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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FILE NO.

A REPORT ON
PROPOSED BOUNDARIES FOR
SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD PARK
NEW YORK

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Prepared by
Joseph Mills Hanson
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Branch of Historic Sites
National Park Service

August 31, 1938

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Director.

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Saratoga Battlefield Park,
Stillwater, N. Y.,
August 31, 1938.

Ronald F. Lee, Assistant Director,
Branch of Historic Sites,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lee:

Herewith I beg to submit a report, prepared
by your direction, on proposed boundaries for the Saratoga
Battlefield Park, New York.

The report is accompanied by five maps and
thirty-eight photographs.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) JOSEPH MILLS HANSON

Assistant Research Technician

cc - Dr. Russell
Mr. Cox

THE SARATOGA CAMPAIGN OF 1777

For the principal campaign of 1777 the British Ministry planned a combined movement of three columns, to get possession of the Hudson River valley. General Burgoyne, with one column, was to move south from Canada via Lake Champlain upon Albany. General Howe, with a second column was to move up from New York and join Burgoyne at Albany. Third column, under Colonel St. Leger, was to go into Lake Ontario via the St. Lawrence, land at Oswego, and capture Fort Stanwix, after which it would move down the Mohawk Valley and unite with the other two columns at Albany.

Burgoyne, starting June 1 with about 9,000 troops, chiefly British and German regulars, captured Ticonderoga July 6. Pursuing the retiring American forces slowly, by the end of July he reached Fort Edward. From here he sent 1,000 men under Colonel Baum to seize a quantity of supplies which the Americans had collected at Bennington. Baum was defeated and captured with most of his men on Aug. 16, by the Green Mountain militia under Colonel John Stark. Meanwhile, St. Leger had, on July 2, laid siege to Fort Stanwix, and on Aug. 6 turned back a relieving force under General Herkimer in a desperate battle at Oriskany. But General Benedict Arnold then came up the Mohawk with a large force and upon his approach St. Leger

on Aug 23, raised the siege and fled, not stopping until he reached Canada.

Disappointed in getting supplies at Bennington, Burgoyne waited near Fort Edward and accumulated supplies from Canada. On Sept. 13 he crossed the Hudson to the west bank near Old Saratoga, now Schuylerville, and advanced slowly about seven miles through Dovegat, now Coverville, to the Sword House, about three miles above Bemis Heights. An American army under General Schuyler, constantly augmenting through reinforcements, had meanwhile advanced from the mouth of the Mohawk to Stillwater and then, on Sept. 13 to Bemis Heights, where it began fortifying an entrenched camp. Schuyler had been superseded in command of the American army on Aug. 19 by General Gates.

Burgoyne, who had been vainly hoping for word that Howe was moving up the Hudson to aid him, nevertheless, feeling that time pressed, moved against the American camp on Sept. 19. Sending a strong right column under General Fraser from the Sword House position far out through the forested hills to get around the American position, Burgoyne himself led a central column directly toward it, while General Riedesel, commanding the German contingent, was ordered with the left column to move down the main road along the Hudson and threaten the strong American position overlooking the river above Bemis Tavern. Colonel Morgan's riflemen met and stopped Fraser's flanking movement and then engaged Burgoyne's central column at Freeman's Farm. Morgan was heavily reinforced by troops brought up from the camp by General Arnold, and in and around the Freeman

clearing a desperate conflict raged until it was ended by darkness, the British, by a narrow margin, retaining possession of the field.

Hoping day by day for intelligence that Howe was advancing to meet him, Burgoyne entrenched a position from Freeman's Farm eastward to the Hudson, on the shore of which at Wilbur's Basin, later so-called, he established his base. Owing to the steady decline in his numbers through battle losses, sickness, and desertion, and to the imminent exhaustion of his supplies, by Oct. 7 it became imperative for Burgoyne who had heard nothing from Howe, either to advance and gain a decisive victory or to retreat swiftly to Canada. Accordingly, on that day he again sent out a strong flanking column under Fraser to attempt the envelopment of the American left.

On ground a half mile south of that on which they had first encountered Fraser on Sept. 19, Morgan's riflemen again flanked the British and German regulars, and at the same time Poor's and Learned's strong brigades of Continentals assaulted the left and center of Fraser's advanced detachment. Fraser was mortally wounded and his broken troops were hustled back by the exultant Americans to the Freeman Farm. Here in strong entrenchments erected after the first battle, the British succeeded in stopping the pursuit. But Arnold, having reached the field, directed a furious attack upon Breyman's Redoubt, the extreme right flank defense of the British position, and captured it just as darkness fell.

Badly defeated, and realizing that his position had become untenable, Burgoyne retired during the night behind the Great Ravine where he stood through Oct. 8. That night he retreated

toward Schuylerville. But American troops had already cut his line of retreat toward Canada. At Schuylerville he was surrounded and vigorously besieged by Gates' army, now far outnumbering his own. The British resisted until Oct. 17, when Burgoyne surrendered. Part of Howe's forces, under General Clinton, had finally moved up the Hudson and captured the American forts at the Highlands on Oct. 6-8. But his success came too late to be of any assistance to Burgoyne.

The ground on which the two battles of Freeman's Farm were fought is all embraced in the present Saratoga Battlefield Park, as well as the site of the fortifications on the right flank of the British camp. The northwestern part of the American entrenched camp is also in the park, and so is most of the ground lying between that camp ^{and} the Freeman's Farm battlefields. The total area within the park now belonging to the State of New York, amounts to 1429 acres.

The ground which was covered by the fortifications, advanced posts and encampments of the British center and left flank, by the British base, or magazine, at Wilbur's Basin and by the position at the Sword House, are outside of the present park. So are the historic roads used by the British east of the North Branch and north of the Great Ravine, and so is the position held by Fraser's reserve in the battle of Sept. 17.

On the American side, the southern and eastern parts of Gates' entrenched camp, the advanced works both east and west of the latter, and most of the ground over which Morgan advanced to attack the British right, as well as nearly all of the ground

which lay between the American center and right and the British center and left, are outside of the park. Such excluded land which is deemed of sufficient historical importance to be at least considered for incorporation amounts to a maximum of about 2450 acres, inclusive of a suitable area at the Sword House position.

