

New York in the American Revolution

An Exhibition from the
Library and Museum Collections of
The Society of the Cincinnati



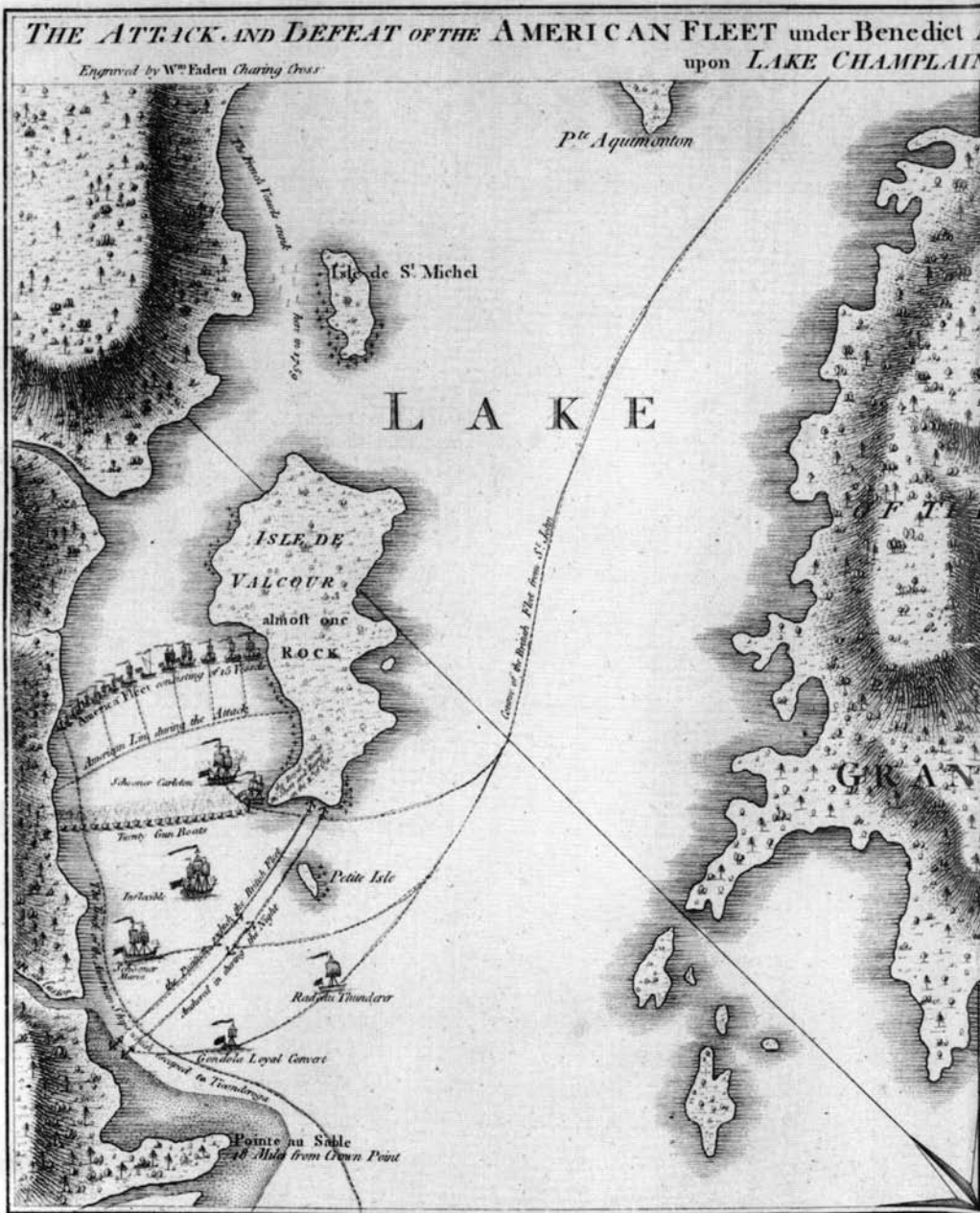
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Anderson House
Washington, D. C.

September 29, 1998 - April 3, 1999



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THIS catalogue has been produced in conjunction with the exhibit, *New York in the American Revolution*, on display from September 29, 1998 to April 3, 1999 at Anderson House, Headquarters, Library and Museum of the Society of the Cincinnati, 2118 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D. C. 20008. It is the second in a series of exhibitions focusing on the contributions of the original thirteen states and the French alliance to the American Revolution.

Generous support for this exhibit was provided by the New York State Society of the Cincinnati.

Also available:

Massachusetts in the American Revolution: "Let it Begin Here" (1997)

The city and province of New York, from which [the British] government had the greatest hopes, . . . upon receiving the news of the action at Concord and Lexington, began to depart from their moderation, and seemed to have received a liberal portion of the common temper and spirit that operated in the other colonies.

—James Murray in *An Impartial History of the Present War in America*, London: 1778, v. 1, p. 453.

Ellen McCallister Clark, Editor

Cover illustration: [François Xav. Habermann]. "Representation du Feu Terrible a Nouvelle Yorck." Hand-colored etching, [ca. 1776]. On loan from Dr. Gary Milan, Beverly Hills, California. See page 11.

Inside front and back cover: "Attack and Defeat of the American Fleet under Benedict Arnold, by the King's Fleet Commanded by Captn. Thos. Pringle, upon Lake Champlain, the 11th of October 1776." London: William Faden, Dec^r. 3^d, 1776. See pages 17-18.

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INTRODUCTION

NEW YORK was the strategic key to both the American and British campaigns during the American Revolution. Situated at the geographic hub of the colonies, with an excellent harbor and network of waterways to the north and west, New York was the scene of nearly one-third of all Revolutionary War battles. The British captured New York City in 1776 and occupied it for seven years. Their evacuation and Washington's triumphal re-entry into the city in late November 1783 were the last military events of the war.

The New York line was organized on May 25, 1775, under the resolves of the Continental Congress. The line was initially composed of four regiments of infantry under the commands of Colonel Alexander McDougall, Colonel Goose van Schaick, Colonel James Clinton, and Colonel James Holmes, and one company of artillery under Captain John Lamb. Congress also commissioned New Yorkers Philip Schuyler as major general and Richard Montgomery as brigadier general in command of the Continental Army's Northern Department. Over the course of the war, the New York line evolved from a largely untrained group of volunteers into one of the most respected fighting forces in the Continental Army.

New York was also the birthplace of the Society of the Cincinnati, founded on May 13, 1783, at Mount Gulian, on the Hudson River at Fishkill. The New York State Society of the Cincinnati was organized the following month by officers of the New York line encamped at New Windsor.

Drawing from the rich collections of the Society of the Cincinnati Library and Museum, this exhibit highlights the major events and campaigns that took place in New York during the Revolution, from the early activities of the Sons of Liberty to Washington's farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern in December 1783. It also commemorates the contributions of the original members of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati to the achievement of American Independence.

CASE 1: PREAMBLE

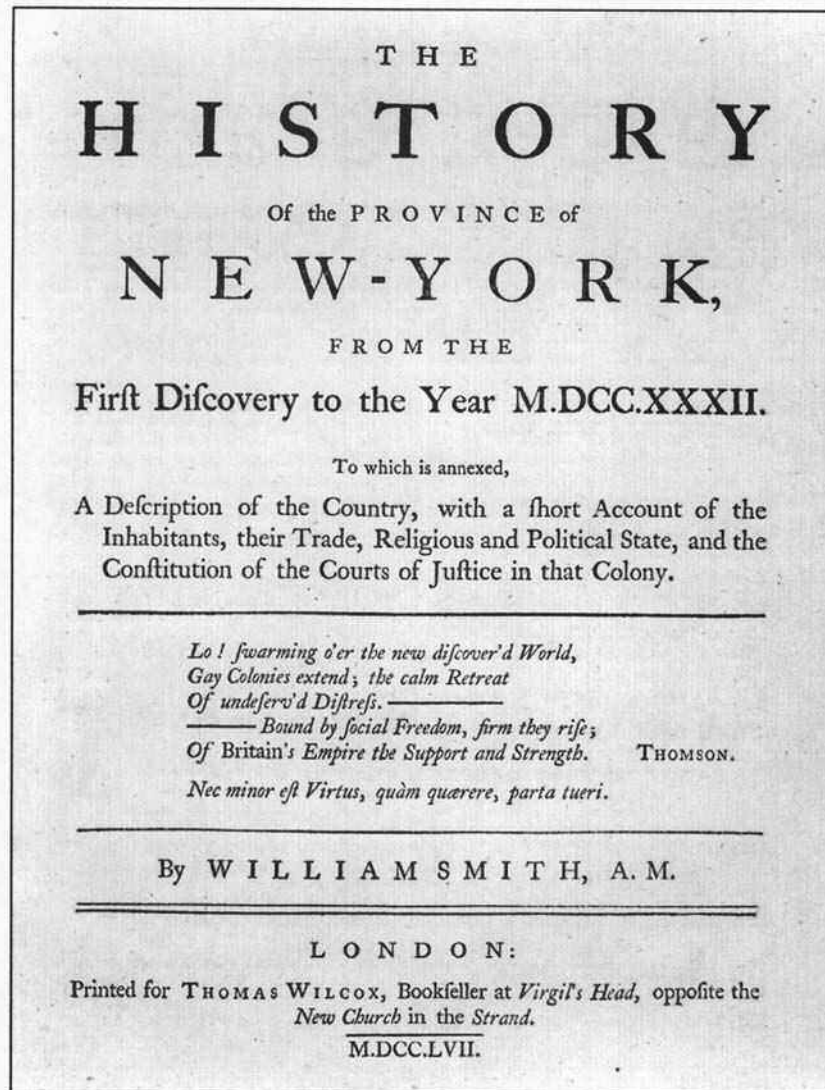
AFTER the Seven Years' War, British policy toward her American colonies changed dramatically. Having enjoyed a period of benign neglect under King George II, the colonists under George III were expected to share the burden of depleted coffers and the expenses of self-defense in England's newly expanded empire to the west. Unrepresented in Parliament, some Americans felt unfairly burdened by taxes levied without due consideration of their interests and unreasonably restricted from migrating westward beyond the Alleghenies. Not surprisingly, the resulting disputes gave rise to differing approaches to a solution. On both sides of the Atlantic, public opinion was sharply divided. In the mother country, factions aligned with the monarch included his prime minister Lord North as well as Lord Grenville and the Earl of Sandwich. Those more sympathetic to the colonists were two of the most articulate orators of their day, William Pitt and Edmund Burke; other sympathetic Whigs included Rockingham, and Grafton. In New York, the Provincial Governor Tryon and the military commander Thomas Gage found themselves opposed by the radical Sons of Liberty, of whom Alexander McDougall was one of the more outspoken.

