State of New Hampshire,
Saturday, July 19th, 1777.

To Brigd Genl Jn° Stark,—You are hereby required to repair to Charlestown, N° 4, so as to be there by 24th—Thursday next, to meet and confer with persons appointed by the convention of the State of Vermont relative to the route of the Troops under your Command, their being supplied with Provisions, and future operations—and when the Troops are collected at N°- 4, you are to take the Command of them and march into the State of Vermont, and there act in conjunction with the Troops of that State, or any other of the States, or of the United States, or separately, as it shall appear Expedient to you for the protection of the People or the annoyance of the Enemy, and from time to time as occasion shall require, send Intelligence to the Genl Assembly or Committee of Safety, of your operations, and the manoeuvres of the Enemy.

M. Weare.

State of New Hampshire,
In Committee of Safety, Exeter, July 23d 1777.

Hon. Artemas Ward—

Sir—

Orders issued the last week for one Quarter part of two thirds of the Regiments of militia in this State to march immediately to the assistance of our Friends in the new State of Vermont, under the command of Br. Gen. Stark: and we shall in consequence of the Intelligence forwarded by you, issue orders directly to the Colonels of the other Regiments to draft one half of the militia, who are to be properly equipt to march at a minutes warning to those places where their aid shall be found necessary. Nothing on our part we hope will be wanting to put a speedy stop to the further Ravages of our merciless Enemies.

I am, Sir

—

By order of the Comtee Chairman.

P. S. By repeated expresses we learn that the Enemy have advanced 9 miles this side Otter Creek on the road to No. 4.

Copy of Instructions to Col. Saml Folsom, for Gen. Stark.

Sir—

The Committee desire you to proceed to No. 4, & if General Stark has marched from thence to follow him & endeavour to find out what circumstances his men are in, how they are provided for, & what they are likely to want that can be supplied from this State. As the Convention of Vermont proposed supplying them with Provisions we depend they will. You will inform Gen. Stark, that it is expected that he with the advise of his Field officers, appoint such necessary officers as they may have Occasion for.

We are fearfull that the troops will suffer for want of Kettles, but hope they have carried some from home. None could be procured in New England that we could hear of, which you will let them know.

You will inform Gen. Stark that all the Medicines that could be procured, as also 44 bushels of salt, & 1000 lbs of Balls are now on their way to No. 4.

You will endeavour to be informed whether there is a magazine of ammunition at Bennington, or whether our men must be supplied from this State, as we have but a small quantity on hand, you will inquire of Col. Hunt and Mr. Grout at No. 4 what Quantity of ammunition they have delivered to Gen. Stark’s men, and what remains in their hands; and on the whole give such advice as you find needful for the public good to all persons concerned in the service of the State in those parts, and endeavour to contrive to the furnishing such things as you can that are absolutely needful, and make report on your return of such assistance as to you appears necessary to be sent them from hence.

July 30th, 1777.

(B. G. Stark.)
Letter from General Stark to the Committee of Safety, New Hampshire.

Charlestown, No. 4. July 30th 1777.

Sir—

I received yours of the 22d Inst, with the inclosed informing me of the situation of the enemy and of our frontiers; but previous to your letter I had received an Express from Col Warner, informing me of their situation, and I forwarded 250 men to their relief on the 28th; I sent another detachment of this day, and as fast as they come in will send them. I expect to march myself tomorrow or next day; we are detained a good deal for want of Bullet molds as there is but one pair in Town, and the few Balls you sent goes but a little way in supplying the whole.

I am afraid we shall meet with difficulty in procuring Kettles or utensils to cook our Victuals as the Troops has not brought any. If such articles can be procured, I believe it would be of the utmost importance to the safety and welfare of the Troops. I am informed this day by a man from Otter Creek, that the Enemy is left Castletown and is gone to Skeensborough, with an intent to march to Bennington; but I rather think they do it by way of a faint to call the attention of General Schuyler from fort Edward or to Fatigue our Troops. There is four peices of small Cannon at this place that looks good, but wants to be cleared out and put on Carriages: if you should think proper I will order it done, as there is people here that says they can do it: As there is but very little Rum in the Store here, if some could be forwarded to us it would oblige us very much, as there is none of that article in them parts where we are agoing. I inclose you a Copy of a Letter I this moment received from Col Williams, and as you informed me when I saw you last, that you had not received any account from any Gentleman in the army since the desertion of Ticonderoga, I likewise inclose you a Copy of a letter I recd from Mr. Coggan, and by the best information is as near the truth as any you may receive. I have shewed it to Col Bellows and a number of other officers that was present, and they say they could all sign it.

I am, Sirs, your Honours most Obedt humle Servt
(Copy) John Stark.
I would take it kind if the Brigade Majors Commission could be forwarded to me, as being present with me; his name is Stephen Peabody:
Likewise adj’l Edward Evans of Col Stickney’s Reg’l.

Letter from Gen. Stark, relating to Stores at Charlestown and the State of the army.

Charles Town, Augt 2d, 1777.

Sir—

I this day Recd your favour by Col Folsom for which I return you my hearty thanks. I inclose you a Copy of a return of what Stores there are now in the Commissioners hands and what they have deliver’d out to the Brigade. The Brigade is not yet completed: But I expect there is a sufficient quantity of ammunition on hand to furnish it. Had all the powder here in Store proved good, and fit for use, we might have had a full supply of that article for present use.

