

Lesson

T H R E E

LESSON THREE: MAKING CHOICES

LESSON OBJECTIVE

To explore the different views individuals took regarding the war for independence and the complications of deciding which side to take.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND THEIR OBJECTIVES

ACTIVITY ONE: Offers and Opportunities

- Summary: Students compare two documents, an American proclamation offering pardons to soldiers and a British proclamation offering amnesty.
- Objective: To think critically about the choices faced by patriots and loyalists in light of the offers presented to them.

ACTIVITY TWO: Bunker Hill and Salem Poor

- Summary: Students examine a petition declaring African American Salem Poor an outstanding soldier.
- Objective: To think critically about the role of and the choices faced by African Americans during the American Revolution.

ACTIVITY THREE: Fort Stanwix and the Patriots' American Indian Allies

- Summary: Students look at a song praising General Herkimer's valor at the Battle of Oriskany and examine a speech made by chiefs of the Oneida, allies of the patriot forces at Fort Stanwix.
- Objective: To form a conclusion about Herkimer based on the content of the song and to think critically about how the Revolutionary War affected American Indian groups.

ACTIVITY FOUR: Saratoga: A Turning Point in the American Revolution

- Summary: Students examine a print depicting the Americans as a rattlesnake at the Battle of Saratoga.
- Objective: To gain an understanding of how a battle's outcome is determined by the choices made by military leaders.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

Social Studies: II a, d; IV e; V d.

History: Era 3, Standard 1.



Monument at Kings Mountain.
KINGS MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

BACKGROUND

For many Americans, deciding which side to take in the Revolution was an easy choice. Some were zealous about fighting for independence while others never questioned loyalty to Britain. Yet there were still others for whom choosing sides was a painfully difficult decision. This variety of viewpoints, often influenced by economic status, race, religion, and gender, resulted in discord not only on the battlefield but also in the personal lives of those torn between conflicting loyalties within their families and communities.

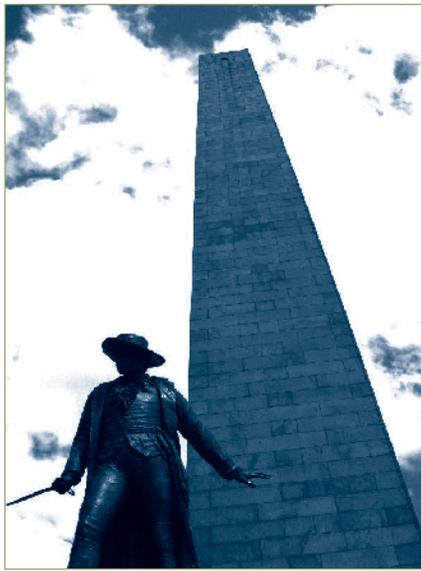
Kings Mountain National Military Park,
South Carolina
www.nps.gov/kimo

The Battle of Kings Mountain in 1780 in South Carolina, waged not between the American and British armies but among American patriots and loyalists, illustrates the divisions in colonial society.

By 1780, the British focused on the southern states; the British believed that the southern colonies were largely loyalist and, based on this assumption, built a military campaign to control the South. Having fought to a stalemate in the North, the British sought to establish loyalist strongholds and then march to join loyalist troops around the Chesapeake Bay and take control of the eastern seaboard.

At first the British troops succeeded, using military force to gain control. When British General Lord Cornwallis sent Major Patrick Ferguson to coordinate the loyalist militia, Ferguson sent a message threatening Carolina patriots with death if they did not submit. The patriot militia, made up of rugged individuals of mostly Scots-Irish ancestry, lived in remote valleys and worked as hunters, farmers, and artisans. They were used to being independent, and had little to do with events taking place in the northern states and along the coast. Ferguson's threat, however, was another matter. Infuriated, they actively pursued the Major and his loyalist forces.

In September 1780, southern patriot forces gathered at Sycamore Shoals under the command of colonels William Campbell, Isaac Shelby, Charles McDowell, and John Sevier. They then traveled through snowy mountains to join with other patriot militia at Quaker Meadows and Cowpens. Ferguson stopped at Kings Mountain to await the patriot advance. In the fierce battle that occurred there, the loyalists suffered staggering losses including the death of Ferguson. In spite of the white flag hoisted by the loyalists and their cries of surrender, the enraged patriot militia continued to fire for several more minutes until Colonel Campbell regained control.



