

## Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Vermont State Troops, Col. Moses Robinson, Capt. Elijah Dewey  
Enos Wood

Pension application of Enos Wood S 11863

Born in Norwich, CT on 23 Feb 1761, he moved to Bennington with his family later that year and on 10 or 11 July 1777 enlisted as a 16-year-old.

“to serve as a private in the said Company till after the battle of Bennington on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 1777 and was engaged in that Battle in the said Company and assisted in forcing the Breast work & capturing the Hessians under Col Baum at which time General Stark commanded the American troops. That Colonel Warner came up with his regiment at the time & assisted also Colonel Herrick Commanded the wing of the Army at this battle in which I then served – “.

## Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

### Unit: 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Albany County Militia Private Caleb Wright

Caleb wright was Sergeant in the New York State Militia, and while the battle of Bennington was raging, the Militia was ordered out to the aid of general Starks. As there was a lack of ammunition each man was directed to provide himself with bullets. Caleb Wright took the lead weights off the family clock, and while the troops were forming and marching down from the North, he melted and moulded them into bullets and loading his rifle fired "clock weights" at the British, Aug. 16, 1777. Lead being very scarce at that time made the sacrifice of the clock weights necessary for his equipment. The old clock (its weights having been immediately replaced by tin cans filled with sand) and is still in the possession of great-grand-children, a highly prized Revolutionary relic, and still measures correct time with its slow tick-tack, tick-tack.

Typed ms in the files of Saratoga National Historical Park, quoted courtesy of Eric Schnitzer

## Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Massachusetts Militia Col. Cushing, Capt. Asa Rice  
Andrew Yew

Pension Application of Andrew Yew S 11915

And that the last of July of the same year or 1<sup>st</sup> of August  
he was again called out on alarm to Bennington that  
Colonel Baum of the British <sup>with his regiment</sup> army were then at Soons creek  
he was in the ~~the~~ Battle at Soons creek after the Battle he  
was detached into the company commanded by Captain —  
Robertson. (he is not positive as to the name) to Guard the Prisoners  
to North Hampton from there after delivering the Prisoners  
to the Guards he returned home having served not less than  
Fifteen days & continued at home about three days & was  
called to turn out and go to Pawlett. & 114 men of our com-  
pany under Captain E. Parker marched through Bennington  
to Pawlett from there to Wells Town & he was then appointed  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant & took the command of 6 private <sup>with</sup> a Pilot and

## Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: New Hampshire Militia, Capt. Timothy Bedel

Pension Application of John Young W 15745

Born 24 January 1761, he was a little more than 14 years old when he first enlisted "on or about the 23d day of June 1775" in the company of Timothy Bedel in the New Hampshire Militia and served as a sergeant and

"That the said John Young was at the seige and Taking of General Burgoin's Army in the Summer & fall of 1777 Acting in the Capacity of a Subaltern Officer (it is Supposed in the Militia), was in the Noted Battle of Bennington under General John Stark, when the British Commander Baum was killed, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August, & was in Sevr'al other Engagements with the Enemy."

## Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

### Unit: Green Mountain Boys

#### David Younglove

My brother David Younglove was born in New Jersey on the 8th day of April, 1754, and much of his time was occupied in receiving his education, until the year 1772, when he, removed with his father's family to the town of Cambridge, county of Albany and state of New York. He was engaged in connection with his brother; Moses Younglove in the practice of medicine, and afterwards, acted as surgeon's mate in Col. Elmore's Regiment, then laying at Fort Stanwix, but on account of bad health he returned home. When Burgoyne came on to Saratoga, he removed his father's family thirty miles to Williamstown to have the family further from the enemy. He then returned to Bennington and joined Capt. Allen's company and marched ten miles the first day on the road towards Saratoga from Bennington, and halted at Col. Henry K. Van Rensselaer's vacant house.

The Whig inhabitants had all moved off. On the next day he was employed to pilot a scouting party to search some Tories' houses. When they got near the town of Cambridge, they discovered that Col. Baum had just arrived with six hundred men and two pieces of brass artillery, which had been sent from Saratoga by Burgoyne to capture some stores and provisions then at Bennington. On this discovery, David returned with all speed to acquaint Capt. Allen of the near approach of the enemy, then three miles distant from him. Allen determined to remain where he was until he discovered more fully the strength of the enemy.