Shown here is a sampling of materials reflecting the tumultuous decades preceding the actual outbreak of war.

William Smith (1728-1793). *The History of the Province of New-York, from the First Discovery to the Year M.DCC.XXXII.* London: Printed for Thomas Wilcox..., 1757. Frontispiece: J. Mynde (fl. 1740-1770). "The South View of Oswego on Lake Ontario."

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

PERPETUAL Animosities being engendered between the Governours and the People subjected to their Authority, all Attempts for conciliating the Friendship of the Indians, promoting the Fur Trade, securing the Command of the Lakes,



protecting the Frontiers, and extending our Possessions far into the Inland country, have too often given Place to party projects and contracted Schemes, equally useless and shameful.” (p. viii)

William Smith’s prescient description articulates five concerns voiced on both sides of the Atlantic during the period preceding the American Revolution. Colonial authority, the Indian “problem,” trade, security, and western expansion were issues driving Whigs and Tories, Patriots and Loyalists to extremes as they struggled to find means of replenishing the English treasury and of reconciling their political differences.

The foldout frontispiece depicts Fort Oswego, located in central New York State at the juncture of the Onondaga River and Lake Ontario. Because of its strategic location, the fort, which was strengthened and enlarged by the English in the 1750s, also played a role in the Revolutionary War. (See Case 5: The Sullivan Expedition Against the Iroquois.)

Great Britain. Parliament. *An Act for Restraining and Prohibiting the Governor, Council, and House of Representatives of the Province of New York...from Passing or Assenting to Any Act of Assembly, Vote, or Resolution for Any Other Purpose.* London: Printed by Mark Baskett..., 1767.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

ENACTED in the seventh regnal year of King George III, this “New York Assembly Suspension Act” attempted to force compliance with the law requiring the various colonies to quarter and provision Royal troops. The provincial Assembly, deeming the act unfairly burdensome to its province inasmuch as it was serving as Gage’s military headquarters, refused to supply and house more than two regiments. Ultimately, the Act was revoked without the colony’s yielding.

W.H. Brown and C. Warren. “The Right Hon^{ble} Edmund Burke.” London: Published according to an Act of Parliament, 1790. Bound in an untitled collection of portraits engraved between 1790 and 1792.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

EDMUND BURKE (1729-1797), member of Parliament and a key moderate in the Whig party, wrote in 1775, “It was not without regret that we found the dissensions between this country and its colonies at length ripened into a civil war. The person to whose lot it falls to describe the transactions of domestic hostility, and the steps which lead to it, has a painful, and generally unthankful office.... It little becomes us to be dogmatical and decided in our opinions in this matter when the public, even on this side of the water, is so much divided; and when the first names of the country have differed so greatly in their sentiments.” (In *The Annual Register for 1775*, p. [iii]-[iv])

Isaac Low (1735-1791). “Advertisement to the Publick.” New York, 1770. In Neal W. Allen. *The Lot of the Moderate 1770*. Schenectady: Friends of the Union College Library, 1967.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

LOW was a moderate New York merchant who in pre-Revolutionary conflicts was an active colonial Whig fully in support of the 1765 “non-importation” policy (or boycott) of English goods. In 1767, New York merchants, following the lead of their Boston counterparts, formally agreed to import no goods shipped from Britain unless the Townshend Acts were repealed. Because the policy was not uniformly applied throughout the colonies, many of the New York merchants felt that they were “starving on the slender meal of patriotism” while those less faithful “rogues laugh’d and thriv’d.”

One result of their resentment was this broadside raising the question of continuing the non-importation policy or modifying its scope to target only tea. Another result was the distrust of Low by more radical New Yorkers like Alexander McDougall, who felt betrayed by Low’s compromise. Indeed, Low, though he remained a Whig partisan through 1775, ultimately refused to approve a formal break with England. He remained in New

York throughout much of the war; but because he had aligned himself with the British military authorities, his lands were confiscated by the Americans, and he left the country in 1783.

Benjamin Wilson (1721-1788). "The Repeal." [ca. 1766]

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection
[above case]

INTENDED to raise revenues to replenish government coffers drained by the French and Indian War, the Stamp Act of 1 November, 1765, raised instead the anti-government passions of the colonists. Later that month, citizens in New York City attacked the Royal Artillery garrison at the Battery.

Celebrating the 1766 repeal of the Stamp Act of 1765, this satirical engraving depicts the act's funeral procession led by George Grenville, who as first Lord of the Treasury carries the coffin of the "deceased." Such Tory supporters as Lord Bute, Lord Temple, and the Earl of Sandwich, the first Lord of the Admiralty, follow Grenville to the family vault containing the remains of other earlier unpopular acts. In the background are ships labeled "Conway," "Rockingham," and "Grafton," all named for Whigs who had supported the repeal.



Many engraved versions of the event were published in Europe. This imaginative rendering is probably a reprint of one published in Paris by André Basset.

"La Destruction de la Statue Royale a Nouvelle Yorck." [ca. 1776]

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

REACTIONS to the Declaration of Independence were recorded with varying degrees of accuracy. It is a fact that shortly after hearing a public reading of the document, soldiers and civilians in New York City pulled down a statue of George III that stood on the city's Bowling Green. The handsome monument, cast in lead and completely covered in gold leaf, was mounted on a fifteen-foot pedestal of white marble and surrounded by a protective ten-foot fence; nevertheless, its 4,000 pounds of lead were carried away and melted into bullets for the American troops.

CASE 2: THE BATTLES FOR NEW YORK CITY

FOLLOWING the British evacuation from Boston in March 1776, General George Washington moved south to New York City, arriving there on April 13. Anticipating that the British would soon follow, the Americans had already begun to build a series of defensive earthworks around the city and on the heights of Brooklyn across the East River. At the end of June, British forces under the command of General William Howe sailed into the New York harbor and anchored off Staten Island.

Control of Long Island was crucial to the defense of New York City. With the arrival of the British, Washington felt compelled to divide his forces, sending about half his available troops across the river to Brooklyn. On August 22, General Howe landed some 23,000 troops at Gravesend Bay to begin the Long Island offensive. Outnumbered more than three to two, Washington's fledgling army of volunteers were no match for the highly trained British professionals and their Hessian reinforcements. Howe and his second-in-command, General Henry Clinton, handily out-maneuvered the Americans, forcing them into a savage battle on August 27, and finally into retreat to their Brooklyn entrenchments. American losses during the battle were 312 killed and about 1,100 taken prisoner, including Generals John Sullivan and William Alexander (Lord Stirling). On the night of August 29, Washington moved under cover of rain and fog what remained of his troops and equipment back across the river to Manhattan. It was a brilliant and daring maneuver that astonished the enemy and saved the American army from total defeat.

The Battle of Long Island was the beginning of a series of discouraging setbacks for Washington and his army. They evacuated New York City on September 12, setting up headquarters at Harlem Heights. In late October, Washington withdrew up to White Plains, but was defeated again in battle there on October 28. After the British captured Fort Washington on November 16 and its New Jersey counterpart, Fort Lee, three

days later, the American forces abandoned the greater New York City area entirely.

