

APPENDIX D. PRIMARY SOURCES- AMERICAN SOURCES

APPENDIX C.

TABLE SHOWING DAILY POSITIONS AND MOVEMENTS OF STARK, SCHUYLER, LINCOLN, BURGOTNE,

DATE	STARK.	SCHUYLER (and LINCOLN).
July		
18	Appointed Brig.-Gen. at Exeter, N. H.	Headquarters at Ft. Edward (since July 7).
19	Instructions from Comm. Safety at Exeter.	" " "
20	Crossing N. H. from Exeter to Conn. River.	" " "
21	" " "	" " "
22	" " "	" " "
23	" " "	" but also writes from Saratoga.
24	Probably at Charlestown, N. H., as instructed.	{ "Moses Creek 4 miles below Ft. Edward." { "Troops left Ft. Edward except about 600."
25	" " "	"Headquarters Moses Creek."
26	" " "	Probably Same. "Outguards at Ft. Edward
27	" " "	[attacked." Moses Creek.
28	" "Forwarded 250 men to their (Vt.)	Saratoga; but headquarters Moses Creek.
29	" [relief."	Saratoga.
30	At Charlestown. "Sent another detachment."	Saratoga; but headquarters Moses Creek.
31	Charlestown.	Saratoga.
Aug.		
1	Charlestown.	Saratoga.
2	Charlestown. "Had sent off 700 men."	Probably Saratoga (Lincoln at Manch'ter).
3	" "Planned to follow with 800 more."	"Marched from Saratoga" to Stillwater.
4	{ Crossing Vt. from Charlestown, N. H.	Stillwater.
5	{ on Conn. River to	Stillwater.
6	Bromley (Peru) Vt. in Green Mts.	Stillwater. (Lincoln at Manchester).
7	Manchester, Vt.	Stillwater. (Lincoln at Manchester).
8	Left Manchester.	Albany. (Lincoln at Manchester).
9	Arrived at Bennington.	{ "Albany. Burgoyne has withdrawn every { Detachment he had in the Grants "
10	Bennington.	Albany. (Lincoln at Bennington).
11	Bennington.	At both Albany and Stillwater.
12	Bennington.	Stillwater. (Lincoln also at Stillwater).
13	{ "Informed . . party of Indians at Cam-	Stillwater. (Lincoln prob. Stillwater).
14	{ bridge, sent Gregg; later learned of large body"	
15	{ "Marched to oppose them and to cover Gregg's	Stillwater, (Lincoln at Half Moon, on Hud-
16	{ retreat about 4 miles, . . . marched back about 1."	[son.)
	"Rained all day. I sent out parties to harass	"Forts Five Miles below Stillwater."
	them."	{ " " "Enemy pointing their whole
	"Memorable battle fought at Walloomscook."	{ force this way." ("Lincoln at Half Moon")

PHILADELPHIA, August 22, 1777.

By an Express arrived last Evening from General SCHUYLER to
CONGRESS, we have the following important Intelligence.

Van Schaick's Island, in the mouth of the Mohawk River, August 18th, 1777.

S I R,

I have the honor to congratulate Congress on a signal Victory obtained by General STARK; an account whereof is contained in the following Letter from General LINCOLN, which I have this moment had the happiness to receive, together with General BURGoyNE's instructions to Lieutenant-Colonel BERN; Copy whereof is inclosed.

Bennington, August 18th, 1777.

“ DEAR GENERAL,

THE late signal success of a body of about 2000 troops, mostly Militia, under the command of Brigadier-General STARK, in this part of the country, on the 16th inst. over a party of about 1500 of the enemy, who came out with a manifest design to possess themselves of this town, as will appear by the enclosed, is an event happy and important—Our troops behaved in a very brave and heroic manner; they pushed the enemy from one work to another thrown up on advantageous ground and from different posts, with spirit and fortitude until they gained a complete victory over them.

“ The following is the best list I have been able to obtain of the prisoners, their killed and wounded, viz. One Lieut. Colonel, 1 Major, 5 Captains, 12 Lieutenants, 4 Ensigns, 2 Cornets, 1 Judge Advocate, 1 Baron, 2 Canadian Officers, and 3 Surgeons, 37 British Soldiers, 398 Hessians, 38 Canadians, and 151 Tories taken—The number of wounded fallen into our hands, exclusive of the above, are about 80.—The number of their slain has not yet been ascertained, as they fought on the retreat for several miles in a wood, but supposed to be about 200. Their artillery which consisted of 4 brass field pieces, with a considerable quantity of baggage likewise fell into our hands. We have heard nothing of Burgoyne or his army for these two days past. The prisoners are sent into the State of Massachusetts-Bay except the Tories; shall wait your directions respecting them, as most of them belong to the State of New-York.

I am, dear General, with regard and esteem, your very humble Servant,

B. LINCOLN.

N. B. We had about 20 or 30 killed in the action, and perhaps 50 wounded.”

Copy of Orders from Lieut. General BURGoyNE, to Lieut. Colonel BERN. Dated near Saratoga, August 14, 1777.