It is only the land to be considered for possible addition to the park which will be dealt with in detail in the following report, in which the historical aspects of the area in the existing park will be mentioned only incidentally as may be necessary for clarity.

PRIVATE PROPERTIES RECOMMENDED FOR PURCHASE

-9-

TRACT NUMBER	NAME	APPROXIMATE ACREAGE	
1.	Cotton Estate	99.41	Including Cotton house and lot and rights of way of Hudson Valley R. R. and Champlain Canal. On river.
2.	Eva S. Ross	1.227	
3.	Frank Smith	23.12	
4.	William Wilbur	108.03	Including Hudson Valley R. R. and canal rights of way.
5.	Daniel Wilbur	91.705	
6.	Pettigoes	114.60	
7.	P. H. Gillgallon	116.53	
8.	Frank Curtis	about 250.00	
9.	Louis Wills	" 100.00	
10.	Arthur Henderson	" 185.00	
11.	Mrs. Fannie Wright	" 185.00	
12.	Charles Holmes	160.01	
13.	Jermain Estate	236.44	
14.	Vincent Burdell	144.74	
15.	Harry Hale	77.54	
16.	Edward Gillgallon	about 60.00	
17.	Edward Fiegel	" 30.00	
18.	Fred Rowley	" 60.00	
19.	Newland Estate	98.75	
20.	Tract around Sword house	160.00	From properties of Theodore Clothier, John R. Sarle, and Peter Wehr.
	William J. Komersko	10.00	only.

UNITED STATES
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A REPORT ON
PROPOSED BOUNDARIES FOR
SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD PARK
NEW YORK

PROPOSED MAXIMUM BOUNDARY

Beginning on the west bank of the Hudson River at the point where the south property line of the P. H. Gillgallon tract intersects the river bank, go approximately north and northeast following the west bank of the river about 1727 yards along the east, or river, boundaries of the P. H. Gillgallon, Pettinos, Cotton Estate, and Eva S. Ross tracts, to the point where the Eva S. Ross tract intersects the river bank. Thence approximately west along the north line of the Eva S. Ross tract and its prolongation which is the north line of the Cotton Estate, about 1811 yards to the intersection of this line with the town road which is the northern boundary of the present New York State Saratoga Battlefield

Park. Thence approximately west along this road about 137 yards to the northeast corner of the State Park. Thence approximately west along this road and the park boundary, running here in common, about 2321 yards, to their intersection with United States Highway No. 4. Thence approximately north along Highway No. 4 about 234 yards to its intersection with a town road entering it from the west. Thence approximately west, southwest, and south along the said town road, which bounds the Newland tract on the north, northwest, and west, about 1300 yards to the intersection of the said town road with the extreme west corner of the present State Park. Thence approximately south along the said road, which for about 407 yards is the west boundary of the present State Park, to a point where the road departs from the park boundary. Thence approximately south about 2295 yards along the present west boundary of the park and the prolongation of that boundary through the present Fred Rowley, Edward Fiegel, and Edward Gillgallon tracts to a point on the south boundary of the Edward Gillgallon tract about 264 yards west of the intersection of that boundary with the southeast corner of the Harry Hale tract. Thence approximately east about 957 yards along the south boundaries of the Gillgallon and Hale tracts to the northwest corner of the Vincent Burdell tract. Thence approximately south along the west boundary of the Burdell tract about 782 yards to the southwest corner of said tract. Thence approximately east along the south boundaries of the Burdell and Jermain Estate tracts about 1653 yards to the point where the south boundary of the Jermain Estate intersects the west bank of the Hudson River. Thence approximately northeast

following the west bank of the river to the point where the north boundary of the Charles Holmes tract intersects the bank of the river. Thence approximately north following the west bank of the river, about 1848 yards along the east, or river, boundaries of the Fannie Wright, Arthur Henderson, Louis Wills, and Frank Curtis tracts, to the point of beginning.

DISCUSSION OF THE MAXIMUM BOUNDARY PROPOSED

In the present report no attempt has been made to enter into a circumstantial history of General Burgoyne's campaign of 1777, or of the battles which occurred in September and October of that year near Bemis Heights, and later near Old Saratoga, now Schuylerville. The purpose of this report is simply to indicate, upon the best historical evidence available, those portions of the battlefields and of the adjacent areas used during the campaign by troops or occupied by military works, which are not included within the boundaries of the existing Saratoga Battlefield Park created by the State of New York, and, further, to designate the parts of those areas which are believed to be of sufficient historical importance to justify their incorporation in the existing park. Hence only such troop movements and other military activities as occurred outside of the present park limits will be dwelt upon, with sufficient explanation of their relationship to the general situation to make their significance clear.

The campaigns and battles of Saratoga had such great and far-reaching effects upon American, and, indeed, upon world, history that ever since their occurrence they have engaged the attention of many distinguished historians whose works are available for detailed study of the events. Basically related to these organized accounts are the large number of contemporaneous military documents, letters, journals, and narratives

written by participants or observers, with which I have had neither the time nor the opportunity to acquaint myself, except through incidental quotations by the historians whose works I have used most constantly for reference. Chief of these have been the following:

Brandow, John Henry, The Story of Old Saratoga (Albany, N.Y., 1919); Neilson, Charles, Burgoyne's Campaign (Albany, N. Y., 1844, reprinted 1926); Nickerson, Hoffman, The Turning Point of the Revolution (Boston, 1928); Sprague, Deles E., Descriptive Guide of the Battlefield of Saratoga (Ballston Spa, N. Y., 1930); and particularly the exhaustive study of the campaign and battles, prepared by Ruth Graham, National Park Service, formerly of the Historical Section, Army War College. All of these works mentioned, except Miss Graham's, which is still in manuscript, are readily obtainable in libraries or bookshops.

Map A, accompanying this report, is designed to show the positions of troops, entrenchments, and other objects of military importance at the time of the first battle of Freeman's Farm, Sept. 19, 1777, which are not included in the boundaries of the present State Park. Map B performs the same function for the positions and objects of the period of stabilization of the armies, Sept. 20 to Oct. 6, and at the time of the second battle, Oct. 7. On Map C is combined the information given on Maps A and B, while the sites of certain historic structures are also given, together with the approximate boundaries of private properties adjacent to the present park, and certain information regarding the area around the site of the Sword House, and the roads leading thence to the battlefields.

