



Saratoga National Historical Park

SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAIL

INFORMATIONAL PACKET

FOR

BOY SCOUT and VENTURE LEADERS



PACKET INCLUDES:

1. Welcome to the Saratoga National Historic Trail System
2. Award requirements
3. Directions for the Trail, including map
4. Trail guidelines
5. Scout Leader's answer sheet for trail questionnaire
6. Trail questionnaire

SPONSORED BY:

Twin Rivers Council, B.S.A.
253 Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, NY 12205
(518) 869-6436

Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, NY 12170
(518) 664-9821 ext. 224

Saratoga National Historical Trail

General Information

The Saratoga National Historical Park and the Twin Rivers Council Boy Scouts of America invite you to hike and explore the historic Saratoga Battlefield, site of the turning point of the American Revolution. Opened in 1987, the Wilkinson Trail and the accompanying Scout Annex Trail are part of the National Recreation Trails system of the National Park Service and the Historic Trails program of the Boy Scouts of America.

Arrangements

The park entrances are on **U.S. Route 4 and New York State Route 32 between the towns of Stillwater and Schuylerville, about 30 miles north of Albany, NY.** The park is open every day except major holidays. The Visitor Center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Call the Battlefield at (518) 664-9821 to learn the open hours of the grounds, as these hours change during the year. Since the Battlefield is a federal facility, it is required that Scouting units file a tour permit to visit the park.

There are no camping or other overnight accommodations at the Saratoga Battlefield. Park opening and closing hours are strictly enforced. Park personnel cannot make arrangements concerning overnight accommodations. Reservations for overnight stays at the local camp operated by Twin Rivers Council BSA can be made by calling (518) 869-6436.

As Scouting is an educational organization, **the Saratoga National Historical Park does not charge an admission fee to Scouts attending as a unit** and with proper adult leadership. At least two adult leaders are required at all times. It is recommended that participating Scout units be in uniform.

Park visitors are able to follow in the footsteps of Revolutionary War soldiers using much of the same road system that the British Army used in 1777. The Wilkinson Trail, our main hiking trail, covers 4.2 miles and visits both of the main battle sites from the Battles of Saratoga. The extended Scout trail covers about 8 miles and includes the Wilkinson Trail as well as the Scout Annex Trail. Trail sites include the Benedict Arnold "Boot Monument" and the headquarters of the British Army. The Cub Scout hiking trail covers about 2 miles. Some sections of the trail have rough terrain. Other parts of the trail may be wet or muddy, especially in the spring or after heavy rain. Proper footwear is advisable.

Drinking water must be brought, as there is none available on the trail. There are no vending machines for either food or drinks. No public telephones are available at the park. It is recommended that each unit carry a cell phone. Saratoga County participates in the 911 system for emergency services. **In case of emergency, after calling 911, you must call the Park Rangers at (518) 527-5898 or 5899.**

This Informational packet contains all the basic information pertaining to the trail experience, including written trail directions and a map. Additional copies are available at the Park Visitor Center.

Award Requirements

For Boy Scouts and Venture groups:

- A **Trail Patch** is available to all youth and leaders who complete the main loop of the Wilkinson Trail (approx. 4.2 miles). The patches cost \$3.00 each.
 - The **Trail Medal** is available to all Scout or Venture youth who hike the Wilkinson Trail and Scout Annex Trail (a total of approximately 8 miles) and complete the Trail Questionnaire with at least 70% accuracy. Participating Scouts who complete the extended hike for the medal also qualify for the patch.
- NOTE: As of spring of 2010, Twin Rivers Council is updating its Wilkinson Trail award program, and does not have the trail medals available at the present time.**

For Cub Scouts:

- A **Trail Patch** is available to all Cub Scouts and leaders who complete the Cub Scout hike on the Wilkinson Trail (approximately 2 miles) or complete the Tour Road by car or bicycle. The patches cost \$3.00 each.