Many of the inhabitants, who had taken their families off, had returned to harvest their wheat, but on hearing of the approach of Baum they came and joined Capt. Allen's company. Among them was a stout old Irishman, named James Moore, about seventy ' years old. He had a large bored rifle, and informed Capt. Allen that he had come from his farm and passed through Cambridge and had not heard of the enemy until he came into their rear. In consequence of his having a gun on his shoulder, they took him to be one of their Tories as he supposed. He came right on the road and gave Capt. Allen an exact account of their strength, after he had passed through the whole line he saw an Indian whom he fired at and wounded in the thigh. The day after the Battle of Bennington I saw the same Indian a prisoner in the town.

That night the Captain requested my brother to take command of a small party and patrol the road towards the enemy. He went according to orders until he got within one

mile of Cambridge. In a thick pine wood he heard some person coming on the road. He hailed, but was not answered. He then fired; and the party fled. My brother then advanced to the spot and found a British musket with blood on it sticking in the mud. He supposed the one he fired at fell, either killed or wounded, and by the fall stuck the gun in the mud. He returned to the company, and Capt. Allen remained on the spot at Col. Van' Rensselaer's house all night and placed his sentinels on a high hill, where they had a view of the roads for a great distance that they expected the enemy on.

In the morning the subaltern officers wished to start at daylight to join their main body in the rear, but Capt. Allen; determined to take his breakfast before they started, and while they were eating, the sentinel called out that the enemy was in sight and on the march. All sprang from the table but Capt. Allen; he said he would drink another cup of chocolate, for the next he drank he might be in another world. Breakfast being over, he ordered his party to parade and examine their guns. He then marched them across a bridge five rods long, over White Creek with steep high banks. They threw all the planks from the bridge into the creek and concealed themselves in the bushes on the opposite side. The enemy had now reached the house that Capt. Allen left. A British captain stood on the porch looking through a spy glass towards Allen's company. The old Irishman, James Moore, remarked to Capt. Allen that it was not over 150 yards and that his long bored rifle could reach that officer. The Captain told him to try it. The old man fired and shot the officer through the body and shot through the door that was behind him. I have many a time since seen the bullet hole through the door. When Col. Baum perceived that Allen would prevent his repairing the bridge, he ordered a small party to cross the creek below and surround Allen's party. My brother having command of a small party to watch the movements of the enemy, gave notice to Capt. Allen that a large party were fording the creek in order to surround him. Allen thought best to move his quarters and took the road towards Bennington and joined Gen. Stark five miles from. that place on the road to Saratoga, where he halted and was building a breastwork.

Col. Baum marched his men on the road to Bennington until he came to Walloomsack River; when he halted and built a breastwork on the west bank on a steep hill eight miles from Bennington and three miles from Gen. Stark's army. The Whigs collected fast and joined Stark. The Tories' breastwork was on the east side of the river, 20 rods in front at the British works, and the Hessians breastwork was 80 rods in rear of the British works. Baum finding that Stark was recruiting so fast, sent to Gen. Burgoyne for reinforcements. Gen. Stark having heard of this, sent a request to Col. Warner, who was then at Castleton with his regiment to come and assist him, and it was concluded in council that it was best to attack the British before they were joined by the reinforcements. This was on the 15th of August, 1777. Accordingly Stark examined his men and their arms and found he had about 800 effective men and about that number of old men and boys. Stark divided his 800 young

men into two battalions. He placed 400 under the command of Col. Stafford to surround the enemy on the south, and 400 under Col. Herrick to surround them on the north. They were to meet at a given place in the rear of the enemy and march on and begin the attack. The old men and boys were to march over an open meadow and attack the British in front of their breastworks.

The young men started a little before daybreak on the 16th of August. The old men and boys began their march about sunrise. After marching a short distance, the enemy could plainly perceive them over the large meadow and believed them to be the whole of Stark's force' and therefore kept no lookout in the rear. The old men and boys marched directly for the Tories' breastwork and gave one fire and stormed and took it. At this moment the parties under Cols. Stafford and Herrick attacked the Hessians' breastwork. They were not discovered until they were within 20 rods. The Americans gave one fire, rushed on them and drove them over the breastwork with the butts of guns and fired their own cannons at them. They pushed forward to attack the British breastwork, but when they came in sight they discovered that the old men and boys had taken the Tory breastworks, crossed the river and were within five rods of the British breastwork. The enemy saw themselves completely surrounded, and fired but few shots until they surrendered. Some made their escape and were closely pursued for one and one-half miles by only' a few of Stark's men when they met Col. Braman with his reinforcements of 600 men and two brass pieces of cannon. They poured a heavy fire of grape and musket shot on the few that pursued them. The most of Stark's men that fell on that day were killed there and the remainder began to retreat.