“Disembarkation of the Troops at Gravesend Bay under the Command of Sir George Collier, R.N.” Aquatint engraved by Baily, from *The Naval Chronicle*, London, November 30, 1814.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

WHOWER commands the sea must command the town,” wrote American General Charles Lee upon his arrival in New York City to prepare for its defense. Control of the waterways was critical to British success during the New York campaigns of 1776. On August 22, 1776, Rear Admiral George Collier, commander of the *Rainbow*, covered the landing of some 4,000 British troops under Clinton and Cornwallis at Gravesend Bay to aid General Howe's advance on Long Island.

Jacob Gerrish (1739-1817). Manuscript Record Book, August 22-November 15, 1776, 84 leaves. Signed “Jacob Gerrish’s book” inside front cover.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

ACAPTAIN in the 12th Massachusetts Regiment of Foot, Gerrish was stationed in New York throughout 1776. His record book includes, along with a rudimentary muster roll and list of dead soldiers, an account of the defeat of American troops at Long Island: “On ye 27 of August our Guard at flat Bush was attacked by 4000 [?] Hessian troops where by being surrounded were obliged to make a Retreat about 3 miles...after Sustaining a Considerable loss—the Enemy being Greatly repulsed by Gen^l Stirling—who was afterwards Surrounded and taken prisoner, with a great part of his Brigade.”

Sir Henry Clinton's personal copy of Charles Stedman (1753-1812), *The History of the Origin, Progress, and Termination of the American War*. 2 vols. London: Printed for the author, 1794. Volume I extensively annotated by Clinton. Plate shown: "Sketch of General Grants Position on Long Island."

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

STEDMAN was an American-born officer in the British army who served under Howe, Clinton, and Cornwallis during the American Revolution. His history of the war remains one of the standard sources on the military campaigns and is especially valued for its many plates of maps and battle plans. This heavily annotated copy belonged to Sir Henry Clinton, second-in-command to General Howe during the 1776 campaigns and later his successor as commander-in-chief of the British army. On page 197, in response to Stedman's charge that Howe could have pressed his advantage to a more decisive victory at Long Island, Clinton has written in the margin: "What ever the opinion of certain officers was at the time, whatever the general opinion now, the Comr. in Chief might have had at the time political and military reasons for not advancing."

Clinton's public rebuttal to Stedman's criticisms of British policy and performance, *Observations on Mr. Stedman's History of the American War*, was also published in 1794.

John Crane (1744-1805), Passamaquoddy, [Maine] to the Honorable George Thacher, Esq., Philadelphia, December 2, 1793. A.L.S., 1 page, integral address cover.

On loan from Mr. and Mrs. Talbot H. Crane, Wilmington, Delaware. Mr. Crane is a member of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati.

JOHN CRANE was a major in General Knox's Regiment Continental Artillery in September 1776, when he was wounded in the foot by a cannon ball from a British ship at Corlaer's Hook, New York. He remained in service until the end of the war, rising to the rank of brevet brigadier general.

In this letter, Crane writes to Congressman George Thacher concerning his claim for a pension for his wartime service: "I

was wounded on the fifth day of September 1776 on the Island of New York, while commanding a detachment of Artillery Sent out by the order of the Commander-in-Chief to cannonade a detachment of the British Fleet lying in the East river...there was no doubt with the Surgeon when an Envestigation took place of my having a full right to a Pension...."

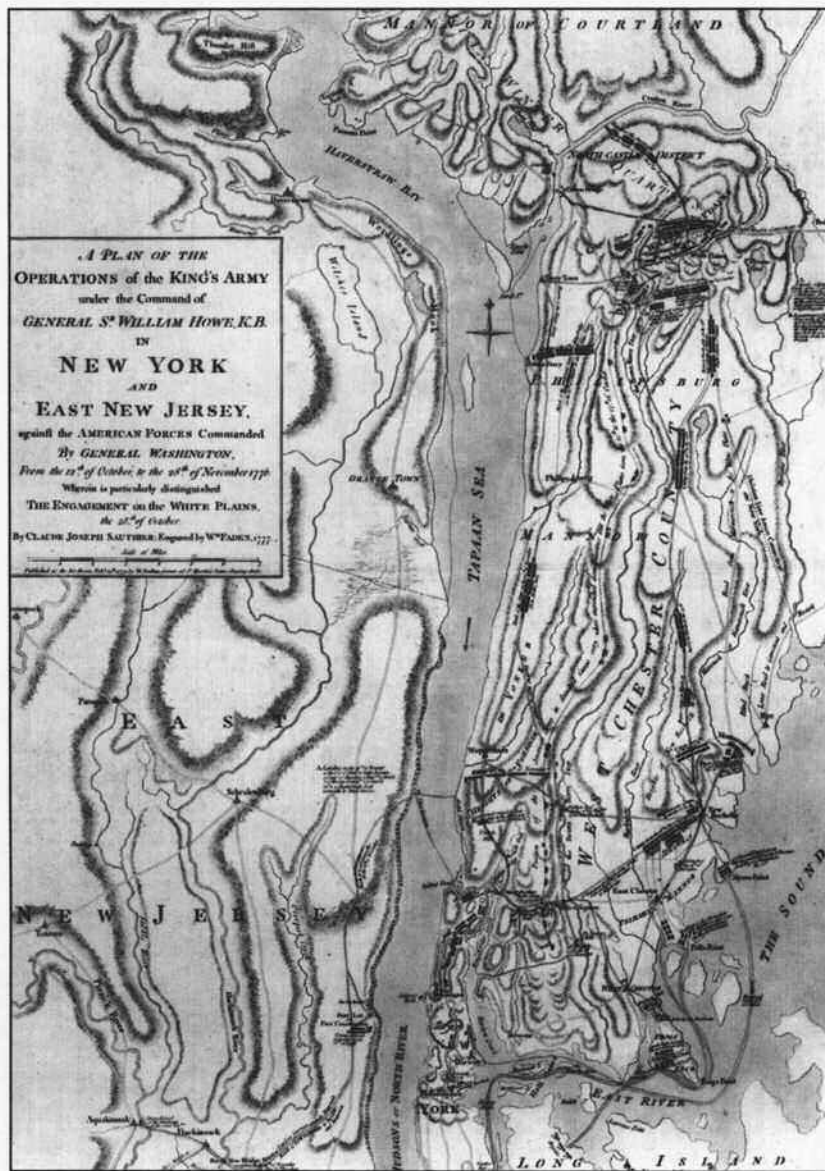
[François Xav. Habermann]. "Representation du Feu Terrible a Nouvelle Yorck" Hand colored etching, [ca. 1776].

On loan from Dr. Gary Milan, Beverly Hills, California
[cover illustration]

DURING the night and early morning of September 20-21, 1776, fire raged through British-occupied New York City, destroying about 500 buildings or nearly a third of the town. The origin of the fire has never been proven, although traditionally the blame has been laid on Patriots embittered that the American forces had been evacuated. Writing from his headquarters at Harlem Heights on September 23, General Washington reported the incident to Connecticut Governor Jonathan Trumbull:

On friday Night, about Eleven or twelve Oclock, a fire broke out in the city of New York, which, burning rapidly till after Sun rise next morning, destroyed a great Number of Houses. By what means it happened we do not know; but the Gentlemen who brought the Letter from Genl. Howe last night, ... informed Col. Reed, that several of our Countrymen had been punished with various deaths on Account of it; some by hanging, others by burning, &c., alledging that they were apprehended when Committing the fact.

This print was made for a *vue d'optique*, and hence has a printed legend in reverse to accommodate the device.



Claude Joseph Sauthier and William Faden (1750-1836). "A Plan of the Operations of the King's Army under the Command of General Sr. William Howe, K.B. in New York and East New Jersey, against the American Forces Commanded by General Washington From the 12th of October to the 28th of November 1776. Wherein is Particularly Distinguished the Engagement of the White Plains, the 28th of October." [London]: W. Faden ..., 25th Feby. 1777.

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[above case]

CONSIDERED one of the most informative of all Revolutionary War battle plans, this map depicts the several military campaigns that took place in northern Manhattan, Westchester County, and New Jersey during the autumn of 1776. Detailed are the movements and encampments of the armies of Washington and Howe, particularly focusing on the Battle of White Plains.