As to the quantity of State Stores at Bennington, it is quite out of my power to give you an account of them at present; but refer you to Col. Williams letter which I transmitted to you by Express, & which I hope came safe to hand. I purpose to set out for Manchester to morrow and after I arrive there I will forward you an ace’ of what supplies can be got there. I should have gone from here before now, but could not get our Balls run for want of molds. I recd nothing new from the Enemy since I wrote to you last; whenever any tiling comes to hand worth communicating I will forward it to you with all speed. I would have sent you an ace1 of the strength of the Brigade, was it in my power, but cannot, because they only arrive in small parties, and as soon as I can compleat a Division, I commonly give them marching orders for to set out for Manchester without delay. After I arrive there, I will obtain a List of the number of men in that department and shall send you an acc’t of the same.

I have order’d one Company to tarry here to guard the State Stores, and two Companys I have station’d on the height of land between this place and Otter Creek for the security of the Inhabitants. As there are no spirits to be had at our Station I would esteem it a favour, if you would order the Stores that are at this place, to be forwarded to that place, & set a price upon the same; more will be wanted.

I am, with regard, your most obedt humle servt,
John Stark, B’d G.
N. B. Sealing Wax & Paper is much wanted.

Return of Stores at Charlestown.
An Acc' of the State Stores now in the Custody of the following persons in this Town.
Col Samuel Hunt has now on hand:
13 Barrels of Powder,
7 sheets of lead or pieces,
100 Flints.

Commissary Grout has on hand the following articles:
11 Bbls. of powder, 9 of which are condemned,
about 34 Bushels of Salt.
Mr. White has on hand also
5 Hogsheads of rum,
5 Barrels of Sugar,
2 Do. Do.

Commissary Grout has dealt out to my Brigade
509 Pounds of Powder,
710 Do. Balls & Lead.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Headquarters
MG Benjamin Lincoln

Bennington, August 8, 1777.

Dear General—

Yesterday General Stark from New Hampshire, came into Camp at Manchester. By his Instructions from that State, it is at his option to act in conjunction with the Continental Army or not. He seems to be exceedingly soured & thinks he hath not had justice done him by Congress.

He is determined not to join the Continental army until the Congress give him his rank therein; his claim is to command all the officers he commanded last year, as also all those who joined the army after him. Whether he will march his troops to Stillwater or not I am quite at a loss to know. But if he doth, it is a fixed point with him to act there only as a separate corps & take no orders from any officer in the Northern department, saving your Honor; for he said they all were either commanded by him the last year or joined the army after him.

It is very unhappy that this matter by him is carried to so great a length, especially at a time when every exertion for our common safety is so absolutely necessary. I have good reason to believe, if the State of New Hampshire were informed of the matter they would give new & very different instructions to Gen. Starks.

The Troops from the Massachusetts are collecting here: I don’t know what number may be expected, I suppose the rear will be up to-morrow night at farthest.

I am, Dear Sir, with regard & esteem
Your most obed' & humbl Serv'
B. Lincoln.

The Hon. Majr Gen. Schuyler, &c.
(a Copy) Chas' Thomson Secy.

Congress' response to Lincoln's letter:

In Congress, August 19, 1777.

Resolved, That a Copy of General Lincoln's letter be forthwith transmitted to the Council of New Hampshire, and that they be informed that the Instructions which Gen Stark says he has received from them, are destructive of military subordination and highly prejudicial to the common cause at this crisis; and therefore that they be desired to instruct General Stark to conform himself to the same rules which other General Officers of the militia are subject to, whenever they are called out at the expense of the United States.

(Extract from the Minutes)

Chas Thomson, Sec.
By order of Congress—John Hancock, Pres.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Nixon's Brigade
BG John Nixon

Instructions from Committee of Safety to Gen. Stark.

August 12th 1777.

Sir—

I recd yours of the 7th Inst. this morning & laid it before the Committee, who are much distress’d least misunderstandings, distrusts, & disputes among ourselves should ruin the country. Your directions from the Committee were in a considerable degree left discretionary to yourself & must still remain so; altho' they expect you will at this crisis, at this time when our enemies are making their greatest exertions, and penetrating into the country, exert yourself to oppose them in the best manner you can, and act in conjunction with any troops in harrassing the Enemy,—of which they have the greatest dependence from your character for courage and firmness,—and have no doubt but you "with the advice of your officers, will act in such a manner as shall appear prudent & careful for the general concern; and that, the result will be honorable to yourself & the State you belong to. The greatest pains has been taken to get Tin Kettles, 25 have been procured and sent off 3 days ago, which I hope you will receive as soon as this: a person is gone to Boston some days past after more, which if possible to be procured will be forwarded.

Printed Rules & articles for governing the Continental Troops, which are to be the rule for yours, I send by this opportunity, also the Commissions you wrote for.

Gen. Stark.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Official Correspondence
Vermont Council of Safety to Col. Marsh

(Excerpt)

Bennington, 13th Augt. 1777.

Dear Col —

These are in the most positive terms to requiar you without a moments loss of time to march one half of the Regiment under your command to this place.

Whilst I am writing this, we are informed by Express that a large Body of the Enemy's troops were discovered two hours ago in St. Koik 12 miles from this place and another body at Cambridge about is miles from this; that they march boldly in the Road, and there will doubtless be an attack at or near this place within 24 hours. We have the assistance of Maj. General Stark with his Brigade: you will hurry what Rangers forward are recruited with all speed. Now is the time.

Sir, I am your Humb. Servt
Jonas Fay, Vice Presi’d
Col Marsh.

(Sent also by Express to Gen'l Bailey)

State of Vermont, in Council of Safety, Bennington, 13th Augt 1777.

Dear Col—By Express this day received from the Commanding officer of the Northern Department, we Learn that a door has now opened for the troops of this State to do Duty on this Side the North River, which will be clear from Gen. Schuyler’s Command, and as an Expedition is on foot of the greatest importance, which is to remain a secret till the Troops are Collected, these are therefore the most Positive terms to Require you without a moment’s Loss of Time to march one half of the Regiment under your Command to this Place. No small excuse at this Juncture can be received.