At this critical juncture Col. Warner arrived with his regiment. The battle was bloody and the carnage great for thirty minutes, by which time the most of the enemy were either killed or taken prisoners. The few that made their escape fled for Burgoyne's camp and were closely pursued.

Just at the close of this battle my brother received a wound through the body by a rifle ball from the Hessians. He fell and was carried back to the river and placed in a large barn on the west bank, with the wounded of both armies crowded into the same place, where he lay with little attention until his father's family got word of his situation, who, being at Williamstown, removed him thither, where he had every attention that could be required. In the first battle near the river Gov. Skeene had two horses shot from under him. On the saddle of one of them the Governor's coat was around, one side of which was red and the other blue, of the finest cloth made to wear either side out. At the sale of the plunder after the battle, Joseph Fay bought the coat. In the last battle there were many boys from 12 to 15 years of age, and it was surprising to see with what obstinate bravery the young lads stood the charge of the British reinforcements before Col. Warner, with the Green Mountain

boys, came to assist them. They would fire and retreat from one tree to another and load and fire again, and declare that the enemy should not pass them to kill their fathers and mothers but to return to the narrative.

At first my brother's wounds were thought mortal, supposing the ball had passed through the hollow of his body. The ball entered high on the left side, just under the shoulder joint, and passed through and lodged under the right shoulder blade one and a half inches deep; not entering the hollow of the body. After the ball was extracted, he recovered surprisingly fast, so that in a few months he was able to take the field and face the enemy and they feared him much. He was active and bold and knew all the lurking places of the Tories. After the capture of Burgoyne the Tories fled mostly to Canada and left their families among us. The British commissioned several of them and directed them to return to their former neighborhood and capture or kill the most influential citizens. David having recovered from his wounds took the lead in pursuing these parties and many of them were taken, some killed and some wounded, but they did great damage in the country in their turn. They wounded some and took some prisoners, but they were all retaken. They obliged the men to collect and place sentinels to prevent being taken at night singly.

1 rod = 16.5 feet

See also the accounts of John, Samuel and Joseph Younglove in this appendix.

Samuel Younglove, *Revolutionary War Experiences of the Sons of Isaiah Younglove* Jacqueline Baker Humphrey, ed., (Cocoa Beach, 1988), pp. 29-34.



## Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Vermont Militia  
John Younglove

In the forepart of August 1777, General Burgoyne and his large army arrived at Saratoga and ordered Colonel Baum with a party of 600 men to capture what stores and horses could be found in and about Bennington. He continued his march up Battenkill Creek and reached the town of Cambridge about the <illegible>.

My brother was out with a scouting party at this time, very near the town of Cambridge, and discovered the enemy, then 13 miles from Bennington. He mounted a fleet horse and rode with all speed to inform the people of that town of their danger. When my brother had entered the north end of the town, he saw Gen. Stark with his brigade march into the south end. This sight pleased my brother very much. He spurred his horse on and rode up to Gen. Stark and informed him that Col. Baum with 600 men had lodged the night previous in the town of Cambridge, 13 miles distant from Bennington and was now on his march for that place with some artillery. Stark halted long enough to hear my brother's statement respecting the enemy. The Gen. then paraded his men, gave three cheers and marched through the town on his way to meet Col. Baum.

Stark had but 300 men. Baum had 600. Stark continued his route five miles and encamped in a field, on a side hill belonging to William Henry, and began entrenching. Baum marched on the same day, five miles towards Bennington. Thus the two armies were brought within 3 <last line of page not shown on photocopy> halted his army on the banks of Walloomsac River at the west end of the bridge. The river at this point runs from northeast to southeast to southwest, and was about five perch [sic; should read: rods] wide and about 2 feet deep.

Baum built his breastworks on a steep side hill, with his cannon pointing across the bridge, five rods from the west end of the bridge. On the east side of the river were large level meadows covered with haystacks for miles. On a small rise, east of the bridge, the Tory breastworks was built forty rods southeast of the British breastworks; about 80 rods northeast from the British works, on the hill, they built the Hessian breastworks facing towards the bridge. All north and west of the British was a high hill, full of timber.

General Stark still remained intrenching in William Henry's field. He requested my brother to act as one of his Aids and also to assist in the Council of War. Both armies were

trying to increase their numbers. The Tories came in slowly and the Whigs came in rapidly. Colonel Baum sent an express to Burgoyne for reinforcements. When Stark heard of this he called a Council of War and they determined to attack the British before the reinforcements joined them. Stark accordingly dispatched an express to Colonel Warner who then commanded **<last line did not photocopy>** and they were the best that lay at Castleton. This was on the 15th of Aug. 1777.