- A **Trail Pin** is available to all Cub Scouts who complete the Cub Scout Hike or tour and the trail questionnaire (with at least 70% accuracy). Cubs completing the hike or tour also qualify for the trail patch. The pins costs \$3.00 each.

Trail Awards are available directly from Twin Rivers Boy Scout Council. Units interested in these awards must contact Council to order them.

SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL INFORMATION

WELCOME!

The Saratoga National Historical Park and the Twin Rivers Council, B.S.A., welcome you to hike and explore the historic Saratoga Battlefield, known as the "Turning Point of the American Revolution." The historic trail you are planning to hike will traverse over some of the most significant areas in the Battlefield.

NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS (NATIONAL PARK SERVICE)

National Recreation Trails are located throughout the country. They provide for many activities such as hiking, skiing, and horseback riding.

The Saratoga Battlefield is proud that the Wilkinson Trail (opened in 1987) is part of the National Trail System. Park visitors are now able to follow the footsteps of the British using much of the same road system that the British Army used in 1777.

HISTORIC TRAILS PROGRAM (BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA)

Love of America and dedication to our country depend upon an understanding of appreciation for the ideals, principles and traditions that have made this country strong. The *Historic Trails Program* of the Boy Scouts of America encourages Scout units to foster this understanding and appreciation. It does so in the context of Scouting, a program which itself helps to instill these ideals, principles, and traditions through personal fitness, self-reliance, teamwork, leadership skills, knowledge of local history and tradition, and a practical understanding of conservation. The Wilkinson Trail at the Saratoga National Historical Park joins more than 200 trails across the United States in providing these opportunities for young adults.

PARK ADMISSION

- As Scouting is an educational organization, there is no admission fee to the Park, as long as the Scouts are here as a unit and with proper Leadership.
- The Park is open every day of the year, except major holidays. Our Visitor Center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Call or write the Battlefield to learn the open hours for the grounds, as these hours change during the year.

AWARD REQUIREMENTS

- Trail Patch: available to all Scouts and Leaders who complete the main loop of the Wilkinson Trail (approx. 4.2 miles).
PATCH COST: \$3.00 available through Twin Rivers Boy Scout Council
- Trail Medal: available to all Scouts who complete the Wilkinson Trail, Scout Annex Trail (see Directions and Map), and the Trail Questionnaire. The questionnaire must be at least 70% correct (TO BE VERIFIED BY SCOUT LEADER)

to qualify for the Medal. The required hike for the Medal is approximately 8 miles.

MEDAL COST: \$5.00 available through Twin Rivers Boy Scout Council

NOTE: As of spring of 2010, Twin Rivers Council is updating their Wilkinson Trail program and does not have Trail Medals at the present time.

THE TRAIL

The Saratoga National Historic Trail begins at the far edge of the lawn behind the Visitor Center. Most of the trail will follow the Wilkinson Trail; the Scout Annex Trail that extends from that will include several additional historical points, including the Benedict Arnold "Boot Monument", the headquarters of the British Army, and the traditional location of the British General Simon Fraser Burial Site.

Scouts on the hike will cover about 8 miles. Some sections of the Trail consist of rough terrain. Other sections may be wet or muddy, especially in the spring or after heavy rain. Proper footwear is therefore advisable. Drinking water must be brought, as there is none available along the Trail.

DIRECTIONS – 8 mile hike

The trailhead kiosk is marked with a white Boy Scout emblem. From there, follow the gray marker posts (see SIDEBAR). This will take you downhill and to the left, through a small stand of trees, and into the fields visible from the Visitor Center.

Trail marker posts are gray recycled posts stamped

**Wilkinson
Trail**

Scout Annex Trail marker posts are lightly colored wooden posts marked with letters "**ST**" for Scout Trail.

