



The Battle of

SARATOGA

THE TURNING POINT OF THE REVOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF SARATOGA IN 1777.

*The pivotal moment when
a single battle forever
changed the fate of a nation.*

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The untold story that **CHANGED THE HISTORY BOOKS.**

Most Americans simply don't know that it was the decisive victory at Saratoga that enabled Ambassador Benjamin Franklin, after numerous unsuccessful attempts, to convince the French crown to intervene in the American Revolution —thus transforming this colonial conflict from a rebellious insurrection to a wider, world war. Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga alone made this first American diplomatic triumph possible. **Saratoga was the lynchpin to bringing the French into the fight.**

No film has been made to date that focuses on the singular importance of the Battle of Saratoga to America's successful fight for independence. *Why doesn't this most pivotal of battles enjoy the attention that is given to the other seminal moments in American history? Why is Saratoga given short shrift in history courses and books?* Well, only we can change that.

THE STORY

**"GENERAL BURGoyNE CEREMONIOUSLY
SURRENDERING HIS SWORD TO GENERAL GATES"**

This famous portrait is prominently displayed in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.

THE TURNING POINT OF THE REVOLUTION

The Battle of Saratoga is one of the most important battles ever fought in world history.

In 1777, the American Revolution was on the brink of collapse. The British army delivered crushing defeats to the Continental Army and controlled Canada to the North and New York to the South. They devised a plan to link forces in Albany and crush the rebellion once and for all.

With a renewed vigor, militias from all across New England and New

York converged and poured in to a small town along the Hudson River... Saratoga.

In a miraculous event, the Americans delivered a stunning defeat to the British. For the first time, the mightiest army in the world had surrendered to the newest. Ceremoniously, British General John Burgoyne was forced to hand over his sword to American General Horatio Gates.

The Battle of Saratoga became known as, *"The Turning Point of the Revolution."*

THE BURIAL OF

After the Battle of Saratoga, 1777

During the Seven Years War (1756-1763), Simon Fraser fought at the Siege of Louisbourg and at Quebec under the command of Major-General James Wolfe. A near-relation of a former Jacobite chieftain, he went to North America in 1776, commanding a brigade in the army of Major-General John Burgoyne during the American War of Independence (1775-1783).

The following year, Burgoyne allowed his army to be encircled by superior American forces at Saratoga. During an unsuccessful attempt to break through the American position, Fraser was mortally wounded by a rifle ball on 7, October 1777 on the ground called Bemis Heights. He died at 8 o'clock the following morning and was buried in one of the British redoubts. After this battle, over 5,000 of Burgoyne's troops were subsequently forced to surrender to the Americans, which marked a turning point in the war.



THE MASSACRE *of Jane McCrea*

Jane McCrea (sometimes spelled McCrae or MacCrae, 1752-1777) was a young woman who was purportedly slain by Native Americans associated with the British army of Lieutenant General John Burgoyne during the American Revolutionary War. Affianced to a Loyalist serving in Burgoyne's army, her slaying led to expressions of outrage and an increase in Patriot military recruiting, especially in the days following her killing.

The propaganda that followed greatly accentuated her beauty, and the fact that she was associated with Loyalists (although her family was primarily active in serving the Patriot cause) undermined British claims of protection for Loyalists. Burgoyne's inability to punish the alleged killers also undermined British assertions that they were more civilized in their conduct of the war; the dissemination of this propaganda contributed to the success of Patriot recruiting drives in New York for several years.



THE PATRIOTS

Key characters and cast considerations

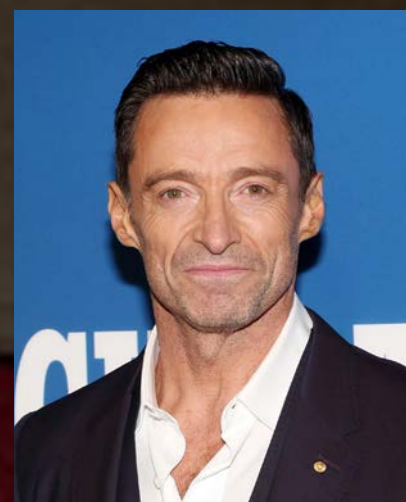
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General Benedict Arnold

Fiery, fierce commander in battle. A hero at the Battles of Saratoga. Was overlooked by Congress for his heroics and leadership in battle in Canada, bypassed as commander of the Northern Forces. Loved by his troops and at odds with Gates over strategy.

