

The Wilkinson Trail

This trail is an official part of the National Trails System. Trail improvements were made possible by a partnership between the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield, Lever Brothers Inc., The Boy Scouts of America, and the National Park Service.

Mobile App & Cell Phone Tour

If you'd like to connect more with the stories preserved and shared at Saratoga National Historical Park, ask at the visitor center about our Mobile App & Cell Phone Tour flyer.

Saratoga National Historical Park

As of 2017, there are no entrance fees for Saratoga National Historical Park.

The Visitor Center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Year's Days. Restrooms are located at the Visitor Center.

Grounds are open to pedestrian use daily, sunrise to sunset.

For more information:

Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, NY 12170
518-670-2985
www.nps.gov/sara
Facebook & Twitter: @SaratogaNHP



Wilkinson Trail



Welcome to the Wilkinson Trail—a 4.2 mile historic foot-path along fields, woods, and hills in the northern section of Saratoga Battlefield.

As you walk along this trail you will retrace the same path where soldiers marched to and from battle, where determined souls overcame overwhelming odds, and where America's fight for freedom breathed new life.

Mapped in 1777 by British Lieutenant William Wilkinson, this path is part of a preserved Revolutionary War road system—horses and bicycles are not allowed.

Trail sections can be slippery during inclement weather—rangers at the visitor center can update you on conditions. Also, there is no drinkable water on the trail, so please bring water with you.

Let this trail be a journey into 18th-century America and the events surrounding the Battles of Saratoga—the turning point of the American Revolution.

Some Common Sense Rules to Help Protect Your Park

- For the safety of others and to protect wildlife, keep pets leashed and under control at all times.
- Please clean up after your pet; waste bags and a trash can are available at the trail head.
- Help us preserve the beauty of the trail by leaving plants and flowers for others to enjoy.
- Please do not disturb wildlife.
- The Battlefield commemorates those who died for our freedom. Please show respect by not digging in the ground. Archeological remains are protected by federal law.
- If you are walking alone, check in at the visitor center, as ranger patrols vary.
- No hunting, fishing, camping, or fires.
- Please do not litter. Trash cans are located behind the visitor center.

Interpretive Stations

These now peaceful grounds witnessed desperate combat in the autumn of 1777, the second year of America's War for Independence. An invading British force, intent on crushing the American rebellion, encountered a determined American army that instead defeated their invaders. The stunning victory heartened the American cause and brought international recognition and aid vital to winning our independence.

Station A: Two miles southeast of this area, Americans commanded the bluffs directly over the Hudson River which forced the British to take a stand on the area you are about to walk.

Station B: This site was known as the Samuel McBride Farm during the 1770's. The McBrides were Loyalists.

Station C: Breymann Redoubt, named after Lt. Col. Breymann, was a temporary fortification built by hundreds of German, loyalist, and French Canadian troops fighting for the British.

Station D: British Gen. Simon Fraser led soldiers through this area to support their fellows fighting nearby on September 19.

Station E: This is loyalist John Freeman's farm. The property witnessed intense fighting between Gen. John Burgoyne's British forces and the "rebel" Americans on September 19 and October 7.

Station F: The British arrived here through a ravine just to the north. Victorious on September 19, they built a strong defensive line—Balcarres' Redoubt—along this ridge. Vulnerable after fighting on October 7, they fell back to the Hudson River, destroying Freeman's house as they left.

Station G: These fields witnessed many battlefield casualties. The deceased of both sides were hastily and poorly buried.

Station H: Fields once bristling with crops bristled with German muskets on September 19, as German auxiliary soldiers advanced west from the Hudson River to support British troops at Freeman's farm.

Station I: This steep but scenic ravine saw many British soldiers traveling between Balcarres Redoubt and the main British fortified camp just east of here.