Gen. Stark determined that it was best to attack the British early next morning. Stark found on reviewing his men that he had near 800 able-bodied men and about that number of old men and boys. They mostly had some sort of small arms but no bayonets or artillery. The able bodied men were formed into two battalions. One battalion was to go to the south under Colonel Stafford, the other to the north under Colonel Herrick. to surround the enemy in that way and not to attack them until the two battalions met at a given point. In the meanwhile, the old men and boys were to cross the large meadows and attack the enemy in front, or at least to make a show of doing so. For a cockade, they wore a green bush.

A little before the break of day, the two battalions began their march leaving all their flags and music for the old men and boys. A little after sunrise the old men and boys began their march on the 16th of Aug., then three miles distant **<last line illegible>** when the old men and boys got to the large meadow. It was a beautiful morning and having all their flags displayed, with martial music playing in full choir, made quite a respectable and martial appearance. When they got within reach, the British fired their cannons at them, but they still continued their march and attacked and took the Tory breastwork. At this time Colonel Herrick and Stafford had surrounded and attacked the Hessian breastwork. They got within 20 rods before they were discovered by the Hessians. They gave one fire and rushed on them with the breech of their guns and drove them over their own breastworks, fired their cannons at them and pursued them to the British breastwork.

When the Americans got in sight of it, they discovered that the old men and boys had taken the Tory breastworks crossed the bridges and were within five rods of the British works, prepared to storm it. When Herrick and Stafford attacked them in the rear, the British surrendered. The greater part of Colonel Baum's men were either killed on the spot or taken prisoners, except a few that made their escape **<last line did not photocopy>** Stark's men for one and a half miles when they met Colonel Bramer with a party of 600 men and two brass cannons. They poured a destructive fire on a few of Stark's men who had pursued and occasioned them to retreat. There were some boys from 12-15 years of age in that party that fought with as cool and deliberate courage as any men on the ground and would cry and retreat from one tree to another keep on firing and declare the enemy should not pass them to kill their father and mother. Just at this critical time Colonel

Warner arrived on the ground with his regiment and the action was very bloody for about thirty minutes. When the enemy retreated leaving many dead, wounded and prisoners on the ground with all their artillery and baggage, but few of the men under Colonel Baum and Bramen ever returned to join Burgoyne at Saratoga. Burgoyne was captured soon after this battle.

1 rod = 16.5 feet

See also the accounts of Joseph, Samuel and David Younglove in this appendix.

Samuel Younglove, *Revolutionary War Experiences of the Sons of Isaiah Younglove* Jacqueline Baker Humphrey, ed., (Cocoa Beach, 1988), pp. 24-27.

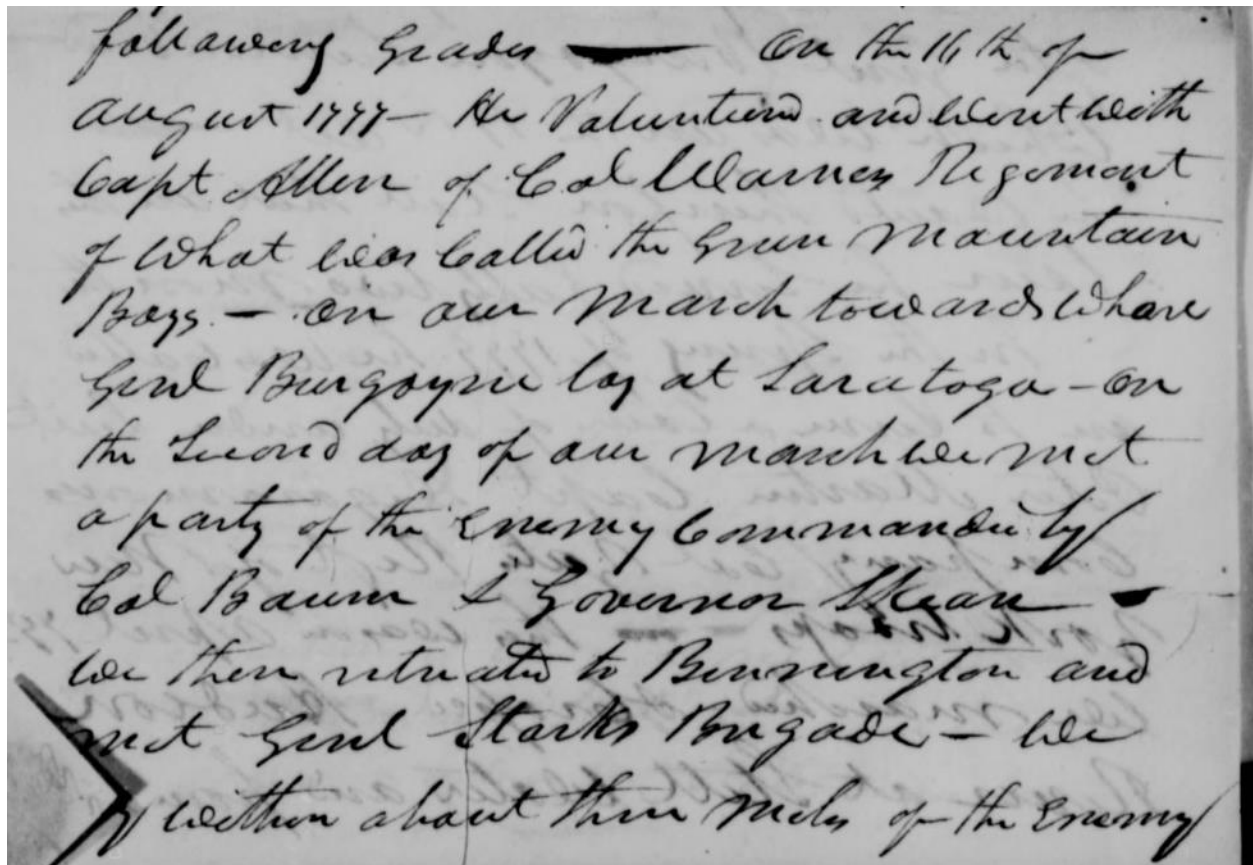
## Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Green Mountain Boys