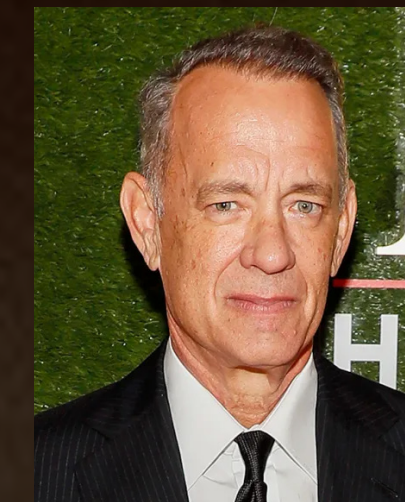
POTENTIAL CASTING:



General Horatio Gates

General of the Northern Continental Army. Dubbed "Granny Gates," for having little personal courage when it came to fighting. Portly. Jealous of Benedict Arnold's military prowess and leadership. Served the British Army during the French and Indian War. Now fights for the colonists.

POTENTIAL CASTING:



THE PATRIOTS

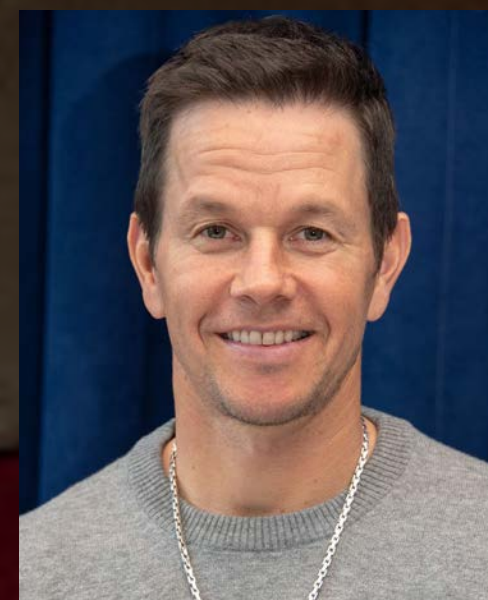
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Timothy Murphy
(sniper)

