

# **SARATOGA**

## **FREEMAN'S FARM / BEMIS HEIGHTS**

Revolutionary War

---

Saratoga Campaign

---

New York

---

September 19 – October 7, 1777

LEARN

*About the Battle*

VISIT

*the Battlefield*

---

---

In the fall of 1777, British grand strategy called for a coordinated three-pronged offensive by three separate armies that would converge on Albany, New York. For a variety of reasons, the only British force that got close to the target was General John Burgoyne's army of 7,500 men, which had advanced south from Canada.

By mid-September, Burgoyne's force reached the northern outskirts of the small village of Saratoga, New York.

Opposing Burgoyne was the Northern Department of the Continental Army, commanded by General Horatio Gates. Gates's army numbered 8,500 men, including 500 elite Virginian riflemen under Colonel Daniel Morgan. Also among Gates's subordinates was General Benedict Arnold, who had already distinguished himself as one of the best combat officers in the Continental Army.

To disrupt the British advance, Gates ordered his men to construct defenses on the crest of Bemis Heights, part a series of bluffs commanding both the Hudson River

and the road to Albany.

On September 19, 1777, Burgoyne divided his army into three columns, each tasked with probing the American defenses. Colonel Daniel Morgan's light infantry engaged the center column near the farm of John Freeman. It was a hotly contested fight, with the field changing hands several times. By evening, the British held the field of battle, but the action had sapped their advance of momentum.

After the fighting at Freeman's Farm, Burgoyne chose to dig in, hoping to be reinforced by General Sir Henry Clinton forces in New York City, Burgoyne chose to dig in. While the British remained stuck, the American army grew to 13,000 strong.

On October 7, receiving intelligence that Burgoyne's men were on the move, the Americans attacked the British position, forcing the enemy back. In the ensuing fight, popular British General Simon Fraser was mortally wounded, picked off by one of Morgan's riflemen.

The British had erected a defensive redoubt behind their forward position, the Balcarres Redoubt. It was formidable and well-defended. Several hundred yards away was the less impressive Breymann Redoubt. Defended by 200 German soldiers, the Breymann Redoubt was overwhelmed and captured in an assault led by Benedict Arnold.

The next morning, Burgoyne's army attempted to escape north, only to be stopped by harassing American pursuers and the onset of heavy rain. Cold, hungry, and exhausted, the British dug and prepared to defend themselves. Within two days, they were surrounded.

On October 17, 1777, after a week-long negotiation, Burgoyne surrendered his army. The American cause had achieved its most decisive victory to-date.