Miniature figure of a Private, Grenadier Company, New York City Independent Militia, 1775-1776. Created for the Society of the Cincinnati Museum Collections by Marko Zlatich, researcher; Peter Copeland, designer; and Patrick O'Neill, model maker, 1998.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

Field Epauettes and Sword Knot of Alexander Hamilton. Epauettes, gold thread with gold fringe, cream-colored buckskin lining. Sword knot, interwoven silver thread with a red and silver cord.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection
[see illustration page 19]

ALTHOUGH he was only seventeen when the war began, Alexander Hamilton (1757-1804) had already made his mark as the author of pamphlets and speeches in support of the patriot cause. He left his studies at King's College (now Columbia University) to prepare for military service, and in March 1776, he was commissioned captain of the Provincial

Company of New York Artillery. In this role, he served with distinction in the battles of Long Island, White Plains, Trenton, and Princeton. His literary abilities and military aptitude won the attention of General Washington, who in March 1777, appointed Hamilton to be his aide-de-camp and secretary, with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He held this post for almost four and half years, becoming one of Washington's most trusted advisors. Returning to the field in July 1781, Hamilton was given command of a battalion under the Marquis de Lafayette and, with fellow New Yorker Nicholas Fish, captured one of the British redoubts at the battle of Yorktown.

In 1780, Hamilton married Elizabeth Schuyler, daughter of Major General Philip Schuyler. He succeeded Washington in the office of president general of the Society of the Cincinnati, serving from 1800 until his death in 1804.

CASE 3: THE INVASION OF CANADA AND DEFENSE OF LAKE CHAMPLAIN

THE area around Lake Champlain was the focus of much military action during the early years of the war, as the Americans and British vied for control of this critical link in the line of communication between New York and Canada. In May 1775, Americans under the command of Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold captured British-held Fort Ticonderoga on the southern end of the lake, confiscating its valuable stores of artillery. This foothold on the lake opened the way for an American advance into Canada. In August, American Generals Philip Schuyler and Richard Montgomery marched north from Fort Ticonderoga toward Quebec, while Arnold led forces from the east through the Maine wilderness to meet them. Their ill-fated campaign would end in disaster and Montgomery's death. The American retreat from Canada in the early spring of 1776 brought the focus of the fighting back to Lake Champlain, where on October 11, British and American squadrons clashed near Valcour Island in the war's first naval battle.

Thomas Phillibrown. "Capture of Fort Ticonderoga." Engraving after a painting by Alonzo Chappel (1828-1887). New York: Martin & Johnson, c1856.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

WITHIN weeks of the battles of Lexington and Concord, Ethan Allen and a band of Vermont renegades known as the Green Mountain Boys set off to capture Fort Ticonderoga. Along the way they were joined by forces led by Benedict Arnold, sent on the same mission by the Massachusetts Committee of Safety. Arnold is notably absent from this nineteenth-century engraving, which depicts Ethan Allen confronting the fort's commandant Captain William Delaplace and his wife on May 10, 1775. According to Allen's own narrative (see below), when Delaplace asked on what authority he acted, Allen replied, "In the name of the Great Jehovah, and the

Continental Congress.” Other contemporary accounts suggest that he actually said, “Come on out, you damned old rat!”

Ethan Allen (1738-1789). *A Narrative of Col. Ethan Allen’s Captivity: From the Time of His Being Taken by the British, near Montreal, on the 25th day of September, in the year 1775, to the Time of His Exchange, on the 6th day of May, 1778: Containing His Voyages and Travels...: Particularly the Destruction of the Prisoners at New-York, by General Sir William Howe, in the Years 1776 and 1777...* Walpole, N.H.: Published by Thomas & Thomas. From the press of Charter and Hale, 1807.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

FIRST published as a serial in the *Pennsylvania Packet* in 1779 (and followed by multiple editions in book form), Ethan Allen’s vivid narrative of his capture at Montreal and “the cruel and relentless disposition and behavior of the enemy” fueled support for the American cause. Recounting his meeting with British General Richard Prescott at the time of his capture, Allen writes: “[He] asked me, whether I was that Col. Allen, who took Ticonderoga, I told him I was the very man; then he shook his cane over my head, calling many hard names, among which he frequently used the word rebel, and put himself into a great rage.”

Christian Wilhelm Ketterlinus. “The Death of General Montgomery at Quebec/La Mort du General Montgomery devant Quebec.” Engraving after the original painting by John Trumbull. New York: Printed by Andw. Maverick. Published by John Trumbull, Jany. 1st, 1808.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection
[above case]

ON the night of December 31, 1775, General Richard Montgomery (1738-1775), leading a force of about 300 men, attempted to attack the city of Quebec during a heavy blizzard. As he led an advance party to the battery, waiting British troops fired a blast of grapeshot that killed Montgomery, his aides-de-camp Captains Jacob Cheeseman and John



MacPherson, and several others. Reporting the loss to General Washington on January 13, 1776, Major General Philip Schuyler wrote: “My Amiable Friend the Gallant Montgomery is no more. The Brave Arnold is wounded & we have met with a severe Check, in an unsuccessful Attempt on Quebec.”

John Trumbull’s original painting “The Death of General Montgomery,” now in the collection of the Yale University Art Gallery, was completed in London in 1786 while he was a student of Benjamin West. Trumbull was himself stationed at Fort Ticonderoga in 1776, and it is believed that the artist consulted Benedict Arnold’s published letters in researching the event depicted.

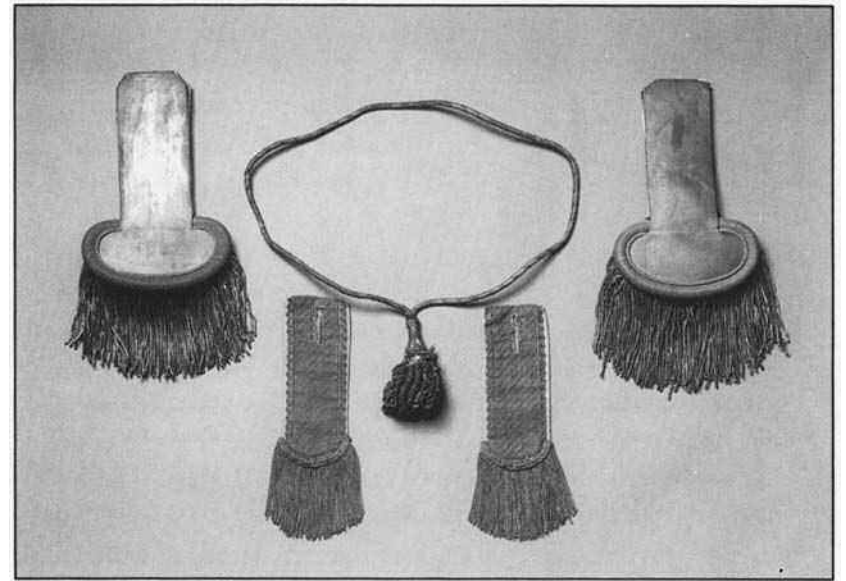
William Faden (1750-1836). “Attack and Defeat of the American Fleet under Benedict Arnold, by the King’s Fleet Commanded by Captn. Thos. Pringle, upon Lake Champlain, the 11th of October 1776.” London: William Faden, Decr. 3d, 1776. (2d state).

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

FOLLOWING the Americans’ failed invasion of Canada, British General Sir Guy Carleton counterattacked, hoping to take back control of Lake Champlain on his way to join General

Howe's forces on the Hudson. From Skenesboro and Ticonderoga, the Americans under the command of Benedict Arnold had prepared to meet them with an improvised fleet built from local timber. This map shows the positions of the American and British squadrons during the battle, which took place in the narrow channel between Valcour Island and the mainland. Although the American fleet was defeated and nearly destroyed, historians give much credit to Arnold's action, which forced the British to delay their northern invasion, opening the way to the critical American victory at Saratoga the following year.

An earlier state of this map identified Sir Guy Carleton as the commander of the King's fleet; here his name has been replaced with that of his naval commander Captain Thomas Pringle, perhaps because the value of the victory had been reassessed.



The field epaulettes and sword knot of Alexander Hamilton are flanked by Philip Schuyler's dress epaulettes.

Dress Epaulettes of Philip Schuyler.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

A VETERAN of the French and Indian War, Philip Schuyler (1733-1804) was a New York delegate to the Second Continental Congress in May 1775. On June 19, 1775, that body appointed him one of the three major generals of the Continental Army. Schuyler was put in command of the Northern Department and directed to repair the forts at Ticonderoga and Crown Point, make preparations to take possession of Lake Champlain and plan an advance into Canada. He commanded the northern operations until August 1777, when he was replaced by General Horatio Gates. Schuyler resigned his commission in 1779, but remained active in the war effort, serving again in the Continental Congress and acting as advisor to Washington.

A member of one of New York's most prominent families, Philip Schuyler owned the farm at Saratoga where General Burgoyne's army surrendered to General Gates in 1777.

"Le General Arnold un des Chefs de l'Armée Anglo Americaine." [Paris: Esnauts et Rapilly, ca. 1778]

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

A KEY player in the northern campaigns of 1775-1777, Benedict Arnold (1741-1801) achieved fame and respect for his brave and daring leadership as a field commander in nearly every major action. His expedition across Maine to join the invasion of Canada has been called "one of the magnificent marches of military history." He was badly wounded during the failed siege of Quebec and again during the second battle of Saratoga, and he received official commendation from Congress for his contributions to the defeat of Burgoyne. Because of this, his subsequent treason at West Point in 1780 was a tremendous blow, especially to General Washington.