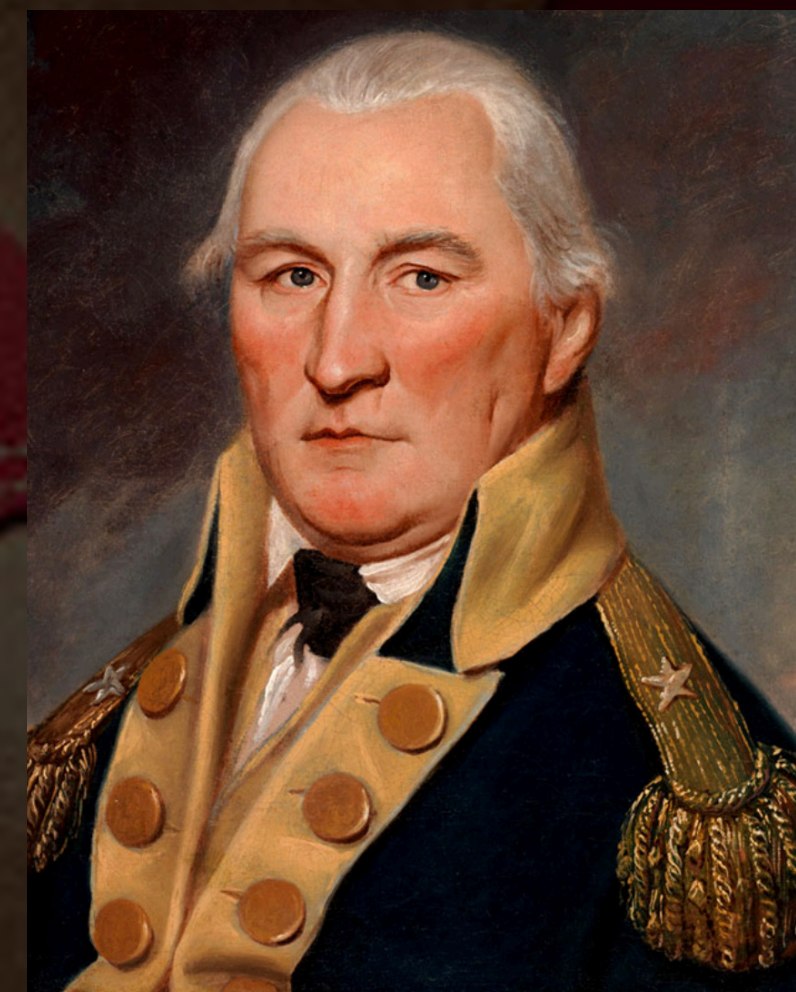
At the Battle of Bemis Heights (Second Battle of Saratoga) on October 7, 1777, Timothy is reputed to have fired two shots that found their mark and sent the British command of the battle into complete confusion. The first shot killed Sir Francis Clerke and the second cut off the life of General Simon Fraser.

POTENTIAL CASTING:



Colonel James Wilkinson

POTENTIAL CASTING:



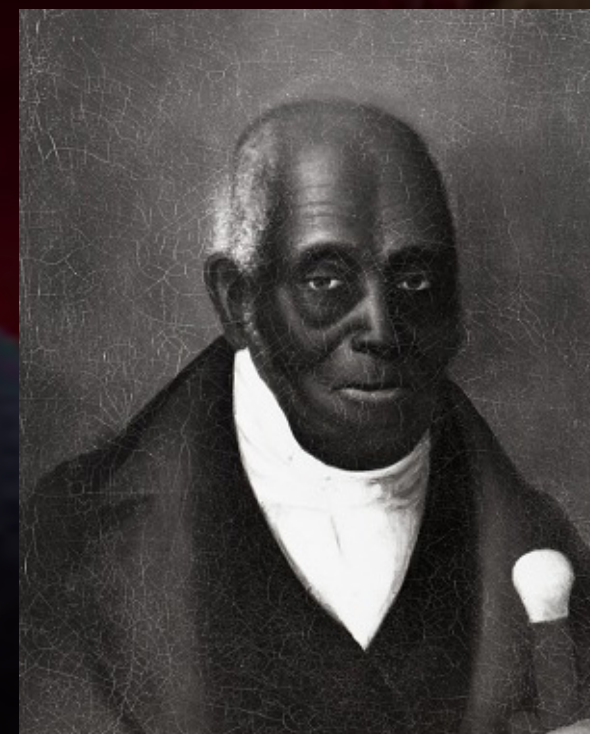
Colonel Daniel Morgan

POTENTIAL CASTING:

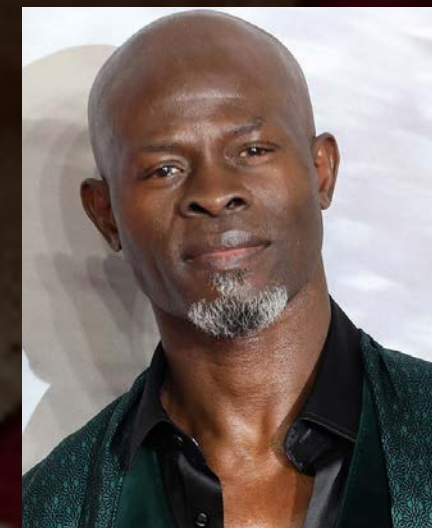




Tadeusz (Thaddeus) Kosciuszko



Agrippa Hull



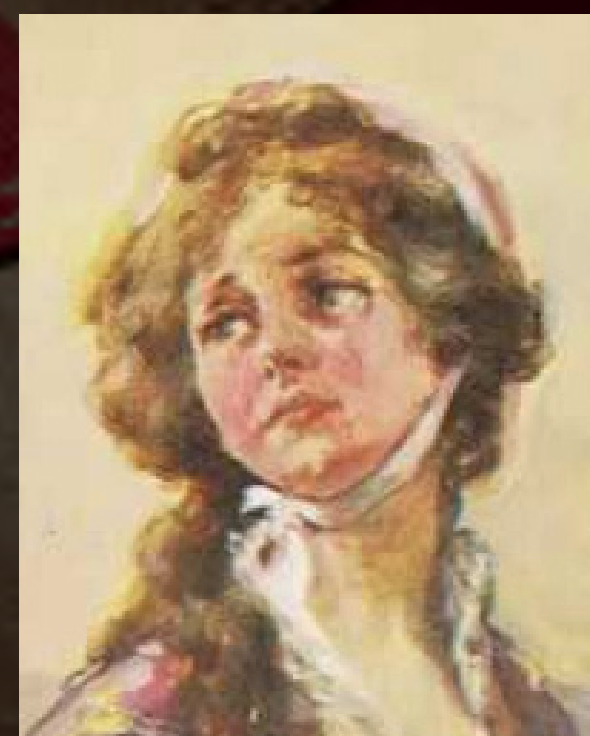
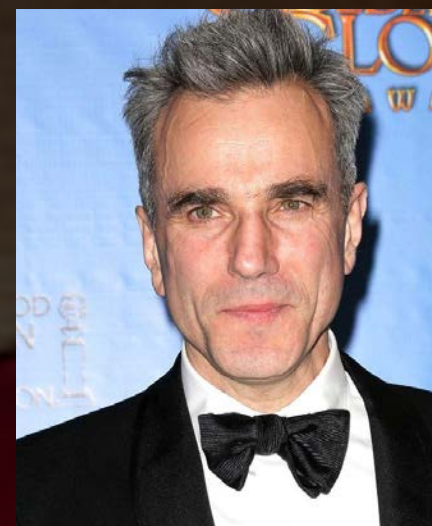
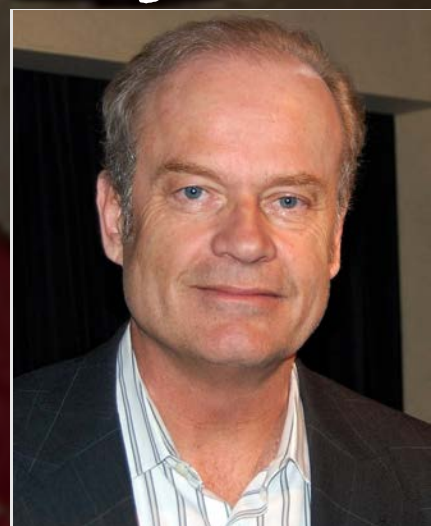
George Washington



Peter Salem



Benjamin Franklin



Jane McCrea



THE BRITS

Key characters and cast considerations



General John Burgoyne

Handsome, Intelligent British General. Affectionally dubbed "Gentleman Johnny" by the soldiers he commanded. Well educated, overly confident Member of Parliament, Playwright, Gambler, Womanizer. Led British invasion from Montreal to Albany.

POTENTIAL CASTING:



General Simon Fraser

Scottish- born, Brigadier General, Burgoyne's first in command who was killed in the Battle of Bemis Heights during the Saratoga Campaign, shot through the intestines by Timothy Murphy, an American rifleman.



General Von Riedesiel

German born, was put in Command of all German, Artillery and American Indian forces during the campaign. His wife Frederika and infant daughters accompanied him during the journey.