Statue of Colonel William Prescott in front of the Bunker Hill Monument.
BOSTON NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Boston National Historical Park (Bunker Hill Monument), Massachusetts
www.nps.gov/bost

The struggle between loyalists and patriots becomes even more complex when the individuals in question are blacks or American Indians. Aware of patriot rhetoric against British tyranny, some enslaved African Americans in Massachusetts petitioned for their freedom. A significant number of African Americans fought with the patriots but many more joined the British. Whatever choice they made—patriot, loyalist, or neutral—the common aim of African Americans was to win their freedom. During the war, almost all American Indians fought with the British, viewing them as their protectors against American expansion. No matter which side American Indians supported, after the war they faced tremendous pressure for their land.

The promise of freedom after the end of the war led many African Americans to fight with the British. Others, hopeful that a new American government based on independence would abolish slavery, chose to fight as patriots. One such patriot was Salem Poor, an African American who distinguished himself at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Salem Poor earned the recognition of 14 American officers

who signed a petition after the battle stating that Poor “behaved like an experienced officer” and that he was “a brave and gallant soldier.” He was one of approximately 100 African Americans who fought at Bunker Hill.

The Battle of Bunker Hill took place on June 17, 1775. Following the Battle of Lexington and Concord, British troops occupied Boston. Outside the city, colonial militia surrounded them, cutting off the land approaches for any British reinforcements. In order to better their position, the British knew they would have to take control of the hills overlooking nearby Charlestown. The colonials decided to act first, and on June 16 the patriot militia, under the leadership of Colonel William Prescott and others, set out to fortify Bunker Hill. Instead, they fortified Breed’s Hill, which surprised the British on the morning of June 17.

As the battle unfolded, the patriots repulsed two British attacks, inflicting heavy losses. In their third assault, the British drove the patriots from Charlestown, but only after suffering over 1,000 casualties, including many officers.

Although the American militia lost the Battle of Bunker Hill, they gained confidence in their fighting ability and proved that they were capable of confronting the better-trained and



Battle of Oriskany
ORISKANY BATTLEFIELD STATE HISTORIC SITE

better-equipped British forces. Of the 2,500 to 4,000 Americans who fought, 400 to 600 were killed. In the end, a lack of organization contributed to the British victory. That soon changed when George Washington arrived in Cambridge on July 2, 1775, to assume command of the Continental Army (see Lesson 2).

[Fort Stanwix National Monument, New York](https://www.nps.gov/fost)
www.nps.gov/fost

Unlike the personal choices of African Americans, for American Indians choosing sides was a decision that individual Indian nations made collectively. Prior to the American Revolution, British power had attempted to protect Indian lands from white settlement. Many American Indians, therefore, sided with the British hoping that British rule would prevent further encroachment by American settlements onto Indian lands. Yet some sided with the Americans, turning the Revolutionary War into a civil war not only between patriots and loyalists but also between Indians as well.

The story of the Six Nations is one example of the discord that occurred among native groups as a result of the war. Early in their

history, the Seneca, Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, and Onondaga nations united in peace. Later the Tuscarora, forced to leave their lands in North Carolina, joined the others. With the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, the Six Nations divided when the Oneida and Tuscarora joined the patriots while the other nations allied with the British.

The Oneida lands included an area where, with the Oneida's permission, the British had built Fort Stanwix during the French and Indian War. After the war, the fort was abandoned. The Oneida, who sided with the patriots largely because of the influence of a missionary named Samuel Kirkland, recommended that the Americans rebuild the fort for use during the Revolution.

In the summer of 1777, an Oneida sachem named Thomas warned Colonel Gansevoort, the rebuilt fort's commander, that the British planned to attack. In fact, British Colonel Barry St. Leger and 800 British, German, Canadian, and loyalist troops, along with 1,000 Indians, mostly Mohawk and Seneca, attacked the fort on August 3 mounting a siege that continued for 21 days. Hearing in advance of the planned attack, General Nicholas Herkimer and his Tryon County militia, who were then about 50 miles from



Battle of Saratoga.
DOVER PUBLICATIONS

the fort, had assembled four days prior to march to the fort's aid. To help the militia, Gansevoort sent Colonel Marinus Willett to create a diversion. Willett's men found the British encampment, raided it, and brought back an assortment of objects and papers belonging to the British and their allies. Meanwhile, a detachment of St. Leger's troops intercepted Herkimer, his militia, and about 60 Oneida. A battle at Oriskany forced the Americans to retreat. Herkimer, wounded in the battle, died several days later.

