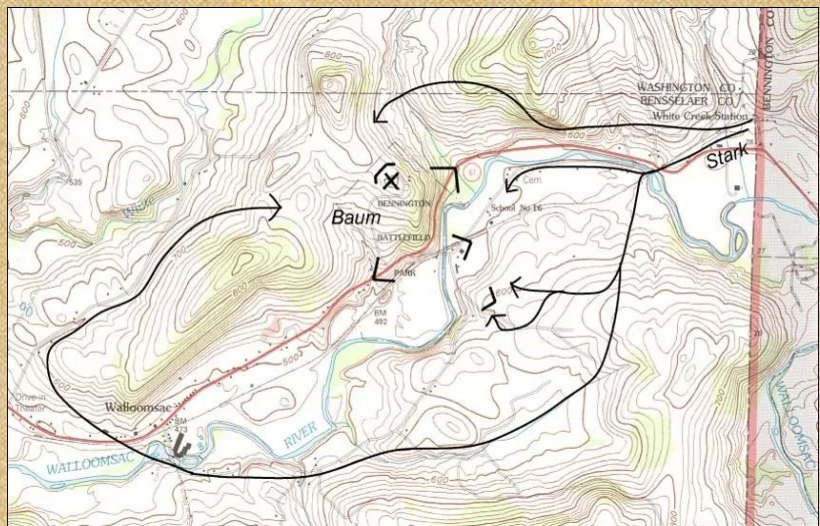


New Hampshire Soldiers At The Battle Of Bennington August 16, 1777



Presented by Historical Society of Cheshire County
 Source: New Hampshire Soldiers at Bennington
 Published: 1891

Why was the Battle at Bennington Fought?

The Battle of Bennington took place on the outskirts of Bennington, VT (1777) today, the land resides in New York state.

The British wanted to cut New England off from the rest of the Colonies and the British wanted the American military stores that were kept at Bennington.

The revolutionary battle was between a detachment from the British General John Burgoyne's invading army and New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Vermont militias commanded by General John Stark of New Hampshire, and Colonel Seth Warner of Vermont.

There were two engagements on August 16, 1777 that resulted in a decisive victory for the Americans. General Burgoyne's army suffered irreparable losses and failed to capture the supplies needed for a timely push on to Albany, New York.

Source: <https://parks.ny.gov/visit/historic-sites/bennington-battlefield-state-historic-site>

A brief history: The Battle of Bennington August 16, 1777 (1 of 2)

In the spring of 1777 a British Army under General John Burgoyne started down the Hudson River from Canada. As Burgoyne marched south, patriot militia began to gather in Vermont and New Hampshire. John Stark, a veteran soldier, was given command of the 1500-man New Hampshire Brigade. Hearing that Burgoyne was planning a raid into Vermont, Stark marched his men to Bennington. There they were joined by militia regiments from Vermont and western Massachusetts.

On August 11, Burgoyne sent out a mixed force of some 800 Canadians, Loyalists, Indians, British, and Hessian (German) mercenaries on a foraging expedition. This mostly-German force was harassed by small bands of militia, and its Hessian commander sent for reinforcements; he stopped to await them a few miles from Bennington. With the enemy force position on and around a large hill, General Stark decided to use his 2,000 militiamen to surround them. "Yonder are the Redcoats," Stark is supposed to have said. "We will defeat them or Molly Stark will sleep a widow tonight."

Source:

<https://www.nationalguard.mil/Resources/Image-Gallery/Historical-Paintings/Heritage-Series/Battle-of-Bennington/>

Brief history of the Battle of Bennington August 16, 1777 (2 of 2)

Small bands of militiamen, pretending to be loyal Tories, worked their way behind enemy positions. When firing began, these men turned on the Hessians and Tories around them. Those not killed fled into the woods, pursued by the militiamen. Other Americans surged up the hill to the Hessian breastworks, and for two hours the battle raged. Hessian commander was mortally wounded when, ammunition exhausted, he and his Dragoons attempted to hack their way off the hill with their swords.

When the battle was at its height reinforcements arrived from Burgoyne. Luckily, the Vermont militia came up or about the same time to reinforce Stark, and again the fighting raged. American victory was assured when the militiamen drove off the Hessian reinforcements.

Source:

<https://www.nationalguard.mil/Resources/Image-Gallery/Historical-Paintings/Heritage-Series/Battle-of-Bennington/>

Learn More About The Battle Of Bennington

Mount Vernon

<https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/battle-of-bennington>

Vermont Historical Society

Presentation Video: Battle of Bennington

<https://vermonthistory.org/battle-of-bennington>

Bennington VT Historical Society in collaboration with th Bennington Museum

Presentation: Inside the Battle of Bennington (including stories of Molly Stark, other women, NH Militia)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCLO9yRLkPQ>

Bennington Battlefield State Historical Site

<https://parks.ny.gov/visit/historic-sites/bennington-battlefield-state-historic-site>

New Hampshire soldiers at the Battle of Bennington

Do you want to learn the name of the soldiers that went to the Battle of Bennington from your town?

Search the Archives.org for “New Hampshire Men at the Battle of Bennington”.

<https://archive.org/details/rollofnewhampshi00gilmrich/mode/2up>

How to search a last name or town

1: Click on the magnifying glass search icon

2: Type the name of the town or last name of individual

3: Press the enter key to begin your search.

