

BRIDGES™

BATTLES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SARATOGA



Experience a
key battle of
the American
Revolution



VICTORIA RUSHWORTH



SOCIAL STUDIES AND MATH

The American Revolution

Level **38** P

READING

Comprehension Skill:

Make Inferences

As you read, look for one or two clues and pieces of evidence that help you make inferences. Inferences are not stated in the book and might not be true.

Phonics/Word Study:

r-controlled /är/

As you read, look for words with r-controlled /är/, like **prepare**. This sound in a syllable rhymes with the word **air**.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Big Idea:

This book identifies the Battle of Saratoga as a key battle in the American Revolution. The book examines how British and American troops prepared for the battle, and discusses the outcome.

Look for these text and graphic features.

Text Features

- Table of contents
- Introduction
- Sidebars
- Conclusion
- Glossary
- Index
- Information about the author
- Vocabulary words in boldfaced type
- Captions for photos, diagrams, and illustrations
- Checkpoints. Check yourself to see that you understand what you have read. Pages 20, 27

Graphic Features

- Photographs
- Maps. Pages 4, 11, 21, 25
- Chart. Page 3

Look for these special information features.

Content Sidebars

- **It's a Fact.** Interesting facts about the Battle of Saratoga. Pages 15, 19, 23, 26, 29
- **Solve This.** Solve these math problems to learn more about the Battle of Saratoga. Pages 9, 11, 14, 29
- **Historical Perspective.** Compare events in the past to life today. Page 9
- **They Made a Difference.** Meet people who were important to Battle of Saratoga. Pages 8, 14
- **Primary Source Documents.** Examine original documents from the past. Pages 16, 22, 27

Content Vocabulary

artillery	Loyalist	propaganda
grenadier	militia	rebel
Hessian	plateau	

Copyright © 2007 Benchmark Education Company, LLC. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Printed in China. ISBN: 978-1-4108-7647-8



For information about ordering, call Toll-Free **1-877-236-2465** or visit our Web site: www.benchmarkeducation.com.