Samuel Younglove

Pension Application of Samuel Younglove S 14910

Born on 15 April 1763, he is barely 14 years old at the Battle of Bennington but was detailed to watch the wagons and baggage, "my Brothers John & David Younglove who were in the Battle were opposed to my going in to the engagement in consequence of my tender years."

A black and white photograph of a handwritten manuscript snippet. The text is written in cursive and describes the events of the Battle of Bennington. It begins with "Following order" and mentions the date "On the 16th of August 1777". It describes the Green Mountain Boys' march towards Saratoga, their encounter with the enemy commanded by Col. Baum and Governor Mearns, and their retreat to Bennington where they met General Stark's Brigade. The snippet ends with "within about three miles of the Enemy".

Following order — On the 16th of  
August 1777 — He volunteered and went with  
Capt Allen of Col Warner's Regiment  
of what was called the Green Mountain  
Boys — on our march towards where  
Gen Burgoyne lay at Saratoga — on  
the second day of our march we met  
a party of the enemy commanded by  
Col Baum & Governor Mearns —  
we then retreated to Bennington and  
met Gen Stark's Brigade — we  
were within about three miles of the enemy

for about five days when the Battle of Birn-  
ington was fought, and we were victorious.  
I was in hearing of the Battle though not  
in it as I was detached for the purpose of  
taking care of the Baggage & Waggons  
and my Brothers John & David Younglove  
who were in the Battle were opposed  
to my going into the engagement -  
<sup>in consequence of my tender years</sup>  
my Brother David was badly wounded  
in the Battle and I after the Battle  
was employed in taking care of him  
and others who were removed to  
Williamstown - when we had a  
Hospital - my Brother recovered and  
was able to ride home by the 25<sup>th</sup> Oct  
the best of his belief - as it was

See also the accounts of John, Joseph and David Younglove in this appendix.

In August 1777, I joined Captain Allen's company, in Col. Seth Warner's Regiment, known as the Green Mountain boys. I took a very active part in the battle of Bennington, though quite young. Soon after the surrender of Burgoyne, being active and healthy, I was engaged in leading a scouting party on the northern frontier of New York. In those expeditions, I passed through Mapletown, Hoosac, Cambridge, Scanesborough, Fort Ann, Sandy Hill and Fort George. On this trip we took many prisoners and drove the remainder on board their boats, on Lake George. We then traversed the country in the direction of Saratoga Springs where there was but one small house. From that place we passed through Castleton and halted at Still water. During the excursion we heard of a Tory captain who had returned home. We went to the house, searched it closely, but could not find him. When some of the party were leaving the house, I noticed, or observed that the bed looked uncommonly high. I remarked that I would run my bayonet through that bed and stepped towards it, when the large captain instantly sprang out. We took him prisoner and carried him to Albany jail.

Samuel Younglove, *Revolutionary War Experiences of the Sons of Isaiah Younglove*  
Jacqueline Baker Humphrey, ed., (Cocoa Beach, 1988), p. 35.