



# Friends of Saratoga Battlefield

## Newsletter



Gen. Burgoyne October 17, 1777

**Fall Winter 2022**



Saratoga Surrender Site August 2020

**Volume 30 Issue 1**

### President's Message:

**To: Friends members and readers**

In 2022 we have had a successful resumption of activity, following Covid constraints, at the Battlefield and related sites. Our priorities include:

- Begin the run for the **250<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries**: American Revolution and Battles of Saratoga
- Keep developing activities that bring people to Saratoga National Historical Park

In this context, the Friends supported:

**July 4<sup>th</sup> Naturalization ceremony** for new American citizens. This event was originally conceived at Saratoga and became a ceremony practiced elsewhere at national parks.

The Friends continued sponsorship of a series of music events at the Battlefield. This year, the program opened with the very popular **McKrells** on August 9<sup>th</sup>. A large audience gathered on a sunny afternoon to enjoy the music.

**Fort Ticonderoga Fife & Drum**, September 24<sup>th</sup>. This enduring, historic experience was welcomed on a 'rain date' deferred from August. It is a phenomenal performance that everyone should see at least one time. It is well worth noting that the upcoming generations were full engaged.

**250<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries.** As we move towards commemorating the American Revolution and Battles of Saratoga, the Bicentennial celebrations come to mind. There have been some changes in how we memorialize the foundation events of our country. The recognition is more important than ever.

**Our purpose will be to open as wide a network as possible.** Because the Saratoga battles involved a vast expanse of territory and participants, our partners will be many. We will include national and international allies, and welcome local commemoratives as well.

**Recognition.** The exceptional outpouring of support in accomplishing restoration of the Surrender Site is fresh in mind. We remain in gratitude to the many donors, and to the continuing support that comes forward.

**We look forward to working with you on all the opportunities in 2023.**

Sincerely,

Tim Holmes, President

### In This Issue

President's Messages .....Page 1  
 A Letter to Members.....Page 2  
 Your Membership Date ..... Page 2  
 John Stark.....Page 3  
 What we did last summer.....Page 12  
 Superintendent's Message .....Page 14  
 Hardin Monument .....Page 14  
 Board of Directors .....Page 15  
 Membership Information .....Page 15

## **An Open Letter to Members from a new Friends Member**

I am Christopher Hacker and I live in Albany, NY. I am the owner and operator of The Albany Artisans, a construction company that specializes in carpentry and the Preservation of Historic homes.

In 2018 I was offered an opportunity that was extraordinary and that I now recognize as a highlight of my career. As a Construction manager I was asked to pivot from my comfort zone as a preservationist of historic buildings and urban environments to that of a conservationist focused on protecting a natural resource by creating a space that would be supported and enjoyed by future generations, in line with the Organic Act that created the National Parks in 1916.

As a human and Citizen of The United States, I gained knowledge about the history of our country, and a greater understanding that history happens in our own communities and neighborhoods, that conserving and supporting these historic spaces for our neighbors and families of the future is rewarding and fulfilling in ways both obvious and unanticipated.

I knew very little of the Battles of Saratoga and as the site developed so did my understanding. The Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield had begun the planning, treatment plans and cultural landscapes long before I had come on board. As I helped the team, including Brian Mumford, Bob Stokes, Joe Finan, and Larry Arnold with the various facets involved in executing their plans in regard to landscape, concrete and plaque locations they taught me about The Revolutionary War and specifically the battles that took place in Saratoga.

As I learned about this monumental event that took place, this beautiful hillside, similar to many hillsides along the Hudson River, began to transform into what it truly is; a hallowed ground where World History was forever changed.

I understood why The Friends of The Saratoga Battlefield had worked so hard and so long to protect this little space and the rewards of lending myself to something so important filled me with satisfaction and pride. I stop at the surrender site on my way to The Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield board meetings every chance I get, I imagine myself a soldier led by Colonel Abraham Wemple taking in this same viewshed from the place we have developed, and I think about how little that view has changed since Burgoyne laid down his sword.