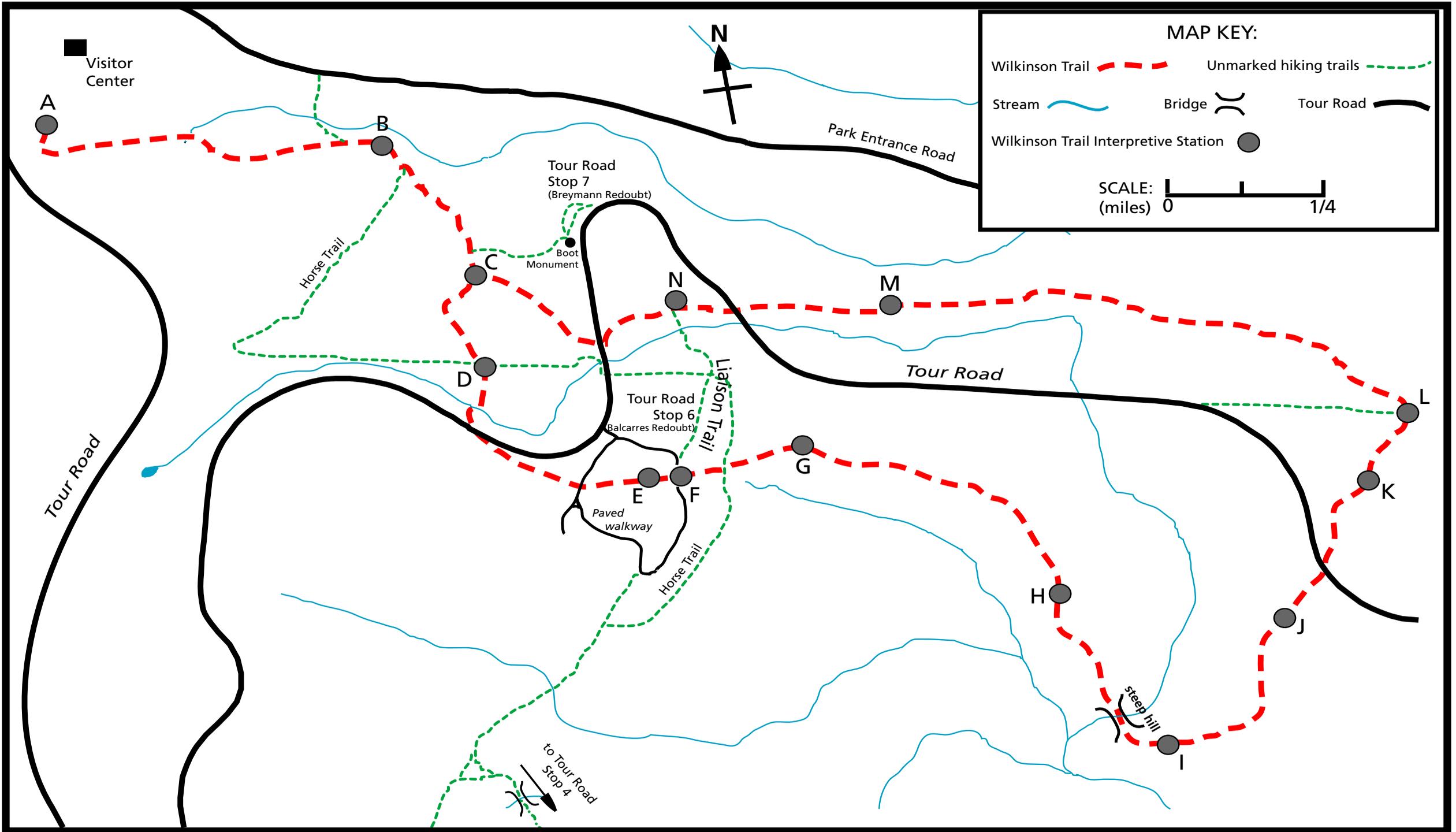
Station J: Hoping for reinforcements, General Burgoyne's forces encamped on these grounds for almost two weeks between September 19 and October 7.

Station K: The British found this clearing full of cultivated crops which were of great value to supplement their dwindling provisions.

Station L: You have just walked the same trail the British army's center column took after crossing the Great Ravine on September 19th.

Station M: The hush of the forest! During the battles this provided extensive timber used for fuel, fortifications, and fencing.

Station N: Early settlers used many of the wild plants growing along the trail for nutrients and variety in their diet.



MAP KEY:

Wilkinson Trail		Unmarked hiking trails	
Stream		Bridge	
Wilkinson Trail Interpretive Station		Tour Road	

SCALE: (miles) 0 1/4

Visitor Center

A

B

C

D

N

M

G

E

F

G

H

J

I

K

L

Visitor Center

N

Park Entrance Road

Tour Road Stop 7 (Breymann Redoubt)

Boot Monument

Horse Trail

Tour Road

Tour Road Stop 6 (Balcarres Redoubt)

Liaison Trail

Paved walkway

Horse Trail

Tour Road

to Tour Road Stop 4

steep hill