



National Historic Site and Celebration Event Application

Battle of Bennington

The following application requests the **Battle of Bennington (16 August 1777)** be recognized as a National Event by the Sons of the American Revolution. This application has been prepared collaboratively by **New Hampshire SAR** in partnership with the **Walloomsac Battle Chapter of the Empire State Society, Empire State SAR, Vermont SAR, Descendants of the Green Mountain Boys, and Friends of the Bennington Battlefield.**

The Battle of Bennington merits recognition as an event of national significance due to its decisive impact on the course of the American Revolution. On 16 August 1777, citizen militias from Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New York defeated a combined force of British and German troops at a strategically critical moment in the Saratoga campaign. The Patriot victory denied General John Burgoyne essential supplies and manpower, significantly weakening his army and directly contributing to his surrender at Saratoga two months later—an event widely recognized as the turning point of the Revolutionary War. Thomas Jefferson, in an 1805 letter to General Stark, affirmed Bennington’s importance, writing that its victory formed “. . .*the first link in that chain of successes which issued in the surrender at Saratoga . . .*”

The Battle of Bennington has been commemorated **annually since 1778**, making it one of the oldest continuously observed battle commemorations in the United States. This enduring observance reflects the values of unity, courage, and determination that shaped the nation and underscores why the Battle of Bennington deserves lasting national recognition.

SAR involvement in the commemoration is longstanding and substantive. The **Walloomsac Battle Chapter** has been actively involved in supporting the annual ceremony on Hessian Hill since the Chapter’s inception in 1995. For more than a decade, the ceremony has been hosted by the Friends of the Bennington Battlefield, with active participation by SAR and DAR members representing chapters and state societies from New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire. Additional participating organizations include the Friends of the Bennington Battle Monument, the Green Mountain Boys, the 2nd Continental Artillery Regiment, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Ongoing commitment by local SAR organizations remains strong. The Walloomsac Chapter formally dedicated a bench as part of the 2025 Commemoration Ceremony. Curtis Hermann, First Vice President of the New Hampshire State Society, is a member of the Friends of the Bennington Battlefield and currently serves on the 250th Anniversary Planning Committee. These efforts demonstrate sustained SAR leadership and stewardship of this nationally significant Revolutionary War event.

Respectfully Submitted,

Curtis Hermann
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1st Vice-President, New Hampshire SAR

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Vice-Commander, NHSAR Color Guard
Secretary, New Hampshire SAR



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Sponsors: Curtis Hermann and Barry Lewis, New Hampshire SAR.

Event: Battle of Bennington (16 August 1777)

Location: Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site, 5231 Route 67, Walloomsac, NY 12090

1) A recognized battle or event of the Revolution must have occurred at or near the proposed location.

The Battle of Bennington was fought at this site on 16 August 1777. Militia from New Hampshire and Vermont, commanded by Brigadier General John Stark, clashed with British forces that were attempting to reach supplies located in Bennington, Vermont.

2) Established history of an event being held by NSSAR Chapter(s) or State Society.

A commemoration of the Battle of Bennington is held annually on the anniversary date of the battle (16 August) at the Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site. Multiple SAR Societies and Chapters have participated during the previous 10 years, including New Hampshire Society, Vermont Society, and Saratoga Battle Chapter and Wallomsac Battle Chapter of Empire State Society.

3) Evidence of participation by multiple NSSAR State Societies, Chapters, and National Officers along with other Historical/Patriotic/Veterans organizations (DAR, CAR, SR, Historical Societies, American Legion, etc.) at the event.

The following groups have participated in the annual commemoration ceremony:

SAR: New Hampshire Society, Vermont Society, Saratoga Battle Chapter and Walloomsac Battle Chapter of Empire State Society.

DAR: Molly Stark Chapter (NH), Ondawa Cambridge Chapter (NY), Saratoga Chapter (NY).

Other Historical/Patriotic/Veterans organizations: 2nd Continental Artillery Regiment; Descendants of the Green Mountain Boys; Friends of the Bennington Battle Monument; Friends of the Bennington Battlefield; Green Mountain Boys; Hoosick Falls Historian; Hoosick Township Historical Society; Louis Miller Museum (Hoosick Falls); New York State Assembly; New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; Vermont State Historic Sites.