When you reach the tour road for the first time (approx. ½ mile on the Trail), turn left on the tour road to Stop 7, the Breymann Redoubt. From there, continue on the tour road to its next intersection with the Wilkinson Trail, and turn left on the Trail. Continue until you reach Trail Marker F, and follow the trail bearing to the left. This is the main section of the Scout Annex Trail (see SIDEBAR). Proceed on the Annex Trail to the tour road and bear left on the road, crossing the bridge over the Great Ravine. Formed by the stream cutting through it, the Kroma Kill (from the Dutch 'kil', meaning, 'creek') below and the ravine itself posed a notable obstacle to the British Army as they tried to move thousands of soldiers and many heavy cannon through this area.

After the overpass bridge, continue walking the tour road to Stop 9, the Great Redoubt. Here, the British set up a redoubt (from the French, meaning, "place of refuge"), which was a log and earthen fortification. Constructed in three sections, this was but one of several redoubts set up by the British. On the flats below, along

the Hudson River, the British Army set up their hospital, artillery park, baggage storage area, and a bridge of boats –all of which the Great Redoubt protected.

Leaving Stop 9 (walking right, following the tour road), continue along the tour road to Stop 10, the Fraser Burial Site and Trail. Follow the path down the short hill, keeping to the right at the trail intersection. This will take you down hill to where British General Simon Fraser was buried. Follow the trail to the base of the hill and turn left, along the Old Champlain Canal, and go to the trail's end at the site of the Taylor House. It was here that General Fraser was brought when he was mortally wounded on the second and final day of fighting in the Battle of Saratoga (laid down on a table by the soldiers carrying him --a table that had been set for an officers' dinner!). Retracing your steps along the Canal trail, turn right at the first intersection to go back up hill. This will return you to the parking area.

Leaving Stop 10, retrace your steps along the tour road, re-crossing the bridge over the Great Ravine. Instead of returning to the hiking trail, continue up the tour road to Stop 8, British General Burgoyne's headquarters. **CAUTION: you will be facing oncoming vehicle traffic on this portion of the walk.**

