



NYSFHC Session Syllabus

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Albany as the Revolutionary War Hub of New York State: Sources in the Capital Region

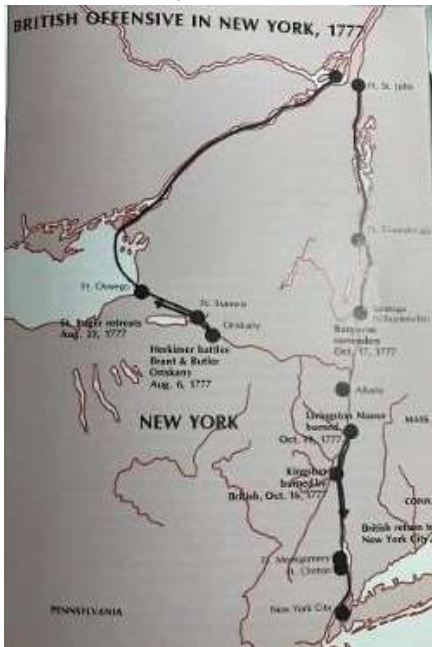
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The Setting



The Story

1775, May 10. Capture of Fort Ticonderoga: Ethan Allen and the “Green Mountain Boys” surprised the sleeping British garrison at Fort Ticonderoga and took the fort, called the Key to a Continent, without firing a shot. This was the first American victory of the Revolutionary War.



Martin, James Kirby. “The Hudson River in the Revolution: America’s Key to Victory.” *Hudson River Valley Review*, 35:1 (Autumn 2018), 2-15.

1777, April 20 – First New York State Constitution adopted.

Spring of 1777 – The British ordered three of their armies to merge in Albany. Only one army, however, under General John Burgoyne, made the final push to the city. American General Horatio Gates’ Northern Department of the Continental Army, stood in their way.

1777, June – George Clinton elected as the first governor of the State of New York.

1777, July 9 – New York declared independence from Great Britain.

1777, 2 and 6 July – The Siege of Fort Ticonderoga.

August 16, 1777, Battle of Bennington/Walloomsac was the precursor to the defeat of Burgoyne’s army two months later at Saratoga, turning the tide of war in favor of the Americans.

Gabriel, Michael P. *The Battle of Bennington: Soldiers and Civilians*. Charleston, S. C.: History Press, 2012.

Lord, Philip, Jr. *War over Wallomscoick: Land Use and Settlement Pattern on the Bennington Battlefield – 1777*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1989.

September 19, 1777 – First Battle of Saratoga: Freeman’s Farm

October 17, 1777 Second Battle of Saratoga: The Americans defeated the British in one of the decisive battles of American History world. This victory marked the turning point of the Revolution, leading to the Americans’ alliance with the French and eventual victory.

Cubbison, Douglas R. *Burgoyne and the Saratoga Campaign: His Papers*. Norman,

Okla.: Arthur H. Clark Company, 2012.

Ketchum, Richard M. *Saratoga: Turning Point of America’s Revolutionary War*. New York: Holt, 1997.

Mills, Borden H. “Albany County’s Part in the Battle of Saratoga.” *Proceedings of the New York State Historical Association*, 15 (1916), 204-223.

Schnitzer, Eric, and Don Troiani. *Don Troiani’s Campaign to Saratoga – 1777: The Turning Point of the Revolutionary War in Paintings, Artifacts, and Historical Narrative*. Lanham, Md.: Stackpole Books/Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc., 2019.

The Records

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- Bielinski, Stefan. *A Guide to the Revolutionary War Manuscripts in the New York State Library*. Albany: New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, 1976.
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Albany Institute of History and Art, Albany

- "Account Book Collection, Eighteenth Century, 1734-1801." 13 vols.
- Albany County, N. Y. Committee for Detecting Conspiracies. "Bailbonds of Persons Appearing before the Albany Committee for Detecting Conspiracies, 1777-1779."
- Albany Co., N. Y. Committee for Regulating Prices in the City and County. "Albany Committee for Regulating Prices in the City and County Records, 1779."
- Sill, Richard. "Letter to Elijah Hubbard Regarding Sill's Impression on Albany, March 19, 1783." Manuscript Ms-002278.

Albany County Hall of Records (ACHOR), Albany

- Hall of Records, 95 Tivoli Street, Albany, NY 12207; (518) 436-3663; anchor@albanycounty.com.
- Cemetery Records; Church Records; Court Records; Mayors Court; Civil Cases; Land Records, Probate Records, etc.
- Albany County, N. Y. County Clerk. "Albany County Records. 1742-1842: [Includes:] Oaths of Office for County Officers (1778-1829) (with gaps)." Oaths of Office, 1778-1983; Various Oaths, 1719-1847
- Albany County, N. Y. County Treasurer. "Albany County Tax Records, 1781-1789, and Ledger of State Taxes, 1781-1790."
- Index to Historical Records: <https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showdocument?id=3400>.
- Lowry, David F. *Vestiges of Antiquity and Truth: A Guide to the Court Records at the Albany County Hall of Records*. Albany: Albany County Hall of Records, 1994.

New-York Historical Society, New York City

- "Descriptive Muster Roll of Men Raised out of the Regiment Commanded by Col. Van Ness in Albany Co., in pursuance to an act entitled 'An Act to Raise Troops for the Immediate Defence of the State.'" Manuscript (Misc. Willett), Patricia D. Klingenstein Library, New-York Historical Society,
- "Food Stores Taken from the People of Albany for Use by the Army." (Oct. 29, 1781). Manuscript (Rev. War Muster Rolls: New York Rolls – unpublished), Patricia D. Klingenstein Library, New-York Historical Society, New York City.

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- Bielinski, Stefan. "The People of Colonial Albany 1650-1800: The Profile of a Community." In William Pencak and Conrad E. Wright, eds., *Authority and Resistance in Early New York* (New York: New-York Historical Society, 1988), 1-26.
- Bielinski, Stefan, and Joyce E. Patterson. "**Colonial Albany Society History Project.**" Online: <https://exhibitions.nysm.nysed.gov/albany/welcome.html>. [aka: "The People of Colonial Albany."]
- Crowley, James A. *Old Albany County & the American Revolution*. Troy, N. Y.: Historian Publishing Company, 1979.
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- Grundset, Eric G. *New York in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians*. Washington, D. C.: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 2012.
- Howell, George Rogers and Jonathan Tenney. *Bi-Centennial History of Albany: History of the County of Albany, New York from 1609 to 1886 ...* New York: W. W. Munsell & Co., 1886.
- Johnson, James M., Christopher Pryslopski, and Andrew Villani, eds., *Key to the Northern Country: The Hudson River Valley in the American Revolution* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2013)
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- Morrison, James F. "David Zeh Guards Prisoners." *Schoharie County Historical Review*, 43:4 (Fall/Winter 1979), 7.
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Commissioners for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies

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Historic Cherry Hill, Albany. The Edward Frisbee Center for Collections & Research

523 1/2 South Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12202; 518-434-4791; <http://www.historiccherryhill.org/>.

Van Rensselaer, Philip. "Philip Van Rensselaer Papers 1775-1798" (4 boxes). [During the Revolutionary War, Philip was the Storekeeper of the Northern Department of the Continental Army.]

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