S I R,

The accounts you have given me are very satisfactory, and I doubt not every proceeding under your direction will be the same.

I beg the favour of you to report whether the route you have marched would be practicable for a large corps with cannon, without repair, or with what sort of repair.

The desirable circumstance at present for your corps is to possess Bennington, but should you find the enemy too strongly posted, and maintaining such a countenance as would make a coup-de-main too hazardous, I wish you to take such a post as you can maintain till you hear further from me, and upon your report, and other circumstances, I will either support you in force, or withdraw you.

Will you please to send to my camp, as soon as you can, waggons and draft cattle, and likewise such other cattle as are not necessary for your subsistence; let the waggons and carts bring off what flour and wheat they can, that you do not retain for the same purpose. I will write to you in full to-morrow, in regard to purchasing horses out of the hands of the savages; in the mean time let them be assured that whatever you select from them fit to mount the dragoons, shall be paid for at a proper price.

I have the honor to be, with great esteem, Your's, &c.

Lieut. Col. BERN.

J. BURGoyNE, Lieut. General.

I am in hopes that Congress will very soon have the satisfaction to learn that General Arnold has raised the siege of Fort Schuyler: If that takes place, I believe it will be possible to engage two or three hundred Indians to join this army, and Congress may rest assured that my best endeavors shall not be wanting to accomplish it.

I am informed that General Gates arrived at Albany yesterday.

Major Livingston, one of my Aids, will have the honor to deliver you this despatch.

I am, Sir, with every sentiment of respect, your most obedient humble servant,

PHILIP SCHUYLER.

The Honorable JOHN HANCOCK, Esquire.

Published by Order of Congress,
JOHN HANCOCK, President.

Printed by JOHN DUNLAP.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: 2nd Berkshire County (Massachusetts) Militia, Col. Benjamin Simond's
Regt.
Rev. Thomas Allen

ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF BENNINGTON.

BY THE REV. THOMAS ALLEN.

[Mr. Allen, writing on the day of the battle, in the following account, gives the story of the Bennington fight according to his own observation, and the information which could be hastily collected at the time.]

From the Connecticut Courant, Aug. 25, 1777.

[The following particulars of the action between the militia, &c., and a part of the British army, on the 16th inst., near Bennington, have been transmitted to us by a letter of the 16th from the Rev. Mr. Allen of Pittsfield, who was present at the action.] — ED.

Saturday, Aug. 16, was a memorable day on account of a signal victory which the militia, under the command of Gen. Stark, obtained over a body of the king's troops commanded by Gov. Skeene, some account of which is here given by one who was himself in the action. It seems that Gen. Burgoyne had detached this corps, consisting of about fifteen hundred men, chiefly Waldeckers and Brunswickers, intermixed with some British troops and Tories, — a medly compound, — to penetrate as far as Bennington, and farther if it should be found practicable, with a view to increase the number of his friends, to disperse his "protections" in the country, to procure for his army provisions, and to wreak his wrath and vengeance on those who had disregarded his calls of mercy, and slighted with indignity his proffered protection. Gov. Skeene had advantageously posted this corps within about five miles of Bennington Meeting-house, where, in different places, they made breastworks for their own security. This digression was of such ill tendency, and savored so much of presumption, that Gen. Stark, who was at that time providentially at Bennington, with his brigade of militia from New-Hampshire State, determined to give him battle. Col. Simonds's regiment of militia in Berkshire County was invited to his assistance; and a part of Col. Brown's arrived seasonably to attend on the action; and some volunteers from different towns; and Col. Warner, with a part of his own regiment, joined him the same day. The general, it seems, wisely laid his plan

of operation ; and, Divine Providence blessing us with good weather, between three and four o'clock, P.M., he attacked them in front and flank, in three or four different places at the same instant, with irresistible impetuosity.

The action was extremely hot for between one and two hours. The flanking divisions had carried their points with great success, when the front pressed on to their breastworks with an ardor and patience beyond expectation. The blaze of the guns of the contending parties reached each other. The fire was so extremely hot, — and our men easily surmounting their breastworks, amid peals of thunder and flashes of lightning from their guns, without regarding the roar of their field-pieces, — that the enemy at once deserted their cover, and ran ; and in about five minutes their whole camp was in the utmost confusion and disorder. All their battalions were broken in pieces, and fled most precipitately ; at which instant our whole army pressed after with redoubled ardor, pursued them for a mile, made considerable slaughter among them, and made many prisoners. One field-piece had already fallen into our hands. At this point, our men stopped the pursuit to gain breath, when the enemy, being re-enforced, our front fell back a few rods for convenience of ground, and being directed and collected by Col. Rossiter, and re-enforced by Major Stratton, renewed the fight with redoubled ardor, and fell in upon them with great impetuosity, put them to confusion and flight, and pursued them about a mile, making many prisoners. Two or three more brass field-pieces fell into our hands, and are supposed to be the whole of what they brought with them. At this time, darkness came upon us, and prevented our swallowing up the whole of this body. The enemy fled precipitately the succeeding night towards the North River ; and, unless they should be met with by a party of our army, may have reached there without further molestation. Gov. Skeene, in surprise and consternation, took horse and fled. This action, which rebounds so much to the glory of the great Lord of the heavens and God of armies, affords the Americans a lasting monument of the divine power and goodness, and a most powerful argument of love to and trust in God.