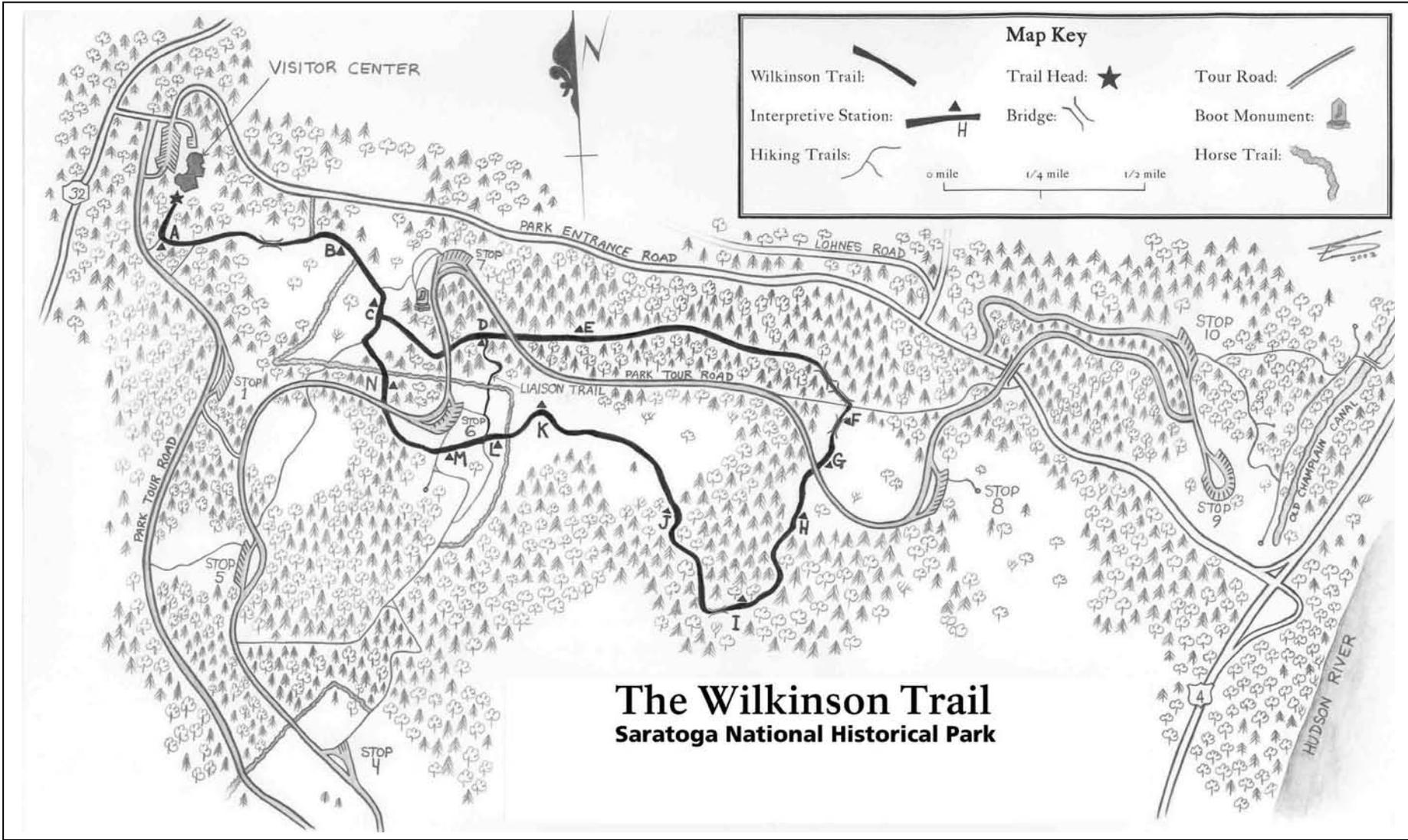
After leaving Stop 8, continue in the same direction on the tour road, approximately ¼ of a mile, to where you will again see the white signs for the Wilkinson Trail. Turn left on the trail, and follow it to Stop 6, the Balcarres Redoubt (Trail actually runs through the site). Once done here, follow the Trail (right) back to the Visitor Center.

TRAIL GUIDELINES

Since the Saratoga Battlefield is a unit of the National Park Service, there are certain regulations that must be followed:

1. All artifacts are protected by laws that forbid digging up and/ or removing these objects. Metal detectors are strictly forbidden in the National Park: violators are subject to arrest and prosecution.
2. The removal of all natural objects, including the picking of flowers and plants, or the removal of wood, is forbidden.
3. All wild animals are protected from hunting and from disturbing. It is important that you do not attempt to pet, catch, or harass any wild animal, as they may carry diseases. You must also not try to feed them, as this food may be potentially harmful to the animals.
4. All pets must be on a leash, with a person in control of the other end of the leash, at all times while in the Park.
5. Fires are permitted only at the picnic area near the Visitor Center. Picnic facilities are available at Stop 10. You may eat along the trail, but please take all litter with you.
6. Report lost or found items to a Park Ranger or come to the Visitor Center.

***Take nothing but pictures,
leave nothing but footprints!***





SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
and **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAIL ANSWER SHEET

Questions	Answers
1. What is the title of the film at the Visitor Center?	Something More At Stake
2. What General commanded the British forces invading south from Canada to capture Albany, NY?	John Burgoyne
3. What two bodies of water were they using?	Lake Champlain, Hudson River
4. What General commanded the American forces when the British left Canada? He had a home in Saratoga, now known as Schuylerville	Philip Schuyler
5. What General replaced the General in #4?	Horatio Gates
6. On what date did the first day of fighting take place in the Battles of Saratoga?	September 19 th , 1777
7. In what location did the fighting take place that first day?	Freeman's Farm
8. When did the second day of fighting take place?	October 7 th , 1777
9. How many years did the Revolutionary War last?	8
10. What European country supplied some of the muskets that the Americans used at Saratoga? This country would later sign an alliance with the U.S. as a result of the American victory here.	France
11. What state did black soldier Edom London fight on the side of?	Massachusetts
12. What did the British commanding General call the surrender agreement?	the Articles of Convention
13. What Iroquois nation sided with the United States during the American Revolution?	Oneida
14. What were the main foods issued to Revolutionary War soldiers?	Bread / hard biscuits, salted beef / pork
15. What long, pointed weapon was placed at the end of a musket for use in hand-to-hand combat?	Bayonet
16. Women following 18 th century armies and helping tend the sick, do laundry, and scavenge for supplies were called what?	Camp followers

