 1777." These guns are mounted
in the stone wall of a building erected at
this Arsenal about 1816. The base rings
bear the inscription: "A Schalen Fecht
1748."

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MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Morristown, New Jersey

2 GUNS

UNITED STATES
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

BURGOYNE CANNON

(Surrendered at the Convention of Saratoga, October 17, 1777)

Location: Morristown National Historical Park, Morristown, N. J.

Number: 2 Guns

Description:

1. Bronze unmounted gun
Length - 3 ft 10 inches
Bore 3 1/8 inches
No.-- 25 - 801
2. Bronze unmounted gun
Length - 3 ft. 10 inches
Bore - 3 1/8 inches
No.-- 21 - 319

Note: These guns were obtained by the Washington Association of New Jersey from the State of New Jersey and were presented to the Federal Government by the Association in 1933.

Note: Information based on the memorandum of Coordinating Superintendent Francis S. Ronalds to the Acting Superintendent Saratoga National Historical Park dated October 3, 1940.

UNITED STATES
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MONTPELIER, VERMONT

1 GUN

UNITED STATES
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

BURGOYNE CANNON

Location: Montpelier, Vermont (Capitol Building Area)

Number: 1 Gun

Description: 1. 5 or 6-Pounder bronze gun captured from the
Germans in the Battle of Bennington,
August 16, 1777.

Note: Apparently this gun was transferred to the custody
of the State of Vermont by Congressional Act about
1845.

Note: Information furnished through courtesy of Mr. John
Spargo, Curator of the Bennington Historical Museum,
Bennington, Vermont.

UNITED STATES
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

NEW BOSTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

1 GUN

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

BURGOYNE CANNON

Location: New Boston, New Hampshire

Number: 1 Gun

Description: 1. 3 or 6-Pounder bronze gun captured from the
Germans in the Battle of Bennington,
August 16, 1777.

Note: This gun apparently was transferred to the
custody of the State of New Hampshire by
Congressional Act about 1845.

Note: Information furnished through courtesy of
Mr. John Spargo, Curator of Bennington
Historical Museum, Bennington, Vermont.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

SARATOGA MONUMENT

Schuylerville, New York

4 GUNS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

BURGOYNE CANNON

(Surrendered at the Convention of Saratoga, October 17, 1777)

Location: Saratoga Monument, Schuylerville, New York

Number: 4 Guns

Description: 1. 8 inch brass mortar

On breech; has Royal initials "GR". Other
identifying features; 94

W. Bowen Fecit - 1758

4 - 1 - 25

No. 57

Surrendered at the Convention of Saratoga,
October 17, 1777.

2. 8 3/8 inch brass howitzer. Bears inscription;
Honi Soit Quimaly Pense Dieu Et Mon Droit

Two handles

Honi Soit Quimaly Pense

Dieu Defend Le Droit

W. Bowen Fecit - 1758

72

No. 58

11 - 3 - 0

Surrendered by the Convention of Saratoga,
October 17, 1777

3. Bronze field piece

Length - 3 ft. 3 1/2 inches

Bore; - 3 1/8 inches

Bears inscription; I & P Verbruggen F. o. uerunta 1776
85

1 - 3 - 10

Surrendered by the Convention of Saratoga,
October 17, 1777

4. Bronze field piece

Length - 3 ft. $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches

Bore - $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches

Bears inscription: I & P Verbruggen Fecuerunt -
1776

84

1 - 3 - 10

Surrendered by the Convention of Saratoga,
October 17, 1777

Note: Information based on personal investigation.

UNITED STATES
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

SCHUYLERVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

Schuylerville, New York

1 GUN

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

BURGOYNE CANNON

(Surrendered at the Convention of Saratoga, October 17, 1777)

Location: The Village Council of Schuylerville, Schuylerville, N. Y.

Number: 1 Gun

Description: 1. 3-Pounder bronze cannon bearing the inscription
"Surrendered at the Convention of Saratoga,
October 17, 1777."

Note: This gun which was obtained from Prospect Park
in Brooklyn, New York, has been placed by the
Village Council of Schuylerville in the temporary
custody of Mr. William Snyder of Schuylerville,
New York.

Note: Information based on personal investigation.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

STATE, WAR & NAVY BUILDINGS

Washington, D. C.

5 GUNS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

BURGOYNE CANNON

(Surrendered at the Convention of Saratoga, October 17, 1777)

Location: State, War and Navy Buildings, Washington, D. C.