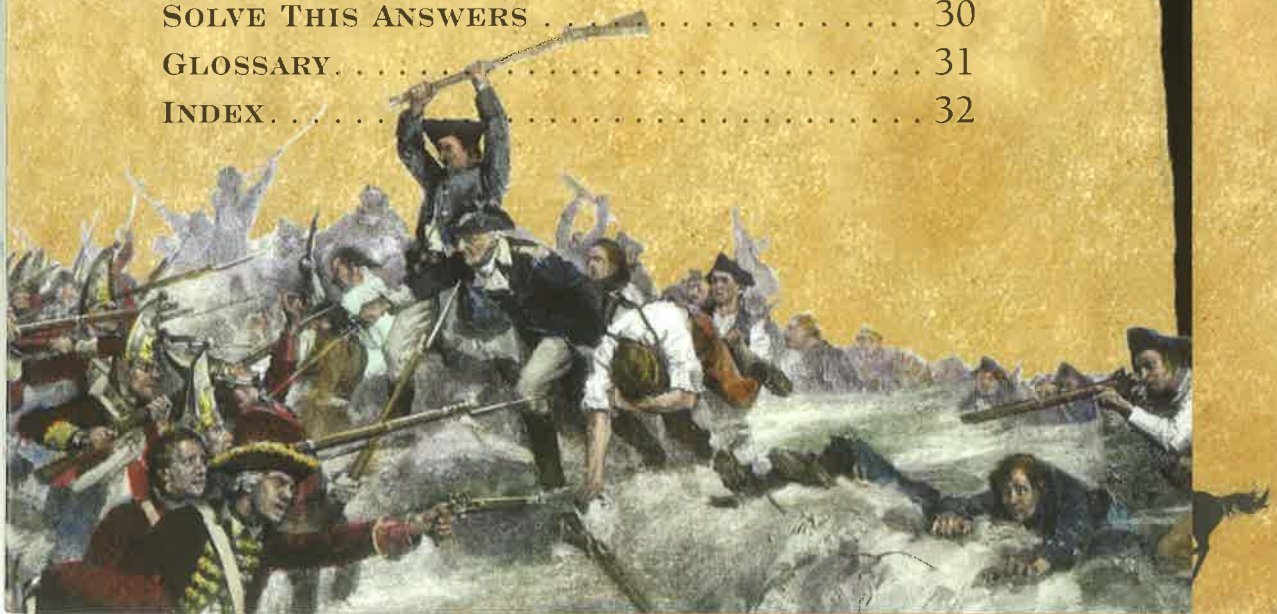


BATTLES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SARATOGA

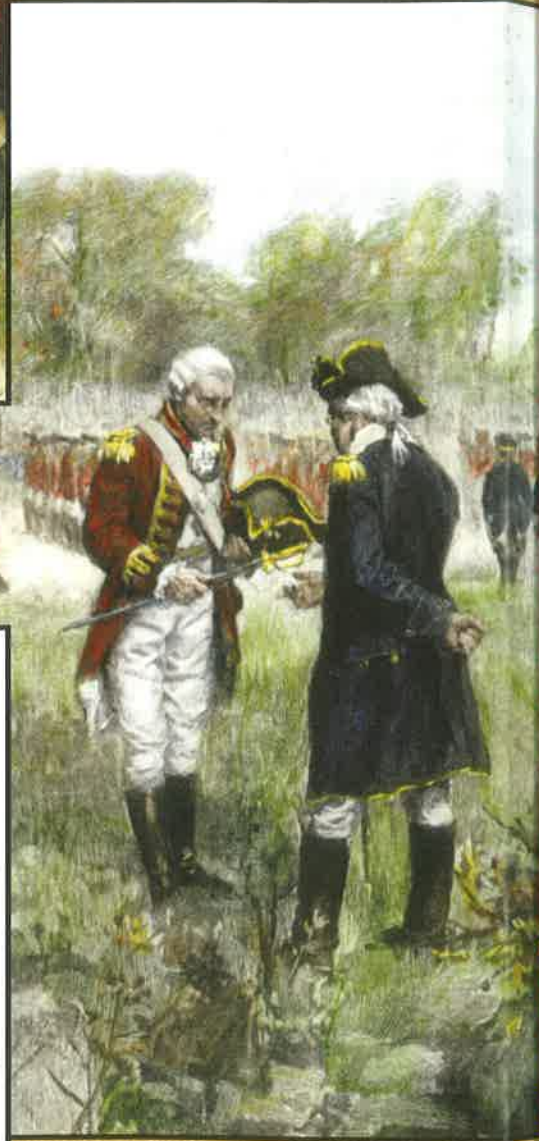
by Victoria Rushworth

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PICTURES TO THINK ABOUT	i
WORDS TO THINK ABOUT	iii
INTRODUCTION	2
CHAPTER 1 The Stage Is Set	4
CHAPTER 2 A Good Beginning	7
CHAPTER 3 Moving On	11
CHAPTER 4 Fortune Is Often Fickle	20
CONCLUSION	28
SOLVE THIS ANSWERS	30
GLOSSARY	31
INDEX	32



Pictures To Think About



TO ALL BRAVE, HEALTHY, ABLE BODIED, AND WELL
DISPOSED YOUNG MEN,
IN THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD, WHO HAVE ANY INCLINATION TO JOIN THE TROOPS,
NOW RAISING UNDER
GENERAL WASHINGTON,
FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE
LIBERTIES AND INDEPENDENCE
OF THE UNITED STATES.

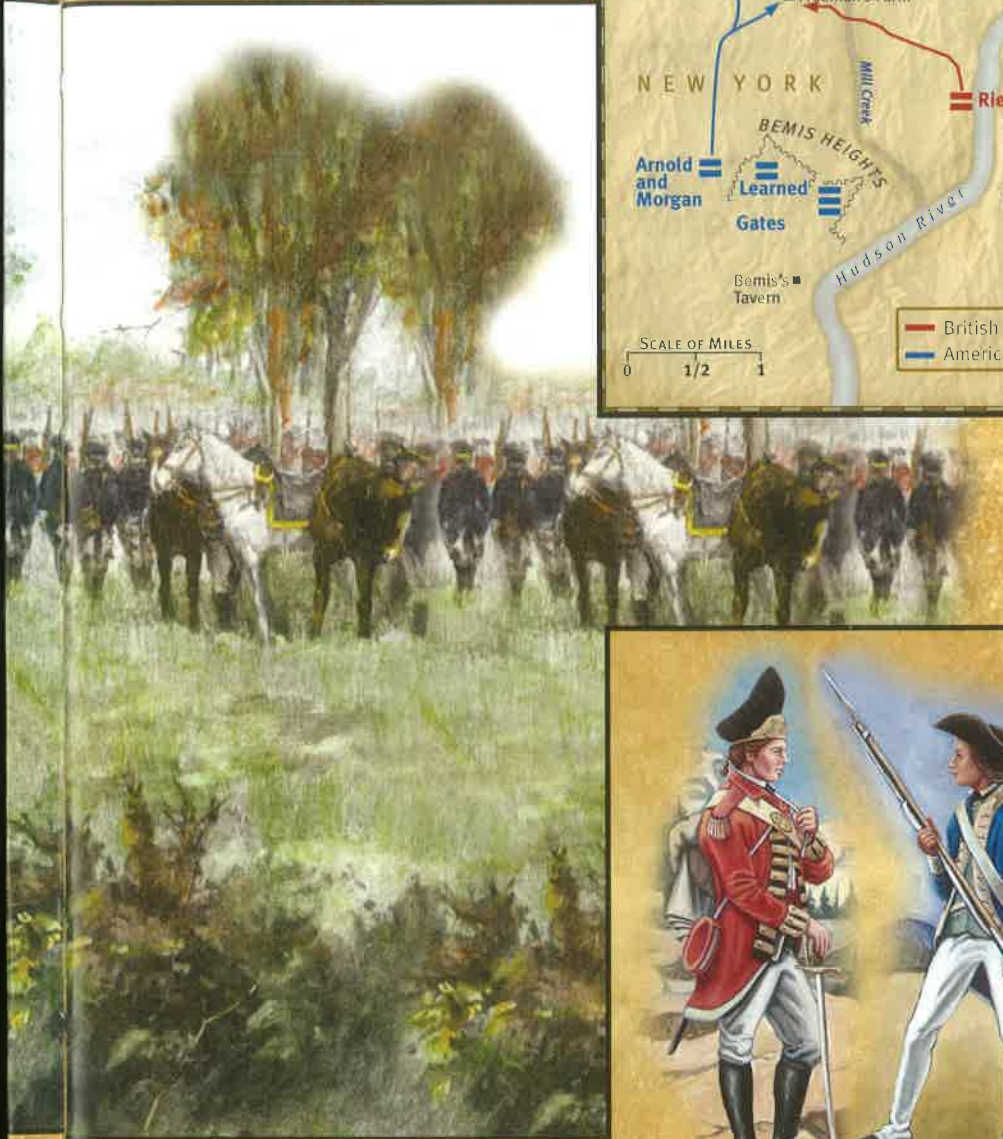
TAKE NOTICE,



[Small text, likely a notice or advertisement, partially obscured and difficult to read.]



Battles of the American Revolution: Saratoga



Words To Think About

Characteristics

information

changes
people's
minds

?

propaganda

What do you
think the word
propaganda
means?

Examples

a pamphlet

a poster

?

plateau

What do you
think the word
plateau means
in this book?

Meaning 1

a flat, even
piece of land
(noun)

Meaning 2

a time of
little change
(noun)

Meaning 3

a level of
achievement
(noun)



militia

What do you think the word **militia** means?

Who was in the American **militia**?

volunteers

?

colonists

Whom did the **militia** fight?

British

?