I am writing this in an effort to encourage others to seek out the real personal reward that comes from lending one's time and support to something so significant. On this hill, through membership, involvement, or even just a visit, you can embrace and be embraced by our Nation's History.

Thanks for Reading,  
Christopher Hacker

**The date when you last renewed your Friends of Saratoga Battlefield Membership follows your name on the address page of this Newsletter.**

**If that date is before January 1, 2020 this will be the last Newsletter your receive.**

**If you wish to continue receiving this Newsletter, please renew your membership on line at [Friendsofsb.org](http://Friendsofsb.org) or by mail.**

## John Stark

*“Let it be virtue to be obstinate.”*

**Wm Shakespeare, Coriolanus**

*Brian Mumford, Past President*

**FORWARD:** Three days prior to the Battle of Bunker Hill, the Second Continental Congress, a body of elected delegates from the Thirteen Colonies, convened in Philadelphia to assume the role of a *de facto* national government. In addition to its diplomatic and administrative functions, Congress undertook to raise an army over which the delegates had control, including the exclusive authority to grant officer promotions.

In the eighteenth century, a gentleman officer would be conscious of his position in the chain of command since his military commission was a reflection of his good character and reputation. As a matter of honor, a gentleman could not serve under men who had been his subordinate or who lacked recognized military accomplishment. In such a culture of honor, tendering his resignation from the army was an officer’s only option if there was an insult to his character.

During John Stark’s lengthy military career, he had many opportunities to make critical decisions, not only about military strategies but also regarding his rank and recognition. At first glance many have judged Stark as being obstinate and have questioned how he could be comfortable with many of his career altering judgments. However, looking at the range of decisions he made during the course of the battles in which he fought, Stark emerges as not only a brilliant military strategist but also a heroic man of great honor.

**EARLY YEARS:** John Stark’s ancestors were Presbyterians who were driven from Scotland during the reign of King James II and settled for a short time in Northern Ireland before emigrating to New Hampshire in 1720. John, one of five children, was born in 1728 and was brought up on the family farm located in the wilderness on the New England and Canadian border.

This was a highly dangerous area under constant threat of attacks by the indigenous Algonquian-speaking Abenaki, who persistently raided British settlements in what formerly had been their homeland. The hostilities by the Abenaki were supported and urged by French traders who were attempting to halt the British colonists from expanding farther into their hunting territory.

Stark became a trained woodsman able to survive long journeys in severe weather while living off the land. During his early years, Stark became instilled with deep confidence and bold self-reliance that guided him throughout his life.

In the spring of 1752, while hunting, Stark was captured by an Abenaki raiding party and brought to their village. It was a common practice for the Abenaki to capture settlers and sell

them as slaves to the French. When forced as a prisoner to run the gauntlet, Stark grabbed a pole and began hitting those waiting to strike him. Stark's defiance earned him the favor of the tribe's chief who consented to Stark's being adopted into the tribe. During his confinement he learned the tribe's language and customs and was treated fairly. After eight months, Stark was ransomed for 103 Spanish dollars by an agent for the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and he returned to his home.

**ROGERS' RANGERS:** In 1754 Stark was commissioned by New Hampshire Colonial Governor Benning Wentworth as a second lieutenant in the British Army to serve in the newly formed Rogers' Rangers in the French and Indian War.

The rangers were trained and experienced in wilderness warfare and were particularly adept at reconnaissance and intelligence gathering. During his service, Stark was engaged in numerous battles with the French forces in the Lake Champlain-Lake George area and was promoted to captain. In 1758 Stark returned home briefly following the death of his father during which time he married Elizabeth Page, whom he called Molly.

In 1759, British General Jeffery Amherst ordered Stark's company of rangers to attack an Abenaki village. As a matter of honor out of respect for the kindness of his earlier Native American captors, Stark refused the order and ultimately resigned his commission. Stark returned to his family farm and lumber mill. It would be sixteen years until he resumed his military career.

Stark later learned that during the raid, the rangers had killed thirty members of the village, including women and children. He also became aware that Amherst had engaged in a form of biological warfare by giving blankets that had been laced with smallpox bacteria to Abenaki villages.