Charles Gravier



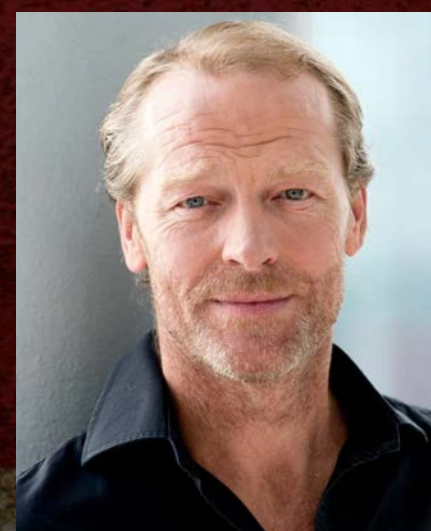
Burgoyne's Mistress



Algonquin Chief



King George III



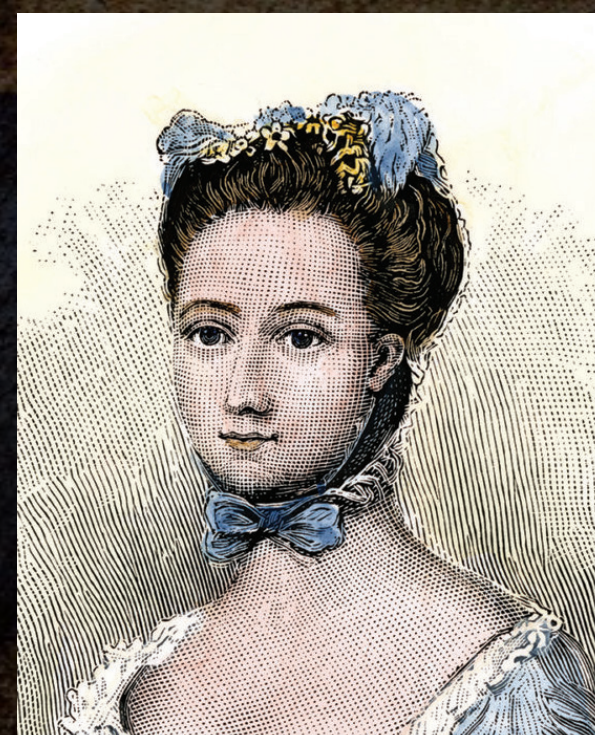
Oneida Chief



Oneida Woman



Lady Riedesel



LOOK BOOK

Our mission is to develop a timeless, enduring, and iconic motion picture that evocatively and compellingly tells the story of Saratoga. This film will aim to vividly depict the dramatic events and autumn grandeur that set New York's Upper Hudson Valley ablaze in 1777.



COMPARABLES

Hollywood's War-Themed Films

Hollywood has always had a fascination with epic, historical, war themed films. From early classics like *Birth of a Nation*, and *Gone With the Wind*, to modern day fan-fare such as *Saving Private Ryan*, *Fury*, *American Sniper* and *Lone Survivor*. As well currant Revolutionary War-era hit Television shows such as AMC's "Turn: Washington's Spies", History Channel's "Sons of Liberty".