Loyalists





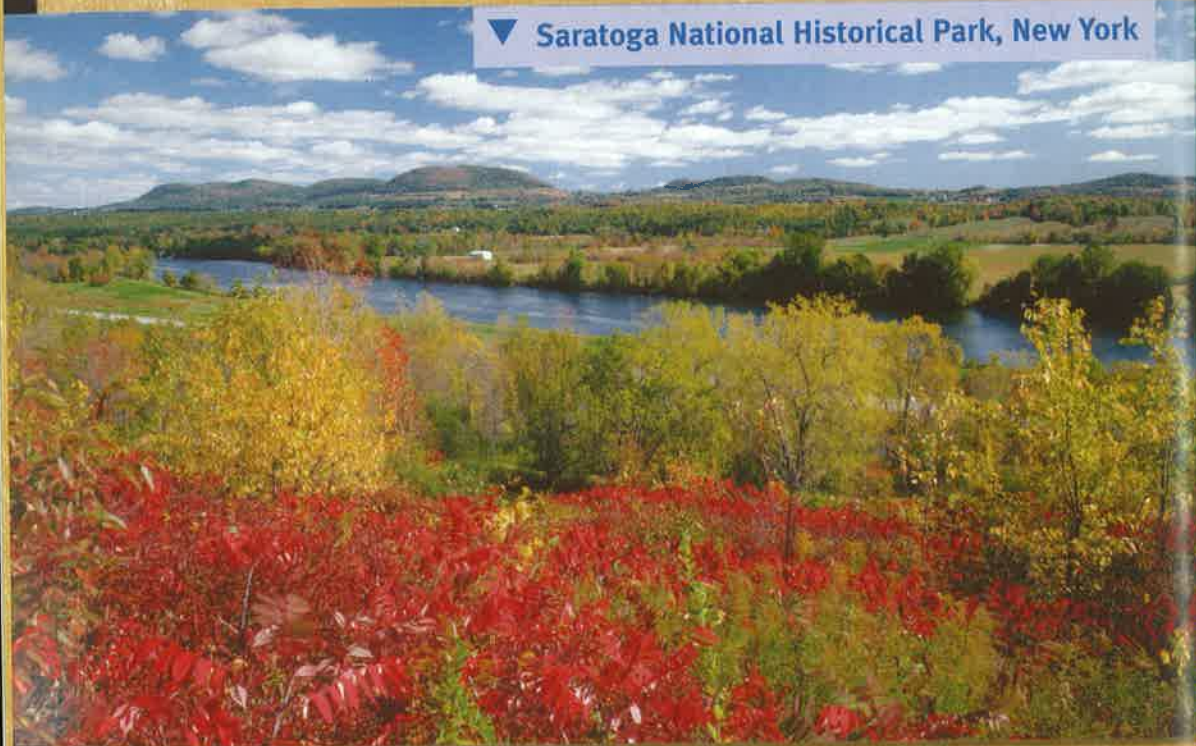
INTRODUCTION

Every war is a series of battles. Wars are won on the battlefield. The strongest army does not always win every battle.

Sometimes the weather decides who wins or loses a

battle. Sometimes the landscape affects the outcome of the battle. Other times, leaders make bad choices. Weather, landscape, and choices all played a role in the battles of the Revolutionary War.

▼ Saratoga National Historical Park, New York





THE BATTLES OF SARATOGA

DATES: September 19–October 17, 1777

LOCATIONS: Freeman's Farm, outside Saratoga, New York
Bemis Heights, outside Saratoga, New York

WEATHER: Mild, cloudy, rainy



AMERICAN LEADERS:

General Horatio Gates
General Benedict Arnold
Colonel Daniel Morgan



BRITISH LEADERS:

General John Burgoyne
Baron Friedrich Riedesel
General Simon Fraser

AMERICAN CASUALTIES:

800 killed, wounded, and missing

BRITISH CASUALTIES:

1,600 killed, wounded,
and missing
6,000 surrendered

In the Revolutionary War, the battles did not happen in a distant land. They were fought on the streets of towns in America. They were fought in backyards and cornfields.

The Battle of Saratoga took place in a clearing in the woods. In 1777, the land around Saratoga, New York, was still a wilderness.

Saratoga was an important battle. It was the battle that changed how the war would

end. It was the battle that proved the Americans could win the war.

In this book, you will go behind the scenes at Saratoga. You will meet great soldiers and ordinary people who played a part in this battle.

Read on to learn more about the American Revolution. Feel what it was like to fight for your life and your country at the Battle of Saratoga.



THE STAGE IS SET

In December 1777, John Burgoyne (bur-GOIN) had an idea. Burgoyne thought he knew how to end the war. His plan was to cut the rebel army in half. He would surround the rebel forces in the North. Then the New England states would be cut off from the rest of the country.

Burgoyne would divide his army into three columns, or groups. Burgoyne would lead the main column south from Canada. He and his men would travel down the Hudson River.

General William Howe would lead the second column. Howe would march his army north from New York City. The two columns would meet in Albany, New York.

Meanwhile, a third column would travel from Canada down the Mohawk River. Colonel Barry St. Leger (SAYNT LEJ-uhr) would lead that column. Burgoyne thought this plan would win the war.



▲ Burgoyne divided his army into three columns.