Number: 5 Guns

- Description:
1. A bronze smoothbore, muzzle loading, 4.62 inch caliber gun, 6 feet 10 inches in length, discharging a 12-pound ball is located on north side of Northeast Entrance to Basement. Cast in England in 1760, it was delivered on October 17, 1777, to the Americans during the famous surrender of General Burgoyne at Saratoga. Received from Watervliet Arsenal and mounted where it now stands during April 1900, this gun is of great interest.
 2. A bronze smoothbore, muzzle loading, 4.62 caliber gun, 6 feet 10 inches in length, a splendid casting, is located at the south side of Northwest Entrance to Basement. With Gun No. 1, also a Revolutionary trophy, it was surrendered at Saratoga October 17, 1777, received from Watervliet Arsenal and mounted here during April 1900.
 3. A cast iron, smoothbore, muzzle loading, 4.62 inch caliber gun, 5 feet 6 inches in length, is located inside of north courtyard, south of East Entrance. A Revolutionary trophy captured from the British at Saratoga, October 17, 1777, it is a well-proportioned, 12 pounder ship gun, well adapted to the powder and shot of its day. It was made in England in 1776 and mounted here in 1900.

4. A cast iron, smoothbore, muzzle loading, 4.62 inch caliber gun, 3 feet 6 inches in length is located inside of North Courtyard, north of East Entrance. A 12-pounder ship's gun made in England in 1770, it is a Revolutionary trophy captured at Saratoga, October 17, 1777 and mounted here in 1900.

5. A bronze, smoothbore, muzzle loading, 5.75 inch caliber, 24-pounder, Howitzer, 2 feet 6 inches in length is located inside of North Courtyard, north side of West Entrance. This gun, a Howitzer of English make, cast by Gilpin in 1760, was captured at Saratoga, October 17, 1777, and mounted here in 1900.

Note: The information on these guns was contained in a memorandum of Supervisor of Historic Sites Ronald P. Lee to the Project Superintendent, Saratoga National Historical Park dated October 7, 1940.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

West Point, New York

10 GUNS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

BURGOYNE CANNON

(Surrendered at the Convention of Saratoga, October 17, 1777)

Location: United States Military Academy, West Point, New York

Number: 10 Guns

- Description:
1. Revolutionary War
8 inch Howitzer
Made by W. Bowen in 1758
Surrendered by the British Troops to the Colonial
Forces, Saratoga, New York, October 17, 1777.
 2. Surrendered by the Convention of Saratoga October 17,
1777
12 - PDR Bronze Coehorn
Made during the reign of King George II
(In library)
 5. 3 - PDR Bronze cannon made by I & P Verbruggen in 1775.
Surrendered by the British Troops to the Colonial
Forces at Saratoga, New York, October 17, 1777
(In Memorial Hall)
 - 9-10. 12 - PDR Bronze Coehorn mortars made during the
reign of King George III
(In Old Chapel)
 - 12 -13. 24 - PDR Bronze Coehorn mortars made during the
reign of King George I
(In Old Chapel)
 - 14-15. 24 - PDR Bronze Coehorn mortars made during the
reign of King George II
(In Old Chapel)

16. 8 inch Bronze Howitzer made by W. Bowen
in 1758.
(Trophy Point -- See other page)

See: (Catalogue of Ordnance Museum, West Point, N. Y.,
prepared by Lieutenant Colonel Earl McFarland,
Professor of Ordnance and Gunnery, Section 10,
p. 231.)

Note: Information verified in part by personal investigation.

UNITED STATES
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Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

WATERVLIET ARSENAL

Watervliet, New York

2 GUNS

UNITED STATES
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Saratoga National Historical Park
Stillwater, New York

BURGOYNE CANNON

(Surrendered at the Convention of Saratoga, October 17, 1777)

Location: Watervliet Arsenal, Watervliet, New York

Number: 2 Guns

Description: 1. 12 pounder bronze gun -- English

On breech; 21 - 2 - 21, W. Bowen Feet 1760,
crown and coat of arms, etc.

Over muzzle; highly embellished

Right trunnion, No. 29

Dragon handles

Location - North of Dalliba Avenue, Qtrs. 1
in ground - September 1, 1906

Set in masonry forming 13th gun ornamental post

W. A. tag marks; none

History - Surrendered Convention at Saratoga,
October 17, 1777

2. 12 pounder bronze gun -- English

On breech; W. Bowen Feet 1760; 21 - 2 - 0

On Chase; Crown and coat of arms, Honis Seit
Quimaly Penze; Die Etmon Droit

Over muzzle; crown and coat of arms, Rege Victoria

Right trunnion, No. 35

Dragon handles

Location - Farley Drive - September 1, 1906

Set in masonry forming 3rd post of ornamental gate

W. A. tag marks; none

History - Surrendered by Convention at Saratoga,
October 17, 1777

Note: Information based on personal investigation.