The several tracts of land which will be discussed and recommended, on historical grounds, for incorporation in the park, are numbered by tracts from 1 to 20 on Map C. It will be well to preface the detailed discussion of these tracts by a brief statement of the general situation of the opposing armies at the beginning of the tactical operations attending the battles.

From the time he began his southward advance from Canada by way of Lake Champlain, in June, 1777, until his defeat in the second battle of Freeman's Farm, on Oct. 7, General Burgoyne, commanding the British army, held the initiative, and his offensive movements were followed and countered as well as possible by the opposing American forces. Burgoyne's axis of operations after he crossed the Hudson, just above Old Saratoga (Schuylerville) on Sept. 13-15, was the road closely following the west bank of the Hudson from Schuylerville to Albany, his objective. He was confined to this road by the fact that it was the only one existing by which he could move his army, heavily encumbered with impedimenta, in the desired direction. The country west of the valley of the Hudson in that day was virtually a forested wilderness, broken only at rare intervals by the clearings of a few adventurous settlers, and by the primitive trails which they had made.

Of these the only one of consequence in the Bemis Heights-Freeman's Farm region was the one forking from the river road at Bemis' Tavern and running north to Quaker Springs. Moreover, the Hudson river itself carried the fleet of some 200 bateaux

on which were transported the bulk of the British supplies, which had to be protected at all times by the army. The American army under General Horatio Gates was also confined to the river road, both by the nature of the country and by the necessity of opposing Burgoyne on his chosen line of advance.

The range of hills lying along the west side of the Hudson between Schuylerville and Stillwater rises generally to a height of about 100 feet at the edge of the plateau above the floor of the alluvial valley. A mile or so back from the river, elevations of 300 feet or more are not infrequent. Numerous small tributaries flow down from the uplands, finding their way to the river through closely dissected ravines, generally narrow and often having precipitous slopes. Occasionally gentle eastward bends in the river carry the stream about half a mile from the base of the hills, but in most places it is nearer. In 1777, nearly all the area of the river valley, according to the Faden map, was cleared and most of it under cultivation, while a good many houses and farm buildings also existed there.

At Bemis Heights, where General Gates, on Sept 13, established his army, the base of the hills comes within 200 yards of the river bank. Hence it was a good place to block the river road with infantry earthworks across the valley and artillery emplaced on the commanding heights, and here Gates began the construction of an entrenched camp. Burgoyne advanced on Sept. 17 from Schuylerville to the Sword House and

thence, on Sept. 19, the day of the first battle of Freeman's Farm, to the road fork at the mouth of the Great Ravine, at the point which became known in later years as Wilbur's Basin, where he found another equally narrow pass between the river and the hills. Having discovered that the American army was across his path and distant only two or three miles, Burgoyne established his base, or magazine, at Wilbur's Basin and immediately after Sept. 19 elaborated an entrenched camp similar to that of the Americans and separated from the latter by the deep, narrowing valley of Mill Creek and that of its westward-extending tributary known as the Middle Ravine.

At Wilbur's Basin, in the fork between the main road and the road running up the Great Ravine for about a half mile and thence westward to the Quaker Springs road, the British hospital, artillery park, and stores were placed, while the bateaux lined the river bank beside them. A pontoon bridge, mainly for the use of foragers, was thrown across the river immediately below the mouth of the ravine. This vital depot of the British army seems to have extended for more than a quarter of a mile along the river. It was protected on the front, or south, by the Hesse Hanau regiment of German troops, with strong detachments and advanced pickets thrown forward along the river road toward the American camp. On the north, an earthwork built from the river bank to the foot of the hills protected its rear, this earthwork being held by a detachment of the 47th British regiment. On the crest of each of the three hills overlooking the depot, a redoubt was built and armed with guns. Close to the central one, called the Great

Redoubt, was later buried the body of General Simon Fraser, perhaps the ablest and certainly the most esteemed of Burgoyne's lieutenants. Mortally wounded in the second battle of Freeman's Farm, General Fraser died on Oct. 8, in the Taylor house, which stood until 1873 a few rods northwest of the site of the British depot.

To begin the discussion of the properties dealt with in this report, the Cotton Estate, shown as Tract No. 1 on Map C, extends from the bank of the Hudson westward to the Great Ravine. It contains the site of the earthwork guarding the rear of the British depot., the site of the Taylor house, and the site of the road of Revolutionary date ascending thence to the upland, and the hill on which stood the northernmost of the three redoubts protecting the inland side of the depot. Near this northern redoubt are said to have been buried a number of British soldiers who died in the hospitals below. The Cotton Estate probably embraces, also, a minor, northern portion of the hill on which stood the Great Redoubt. The grave of General Fraser is on the adjoining William Wilbur tract.

It is thought that a tract of land containing so many points of interest should become in its entirety a part of the park. The views from its hill crests up and down the Hudson river valley are wide and attractive. It is said (Brandow, p. 155) that General Fraser desired to be buried by the Great Redoubt because it was a favorite spot with him owing to the beauty of the view.. As will be noted on Map C, the northern boundary of the Cotton Estate is practically a continuation of the existing northern boundary of the park, except for a short

break caused by the interposition of Tract No. 3, a part of the Frank Smith property, which will be dealt with in proper sequence. It will suffice to say here that it is recommended that Tract No. 1 shall be included in the park, and that the present northern boundaries of the latter, of the Frank Smith, and Cotton Estate tracts, and of the Eva S. Ross tract (a small parcel of land of 1.227 acres abutting on the river at the northeast corner of the Cotton Estate), shall be joined and made the permanent northern boundary of the park from U. S. Highway No. 4 to the Hudson river.

The Eva S. Ross property, Tract No. 2, it is believed should be incorporated, not for historical value, which it does not possess, but in order to keep the northern boundary continuous to the river.

Tract No. 3, belonging to Frank Smith, is an area of ground very irregular in outline, lying between the western side of the Cotton Estate tract and the eastern side of the former Louis Lohnes tract, now a part of the park. It lies mainly within and upon the declivities of the Great Ravine, and contains the junction of the two Revolutionary roads, one extending northward and the other westward, over which Burgoyne marched the center column of his army from the Sword house to Freeman's Farm on Sept 19, 1777, as shown on Maps A and C. It also contains the junction of the roads mentioned with the one, equally historic, running on down the Great Ravine to Wilbur's Basin.

