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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

----- NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO.

Mr. Appleman

SUPPLEMENT TO
A REPORT ON
PROPOSED BOUNDARIES FOR
SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD PARK
NEW YORK

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

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OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF THE
SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD PARK*
NEW YORK

In 1926 the Legislature of New York imposed upon the Conservation Department of that state the task of acquiring and restoring the battlefields of the Burgoyne campaign of 1777.

Chapter 768 of the Laws of 1926 appropriated \$50,000.00 for the acquisition by the Conservation Commissioner of lands "that are of historic significance in the Colonial, Revolutionary and state formative period". Chapter 16 of the laws of the same year appropriated an additional \$15,000.00 for the purchase of land, and Chapter 767 appropriated \$75,000.00 for the improvement and rehabilitation of the lands then owned by the state or to be acquired for these fields, and for the marking of historic trails. The sums mentioned seem to have been used for the acquisition and improvement of historic lands at Fort Stanwix, Oriskany, Bennington, and Saratoga, and the marking of the New York portion of the trail over which General Knox removed cannon from Fort Ticonderoga to Cambridge, Mass.

The first acquisitions of land on the Saratoga battlefield, in December, 1926, and January, 1927, consisted of the Neilson, Barle, Freeman, and Cannon farms, which, with a total of 654.96 acres, embraced the central part of the battlefield. A good deal of work was done in 1926 in clearing up grounds and razing undesirable buildings. In 1927 the following projects were carried out:

(1). Three miles of gravel roads were completed. (2). A block house, said to be typical of the Revolutionary period, was erected on the site of Fort Neilson, utilizing as far as possible the original timbers of the latter, which in 1777 was a log barn on the Charles Neilson farm, and supplementing it with timbers from other old buildings taken apart on the battlefield. (3). A highway bridge was built across the Middle Ravine. (4). Extensive parking space was prepared near the Block House. (5). A memorial pavilion was erected at the cemetery near the Block House. (6). The house on the Freeman Farm was repaired for the use of the D. A. R. (7). Six field comfort stations were erected at various points on the area. The General Benedict Arnold headquarters building near the

*Most of the facts given in this outline are based upon statements contained in State of New York, Conservation Department, Seventeenth Annual Report, for the Year 1927 (Albany, 1928).

Block House was also built in 1927. At about that time the American powder magazine southeast of the Block House was restored, using the same stones with which the original magazine was made. Picnic areas, provided with a number of fireplaces, were laid out, 900 evergreen trees were set around the cemetery plot, and more than 3,000 forest trees were planted in the vicinity of the Middle Ravine.

In October, 1927, a pageant depicting scenes of the Burgoyne campaign of 1777 was given on the battlefield by the Department of Education. Citizens of the surrounding country to the number of 6,300 took part in this spectacle as actors, while an estimated 150,000 people witnessed it.

The Van Buren Sarle farm and the Smodell farm, amounting together to 210.77 acres, were added to the battlefield park in 1928, and in 1930 the Mary Gilligallon, Burnham, Farrell, Lohnes, Condon, and Hale farms, with a total of 563.74 acres, were also incorporated. These properties brought the entire area of the park to 1429.13 acres and this has remained its area up to August, 1938.

The Neilson farm house, used as headquarters during the campaign of 1777 by Generals Learned, Poor, and Morgan, has been restored as nearly as possible to its original condition and opened to visitors, and a number of new battlefield monuments and historical markers have been erected and the older ones maintained.

It is estimated by the Conservation Department of New York that the state has spent for land in the Saratoga Battlefield Park up to August, 1938, the sum of \$184,636.21, and for improvements \$63,000.00. It is also estimated that it spends annually for maintenance, including salaries, \$6,200.00.

\$129 + per acre

TABLE I

PROPERTIES EMBODIED IN
SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD PARK
NEW YORK
PRIOR TO AUGUST, 1938

(From figures prepared by
The Conservation Department,
State of New York)

Proposal Number	Owner	Acres	Date Bought	Price per Acre	Total Price Paid
1.	Saratoga Battle- field Ass'n., (the Sarle Farm)	213.39	1/10/26	\$53.00	\$11,500.00
2.	Saratoga Battle- field Ass'n/ (the Freeman Farm)	179.95	1/18/27	\$60.00	\$11,500.00
3.	Chas. W. Neilson	149.54	12/9/26	\$137.00	\$20,500.00
4.	James F. Gannon	111.24	1/18/27	\$107.00	\$12,000.00
5.	Geo. O. Slinger- land, (the Van Buren Sarle farm)	101.00	Aug.,/28	\$80.00	\$ 8,000.00
6.	Geo. O. Slinger- land (the Smo- dell Farm)	<u>109.77</u>	Aug.,/28	\$91.00	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
		864.89			\$73,500.00

Properties purchased under service, Feb. 2, 1922.