To assist the besieged fort, Major General Benedict Arnold marched reinforcements toward Fort Stanwix. Rumors spread among St. Leger's troops that they would soon be outnumbered. This news, the loss of their possessions to Willett's raid, and the death of several Indian leaders at Oriskany, caused the Indian allies to abandon the siege. With his army greatly reduced, St. Leger withdrew to Canada instead of joining British General John Burgoyne in Albany as originally planned. Two months later, Burgoyne surrendered his army to American General Horatio Gates at Saratoga. At the Battle of Saratoga, Oneida and Tuscarora allies once again joined the Americans to help achieve victory.

Saratoga National Historical Park, New York
www.nps.gov/sara

In 1777, in hopes of crushing the American rebellion before France or Spain intervened, the British devised a plan to invade New York from Canada. The plan was to send two armies along the waterways into patriot territory, where they would unite, and capture Albany, New York. After occupying Albany, these British forces would open communications to New York City and continue the campaign as ordered. Since the British already held New York City, they hoped to capture the Hudson River's head of navigation (Albany) and establish control of the entire river, severing New England—the hotbed of the rebellion—from the rest of the colonies.

The architect of the plan, General John Burgoyne, commanded the main troops advancing through the Lake Champlain Valley. Although the invasion had some initial success, the realities of the terrain soon slowed the British advance to a crawl. Worse for the British, a major column seeking supplies in what is now Vermont was overrun, costing Burgoyne almost 1,000 men. Hard on the heels of this disaster, Burgoyne's contingent of American Indians left. Further, word came from the west that the second British column was stalled at the American-controlled Fort Stanwix, and from



General Horatio Gates
DOVER PUBLICATIONS

the south that the main British army would no longer be operating near New York City. Burgoyne refused to change his plans and collected enough supplies for a dash to Albany.

For the Americans, the British delays and defeats bought them enough time to reorganize and reinforce their army. Under a new commander, Major General Horatio Gates, the American army established itself on a defensive position along the Hudson River called Bemis Heights. With fortifications on the flood plain and cannon on the heights, the position dominated all movement through the river valley. Burgoyne's army was entirely dependent upon the river to haul supplies.

Learning of the patriot position, Burgoyne attempted to move part of his army inland to avoid the danger posed by the American fortifications. On September 19, 1777, his columns collided with part of the patriot army near the abandoned farm of loyalist John Freeman. During the long afternoon, the British were unable to sustain any initiative or momentum. Pinned in place, they suffered galling American gunfire. Late in the day, reinforcements of German auxiliary troops turned the tide for Burgoyne's beleaguered forces. Although driven from the battlefield, the patriot forces inflicted heavy casualties on

the British and still blocked Burgoyne's move south to his objective.

General Burgoyne elected to hold what ground he had, and hoped to fortify his encampment with assistance from New York City. On October 7th, with supplies running low and options running out, Burgoyne attempted another flanking move. The patriots noticed the move and attacked Burgoyne's column. Despite heavy fighting, the British and their allies were driven back to their fortifications. At dusk, attacking patriots overwhelmed one position held by German troops. Burgoyne withdrew to his inner works near the river and then tried to retreat northward. The British retreat made only eight miles in two days finally coming to a small hamlet called Saratoga. Gates followed and surrounded Burgoyne and his army. With no other option, on October 17, 1777, Burgoyne surrendered.

The American victory at Saratoga, a major turning point in the war, heartened the supporters of independence and convinced France, followed by Spain and the Netherlands, to enter the war as an ally of the fledgling United States. French military assistance kept the patriot cause from collapse and tipped the balance at the siege at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781.

ACTIVITY ONE

Kings Mountain: Offers and Opportunities

RESOURCES NEEDED

Source #17 Proclamation by General Putnam

Source #18 Proclamation by General Howe

ABOUT THE SOURCES

Both the British and Continental armies had problems with deserters. Continental soldiers who deserted the army were punished with 100 lashes or death if caught, but pardons also were issued, like the proclamation given by General Putnam on November 17, 1777. The British provided opportunities for amnesty to Americans who promised to renounce rebellion and present themselves as faithful subjects of the Crown. One such opportunity came through General Howe's proclamation of August 23, 1776, on the eve of the Battle of Long Island (August 27–29).