**BUNKER HILL:** Following the battles at Lexington and Concord in April 1775, the British forces retreated back to Boston. The local militia followed and surrounded Boston to effectively contain the British troops within Boston, while more than 100 British ships armed with cannons remained anchored in the harbor.

In June, the colonists learned that the British were planning an attack to occupy Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill at Charlestown, each a strategic artillery location. When a call for support went out to the New England militia, Stark traveled to Cambridge where he was granted a colonel's commission in the Massachusetts militia with authority to enlist recruits until New Hampshire granted him a commission.

After recruiting 700 men, Stark appeared before the New Hampshire Provisional Congress where he was told, despite prior assurances, he would not be commanding the 1<sup>st</sup> New Hampshire Regiment since that command was to go to someone with little military experience. Offended to be passed over, Stark reminded the Congress that he already had a commission

from Massachusetts and he walked out of the meeting to returned to his troops. The Provisional Congress reversed itself, assigning Stark to command of the 1<sup>st</sup> New Hampshire Regiment.

When he reported at Charlestown with his regiment, Stark immediately went into action displaying his leadership and strategy skills. Detecting a weakness in the defense, he ordered breastwork be built along the Mystic River shore to prevent being flanked by the British infantry. During the heavy fighting, as Stark moved among the troops giving orders and encouragement, his regiment decimated line after line of 350 light infantrymen attackers.

When the Americans defending Breed's Hill ran out of powder and were about to be overrun, Stark led them in retreat off the Charlestown peninsula, putting up a running fight and was last to leave the battlefield. His heroic blocking defense saved the lives of hundreds of Americans.

The British casualties were staggering with 92 officers and 1,100 troops killed or wounded out of a total of 2,500 engaged in the battle. The colonial's casualties were 400 out of a force of 1,600. The battle at Bunker Hill eliminated virtually any chance for reconciliation with the British. When King George III received news of the battle, he issued a proclamation declaring the colonies to be in a state of "open and avowed rebellion."

**BOSTON SEIGE:** After leaving the Charlestown peninsula, all the American troops amassed around Boston to continue the siege. To organize an army, the Continental Congress had recently ordered that all colonist troops at Boston, including Stark's New Hampshire militia regiment, were now members of the new Continental Army. General George Washington, recently appointed Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, arrived at Cambridge to take command.

British General William Howe, not wanting to lose any more troops, ruled out further ground attacks against Boston. He also ruled out cannonading the city since there were British troops and loyalists remaining there. On the other hand, the Americans had no defense against the British cannons and thus ruled out an attack against Boston. Under these circumstances the siege became a standoff that would continue for months.

**BOSTON VICTORY:** In November 1775, Washington ordered Colonel Henry Knox to undertake a 600-mile round trip to Fort Ticonderoga to bring back to Boston the cannons that the Green Mountain Boys had captured earlier that year. On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Knox returned to Boston with 55 cannons. Overnight 2,000 continental soldiers maneuvered 24 of the cannons to the top of Dorchester Heights and positioned them within range of the British ships. Caught off guard by the swift placement of the cannons, Howe realized that the British had no choice but to evacuate Boston. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 120 ships with 20,000 troops and loyalists aboard sailed from Boston Harbor. Howe agreed not to destroy Boston while leaving in exchange for Washington's assurance not to cannonade the exiting fleet. With Howe's evacuation of Boston, the newly formed Continental Army had gained its first victory.

**TRENTON AND PRINCETON:** After Boston, Stark and his regiment moved south to join Washington in winning victories at Trenton on December 26<sup>th</sup> and Princeton a week later. After the recent loss at the Battle of Long Island, these wins were a boost to the morale of the patriot cause, leading many recruits to join the Continental Army. At the conclusion of the battles, Washington moved his army into winter quarters at Morristown. Before Stark departed for New Hampshire for the winter, Washington asked him to recruit additional forces in New Hampshire to bring back in the spring.