Our loss is about forty or fifty killed, and more wounded. Their baggage fell into our hands. The number of prisoners taken is said to be about six hundred. Two of their colonels were among the prisoners, and mortally wounded. A number of their inferior officers have also fallen into our hands, and in particular the general's aide-de-camp. A good number deserted, and joined us. This victory is thought by some to equal any that has happened during the present controversy, and, as long as prudence, moderation, sobriety, and valor are of any estimation among these United States, will not fail to endear Gen. Stark to them. It is the opinion of some, that, if a large body of militia was now called to act in conjunction with our northern army, the enemy might be entirely overthrown. May all be concerned to give God the glory, whilst we commend the good conduct of the officers and soldiers in general on so important an occasion! The best account of the number of prisoners taken in the above action is as follows : —

2 Colonels,	1 Major,
1 Lieutenant-colonel,	5 Captains,
12 Lieutenants,	1 Judge advocate,
4 Ensigns,	1 Baron,
2 Canadian officers,	3 Surgeons,
37 British } privates,	2 Brass 4-pounders,
398 German }	2 " 3-pounders,
175 Tories,	1 Medicine wagon, and a quantity
680 besides, wounded,	of baggage.

Allen's "Account of the Battle of Bennington" as quoted here can be found in J.E.A. Smith, *The History of Pittsfield, (Berkshire County,) Massachusetts, from the year 1734 to the year 1800* (Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1869), pp. 499-501. It was originally published in the *Connecticut Courant* (Hartford) of 25 August 1777.

From Mr. Allen's Pocket Diary.

[The allusions to the Battle of Bennington in Rev. Mr. Allen's diary are brief, but suggestive, and read as follows]: —

" Aug. 16. — A memorable battle fought by the militia near Bennington. One thousand of the enemy killed, wounded, and taken prisoners.

" Expended on my tour to Bennington, seven shillings and sixpence.

" Expended for ammunition, nine shillings and sixpence.

" Aug. 21. — Received for horse-keeping and victualling [probably of soldiers and prisoners], two pounds, seventeen shillings, and sixpence.

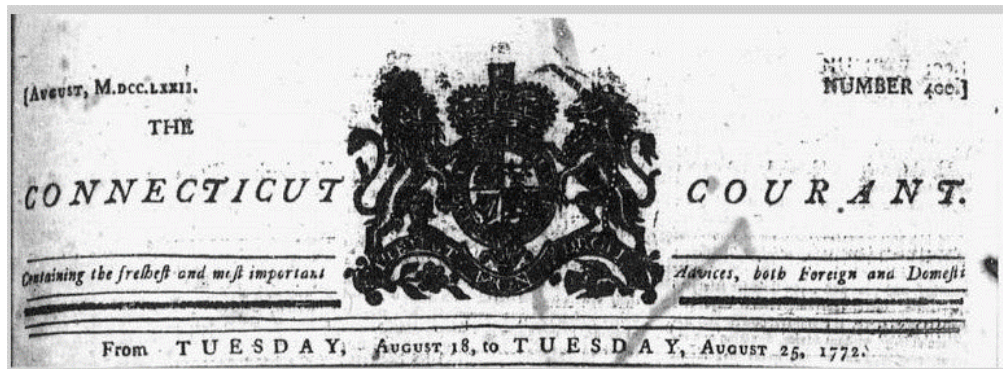
" Received for use of my cart, and damage by prisoners, one pound, one shilling.

" Aug. 29. — Received for victuals for seventeen men, thirteen shillings and sixpence."

Rev. Dr. Field relates the following anecdote of Mr. Allen: —

" Once, when asked whether he actually killed any man at Bennington, he replied that he did not know; but that, observing a flash often repeated from a certain bush, and that it was generally followed by the fall of one of Stark's men, he fired that way, and put the flash out."

J.E.A. Smith, *The History of Pittsfield, (Berkshire County,) Massachusetts, from the year 1734 to the year 1800* (Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1869), p. 501; his complete diary is *ibid.*, pp. 470-475.



The following particulars of the action between
 the militia &c. and part of the British army
 on the 16th inst. near Bennington, have been
 transmitted to us by a letter of the 16th, from
 the Rev. Mr. Allen of Pittsfield, who was
 present in the action.

SATURDAY August 16th was a memorable day on
 account of a signal victory the militia under the
 command of General Stark obtained over a body of
 the king's troops, commanded by Governor Skene,
 the account of which is here given by one who was
 present in the action: It seems that Gen. Burgoyne
 had detached this corps, consisting of about 1500 men,
 chiefly Waldockers and Banwickers, intermixed
 with some British troops and Tories, a medley com-
 pound; to penetrate as far as Bennington, and fur-
 ther if it should be found practicable, with a view to
 increase the number of his friends--to disperse his
 provisions in the country--to procure for his army
 provisions, and to wreak his wrath and vengeance on
 those who had disregarded his calls of mercy, and
 fought with indignity his preferred pretences. Gov.