This engraving was one of a series of portraits of American heroes published in France around the time of the French alliance with the American cause. Its ornate border includes symbols of war and peace along with a liberty cap.

CASE 4: SARATOGA

IN 1777, General John Burgoyne, with backing from Lord George Germain, put into action a plan to end the war by seizing the Hudson River Valley and isolating New England from the rest of the colonies. Burgoyne was to move south from Canada via Lake Champlain to meet Howe's forces marching up from New York City at Albany, while a third column, led by Lieutenant Colonel Barry St. Leger, advanced from the west to join them. Burgoyne began his invasion on June 1, and by early July, his army of about 8,000 British and Hessian soldiers had reached Ticonderoga and easily recaptured the fort. Although Burgoyne learned that neither Howe nor St. Leger would be able to make the junction in time, he pressed on toward Albany, crossing the Hudson River near Saratoga in early September. Four miles away, at Bemis Heights, General Horatio Gates was encamped with 12,000 men. On September 19, Burgoyne advanced to attack, clashing with a force led by Benedict Arnold at Freeman's Farm. Arnold retreated after four hours' fierce fighting, leaving Burgoyne's badly battered troops to encamp on the battlefield.

The second and final battle took place at Bemis Heights on October 7. Burgoyne was forced to retreat north to Saratoga, where he was surrounded by Gates's force that had swelled to 20,000 men. On October 17, the defeated Burgoyne formally surrendered, his ambitious campaign a bitter failure. Often called the turning point of the war, Saratoga was a heartening American victory that led to the crucial alliance with France.

John Norman (ca. 1748-1817). "The Hon^{le}. Horatio Gates, Esq^r. Major General in the American Army." Engraving, n.d.

Gift of Daniel Payne Oppenheim, New York State Society of the Cincinnati

ON August 4, 1777, in the face of the invasion by Burgoyne's forces, General Horatio Gates (ca.1721-1806) replaced General Philip Schuyler as commander of the Northern

Department of the American Army. Following Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga, Congress voted to honor Gates with a gold medal struck in commemoration of the American victory.

After the war, Gates returned to his Virginia farm and served as president of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia from 1783-1786. He also served as the General Society's first vice president general from 1784-1787. In 1790, he freed his slaves and moved to New York City, where he lived for the remainder of his life.

Charles Bretherton (1760-1783). *Characters in 1782*. [London?: 1782-84]. Plate 29: "General Burgoyne."

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

INCLUDED in this collection of engraved caricatures of British political and military figures is General John Burgoyne (1722-1792). His gallantry on the field and humane treatment of his men earned him the nickname "Gentleman Johnny." Even his opponent Horatio Gates, who had served with Burgoyne during the French and Indian War, described him as a man "in whom the fine Gentleman is united with the Soldier and Scholar."



Michel-René Hilliard d'Auberteuil (ca. 1740-1789). *Mis Mac Rea: Roman Historique*. A Philadelphie [i.e. Bruxelles], 1784.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

JANE MCCREA was a young woman probably in her early twenties living in the Saratoga area in 1777. While waiting near Fort Edward to meet her fiancé, David Jones, a Loyalist who had joined Burgoyne's army, she was captured by Indians in the employ of the British, murdered and scalped. News of the atrocity sent a wave of revulsion through the states and helped galvanize support for the Patriot cause. In England, Edmund Burke used the event to denounce the British use of Indian allies. As this work of fiction suggests, the story of Jane McCrea was a sensation in Europe as well, and the subject for many romanticized accounts.

John Burgoyne (1722-1792). *A State of the Expedition from Canada: as Laid before the House of Commons*. London: Printed for J. Almon, 1780. Foldout plate 5: "Plan of the Position which the Army under Lt. Genl. Burgoyne Took at Saratoga on the 10th. of September 1777, and in which It Remained till the Convention was Signed." Engraved by William Faden, London, Feby. 1st 1780.

Presented by an anonymous donor in honor of the Virginia Society, 1976.

IN the wake of severe public criticism of his actions at Saratoga, Burgoyne published at his own expense the transcript of the Parliamentary inquiry that was held following his defeat. Charging that his army was half the required size and poorly supplied, he shifted the blame to his superiors, Howe and Clinton.

The map shown is oriented with north to the right. The American positions, highlighted in yellow, show that Burgoyne's weakened army was effectively surrounded, with Gates's main army to their south, just across the Fishkill River, Daniel Morgan's sharpshooters to their west, and General John Fellows' detachment encamped to their east.



François Godefroy (1743?-1819) "Sarratoga." Engraving after Louis François Sébastien Fauvel (1753-1838). Published in *Recueil d'Estampes Representant les Différents Evénemens de la Guerre qui a Procure l'Independence aux Etats Unis de l'Amérique*. Paris, [1784].

The Robert Charles Fergusson Collection

ON October 13, 1777, Burgoyne and his officers meeting in a "Council of War," agreed to initiate a capitulation "to spare the lives of brave men upon honourable terms." Over the next few days, an agreement was hammered out between the two camps that would allow Burgoyne's army to surrender and be returned to England. The treaty was finally signed after a last compromise, whereby Gates agreed to Burgoyne's request to change the term "capitulation" to "convention." Around noon on October 17, General Burgoyne, handsomely attired in his scarlet regimental uniform, rode up to meet General Gates, who was dressed in a simple and well-worn blue coat. After a brief exchange of words, Burgoyne presented his sword to Gates, who, by prearrangement, held it a few moments and then returned it.

The text that accompanies this French etching of the event mentions the death of Jane McCrea as a factor contributing to the British defeat.

John Kay (1742-1826). "Provincial General Buttons Marching to Saratoga with Plunder." Etching published in *John Kay's Original Portraits & Characters*, vol. 1. Edinburgh: Hugh Paton, 1837-8.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

SCATTER your baggage, stores, and everything else that can be spared...and the militia will be so busy plundering them that you and the troops will get clean off." So Loyalist Philip Skene is reported to have advised General Burgoyne at the end of the second battle of Saratoga. Although Burgoyne did not follow up on this suggestion, the problem of pillaging by American troops was severe enough that General Gates had to issue an order against it.

This satirical image is based on an original drawing made by Lieutenant Colonel Sir Archibald Campbell (1739-1791) while he was in prison after the British defeat at Saratoga. On May 6, 1778, Campbell was exchanged for British-held prisoner Ethan Allen.



Portrait of Captain James Miles Hughes. Copy by Julian Scott (1846-1901) after original by James Sharples (1751-1811).

Pistol belonging to Captain James Miles Hughes. English, Queen Anne type, cannon barrel.

Gifts of Mrs. Peter McBean, 1986.

JAMES MILES HUGHES (1756-1802) joined the army at age twenty-one as a second lieutenant in the First New York Regiment Continental Infantry. He rose to the rank of captain in Colonel William Malcolm's Additional Continental Regiment established by Congress in January 1777, and was an aide to General Gates during the battles at Saratoga. From Gates's headquarters on October 15, 1777, Captain Hughes described the unfolding events in a letter to his mother:

I have just time to inform you of the inexpressible pleasure I shall have of seeing the famous Lt. General Burgoyne and his Army march out of his Intrenchments to-morrow morning and surrender himself and Army prisoners of war. He Capitulated this day, how changed the scene, a few weeks ago all was gloomy and seemed like the glimmering of twilight, but now the cloud has dispelled and the rays of conquest beams high in this Department.... Consider the stroke to the British Nation, will they not be convinced that Americans fighting for their freedom are invincible and that the longer the War continues, we make further advances in military disciplin, that added to our determined resolution to repel every hostile invasion of our rights will make us formidable to our foes.

After the war, Hughes practiced law in New York City, was elected to the state legislature, and served as secretary of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati.

CASE 5: THE SULLIVAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE IROQUOIS

DURING the French and Indian War, those Indians allied with the French proved to be a formidable foe of the British, notably at Niagara, Detroit, and Michilimackinac. Those friendly to the British were invaluable allies, serving as guides and scouts through unfamiliar and otherwise impenetrable woods and forests. Not surprisingly, therefore, competition between the British and the Americans to secure Indian assistance effectively began with the “shot heard ’round the world.”

Despite a 1776 treaty of neutrality negotiated by Philip Schuyler, Indians in New York and Pennsylvania, seeking to retard the westward advance of American migration, viewed Great Britain as their natural ally. And in response to scattered but increasingly devastating Indian raids on colonial settlements, governors of both states assigned to their militias the responsibility of defending their frontiers. Neither George Clinton of New York nor Thomas Wharton of Pennsylvania, however, believed that his militia could effectively respond to the collective threat without assistance from the Continental Army.

In 1777, Schuyler, as President of the Board of Commissioners for Indian Affairs, recommended both to the Continental Congress and to George Washington that the war be carried into Indian territory.

Jno. Sullivan [Engraving] Albany: Knapp, Peck, & Thompson, n.d.