17. Many of the soldiers in the Crown Forces were not British. What other nationality made up a large part of the British Army?	German
18. What is the weight of the "12-pound" cannons?	Over 2400 pounds each
19. What officer commanded the Grenadiers of the nationality in #17? A redoubt is named after him.	Colonel Breymann
20. What happened to him (#19) during the attack on his redoubt on the second day of fighting, 7 October 1777?	he was killed
21. Did this redoubt (#19) fall to the Americans?	yes
22. Other troops besides British and those in #17 made up the Crown Forces. One such group occupied two log cabins that were to protect the left flank of the redoubt in #17. Who were they?	Canadians
23. The "Nameless Boot" Monument commemorates what American officer who played a notable role in the defeat of the British?	Benedict Arnold
24. What part of his body was wounded?	his (left) leg
25. Who had this monument erected and in what year?	John Watts de Peyster, 1877
26. Why is the Boot Monument nameless? What did the officer in question do a few years later that caused the Americans to try capturing him?	he became a traitor
27. What major river running north to south in New York State was the most important transportation route in the state and used by the British?	the Hudson River
28. Why did the British build the river redoubts?	to protect their artillery park
29. What night did Burgoyne order the retreat of his army?	8 October 1777
30. Name the village where the British retreated to and where they eventually surrendered?	Saratoga, NY
31. What is this village called today?	Schuylerville, NY
32. What unpleasant duty did Burgoyne and his army perform on 17 October 1777?	surrender to the Americans
33. What British general, born in Scotland, was fatally wounded in the Second Battle and buried in the Great Redoubt?	Simon Fraser
34. What types of draft animals were used by the British to move their artillery?	horses and oxen
35. Being wounded or sick in any war is painful and frightening. It was especially so for the British at Saratoga, for Burgoyne was forced to do what with these men as he retreated?	leave them behind in the care of the Americans
36. What is the name of the canal used in the 1800s that runs through the Park and follows the same north-south route chosen by Burgoyne in 1777?	the Champlain Canal
37. What two bodies of water did this canal link?	the Hudson River and Lake Champlain
38. In what building did the General in #33 die? What was the time and date of his death?	the Taylor House 8 a.m. on 8 October 1777
39. What was an officer's tent called?	a marquis
40. What important officer in the British Army made these fields his headquarters?	General Burgoyne
41. What is the date of the First Battle of Saratoga?	19 September 1777

42. What four British regiments were part of Hamilton's Column during the First Battle?	9 th , 20 th , 21 st , and 62 nd
43. What was the name of the family that lived on the field where the First Battle and part of the Second Battle were fought?	Freeman
44. What type of work did this family do before the battles?	farming
45. What happened to this family's house and outbuildings after the First Battle?	occupied by the British
46. What were the defensive fortifications of log and earth construction that the British built called?	redoubts
47. The Balcarres Redoubt was named after Major Balcarres. What part of the British Army did he command?	the Light Infantry
48. What outwork was constructed by the British to defend the Balcarres Redoubt? Its name derives from the many casualties suffered near it in the Second Battle.	Bloody Knoll

**ADDITIONAL BOY SCOUT QUESTIONNAIRES
ARE AVAILABLE AT THE VISITOR CENTER.**



SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

and BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRAIL QUESTIONNAIRE

Questions	Answers
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FILM

1. What is the title of the film at the Visitor Center?	
2. What General commanded the British forces invading south from Canada to capture Albany, NY?	
3. What two bodies of water were they using?	
4. What General commanded the American forces when the British left Canada? He had a home in Saratoga, now known as Schuylerville	
5. What General replaced the General in #4?	
6. On what date did the first day of fighting take place in the Battles of Saratoga?	
7. In what location did the fighting take place that first day?	
8. When did the second day of fighting take place?	