LOCATION

Fort Ticonderoga, Walloomsac, and Stillwater, NY

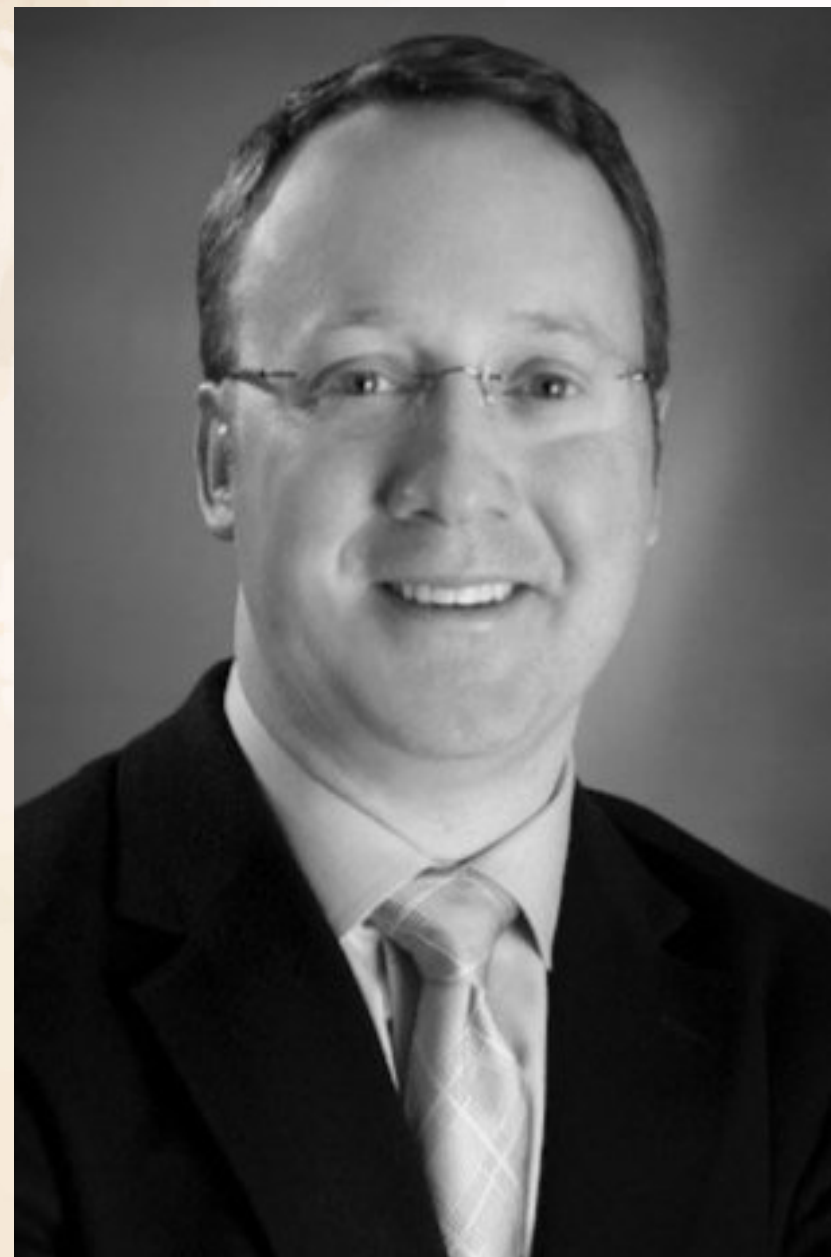
form New York's "Turning Point Trail" (part of the state's storied "Independence Trail").

This trail – consisting of Fort Ticonderoga, whose cannons were used to end the protracted Boston Siege in March 1776 – which strategically commands unrivaled vistas of the majestic Champlain Valley, the Adirondack High Peaks and the Green Mountains; Walloomsac, NY, actual site of the Battle of Bennington (where Burgoyne's foraging force was routed in August 1777, a harbinger of the ultimate outcome of his ill-fated campaign); and, the Saratoga National Historical Park, site of the war's decisive turning point – marks the geographic region of one of the most consequential chapters of the American Revolution.



OUR TEAM

The project's talented leadership team is comprised of preeminent military historians; U.S. military veterans, and those who proudly hail from military families; veterans of the motion picture and entertainment industry; and, by individuals who grew up, were educated, lived, and worked in New York's Upper Hudson Valley.



Mark O'Rourke

PRODUCER / MANAGING MEMBER

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY

Over the years, as a Boy Scout, U.S. Army R.O.T.C. cadet, member of the U.S. Army, and as a grateful citizen, I have proudly visited numerous American battlefields and historical sites where our very freedoms were courageously fought for and secured by patriots that often not sufficiently remembered.

I am a member of the National Eagle Scout Association; the American Legion; the New York State Fraternal Order of Police; Ducks Unlimited; the NYS Bar Association; and St. John's University Law School's Alumni Board of Directors.



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