Owing to the above considerations, as well as to the fact that its acquisition is essential to close the gap between the west

side of the Cotton Estate and the ^{east} west side of the former Louis Lehnas tract, the purchase of Tract No. 3 is recommended.

In the northeastern part of Tract No. 4, the William Wilbur farm, on the low ground near the river and the crests of the hills rising west of it, are located the sites of all the facilities of the British military base described in preceding paragraphs, except those designated as being on the Cotton Estate. The sites located on Tract No. 4 include those of the western end of the British pontoon bridge across the Hudson, the small redoubt guarding the junction of the river road and the road up the Great Ravine, the camp of the Hesse Hanau regiment, the military hospital, the artillery park, the mooring places of the flotilla of provision bateaux, and probably a part of the entrenchment across the river road guarding the rear of the depot. On the southern hillcrest just west of the depot is also located the site of the British redoubt which covered the mouth of the Great Ravine and on the crest next north of it, the site of the Great Redoubt, with General Prasser's grave southeast of it, on the slope toward the river. About 575 yards approximately west of the roadfork at Wilbur's Basin, on the upland plateau called Pine Plains on the Neilson map, between the Great Ravine and Mill Creek, is located, probably likewise on the William Wilbur tract, the site of the redoubts which protected the rear of the main British camp during the period of stabilization from Sept. 20 to Oct. 7, 1777.

Immediately west of the William Wilbur tract, occupying the space between the latter and the present eastern park boundary, is Tract No. 5, the Daniel Wilbur property. On this tract, embracing the northwestern portion of Pine Plains, are believed to be located the sites of the remaining British works covering the rear of the main camp, and also the site of General Burgoyne's headquarters through the period of stabilization.

Both of the Wilbur properties, Tracts 4 and 5, are suggested as additions to the park because of the number and importance of the historical sites located thereon.

Immediately south of the Wilbur lands is Tract No. 6, the Pettinos property, and south of the latter, Tract No. 7, belonging to P. H. Gillgallon. These are long narrow areas, each being about 275 yards wide from north to south, and 2200 yards in length, stretching from the present eastern park boundary, west of Mill Creek and the North Branch, across the Pine Plains plateau to the Hudson.

As shown on Map C, commencing near the crest of the river hills on the P. H. Gillgallon tract, the site of the line of fortifications covering the center of the British entrenched camp during the period of stabilization extends westward for some distance and then swings northwestward into the Pettinos tract. Here it again turns westward and continues thus to the eastern edge of the North Branch Ravine.

In some dense woods at about the center of the line on the Pettinos land I found the only actual remains of British

earthworks I have been able to discover on the Saratoga battlefields. Here there is a section of simple infantry breastwork with a slight ditch in front which can be identified and clearly traced for several hundred feet.

From the eastern edge of the North Branch Ravine, where ended the continuous entrenchment, a good view may be had of the ground covered by the extension of the British right flank as far as Freeman's Farm. From this point, also, is the best view to be had anywhere within the area of the British entrenched camp, of the Block House at the northwest angle of the American entrenchments.

West of the point just described, across the North Branch and close to the boundary of the park, but still within the Pettinos tract, is a sharp spur between the North Branch and the Middle Ravine, on which formerly stood several small earthworks, held by the British Grenadiers which protected the left flank of the Advance Corps under General Fraser through the time of the encampment. During this period nearly half of the artillery and more than half of the infantry of the British Army, including the Center Corps under General Hamilton and the Left Wing under General Riedesel, occupied the line of works, three quarters of a mile long, on the present Pettinos and P. H. Gillgallon properties. The camps of the troops were immediately behind the entrenchments, with Burgoyne's own headquarters just back of the center. As shown on Maps A and B, a historic road of the battle era, which served these camps is on the Pettinos tract. East of Mill Creek on

the Gillgallon area lay all but the furthest advanced of the British outposts, confronting the American outposts west of the creek. Skirmishing between the opposing pickets appears to have been frequent. Only the positions held at this time by Fraser's Advance Corps on the right wing of the British army and Breyman's detachment, covering Fraser's right, are at present included in the park. Tracts 6 and 7 in their entirety it is believed should be included in the park, extending its eastern boundary to the river.

South of Tract No. 7 is a large area extending from the present park boundary on the west an average distance of about a mile to the Hudson on the east, and north to south about the same distance, from Tract No. 7, the P. H. Gillgallon property, to Tract No. 12, the Charles Holmes property. Adding to the 640 acres thus indicated the nearly rectangular piece of about 80 acres projecting into the park boundary at the northwest corner of the area under discussion gives a total of about 720 acres for the latter. Roughly speaking, the west one-third of this area lies in the wooded ravines making down into Mill Creek from the west, one-third in the southern point of the Pine Plains plateau, between Mill Creek on the west and the Hudson valley on the east, and one-third in the river valley itself.

Like most of the farms along the Hudson in this region, the four in the area we are considering originated in early land grants with narrow frontages on the river and, as said above, extend a mile or more back from the shore to the eastern

park boundary. Beginning at the north the farms lie in the following order:

Tract No. 8 - Frank Curtis

Tract No. 9 - Louis Wills

Tract No. 10 - Arthur Henderson

Tract No. 11 - Mrs. Fannie Wright

Information has not been found on the individual acreage of these farms or the location of the boundaries between them. The Curtis tract appears to be the largest and the Wills tract the smallest. The Henderson and Wright pieces are about equal in size.

The whole area lies between the positions of the American and British entrenched camps and considerably to the southeast of the ground on which the principal battles were fought. But along the plateau east of Mill Creek on the Curtis farm and perhaps on that of Louis Wills, were the advanced outposts of the British, while on the extremities of all the farms west of Mill Creek are spurs of the Bemis Heights plateau which were guarded by American outposts.

