

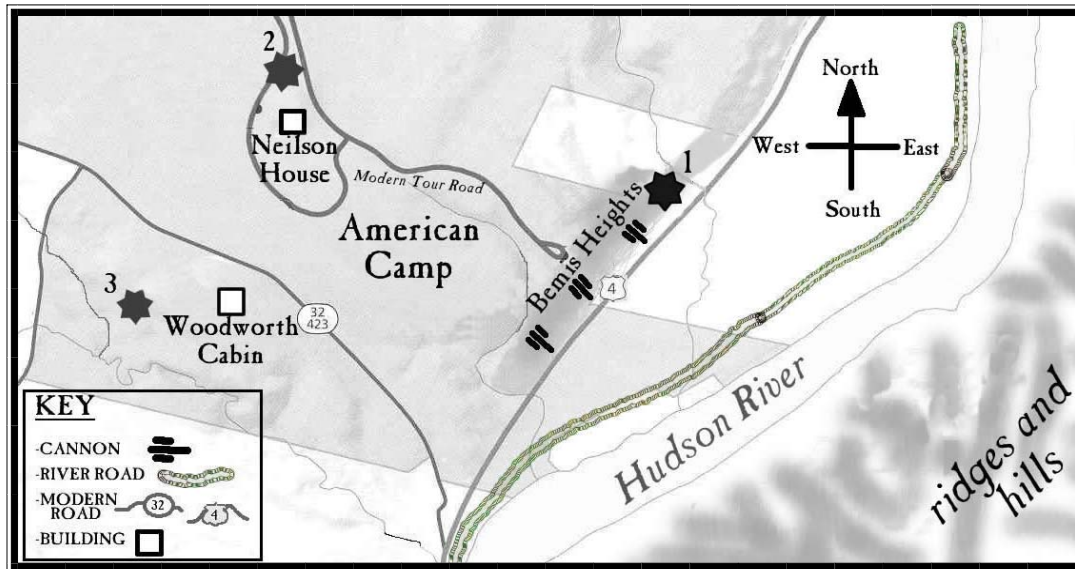
# Saratoga

National Historical Park



## Why Here?

—a map activity—



The question often comes up, "Why did the fighting happen where it did?" The simplest answer is: the Americans planned it that way. Complete this activity to get a better understanding of what the Americans were up to.

1. After getting off your bus, you are standing on Bemis Heights. Draw a smiley face ☺ on Bemis Heights.
2. American cannons on Bemis Heights could hit and even reach across the river. What is the name of that river? \_\_\_\_\_ Draw a dotted line from each cannon to across the river.

3. The Americans also built a few fortified lines on the flood plain, so as to control the River Road. Draw a double line from the middle cannon to the River Road.

4. British soldiers would want to avoid this area by going around it. What rough-looking land feature EAST of the river would keep the British from going over there?  
\_\_\_\_\_



5. American soldiers built very strong fortifications, like those in this picture, to protect Bemis Heights. They also built an "L" shaped wall around their camp to protect it. Draw a line from star #1 on Bemis Heights to star #2. Then draw a line from star #2 to star #3.

6. General Horatio Gates, the American commander, made his headquarters in a cabin owned by Ephraim Woodworth. John Neilson's house was used as a mid-level headquarters building. Circle the Woodworth Cabin and the Neilson House.

The fighting never made it here, though. It happened about 1 ½ miles north of here. But the American fortifications did what they were supposed to: keep the British from invading any farther south toward Albany.