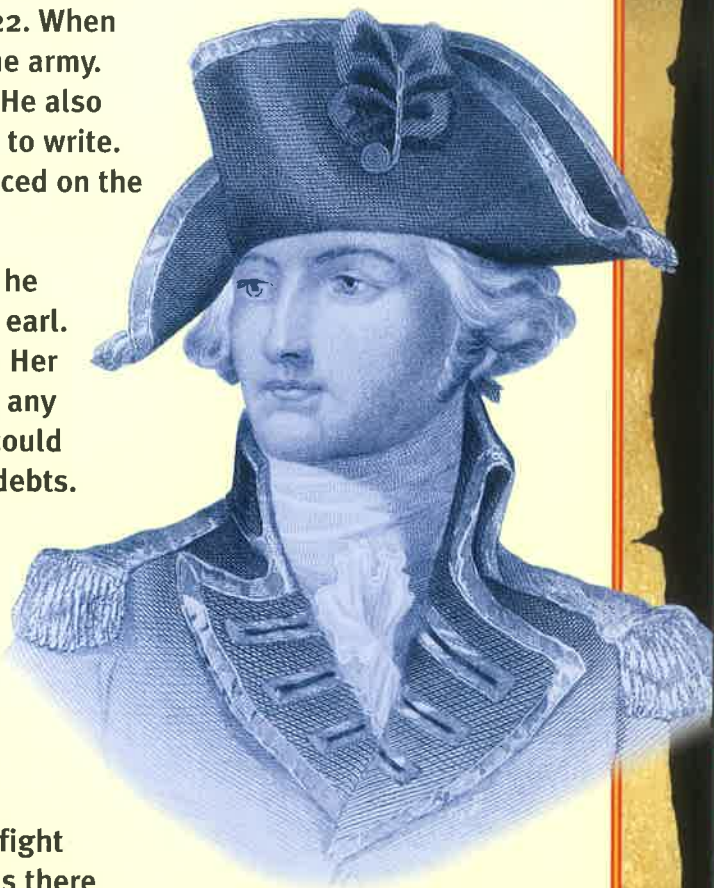


LEADERS OF THE FIGHT

General John Burgoyne was born in London on February 24, 1722. When he was fifteen, he joined the army. Burgoyne liked to gamble. He also loved the theater and liked to write. One of his plays was produced on the London stage.

At the age of twenty-eight, he married the daughter of an earl. Her family did not approve. Her father would not give them any money. Burgoyne's salary could barely cover his gambling debts. So he sold his commission to raise money. In those days, officers had to buy a commission in the army. Later, Burgoyne was able to buy himself a place in the army again. Burgoyne was sent to Boston, Massachusetts, to fight the American rebels. He was there for the Battle of Bunker Hill. Afterward, he returned to England.

In 1777, King George III agreed to send Burgoyne back to Canada with close to 7,000 troops to fight in the Revolution. After his defeat at Saratoga, Burgoyne went home to London. He lived the rest of his life quietly. He started writing again and even wrote a successful play. Burgoyne died in London on June 4, 1792.



SOLDIERS OF THE WAR

The British did not have enough soldiers in their army. They had to hire soldiers from other countries. Among them were 20,000 German soldiers. They were known as “Hessians.” The first German king to offer troops was Friedrich II of Hesse-Cassel. That is where the term “Hessian” comes from.



▲ Hessian soldiers

Burgoyne had made a mistake. He did not realize how rough the land was. There were many mountains. These mountains were covered with thick forests.

The British did not understand how big America

was. Most of the region was still not settled. The towns were far apart.

None of that concerned Burgoyne. He set sail for Canada with 7,000 troops.





A GOOD BEGINNING

Burgoyne set off from Canada in June of 1777. He had about 9,000 men with him. Among them were British soldiers, German soldiers, Canadian soldiers, and Native Americans. The Native Americans were scouts. Scouts guided the troops through the wilderness.

The journey to Albany was not easy. The men had to

cut roads through the forest. They had to build bridges across rivers.

The American **rebels** made the trip even more difficult. The rebels left nothing in their trail. They burned crops and houses. They took along livestock or set them free. They cut down trees to block the roads. They also tore down bridges.

WOMEN IN THE WAR

Women often traveled with the troops. Each army had women to cook and do laundry. Wives followed their men into battle. One such woman was Lady Harriet Acland. Lady Acland was the wife of a British major who fought at Saratoga. Lady Acland's husband was wounded and captured by the Americans. Even though she was pregnant, she crossed the river and asked permission to nurse her husband. American general Horatio Gates let her do so.



A Turn of Events

The British attacked Fort Stanwix. They hoped to force the Americans to give up. Instead, the American general Benedict Arnold forced the British to give up.

Burgoyne learned about the setback at Fort Stanwix. It was bad news. He also had heard nothing from General Howe.

Howe's troops should have been marching north from New York City.

Supplies were running low. Burgoyne decided to send his men into Vermont. His men would get fresh supplies and more horses there. He did not know that there were rebel soldiers in Vermont.

THEY MADE A DIFFERENCE



▲ Colonel Barry St. Leger

Benedict Arnold convinced the British to give up Fort Stanwix. He made a deal with a man named Hon Yost. Yost was a **Loyalist**, who had been captured by the Americans. Yost had to convince the Native Americans fighting with the British that a huge rebel force was marching toward them. If he did, he could go free. Yost did a good job. The Native Americans believed him and took off into the forest. Without the Native Americans to help him fight, St. Leger retreated. It was all a trick. There never was a huge army of rebels.



“The moment is a decisive one.”

*—General Burgoyne on his decision to march to
Albany at all costs*

In Vermont, Burgoyne's troops were attacked by American **militia** (muh-LIH-shuh) units. These were units of volunteer soldiers. More than 200 of Burgoyne's men died. Seven hundred of Burgoyne's men were captured.

Only forty Americans were killed. Just thirty were wounded. Burgoyne did not get his supplies. Still, he did not give up.

1. Solve This

General Burgoyne's 9,000 men had enough food to last thirty days. Each man ate one half pound of food per day. How many pounds of food were needed to feed the men for one month?

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

In colonial wartime, food was a big concern. Food did not stay fresh very long. It was hard to find more. Soldiers carried flour to make their own bread. Today's armies carry food that has been canned or freeze-dried. It can last for months.



AMERICAN MILITIA AND THE CONTINENTAL ARMY

The troops that fought in the Revolution were from state militias and the Continental army. There had been militias in the colonies since before the war. The militias defended their own territory. The militia soldiers usually signed up for a short time. Then they went home.

When a man's time was up, he could leave. This was true even in the middle of a battle. During the war this was a big problem for the officers.

Most of the men were farmers. They were needed at home to grow food. No food at home meant no food for the troops.

The Continental army was set up by Congress after the Battle of Bunker Hill.

It was led by George Washington. Most of the time, men joined for a year or two. Many left because Congress could not pay or feed them.