At the base of the hills in the valley of the Hudson, Mill Creek flows out from its ravines and discharges into the old Champlain Canal. At the time of the battles and until the canal was built, about 1823, Mill Creek flowed on past this point, first eastward and then southward, and emptied into the Hudson about half a mile below. Behind, or west of, the creek, as it issued from its ravine to flow southward to the river, the Americans built a line of earthworks which ran from what

is now the canal bed to the river. These earthworks were manned throughout the operations by Nixon's brigade of Massachusetts Continental troops. The northern extremity of the line probably lay within the Wright property. Certainly the American outposts and patrols operated well beyond it during the period of stabilization, as did the British beyond their works further north, and it is known that skirmishing and encounters between the outposts occurred on the river road and in the valley. Neilson states (Burgoyne's Campaign, pp. 146-7) that on the day of the first battle at Freeman's Farm, Sept. 19, a detachment of about 100 men operating in front of Riedesel's left flank column, attacked and penetrated the American works at the foot of the hills on Mill Creek but were there surrounded and captured. This fight must have occurred on what is now the Wright property. The house on this farm, which is at the northeastern corner on what was once the old river road, is a frame structure, obviously very old, and is said to be the original H. Vandenburg house, which was standing in 1777. Neilson's map shows another dwelling then standing, somewhat north of Vandenburg's, which has since disappeared; the J. Vernor house, which may have been on the present Henderson farm. The river road of Revolutionary days ran along the front of all the tracts from No. 8 to No. 11, inclusive.

While it is evident that the features of historical interest in Tracts 8 to 11 are less in number and importance than are those in Tracts 1 to 7 inclusive, it is felt that a good deal that is of interest exists in the area, and that it should,

if practicable, be added to the park. With the properties north of it, already mentioned, and those south of it, about to be described, it would bring the whole eastern side of the park to the natural boundary of the river, remove the danger of undesirable private enterprises along the river, and provide an excellent area for extensive recreational development without encroachment upon the more historic terrain of the park.

Coming now to Tract No. 12, the Charles Holmes property, the historic value immediately becomes great as compared with that of the territory last described. The western end of the Holmes property abuts on the present park boundary, and the line of earthworks of the American entrenched camp running east from the Block House crossed the boundary and continued within the Holmes north line to the edge of the ridge overlooking the river. Along parts of this line on the Holmes property are slight embankments and ditches which local residents declare to be, and which very probably are, remains of the American entrenchments. At the edge of the ridge the line turned south, forming the salient angle at the northeast corner of the entrenched camp, commanding the mouth of the Mill Creek ravine. Thence the line continued down a hog back ridge, parallel to the river, into the Jermain Estate, Tract No. 13. Farther east on the river flats, behind, that is, west of, the former bed of Mill Creek, the advanced line of American entrenchments which was held by Nixon's brigade, extended entirely across the Holmes land, continuing the works from their northern extremity,

already mentioned, on Mrs. Wright's property, to their southern end, on the Jermain tract, south of that of Holmes. Miss Graham's map of troop positions, reproduced in part on Maps A, B, and C, indicate that Glover's entire brigade and parts of the two brigades of militia were in line or reserve on the upland of the Holmes property, and on the lowland of this property a large part of Nixon's brigade.

The main line of American works on the ridge and the one behind Mill Creek continued southward from Tract No. 12 into Tract 13, the Jermain Estate. The Mill Creek line terminated on the river bank in this property. The higher main line continued southward entirely across it, crossing U. S. Highway No. 4 and then, at about the location of the school house of District 10, Town of Stillwater, crossing a short section of the old Quaker Springs road of 1777 which has not been incorporated in the present highway. The latter, which with minor variations, follows the same course as the Revolutionary road, traverses the Jermain Estate and then a part of the Burdell farm, whence it enters the present park a short distance south of the Block House. A glance at Maps A, B, and C will make it evident that the Quaker Springs road must have been the principal avenue of communication within the American entrenched camp.

At the school house of District 10 the line of earthworks passed over the south boundary of the Jermain Estate into the farm of William J. Komorske, where it was interrupted by a ravine and then terminated in a redoubt standing on the point of a spur between the ravine last mentioned and the South Ravine or Great Fall Creek, as it is called on the Neilson map.

The Jermain Estate extends more than a quarter of a mile further westward than the Holmes tract, its west line, dividing it from the Vincent Burdell property, being an approximately north and south line almost due south from the American Powder Magazine, in the park. Hence the western part of the Jermain north boundary is, for a distance of about 484 yards, the south boundary of the present park. The Graham troop position maps show that parts of two brigades of militia were in line and one brigade in reserve on the Jermain area, and that Morgan's command of Continental Rifles and Dearborn's Light Infantry were camped, when not on active duty, astride its west boundary, partly on the Jermain and partly on the Burdell tracts. Furthermore, the ravines on these two tracts, as well as perhaps the South Ravine on the Komorske land, were probably crowded during the whole period of the operations with refugees from all over the country who were living under the protection of the American army.

Eastward in the river valley on the Jermain acreage was the southern part of Nixon's Advanced works, terminating in a redoubt on the river bank where the river road turned west, crossed the mouth of Mill Creek, and ran to the base of the hills and thence southward past the old Bemis' Tavern.

Bemis' Tavern was General Gates' headquarters until he moved to the Ephraim Woodworth house upon giving command of the right wing to General Lincoln, after the first battle. (Neilson, p.155; Brandow, p. 125.) Presumably General Lincoln

thereafter made his headquarters at the tavern, which must have been a place of note in the locality, since the name of its owner was given to the entire adjacent heights. The old Quaker Springs road which traversed the American camp, came down from the heights at the tavern, entering the river road just north of the southern boundary of the Jermain Estate.

On the marshy ground northeast of the tavern the short line of earthworks built to protect the western end of the American bridge of boats crossed the narrow space between the hills and the river. Strong evidence of remains of these works has been found on personal reconnaissance of the marsh. The west end of the bridge must have been not far south of the redoubt at the river end of the works, but whether within the Jermain Estate property line or immediately outside of it is not certainly determined.

It is believed that so much historical importance attaches to Tracts 12 and 13 that they should be included in the park in their entirety.

As has been said, the last redoubt on the right of the American line was on the point of a ridge above the South Ravine, on the Kormoske farm. The acquisition of a parcel of probably not more than ten acres, projecting from the south line of the property, would contain the site of this redoubt, and is recommended because such an addition would assure the inclusion of every part of the American entrenched camp in the park.