8.	Mary Gillfallon	69.00	11/3/30	\$199.78	\$13,785.00 (with int 14,905.00)
9.	Burnham Farm	102.75	8/5/30	\$127.73	\$13,125.00 (with int \$16,050.71)
10.	John H. Farrell	93.54	11/29/30	\$168.37	\$15,750.00 (with int 17,589.51)
11.	Lewis Lohnes	86.04	4/22/30	\$255.69	\$22,000.00 (with int \$26,501.21)
12.	Perry D. Condon	105.61	11/3/30	\$142.32	\$15,000.00 (with int 18,615.71)
13.	Harry Hale	106.80	11/14/30	\$146.30	\$15,625.00 (with int \$17,393.81)
		<u>563.74</u>			<u>\$95,285.00</u> <u>\$111,956.23</u>
	Total	1,429.13			<u>\$111,136.21</u> <u>\$184,636.21</u>

TABLE II

OPTIONS, SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD
OCTOBER 22, 1927.

<u>From whom purchased</u>	<u>No. of acres</u>	<u>Price per acre</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>New options 4/17/28</u>
Edward R. Smith	4	75.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Mary Gilgallone	65	100.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
Frank B. Smith	37	84.00	3,108.00	3,108.00
Fred Rowley	60	85.00	5,100.00	5,100.00
John Feigel	38	90.00	3,420.00	3,420.00
Edward Gilgallon	70	85.00	5,950.00	No option
Perry Congdon	106	122.64	13,000.00	13,000.00
Laura A. Burnham	108	100.00	10,800.00	10,800.00
Vincent Burdell	141	84.00	12,264.00	12,264.00
Frank Curtis	75	85.00	6,375.00	6,375.00
John H. Farrell	93	84.00	7,812.00	7,812.00
Louis Lohnes	95	84.21	8,000.00	9,900.00
Wm. B. Cotton	100	60.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Wm. J. Komoroski	100	60.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Nellie LeBarron	60	75.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Daniel Wilbur	100	84.00	8,400.00	8,400.00
" "	7	85.70	600.00	600.00
George Pettinos	98	110.00	10,780.00	8,820.00
John Saunders	2	75.00	150.00	150.00
Ephraim Neuland	103	80.00	8,240.00	6,500.00
Harry Hale	182	109.87	20,000.00	20,500.00
Maria Jermain	235	90.00	21,150.00	21,150.00
Wm. Cotton	3/4	House & lot	2,400.00	2,400.00
G. O. Slingerland, Trustee, (V. B. Searles) *	100	80.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
Stasia B. Smodell *	110	90.90	10,000.00	10,000.00
Total	2,089		\$ 188,849.00	\$ 186,749.00

*Later purchased by the state of New York in whole or in part.

TABLE III

Tracts recommended for inclusion in park, in report on proposed boundaries, by J. M. Hanson, Aug. 31, 1938. Showing option valuations by the State of New York in 1927, and assessed valuations in 1937.

Tract No. in Report	Owner	Acreage optioned, 1927	Option Price per Acre	Total Option Price	Acreage Assessed, 1937	Assessed Valuation
1.	Cotton Estate (formerly Wm. Cotton)	100	\$60.00	\$6,000.00	99.41	\$1,300.00 (\$900.00 land; 400.00 bldgs.)
2.	XXXXXXXXXXXX Eva B. Ross	3/4a.		\$2,400.00		Not separated on Co. Treas. books
3.	Frank B. Smith	37	\$84.00	\$3,108.00		Not found on Co. Treas. books.
4.	William Wilbur Thomas O'Connor	Not 95	optioned	or assessed.		Probably now in part:
					95.00	\$1,300.00 (land only.)
5.	Daniel Wilbur	100	\$84.00	\$8,400.00	91.705	\$2,200.00 (\$1200 land; 1000 bldgs.)
	"	7	\$85.70	600.00	7	\$ 300.00
6.	George Pettinos	98	\$110.00	10,780.00		Not found on Co. Treas. books.
7.	P. H. Gillgallon and/or Nellie Le Barron	60	\$75.00	\$4,500.00	89	\$2,000.00 (\$ 900.00 land; \$1100.00 bldgs.)
12.	Charles Holmes	11	Not optioned		37	400.00 (land only)
	Nellie Holmes	18	"	"	85	\$2,200.00 (\$ 900 land; \$1300 bldgs.)
	Clifford Holmes	1	"	"	1	900.00 (\$100 land; \$800 bldgs.)
13.	Maria C. Jermain	235	\$ 90.00	\$21150.00	221	\$4,300.00 (\$2,300.00 land; \$2,000.00 bldgs.)
14.	Vincent Burdell	141	\$ 84.00	\$12264.00	144.74	\$3,700.00 (\$2,000.00 land; \$1,700.00 bldgs.)
15.	Harry Hale (77.54 a. only now wanted @ \$109.87 per acre)	182	\$109.87	\$ 8519.00	77.54	\$3,300.00 (\$1,300.00 land; \$2,000.00 bldgs.)
19.	Newland Estate	103	\$ 80.00	\$ 8240.00	113	\$1,300.00 (land only)
		1281		85,961.00	1196.39	\$23,400.00

TABLE IV

Properties of historic value
near Schuylerville, N. Y.,
with assessed valuation, 1937.

