

### or https://go.nps.gov/saraaudio

Tours include: Wilkinson Trail Hiking Adult Tour Wilkinson Trail Hiking Kid Tour

# **For Emergencies Dial 911**

Saratoga National Historical Park \* Visitor Center Parking Lot \* State Route 32\* Stillwater NY 12170

Nearest intersection: Lohnes Road

Report criminal activity or violations of park laws/rules (calls kept anonymous): 518-670-2947

Visitor Center: 518-670-2985 \* www.nps.gov/sara \* Facebook and Twitter: @SaratogaNHP

**Station A:** Two miles southeast of here, Americans commanded the bluffs directly over the Hudson River which forced the British to make a stand on the area you are about to walk.

**Station B**: This area was the Samuel McBride Farm during the 1770s. While Samuel McBride was a revolutionary, his brother (and nearby neighbor), John, was a royalist American who served as a guide for Burgoyne!

**Station C:** Breymann's Fortified Camp, named after Lt. Col. Breymann, was built by hundreds of German, royalist American, and French Canadian troops fighting for the British.

**Station D:** British Gen. Simon Fraser led soldiers through this area to support their fellows fighting nearby on September 19.

**Station E:** This is loyalist John Freeman's farm. The property witnessed one of the longest battles of the war between Gen. John Burgoyne's British forces and United States troop commanded by Gen. Horatio Gates on September 19 and October 7.

**Station F:** The British arrived here through a ravine just to the north. Victorious on September 19, they built a strong defensive line along this ridge. Vulnerable after losing the fight on October 7, they fell back to the Hudson River

**Station G:** These fields witnessed many battlefield casualties. The deceased of both sides were hastily and poorly buried.

**Station H:** Fields once bristling with crops now bristled with German muskets on September 19 as German auxiliary soldiers advanced west from the Hudson River to support British troops at Freeman's farm.

**Station I:** This steep but scenic ravine saw many British soldiers traveling between Freeman's farm and the main British fortified camp just east of here.

**Station J:** Hoping for reinforcements, Gen. Burgoyne's army encamped on these grounds for over two weeks between September 19 and October 7.

**Station K:** The British found this clearing full of crops which were of great value to supplement their dwindling rations.

**Station L:** You are about to walk the same trail the British army's center column took after crossing the Great Ravine on September 19.

**Station M:** The hush of the forest! During the battles this provided extensive timber used for fuel, fortifications, and fencing.

**Station N:** Early settlers used many of the wild plants growing along the trail for nutrients and variety in their diet.

## Saratoga National Historical Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



# Wilkinson Trail Guide



Welcome to the Wilkinson Trail – a 4.2 mile looped footpath through fields, woods, and hills in the northern section of the Saratoga Battlefield. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water, snacks, bug spray, and sunscreen.

As you walk along this trail you will retrace the same path where soldiers marched to and from battle, where determined souls overcame overwhelming odds, and where America's fight for freedom breathed new life. Mapped in 1777 by British Lt. William Wilkinson, this path is part of a preserved Revolutionary War road system. **Horses and bicycles are not allowed.** 

#### **Interpretive Stations**

These now peaceful grounds witnessed desperate combat in the autumn of 1777, the second year of America's Revolutionary War. An invading British force intent on crushing the American revolution encountered a determined American army that instead defeated the invaders. The stunning victory heartened the American cause and brought international recognition and aid vital to winning our independence.