---

## SARATOGA

---

MORE BATTLES IN THIS CAMPAIGN

## BATTLE FACTS

*RESULT*

*American Victory*

COMMANDERS

AMERICAN

Horatio Gates

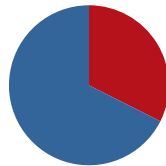
BRITISH

John Burgoyne

FORCES ENGAGED

22,200

American  
15,000



British  
7,200

TOTAL ESTIMATED CASUALTIES

1,465

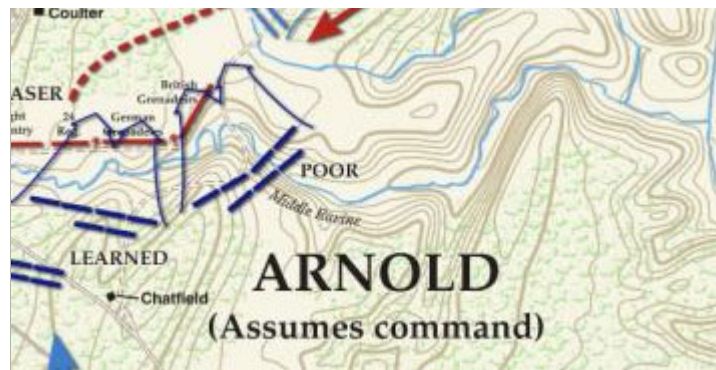
American  
330

British  
1,135

90 killed  
240 wounded  
0 missing & captured

440 killed  
695 wounded  
6,222 missing & captured

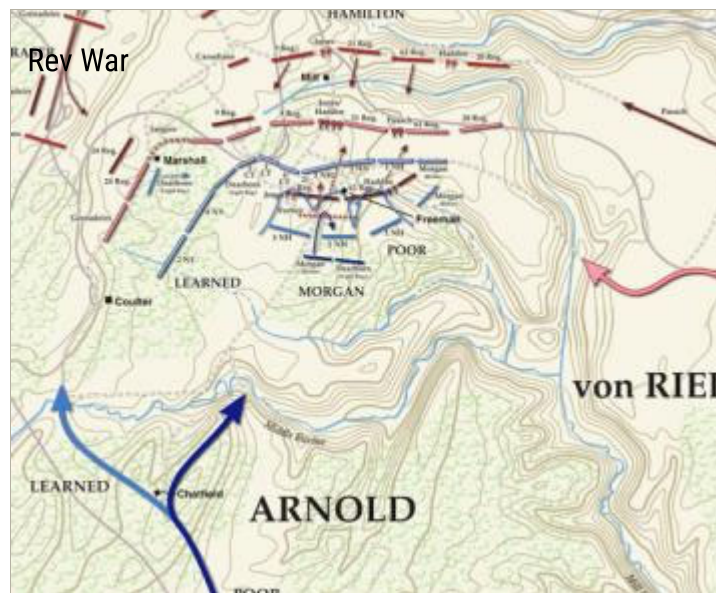




Battle Map

## Saratoga: Bemis Heights - October 7, 1777

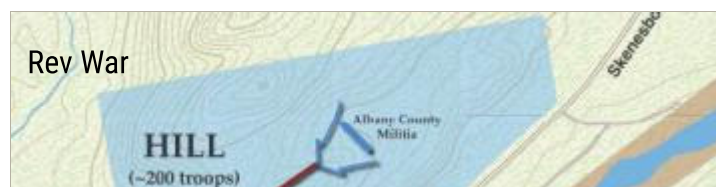
BATTLE MAP | The Revolutionary War Trust's (formerly Campaign 1776) map of Bemis Heights at the...

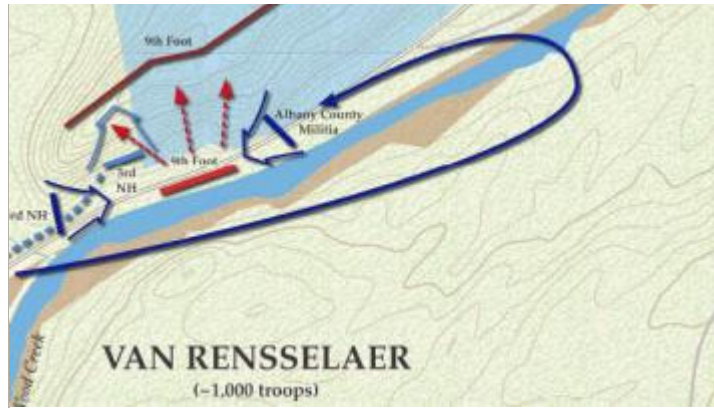


Battle Map

## Saratoga: Freeman's Farm - September 19, 1777

BATTLE MAP | The Revolutionary War Trust's (formerly Campaign 1776) map of the action at Freeman's...





Battle Map

## The Battle of Fort Ann - July 8, 1777

BATTLE MAP | The Revolutionary War Trust's (formerly Campaign 1776) map of the Battle of Fort Ann,...

# JOIN THE FIGHT

Donate today to preserve battlefields in America and protect the legacy of our nation's defining conflicts.

**Donate Now**

---

TOPICS

Topic

## Military Units

---

Civil War Topic

## Abraham Lincoln

[See more Topics](#)

---

Civil War Topic

## Photography in the Civil War

## RELATED BATTLES

---

Topic

## Battlefield Archaeology

---

Rev War



Topic

## Navies in America's History

---

Topic

## Soldier Life

---

### Bennington

In the summer of 1777, Gen. John Burgoyne's army moved south from Canada as part of the overall...

Topic

## Women in War

---

Rev War





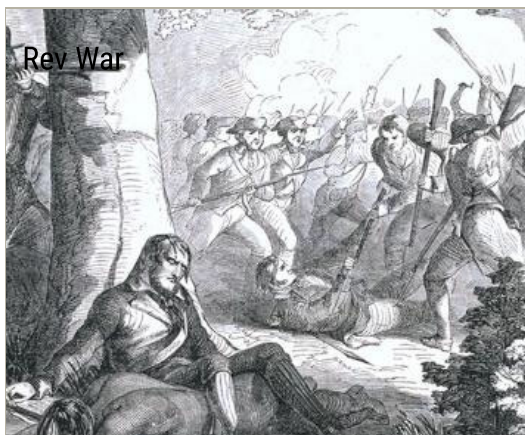
## Hubbardton

During the 1777 Saratoga Campaign, there were several crucial limited engagements that played a...



## Fort Ann

By July 6, 1777, British troops under Lt. Gen. John Burgoyne had gained the high ground above Fort...



## Oriskany

The Battle of Oriskany was part of British operations in the Hudson



## Valley. The British, under the...