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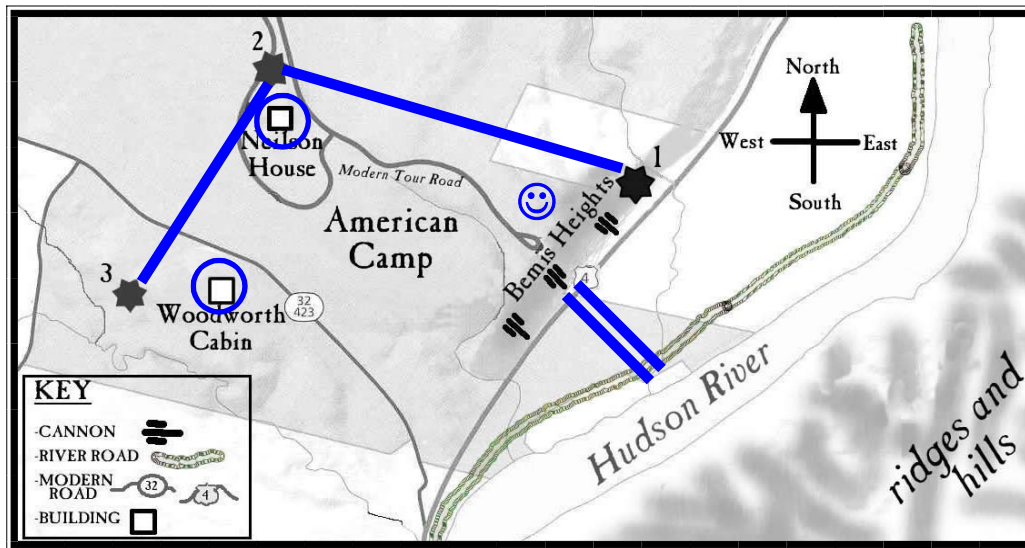
Saratoga

National Historical Park



Why Here? Answer Key

—a map activity—



The question often comes up, "Why did the fighting happen where it did?" The simplest answer is: the Americans planned it that way. Complete this activity to get a better understanding of what the Americans were up to.

1. After getting off your bus, you are standing on Bemis Heights. Draw a smiley face ☺ on Bemis Heights. **look for ☺**
2. American cannons on Bemis Heights could hit and even reach across the river. What is the name of that river? Hudson Draw a dotted line from each cannon to across the river.
3. The Americans also built a few fortified lines on the flood plain, so as to control the River Road. Draw a double line from the middle cannon to the River Road. **▬▬▬**
4. British soldiers would want to avoid this area by going around it. What rough-looking land feature EAST of the river would keep the British from going over there? ridges and hills
5. American soldiers built very strong fortifications, like those in this picture, to protect Bemis Heights. They also built an "L" shaped wall around their camp to protect it. Draw a line from star #1 on Bemis Heights to star #2. Then draw a line from star #2 to star #3. **└**
6. General Horatio Gates, the American commander, made his headquarters in a cabin owned by Ephraim Woodworth. John Neilson's house was used as a mid-level headquarters building. Circle the Woodworth Cabin and the Neilson House. **○**



The fighting never made it here, though. It happened about 1 ½ miles north of here. But the American fortifications did what they were supposed to: keep the British from invading any farther south toward Albany.