PROCEDURE

- ① Using the Battle of Kings Mountain as an example, discuss with students the issues of individual choice in deciding which side to take during the Revolutionary War. Explain that making this decision was often very difficult, and that sometimes people changed their views as the war progressed. For example, because of harsh and sometimes demoralizing conditions in the army, Continental soldiers commonly deserted as their initial patriotic enthusiasm waned.
- ② Distribute to the class photocopies of Source #17 (Proclamation by General Putnam) and have students read the document aloud. On the board, outline the following information:
 - Who is issuing this proclamation?
 - Which army does he represent?
 - Who he is addressing?
 - What is the proclamation offering?
- ③ Distribute photocopies of Source #18 (Proclamation by General Howe). Create a column next to the information outlined for Putnam's petition and go through the same procedure for Howe's petition as you did in Step 2. Then compare the two documents. How are they different? How they are alike?
- ④ Ask students to imagine they are either a patriot soldier who has deserted the army, or a patriot who is having doubts about his allegiance and is now feeling more sympathetic towards the loyalists. Have students write a diary entry expressing their reactions to Howe's offer. How do they feel—relieved, apprehensive, and/or indecisive? What action will they take, if any, regarding the offer and why?

ACTIVITY TWO

Bunker Hill and Salem Poor

RESOURCES NEEDED

Source #19, Salem Poor petition

Student Worksheet: Fort Stanwix and the Patriots' American Indian Allies

ABOUT THE SOURCE

On December 5, 1775, less than six months after the Battle of Bunker Hill, 14 officers including Colonel William Prescott signed a petition recognizing Salem Poor's exceptional skill and bravery during the battle. No one else who fought in this battle is known to have been recognized in this way.

PROCEDURE

- ① Using the Battle of Bunker Hill as an example, explain to students how issues of freedom were a major concern for African Americans who fought in the Revolutionary War. Discuss how this concern influenced the allegiances they chose to make.
- ② Distribute photocopies of Source #19 (Salem Poor petition). Introduce Salem Poor as an example of an African American patriot who distinguished himself in battle. Read the petition out loud and discuss what it means. We know little more about Poor—why do students think there is so little known about him?
- ③ Have students write a petition about someone they know who they think deserves special attention, whether for an act of bravery, generosity, kindness, or some other admirable action. Who do they imagine will sign the petition? To whom would they present the petition and why?

STUDENT WORKSHEET

Fort Stanwix and
the Patriots' American
Indian Allies

Oneida Chiefs Ask for Help

Long before the start of the Revolutionary War, the Oneida, along with the Mohawk, Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, and Tuscarora united in peace to form the Six Nations. During the war, the Oneida and Tuscarora sided with the patriots, while the others fought on the side of the British. On June 18, 1780, four Oneida leaders gave a speech to the American Colonel Van Dyck. Read the speech (Source #21a–b) to answer the questions below.

The speech begins by telling about an Onondaga chief from Niagara. This chief convinced several Indian families, including two Oneida families, to move. Why were the Oneida chiefs concerned about this?

What did the Onondaga chief say would happen to the rest of the Oneida if they, too, did not move?

What did the Oneida chiefs fear would happen to their towns?

How were the Oneida women feeling about this situation?

What did the women say they were going to do to protect themselves?

Did the men agree with the women's decision?

Where would the Oneida men then go?

What advice did the Oneida chiefs want from the American army commanders?

What did the Oneida men need for their weapons?

ACTIVITY THREE

Fort Stanwix and
the Patriots' American
Indian Allies

RESOURCES NEEDED

Source #20a–f, Song, “General Herkimer’s Battle” (excerpt)

Source #21a–b, Speech by Oneida chiefs

PROCEDURE

Part A

- ① Discuss with students the events that took place at Fort Stanwix in the summer of 1777, explaining the role that General Nicholas Herkimer played.
- ② Distribute to the class copies of Source #20a–f (excerpt from the song “General Herkimer’s Battle”). Have students read the lyrics to the first part of the song. On the board, outline the action that took place as told in the song and then discuss:
 - What general feeling is expressed by the lyrics?
 - Why is the songwriter asking the people of North America to “Attend with indignation”?
 - What type of soldiers were these who were “called from their rural toils”?
 - According to these lyrics, was General Herkimer a well-liked commander?

Part B

- ① Explain to students the American Indian involvement at Fort Stanwix. Discuss how the choices regarding which side to take in the war sometimes caused great conflict among Indian groups.
- ② Distribute photocopies of Source #21a–b (Speech by Oneida chiefs) and the student worksheet “Oneida Chiefs Ask for Help.” Have students complete the worksheet, and then discuss their answers.