**RESIGNATION:** While back in New Hampshire and enlisting troops, Stark received word that the Continental Congress had issued a list of promotions to the rank of brigadier general. Despite his successful service during the Siege of Boston and victories at Trenton and Princeton, the members of Congress had passed over Stark to promote officers with far less experience. As a matter of honor, Stark resigned from the Continental Army. Continental Brigadier Generals John Sullivan and Enoch Poor each made personal pleas to Stark to withdraw his resignation and return to the Continental Army. Stark refused.

**PRE -BENNINGTON:** Notwithstanding his resignation from the military, Stark remained a staunch supporter of the revolution. He followed closely reports of Burgoyne's advance south from Canada. As an experienced military strategist, Stark saw the potential for Burgoyne to attack to the east and move through New England. Stark's thinking was well founded since it tracked a plan Burgoyne himself had suggested to King George. Unbeknownst to Stark, Burgoyne originally had suggested that he be given the discretion to attack through what is now Vermont into New Hampshire and then Connecticut in order to isolate and take control of New England. However, the King rejected the proposal and order Burgoyne to march directly south to Albany. Upon receiving his order, Burgoyne was troubled and wrote to the king's minister:

*[it would be my wish] that a latitude had been left me for a **diversion towards Connecticut**, but that such an idea being out of question, by my orders being precise to force the junction at Albany. (emphasis added)*

Stark watched carefully to judge whether Burgoyne's plan was to move south along the Hudson River or to move east into New England. Stark was concerned when, after taking Fort Ticonderoga, the British marched east to pursue Vermont Colonel Seth Warren to Hubbardton and, after the fierce fighting there, continued eastward towards Manchester.

Stark was justifiably concerned when Burgoyne, rather than moving south on Lake George, moved east to stay for two weeks with Philip Skene at his 34,000-acre estate centered at Skenesborough, now Whitehall. Skene was a fifty-two-year-old retired British career officer who the King had appointed Colonial Governor of the Lake Champlain region. During a recent trip to London, Skene had enlisted in Burgoyne's campaign as a colonel and was instructed to return to North America to assist in the operation.

Vermont's location rendered it the likely area to be initially attacked by Burgoyne if he decided to march against New England. Consigned to serving as buffer, and recently at Hubbardton having had its troop strength depleted to 150 men, the Vermont Council of Safety reached out to neighboring New Hampshire with an appeal for support. New Hampshire, at this time, was concerned as to whether the Continental generals were going to provide New England with sufficient defense. To strengthen its militia, the president of the New Hampshire Court, John Langdon, offered "\$3,000 in hard money" to fund the New Hampshire militia on the condition that John Stark assumed command.

Stark agreed to accept a commission as brigadier general in the New Hampshire militia on the condition that his commission be from the New Hampshire Congress and not from the Continental Congress. Being independent of the Continental Army would free Stark to make his own command decisions and would prevent Continental officers from deploying his troops to locations away from New England. Upon being commissioned and recruiting 1,500 men, one of Stark's first decisions was to send 700 fresh troops to Manchester to aid Warner's ranks.

Learning that Stark had assembled a large force, Continental Major General Benjamin Lincoln, who had been ordered by General Philip Schuyler to coordinate the activities of the New England militia, on August 6<sup>th</sup> traveled to Manchester where he ordered Stark's troops to join the main American army along the Hudson River at Stillwater. Reminding Lincoln that he was not under Continental command, Stark refused the order and the troops remained in Manchester. Lincoln wrote to Schuyler, "Stark seems to be exceedingly soured & thinks he hath not had justice done him by Congress. He is determined not to join the Continental army until the Congress gives him his rank therein."

**BENNINGTON:** In July Burgoyne had marched south along the Hudson River where he paused his forces at the Duer House in Fort Miller for a month to gather sufficient supplies to carry him to Albany. On July 30<sup>th</sup> Burgoyne learned that at Bennington, forty miles to the east, the Americans had stored food, ammunition, wagons, and horses all of which he needed. Burgoyne ordered Lieutenant Colonel Friedrich van Baum to proceed to Bennington with a force of 800 men including 200 German infantry, 175 unmounted German Dragoons, 425 loyalists, Canadians, and Native Americans, together with German artillerymen with two light 3-pounder cannons. Burgoyne instructed Baum that Colonel Philip Skene was to accompany him, "... in order to assist you with his advice ... and to procure you the best intelligence of the Enemy."