Rev. Allen's "Particulars" were also printed in *The Norwich Packet and the Connecticut, Massachusetts, New-Hampshire, and Rhode-Island Weekly Advertiser* (Norwich, CT) in the issue of Monday, August 18, to Monday, August 25, 1777.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Vermont State Troops, Col. Seth Warner, Capt. Jonas Galusha
Lieutenant Joseph Andrus

Pension Application of Lt. Joseph Andrus S 11987

"A part of the troops which belonge to Col Warner's Reg^t marched to Manchester Vt and there stationed about four weeks was then ordered to Bennington where they were stationed guarding a quantity of supplies collected for the American troops nothing material took place at Bennington until the 16th of August although one Reg^t of British and Hessians had intrenched themselves previous to the engagement. The enemy was attacked by the American (mostly Militia) under Gen Starks, and aided by Col Seth Warner Reg^t who arrived in time to meet the British reinforcement, who were immediately put to flight. After the engagement at Bennington the applicant returned to Pawlet."

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: New Hampshire Militia, Col. Thomas Stickney

John Austin

Pension application John Austin S22094

23-year-old John Austin of Colonel Thomas Stickney's New Hampshire Militia Regiment was fighting in the detachment of Colonel Moses Nichols at Bennington.

I was drafted in the N. Hampshire militia of infantry for two months as a private. we marched for Burgoine's Army and reached Bennington Vt. where we joined Gen. Stark and his forces and we were in the Bennington Battle. the British had a detachment with one field piece stationed about half a mile from their main body which had thrown up an entrenchment – I was one of a detachment of one hundred men ordered under the command of Colos. Nichols and reed to march round through the woods in the rear of this detachment of the British and dislodge them or also by so doing to divert the attention of the main British force from the advance of our main body and were ordered to fire which should be the signal for this action to begin with our main body we affected our motion in the rear of the British detachment and first sent forward several scouts which each returned bringing in little squads of Tories who were going in to the British having pieces of white paper of the size of a card stuck on their hats having wrote 'Protection'. we then advanced and fired. the main army in a moment fired also. we rushed on, drove the British detachment from their entrenchments and went in upon the main body – we drove the enemy till in their retreat they met a reinforcement.

Also quoted in Gabriel, *Soldiers and Civilians*, p. 48.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: New Hampshire Militia, Col. David Hobart, Capt. Christopher Webber
Jesse Bailey

Pension Application of Jesse Bailey W17215

That he marched from Charlestown to Manchester in Vermont and then to Bennington where he arrived the Wednesday previous to the battle that he was in that battle and was in the diversion which Genl Stark (commander in the engagement) sent on to the right of the Enemy to commence the attack and thinks he was among the first who fired in that engagement. He recollects that just before the action commenced he assisted in taking ten Tories who were coming to join the Enemy; that he disarmed and took two Hessians during the action. He and his lieutenant was a little in advance of the main body of our army when the reinforcement to the British Army came up and was the first who fired upon the reinforcing troops.

Also quoted in Gabriel, *Soldiers and Civilians*, p. 50.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Headquarters
Col. Jeduthan Baldwin

19 [August 1777] Rode up the river to the ferries & several fords across the River. below. Dind with Genl. Poor, afternoon Rode to Van Schoiks Island head Quarters, Lodgd at New Sity, Dr. Bartletts Had the acct of the Victory gaind by Genl. Starks near Benington 936 Kild & taken. Genl. Gates came to Camp this evening.

[...]

22 at Van Shoiks Island getting the Smiths to work. 60 Carpenters sent for. Govenour Clinton with 1500 Malitia came to camp. Col. Briewer came from Binington with 45 Tories taken in Battle.

The Revolutionary Journal of Col. Jeduthan Baldwin 1775-1778 Edited with a memoirs and notes by Thomas Williams Baldwin (Bangor: Printed for the de Burians, 1906), p. 117.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Vermont Militia, Col. Beeth, Capt. Samuel Fletcher
Ebenezer Barnes

Pension application of Ebenezer Barnes S 32106

“From [Bennington] we were sent under Gen^l Stark to surprise a party of Heßsian said to be commanded by Col Baum who was marching to Bennington to seize upon some stores deposited at that place our pursuit was sucesful Killing about 200 and taking several hundred prisioners among the latter was Col Baum – from Bennington we marched to near Saratoga”.

Barnes was born 1 February 1759 in Boston; served as a lieutenant in the militia and lived in McLean County, IL in 1830s.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Massachusetts Militia

Issachar Bates

But in a short time we were sent for to return with all speed to assist at the battle of Maloomswick, but we were one day too late for the battle was fought, and Gen. Starks had taken 500 Hessians and British Regulars and 37 Tories – These were all put into Bennington Meeting House – The Tories were soon taken out and yoked together with ropes around their necks and drove off to North Hampton Jail but the rest were guarded till they were removed some time afterwards.