Whilst I am writing this we are informed by Express that a Large Body of the Enemy’s Troops Were Discovered two hours ago in St. Koik, 12 Miles from this Place, and another Body at Cambridge, About 18 Miles from this, that they marched Boldly in the Road, and there will Doubtless be an attack at or near this Place within 24 howers. We have the assistance of Maj’ general Stark with his Brigade, You will hurry what Rangers forward are Recruited with all speed. Now is the time, Sr-

I am Sr your Humble Servant.

Sr, I Desire you would By order of Council Send this Express to General Baley, Peter Olcott, Col., Col° Marsh.

Jonas Fay, Vice President.

To Maj. Israel Smith of Strafford.

Gentlemen.—Brig’- Gen. Stark from the State of New Hampshire with his Brigade, together with the militia and company of Rangers raised by this State, with parts of Col. Symond’s regiment of Militia, [from Berkshire County, Mass.,] are now in action with a number of the enemy’s Troops assembled near this place, which has been for sometime very severe. We have now in possession (taken from them this day) four brass field pieces, ordnance stores, &c., and this minute four or five hundred prisoners have arrived. We have taken the ground, although fortified by entrenchments &c., but after being drove about one mile the enemy, being reinforced, made a second stand, and still continue the action. The loss on each side is doubtless considerable. You are therefore in the most pressing terms requested by Gen. Stark and this Council to forward the whole of the militia under your several commands to this plane without one minute’s loss of time: —they will proceed on horseback with all the ammunition that can be provided conveniently. On our present exertions depends the fate of thousands.

I am, gentlemen, your Most Obt. Servant,
Jonas Fay, Vice President.

To the Gentlemen officers nearest this place commanding Regiments of Militia in the several United States.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Official Correspondence
Vermont Committee of Safety to Col. John Williams

State of Vermont. In Council of Safety, August 16th 1777.

To Colonel John Williams:

Sir,—You will proceed with your party Towards the lines, and if the Enemy should retreat, you will Repair to the Road leading from St. Coik [San Coick] to Hoosach [Hoosick] and if you make any discovery, Report to this Council; At the same time you are to pay proper Attention to the Road Leading from Hoosach to Pownall.

By order of Council, Paul Spooner, D. Sec'y

Letter from Bennington, relating to Gen. Stark’s first engagement there with British troops.

In Council of Safety,

Bennington, 16th Augst 1777.

Gentlemen—

Brig^r General Starks from the State of New Hampshire with his Brigade, together w^th the Militia & Companies of Rangers raised by this State with part of Col Symonds Regiment of the militia, are now in action with a number of the Enemies Troops assembled near this place, which has been for some time very severe: We have now in possession (taken from them this day) four Brass field pieces, Ordinance Stores &c.

And this moment four or five hundred Prisoners have arrived; we have taken the ground altho’ fortified by Intrenchments &c. but after being drove about one mile and the Enemy being reinforced made a second stand & still continue the action; the loss on each side is doubtless considerable, but the numbers cannot ascertain.

You are therefore in the most pressing terms requested by Gen^l Starks & this Council to forward the whole of the Militia under your several commands to this place without one minutes loss of time: they will proceed on horse-back with all the ammunition that can be provided conveniently; on our present exertion depends the fate of thousands.

I am, Gen^t yr most obd^t Hhbl Serv^t.

Jonas Fay, Vice Pres^it.

To the Gen^l nearest commanding Reg^ts in ye States.

Hartford Courant, 17 August 1777

In Council of Safety, State of Vermont,

Bennington, July 28, 1777.

Whereas the inhabitants of the northwesterly part of this State have been necessitated to remove their families by the encroachments of the enemy, and some are removed to the states of Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut:—These are therefore to earnestly request such men to return and assist in defending this and the United States of America from the ravages of the enemy, as it will be to their honor, and much to their profit, as we have authentic accounts, this moment arrived, that the enemy have evacuated Castleton for fear of devastation by our troops that were gathering to pay them a visit; for which reason it is likely that most or all the crops may be saved, if the inhabitants return soon.

By order of the Council,

Ira Allen, Secretary.
Letter from Gen. Stark, giving his account of the battle on the 16th August.

Bennington, August 18th, 1777.

Gentlemen—I congratulate you on the late success of your Troops under my command; by express I purpose to give you a brief account of my proceedings since I wrote to you last. I left Manchester on Sunday the 8th Inst, and arrived here the 9th. The 13th I was inform’d that a party of Indians were at Cambridge which is 12 miles distant from this place on their march thither. I detach’d Col Gregg with 200 men under his command to stop their march. In the evening I had information by express that there was a large body of the enemy on their way with their field pieces, in order to march through the country, commanded by Governor Skene. The 14th I marched with my Brigade & a few of this States' Militia, to oppose them, and to cover Gregg's retreat, who found himself unable to withstand their superior numbers: About four miles from the Town.

I accordingly met him on his return, and the Enemy in close pursuit of him, within half a mile of his rear; but when they discovered me they presently halted on a very advantageous peice of ground. I drew up my little army on an eminince in open view of their encampments, but could not bring them to an engagement. I marched back about a mile, and there encamp’d. I sent out a few men to skirmish with them, kill’d thirty of them with two Indian Chiefs. The 15th it rain’d all day; I sent out parties to harass them. The 16th I was join’d by this States’ Militia and those of Berkshire County; I divided my army into three Divisions, and sent Col. Nichols with 250 men on their rear of their left wing; Col Hendrick in the Rear of their right, with 300 men, order’d when join’d to attack the same.