The Vincent Burdell farm, Tract No. 14, directly adjoins the Jermain farm on the west, and is bounded on the north by the south boundary of the present park. On the Burdell land,

directly opposite the road fork where the highway to Saratoga Springs continues westward, while U. S. Highway No. 4 turns north into the park and passes the Block House, ^{are} on the sites of the Ephraim Woodworth house, General Gates' second headquarters, and of the stable which was used as the American hospital.

Some 220 yards west of these important points, the extreme left flank of the American entrenched camp, after passing out of the present park across the south boundary, crosses the Saratoga Springs road and terminates on a hillcrest on the Burdell tract, overlooking an upper reach of the South Ravine. Maps B. and C show that the left of Poor's brigade defended this flank of the fortifications on the Burdell land, and that ~~at~~ Morgan's and Dearborn's commands were, in part, encamped upon the latter. The historical values of Tract 14 indicate that it should be embodied in the park.

Tract 15 is a remaining portion of the Harry Hale farm, of which a major fraction was purchased and made a part of the State Park in 1927. The northwest corner of the Burdell tract meets the southeast corner of the Hale tract, and the latter is bounded on the east and north by the present park. On the Hale property there is a short ridge, commanding the surrounding terrain within musketry range on all sides, on which the Americans threw up an advanced entrenchment which was held by a part of Poor's brigade. The work was about 500 yards in front of the left flank of the main line. The isolated ridge offers a good view across two other similar ridges northwest of it and distant from it, respectively, about 650 yards and 1150 yards.

It was across or close to this advanced work and the two more distant ridges that Colonel Morgan's and Major Dearborn's commands of riflemen moved out through the woods far beyond the American left in both the first and second battles of Freeman's Farm, to meet or outflank the British turning columns under General Fraser, which on their part, were similarly trying to turn the American left. The relationship of these ridges to the positions of the main armies and to the movements of Morgan and Fraser may be seen by references to Map C.

The ridge which is marked "Morgan Hill," on the authority of the Neilson map, is within the present park. The more distant one on which "Morgan's flankers," are shown, by the same authority, extends across Tracts 16, 17, and 18, the Edward Gillgallon, Edward Fiegel,, and Fred Rowley farms.

The existing portion of the western boundary of the park, separating it from Tracts 15 to 18, inclusive, beside excluding historical ground made memorable by the brilliant maneuvers of Morgan's men, is extremely irregular and lacking in natural features to recommend it as a boundary. It is therefore suggested that the existing park boundary on the west side of the area directly north of Tract 18, shall be prolonged in a straight line running approximately south so as to include the eastern parts of the Rowley, Fiegel and Edward Gillgallon farms, which parts are respectively numbered on Map C as Tracts 18, 17, and 16. It is proposed that Tract No. 15, the Hale farm, shall also be acquired.

According to the Graham position maps, Dearborn's and part of Learned's commands attacked Fraser's position on Oct. 7 by ascending a hill slope now lying in the north part of the Rowley farm. By the additions noted, this ground and all of the remaining terrain which can with certainty be said to have been traversed in operations ^{by troops} of the American army on its left flank, will be brought within the park. It is true that no definite limit can be set upon the possible westward sweep of Morgan's movements, which may have extended over parts of the Rowley, Fiegel and Gillgallon properties lying between the proposed boundary and the town road upon which they face. But it is felt that the acquisition of any land not positively known to be of historical importance should be avoided if possible. Therefore it is not recommended that these farms be acquired in their entirety but only in part, as indicated in the foregoing paragraphs, and as shown by the proposed west boundary line on Map C.

The next tract, and the last one to be considered on the main battlefield, is No. 19, the Newland tract. The chief natural feature of this area is a bold hill rising to a height of 400 feet ^{above} sea level, or about one hundred feet higher than the Block House site. From this hill a magnificent view is to be obtained, beginning at the north at the mountains near Lake George, sweeping on over the Green Mountains in Vermont, and Mount Greylock and the Berkshires, in Massachusetts, and terminating at the southwest on the masses of the Catskills, beyond Albany. The Battle Monument at Schuylerville, is plainly visible, and with this point as a guide, the observer can

readily understand the course of Burgoyne's advance to the battlefields, which in the nearer view lie at his feet, almost entirely visible. Breyman's Redoubt is nearly due east of him and to the right of that, Freeman's Farm. Further away to the southeast is the Block House on the site of Gates' fortified camp, and to the south, but nearer, the hill on which Fraser's Advance Corps stood at the beginning of the second battle. On the southern slope of the Newland hill itself lay Fraser's and Dearborn's opposing skirmish lines in the first battle, while Fraser's main body at that time, as shown on the Graham combat maps, was posted on the crest of the hill itself. It is the fact of Fraser's occupation, after arrival there from the Sword House, which lends historic interest to the Newland tract. Coupled to its great value as by far the best natural observatory on a battlefield which possesses several excellent ones, it renders this tract one of the most desirable among those which are suggested for inclusion in the park.

The nineteen tracts described above contain altogether about 2,270 acres. Their acquisition would round out and complete the body of the park. It is believed, however, that if it is desired to have under park control all areas on which occurred activities having a direct bearing on the battles, a tract ought to be included which will embrace the area immediately around the site of the Sword House. It was to this place that Burgoyne brought his army on Sept. 17, and here that the troops remained in bivouac through the 18th, and until the advance began toward the position of the American

army on Sept. 19. Except as indicated on the Faden map, the exact positions occupied by the various commands of the British army near the Sword House are not known. Speaking in a general way, the troops of Riedesel's Left Wing seem to have been the farthest advanced, along the river road, those of Hamilton's Center Corps along this same road in rear of Riedesel, and those of Fraser's Advance Corps on the slopes of the hills north and west of the Sword House.

It is thought that a tract of about 160 acres, approximately square, with its eastern side on the Hudson river, and embracing the site of the Sword House and the beginning of the road, leading west from the river, by which Burgoyne and Fraser marched to the battlefield of Sept. 19, would embrace all the land that would ever be needed, from a historical standpoint, in this vicinity. Although the exact boundaries of these lands have not been ascertained, it appears that such a tract could be secured from the properties of Theodore Clothier, John R. Sarle and Peter Wehr. The entire proposed addition is shown on Map C as an isolated area.