The Revolutionary War and Issachar Bates (The Shaker Museum Foundation: Chatham, 1960), unpaginated.

Bates served as a fifer in Capt. John Oliver's company, Col. Nathan Sparhawk's Regiment of Massachusetts militia.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Vermont State Troops, Col. Herrick, Capt. Ebenezer Allen
Rufus Bates

Pension Application of Rufus Bates S 22634

"that he Marched to St. Coik in Bennington and again was Stationed untill the British troops being a part of Burgoyns Army came into Bennington commanded by Col Baum (who was wounded and died there) Capt. Allen the Company he belonged to with four or five other companies were ordered to take the rear of the british for the purpose of Surrounding them in their entrenchments and to attack the Indians & Tories. That there was a General battle and Col Baum and his men were principally all Made prisoners of war That there were a few who made their escape then he followed them not expecting to meet with any other Opposition he soon met a reinforcement of about 700 Commanded by Col Brichman and in the afternoon we had a Second battle fortunately for us at this time Col Warner came up with his continental regiment and advanced upon them who at that time were driving us and we were retreating the Co Warner with his Regt Sustained us untill the Militia could assemble the battle was kept up untill it was dark when the enemy retired and during the night they retreated off That Col Brichman had about half his men killed and the remainder got away – Gen Starks commanded our Troops."

Bates was born in Coventry, RI on 23 April 1753.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Massachusetts Militia Col. Cushing, Capt. Asa Rice
Stephen Bellows

Pension Application of Stephen Bellows W 23577

2. (P.) Also that on or about the first of July 1777 he enlisted in Capt. Asa Rice's company and marched immediately to Bennington in Vermont and there joined Col. Cushing's Regiment and were stationed there for a number of weeks and from thence the Regiment marched to Half-Moon in New York and stayed there until we learnt that Gen. Burgoyne had detached Col. Baum with a large body of English and Indians to seize the magazines and stores at Bennington, whence from Half-Moon we immediately ^{marched} back to Bennington and there arrived on the day of the Battle at said Bennington August 16th towards Evening and there served in guarding the prisoners &c. till some of the first days of September being in the service full two months and at Bennington I was verbally discharged -- for evidence of this campaign I affidavits marked (P.) and (P.) The officers that I recollect were Capt. Asa Rice, Lt. Isaac Ball and

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Vermont Militia

William Boutelle

p. 25:

The enemy had taken a very advantageous situation, having a wood in their rear, and on their left, and a very smooth and level field in their front with two field pieces.

Our party not having been in any engagement this day [16 August 1777] we were fresh and very zealous to overtake the retreating foe, little thinking of meeting a formidable enemy all ready to engage in battle; we with hasty steps advanced on rising ground and were on a sudden in plain view of the enemy: our officers, however being very zealous, not thinking a formidable enemy so near, marched on within about eighteen rods of their field pieces, when they poured in upon us cannon ball, grape shot and leaden balls as thick as hail whizzing about our ears; it was a critical moment with us – our major [John Rand] had his horse shot through the head and cut off the head stall of his bridle and a cannon ball cut a lane through his horse's mane. We were soon ordered to retreat, leaving one of our company dead on the field. We retreated about thirty or forty rods into the valley where we were [sheltered] from the fire of the enemy and then waited for reinforcements.

General Stark soon came up with considerable reinforcements and field pieces (which they had taken in the first engagement.) When General Stark arrived at the edge of the field he cried out "Fire on, my brave men, we shall soon have them," and fired off the field pieces, and our men huzzaed and rushed forward; and the enemy fled in confusion and disorder, leaving their field pieces with their horses dead in their harness; as our fire was aimed chiefly where the field pieces were, the ground was almost covered with the dead bodies of the enemy. This was a warm contest, the most so of any that day – the enemy were made to fall or flee before us.

Praised be the name of God for his blessing upon us and goodness to us in so remarkable a manner preserving our lives and giving us the victory.

Night came on and [we] were forbidden to pursue the enemy. We [p. 26] continued to our quarters bringing with us the body of Thomas Joslin who was killed in the first onset; he was tied up in a sheet and swung on a pole, and two of us had to carry him at a time and changed often.

It was four or five miles to our quarters. We arrived almost exhausted [it] having been a very hot day and we not having but little refreshments.

17th. Sabbath. Helped make a coffin for Joslin and went to his funeral. The deceased was conveyed in a wagon to Bennington and decently buried in their burying ground, the minister of the town attended and went to pray at the grave; the whole company followed the corpse to the grave as mourners. I felt peculiarly interested as the deceased had been one of my intimate friend and possessed a very amiable disposition.

O that I might have grace suitably to notice this and all the dispensations of God's providences whether merciful or afflictive and O that they might work together for my good as God has said they shall do for all those that love him.