▲ Continental army soldier

TO ALL BRAVE, HEALTHY, ABLE BODIED, AND WELL DISPOSED YOUNG MEN, IN THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD, WHO HAVE ANY INCLINATION TO JOIN THE TROOPS, NOW RAISING UNDER GENERAL WASHINGTON, FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE LIBERTIES AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES, Against the traitorous Attempts of the

TAKE NOTICE,

THAT

Small text describing the terms of recruitment, including details about pay, clothing, and the location of the recruitment office.

COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES

MOVING ON

General Burgoyne had to make a choice. There were two ways to get to Albany. Both ways were dangerous.

One way was along the east bank of the Hudson River. There would not be many rebel troops on the east side of the river.

The British would have to cross the river where it was wide and deep. American troops and their cannons would be in the hills above the river. The British would then have to climb the steep banks along the river. The British would be easy targets.

The other way was to cross the Hudson first. Then the men would go down the west side of the river. The crossing would be easier. But there were many rebel troops on the west

side of the river. The British would have to fight the rebels all the way to Albany. Albany was forty-five miles (72 kilometers) away.



▲ Burgoyne's march to Albany

2. Solve This

Each wagon could hold 2,500 pounds of food. How many wagons did General Burgoyne need to transport one month's worth of rations? (Use the answer from the first Solve This on page 9.)



British Uniforms

1768 clothing warrant
— Regulations for the
Clothing of Marching
Regiments of the Foot

HATS

The hats were
laced with gold
or silver.

EPAULETTES

The officers of
grenadiers wore
an epaulette on
each shoulder.
They were either
embroidery or
lace, with gold
or silver fringe.

CARTRIDGE BOX

Each side of
the box held
18 rounds of
ammunition.



CAPS FOR OFFICERS

The officers of the
grenadiers wore black
bear-skin caps.

UNIFORM OF OFFICERS

The number of each
regiment was on
the buttons of the
uniforms of the
officers and men.

WAISTCOATS

The waistcoats
were plain, without
either embroidery
or lace.

SWORDS

The swords of
each regiment were
uniform. The hilts
were either gilt or
silver, according
to the color of
the buttons on
the uniforms.



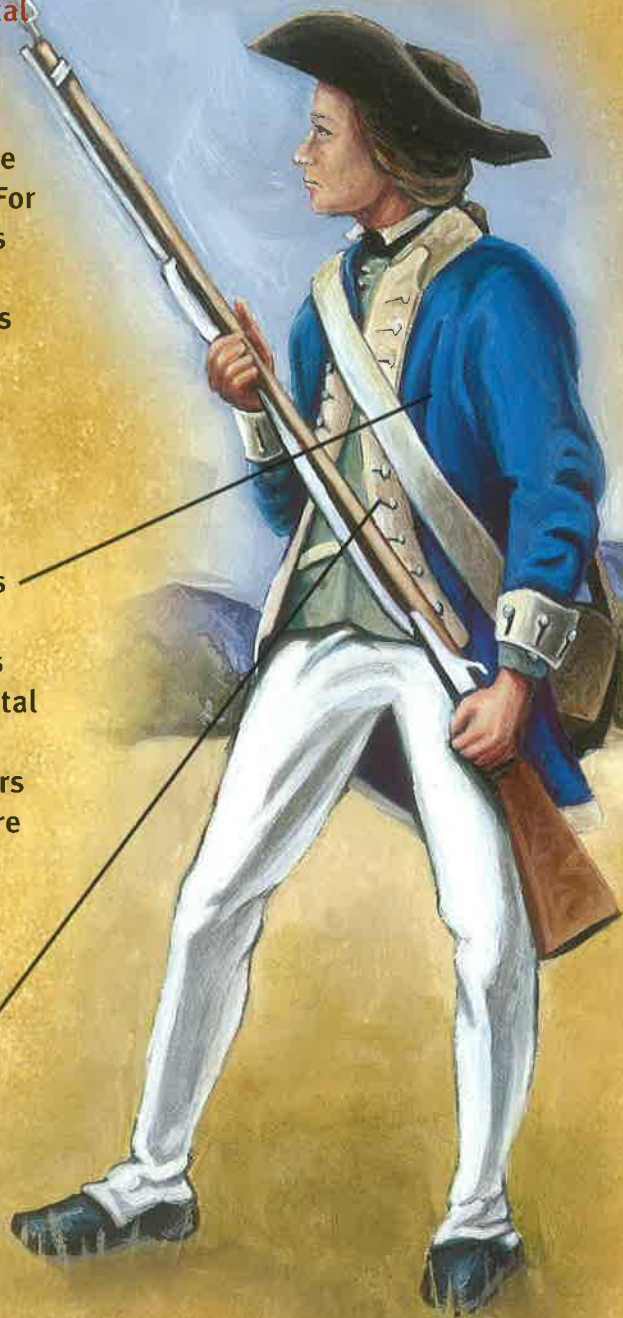
American Uniforms

Second Massachusetts
Regiment of Continental
Infantry, 1777

Unlike the British, the American soldiers were not all dressed alike. For one thing, the soldiers came from different militias. And there was little money for fancy uniforms.

Before 1779, there was no regulation uniform for the Massachusetts regiments in Continental service. Most of the Massachusetts soldiers who had uniforms wore blue coats faced and lined with white.

The regiments were recognized by the numbers stamped on the pewter buttons.



A Choice Is Made

Burgoyne made his decision. His army would cross the Hudson River first. Then Burgoyne and his men would march down the west bank of the river.

The British had enough supplies to last four weeks. They had to reach Albany in one month. If not, they might starve or, worse, face defeat.

September 13, 1777, was a bright, sunny day. The troops marched across a bridge made of boats tied together. Two days later, General Riedesel and the German soldiers followed.

3. Solve This

Each one of General Burgoyne's wagons was drawn by two horses. How many horses were required to pull all the wagons? (Use the answer from the second Solve This on page 11.)

They Made a Difference



Friedrich Adolph Riedesel was born in 1738 into a German noble family. Riedesel left home at age fifteen to study. At school, he loved to watch the Hesse troops drill. When he grew older, he became a soldier and an officer.