In early August, while Stark had his brigade in Bennington, he learned that a large number of the enemy were moving east from Cambridge. Stark rallied his troops and sent word to Seth Warner in Manchester to bring his Continental regiment. Four miles from Bennington, Baum took a position on a hill where he constructed two breastworks and set his artillery. He also sent a request for reinforcements. Burgoyne ordered Colonel Heinrich von Breymann with 550 German troops and two 6-pounders to march to Bennington.

Stark, an experienced military strategist and at the pinnacle of his career at age forty-nine, realized that Baum had erred in positioning his men over too wide a defense. Working with this weakness, he developed a brilliant pincer strategy including a double envelopment of Baum's entire position. Stark sent 250 men along each side of the British defense to join and attack from the rear. He also sent 200 men to the right flank and 100 men in the front to draw away attention. On August 16<sup>th</sup> at about three o'clock, the troops in the rear began the attack while Stark, mounted on his mare, led a frontal attack to overrun the defense position.

For two hours the British and German regulars focused on defending their flanks. As the royal's ammunition ran out, they fled their positions, and the Americans swept over them capturing nearly the entire command. The battle lasted two hours and in Stark's words, "It lasted 2 Hours, the hottest [sic] I ever saw in my life, it represented one Continual Clap of thunder."

With the fighting over, while organizing his troops and prisoners, Stark received intelligence that the reinforcement under Breymann was within two miles. While he was forming his troops to renew the battle, Warner's regiment arrived to give support. After fierce fighting, during which Warner's continentals turned captured cannons on Breymann's troops, the British were overrun and fleeing, with most being captured. Skene who was engaged in the battle, escaped unscathed.

Two days after the battle Stark sent a lengthy report to the New Hampshire Council with details of the action. The greeting Stark used to address the Council reflects the 18<sup>th</sup> century protocol requiring a victorious commander to compliment his superiors. Stark wrote, "I congratulate you on the late success of your troops under my command."

The British losses exceeded 1,000, including Baum and 13 other officers killed, as well as 300 soldiers dead or missing and 700 taken prisoner. The Americans losses were far less, with 30 dead and 40 injured. The Bennington victory had devastating consequences for Burgoyne that doomed his march to Albany and set the stage for the Surrender at Saratoga two months later. A major cause of the British surrender at Saratoga was their being grossly outnumbered. The loss of 1,000 men at Bennington was critical to the strength of Burgoyne's force, particularly in view of his previously having to leave 1,000 men to garrison Fort Ticonderoga. In addition, the American force was increasing each day as thousands of New England militias, inspired by the Bennington victory, marched to Stillwater.

The day after the battle, General Lincoln arrived in Bennington. It had been two weeks since he had attempted to order Stark's militia brigade to march from Manchester to join the main army at Stillwater. Had Stark not rejected Lincoln's order, Stark would not have been in Bennington with his troops to achieved one of the great victories of the War. Lincoln sent a report to Schuyler detailing the Bennington battle and giving great praise to Stark. His report was forwarded to both Washington and the Continental Congress and then appeared in a Philadelphia broadside.

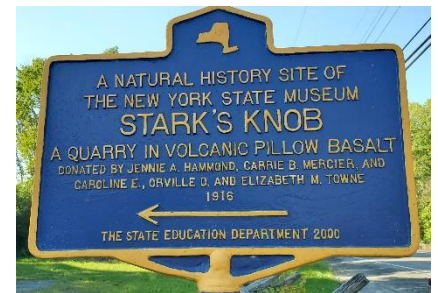


Three days after the victory, General Horatio Gates, who had been appointed to command the Northern Department, wrote to Stark that he was sending artillerymen to collect the four captured cannons. Stark responded that the cannons were plunder won in the battle and therefore belonged to the New Hampshire militia, and the cannons would not be relinquished to the Continentals unless they paid a fair price for them. No payment was forthcoming, and the cannons remained with the militia. Today, one of the 3-pounders is on display at the Bennington Museum and the other at the Vermont State House in Montpelier.