18th. Monday. This day I wrote a long letter to my friends at home giving an account of the events of the late battle; while I was at the barn writing my letter an accident happened. A part of our company was called on to go and scout the battle ground, to pick up and bury the dead, and to search for the wounded and any of the enemy that might be strolling the wood. While this party had loaded their pieces and were just faced round in order to move, one of the soldier's gun accidentally went off. The ball went through the side of the house into the chamber where one of our soldiers lay on a bed. The ball entered his belly but did not pierce his innards but skirted along near the skin 15 or 16 inches and lodged against the skin and was very easily extracted. The ball was flattened considerably by passing through the wood.

p.28:

14th day. Went to meet the enemy and marched about 4 miles and came to breastwork when it began to rain; we were ordered to march forward about one mile for an advance picket and kept a patrol of 12 men upon the move down to the river about one mile and back again likewise a number of sentinels.

15th day. About noon our picket advanced toward the enemy near the bridge, we left about half and the rest advanced over the bridge to the enemy's breastwork – the enemy fired their field pieces and some small arms; we likewise fired the number of small arms. We received no hurts; we retreated back to the main body bringing off all the plunder we could.

16th day. We marched down near the bridge and halted, two parties marched off one to the right and the other to the left. A little after noon they began to fire on both sides. Our party stayed this side of the bridge till after the middle of the afternoon and then marched over the bridge and through the woods and came round to the other bridge by the enemy's breastwork. They were retreated from their ground

and we followed them till we came up with them, and we had a smart engagement, till after sunset, and then we came off, taking their field pieces.

We brought off Thomas Joslin who was killed in the engagement.

We came off victoriously – our enemies were made to flee before us.

Praised be the name of God for his blessing upon us and goodness to us in preserving our lives and giving us the victory.

17th – Sabbath Day. I went and helped to make a coffin for Thomas Joslin, Dec's'd, and went to the funeral – O that I might have grace to take notice of all God's providences whether merciful or afflictive, and O that they might work together for my good, as God has said they shall do for the good of those that love him.

Michael P. Gabriel, "William Boutelle's Diary of the Bennington Expedition" *Walloomsack Review* vol. 17 (Spring 2016), pp. 22-31

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Vermont Militia
John Buss

Van Seayk Island, August 27th, 1777

Honored father and mother,

I greatly Rejoice that I have an opertunity to write to you [...] I heard by a letter that Capt. Joslin of Leominster went from Benington to his son John Joslin, he wrote that they had a very hot Engagement, which he was in it, and all his Company, they won the field and kild and taken About 1000 of the Enemy. Thomas Joslin of Leominster was kild dead upon the spot.

Ed Nash, *The John Buss Letters* (:Leominster, Mass: Nashaway Valley Publications, 1996), p. 12.

William Boutelle recorded that on 16 August "Night came on and [we] were forbidden to pursue the enemy. We continued to our quarters bringing with us the body of Thomas Joslin who was killed in the first onset; he was tied up in a sheet and swung on a pole, and two of us had to carry him at a time and changed often." A bit later on he recorded: "17th – Sabbath Day. I went and helped to make a coffin for Thomas Joslin, Dec's'd, and went to the funeralThe deceased was conveyed in a wagon to Bennington and decently buried in their burying ground, the minister of the town attended and went to pray at the grave; the whole company followed the corpse to the grave as mourners."

Michael P. Gabriel, "William Boutelle's Diary of the Bennington Expedition" *Walloomsac Review* vol. 17 (Spring 2016), pp. 22-31, p. 26 and p. 28.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: 10th Massachusetts Regiment

John Buss

Van Seayk Island, August 27th, 1777

Honored father and mother,

I greatly Rejoice that I have an oportunity to write to you; I would inform you that I have bin very poarly with the Camp distemper but I have got much better. We have bin movd and drove About from one place to another, till we have got very week and fant, we draw nothing but fresh Beef and flower, and you may well think that is hard living, and nothing but tents to live in. Rum is tow dollars a quart, and shugar is four shillings a pound, Chees is four shillings a pound. We are now About Eight or ten miles from Albany, but we dont Expect to stay hear long. I heard by a letter that Capt. Joslin of Leominster went from Benington to his son John Joslin, he wrote that they had a very hot Engagement, which he was in it, and all his Company, they won the field and kild and taken About 1000 of the Enemy. Thomas Joslin of Leominster was kild dead upon the spot.

I see forty four tores that was brought from Benington hear, and then sent to Albany. We heard that the Enemy has left Fort Stannokx, their was one Briggade went away from Still Warter up their August the 11, Ensign Peirce went. Our scouts brought in four hushens last week, Our lite horse men Come and took general Seyler and Carryed him of, and now I hope we shall have better doings. General Gates has the Command hear now, We Expect to go back and meet the Enemy soon, Corpl Joslin has bin over to Benington, he has jest now Come back. I recd., a letter from Joseph Stewart, he writs that they have had a very hot Engagement. They kild and took one thousand of the Enemy and four field peaces without much loss our side, He informs me that you was all well three weeks ago. I hope these lines will find you all well, I have sent tow or three Letters to you, but I have not had any from you yet. I should be very glad if you can send as often as you can, I should be very glad if you can git a pare of shoes made, and send them up by Brother Samuel, and tell him to pay you the money for them. Tell Brother Samuel that Capt., Warner has bin very pourly sence he went away, he sot out to day to go to Chearlemount. So no more at present.