C. Kenneth Bullard 35 acres, assessed @ \$4,500.00 (\$1,500 land; \$3,000 bldgs.
("Marshall house")

Geo. & Jessie
Marshall ("Schuyler
Mansion") assessed @ \$3,200.00 (\$700 land; \$2,500 bldgs.

Geo. Hathaway (dec- 112 acres, assessed @ \$3,150.00 (\$2,300 land; \$850 bldgs.
eased) (Gates'
headquarters)

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF WAY
OF THE ABANDONED HUDSON VALLEY RAILROAD
COMPANY'S TROLLEY LINE AND THE ABANDONED
CHAMPLAIN CANAL, EAST OF THE SARATOGA
BATTLEFIELD PARK, NEW YORK

The right of way of the Hudson Valley Railroad Company's trolley line, now abandoned, which formerly extended from Albany to Glens Falls, N. Y., was bought some years ago by the New York Light and Power Company, which now (August, 1938) owns and utilizes it for electric power transmission lines.

The right of way and contiguous real estate holdings of the Champlain Canal were abandoned for use and transferred to the Land Board of the State of New York on May 5, 1920. The several counties in which these lands lay possessed a first right of purchase of the lands, but failed to exercise their privilege.

On Jan. 8, 1924, the State Engineer reported to the Commissioners of the Land Office as follows:

"State Engineer and Surveyor,
Albany, Jan. 8, 1924.

To the Honorable Commissioners of the Land Office:

At a meeting of the Commissioners held Sept. 25, 1923, the State Engineer was directed to sell at public sale certain abandoned Champlain Canal lands in the village of Stillwater and the towns of Stillwater and Saratoga, at not less than their appraised value together with the expense of appraisal and sale. On Dec. 11, 1923, these lands were offered for sale, and purchasers and amounts paid are listed below:

(Here follows a list of parcels of land numbered from 306 to 332, inclusive, together with the name of the purchaser of each parcel and the amount of his successful bid.)

"Parcels A, B, C, and D were not sold and were therefore withdrawn from sale.

(Signed) D. B. LA DU,
State Engineer."

The only parcels of land in the list mentioned above which are of interest in connection with the Saratoga Battlefield Park are Parcels Nos. 325, 326, 327, and 328. These four parcels lie

east of the present park, between it and the Hudson River. The acquisition of some or all of these parcels, in whole or in part, by the United States might become necessary if it should be decided to extend the boundaries of the park eastward from the present limits to the Hudson River. The four parcels mentioned are tabulated below, with the names of the purchasers, the prices paid, and the acreage and approximate location of each parcel.

Parcel Number	Purchaser's Bid	Purchaser	Acreage and Location
325	\$480.00	Hudson River Estates, Inc.	22.275 acres, extending from a point south of Denis Heights to a point north of the mouth of Mill Creek.
326	\$425.00	" " " "	20.46 acres, extending from the north end of Parcel 325 to the canal spillway just south of Wilbur's Basin.
327	\$266.00	" " " "	12.55 acres, embracing the ground formerly covered by Wilbur's Basin, from N. end Par 326
328	\$300.00	" " " "	14.272 acres, extending from north end of Parcel 327 at Wilbur's Basin to the south town line of the town of Saratoga, about 1/2 mile north of the north boundary of the Cotton Estate.

The information tabulated above, except that relating to the acreages and locations of the parcels, was secured from Mr. Arthur S. Hopkins, of the Conservation Department in Albany, or from reports or correspondence in his office. Mr. Hopkins further advised me that the Hudson River Estates, Inc., which purchased the parcels of land listed above as well as all others from No. 306 to No. 332, inclusive, excepting Parcel No. 307, either represents or is, in fact, the Delaware and Hudson Railroad Company. He also feels quite sure that the corporation mentioned would be willing to sell any of the parcels which it owns at a very reasonable price.

The information on acreages and locations of the parcels was secured from maps of the canal right of way in the office of the Board of Commissioners of the Land Office in the Capitol Building at Albany. These maps give no indication of the boundary lines of private properties abutting on the canal right of way. Hence the limits of the several parcels with relation to the adjoining properties are known only approximately. However, all of them, in whole or in part, would probably affect the properties which have been reported upon as necessary for enlargement of the park on its eastern side.