In addition, Walloomsac Battle Chapter of Empire State SAR dedicated a wooden bench and plaque at the battlefield and spent hundreds of hours promoting the battlefield and the road travelled by the British from Fort Edward to approach Bennington, Vermont.

4) History of SAR leadership or partnership with other organization/s that indicates it will continue into the future.

According to the Friends of the Bennington Battlefield, Vermont Historical Society, and historical newspapers, "Battle Day" has been celebrated on the anniversary of the Battle of Bennington every year since its first anniversary in 1778. The earliest celebrations were held in Bennington, Vermont, at the site that would later host the battle monument. The first re-



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enactment near the New York battlefield took place at the annual celebration in 1802. The current celebration at the Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site has been held since 2016, organized by the Friends of the Bennington Battlefield in partnership with the Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution.

5) In a state with no Revolutionary War battle or event sites, an explanation as to why the proposed event should be considered of National importance.

Not applicable.

Information about the battle or event.

The Battle of Bennington was one of the conflicts during British General Burgoyne's invasion from Canada in 1777. After the capture of Fort Ticonderoga in July, the main force of the British army was marching south along the Hudson River and were desperate for food. Lieutenant Colonel Friedrich Baum led a mixed force of German and British soldiers accompanied by Loyalists, French Canadians, and Indians. This detachment split from the main British army on 11 August with a plan to capture the supply depot at Bennington, Vermont. They arrived in Cambridge, New York, on 13 August.

Refugees fleeing the area brought word to American forces. General John Stark immediately sent out a detachment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William Gregg to secure flour stores in Cambridge. The remainder of Stark's Brigade followed on 14 August.

On the morning of 14 August, Baum's Detachment had marched toward Bennington but halted upon seeing Stark's Brigade, which outnumbered them two to one, and entrenched themselves on favorable ground near the Walloomsac River. The main force occupied the bridge across the river, while dragoons manned breastworks on a nearby hill, and a group of Loyalists commanded by retired Colonel Francis Pfister garrisoned a small fort across the river and guarded the road.

Halted by rain on 15 August, Stark's Brigade spent the morning of 16 August maneuvering into position and attacked the three enemy positions at 3:00 that afternoon. Colonel Moses Nichols's Regiment of New Hampshire Militia attacked the dragoons on the hill to the enemy's left, driving them from their position and into reserves from Stark's Brigade. Colonel David Hobart's and Colonel Thomas Stickney's Regiments of New Hampshire Militia approached from the south and attacked the Loyalist fort on the enemy's right, with one group approaching the fort and another group of sharpshooters cutting down the defenders as they fired. Colonel Samuel Herrick's Vermont Rangers moved through the woods and ambushed the enemy's center from the rear, while General Stark created a diversion by slowly marching the remainder of the brigade toward the bridge at the enemy's center, quickly defeating the British and Canadians and capturing the artillery pieces there.

German reinforcements commanded by Colonel Breyman pushed back Stark's men from their position. However, Stark's own reinforcements—a regiment of Green Mountain Boys from Manchester, Vermont—arrived. They drove the Germans from their position with a bayonet charge and into a two-mile retreat that ended just before nightfall.

Sources: Richard V. Polhemus and John F. Polhemus, *Stark: The Life and Wars of John Stark: French & Indian War Ranger, Revolutionary War General* (Delmar, NY: Black Dome



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Press, 2014), 251-268; C. E. Potter, *The Military History of the State of New Hampshire* (Boston, MA: Alfred Mudge & Son, 1888), 316-317.

Evidence as to why it is important that the event be considered of national significance.

The Battle of Bennington was a key American victory during the British invasion of 1777. The defeat of German and British forces significantly weakened a portion of the invading British army and deprived them of important food stores, contributing to the eventual surrender at Saratoga in October. New Hampshire and Vermont Militia prevented the invading army from pillaging towns and harming the civilian population. John Stark's victory at Bennington significantly contributed to his rise to prominence on a national level.