Gift of William Stephen Thomas, New York Society, 1982

AFTER General Horatio Gates declined Washington’s offer of command, Major General John Sullivan (1740-1795) was named commander of the expedition. Sullivan was to lead a force of 2,500 officers and men from Easton, Pennsylvania, through the Wyoming Valley and meet at Tioga an additional

force of 1,500 under the command of Brigadier General James Clinton. George Washington, as Commander-in-Chief, clearly stated the goal to Sullivan: “The expedition you are appointed to command is directed against the hostile tribes of the Six Nations of Indians, with their associates and adherents. The immediate objects are the total destruction and devastation of their settlements and the capture of as many prisoners of every age and sex as possible.”

Thomas Loraine M’Kenney (1785-1859) and James Hall (1793-1868). *History of the Indian Tribes of North America. Volume 3.* Philadelphia: Published by Daniel Rice and James G. Clark, 1842. Plate shown: “Thayendanegea, the Great Captain of the Six Nations.” Published by F. W. Greenough, Philadelphia, c1836.

From the library of Larz and Isabel Anderson

THAYENDANEGBEA, better known as Joseph Brant (1742-1807), was a Mohawk Indian who became principal war chief of the Six Nations in 1776. In personal command at the Cedars (1776), Oriskany (1777), and Cherry Valley (1778), he was for many years also falsely charged with responsibility for the Wyoming Massacre.

William L. Stone, one of Brant’s biographers wrote of him, “For the prosecution of a border warfare, the officers of the crown could scarcely have engaged a more valuable auxiliary.”

“A View of Niagara Fort, Taken by Sir William Johnson, on the 25th of July 1759. Drawn on the Spot in 1758.” In *The Royal Magazine or Gentleman’s Monthly Companion*, Volume 1 (September, 1759). London: Printed Pursuant to His Majesty’s Royal Licence [sic] for J. Coote..., 1759.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

FORT NIAGARA, wrote the anonymous author of this piece, “may in some measure be said to command all the interior parts of North America, and to be, as it were, the key to that noble continent.” The fort was, in addition, the planned terminus of the Sullivan expedition.

James Clinton [Engraving]. New York: E. Bierstadt, n.d.

Gift of William Stephen Thomas, New York Society, 1982.

STATIONED at Albany at the time of the expedition, General James Clinton (1736-1812) commanded the Northern Department of the Continental Army. Under his leadership were some 1,500 men made up of detachments of the third, fourth, and fifth New York Regiments, of the fourth Pennsylvania, and the sixth Massachusetts, as well as a company of artillery and riflemen. His assignment was to rendezvous with Sullivan and to replenish the latter's dwindling supplies.

Prior to the expedition, Clinton had followed General Montgomery to Quebec and in 1777 commanded the defense of Forts Clinton and Montgomery, where he had been seriously wounded.

William Barton to "Dr Father" (Gilbert Barton), Tioga, October 3rd 1779. A.L.S., 1 page.

The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection

THIS first-hand account by then-Lieutenant Barton, whose First New Jersey Regiment marched under Sullivan during the expedition, reports to his family the results of the stated goal of "total destruction and devastation": "...I arrived the 30th of Sept. at this place, with very little loss on our side but Total destruction of the indian country, which we have penetrated about three hundred miles, burning every thing before us & supposed by some to have destroy'd one hundred thousand bushels of corn; but some others think a much larger quantity."

Sword of Morgan Lewis. Maker: Fatou, rue du Bacq, a Paris.

Gift, 1970.

THIS sword was owned by New Yorker Morgan Lewis, a participant in the Sullivan campaign against the Iroquois. The Society of the Cincinnati Museum owns two portraits of Lewis, one displayed in this exhibition (see page 40); the other, which portrays him wearing this very sword, hangs in the among the portraits of past presidents general of the Society in the Anderson House Red Stair Hall.

CASE 6: 1783—TRIUMPH AND FAREWELL

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S general order of April 18, 1783, announced "the Cessation of Hostilities between the United States of America and the King of Great Britain." Although the core of his army would still have to wait for the signing of the definitive peace treaty before they could go home, the armistice was celebrated "with an extra ration of liquor to be issued to every man...to drink Perpetual Peace, Independence and Happiness to the United States." A month earlier, Washington had single-handedly averted a brewing mutiny by certain disgruntled officers in Newburgh. Now, the glorious news gave impetus to a long circulating plan for an organization of veteran officers. On May 10, a delegation gathered at Mount Gulian, General Steuben's headquarters at Fishkill, to organize the Society of the Cincinnati. Taking its name from the Roman hero Cincinnatus, the citizen-soldier who returned to his plow after leading his country to victory in war, the Society's purpose was "to perpetuate the remembrance of the achievement of national independence, as well as the mutual friendships which had been formed under the pressure of common danger."

The Articles of Peace were finally signed in Paris on September 3. In New York, Sir Guy Carleton, who had replaced Sir Henry Clinton as commander of the British forces, prepared to send his troops back to England. On November 25, the day the British troops completed their evacuation of New York City, Washington marched into the city to reclaim it for the United States. His duties in New York completed, Washington bade an emotional farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern on December 4 and boarded a barge at Whitehall to begin his journey home. He had brought to fulfillment the promise he had made to the New York Provincial Congress eight and a half years earlier: "When we assumed the Soldier, we did not lay aside the Citizen, & we shall most sincerely rejoice with you in that happy Hour, when the Establishment of American Liberty

on the most firm, & solid Foundations, shall enable us to return to our private Stations in the bosom of a free, peaceful & happy Country.”

“Hasbrouck House.” Oil on panel by Thomas Benjamin Pope (1832-1891).

Gift of Katharine McCook Knox, 1973

BEGINNING in April 1782, General Washington made his headquarters in Newburgh, New York, at the home of Catherine Hasbrouck, a war widow who turned her house over to the commander-in-chief and his military family. With his main army encamped nearby at New Windsor, Washington was based at “Head Quarters, Newburgh” for sixteen and a half months. Martha Washington, who had traveled to her husband’s winter quarters every year of the war, was in residence at Hasbrouck House for all but four months of Washington’s stay. The Washingtons left Newburgh in August 1783 for Princeton, where Congress was meeting. From Princeton, Mrs. Washington went home to Mount Vernon, while Washington went briefly to West Point. Then, at the end of November he made his triumphal return to New York City following the British evacuation.

Institution of the Society of the Cincinnati. Cantonment of the American Army on Hudsons River, 10th May 1783.

Contemporary manuscript copy, endorsed by Major General Friedrich von Steuben (1730-1795). 8 pages, folio.

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. William Randolph Hearst, Jr., in memory of Mr. William Randolph Hearst, Sr.

STEUBEN was, with Henry Knox, one of the guiding spirits behind the formation of the Society of the Cincinnati, and he served as its first presiding officer before Washington’s election as the Society’s first president general. A Prussian military officer who had joined the American cause in 1778, Steuben settled in New York after the war and became a member of the New York State Society.

Adopted May 13, 1783, the Institution sets forth the purpose and principles of this “one Society of Friends” that continue to guide the Society today.

George Laurence Nelson (1887-1978). “General George Washington about to accept membership in the Society of the Cincinnati by signing the Roster and becoming its first President-General, at the request of a committee consisting of Major-Generals Steuben, Knox, and Heath, at Washington’s Headquarters, Newburgh, N. Y., May 20, 1783.” Lithograph (60/150). Presented to those members of the Society of the Cincinnati who participated in the entire Sesqui-Centennial Celebration, May 12 & 13, 1933.

On loan from George Boyd, V, President of the New York Society.

ONE week after the Society’s Institution was formally adopted, Generals Steuben, Henry Knox and William Heath took a parchment copy of it to General Washington and asked him to “honor the Society by placing his name at the head of it.” Washington also agreed to accept the presidency of the Society, and his election as president general was confirmed at a meeting on June 19, 1783. The “Parchment Roll,” which bears Washington’s signature and those of the other officers present at the founding meetings, is one of the treasures of the Society’s archival collections.

P. Greatbach. “Entrance of the American Army into New York, Nov. 25th 1783.” Engraving after Chapin, n.d.

THE last and greatest march” of the Continental Army took place on November 25, 1783, a sparkling cold day, when General Washington and Governor George Clinton rode from Harlem down the Boston Road to the Bowery and on into New York City past throngs of cheering soldiers and citizens. Washington Irving later recorded the impressions of an “American lady” who had witnessed the scene: “We had been accustomed for a long time to military display in all the finish and finery of garrison life; the troops just leaving us...with their scarlet uniforms and burnished arms made a brilliant display; the troops that marched in, on the contrary, were ill-clad and

weather beaten, and made a forlorn appearance; but then they were *our* troops, and as I looked at them and thought upon all they had done and suffered for us,...I admired and gloried in them the more, because they were weather beaten and forlorn.”