ACTIVITY FOUR

Saratoga:
A Turning
Point in the
American
Revolution

SOURCE NEEDED

Source #22, “The American Rattlesnake”

ABOUT THE SOURCE

At the Battle of Saratoga, British General John Burgoyne’s decisions and his unwillingness to retreat until it was too late ultimately resulted in a victory for the Continental Army. “The American Rattlesnake” shows the consequences of the poor choices made by Burgoyne relative to the American triumph.

PROCEDURE

- ① As a homework assignment, have students research the Battle of Saratoga. Ask them to write down at least three choices made by Burgoyne that affected the outcome of the battle.
- ② After the students have completed this assignment, distribute photocopies of Source #22 (“The American Rattlesnake”). Discuss the significance of the image in light of what the students have discovered in their research.
 - Why are the Continental soldiers depicted as a rattlesnake? Is this image justified? Why or why not?
 - What is the significance of the words in the snake’s mouth and on the tip of its tail?
 - Describe the meaning of the warning written at the bottom of the image.
- ③ After students have analyzed the image, ask them to draw one of their own depicting the consequences of another event in the American Revolution. Have them share and discuss their work in class.

TYING IT TOGETHER

Ask students to tell about a difficult decision they or someone they know had to make. Explain why it was difficult. Did others disagree with the choice? Why did they make the decision they did in the end? Did they think it was the right choice? Why or why not?

VOCABULARY

allies: those who unite in friendship against a common enemy.

amnesty: an act that excuses a crime and cancels any punishment for that crime.

deserter: someone who runs away from his post in the military.

pardon: to excuse or forgive.

petition: a formal request, usually written down and signed by several people.

proclamation: an official announcement.

Source #17 Proclamation by General Putnam

NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY THE HONORABLE
Major-General PUTNAM,
Commander of the Forces of the
United American States,
At and near the WHITE-PLAINS.
A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS some Soldiers of the Continental Army, induced by artful and insidious Persons, have been led to desert their Country's Service, and have aided the Enemy in their wicked Purposes to subdue the Country ; some of whom are deterred from returning to their Duty through Fear of Punishment : And whereas many of the peaceable Inhabitants of these States have, by artful and designing Persons, been induced to leave their Habitations and take Arms against their Countrymen ; who, conscious of their Errors, are desirous of returning to their Habitations, but are deterred through Fear of Punishment.

I DO THEREFORE DECLARE, That all Deserters from the Army of the United States, who will return to their Duty by the First Day of *January* next, shall have a free Pardon : And those Inhabitants who have been induced to enter the Enemy's Service, shall, on returning to their Habitations, receive Protection, and Exemption from personal Punishment for the aforesaid Offences.

*Given under my Hand at Head-Quarters, this 17th
of November, Anno Domini, 1777.*

ISRAEL PUTNAM.

Source #18 Proclamation by General Howe

NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency the Honorable WILLIAM HOWE, General and Commander in Chief of all His MAJESTY'S Forces, within the Colonies lying on the Atlantic Ocean, from Nova-Scotia, to West-Florida, inclusive, &c. &c. &c.

WHEREAS it is represented, that many of the loyal Inhabitants of this Island have been compelled by the Leaders in Rebellion, to take up Arms against His MAJESTY'S Government: Notice is hereby given to all Persons so forced into Rebellion, that on delivering themselves up at the HEAD QUARTERS of the Army, they will be received as faithful Subjects; have Permits to return peaceably to their respective Dwellings, and meet with full Protection for their Persons and Property.

All those who chuse to take up Arms for the Restoration of Order and good Government within this Island, shall be disposed of in the best Manner, and have every Encouragement that can be expected.

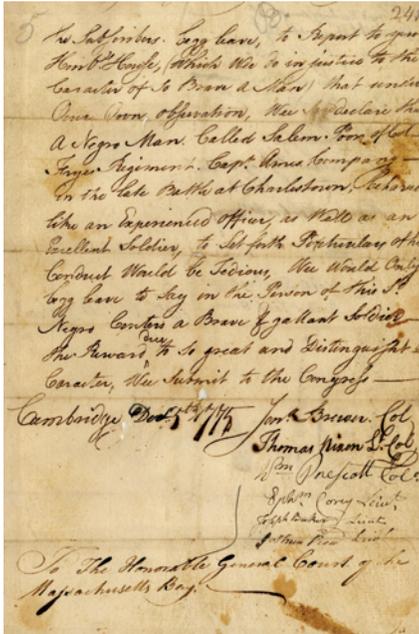
GIVEN under my HAND, at Head Quarters on LONG ISLAND, this 23d Day of August, 1776. WILLIAM HOWE.