VISITOR CENTER

9. How many years did the Revolutionary War last?	
10. What European country supplied over 100,000 muskets that the Americans used at Saratoga? This country would later sign an alliance with the U.S. as a result of the American victory here.	
11. What state did black soldier Edom London fight on the side of?	
12. What did the British commanding General call the surrender agreement?	
13. What Iroquois nation sided with the United States during the American Revolution?	
14. What were the main foods issued to Revolutionary War soldiers?	
15. What long, pointed weapon was placed at the end of a musket for use in hand-to-hand combat?	
16. Women following 18 th century armies and helping tend the sick, do laundry, and scavenge for supplies were called what?	
17. Many of the soldiers in the Crown Forces were not British. What other nationality made up a large part of the British Army?	
18. What is the weight of the "12-pound" cannons?	

BREYMANN REDOUBT (STOP 7)

19. What officer commanded the Grenadiers of the nationality in #17? A redoubt is named after him.	
20. What happened to him (#19) during the attack on his redoubt on the second day of fighting, 7 October 1777?	
21. Did this redoubt (#19) fall to the Americans?	
22. Other troops besides British and those in #17 made up the Crown Forces. One such group occupied two log cabins that were to protect the left flank of the redoubt in #17. Who were they?	
23. The "Nameless Boot" Monument commemorates what American officer who played a notable role in the defeat of the British?	
24. What part of his body was wounded?	
25. Who had this monument erected and in what year?	
26. Why is the Boot Monument nameless? What did the officer in question do a few years later that caused the Americans to try capturing him?	

THE GREAT REDOUBT (STOP 9)

27. What major river running north to south in New York State was the most important transportation route in the state and used by the British?	
28. Why did the British build the river redoubts?	
29. What night did Burgoyne order the retreat of his army?	
30. Name the village where the British retreated to and where they eventually surrendered?	
31. What is this village called today?	
32. What unpleasant duty did Burgoyne and his army perform on 17 October 1777?	

FRASIER BURIAL SITE (STOP 10)

33. What British general, born in Scotland, was fatally wounded in the Second Battle and buried in the Great Redoubt?	
34. What types of draft animals were used by the British to move their artillery?	
35. Being wounded or sick in any war is painful and frightening. It was especially so for the British at Saratoga, for Burgoyne was forced to do what with these men as he retreated?	
36. What is the name of the canal used in the 1800s that runs through the Park and followed the same north-south route chosen by Burgoyne in 1777?	

37. What two bodies of water did this canal link?	
38. In what building did the General in #33 die? What was the time and date of his death?	

BURGOYNE'S HEADQUARTERS (STOP 8)

39. What was an officer's tent called?	
40. What important officer in the British Army made these fields his headquarters?	

FREEMAN'S FARM / BALCARRES REDOUBT (STOP 6)

41. What is the date of the First Battle of Saratoga?	
42. What four British regiments were part of Hamilton's Column during the First Battle?	
43. What was the name of the family that lived on the field where the First Battle and part of the Second Battle were fought?	
44. What type of work did this family do before the battles?	
45. What happened to this family's house and outbuildings after the First Battle?	
46. What were the defensive fortifications of log and earth construction which the British built called?	
47. The Balcarres Redoubt was named after Major Balcarres. What part of the British Army did he command?	
48. What outwork was constructed by the British to defend the Balcarres Redoubt? Its name derives from the many casualties suffered near it in the Second Battle.	