Then the Germans agreed to "rent" soldiers to the British during the Revolutionary War. Major General Riedesel was put in charge. He and his family arrived in Canada in June of 1777.

After the war, Riedesel went back to Germany. He died at home on January 6, 1800.



When all the men had crossed, the boats were untied. The British troops could no longer go back to Canada.

The soldiers marched in three columns. The **artillery**, or the guns and ammunition, were in the middle. On the right were the British troops.

On the left were the Germans. There were 6,500 soldiers in all.

The army that set off that morning was hungry and tired. They knew the rebels would be waiting for them along the way.

It's a Fact

The army was not alone. Burgoyne's troops were joined by hundreds of camp followers. These included members of the clergy, doctors, women, and children. Officers had servants. General Riedesel's wife even had her own carriage.



▲ Baroness Riedesel and family



The Americans Prepare

General Burgoyne set up camp at Saratoga. Meanwhile, the American troops were getting ready to fight. More and more patriots arrived in Saratoga. Major General Horatio Gates was in charge.

Primary Source

“... an aide-de-camp showed me a fresh scalp-lock which I could not mistake.”

—Jane McCrae’s fiancé

WOMEN IN THE WAR

Jane McCrae lived in Saratoga. McCrae’s brothers were rebel soldiers. But the man she was to marry was a Loyalist. McCrae’s fiancé went to Canada to join the British. He became a soldier in Burgoyne’s army.

McCrae went to meet her fiancé. On the way she and another woman were caught by a band of Native Americans fighting with the British.

Jane McCrae was murdered by her captors and scalped. The scalps were taken to Burgoyne’s camp. There, McCrae’s fiancé recognized her hair. This awful event convinced many Americans that the British could not keep them safe.

News of the murder was used as **propaganda**. Propaganda is information that is used to try to influence the thinking of others. In this case, the news turned Americans against the British.



▲ Jane McCrae

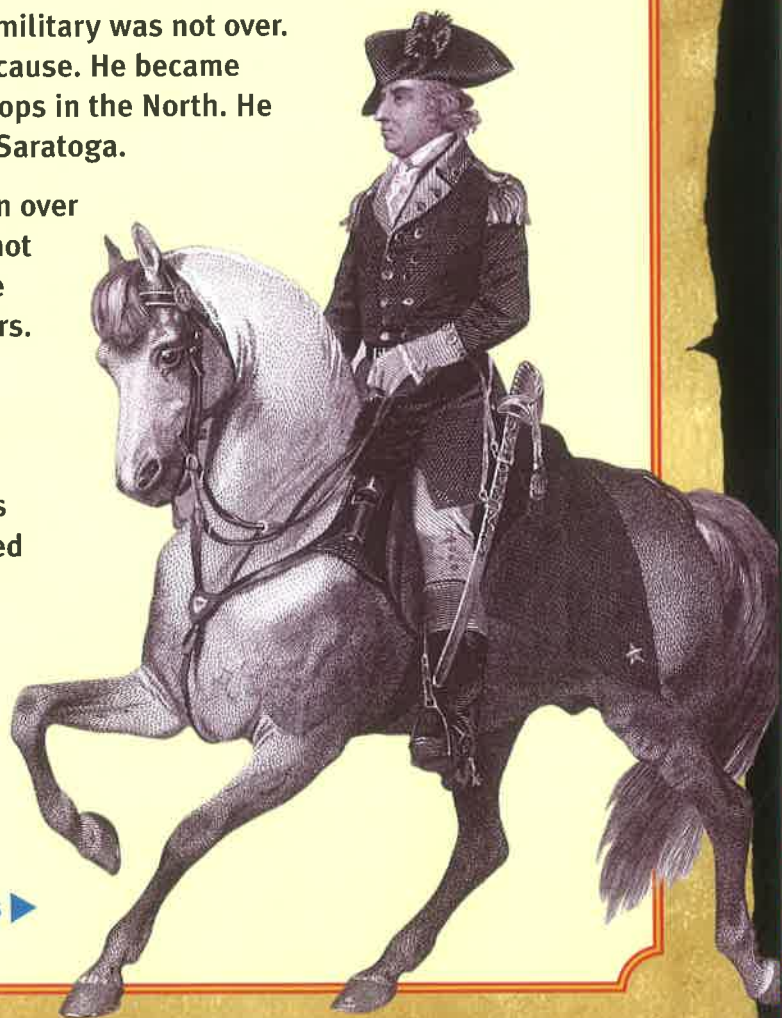
SOLDIERS OF WAR

Horatio Gates was born in England in 1728. His parents were servants. As a young man, he joined the British army. He fought in the French and Indian Wars in America. Gates left the army in 1772. He retired to live in Virginia.

But Gates's career in the military was not over. He soon joined the rebel cause. He became the commander of the troops in the North. He took over just in time for Saratoga.

Gates is known for his win over Burgoyne. Yet Gates did not take part in the battle. He never left his headquarters.

After Saratoga, Gates never won again. He was even accused of leaving the scene of battle. It was never proven. Gates retired from the army in 1784. He moved to New York where he died in 1806.



General Horatio Gates ▶

Gates had close to 10,000 soldiers. One of the most important was Daniel Morgan.

Morgan led the Virginia riflemen. His men were expert

shots and fine scouts. They could creep through the woods as quietly as any Native American scout.

SOLDIERS OF WAR

Daniel Morgan was born in New Jersey in 1736. He ran away to Virginia when he was seventeen. He became a wagoneer, a person who drove wagons of supplies to settlers. When the Revolutionary War began, Morgan was chosen to command one of two rifle regiments raised by Virginia.

In August 1777, he and his rifle company were sent to help General Gates in Saratoga. Morgan's riflemen were critical in the battle against Burgoyne. Many historians think he is not given enough credit for his work.

After the war, Morgan went back to his farm. He served a term in Congress. Daniel Morgan died on July 6, 1802.