By His Excellency's Command.

ROBERT MACKENZIE, Secretary.

Source #19 Salem Poor Petition

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES COLLECTION



Salem Poor Petition

The subscribers begg leave, to Report to your Honorable House (which wee do in justice to the Character of so Brave a Man), that, under Our Own observation, Wee declare that A Negro Man, called Salem Poor, of Col. Fryes Regiment, Capt. Ames Company— in the late Battle at Charlestown, behaved like an Experienced officer, as Well as an Excellent Soldier, to Set forth Particulars of his Conduct Would be Tedious, Wee Would Only begg leave to Say in the Person of this said Negro Centers a Brave and gallant Soldier. The Reward due to So great and Distinguisht a Character, Wee Submit to the Congress—

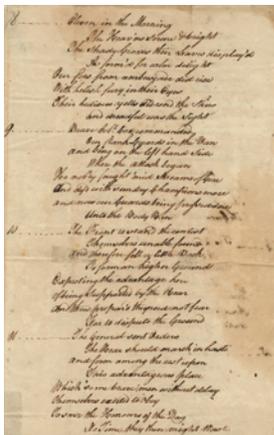
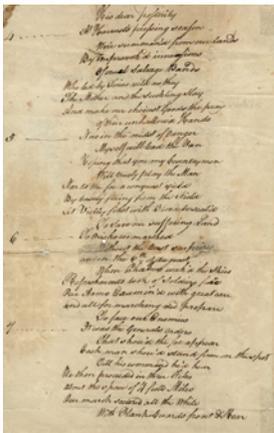
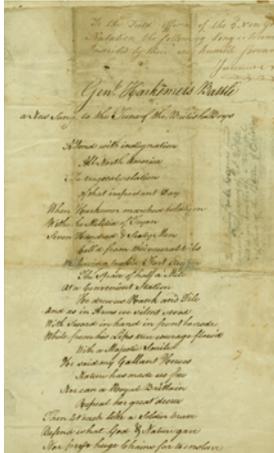
Cambridge, Dec. 5th, 1775

Jona Brewer Col.
Thomas Nixon Lt. Col.
Wm. Prescott Col.
Ephm Corey Lieut.
Joseph Baker Lieut.
Joshua Read Lieut.

To The Honorable General Court of Massachusetts Bay

Source #20a-b Song, "General Harkimer's Battle"

NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



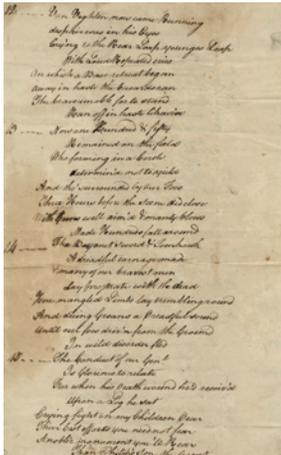
To the Field officers of the 3d New York Batalion the following Song is humbly inscribed by their very humble Servant Jovenus

Genl Harkimer's Battle A New Song to the Tune of the British Boys

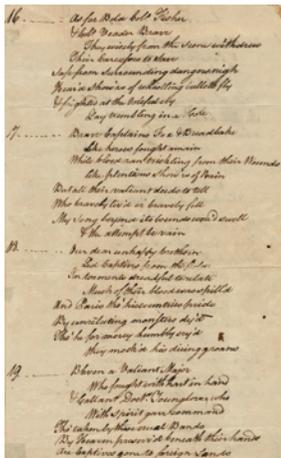
*Attend with indignation
All North America
The tragecal relation
Of that important Day
When Harkimer marched boldly on
With the Militia of Tryon
Seven Hundred & Sixty Men
Call'd from their rural toils
We having pass'd Fort Dayton
The space of half a Mile
At a Convenient Station
He drew us Rank and File
And as in Arms we silent stood
With Sword in hand in front he rode
While from his Lips true courage flow'd
With a Majestic Smile
He said my Gallant Heroes
Nature has made us free
Nor can a Royal Brittain
Repeal her great decree
Then let each like a Soldier brave
Defend what God and Nature gave
Nor forge huge Chains for to enslave
His dear Posterity
At Harvest's pressing season
We're summoned from our lands
By the unprovokd invasions
Of cruel Salvage Bands*

Source #20c-d Song, "General Herkimer's Battle"