In the mean time I sent 300 men to oppose the Enemy's front, to draw their attention that way; Soon after I detach’d the Colonels Hubbart & Stickney on their right wing with 200 men to attack that part, all which plans had their desired effect. Col Nichols sent me word that he stood in need of a reinforcement, which I readily granted, consisting of 100 men. at which time he commenced the attack precisely at 3 o’clock in the afternoon, which was followed by all the rest. I pushed forward the remainder with all speed; our people behaved with the greatest spirit & bravery imaginable: Had they been Alexanders or Charleses of Sweden, they could not have behaved better. The action lasted two hours, at the expiration of which time, we forced their Breastworks at the muzzles of their guns, took
two pieces of Brass cannon, with a number of prisoners;—but before I could get them into proper form again, I rec'd intelligence that there was a large reinforcement within two miles of us on their march, which occasioned us to renew our attack. But luckily for us Col Warner's Regiment came up, which put a stop to their career. We soon rallied, & in a few minutes the action became very warm & desperate, which lasted till night; we used their own cannon against them, which prov'd of great service to us. At Sunset we obliged them to retreat a second time; we pursued them till dark, when I was obliged to halt for fear of killing my own men. We recovered two pieces more of their cannon, together with all their Baggage, a number of horses, carriages &c. kill'd upwards of two hundred of the enemy in the field of Battle, the number of the wounded is not yet known as they are scattered about in many places.

I have 1 Lieut. Col since dead, 1 major, 7 Captains, 14 Lieuts 4 Ensigns, 2 Cornets, 1 Judge advocate, 1 Barron, 2 Cannadian officers, 6 sergeants, 1 Aid-de-camp & seven hundred prisoners;—I almost forgot 1 Hessian Chaplain. I enclose you a copy of General Burgoyne's Instructions to Col Baum, who commanded the detachment that engaged us. Our wounded are 42; ten privates & four officers belonging to my Brigade is dead. The dead & wounded in the other Corps I do not know, as they have not brought in the returns as yet.

I am Gentlemen, with the greatest regard & respect,
Your most obedient, Hum' serv1
[John Stark].
I almost forgot 3 Hessian surgeons.

N. B. I have sent you by the Post, Josiah Crosby, one hundred seventy four Dollars & two thirds, of Hampshire currency, which I had to give Continl for to my men, as there is scarce any other will pass here.
Gentlemen—I think we have return'd the enemy a proper Complim' in the above action, for the Hubbart-town engagement.

Compliments of General Stark, with trophies of War, as presents. [No date; post 16 August 1777.]

General Stark presents his most respectful Compliments to the Honourable the Council and House of Representatives for the State of New Hampshire, & begs their Acceptance of a Hessian Dragoon Sword, Drum, Gun, Cartridge Box, Bayonet & Grenadier Cap: — The trophies of the Memorable Battle fought by their Militia in conjunction with the Militia, of the State of Vermont & Massachusetts Bay on the 16th August 1777, at Walloomscook, & desires they may be deposited in the State in memory of that glorious victory given them by the Divine Being who overpowers & Rules all things.

Superscribed—"To Public service"

——

The Hon'ble Meshech Weare
President of the Council
State of N. Hre.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Headquarters
MG Benjamin Lincoln

Bennington, August 18, 1777.

Gentlemen—I most sincerely congratulate you on the late very signal success gained over the enemy, near this place, by a few continental troops, the rangers from the grants, some of the militia from the State of Massachusetts, and those from New-Hampshire and the Grants, under the command of Brigadier General Stark. Officers and men, stimulated by the most laudable motives, behaved with the greatest spirit and bravery; entered the enemy's several intrenchments with fortitude and alacrity, amid the incessant fire from their field-pieces and musketry. Our loss, killed, is supposed to be between twenty and thirty—wounded in common proportion. The enemy were totally defeated. The number of their slain has not yet been ascertained, as they fought on a retreat, several miles, in a wood; but is supposed to be about 200. A large number of the wounded have fallen into our hands. We have taken one lieutenant colonel, mortally wounded; one major, five captains, twelve lieutenants, four ensigns, two cornets, one judge advocate, one baron, two Canadian officers, and three surgeons. Beside the above officers and wounded, there are in our hands thirty-seven British soldiers, three hundred and ninety-eight Hessians, thirty-eight Canadians, and one hundred and fifty-five Tories; four brass field-pieces, with a considerable quantity of baggage. The number the enemy had in the field can not be ascertained—perhaps one thousand five hundred.

It is very unhappy for the wounded, and painful to us, that such is our situation that we can not afford them all that speedy relief which their distresses demand of us. We were under a necessity to forward the prisoners to the State of Massachusetts. They are now under the care of General Fellows. He will wait the order of the council with respect to them. I was ordered by General Schuyler, a few days since, from this place, to join the army at Stillwater, and was on my return when the action happened. This is the best account I can obtain of matters at present. It appears, by one of the enemy’s journals, that the day before the general action they had thirty killed, and two Indian chiefs, and some wounded.

I am, gentlemen, With sentiments of esteem and regard,
Your very humble servant,
B. LINCOLN.

To the Gentlemen officers nearest this place commanding Regiments of Militia in the several United States.

State of Vermont. In Council of Safety,
Bennington. 20th Aug., 1777.

Sir,—You are hereby required to raise seventy-five abled-bodied effective men of your Regiment of Militia, exclusive of the common quota of Commissioned officers for such numbers, which number you will Cause to be continued in the Field under the Commanding officer of the Eastern Militia until the first day of December next, unless sooner discharged by such Commanding officer; Should you find it more convenient for part or all such Troops to be relieved before that time, you will do it, Observing always to keep the full number in the Field. Those who ingage are to do it only on the principle of being under the Regulation of the Continental Army during the time they serve, altho' under the command of the above officer.