“Washington’s Farewell to His Officers.” Engraving after Alonzo Chappel (1828-1887). New York: Henry J. Johnson, c1879.

AT noon on December 4, General Washington arrived at Fraunces Tavern to bid farewell to those officers who had remained with him in New York. The emotional scene was recorded for posterity by Major Benjamin Tallmadge, a senior officer of the 2d Continental Dragoons, who was present that day: “We had been assembled but a few moments, when His Excellency entered the room. His emotion, too strong to be concealed, seemed to be reciprocated by every present officer. After partaking of a slight refreshment, in almost breathless silence, the General filled his glass with wine, and turning to the officers, he said: ‘With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have

been glorious and honorable.” Tallmadge goes on to recount that Washington embraced each officer in turn while “tears of deep sensibility filled every eye.... The *simple thought* that we were then about to part from the man who conducted us through a long and bloody war, and under whose conduct the glory and independence of our country had been achieved, and that we should see his face no more in this world, seemed to me utterly insupportable.”

Chappel’s original painting of this scene is in the collection of the Chicago Historical Society.

CASE 7: THE NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

THE Society's 1783 Institution directed that "for the sake of frequent communications" the General Society was to be divided into constituent state societies. The officers of the New York line were among the first to answer this call, organizing the New York State Society of the Cincinnati on June 9, 1783. Their first meeting consisting of officers of the infantry was held at the army cantonments on the Hudson, near New Windsor, New York. At that meeting, Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Walker was directed to collect ballots from those officers present and from the officers of artillery. The results of the election were announced on July 5th: Major General Alexander MacDougall, president; Governor (Brigadier General) George Clinton, vice president; Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Walker, secretary; Colonel Philip Van Cortlandt, treasurer; and Major Nicholas Fish, assistant treasurer. Two hundred thirty-six officers of the New York line became original members of the New York Society, about half the number of individuals who would have been eligible to join.

Perpetuated by the descendants of the original members and other eligible officers, the New York State Society of the Cincinnati is one of only six state societies to remain in continuous operation since its founding.

Original Institution and Roll of the Members of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati, 1783-1850.

Collection of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati

EACH State Society shall obtain a list of its members, and at the first annual meeting, the State Secretary shall have engrossed on parchment, two copies of the Institution of the Society, which every member present shall sign, and the Secretary shall endeavor to procure the signature of every absent member." As the ranking officer, Major General Alexander McDougall was the first to sign this roll of the New

York State Society. His name is followed by the signatures of those officers present at the organizing meetings in New Windsor in 1783. Signatures were added to this bound volume as veterans and their descendants joined over the years. The last signature in this book is that of Henry Floyd Tallmadge, who joined the New York Society in the right of his father Benjamin Tallmadge on July 4, 1850.

Portrait of Brigadier General Anthony Walton White by James Sharples (1751-1811). Pastel on paper, framed.

On loan from the von Hemert family.

A DEVOTED member of the New York Society, Anthony Walton White (1750-1803) wore his military uniform and Eagle when he sat to James Sharples, sometime after the artist's arrival in America in 1796. White began his military career as an aide-de-camp to Washington in 1775 and went on to serve with great distinction as colonel of the 1st Regiment of Light Dragoons in the southern campaign. Following the war, he attained the rank of brigadier general in the provisional army of the United States.



In July 1788, Colonel White took part in a procession in New York City in support of the ratification of the United States Constitution. "Mounted on a fine gray horse, elegantly caparisoned," according to one account, "Anthony Walton White bore the Arms of the 'United States' in sculpture, preceding the Society of the 'Cincinnati,' in full military uniform." The White family hosted

Polish General Thaddeus Kosciuszko in their home while he was recovering from an extended illness, and in 1797 the two veterans of the Revolution exchanged Cincinnati Eagles as a gesture of their friendship.

Wooden gavel. Inscribed in silver inlay: *Presented to the New York State Society of the Cincinnati by Its President General John Cochrane 1896 / Made of wood from Fraunces Tavern.*

Wooden gavel. Inscribed in silver inlay: *Presented to the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New York by John Cropper/ 4 July 1896 / Made of wood from Mount Vernon.*

On loan from the New York State Society of the Cincinnati

THESE gavels were coincidentally presented to the New York State Society of the Cincinnati in 1896 and are still used during official meetings. John Cropper (1850-1906), donor of the gavel made from Mount Vernon wood, was originally admitted to the New York State Society representing the line of his great-grandfather, Colonel John Cropper, Jr., an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia. He was a guiding force in the reinstatement of the Virginia Society, which was dormant for several decades of the nineteenth century, and he transferred his membership to that state society in 1889.

George Laurence Nelson (1887-1978). "First Installation of Honorary Members in the New York State Society of the Cincinnati. Chancellor Robert R. Livingston Receiving the Eagle from the President, General Steuben, at the City Tavern, New York City, 4th July, 1786." Lithograph (33/275). Presented by the New York State Society of the Cincinnati at the Triennial Meeting of 1935.

On loan from George Boyd, V, President of the New York State Society. Mr. Boyd is a collateral descendant of Robert R. Livingston.

THE Society's Institution stipulated that "men in the respective States eminent for their abilities and patriotism" who were not eligible for hereditary membership could be elected

honorary members of the Society. Robert R. Livingston, Chancellor of New York, was one of five honorary members of the New York Society installed during ceremonies on July 4, 1786. State Society President Steuben presented each man with an Eagle, saying, "Receive this mark as a recompense for your merit and in remembrance of our glorious Independence."

Miniature portrait of Jacob Reed, Jr. Attributed to John Ramage (1748-1802).

On loan from the New York State Society of the Cincinnati

JACOB REED (1755-1838) was a captain in Bauman's Artillery company and in the 2d Continental Artillery Regiment under Colonel John Lamb. He retired from the service in March 1782, but later joined his fellow veteran officers as a member of the New York State Society.

The Society of the Cincinnati Eagle. Gold and enamel. Made by Bailey Banks & Biddle, Philadelphia. (Myers #53).

On loan from George Boyd, V, President of the New York State Society.

THIS Eagle originally belonged to Dr. George M. Boyd (1861-1939), who joined the New York Society in 1924. It has descended through his family to his grandson, George Boyd, V, the current president of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati. The medallion at the center shows on the obverse three Roman senators presenting a sword to Cincinnatus; on the reverse is a scene of Cincinnatus at his plow with the figure of Fame above him. The motto reads OMNIA : RELINQUIT : SERVARE : REPUBLICAM (He left all to serve the Republic). This badge is suspended by a twisted loop attached to a wreath above the eagle's head. John Cropper, a member of the New York Society and later the Virginia Society, is credited with the invention of this spiral loop form of suspension.

Soup bowl belonging to Major James Fairlie. Made in France. Gilt and white porcelain, gilt foliate decoration on border.

Gift of Fairlie Arant Maginnes, 1994

MAJOR JAMES FAIRLIE (1757-1830) received this soup bowl as a gift from General Steuben, whom Fairlie served as aide-de-camp during the Revolution. Major Fairlie was an original member of the New York Society and held the office of secretary in 1784. He also served on the committee that designed the Society banner (see below).

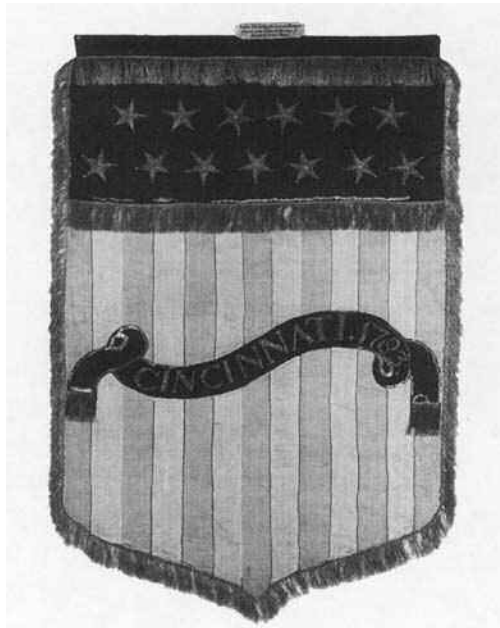
Miniature figure of Bryan Rossiter, Sergeant at Arms of the New York State Society, holding the Society banner.

Gift of the maker Alexander Preston Russell, M.D., a member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia.

Banner of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati, ca. 1801. Maker: Madame Bancel of New York.

On loan from the New York State Society of the Cincinnati
[above mantle]

THE flag (or standard) of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati was designed in 1786 by a committee composed of General Steuben, General Samuel Blatchley Webb, and Clothier-General David Brooks. As part of a plan of proper ceremonies to be observed during Society functions, the committee directed that the flag be “of silk, imitating the



Standard of the United States, having thirteen blue and white stripes alternate; in the upper corner of which to be painted the bald eagle.”