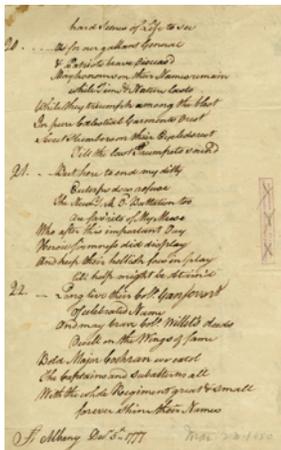
NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Who led by Tories wild as they
The Mother and the suckling slay
And make our choicest Goods the pray
Of their unhallow'd Hands



Now in the midst of Danger
Myself will lead the Van
Hoping that you my Countrymen
Will truly play the Man
Nor to the foe a conquest yield
By basely fleeing from the Field
Let victory first with Blood be sealed
To save our suffering Land
To orisko we marched
Without the least surprise
and on the 6th of August
When Chabus wak'd the Skies
Refreshments took a soldier's fare
Our Arms Examined with great care
and all for marching did prepare
To face our Enemies
It was the Generals orders
That shou'd the foe appear
Each man should stand firm on the spot
Till his command he'd hear



We then proceeded in three Files
About the space of 4 full Miles
Our march secured all the While
With Flank Guards front and Rear
Eleven in the Morning
The Heav'ns serene and bright
The Shady groves their Leaves
display'd
As form'd for calm delight
Our foes from ambuscade did rise

Source #21a-b Speech by Oneida Chiefs

NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Speech of the Oneida Chiefs to Lieut. Colonel Van Dyck delivered Sunday evening 18th June 1780

Brothers

We will now acquaint you with our situation, and request a judicious answer. An Onondago Chief Warrior called Wayondenaye has lately come from Niagara and as he passed through Kanaghseraga prevailed on several families to move off for Niagara since which the whole Town have left their habitations and gone to the Enemy. Also two families of the Oneidas with all the Onondagos. This strange and sudden movement has alarmed us very much. We are informed by those who had an interview with Wayondenaye that he said the whole Oneida nation should be taken prisoner in a short time except such as immediately repaired to Niagara or Oswego. Brothers We are in a great Consternation. Reports from various Quarters confirm the above account. We scarcely know who to trust among us in this Critical situation. Yesterday the last of the Kanaghseragas and Onondagos left us, and say that our town must be destroyed to open the road to the Mohawk River, and after the Oneidas are secured the Enemy intend to lay waste the Mohawk River so far as Schenectady or Albany.

A Speech of the Oneida Chiefs to Lieut. Colonel Van Dyck delivered Sunday evening 18th June 1780

Brothers

We will now acquaint you with our situation, and request a judicious answer. An Onondago Chief Warrior called Wayondenaye has lately come from Niagara and as he passed through Kanaghseraga prevailed on several families to move off for Niagara since which the whole Town have left their habitations and gone to the Enemy. Also two families of the Oneidas with all the Onondagos. This strange and sudden movement has alarmed us very much. We are informed by those who had an interview with Wayondenaye that he said the whole Oneida nation should be taken prisoner in a short time except such as immediately repaired to Niagara or Oswego. Brothers We are in a great Consternation. Reports from various Quarters confirm the above account. We scarcely know who to trust among us in this Critical situation. Yesterday the last of the Kanaghseragas and Onondagos left us, and say that our town must be destroyed to open the road to the Mohawk River, and after the Oneidas are secured the Enemy intend to lay waste the Mohawk River so far as Schenectady or Albany.

Brothers

Our Women are much terrified with the views of their approaching ruin, they have concluded to move down into the Country and seek a place of safety among the inhabitants of the united States. Many of the Warriors approve of their determination. So soon as the Women and Children are secured the Warriors will return to your Garrison and be at your Command. Brothers We now request your best advice if you approve of our going down the Country. You will point some place and make provisions accordingly. We are not able to defend ourselves at Oneida against the force we are sure will come against us-What can be done for us-Pray advise Gen. Schuyler and the officer Commanding at Albany of our situation - The Warriors stand in great need of a little powder