By order of Council,
Thomas Chittenden, Prsdt

Bennington, August 22, 1777.

Dear General:—

I received yours of the 19th instant, which gave me much pleasure; I beg to be excused for not answering it sooner. I have been so sick ever since that I could not write, neither am I well yet. But General Lincoln has written and I joined with him in opinion on the subject of his letter.

I shall now give your honor a short account of the action on the 16th instant. I was informed there was a party of Indians in Cambridge, on their march to this place; I sent [Lt. ] Colonel Gregg of my brigade, to stop them with two hundred men. In the night I was informed, by express, that there was a large body of the enemy on their march, in the rear of the Indians. I rallied all my brigade and what militia was at this place, in order to stop their proceedings. I likewise sent to Manchester, to Col. Warner’s regiment that was stationed there; also sent express for the militia to come in with all speed to our assistance, which was punctually obeyed. I then marched in company with Colonels Warner, Williams, Ileriiek and Brush, with all the men that were present. About five miles from the place I met Colonel Gregg on his retreat, and the enemy in close pursuit after him. I drew up my little army in order of battle; but when the enemy hove in sight, they halted on a very advantageous hill or piece of ground. I sent out small parties in their front to skirmish with them, which scheme had a good effect: they killed and wounded thirty of the enemy, without any loss on our side; but the ground that I was on did not suit for a general action. I marched back about one mile and encamped, called a council, and it was agreed that we should send two detachments in their rear, while the others attacked them in front; but the 15th it rained all day, therefore had to lay by—could do nothing but skirmish with them. On the 16th, in the morning, was joined by Col. Simmons, with some militia from Berkshire county. I pursued my plan, detached Col. Nichols, with two hundred men, to attack them in the rear; I also sent Col. Herrick, with three hundred men, in the rear of their right, both to join, and when joined to attack their camp [Baum’s] in the rear; I also, sent Cols. Hubbard and Stickney, with two hundred men to their right, [Tory Breastwork,] and sent one hundred men in their front, to draw away their attention that way; and about three o’clock we got all ready for the attack. Col. Nichols begun the same, which was followed by all the rest. The remainder of my little, army I pushed up in the front, and in a few minutes the
action begun in general, it lasted two hours, the hottest I ever saw in my life—it represented one continued clap of thunder; however, the enemy was obliged to give way, and leave their field pieces and all their baggage behind them. They were all environed with two breast works with their artillery, but our martial courage proved too hard for them.

I then gave orders to rally again in order to secure the victory, but in a few minutes was informed that there was a large re-enforcement on their march within two miles.—Lucky for us, that moment Col. Warner’s regiment came up fresh, who marched on and begun the attack afresh. I pushed forward as many of the men as I could to their assistance. The battle continued obstinate on both sides till sunset; the enemy was obliged to retreat; we pursued them till dark, but had day light lasted ono hour longer, we should have taken the whole body of them.

We recovered [in the two actions] four pieces of brass cannon, seven hundred stand of arms, and twelve brass-barreled drums, several Hessian swords, about seven hundred prisoners, two hundred and seven dead on the spot, the number of wounded is yet unknown. That part of the enemy that made their escape marched all night, and we returned to our camp.

Too much honor cannot be given to the bravo officers and soldiers for gallant behavior; they fought through the midst of fire and smoke, mounted two breastworks that were well fortified and supported with cannon. I cannot particularize any officer, as they all behaved with the greatest spirit and bravery. Col. Warner’s superior skill in the action was of extraordinary service to me; I would be glad if he and his men could be recommended to Congress. As I promised in my order that the soldiers should have all the plunder taken in the enemy's camp, would be glad your honor would send me word what the value of the cannon and other artillery stores above described may be. Our loss was inconsiderable; about forty wounded and thirty killed. I lost my horse, bridle and saddle in the action.

I am, Sir, your most devoted, and most obedient humble servant,

John Stark.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Unit: Nixon's Brigade
BG John Nixon

Greenbush ye 25:th Aug:st 1777

Dear Gen:¹

[...] On the 16:th Ins:² Gen:¹ Starks with the New Hampshire Militia, the Militia of the Grants & some from the Bay, attack’d a Body of the Enemy consisting as I’m inform’d of 1500, who was intrenched within about 7 Miles of Bennington, carried their Lines drive them from their Baggage & took 4 Brass Field Peices, a Medicine Chest &ca. Taken, kill’d & wounded of the Enemy is as follows, Viz:³

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taken Prisoners</th>
<th>Lost on our Side</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Col:⁰</td>
<td>33 Kill’d &amp;</td>
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<td>1 Major</td>
<td>50 Wounded</td>
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<td>5 Capt:⁵</td>
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<td>12 Lieu:⁶</td>
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<td>4 Ensigns</td>
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<td>2 Canadian Officers</td>
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<td>3 Surgeons</td>
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<td>37 British Soldiers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>398 Hessians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 Canadians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>151 Tories</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 Kill’d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 Wounded</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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936 Total

We hear a Number of the Enemy has been brought in since this Account came off.

Heath Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA
43386
U. S. Army. Continental Army, 1777.
Important and Fresh Intelligence. Exeter, August
26th, 1777... General Stark.
NL copy.
Important and fresh Intelligence.

EXETER, August 26th, 1777.

Sunday Evening an Express arrived in this Town, with the following important Intelligence from General Stark at Bennington.

BENNINGTON, August 18th, 1777.