▲ Daniel Morgan



▲ one of Captain Morgan's riflemen



Gates's troops were camped about halfway between Albany and Saratoga. The scouts went out to find a place to meet the enemy. Local people told them about Bemis Heights.

Bemis Heights was a **plateau** (pla-TOH), or flat

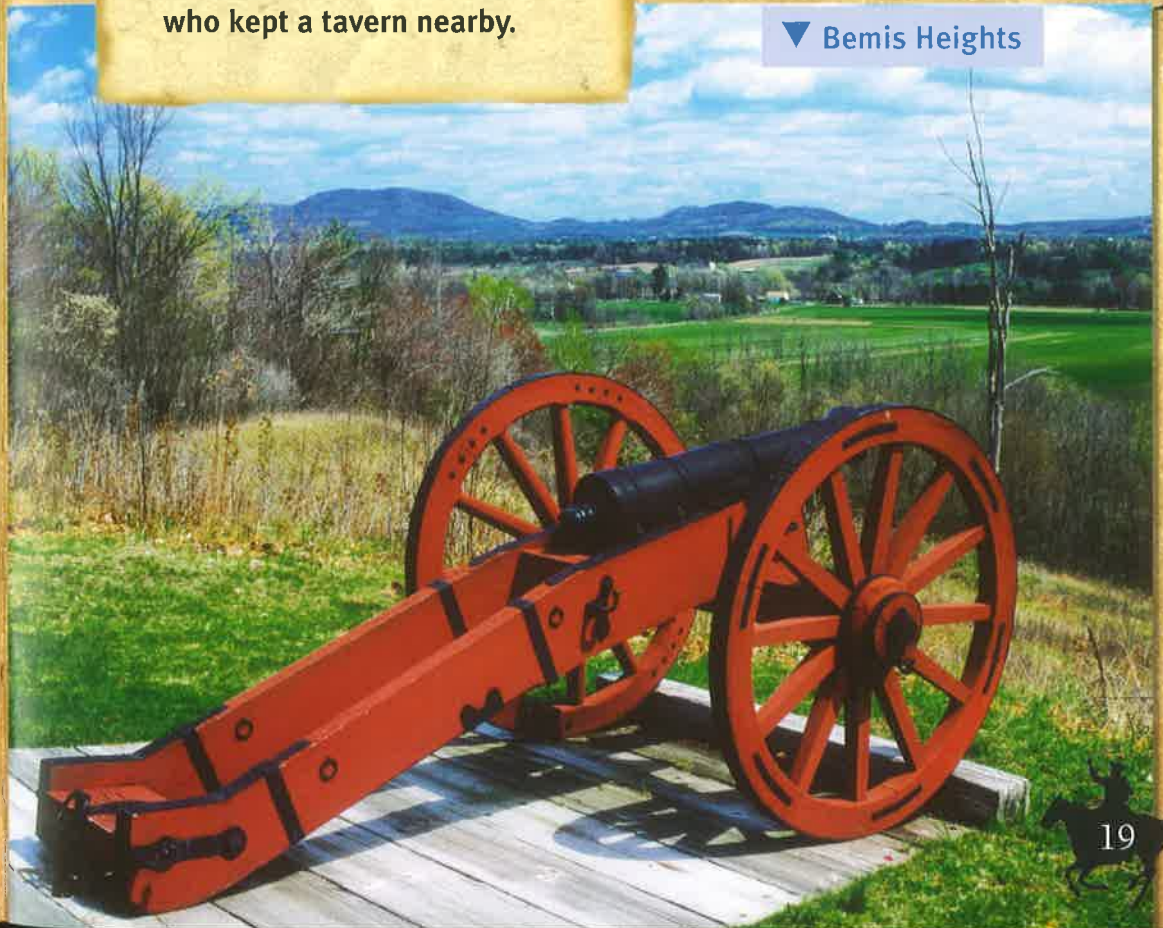
It's a Fact

Bemis Heights was named after Jotham Bemis, a man who kept a tavern nearby.

piece of land. The plateau had many trees. It was higher than the land around it. From the top of the hill, a soldier could see for miles in every direction.

The men cleared a passage below the hill. The passage was narrow. The only road to Albany ran through the passage. Burgoyne's troops would soon come marching down that road. They would be easy targets.

▼ Bemis Heights



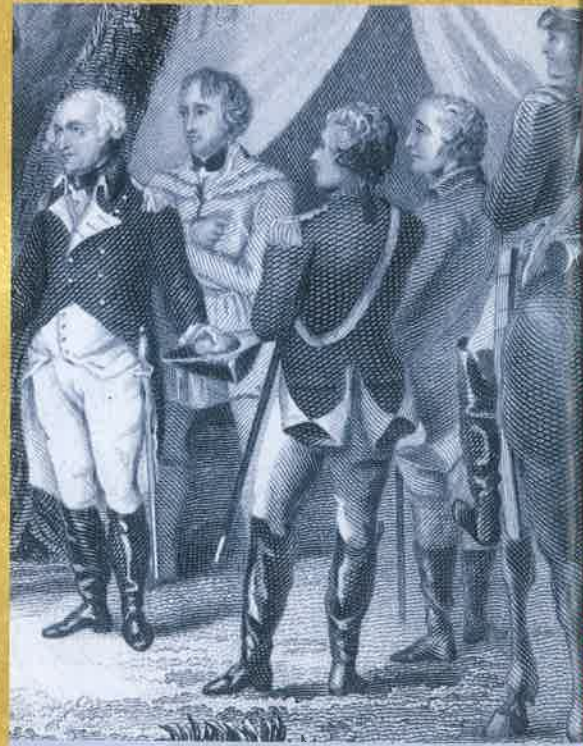
FORTUNE IS OFTEN FICKLE

General Burgoyne had seen the rebels at Bemis Heights. Burgoyne did not know what Gates had planned. General Burgoyne knew the only road to Albany would go right past Bemis Heights.

General Gates sent Daniel Morgan and his men to spy on Burgoyne's army. Gates knew Burgoyne had to move soon. Both sides knew a battle was only days away.