Grasshopper
Adamho
Rehengo
Williamho

Brothers

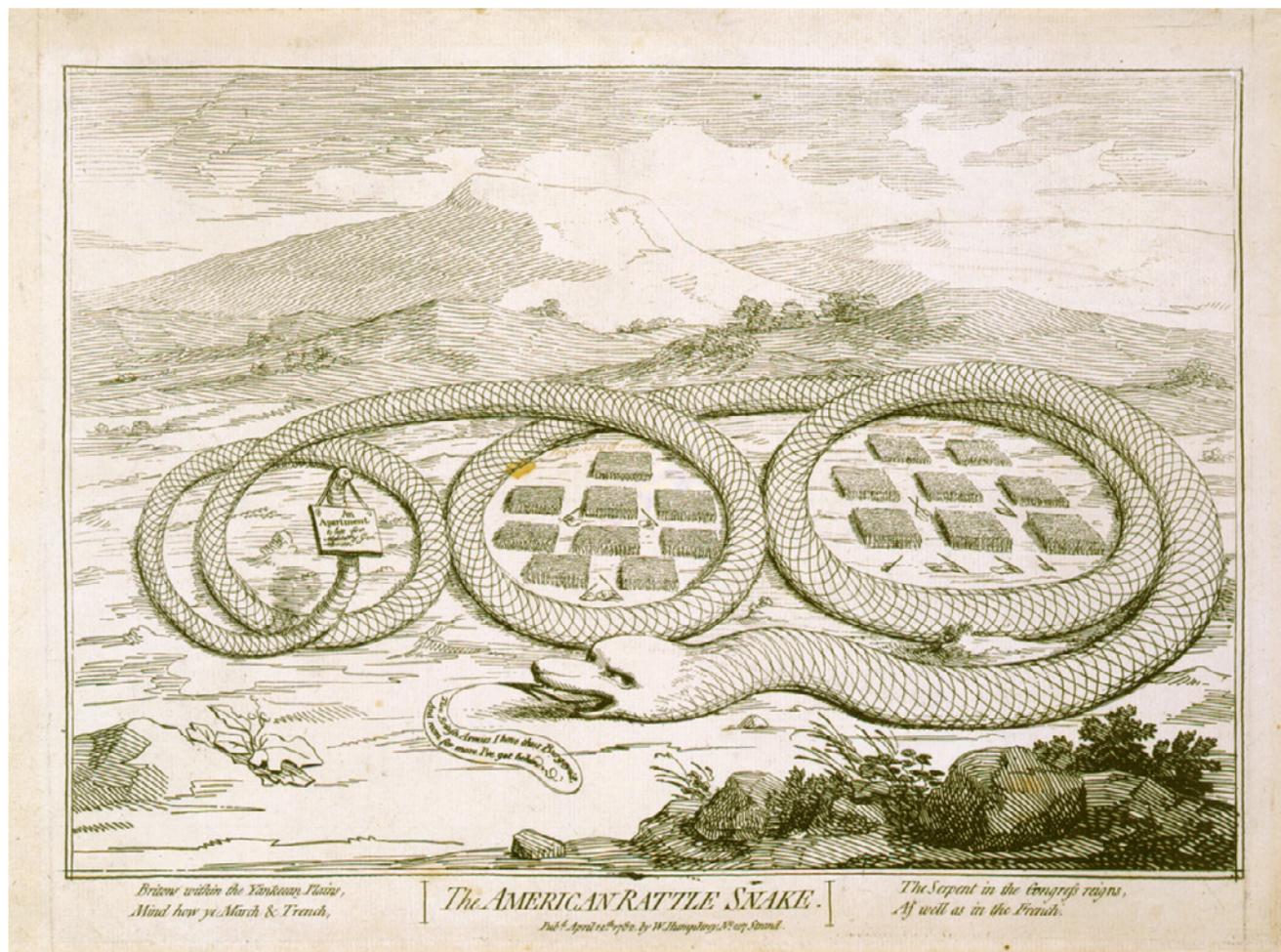
Our Women are much terrified with the views of their approaching ruin, they have concluded to move down into the Country and seek a place of safety among the inhabitants of the united States. Many of the Warriors approve of their determination. So soon as the Women and Children are secured the Warriors will return to your Garrison and be at your Command. Brothers We now request your best advice if you approve of our going down the Country. You will point some place and make provisions accordingly. We are not able to defend ourselves at Oneida against the force we are sure will come against us-What can be done for us-Pray advise Gen. Schuyler and the officer Commanding at Albany of our situation The Warriors stand in great need of a little powder.

Grasshopper
Adamho
Rehengo
Williamho

Source #22 The American Rattlesnake

James Gillray, The American Rattle Snake. London: W. Humphery, April 1782.

COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK



Snake's Mouth Caption Reads:

*"The British Armies I have thus Burgoynd
And room for more I've got behind"*