Gentlemen,

CONGRATULATE you on the late Success of your Troops under my command by Express. I purpose to give you a brief Account of my Proceedings since I wrote to you last.

I left Manchester on the 8th Inst, and arrived here the 9th. The 13th, I was informed that a Party of Indians were at Cambridge, which is twelve Miles distant from this Place, on their March thither. I detached Colonel Grego, with two Hundred Men under his command to stop their March. In the Evening I had Information by Express, that there was a large Body of the Enemy, on their Way, with their Field Pieces, in order to march through the Country, commanded by Governor Strobe. The 14th, I marched with my Brigade, and a few of this State's Militia, to oppose them, and to cover Grego's Retreat, who found himself unable to withstand their Superior Number, about four Miles from this Town, I accordingly met him on his Return, and the Enemy in close pursuit of him, within Half a Mile of his Rest. But when they discovered me, they presently halted on a very advantageous Piece of Ground; I drew up my little Army on an Emancipation, in open View of their Encampments, but could not bring them to an Engagement as we marched back about a Mile, and there continued. I sent out a few Men to skirmish with them, killed thirty of them, with two Indian Chiefs. The 15th, it rained all Day, I sent out Parties to harass them. The same day, I joined by this State's Militia, and those of Berkshire County. I divided my Army into two Divisions, and sent Col. Noyes with 50 Men on the Rear of their left Wing, Col. Herrick, in the Rear of their Center, 50 Men, ordered when joined, to be my James. In the mean Time I sent three Hundred more to oppose the Enemy's Front, to draw their Attention that Way, soon after I detached Lieut. Col. Hubbard and Stickett with 50 Men, with 200 Men to attack with their Guards for the purpose of giving them a taste of us, and to have their defensive Line in Sufficient time. At 3 o'clock, the Attack commenced, sustained by a large Body of Troops, which attacked, consisting of one hundred Men, at which Time the Enemy commenced the Assault, precisely 3 o'clock, in the Afternoon, which was followed by all the rest. I pulled forward the Remainder with all Speed; the People behaved with the greatest Spirit. Bravery imaginable, had they been Axemen, or Chairs of Woman; they could not have behaved better. The Action lasted two Hours, at the Inspiration of which Time, we forced their Breastworks at the Muzzles of their Guns, took two Pieces of their Cannon, with a Number of Prisoners, but before I could get them into proper Form again, I received Intelligence, that there was a large Reinforcement within two miles of us on their March, which occasioned us to renew our Attack, but luckily for us Col. W. R. K. Regt. came up, which put a stop to their Career, we soon rallied, and in a few Minutes the Action began very warm and desperate, which lasted till Night, we used their own Cannon against them, which proved of great Service to us. At Sunset we obliged them to retreat a second Time, we pursued them till dark, when I was obliged to halt for fear of killing my own Men, we recover'd two Pieces more of their Cannon, together with all their Baggage, a number of Horses, Carriages, &c. killed upwards of 200 of the Enemy in the Field of Battle, the number of the wounded is not yet known, as they are scatter'd about in many Places. I have one Lieutenant-Colonel, since dead, one Major, seven Captains, 14 Lieuts. 4 Ensigns, two Cornets, one Judge Advocate, one Barron, 150 Canadian Officers, five Sergeants, one Aid-de-Camp, one Hebrew Chaplain, three He. Can Surgeons, and Seven hundred Prisoners. I inclose you a Copy of Gen. Burgoyne's Instructions to Col. Baum, who commanded the Detachment that engaged us.

Our wounded are forty-two; ten Privates & four Officers belonging to my Brigade is dead; the dead and wounded in the other Corps, I do not know, as they have not brought in their Returns as yet. I am,

Gentlemen, with the greatest Regard,

and Respect, your most obedient

Humble Servant,

JOHN STARK. Brigadier-General.

P. S. I think, we have returned the Enemy a proper Compliment in the above Action, for the Hubbard-Town Engagement.

Instructions for Lieut. Col. Baum.

HEADQUARTERS, August 9th, 1777.

THE Object of your Expedition is to try the Affections of the Country, to dissuade the Councils of the Enemy, to mount the Rudolphs Dragoons, to compleat Peters Corps, and to obtain large Supplies of Cattle, Horses, and Carriages. The several Corps of which the inclosed is a List, are to be under your Command.

The Troops must take no Tents, and little Baggage is carried by Officers, must be on their Bat Horses.

You are to proceed from Batten-Hill, to Arlington, to take Post there, till the Detachment of Provincials under the command of Captain Sherwood, shall join you from the Southward. You are to proceed to Manchester, where you will take Post, so as to secure the Pass of the Mountains on the Road from
Manchester to Rockingham, from which you will detach the Indians and Light-Troops, to the Northward towards Outer Creek; on their Return, and also receiving Intelligence that no Enemy is in force upon the Connecticut River, you will proceed by the Road over the Mountain to Rockingham, where you will take Post, this will be the most distant Part on the Expedition and must be proceeded upon with Caution as you will have the Design of the Mountains behind you, which might make a Retire difficult, you must therefore endeavour to be well informed of the Force of the Enemy's Militia in the Neighbouring Country.—Should you find it may be necessary you are to remain there while the Indians and Light-Troops are detached up the River, and you are afterwards to defend the River to Brattlebury, and from that Place by the quickest March you are to return by the great road to Albany.