As an avenue of ingress to the Sword House tract, the town road by which Burgoyne began his march toward the Freeman Farm, and Fraser completed his to the Quaker Springs road, now U. S. Highway No. 4, might be utilized, if proper scenic easements could be secured to protect it against undesirable wayside developments. Another alternative would be the acquisition of all land lying between this road and the present and proposed northern boundary of the park. But as Burgoyne's and Fraser's employment of the road on Sept. 19 constituted the only use to which it is

known to have been put during the operations, it seems unjustifiable to recommend the purchase of a thousand acres, more or less, of additional land having no historical value, merely for the sake of joining the one road and the Sword House tract to the body of the park.

Adding the 160 acres of this tract to the 2, 270 acres already designated, gives a total of 2,430 acres as a maximum recommended for addition to the park. To this acreage, plus the 1,429 acres already contained in the State Park, should be added the Battle Monument at Schuylerville, together with the small plot of ground around it, and also Stark's Knob, just north of Schuylerville. It is understood, that the State of New York contemplates the transfer of these two sites to the United States, together with that of the Saratoga Battlefield itself. The two sites are marked on Map D.

It becomes evident, however, upon inspection of several other sites which are identified on Map D, that the Battle Monument and Stark's Knob are by no means the only points in or near Schuylerville which ought to be preserved in connection with the siege and surrender of Burgoyne's army. It would seem that at least the sites of the "Field of Grounded Arms," shown on the map as "D - Ruins of Fort Hardy," and the site of General Burgoyne's personal surrender to General Gates, shown as "G - Supposed Site of Surrender," should be preserved. There are other spots nearby which are of interest in connection with the movements of the armies or the activities of individuals. But they are far less important than these two, which marked for American arms the triumphal culmination of the whole

Saratoga campaign. Probably no other two historical sites in the country are of more real national significance. Though identified by New York State historical markers, the "Field of Grounded Arms" is in part embraced in a municipal swimming beach belonging to the Town of Schuylerville, and in part divided into private residential lots, while the site of the surrender is at least partly in use as a public dump.

The adoption of a policy by the National Park Service with regard to the preservation of the sites mentioned in and near Schuylerville is strongly recommended.

PROPOSED INTERMEDIATE BOUNDARY

Should it become necessary to restrict the acquisition of additional land to those properties only which are identified with the most important troop movements and military positions of the operations of September and October, 1777, the omission of the following tracts, as shown on Map C, is recommended:

Tract 8 - Frank Curtis	}	
" 9 - Louis Wills		
" 10 - Arthur Henderson		
" 11 - Mrs. Fannie Wright		about 720 acres
" 20 - Isolated area around the Sword House		160 acres
" - on William J. Komorske farm		10 acres
		Total <u>890</u> acres

The relative historical values of the tracts listed have been thoroughly discussed under the proposed maximum boundary. It is believed that, although each and all of them are of clearly demonstrable historic value, their omission would do less injury to a completed park than would the omission of any of the other tracts which have been listed and described. By eliminating these properties the total lands to be acquired would be reduced from 2,430 acres to 1,540 acres. The total acreage of the enlarged park would be reduced from 3,859 acres to 2,969 acres.

MAPS

On Maps A, B, and C, accompanying and illustrating this report, the locations and movements of troops and positions of entrenchments and other military works are based upon the Map of the Saratoga Battlefield, New York, Showing the Lines of Intrenchments and Positions of the British and American Troops. Data compiled by Ruth Graham, Historical Section, Army War College, Washington, D. C. , June, 1933.

The sites of houses which existed on the field at the time of the battles, indicated on Map C, are based upon the Map of the Battle ground on Bemis Heights, 19th Sept. and 7th Oct., 1777, The British and American Camps. Including a PART OF THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY AS IT WAS AT THE TIME, By Charles Neilson. Certain additions which have been made are based upon statements by the same Charles Neilson in his book entitled Burgoyne's Campaign, originally printed by J. Munsell, at Albany, N. Y., in 1844, reprinted in 1926 by Charles Neilson, Bemis Heights, N. Y.

The following maps have also have been constantly consulted during the preparation of this report:

Plan of the Encampment and Positions of the Army under His Excellency Lt. General Burgoyne at Sword's House ON Hudson's River near Stillwater etc. Drawn by W. C. Wilkinson Lt. 62d. Regt. Asst. Engr. Engraved by Wm. Faden. (Commonly known as the "Faden Map.")

Map of the American and British Fortified Camps, Also Showing the Saratoga Battle-Fields of Sept. 19th and Oct. 7th, 1777. Drawn by John H. Brandow. (The map

accompanying The Story of Old Saratoga, by John Henry Brandow, M. A., published by the Brandow Printing Company, Albany, N. Y., 1919.)

Aero-photographic Map of the Saratoga Battlefield Area, Town of Stillwater - Saratoga County, N. Y.

Photographed by the U. S. Army, June 8, 1927.

The boundary of the Present New York State Saratoga Battlefield Park and the boundaries of contiguous private properties, except Tracts 8, 9, 10, and 11, are based upon the Map of Saratoga Battlefield showing Property Lines. Surveyed for the Conservation Department (of New York) by Edward G. West and Albert T. Davis. Date: 1927.

The outer boundaries of the block of properties Tracts 8, 9, 10, and 11, are based upon the map last mentioned, but the boundaries between these tracts are approximate only, no exact data having been found for them.

Property lines in the isolated area around the site of the Sword House, shown on Map C, are approximate only, no definite data upon the boundaries of these properties having been available.

All map information has been checked, and verified as far as possible, by personal reconnaissance of the ground.