So I Remain your obedient son John Buss.

I send my love to all my Brothers and sisters wishing them all well.

The John Buss Letters Ed Nash, ed. (Leominster: Nasaway Valley Publications, 1996), pp. 11/12.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: New Hampshire Militia, Col. Nichols, Capt. Daniel McCleary
John Caldwell

Pension application of John Caldwell, W 10301

From Charleston, NH he

“crossed the Connecticut River at Thomas ferry Brattleborough and arrived at Bennington the evening before the battle – He was in this engagement the next day August 16th under Gen. Stark in which the enemy were completely routed and defeated with the loss of their Commanding officer Col. Baum – Our Captain McCleary was kill’d together with 18 non commissioned officers and privates of our company – After Captain McCleary fell the command of the company devolved upon this deponent and although severely wounded in the right arm by a Bayonet in Storming a breast work of the enemy he discharged the duties as commanding officer of the company to the best of his ability during the remainder of the campaign – After the Battle we encamped near the ground for some time, took care of the wounded and buried the dead.”

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Vermont Militia, Col. David Charles Dyer, Capt. Jonas Galusha
Peleg Card

Pension Application of Peleg Card S12418

“That in August 1777 he was in Vermont and the Militia being called out to meet Col Baum, he became a substitute for one Ebenezer Dunwell of Capt Jonas Gallasha’s company, and joined said company and served therein near one month.”

Card was born 13 March 1755 in North Kingston, RI.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: New Hampshire Militia, Col. Nichols, Capt. Joseph Whitcomb
William Carpenter

Pension application of William Carpenter S 10426

"In July 1777 he enlisted again as a Volunteer for two months at same [Swanzey, NH] place in Capt. Joseph Whitcomb's company in Col. Nichols Regiment Lieut. Col. Gregg, in Genl. Stark's Brigade in the New Hampshire Line – he went directly to Charlestown, N.H. crossed Connecticut River and went to Bennington, and staid there a few days when his Brigade was ordered to march to Stillwater as was supposed. They had just commenced a march when an express arrived with dispatches from genl Starks who immediately countermanded the orders and they went back. The next day he was drafted with a small party of others and under Lieut. Col. Gregg went out a few miles from the Brigade and met Col. Baum with a party of heßian – the British Colonel halted and threw up breastworks Genl Starks soon came up with his Brigade and on Saturday the 16th Aug^t after a few previous slight skirmishes he assaulted the Breastworks of the British and compelled them to retreat. They retreated a short distance met Col. Breyman with a Reinforcement of British turned and made further resistance with the aid of Col. Warner's Regiment of Continentals just arriving the Americans were finally succeßful."

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: New Hampshire Militia, Col. Joseph Marsh
Elias Chapman

Pension application of Elias Chapman S 22676

“In July 1777 he turned out as orderly Serjeant in the same Company & Regiment by order of Gen^l Barley of Newbury Vermont & repaired to Charlestown New Hampshire. A few days after arriving at said Charlestown, Gen^l Burgoyne’s orders to Col Baum were read on parade – the troops then marched to Manchester Vermont & halted there. He was ordered by Gen^l Bailey to carry a Letter from him to Gen^l Stark, who was then at Bennington requesting Gen^l Stark to join him with his troops in an attack which Gen^l Bailey contemplated on Ticonderoga in the rear of Gen^l Burgoyne’s Army – He carried the letter to Gen^l Stark – delivered it to him & carried back his answer to Gen^l Bailey.”

No word whether he was at the Battle of Bennington on 16 August 1777.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: New Hampshire Militia, Col. Stark, Capt. Post
Benjamin Clark

Pension application of Benjamin Clark S 12502

“that he was with the said Corps when they met the British troops under Col. Baum & was engaged in the action between Baum & Stark at Bennington on the 16th August 1777 in this action he received two bayonet wounds – he was also in the engagement between the said troops & the reinforcements which had been sent to the aid of Col. Baum by Gen Burgoyne, which came up about the time of Baum’s defeat. That the latter engagement continued until dark when the enemy were beaten with the loss of many prisoners. After remaining several days to bury the dead & secure the property &c taken in the battle, he marched with the said troops under Stark toward Saratoga to join Gen^l Gates.”

Clark was born in Plainfield, CT on 20 August 1756 but joined Stark’s unit while in Bennington in January 1777.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Massachusetts Militia Col. B.R. Woodbridge, Capt. Moses Harvey
Lemuel Clarke

Pension Application of Lemuel Clarke S 17343

“he with part of the Reg^t arived at Bennington the day after Gen^l Starke took the
Heßsians under Col. Baum was appointed and served as Qr Master – found the meeting
house at Bennington well filled with Heßsians”

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: New Hampshire Militia, Col. Stickney, Capt. Samuel McConnell
Daniel Collins

Pension Application of Daniel Collins (1818 application) S 29 716

“in a Militia service in the battle of Bennington”.