During your whole Progress, your Detachments are to have Orders to bring into you all Horses fit to mount the Dragoons under your command to serve as Bat Horses to the Troops, together with as many Saddles and Bridles as can be found. The number of Horses requisite besides the necessary for mounting the Regiment of Dragoons, ought to be thirteen Hundred. If you can bring more for the Use of the Army, it will be so much the better. Your Parties are likewise to bring in Wagons and other convenient Carriages, with as many draught Oxen as will be necessary to draw them, and all Cattle fit for slaughter, (except Cows) which are to be left for the Use of the Inhabitants. Regular Receipts in the Form hereunto subjoin'd, are to be given in all Places where any of the above mentioned Articles are taken, to such Persons as have remained in their Habitations, and otherwise contracted with you

In the Terms of Gen. Burgoyne's Manifesto, but no Receipt to be given to such as are known to be acting in the Service of the Rebels. As you will have Persons with you perfectly acquainted with the Abilities of the Country, it may perhaps be advisable to tax the several Districts with the Proportions of the several Articles and limit the Hours of the delivery, and should you find it necessary to move before such Delivery can be made, Horse-loads of the most respectable People should be taken to secure their following you the ensuing Day.

All possible Means are to be used to prevent plundering.

As it is probable that Captain Sherwood, who is already detached to the Sound, and will join you at Arlington, will drive in a considerable Quantity of Cattle and Horses to you, you will, therefore send in his Cattle to the Army, with a proper Detachment from your Corps to cover them, in order to diminish your self, but you must always keep the Regiment of Dragoons compact. The Dragoons themselves must ride, and take Care of the Horses of the Regiment. Those Horses which are destined for the Use of the Army must be tied together by Strings of ten each, in order that one Man may lead ten of them. You will give the unarmed Men of Peters Corps, to conduct them, and inhabitants whom you can trust: You must always take your Camps in good Positions, but at the same Time, where there is Pasture, and you must have a Chain of Centinels around your Cattle and Horses when grazing. Col. Skeene will be with you as much as possible, in order to assist you with his Advice, to help you to distinguish the good Subjects from the bad, to procure the best Intelligence of the Enemy, and to choose those People who are to bring me the Accounts of your Progress and Success.

When you find it necessary to halt for a Day or two, you must always intrench the Camp of the Regiment of Dragoons in order never to risque an Attack or Assault from the Enemy. As you will return with the Regiment of Dragoons, mounted, you must always have a Detachment of Capt. Sayer's or Peters Corps, in front of the Column, and the same in the Rear, in order to prevent your falling into an Ambuscade when you march through the Woods. You will use all possible Means to make the Country believe that the Troops under your command are the advanced Corps of the Army, and that it is intended to pass the Connecticut River on the Road to Boston; you will likewise inculcate that the Main Army from Albany is to be joined at Springfield by a Corps of Troops from Rhode Island.

It is highly probable that the Corps under Mr. Warner, now supposed to be at Manchester, will retreat before you, but should they not offer to retire, and not offer to expedition be able to collect in a great Force, and put themselves advantageously, it is left to your Discretion to attack them, or not, always bearing in Mind that your Corps is too valuable to let any considerable Loss be hazarded on this Occasion.

Should any Corps be moved from Mr. Ascham's Main Army, in order to intercept your Retreat, you are to take as strong a Post as the Country will afford, and send the quickest Intelligence to me, and you may depend on my making such a Movement as shall put the Enemy between two Fires, or otherwise effectually frustrate you.

It is imagined the Progress of the whole of this Expedition may be effected in about a Fortnight, but every Move of it must depend upon your Success in obtaining such Supply of Provisions as will enable you to subsist, for your Return to the Army, in case you can get no more, and should act the Army be able to reach Albany before your Expedition should be completed, I will find Means to send you Notice of it, and give you a Route to another Direction.

All Persons acting in Committees, or any Officers under the Directions of the Congress either Civil or Military are to be made Prisoners.

J. BURGOYNE.

Lieutenant-General.

into our hands. Another body of troops was detached by Genl Burgoyne under command of Col. Baum to the Eastward for the purpose of collecting horses to mount the troops, provisions and teams for the use of the army. This detachment was met, attacked and defeated by the brave Genl Stark and the New Hampshire Militia at a place called Bennington, and now rendered famous by the total overthrow of fifteen hundred Regular Troops [posted behind works, fortified with cannon] by Two Thousand Militia.

(Signed) B. Harrison, R.H. Lee, R. Morris, J. Lovell

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington
Official Correspondence

_Hartford Courant_ 7 October 1777.

Bennington, August 18, 1777.