The victory was a source of great joy and celebration among the population as well as the military. Members of the Continental Army put aside their negative reactions regarding Stark's firm refusal to place his militia under their control. General Washington congratulated and praised Stark. John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress, wrote a letter of thanks from Congress and enclosed a commission promoting Stark to brigadier general in the Continental Army. Success had validated Stark's seeming obstinance to maintain his command independent of the Continental Army.

**STARK'S KNOB:** For a month after the victory, Stark remained in Bennington managing treatment for hundreds of wounded, burials for hundreds of dead, as well as feeding and guarding 700 non-English speaking prisoners. In addition, half of his regiment was ill with measles, as was he. When he returned to New Hampshire, Stark and the New Hampshire Council began recruiting since the militia term for many of his men was about to expire.

By October, Stark was prepared to join the battle underway at Saratoga (now Schuylerville) with his second New Hampshire militia regiment of 1,500 troops. He moved west to the Hudson River and after capturing the lightly garrisoned Fort Edward, which his troops renamed Fort Stark, he moved south along the Hudson. Just north of Schuylerville his troops established a blockade to halt any attempt of the British army to retreat north back to Canada. The regiment took positions to close off any attempt to pass the route at the location currently known as Stark's Knob, with "Knob" referring to the high lava elevation overlooking the route that was blocked.



With the placement of Stark's troops, the blockage of the British was complete. They were blocked from marching to the west by the placement of Colonel Daniel Morgan's troops and blocked from heading east by General John Fellows who led the recently arrived New England militia. General Gates was in the rear pursuing the British from the south. Stark's strategy to block the north led historians to refer it as "the corking of the bottle." Realizing there was no escape, Burgoyne, who also was outnumbered and low on supplies, made the decision to surrender.

**SARATOGA SURRENDER:** On October 14<sup>th</sup> the British sought to negotiate the terms of the Convention of surrender and on October 17<sup>th</sup> at the current Saratoga Surrender Site,

General Burgoyne surrendered 5,728 men, 5,000 muskets, and 37 cannons, which was the largest capture of artillery during the War until Yorktown. Philip Skene, who was captured and made a prisoner, was paroled in 1779 and returned to England, having lost his entire Skenesborough estate.

Stark appears in John Trumbull's 1826 historic painting *Surrender of General Burgoyne*; although inexplicably he is placed in the background hidden behind a horse. Placing him in such an inconspicuous location is ironic considering it was generally accepted that the Saratoga victory was made possible in large measure by Stark's over-whelming victory at Bennington. Trumbull, who served as aide-de-camp to Washington at Bunker Hill and as deputy adjutant general to Gates in 1777, surely was aware of Stark's military accomplishments leading to Burgoyne's surrender.



*Trumbull's Surrender of General Burgoyne used with permission of the Architect of the Capital*

At the meal that Gates hosted after the surrender in the near-by tent, Burgoyne congratulated Stark for his leadership at Bennington. Gates, to express his appreciation for Bennington, presented Stark with an exact copy of the Convention signed by Burgoyne.

**LATER YEARS:** After the Saratoga surrender, when Washington moved most Continental troops south, he assigned Stark to command the Northern Department, a position he held until 1781. In 1780, Stark sat as a judge for the court martial trial of Major John André who was found guilty and hanged for spying and aiding in Benedict Arnold's West Point conspiracy.

Stark remained active throughout the remainder of the Revolutionary War during which Congress granted him a promotion to major general. In 1783, he resigned from duty and retired to his farm in New Hampshire which he had renamed Manchester.

Major General John Stark, who loyally served his country as an honorable officer, died in 1822 at the age of 94, the last of the Revolutionary War generals.

#### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> The French and Indian War was the fourth of four wars fought in Europe and America between 1689 and 1763 to determine the conflicting claims of France, Spain, and England over control of the vast colonial territory in North America. All four of the wars together are referred to as the French and Indian Wars (plural). The first three are named for the then current British monarch, however, since the name George was used for the previous war, the fourth was named for the French and Indian participants. As a result of the French and Indian War the British gained Canada from France and Florida from Spain.