In his 1832 pension application he stated that he

“served under Capt. Samuel McConnell in Col Stickneys Regt of the New Hampshire line or troops for the term of three months was at the Battle of Bennington in August 1777”.

The 1832 application contains on p. 65 this supporting deposition by Stephen Morse:

“[I] well recollect his belonging to Cap^t Samuel McConnell’s Company Maj^r head’s Battalion in Col^o Stickney’s Regiment in what was called New Hampshire Militia we Enlisted at Pembroke New Hampshire in the Month of July or last of June 1777 for the turn of I think for Three Month & Marched to Bennington in the State of Vermont and was in the Battle at that Place under Gen^l Stark against the British under Col^o Baum & the said Collins & I faught side by side against the Hessian Breastwork & it was said that said Collins killed Seven Hessians & we faught until our Amunition was all Expended & were obliged to retreat on that account. After remaining some time & I having the care of Maj^r Head’s affects after his Death I was Discharged.”

Enlisted for one year in Colonel John Nixon’s 6th Massachusetts Regiment under Captain Jeremy Gilman, Collins, deposed in 1818 that “by request of the commander in chief I was detained one month longer in the service under the command of the same officers, and was honorably but verbally discharged at Princeton N Jersey the last of January 1777.” In his 1832 application he wrote that “at the request of the officers I remained two months longer in the service as a volunteer and served with the army till March 1777 and was discharged at Princeton in New Jersey”.

Born in March 1755, died February 1851

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I Daniel Collins, aged sixty years, a citizen of the U. States, born in Kingston N. Hampshire, but now resident in Cornville, Maine, upon oath testify & declare, that in April 1775 I enlisted as a private soldier for the term of eight months in the war of the revolution against the common enemy, upon the continental establishment in ~~Capt~~ Lt. Farland's company, and in the regiment commanded by Col. John Nixon of the Massachusetts troops or line. This period I fully served out, and was honorably but verbally discharged at Cambridge Massachusetts and immediately reenlisted for one year in the same service, and upon the same establishment in Capt. Gilman's company, and in the regiment commanded by the said Col. John Nixon of the Massachusetts line or troops. This last period I also fully served out, and by request of the commander in chief I was detained one month longer in the service under the command of the same officers, and was honorably but verbally discharged at ~~and~~ Princeton N. Jersey the last of January 1777. I was at the battles of Banker's Hill, Hartem's Heights, at Trenton and Princeton. From my reduced circumstances in life, I need the assistance of my

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Thirteenth Massachusetts Regiment (Colonel Wigglesworth)
Lt.-Colonel Dudley Colman

Camp in the Mouth of Mohawk River Opposite
New City August 19th, 1777

[...]

we have this Day very agreeable News from the Militia at Bennington under the Command of Gen^l Stark, Lincoln & Warner they have defeated a Party of about 1500 at that Place & taken a good Number of Prisoners viz 1 Lieut Col^o 1 Major 5 Capt^s 12 Lieut^s 4 Ensigns 2 Cornets 1 Judge Advocate 1 Baron 2 Canadian Officers 3 Surgeons 37 British Soldiers 398 Hessians 38 Canadians 151 Tories & 80 Wounded how many they kill'd of the Enemy is uncertain they pursued them about 6 Miles & drove them across a River 4 Times & took 4 Brass Field Pieces from them with the Loss of 32 killed & about 50 Wounded this with the Stroke they met with near Fort Stanwix I hope will cool their Courage a little [...]

Dudley Colman Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society. April-September 1777

Camp in the Mouth of Mohawk River Opposite
New City August 19th 1777
My Dear
I have the Pleasure to inform you that I
am well I arrived at the Reg^t the Night before last
found all our Friends well about 7 Miles above this
Place Yesterday we removed here we have this day very
agreeable News from the Militia at Bennington under
the Command of Gen^l Stark Lincoln & Warner they have
defeated a Party of about 1500 at that Place & taken a
good Number of Prisoners viz 1 Lieut Col^l 1 Major 5 Capt^s 12 Lieut^s
4 Ensigns 2 Cornets 1 Judge Advocate 1 Baron 2 Canadian Officers
3 Surgeons 37 British Soldiers 390 Hessians 80 Canadians 157 Tories
& 80 Wounded how many they killed of the Enemy is uncertain
they pursued them about 6 Miles & drove them across the River
& took 4 Brass Field Pieces from them with the Loss of 32
killed & about 80 Wounded this with the Stroke they met with
near Fort Mifflin I hope will cool their Courage a little I hear
Gen^l Lincoln did not arrive till the latter part of the Action
I have nothing further particular to write you at present
my Compliments to all Friends my Love to little Bridget —
we expect Gen^l Gates here to take the Command to Day or tomorrow
He hears Gov^r Clinton is just by with 2000 Militia to reinforce
us — be a good Girl & remember your ever
affectionate Husband
Dudley Colman