To the printer of the Connecticut Courant,—The following exertions of the Council for the State of Vermont since the evacuation of Ticonderoga, Mount Independence, &c., may be depended on as facts which I think justly deserve a space in your useful paper; you are therefore desired to publish the same. Those Gentlemen were with others attending a General Convention of that State at Windsor, when the above mentioned fortresses were besieged by the enemy, who constantly received intelligence of the movements of the several bodies. Every method in their power was taken to forward the militia in this and the Eastern States to the assistance of General St. Clair, as well as provisions of every kind. On receiving authentic intelligence of the evacuation of those fortresses, and that a stand was to be made at Bennington, the same day, the honorable convention, then sitting as aforesaid, appointed twelve members as a council to transact public business of the state during the recess of the convention; who without delay repaired to Manchester, where Col. Warner’s regiment of Continental troops was at that time posted; which they finding were not a sufficient force to withstand the enemy in case of an attack, exerted themselves in a most spirited manner, and collected the militia of said state, which enabled Col. Warner to maintain that post. At the same time they wrote to the Honbl the Council of the State of New Hampshire, setting forth in the most pressing terms the necessity of the assistance of the militia of that State to guard so valuable a part of the country from the immediate ravage of the Indians, as was threatened by Gen. Burguoyne’s manifesto. The Honbl the Council of New Hampshire, taking the same under their immediate consideration, ordered a fourth part of twelve regiments to be forthwith drafted and put them under my command, at which time I received orders to march to Manchester and act in conjunction with Col. Warner. After my arrival at that place I received orders from Major General Lincoln, pursuant to orders from General Schuyler, to march my whole brigade to Stillwater, and join the main army then under his command. At the same time requested the whole of the militia (by Gen. Schuyler’s order) of the State of Vermont to join him and march to Stillwater as aforesaid. In obedience thereto I marched with my brigade to Bennington on my way to join him, leaving that part of the country almost naked to the ravage of the enemy. The Honorable the Council then sitting at Bennington were much against my marching with my Brigade, as it was raised on their request, they apprehending great danger of the enemy’s approaching to that place, which afterwards raised by this
State, with parts of Col. Symond’s regiment of Militia, [from Berkshire County, Mass.,] are now in action with a number of the enemy’s Troops assembled near this place, which has been for some time very severe. We have now in possession (taken from them this day) four brass field pieces, ordnance stores, &c., and this minute four or five hundred prisoners have arrived. We have taken the ground, although fortified by entrenchments &c., but after being drove about one mile the enemy, being reinforced, made a second stand, and still continue the action. The loss on each side is doubtless considerable. You are therefore in the most pressing terms requested by Gen. Stark and this Council to forward the whole of the militia under your several commands to this plane without one minute’s loss of time:—they will proceed on horseback with all the ammunition that can be provided conveniently. On our present exertions depends the fate of thousands.

I am, gentlemen, your Most Obt. Servant,

Jonas Fay, Vice President.

Primary Sources Battle of Bennington

Samples of Invalid Pension claims resulting from the Battle of Bennington

More than a decade after the battle invalids could for the first time apply for federal pensions. About two dozen of the applications came from men who had fought and been wounded at Bennington.

_The Pension Lists of 1792-1795: With Other Revolutionary War Pension Records._ (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing, 1996), pp. 1-13. Invalid Pension Claims: Communicated to the House of Representatives, December 14, 1792. List of the invalid pensioners returned by the Circuit Court for the hereafter named districts, and who have been placed on the list transmitted from the War Office to the commissioners of loans for the respective States, and returned to the Secretary of the Treasury for arrearages of pension.

**New Hampshire**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Regiment</th>
<th>Pension Date</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gilman, Joshua</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Colo: Hubbard</td>
<td>May 29, 1792</td>
<td>Wounded in left arm Aug 16, 1777, Bennington Battle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimball, Abraham</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Militia</td>
<td>May 28, 1792</td>
<td>Wounded in thigh at Bennington Battle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waldo, Edward</td>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td>Colonel Hubbard</td>
<td>May 28, 1792</td>
<td>Wounded in wrist on Aug 16, 1777 in Bennington Battle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All three of these men filed for pensions, viz. Joshua Gilman’s pension application S 13135, Abraham Kimball’s W 12041 and Edward Waldo’s S 19839.

**Vermont**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Regiment</th>
<th>Pension Date</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brydia, David</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Colo: Herrick</td>
<td>Jun 29, 1792</td>
<td>Wounded in the battle of Bennington, Aug 1777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haynes, Jonathan</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Colo: Robinson’s &quot; &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>Wounded at Bennington Aug 16, 1777</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilmarth, Ephraim</td>
<td>Sergeant</td>
<td>Militia</td>
<td></td>
<td>Wounded in an action with British troops near Bennington on Aug 16, 1777</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jonathan Haynes Ephraim Wilmarth’s pension applications have no numbers because no papers were filed.
District of Maine
Symms, William  Private  Capt Peter Kimball's Militia  Washington  Wounded in the battle of Bennington, Aug 1777
Stafford, Joab  Captain Colo: Simmons  Herkimer  Wounded at Bennington, Aug 1777

Maine
Knowles, John  Private  Colo: Stickney  Sterling  Wounded by a ball shot through the body at Bennington in 1777; militia
New Hampshire

Ford, James Captain Colo: Nichols West Nottingham Wounded by two musket ball in both thighs at Bennington on Aug 6, 1777; militia

Batchelder, Archelaus Sergt-Major Colo: Nichols Wilton Wounded by a musket ball at Bennington on Aug 16, 1777; militia

Waldo, Edward Lieutenant Colo: David Hobart Walpole, Co. Wounded by a ball in the left wrist at Bennington on Aug 16, 1777; militia

Gilman, Joshua Private Colo: David Hobart Alstead Wounded in the left arm and breast in the battle of Bennington, Aug 16, 1777; militia

Redding, John Private Colo: Moses Nichols Surry Disabled by illness contracted at Bennington on Aug 16, 1777; militia

Putney, Asa Sergeant Colo: Thos Stickney's Warner Wounded by a musket ball in the right arm at Bennington in Aug 1777; militia

Aiken, Andrew Sergt-Major Colo: Stickney Deering Wounded by a musket ball at Bennington in Aug 1777; militia

Pierce, Amos lieutenant Colo: Nichols Westmoreland Wounded by a ball in his left hand at Bennington in Aug 1777

A statement of the certificates transmitted to the War Office of the United States by the Judge of the District Court for the District of Vermont, of invalid pension applicants examined by him.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Regiment or Company</th>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haynes, Jonathan</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Colo: Moses Robinson Militia</td>
<td>Middletown</td>
<td>Wounded by a musket ball in the body, Bennington, Aug 16, 1777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stark, John</td>
<td>Captain</td>
<td>Colo: Tim: Brownson</td>
<td>Pawlett</td>
<td>Wounded by a musket ball in the right thigh at Bennington, Aug 16, 1777; militia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>