<sup>1</sup>After years of dispute with the Province of New York over ownership of the territory known as the New Hampshire Grants, in 1777 the Grant owners formed the self-declared independent republic of Vermont which was not officially recognized until after the War.

<sup>1</sup> Burgoyne, John. *A State of the Expedition...* Narrative 6 Correspondence.

<sup>1</sup> Ketchum p 285.

<sup>1</sup> Lincoln to Schuyler, Official Correspondence.

<sup>1</sup> Duling , p 120.

<sup>1</sup> Stark to Gates, Official Correspondence.

<sup>1</sup> Stark to Council of New Hampshire, Official Correspondence.

#### Works Consulted

My deepest gratitude to Eric H. Schnitzer, Saratoga National Historic Park Ranger, Author, and Military Historian for his guidance and support.

Burgoyne, John. *A State of the Expedition from Canada as Laid Before the House of Commons by Lieutenant-General Burgoyne*, London. Printed by J. Almon, London, MDCCLXXX (Reprint by Sagwan Press and Google Books).

Duling, Ennis. "Editing General Stark: John Stark, His Clerk, His Grandson, and the Battle of Bennington." *Historical New Hampshire: Revolutionary New Hampshire on Land and Sea, Volume 69, No. 2, Spring 2016*. Edited by Donna-Belle Garvin.

Elting, John R. *The Battles of Saratoga*. Philip Freneau Press, Monmouth Beach, NJ, 1977.

Foster, Herbert D. and Thomas W. Streeter et al. *Stark's Independent Command at Bennington*. Proceedings of the New York State Historical Association, Vol. 5 (1905), pp. 24-95 Published by: New York State Historical Association. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/42889850>.

Ketchum, Richard M. *Saratoga: Turning Point of America's Revolutionary War*. Henry Holt and Company, New York, 1997.

LaBree, Clifton. *New Hampshire's General John Stark: Live Free or Die: Death is Not the Worst of Evils*. Fading Shadows Imprint, New Boston, NH. 2014.

Primary Sources: Official Correspondence Battle of Bennington. Courtesy of The Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site.

#15 Major General Benjamin Lincoln to General Schuyler, Bennington, August 8, 1777, letter.

#23 General Stark to Council of New Hampshire, Bennington, August 18, 1778, letter.

#27 General Stark to General Gates, Bennington, August 22, 1777, letter.

Rose, Ben Z. *John Stark: Maverick General*. Treeline Press, Lincoln, MA, 2014.

Schnitzer, Eric and Don Troiani. *Campaign to Saratoga-1777: The turning Point of the Revolutionary War in Paintings, Artifacts, and Historical Narrative*, Stackpole Books, Guilford, CT, 2019.

Weddle, Kevin J. *The Compleat Victory: Saratoga and The American Revolution*. Oxford University Press, 2021.

## What the Friends did last Summer

Diane Kozak, Board Member

The summer of 2022 brought the return for activities for many people and the Friends were no different! The Friends are pleased to once again sponsor events at the park. Sponsored this year were two musical programs and one wildlife program.

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, The McKrells were enjoyed by more than 250 people. It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying music and laughter at the Visitors Center!



On September 10th, *Silent Wings Raptor Rehab and Education* a program of the Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York presented an interactive program with six different raptors. Raptors are birds of prey including owls, hawks, eagles, and falcons. The birds presented have permanent handicaps that prevent them from being released back into the wild. The 85 people attending were enthralled with the birds presented from the littlest “Hootie” an Eastern Screech Owl to the largest “Wyatt” an Eurasian Eagle Owl.



A very different musical style filled the air on September 24<sup>th</sup> when the Fifes & Drums of Fort Ticonderoga came to Saratoga. The musicians portrayed Continental Army artillery corps drummers and fifer. They presented a variety of 18<sup>th</sup> Century music played by the British and American armies. 135 attended.