September 19: Battle Day

The early morning of Friday, September 19, was foggy and cold. The thick fog made it hard to see. American scouts saw movement in the British camp.



▲ British soldiers



PICTURE IT

Reread pages 20–21. Imagine you are an American scout. What would you have seen when the fog cleared?



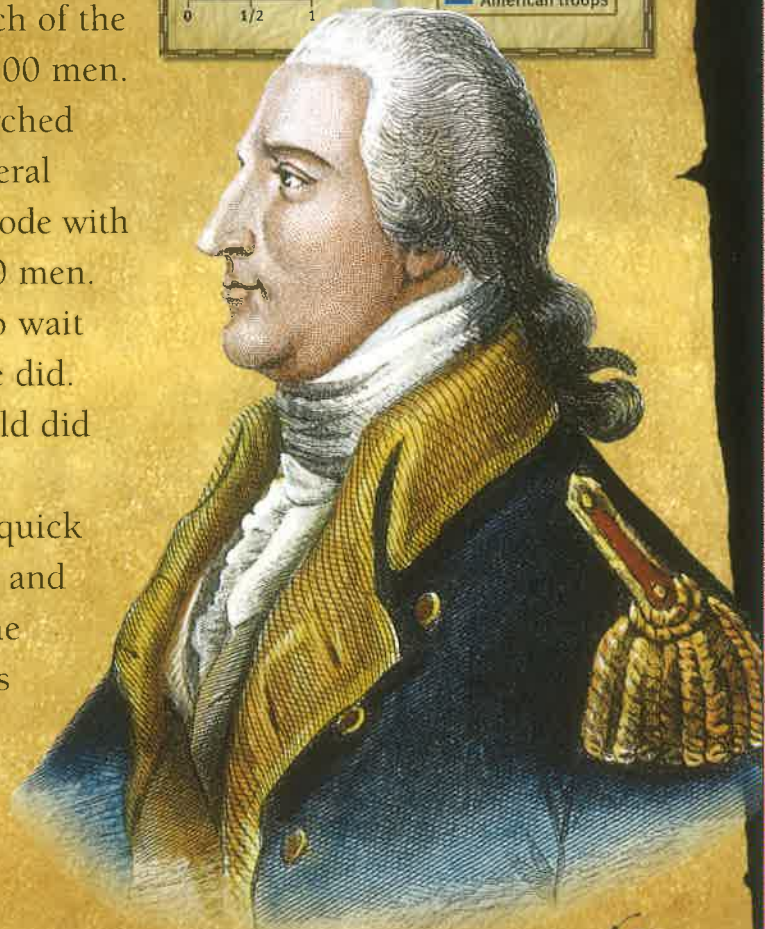
The British began to move out. The British broke into three columns. One column moved far out to the right. This column was led by General Simon Fraser.

The left column was led by General Riedesel. It marched along the river. It held all the heavy artillery, light and heavy cannons, and guns. Each of the columns had about 2,500 men.

The main army marched down the middle. General Burgoyne and his staff rode with the main force of 1,700 men.

Gates was willing to wait and see what Burgoyne did. General Benedict Arnold did not want to wait.

Arnold was always quick to act. He told Morgan and his men to march to the woods. Morgan and his men climbed trees to wait for the enemy.



▲ Benedict Arnold



“Both armies seemed determined to conquer or die.”

—General Clover

Shots Are Fired

At about one in the afternoon, 300 British soldiers came over a hill. These soldiers entered a clearing known as Freeman’s Farm. Morgan’s riflemen saw the soldiers and fired. Almost at once, the front line dropped to the ground.

The riflemen were so excited at their success that

they ran out from the cover of the trees. It was a fatal mistake. General Fraser’s men arrived and fired. The riflemen were hit.

Gates ordered more soldiers to the field to help Morgan’s men. Now rebels and British were face to face on the field of battle.

Primary Source

One American soldier described the guns firing without stop. He called it, “the hottest fire of cannon . . . that I ever heard in my life.”



It's a Fact

When Burgoyne and Clinton needed to get in touch with each other, they sent coded letters. The letters were meant to be read through a cutout shaped like an hourglass. The technique was not new. It had been invented in the sixteenth century by a man named Geronimo Cardano.

Sir Henry Clinton ►



The fighting raged on for hours. First one side seemed to be winning. Then the other side seemed to be ahead. Soon the dead and dying were everywhere.

At last it got dark. The Americans fell back. The British had won the day. Still, Burgoyne had lost 160 men. Another 364 were wounded and 42 were missing. The Americans had lost just over 300 men.

Burgoyne had about 6,000 men left. Gates had close to 7,000. But more American troops were arriving.

A Letter of False Hope

On September 21, Burgoyne got a letter. The letter was from Sir Henry Clinton. Clinton was the commander of British forces in New York City. Clinton said that he expected to arrive with more men in about ten days.



Burgoyne waited for Clinton's troops. Every day more men died. There were not enough blankets or tents. Many soldiers slept on the bare ground. Men were on constant guard duty.

General Gates was also waiting. He thought Burgoyne was running low on supplies and food. Gates himself was low on ammunition.

Nearly three weeks passed. Time was running out. Burgoyne had to press on. He could not wait for Clinton's troops. On October 4, Burgoyne met with his generals.

October 7: One Last Stand

Burgoyne wanted to attack again. He planned to leave 800 men on the river. They would guard

the supplies and the hospital. The other 4,000 men would attack Gates.

Burgoyne's generals did not agree with him. Riedesel thought they should not risk all the men on just one mission. Burgoyne gave in. Burgoyne agreed to send only 2,000 men.



General Horatio Gates ►





**The Battle of Saratoga:
October 7, 1777**



made up of British and Germans. In the center was General Riedesel.

The Americans were ready. They attacked. General Fraser was badly wounded. The British tried to fall back. Benedict Arnold's troops would not let them.

At 1 P.M., the British soldiers were ready to march. Once again, Burgoyne divided the men into three columns. On the right was Fraser's column. The left column was