On March 4, 1801, the New York Society’s Standing Committee directed James Fairlie and John Stagg, Jr., to prepare a design for “a Banner [to] be adopted instead of a Standard of the form hereunto annexed; to be made of Silk; and to measure about 41 inches in length and 28 inches in breadth. That the Stars be silver, embroidered on a blue field. Thirteen Stripes, light blue and white (alternating). Fringe, silver, about two inches in length. On the top of the Staff, which is to be painted white and to be about ten feet in length, to be represented an Eagle; Order of the Society; to be made of Brass or Copper and gilt; from his beak a chain, gilt, suspending the banner.” The treasurer’s report notes that the seamstress who made the banner, Madame Bancel, was paid sixty-five dollars.

The New York State Society flag and banner were adopted as the official standards of the General Society at the 1905 Triennial Meeting in Richmond, Virginia.

ADDITIONAL PORTRAITS

Portrait of Colonel Morgan Lewis. Artist unknown, after the original by John Trumbull which hangs in New York City Hall.

Gift of Mrs. Samuel Welldon, 1941.

[south wall, center]

MORGAN LEWIS (1754-1844) was the son of Francis Lewis, a New York merchant and signer of the Declaration of Independence. He graduated from Princeton and studied law in the office of John Jay, leaving to join the New York militia in the summer of 1775. In 1776, he became a member of General Horatio Gates's staff with the rank of colonel and was appointed quartermaster-general of the Northern Department, with headquarters at Fort Ticonderoga. He served as Gates's chief of staff during the battles of Saratoga and took charge of the British troops after Burgoyne's surrender.

Colonel Lewis accompanied General Clinton in the expedition up the Mohawk in 1779 and again in 1780 to Crown Point to intercept the second invasion. Retiring from the army in 1783, he returned to his career in law. He served as governor of New York between 1804 and 1807. During the War of 1812, he resumed his military service, serving on the Niagara frontier and later as major general in command of the New York City area. Morgan Lewis was elected the sixth president general of the Society of the Cincinnati in 1839 and served until his death in 1844.

Portrait of Nicholas Fish by C. G. Stapko, after the original by Henry Inman.

Purchase, 1962

[west wall]

NICHOLAS FISH (1758-1833) entered military service as a second lieutenant in the Fusiliers, an independent uniformed company of New York City militia in 1775. In 1776, he was appointed major of brigade under Brigadier General John Morin Scott and saw action at the battles of Long Island, Harlem Heights and White Plains. As major of the 2d

Regiment New York he was present at the battles of Saratoga, and later accompanied General John Sullivan's campaign against the Iroquois.

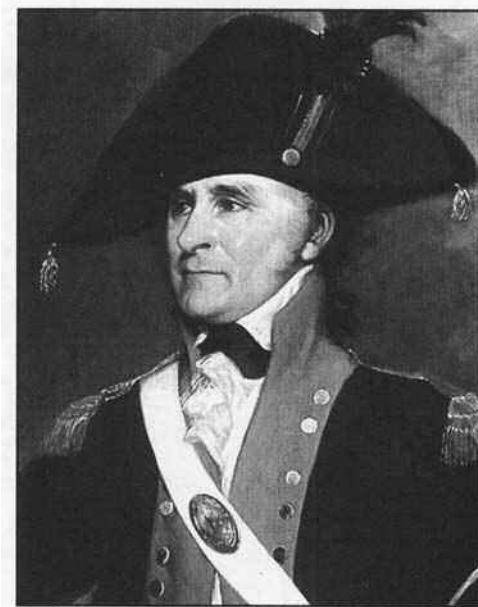
Nicholas Fish was elected president of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati in the years 1797 and 1805. His eldest son, Hamilton Fish, succeeded him as a member of the Society and served as both president of the New York State Society and as president general of the General Society.

Portrait of Bryan Rossiter by John Trumbull. Oil on canvas, 1806.

On loan of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati

[west wall]

BRYAN ROSSITER (ca. 1760-1835) was sergeant in the Connecticut line during the Revolution. Although he was not eligible for membership, he was appointed Sergeant at Arms of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati in 1801. He served in that capacity until illness forced his retirement in 1828. In July of that year, John Trumbull presented the New York Society with a portrait he had painted of Rossiter in 1806, writing, "It may serve to commemorate a very worthy and faithful veteran of the American revolution, at the same time that it will preserve the memory of the Style of Dress of that most important period." Trumbull became a member of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati in 1804 (transferring from the Connecticut Society), and served as vice president in 1833.



ALSO ON EXHIBIT IN THE ADJACENT GREAT STAIR HALL

The John Sanderson du Mont American Revolutionary War Period Armament Collection.

Gift of John Sanderson du Mont, a member of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati and past President General of the General Society.

“The Capture of New York.” Diorama from the “1776” exhibition in London, 1976.

Presented in honor of Frederick W. Lightfoot’s thirty-one years of dedicated service to the Society of the Cincinnati, 1977.

THE ROBERT CHARLES LAWRENCE FERGUSSON COLLECTION

Established in 1988, the Fergusson Collection honors the memory of Lieutenant Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson (1943-1967). A member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia who died of wounds sustained in the Vietnam War, Lieutenant Fergusson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Purple Heart. The growing collection that bears his name includes rare books, broadsides, manuscripts, maps, works of art and artifacts pertaining to the military history of the American Revolution and the art of war in the eighteenth century.

Chronology: New York in the American Revolution

1775

- May 10 Capture of Fort Ticonderoga by American forces under Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold.
- August 28 Invasion of Canada. Patriot Generals Philip Schuyler and Richard Montgomery march north from Fort Ticonderoga, while Benedict Arnold travels across Maine to meet them.
- December 31 Montgomery killed during failed attempt to storm the city of Quebec. Surviving troops retreat back to New York.

1776

- January - March Through heavy ice and flooding conditions, General Henry Knox and men transport heavy artillery from Fort Ticonderoga to Washington’s forces at Boston.
- April 13 General Washington arrives in New York City, following the British evacuation from Boston.
- July - August British General William Howe and Admiral Lord Richard Howe sail into New York harbor and occupy Staten Island.
- August 22 British and Hessian troops land on Long Island.
- August 27 The Battle of Long Island. Suffering heavy casualties, Washington’s troops are forced to retreat.
- August 29 Washington evacuates what remains of his force back to Manhattan.
- September 15 Howe invades Manhattan and forces Washington north.
- September 21 New York City burned.

October 11 Battle of Valcour Island on Lake Champlain. British naval force defeats and nearly destroys American fleet under the command of Benedict Arnold.

October 28 Howe defeats Washington at White Plains.

November 16 British forces storm Fort Washington.

1777

June British General John Burgoyne marches into New York from Canada.

July 5 Americans evacuate Fort Ticonderoga.

July - August British Colonel St. Leger invades New York from the west and attacks Fort Stanwix. Americans repulse attack and withstand siege.

August 23 Continental and militia forces under Benedict Arnold relieve Fort Stanwix.

September 19 First battle of Saratoga (Freeman's Farm/Bemis Heights). American forces under General Horatio Gates check Burgoyne's attack.

October 7 Second battle of Saratoga (Freeman's Farm/Bemis Heights). Burgoyne forced to retreat.

October 17 Surrender of General Burgoyne and 5,000 troops to General Gates at Schuylerville, New York. Often called the military turning point of the war.

1778

September Iroquois Chief Joseph Brant and New York Loyalists under John Butler attack German Flats, New York.

October 2-16 Patriot militia raid and destroy Indian villages in retaliation and burn Brandt's village at Oquaga near Unadilla.

November 11 Brant and Butler spread terror through the Mohawk Valley. Massacre at Cherry Valley where 300 civilians are killed.

1779

May - June General John Sullivan drives north into the Iroquois territory and joins forces with General James Clinton, arriving from the south, to destroy Loyalists' resistance and Indian villages.

June 31 Sullivan burns Iroquois village of Chemung, New York.

July 15 American forces under Anthony Wayne storm British outpost at Stony Point and check Sir Henry Clinton's advance up the Hudson

September American forces, on a scorched earth campaign, destroy abandoned Iroquois villages in western New York.

1780

September 23 Near Tarrytown, New York, Patriot militiamen capture British Major John André, who carries evidence that implicates Benedict Arnold in a conspiracy to take over West Point. Arnold flees to British protection. André is hanged as a spy on October 2.

1782

Washington's Army encamped at New Windsor, New York.

1783

May 13 The Society of the Cincinnati is organized at Mount Gulian, General Steuben's headquarters at Fishkill, New York.

June 9 New York State Society of the Cincinnati organized at New Windsor, New York.

November 25 The British evacuate New York City.

December 4 George Washington bids farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern in lower Manhattan.

Suggested Reading

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Arnold, BY THE KING'S FLEET Commanded by CAPT.^N JHO.^S PRINGLE,
V. the 11th of October, 1776.

From a Sketch taken by an Officer on the Spot



Faden (Successor to the late M^r Jefferys Geographer to the King) Charing Cross.