*Fifer Major Audrey with Tim Holmes*

## Superintendent's Message

Leslie Morlock  
Superintendent, Saratoga National Historical Park

Saratoga National Historical Park is excited to continue to provide access to the park and its history this winter. The Visitor Center will be open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Daily through November. Starting December 1 through the end of February, the Visitor Center will be open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday only. It will return to a Daily schedule on March 1, 2023.

Due to the ongoing construction project to improve the Tour Stops and wayside, the Tour Road will continue to be open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on **weekends only** through November 5 and from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm after the time change on November 6. The Tour Road will reopen for the season on April 1, 2023, 7 days a week. Throughout the winter, you can explore the battlefield several ways (hiking, walking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing) sunrise to sunset. While the Tour Road is closed to driving, several miles of roadway (between the visitor center parking area and stop 8) are plowed for emergency access and walking and biking are allowed as weather permits. There are also two groomed cross-country ski trails that encompass portions of the Wilkinson Trail, Horse Trail, and the Tour Road.

The schedule for the park's northern units in Schuylerville and Victory will be as follows. The last to see the inside of the Schuyler House is October 22, but its grounds will remain open sunrise to sunset each day. Victory Woods and Saratoga Monument remain open sunrise to sunset as well but may not be plowed after snowfall. Finally, the Surrender Site is open Daily from sunrise to sunset through November.

## Hardin Monument

**Location:** located at Tour Road Stop 6

**Placed:** erected by the Saratoga Monument Association in 1887

**Inscription:** "Saratoga 1777 British redoubt. To commemorate the services of Lt. John Hardin of Morgan's Rifle Corps who led a successful reconnaissance Sept. 18, 1777, who also distinguished himself in the battles fought on this ground Sept. 19 and Oct. 7 and of whom his commanding officer wrote 'a braver soldier never lived – a better man has rarely died'

John Hardin was born in Fauquier County Va., October 1, 1753, and moved to Kentucky in 1786. He was a veteran of Dunmore's War, the Revolutionary War, and he served with George Rogers Clark in his campaign against the Wabash Indians. With the outbreak of the Revolutionary war, John Hardin entered the Continental Army and joined the Eighth Pennsylvania Regiment as a second lieutenant. He was next assigned to Daniel Morgan's Rifle Corps and was one of the heroes in the battles of Saratoga that resulted in the surrender of British General Burgoyne and his huge army October 16, 1777. He died at the hands of Indians in Ohio in June 1792 while on a mission of peace



Sources:

Saratoga National Historical Park – Facebook; Park's National Historical Register Application  
<http://www.hardinkyhistory.org>

**Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield Board of Directors**

Tim Holmes	President	Carl Anderson	Board Member
Debbie Murphy	Vice-President and Secretary	Chris Hacker	Board Member
Kevin Hedley	Treasurer	Steven Heyman	Board Member
		John Janes	Website Administrator
		Diane Kozak	Newsletter Editor
		Ryan Martin	Board Member
		Brian Mumford	Board Member
		Bob Stokes	Board Member

**Reminder:**

**The Friends membership process changed In January 2021, from  
a rolling month annual membership to a calendar year term.**

**No individual membership renewal notices will be sent.**

<p align="center"><b>Become a Friend of Saratoga Battlefield</b></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>E-mail _____</p> <p align="center">FRIENDS OF SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD IS A NOT- FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION INCORPORATED UNDER THE N.Y.S EDUCATION LAW.</p>	<p><b>Choose your membership level:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Enlisted Personnel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Noncommissioned Officer (Noncom)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Commissioned Officer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$100: Field Grade Officer “Battlefield Club”</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (&gt;\$100 also Battlefield Club)</p> <p align="center">Make checks payable to: FRIENDS OF SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD and mail this form to:</p> <p align="center">Friends of Saratoga Battlefield 648 Route 32 Stillwater, NY 12170</p>
--	--

**Membership renewal and donations may be completed on-line at  
[www:friendsofsb.org](http://www.friendsofsb.org)**

# More Inside...



SNHP and FOSB Photos All Rights Reserved.



What does this date mean? See Page 2 for details

Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield  
648 Route 32  
Stillwater NY 12170