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Looking S. E. over the site of the Taylor house. The figure stands on the site of the house. Cotton tract.
2. Looking S. E. over the site of the Taylor house, in field at left, from the hill behind it, on which stood a British redoubt. Cotton tract.
3. The valley of the Hudson and the hill of the Great Redoubt, from the hill behind the Taylor house. Looking over the Wilbur tract.
4. Wooden conduit over watercourse west of Taylor house, said to have been in use since before 1777 for conveying water from a spring to the house. Cotton tract.
5. View E. toward Willard Mountain from General Fraser's grave, on the hill slope just below the Great Redoubt. William Wilbur tract.
6. Looking S. from Fraser's grave over Wilbur's Basin. The British Artillery Park was in the field at the extreme left, and the Hospital in the open space a little further to the right. William Wilbur tract.
7. From the site of the Great Redoubt and Fraser's grave, this view looks E. over the location of the British Artillery Park, in the fields this side of the river. William Wilbur tract.
8. Looking N. from the site of the redoubt on the hill above Wilbur's Basin to that of the Great Redoubt. Fraser's grave is at about the point marked X. William Wilbur tract.
9. Looking W. up the Great Ravine from the site of the redoubt just N. of Wilbur's Basin, on the William Wilbur tract.
10. View N. E. toward Wilbur's Basin from the site of Burgoyne's headquarters, on Pine Plains plateau. Daniel Wilbur tract.
11. Panorama taken from N. W. to S. from the W. end of the main line of British entrenchments overlooking Mill Creek. Freeman's Farm is beneath the arrow near the right of the view, and the Block House at the N. W. angle of the American camp is beneath the arrow toward the left. Pettinoe or P. H. Gillgallon tract.

12. Taken from a port hole in the Block House, this view looks N. E. toward the British main line on Pine Plains plateau.
13. Taken from the point of the plateau on the Henderson tract held by the British outposts between Mill Creek and the Hudson, the view above looks N. across Pine Plains to Burgoyne's main entrenched line.
14. Looking S. from the most advanced British outpost position, in the Henderson tract, across Mill Creek to the spur on ~~spur on~~ which stood the N. E. salient of the American entrenched camp. The Hudson river is at the left.
15. Looking N. from the N. E. salient of the American camp across Mill Creek to the ridge, held by Burgoyne's outposts, on the Wright and Henderson tracts.
16. From the N. E. salient of the American line this view looks E. over the Charles Holmes tract to the Hudson. Mill Creek formerly flowed from left to right across the fields in the middle distance. The entrenchments held by Nixon's brigade were on this side of the creek.
17. Looking S. along the hog-back ridge, on the Henderson and Jermain tracts, on which stood the main line of American works N. of Bemis Tavern.
18. Looking E. from the base of the hills near Bemis Tavern along the line of entrenchments guarding the pontoon bridge over the Hudson. The river is about 200 yards distant, and the works ran on a line with the tall tree. Jermain tract.
19. Site of the American pontoon bridge across the Hudson, looking E. Probably Jermain tract.
20. Site of Bemis Tavern and approach to the American pontoon bridge, from the west. The tavern stood this side of the figure and the marker on the right. The road to the bridge probably ran in the direction of the figure at the left. Jermain tract.
21. Looking E. to the site of the pontoon bridge past that of Bemis Tavern. Both were in the direction of and beyond, the figure. The view is down the old road from Quaker Springs. Jermain tract.
22. Looking E. along the Jermain-Komorske property line toward old Bemis Tavern and the site of the American pontoon bridge, which are beneath the arrow.

23. Looking N. toward the Block House from the Komorske tract across the W. side of the Jermain tract (right) and the E. side of the Burdell tract (left). The Block House is indicated by an arrow.
24. Looking N. from the Burdell tract to the sites of Gates' headquarters and the American hospital, indicated by an arrow.
25. View from the S. W. Corner of the Burdell tract to the hill, marked by an arrow, on which rested the extreme left flank of the American works. The Block House is in the direction of the center of the view.
26. N. E. to the Block House, under the arrow, from the site of the redoubt on the extreme left of the American line on the Burdell property.
27. Looking N. E. toward the flag pole near the Block House along the line of earthworks on the W. side of the American camp. A slight roll in the ground surface suggests the course of the old works.
28. View S. E. from the Hibernian monument across the park boundary and the Jermain tract to the Hudson. The hedge in the middle distance is on the present southern park boundary.
29. View N. W. from the southern end of Poor's outwork on the Saratoga Springs road, looking over the territory upon which Morgan operated against the British right flank. The outwork is on the Hale tract.
30. Looking E. to the Block House in the center of the view, from a point near the northern end of Poor's advanced work on the Hale tract.
31. View looking N. W. from Poor's outwork to the Chatfield hill, at right, Morgan hill, center, both in the park, and the Munger hill, to the left of Morgan, which is on the Fiegel and Rowley tracts.
32. View looking N. from the Chatfield hill to Fraser's position on Oct. 7, 1777, in the fields just this side of the line of distant trees. This view is within the park.
33. View S. from the Chatfield Hill to Morgan hill. Both are within the park.
34. View N. from the Munger hill, in the Fiegel tract, across the Rowley tract to Fraser's position marked by an arrow.

35. Looking N. from hill on Piegel tract across upper course of Middle Ravine on Rowley tract to Fraser's position on Oct. 7, which is just within the park.
36. View looking N. E. from the extreme right of Fraser's position on Oct. 7 along the front of his line of battle. This is within the park.
37. Panorama from Fraser's hill, in the Newland tract, from N. E. to S. W. Brayman's Redoubt is to the left of the center of the view with Freeman's Farm somewhat to its right. The Block House is to the right of the center, and at the far right under the small tree in the foreground, is the hill held by Fraser's extreme right flank on Oct. 7.
38. Looking E. from the site of the Sword House toward the river road and the Hudson. The man is standing in the depression of the Sword House cellar. John R. Sarle farm.

MAPS
ACCOMPANYING REPORT

- MAP A - Map showing the locations of troops and of objects of military significance in the vicinity of Freeman's Farm on Sept. 19, 1777, which were not embodied within the boundaries of the Saratoga Battlefield Park, N. Y., in August, 1938.
- MAP B - Map showing the locations of troops and of objects of military significance in the vicinity of Freeman's Farm on Oct. 7, 1777, which were not embodied within the boundaries of the Saratoga Battlefield Park, N. Y., in August, 1938.
- MAP C - Map combining the information on Maps A and B with proposed park boundaries, private property lines and sites of historic structures. Data compiled by Joseph Mills Hansen, August, 1938.
- MAP D - Map of Schuylerville (Old Saratoga) and vicinity, showing the positions of Gates' and Burgoyne's armies, Oct. 14-17, 1777.
- MAP E - Map showing suggested battlefield tours. The first tour of about seven miles, marked in blue, is designated to inform the visitor on the battle of Sept. 19, 1777. The second tour of about six miles, marked in red, is designed to take him over the positions of the British entrenched camp and the battlefield of Oct. 7, 1777.